

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a full page from **Ponant**.

Globus celebrates launch of TAP

GLOBUS family of brands (GFOB) has celebrated the launch of its new globally integrated Travel Advisor Portal (TAP), with agents able to register now to enjoy the portal's benefits (**CW** 02 Dec).

The TAP boasts an array of new and updated features including an enhanced reservation system, offering a fully upgraded booking interface with improved functionality and easy-to-use design to help advisors book Avalon Waterways.

There will also be a new trade training program, allowing advisors to access GFOB University, a new training platform, providing advisors the knowledge and tools they need to confidently book Avalon products, and the company's other brands.

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Head to **page four** for more information on the offer.

New CCL ships almost ready



CARNIVAL Corporation has announced fleet updates for its Australian ships for next year, which will see a range of additions on board the newly named *Carnival Adventure* and *Carnival Encounter* (**CW** 03 Oct).

Changes will ensure the soon-to-be-phased-out P&O Cruises Australia's favoured dining and entertaining options remain, while Carnival Cruise Line's (CCL) signature 'Fun Ship' experience is introduced, offering guests the best of both worlds.

CCL's Iconic Fun Squad will be brought to the two new ships, bringing the cruise line's 'Fun Ship' energy to life.

The Fun Squad (**pictured**) will host everything from hilarious comedy shows and trivia to deck parties and games.

The Turtles Kids Club, a brand-new childcare program for children under two, will offer arts and crafts, story time, dancing, and sensory play under the guidance of professionals.

Guests will also be able to indulge in free daily pizza between 11am and 4pm, while for the first time, guests will enjoy popular CCL activities like Build-A-Bear workshops, the Conga for Kids line dance party, and the 80s Rock and Glow nights.

The rebranded ships will also retain a range of P&O Australia favourites, including the exclusive retreat Byron Beach Club, the thrill-seeking Edge Adventure Park, Luke Mangan's speciality

restaurant Luke's Bar & Grill, as well as popular dining options Angelo's and Dragon Lady.

Much-loved show Blanc de Blanc will also continue, ensuring a balance of familiar and new.

Vice President Sales & Marketing Kara Glamore told **CW** the transition presents a unique opportunity to combine the best of P&O Cruises and CCL, as the latter brand expands its footprint in Australia.

"Carnival Cruise Line remains the only cruise line globally to demonstrate this level of commitment to Australia, sailing year-round and supporting thousands of local jobs while delivering unforgettable holiday experiences in Australia and the South Pacific," she said.

VP Guest Experience Deborah Cugin added: "P&O fans will recognise many of their favourite dining and entertainment options, while experiencing the added fun and flair that Carnival is famous for around the world."

Adventure will sail year-round from Sydney once she has been rebranded, joining sister ship *Carnival Splendor*.

Encounter will home port in Brisbane year-round, with *Carnival Luminosa* joining her during the summer season.

Nearly 600,000 guests are expected to sail from Sydney and Brisbane on Carnival next year.

The two ships will undergo a two-week wet dock in Mar to be rebranded (**CW** 26 Aug). *MS*

Hear Viking's news

A QUIET Season

Mediterranean Destination Guide has been launched by Viking, detailing the line's voyages that sail between Nov and Mar each year.

The guide (**CLICK HERE**) is full of exciting destinations and intriguing experiences for advisors and their clients, during the season that allows travellers to evade the challenge of mass tourism at popular destinations.

The 22-page digital guide shares Viking's top 10 quiet season highlights, including a selection of classic Mediterranean recipes.

Past guests also share their love of the Mediterranean.

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PTMs invade Viking cruise



TRAVELMANAGERS' Donna Occhipinti was among a group of eight personal travel managers and their partners, who recently took part in an eight-day family of the Western Mediterranean.

The cruise was hosted by Viking's Nathalie Fagan and Singapore Airlines' Sarah Lathwell, with Occhipinti accompanied on the family by PTMs, Bridget Frost, Emma Hill, Erryn Morris, Julianne Gazal-Rizk, Kim Mason, Penny Meallin and Samantha Temple.

The Rome-to-Barcelona itinerary called at many of the Western Mediterranean's most popular ports, including Livorno, Monte Carlo and Marseille, where they enjoyed a variety of shore excursions.

"Many of my clients have booked holidays with Viking in the past, and although I already knew it as a fantastic product,

until now I had never experienced it for myself," she said.

"The whole trip was wonderful, sharing it with a great group made it even more special.

"Our most memorable moment was a thrilling 'Motorcycle Ride Through Provence' guided tour, however, all of the shore excursions that we experienced were real highlights."

PTM Kim Mason added: "as agents, we can do all the training, but it's only by experiencing places and products for ourselves that we develop a true understanding of what's on offer for our clients."

PTM Penny Meallin said she relished the opportunity to experience Viking for herself.

"This first-hand experience only enhanced all that I already thought Viking to be." *MS*

Pictured: The group on board *Viking Saturn*.

Princess gets festive



AUSTRALIAN travel advisors have been wine and dined while sailing the country's coast on board Princess Cruises' *Diamond Princess*.

The line hosted the winners of the Wine, Dine, & Sail competition on a cruise from Melbourne to Brisbane.

Five Australian travel advisors from Beyond Destinations, RACT Travel, Flight Centre, Helloworld, and TravelManagers joined representatives from Princess for the six-night cruise.

The adventure began with a two-night pre-stay at The Langham Melbourne, followed by a private winery tour at the Tahbilk Estate Cellar Door, where advisors enjoyed a private guided tour of the estate, including the underground cellar and vines.

Tahbilk Estate's head chef



prepared a grazing-style lunch with paired wines, followed by a guided tour of the property's Wetlands & Wildlife Reserve on board a river boat (**pictured**).

The end of the tour saw guests enjoy a wine tasting of Tahbilk's iconic ranges of wine.

MEANWHILE, Princess also hosted a number of leading advisors on board *Royal Princess* earlier this month to experience the ship's immersive high tea.

Thirty advisors joined representatives from Princess for treats, including sandwiches, quiches, scones with jam & cream, and more. *MS*



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CRUISERS enjoying the good life on board a ship can occasionally be entitled - particularly loyalty passengers.

Carnival Cruise Line Brand Ambassador John Heald was recently forced to deal with one particularly entitled passenger, who found not enough of their home comforts were being observed on board the brand's ships.

"Carnival needs to realise you have many Canadians cruising," the passenger messaged Heald.

"There is no mention of Canadians on the ship, no Canadian flag, and no Canadian food at the buffets...we need Red River Cereal, Canadian syrup, and Red Rose Tea."

Heald, for his part, received the arrogant demands with humility, while adding his own flavour of wit.

"All of our Lido buffets are Canadian because they're all Yukon eat!"

Grinch's cruise heart grows

FRESH from his heart growing three sizes once again, the Grinch accompanied the Carnival Cruise Line (CCL) team to deliver some early Christmas cheer to kids at the Queensland Children's Hospital who are facing harder times this festive season.

The surprise visit saw the Dr. Seuss character ensuring there would be no sad faces this Christmas, as he spent the day bringing smiles and gifts to kids, joined by some of the CCL team.

The cruise line's VP Kara Glamore said the team was delighted to bring joy to patients and families at the hospital.

"The smiles we saw are a beautiful example of the meaningful ways we want to give back to the Queensland community that has continued to welcome us with such open arms," Glamore said.

Carnival has been a supporter of the Children's Hospital



Foundation for five years.

Through its regular 'Conga for Kids' event on board *Carnival Luminosa*, the cruise line has raised more than \$73,000 in donations for the hospital, since the ship arrived in Brisbane in 2022 (**CW** 11 Jul 2023).

Guests travelling on *Luminosa* this Christmas can expect regular visits from the Grinch among a variety of festive fun including a Christmas tree lighting ceremony, 'carol-oke' holiday bingo, trivia and themed F&B offerings. **ML**

Pictured: Glamore with *Luminosa* Cruise Director Zack Dockrill, the Grinch, and members of the Queensland Children's Hospital team.

Viking weekly deals

VIKING'S deals of the week include a number of festive sailings, such as the 'Christmas on the Rhine & Maine'.

The new 11-day cruise from Nuremberg to Basel or vice versa starts from \$8,895 per person, with a saving of \$1,600 per couple if booked today.

Guests will also receive a complimentary Silver Spirits beverage package, while past passengers are eligible for an additional saving of \$400.

Passengers will discover grand cities, medieval towns, and quaint villages along the Blue Danube, which highlights three countries: Hungary, Austria, and Germany.

The 'Christmas on the Danube' from Budapest to Regensburg or vice versa is also on sale, priced from \$6,295 per person, with a saving of \$1,600 per couple if booked today.

Guests on this cruise will also receive a complimentary Silver Spirits beverage package, while past passengers are eligible for an additional saving of \$400.

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*Offer is valid on a selection of 2024, 2025 and 2026 departures, for new bookings made between 25 November 2024 and 3 January 2025 inclusive. Offer is not retroactive, is subject to availability and may be removed at any time. Offer is not available on any *Le Commandant Charcot* and *Le PONANT* departures. Offer is combinable with PONANT Yacht Club discounts, Join the Club Offer, the PONANT Bonus, and Back-to-Back discounts. Offer is not combinable with any Flight Credit offers, Free Single supplement, Shipboard Credit or any other offer. To take advantage of this offer, please contact your travel agent or our cruise consultants and quote the code «XMAS24». Other terms and conditions may apply. Photograph: © Studio PONANT - Vutheara Kham.