



# CRUISE

WEEKLY

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## Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features two pages of all the latest cruise industry news.

## New Hurti portals

**HURTIGRUTEN** and **HX** are continuing their brand evolution with new dual travel advisor portals.

The Hurtigruten 'Costal Express' will continue at the current portal web address, [agentportal.hurtigruten.com](http://agentportal.hurtigruten.com), while HX is now accessible from [agentportal.travelhx.com](http://agentportal.travelhx.com).

Managing Director APAC Damian Perry said the most recent move is another phase in the evolution towards completely independent companies by next year.

However, both brands will continue to be nurtured under the one leadership in Australia, beyond next year.

## Cruise spectrum covered

**SALES** representatives covering the entire gamut of cruising, from ocean and river to expedition brands, are among the five finalists set to contest the Most Outstanding Sales Executive - Cruise at the 2024 NTIA Gala.

The five finalists were selected by independent university-grade academics who canvassed hundreds of nominations and submissions to select the finalists.

Contesting the category will be Barbara Baron, APT Travel Group; Cameron McDonell, Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic; Joshua Galea, Avalon Waterways; Sara Puglia from Silversea; and Elsa McLean from Regent Seven Seas Cruises.

Additional categories open to cruise lines and sellers include Most Outstanding Wholesaler - Product/Service, Most Popular Ocean Cruise Operator, and Most Popular River Cruise Operator.



Nominees for these business categories will be unveiled soon.

Australian Travel Industry Association (ATIA) Chief Executive, Dean Long, sent his congratulations to all finalists.

"Our independent assessors had the challenging task of evaluating the impressive submissions from professionals across the Australian travel industry." *ML*

## Scenic Nile cruise

**SCENIC** Luxury Cruises & Tours has released a new 15-day 'Egypt in Depth' cruisetour, which includes a sailing on the Nile - **CLICK HERE**.



On location in Auckland

Today's issue of CW is coming to you courtesy of the New Zealand Cruise Association, which is today hosting its 2024 conference in Auckland.

**THE** glitterati of the cruise industry of New Zealand and the wider region has descended on Auckland this week for the New Zealand Cruise Association Conference.

This year's meeting, held at the newly rebranded Cordis Auckland, will see speakers from Tourism New Zealand, Auckland Unlimited, and of course, cruise lines such as Carnival and Celebrity.

Delegates will also let their hair down later tonight with post-conference drinks.



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**ANYBODY** who has been on a cruise can attest to the sheer amount of food available, and when on holiday, it's common and easy to be tempted to push healthy habits to the side.

But Holland America Line's ANZ Director of Sales, Alex Pikardt, is reminding everyone there are plenty of ways to stay healthy and maintain fitness regimes while onboard.

"While cruising can often be associated with over indulgence, we encourage guests to enjoy their holiday but also maintain a healthy lifestyle," he said.

Pikardt recommends the onboard gym as somewhere to work out at one's own pace.

Alternatively, getting some of your new cruise friends together on the sports court for a game of basketball may be the way to go.

Or simply stroll the deck to get some sea air in the lungs.

## Cunard Roux-ined at sea

**CUNARD** Line is reuniting with two Michelin-star chef Michel Roux (**pictured**) for a new series of Le Gavroche at Sea residencies next year, following the concept's debut in 2024.

Roux will oversee four Le Gavroche residencies across four Fjords voyages next year: two aboard new ship *Queen Anne*, and two aboard flagship *Queen Mary 2* between Apr and Aug.

The latter ship will host the first five-night takeover with Le Gavroche at The Verandah, during her seven-night round trip Fjords sailing on 06 Apr 2025.

Guests will be treated to a five-course tasting menu infused with the flavours of the sea.

Roux will then host a residency aboard *Queen Anne* - Le Gavroche at Sir Samuels - for her Fjords voyage on 11 May, where guests can expect a variety of his signature seafood specialities and elevated culinary classics.

He will then return to *Queen Mary 2* for another intimate takeover of The Verandah, before completing his quartet of Le Gavroche residencies on board *Queen Anne* from 31 Aug.



Le Gavroche at Sea reservations will be an additional charge for guests, with venue takeovers catering for up to 60 diners in The Verandah, and up to 50 diners in Sir Samuels each evening.

Roux will also be launching another elevated seafood concept: Oysters at The Champagne Bar (*Queen Mary 2*) and Oysters at Carinthia Lounge (*Queen Anne*), which will serve Norwegian seafood every night of their respective voyages, available by walk-in only.

Roux will host a live cooking demonstration in the Royal Court Theatre during each voyage, and will appear as an Insight Speaker, where he will regale guests with stories from his career.

President Katie McAlister said Cunard is thrilled to welcome Roux back on board. *MS*

## Kia ora to Auckland

**AUCKLAND** Deputy Mayor Desley Simpson has hailed the "vital role" played by the cruise industry in the city's visitor economy.

Simpson opened today's New Zealand Cruise Association Conference, being held in Auckland, and noted expenditure from cruise more than doubled to over NZ\$20m (AU\$18.2m) between the years of 2015 and 2020 - more in tomorrow's *CW*.

## Lindblad rebrand

**NATIONAL** Geographic will take more of the spotlight in its partnership with Lindblad Expeditions under a rebrand.

Taking effect next month, the company will be known as National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions, with CEO Sven Lindblad saying the brand change will improve consumer search results.

Lindblad recently extended its partnership with The Walt Disney Company, which owns National Geographic, through to the end of 2040.



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