

CREATIVE & CRUISING

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cruiseweekly.com.au cruiseweekly.co.nz Thursday 1st Aug 2024

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly features two pages of all the latest news plus a cover wrap from CruiseCo/ Creative Cruising and a full page from Uniworld Boutique River Cruises.

Thank you to all

CRUISECO and Creative Cruising are thanking its travel advisor network for its support in their nomination for the Most Outstanding Wholesaler Product/Service category at the National Travel Industry Awards - head to the **cover** page for more.

Uniworld savings

UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruises is offering early booking savings on all of next year's cruises, with passengers able to save 10% - head to page 3 for more.

New Crystal agent booking engine

CRYSTAL has announced a new travel advisor booking engine, which aims to "revolutionise" the booking experience through enhanced features and support.

The platform launches today in the US, although it is not clear whether it will also immediately be available in Australia.

It will make it simpler and more efficient for travel advisors to manage bookings.

The booking engine, which is seamlessly integrated into crystalcruises.com, offers a suite of resources designed to provide travel advisors with the flexibility, speed, and reliability they need to serve their clients effectively.

It boasts real-time availability, and a clean, easy-to-navigate design which simplifies the search and booking process.

The new engine also offers exclusive promotions, and leverages advanced algorithms to



provide cruise recommendations based on a client's preferences, as well as optional back-to-back voyage combinations.

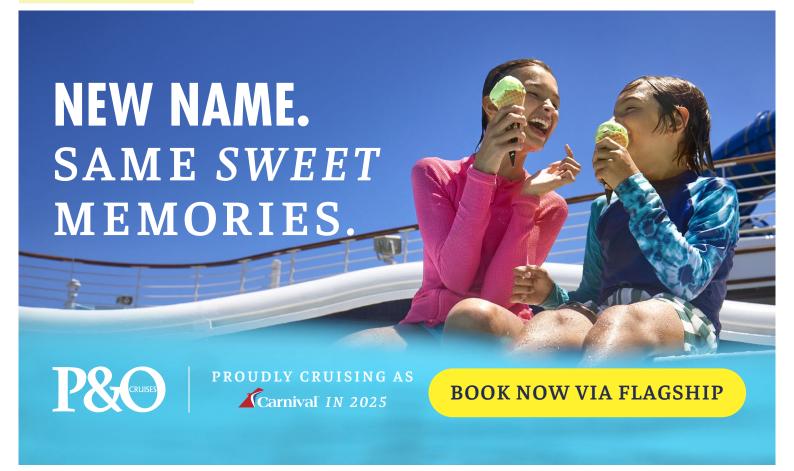
The cruise line has also developed comprehensive training resources, including webinars, video tutorials, and step-by-step guides to ensure a smooth transition.

Advisors will have access to a dedicated support team ready to assist with any questions or issues that may arise.

"Travel advisors are at the heart of our business, and we are committed to providing them with the best tools and resources available," said A&K Travel Group Chief Sales Officer Marett Taylor.

"Our new booking engine is a testament to our dedication to innovation and excellence.

"We believe it will significantly enhance the efficiency of our valued travel partners, enabling them to deliver exceptional service to their clients." MS

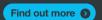




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WHILE Paris-based athletes struggle through a reportedly substandard Olympic Village, Tahiti-based surfers are having no such problem, as they live it up aboard Aranui's Aranui 5 (CW 24 Jul).

German surfer Tim Elter is one Olympian particularly impressed with life on board the dual passenger/cargo vessel, posting about his experience on TikTok.

Answering questions from his fans, Elter showed off his comfortable bed and magnificent view over Tahiti.

With their penchant for the water and love of travelling the world, is it possible there will be a few cruising converts among the surfing contingent at this year's Olympics?



Disney's a-mane-zing news



DISNEY Cruise Line's new ship Disney Destiny will introduce a new The Lion King restaurant, The Incredibles sweet shop, and other hero-worthy features.

Destiny will set sail late next year from Port Everglades, including the first-of-its-kind dining experience inspired by the unforgettable music of The Lion King, 'Pride Lands: Feast of The Lion King' (pictured).

The savanna-inspired venue will bring unique depictions of animals and nature to life through lighting and special effects, while the window-lined back wall will transform from stunning sunrises to enchanting sunsets throughout the uniquely themed menu.

A colourful ensemble of live musicians and storytellers will take the stage in the centre of the restaurant while diners eat, complete with tiered risers that evoke African drums.

Performances will include productions of Circle of Life and Hakuna Matata, plus a mash-up of I Just Can't Wait to Be King and Be Prepared.

There will also be exclusive confectionary themed to The Incredibles, which will see Edna Mode's lab transformed into a one-of-a-kind confectionary store at the brand-new 'Edna A La Mode Sweets'. MS

Aotearoa strategy

UNIFYING New Zealand's stakeholders behind a single vision for growth forms the key element of a new national strategy for the cruise industry.

Launched today by the New Zealand Cruise Association, the first-ever national blueprint aims to serve as a cohesive plan to guide a sector which "encompasses many players" and has grown organically.

Twelve months in the making, NZCA has sourced input from industry, regions, ports, cruise lines, government agencies, and other stakeholders to form the plan.

Chair Tansy Tompkins said despite a strong 2023/24 season, New Zealand expects a 15-20% reduction in visitation this year and beyond, which she blamed on increased costs, competition & geopolitical risk.

CLIA Australasia Managing Director, Joel Katz, said New Zealand must overcome regulatory complexities and high operating costs to fully benefit from the potential of cruising, which is worth hundreds of millions to the country's economy.



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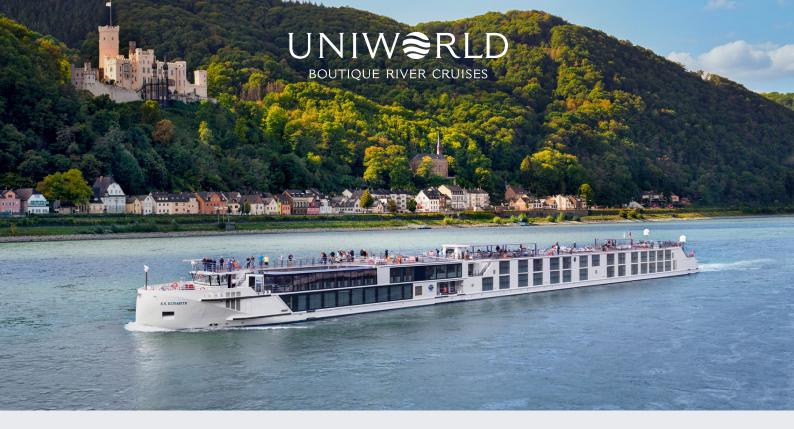
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