



# CRUISE

WEEKLY

*delivered daily!*



cruiseweekly.com.au  
cruiseweekly.co.nz  
Wednesday 17th Jul 2024

## Med powering up

MSC Cruises' *MSC World Europa* has plugged into Valletta's shore power for the first time.

The facility is the first in the Mediterranean, with the city's power grid supplying the ship.

## Apollo Funds to acquire TTC



UNIWORLD  
BOUTIQUE RIVER CRUISE COLLECTION®

**AMERICAN** asset management firm Apollo Funds has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire family-owned The Travel Corporation (TTC).

The transaction is subject to satisfaction of certain closing conditions, including regulatory approvals, and is expected to close in the fourth quarter of the year, which will see TTC brands change hands, such as Uniworld Boutique River Cruises.

The transaction will be the first time Uniworld has changed hands in 20 years, after TTC purchased the cruise line in 2004.

Other brands included in the transaction include Trafalgar, Contiki, and Insight Vacations, however many others will remain in the hands of current owners the Tollman family.

### Cruise Weekly today

**Cruise Weekly** today features three pages of all the latest cruise news.

"TTC has a leading collection of brands that we believe we can take to the next level as an Apollo Funds portfolio company, leveraging our extensive experience in the travel, tech and hospitality sectors," Apollo private equity partner Michele Raba said.

"We'd like to thank the Tollman family for trusting in our good stewardship of the business they've built for more than a century and look forward to an exciting next chapter in which TTC can serve as a platform for growth," he added.

The Tollman family has owned the company for over a century.

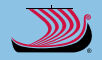
"For more than 104 years our family has built TTC into an industry leader known for exceptional service and innovation," the company's Chair Brett Tollman said.

"Without a next generation to lead TTC, the time has come in our strategic succession plan to select a new owner with a proven track record and who shares in our vision and customer-first values," he added.

"We will support a seamless transition and are confident the team at Apollo will continue driving the business forward to meet growing global demand for touring, river cruising and specialist and adventure travel," Tollman added. *MS*

## No change to RCI

**ROYAL** Caribbean International (RCI) Chief Exec Michael Bayley has declared the cruise line will not move to all-inclusive cruises, according to the unaffiliated *Royal Caribbean Blog*.



VIKING

DON'T MISS  
VIKING'S SPECIAL  
OFFER FARES ON  
2024-2025  
OCEAN VOYAGES

*Strictly limited and  
available until sold out*

[CLICK HERE](#)

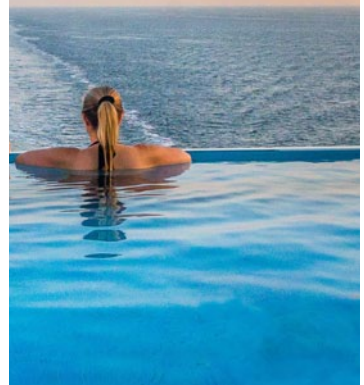


VIKING

THREE ADVISORS  
WILL WIN \$5,000  
AND A VIKING  
OCEAN VOYAGE  
FOR TWO

*Here's how you can  
be one of them*

[CLICK HERE](#)



## Explore Northern Europe's Wonders on a Small-Ship Expedition

Book by 31 August and your clients can enjoy an expedition credit of up to AU\$3,500 per cabin\*

[See Trips](#)

Terms and Conditions Apply\*



## CRUISE WEEKLY

On location on board *Utopia of the Seas*

Today's issue of CW is coming to you courtesy of Royal Caribbean International, aboard *Utopia of the Seas*.

IT'S a big one today, as we spend the day at Royal Caribbean International's private Bahamian island, Perfect Day at CocoCay.

We'll explore its multitude of activities, from thrilling water slides and a zip line to private cabanas at Chill Island and a swim-up bar at Oasis Lagoon.

Then there are the fabulous places to dine, whether it's indulging in Bahamian lobster rolls at Coco Beach Club or Caribbean-style bites at the Chill Grill.

Tonight, to wrap up our incredible three-night adventure, we'll party with *Utopia's* godmother and singer/songwriter, Meghan Trainor at the Aqua Theater, followed by spectacular fireworks.

## "This is one hell of a ship"



THE "world's biggest weekend" kicked off overnight on board Royal Caribbean International's newly christened ship *Utopia of the Seas*, with non-stop partying and celebrities, including godmother and singer/songwriter Meghan Trainor.

*Utopia's* naming ceremony, held at the Aqua Theater, saw Royal Caribbean Chief Executive Officer Michael Bayley declare, "you're going to leave this ship in a couple of days exhausted."

"That is our mission. You're going to party all weekend!"

Specifically created for short breaks and three-day weekends, the Oasis-class *Utopia* is aimed at multi-generational families, and sets sail on her first revenue cruise on 19 Jul.

"With *Utopia of the Seas*, we said, 'let's make those memories possible for every weekend and any day of the week'...and wow, did we deliver...this is one hell of a ship," Bayley added.

The party continued with legendary hip-hop artist Joseph Simmons, also known as 'Rev

Run', hitting the turntables and getting guests on their feet.

He was followed by Trainor, who brought the ceremony to a close with a performance of her hit song, 'All About that Bass'.

"Becoming *Utopia's* godmother and being here for this incredible celebration with Royal Caribbean is a dream come true," she said.

"From performing on a breathtaking stage while we're in the middle of the ocean to having my fans here to sing and dance with me and experiencing it all with my family - *Utopia* really is the ultimate short getaway.

"I'm so honoured to be part of the memories so many will make here," she added.

The festivities continued into the night, with a performance by acrobat group Aqua80too at the Aqua Theater, and a dance party at the Royal Promenade, where balloons were released at midnight. JHM

**Pictured:** Trainor with Royal Caribbean Group President & Chief Executive Officer Jason Liberty and Bayley.

## Explora's new art

EXPLORA Journeys has announced a new art collection and immersive art experiences on board its new ship *Explora I*.

The new collection includes rare limited-edition screen-prints, lithographs, and acrylic & silkscreen on canvas by Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein.

Guests can find commissioned limited edition prints in the suites and corridors, while abstract three-dimensional paper wall reliefs and specially commissioned paintings adorn the restaurants.

Explora has also acquired Nigerian artist Yinka Shonibare's British Library collections on deck five.

"Art has always been one of the main focal points of the guest experience on board our ships," Vice President Hotel Operations Koray Savas said.

"The carefully curated art selection features a blend of renowned and emerging artists, alongside master artisans, creating an immersive art experience for guests throughout their journey.

"From the suites to the restaurants, and from the public areas to the lounges and lobby, the artworks enhance every space, ensuring that each guest's experience is enriched with beauty and inspiration," Savas said.

## A-Rosa amps up

A-ROSA is enhancing its entertainment with a Young Artists Programme on its Danube fleet.

The musicians will join A-Rosa in Vienna for evening onboard performances.

# UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL: Join Our Mentoring Program and Ignite Your Success!

TIME is a Career Advancement Path for all Employees in Travel, Tourism, Hospitality, Cruise and Aviation Industry including Regional, and Rural Areas across Australia

WHAT TIME CAN DO FOR YOU...

- Further develop your management and leadership potential
- Develop confidence and networking opportunities
- Strategic career planning
- Increase your knowledge of organisational culture & processes

For more information visit - [www.travelindustrymentor.com.au](http://www.travelindustrymentor.com.au)



**TOURISTS** at Harlyn Beach in Cornwall got caught up in the dramatic rescue attempt of an ice cream van, with the incident later inspiring tonnes of puns on social media.

The van, which had been washed out to sea while parked on the beach last week, was safely returned to land once the tide went out, with no one hurt in the process.

“A bit of bad lick as Mr Whippy swept out to sea” was the brilliant headline from *The Star*, while X users shared their own quips, including, “flake news”, “whoever the reporter is got quite the scoop!” and “police had to cone the beach off”.

## HAL entertainment

**HOLLAND** America Line (HAL) is introducing new entertainment on its Grand Voyages, with 15 production shows starting next year.

The two 2025 Grand Voyages will feature a cast of eight accomplished singers and dancers who will perform in the new productions.

Each show will feature a distinct theme, including tributes to pop and rock greats like Carole King, The Carpenters, Eagles, Fleetwood Mac and more.

HAL will offer a variety of performances over the duration of each cruise.

## Australia set for Disney return



**CHRISTMAS-THEMED** voyages will feature in the line-up from Disney Cruise Line during the brand's return to Australia for the 2024/25 cruise season.

There is just over three months before *Disney Wonder* (pictured inset) sails back into Sydney for her second season (of three confirmed so far) in Australia, with Disney hosting the local travel trade to a ‘Christmas in July’ event to get the industry in the festive mood.

Disney Cruise Director Jimmy Lynett said the line was greeted with “the warmest welcome” by everybody in Australia.

“What really floored me were the emotions that I saw, not only from the kids but from adults,” Lynett remarked.

“The mums and dads had tears walking on the ship, and I think for some it was that very first Disney experience they’ve had.”

The magic and excitement will be ramped up further this season, as only Disney can, with a variety of festive entertainment planned for guests onboard, capped off by



a tree-lighting ceremony at the beginning of each voyage.

*Wonder* will cruise into Sydney on 18 Oct, operating a range of two-to-seven night voyages departing from Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, as well as Auckland, with the Christmas-themed sailings available from 24 Nov to 28 Dec.

Disney also recently announced a new agreement with Oriental Land Co to launch cruises in the country, with the Japanese company to build and operate the branded ship (CW 10 Jul).

**Pictured:** Cruise Lines International Association Managing Director Joel Katz was among the guests embracing the Christmas spirit, with Mickey and Minnie Mouse. *ML*



## The best from the west

I AM looking forward to participating in numerous events this week at the WA Cruise Exchange to support the continued development of the sector.

The state has seen a solid rebound from cruise and the economic output valued at \$333.5m for 2022-23 exceeded pre-pandemic figures.

With 11 ports and anchorages on offer and more expedition areas being explored, there continues to be great opportunities for current cruise lines to expand on their itineraries and new operators.

Against that backdrop, a Cruise Ready Workshop will open the program of events providing insights and guidance to businesses looking at working more closely with the sector.

It will include presentations on the industry as well as a panel discussion giving participants the opportunity to actively engage with the expert panel.

Events will continue with the Cruise Exchange which will bring “buyers” including cruise lines and ground handlers together with “sellers” - destinations, ports, tour companies and RTOs to share information and opportunities.

A Ports Roundtable is also part of the exchange, which concludes with a visit to the Swan Valley to showcase what is on offer for cruise passengers.

WA plays a vital role in itinerary development for the growing number of cruise lines coming to Australia and these important events help to ensure the state continues to reap the benefits.