



# CRUISE

WEEKLY

delivered daily!



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## Cruise Weekly today

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

## HAL ready to rock

FIFTEEN new stage shows will make their debut on Holland America Line's upcoming 2025 Grand World and Pole to Pole voyages when both ships depart in Jan 2025.

Produced by Blackburn International, the slate of new shows will be presented on each ship by a team of eight singers and dancers.

Shows will include tribute performances to legendary artists and bands including Carole King, Eagles, The Carpenters, Fleetwood Mac and more, while others will adopt broader themes such as 'Sounds of Summer', 'Solid Gold' and 'Crossroads'.

The new entertainment will complement the existing lineup of comedians, headline entertainers, local performers, resident musicians and major theatre productions.

"The new shows are a diverse collection of music genres to appeal to a wide variety of tastes," said HAL VP Entertainment, Bill Prince.

HAL's 124-day Grand World Voyage sets sail westbound on 04 Jan 2025 from Fort Lauderdale, while the 133-day Pole to Pole sailing travels south-north-south.

## RCI to revisit kids curfew

ROYAL Caribbean International CEO Michael Bayley says the line will consider expanding and enforcing its 1am kids curfew for children aged 17 and under to specific areas of the ship such as bars, pools and lounges.

Speaking onboard *Utopia of the Seas* last week, Bayley said the line is aware of increased negative feedback from cruisers about the free rein of children onboard late at night, with some travellers opting to sail with more adult-oriented cruise lines.

Currently, security staff enforce the curfew from 1am by asking children to return to their cabins and checking the keycards and wristbands in public areas.

Bayley said the line will always be a family brand but that "we do need to make sure that we respect the adults".

"It's probably time for us to take



a look at the curfew," Bayley said. "I think the idea of curfews in some of the bars is a great idea...and you know what they say, everybody loves their own kids, but they're not so fond of everybody else's kids."

Bayley said travellers with kids can still take advantage of Adventure Ocean kids club, even after its 10pm closing time when a per-hour charge for extended care takes effect. ML

## Cruise kills IT bugs

MAJOR cruise lines have been largely unaffected by the mass IT outages that crippled aviation systems globally.

Carnival Australia has told CW none of its brands were affected, sentiments concurred by Norwegian Cruise Line.

Both companies were working to support travellers whose air travel affected their scheduled cruise departure.

Royal Caribbean didn't reply to CW before our deadline.

## Splendor upgrade

CARNIVAL Splendor has departed Sydney for the final time in its current form as it heads to Singapore for a range of new onboard upgrades.

The brief dry dock will see the ship return to Australia in Sep with new onboard dining offerings and refreshed spaces for children and adults.

The three-week journey will see the ship arrive in Singapore on 05 Aug before beginning its return journey on 24 Aug.

Carnival Splendor was last refurbished in 2019, prior to its debut in Australia.

## Viking deals going

ONLY nine days remain for travellers to take advantage of Viking's 'Discovery More' sale, with savings of up to \$3,600 per couple on ocean voyage and up to \$4,600 on river sailings departing until 2026.



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**TWO** weeks ago, *Cruise Weekly* reported in this very column about Princess Cruises' attempt to break a Guinness World Record for the 'World's Largest Pizza Party'.

The attempt came following Princess' partnership with world champion pizza maker Tony Gemignani (*CW* 10 Jul) and his two new pizza varieties being rolled out fleet-wide.

Princess is now the holder of a prestigious Guinness World Record, with guests devouring 60,000 slices of pizza across multiple venues at one time.

Nearly 3,000 kilograms of dough was used along with more than 1,000kgs of cheese and 630kgs of pepperoni.

Chef Gemignani is no stranger to world records, with three others already in his name including 'World's Longest Pizza' and the bizarre 'Most Consecutive Pizza Rolls Across the Shoulders in 30 Seconds'.

## HAL indulges with Lindt



**AGENTS** and special guests were treated to a melody of flavours last week as Holland America Line invited guests to savour its partnership with Lindt Chocolate.

Held at Kittyhawk in the Sydney CBD, agents and guests were treated to a selection of Lindt's famous chocolates, paired with a selection of delectable wines as they learned more about HAL's upcoming European voyages.

"Sweet surprises on board include a signature tulip-shaped Lindt chocolate mousse cake, which is reflective of the enduring Dutch symbol and Holland America Line's founding in the Netherlands," said Holland America Line Director of Sales,

Alex Pikardt.

"Guests can already enjoy the tulip-shaped Lindt chocolate mousse cake aboard *Rotterdam* on its Dutch Day dinner menu in the Dining Room and will be fleetwide as of Aug 2024."

Travellers on Holland America Line can indulge their sweet tooth with a Lindt Sundae featuring vanilla ice cream topped with a custom-made and decadent Lindt chocolate sauce.

Special Lindt chocolate tulips will also be served to travellers on one night of each voyage. *ML*

Pikardt is **pictured** above with HAL Marketing Manager, Catherine Rynd and HAL VP Sales, Ryan Taibel.

## Barca records fall

**BARCELONA** has welcomed more than one million cruise travellers for the first six months of 2024 across 323 ship calls, port authorities said.

The result is a 3.9% increase on the prior year, with the higher number coming from fewer ships, while more than 80% of pax began or ended their voyage in the city.

## andBeyond at sea

**LUXURY** conservation travel brand andBeyond has launched its expedition yacht in the Galapagos Islands for the first time, boosting its South American portfolio.

Known as *andBeyond Galapagos Explorer*, the yacht caters to just 12 people per voyage across six suites, along with spacious indoor lounges and outdoor relaxation spaces.

The yacht will operate alternating seven-night itineraries to San Cristobal Island and Sombrero Chino Island, with opportunities for guests to snorkel, hike and enjoy wildlife viewing.

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