



Cruise Weekly today

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

Port Vila calls canx

CARNIVAL Corporation has cancelled a number of upcoming port calls to Port Vila, following two earthquakes which hit Vanuatu earlier this week (*CW* yesterday).

Guests on the current P&O Cruises Australia *Pacific Adventure* and *Pacific Encounter* voyages will spend an extra day at sea.

Meanwhile, guests on Carnival Cruise Line's *Carnival Luminosa* will visit Mystery Island instead of Port Vila.

Carnival Corporation said guests on future voyages to Port Vila will be advised on any itinerary changes as soon more is known.

The company said it has been in contact with the disaster management effort, both in Vanuatu and Australia, in case its ships can be of assistance.

MEANWHILE, Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) said in a statement the sector's thoughts are with all those who have been affected by the earthquakes.

"As a key destination for cruise ships in this region, Vanuatu has a long-standing relationship with our industry and many of its people play an important role in supporting cruise operations and guests," CLIA said.

"Cruise lines are monitoring the situation closely."

Bliss-ful news for NCL



NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) has announced all-new and expanded guest experiences for *Norwegian Bliss* (pictured) and *Norwegian Breakaway*.

Additions will include "the world's first-ever immersive cinema and dining offering at sea", 'Silver Screen Bistro', which will premiere exclusively aboard *Breakaway*, as will a brand-new outdoor venue, 'Horizon Park', which will debut on both ships.

Silver Screen Bistro, which will replace the Spiegel Tent, will offer oversized recliners and retractable tables for diners to enjoy shareable, handheld menu items, while they watch a movie.

Meanwhile, Horizon Park will offer a variety of experiences, from lawn-style games such as cornhole, to giant Jenga, and reclining loungers for optimal sunbathing on the top deck.

Popular venues such as Cagney's Steakhouse and Teppanyaki will also be expanded, as will accommodations in The Haven by Norwegian, NCL's ship-within-a-

ship concept.

Bliss' premium suites will now include three bedrooms, three-and-a-half bathrooms, and a separate dining room overlooking The Haven Horizon Lounge.

The suites will also include a fully refurbished living area, master bedrooms, and outdoor balcony furnishings.

Bliss' updates will begin on 17 Jan, prior to her Caribbean season, while *Breakaway's* enhancements will start on 19 Feb, before she commences her European itineraries.

"At Norwegian Cruise Line, our guests and what they value most is critical in order for us to develop experiences," President David Herrera said.

"From creating new concepts that offer more outdoor gathering spaces for making memories with friends and family, to expanding dining options that consistently bring joy to our guests across our fleet, we're providing more to do and more to enjoy for all types of travellers," he added. *MS*

Pandaw lays keel

PANDAW Cruises has laid the keel for *Kochi Pandaw*, the line's new ship, which is set to launch in Oct.

The keel was laid on the auspicious date of 10 Dec, at her shipyard in Kerala, with the blessing of a Catholic priest.

Kochi will be designed with 10 staterooms, taking guests around the Kerala backwaters and lakes.

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Luxury on the up

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TRAVELMANAGERS

Australia has seen heightened demand for luxury cruising over the past year, the network told *Cruise Weekly*.

The network's personal travel managers (PTMs) have recorded strong sales for the segment, which has been steadily growing since global borders reopened.

The business also noted that the average age of luxury cruisers has dropped significantly compared to the pre-pandemic 2019.

TravelManagers is predicting the trend will continue, particularly with the emergence of new and reborn players to the market, like the Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection and Crystal Cruises, along with new ships from Explora Journeys, Regent Seven Seas Cruises, and Silversea.

The news comes just months after TravelManagers rolled out its own in-house cruise wholesaler, Fastbook, to allow PTMs to "work smarter not harder" when making cruise bookings (*CW* 13 Sep).



LTC's second bite of lunch



THE Luxury Travel Collection (LTC) recently hosted its second 'Leaders Who Lunch', with The Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection (RCYC) - the first of the events to be hosted in Sydney.

The cruise line's Senior Vice President Global Sales Kristian Anderson and Vice President & General Manager Asia Pacific Seb Seward joined an intimate group of 20 LTC leaders for a private dining experience at Aria Restaurant Sydney.

Anderson shared strategic insights into the development of the brand and business since it was first conceived 10 years ago.

"There is no better way to deeply understand a brand you are recommending to a client than to meet face-to-face with someone like Kristian Anderson,

who was incredibly generous with the detailed information he was able to share with this intimate guest list," LTC General Manager Brand Anna Burgdorf said.

"It's the reason we created this exclusive series - to connect leading global brands with influential, senior luxury travel advisors from our membership. "The intimate group size is an ideal platform for two-way discussions," she added.

Pictured with Seward and Anderson are LTC General Manager Sales & Operations Nikki Glading; Anna Burgdorf; Flight Centre Travel Group Global Managing Director Luxury & Independent Dani Galloway; LTC Global Product Director Shannon Fogarty; and LTC Event Manager Lisa Wright. *MS*

Way to Yen-go, CCL

AUSTRALIA'S first Indigenous-owned wine company, Mt Yengo Wines, has inked a landmark deal with Carnival Corporation.

The business has sold more than 1,200 cases in the last six weeks alone, with its premium drops to be served to travellers on board Carnival Cruise Line, P&O Cruises Australia, and Princess Cruises.

"We wanted to bring a wine brand that promoted our unique and premium range as well highlighting our Indigenous art and culture, which plays a vital role in who we are," co-owner and Associate Professor Wayne Quilliam shared.

Quilliam said the cruise tie-up is "something we are very proud of, with very few Australian brands given this opportunity to supply cruise ships in Australia".

Around 1,000 cases were supplied to Carnival in Oct, including Mt Yengo Adelaide Hills Sauvignon Blanc, Sparkling NV, Pinot Gris, and Shiraz.

Mt Yengo Wines gives back 25c from every bottle, with half going to the National Indigenous Culinary Institute to support young Indigenous chefs, and half as a royalty to the artist whose art is featured on the labels, with over \$40,000 total given in the last 12 months.

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PORTHOLE

MSC Cruises has surely taken out the award for the most creative season's greetings.

Marketing Manager Michelle Warren shared MSC's reworked retelling of *A Visit from St. Nicholas* - which is, of course, set aboard one of the cruise line's ships - [CLICK HERE](#).

"From our team to yours, we want to thank you for a SEAsational year and for being part of the MSC Cruises journey," Warren shared.

"Wishing all our valued trade partners, industry connections and colleagues near and far, a smooth and festive season ahead," she added.

"Here's to setting sail for an even greater 2025 together."



Carnival to celebrate 55th anniversary in '27

CARNIVAL Cruise Line is set to mark its 55th anniversary in 2027 with celebratory ship meetups at sea.

Guests on 11 sailings will unite over three meetup events near Celebration Key, and the newly renamed RelaxAway, Half Moon Cay (*CW* 12 Dec).

The 55th birthday cruises will include a variety of itineraries visiting destinations in The Bahamas and the Caribbean, ranging from three to eight days.

Each of the three meetup events will see several Carnival ships simultaneously host Lido deck birthday celebrations.

Guests can also expect a birthday-themed specialty cocktail, special birthday cakes at restaurants, a Lido dessert buffet extravaganza, and lively party games and trivia.

The 09 Mar meetup will bring together *Carnival Spirit* (sailing from Mobile), *Carnival Elation* (sailing from Jacksonville), *Carnival Legend* (sailing from Tampa), and *Carnival Freedom* (sailing from Port Canaveral).

The 10 Mar meetup will gather *Legend* (sailing from Tampa), as



well as *Carnival Jubilee* (sailing from Galveston), and *Carnival Pride* (sailing from Baltimore).

The 13 Mar meetup will join together *Carnival Celebration*, *Carnival Sunrise*, and *Carnival Conquest*, which will all sail from Miami; and *Carnival Vista* & *Carnival Glory*, which will sail from Port Canaveral.

MEANWHILE, the cruise line's *Carnival Venezia* has arrived in Port Canaveral for the first time, bringing 'Carnival Fun, Italian Style' to Florida for the winter.

Venezia is the fifth Carnival ship home porting in the destination; she will now begin a seasonal series of cruises to the Bahamas, the Caribbean, and Mexico.

The ship's arrival in Port

Canaveral marks Carnival as the largest cruise operator from the port, joining *Mardi Gras*, *Vista*, *Glory*, and *Carnival Freedom*.

"Our Venice-themed ship adds another truly dynamic offering, with a fresh Italian twist on our signature Carnival fun plus the same friendly service our guests love, and further enriches the variety of convenient options available to our loyal guests cruising from Orlando," President Christine Duffy said.

"Our guests who sailed with *Carnival Venezia* from New York love the ship and its new experiences, and we know that she will add even more value to the Carnival offering in her new winter home." MS

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