

## Cruise Weekly today

**CRUISE Weekly** today features four pages of all the latest cruise industry news, plus a full page from **Riviera Travel River Cruises**.

## Groups with Riviera

**GET** more out of your river cruise holiday with a group, and sail Europe's iconic waterways on a Riviera Travel River Cruises voyage.

The benefits of taking a group with Riviera Travel include one free berth for every eight guests who travel; name changes accepted without penalty up to 40 days prior to the cruise start date; and final payment due 110 days before the start date.

For more information on group travel with Riviera Travel, head to **page 5** of today's **Cruise Weekly**.

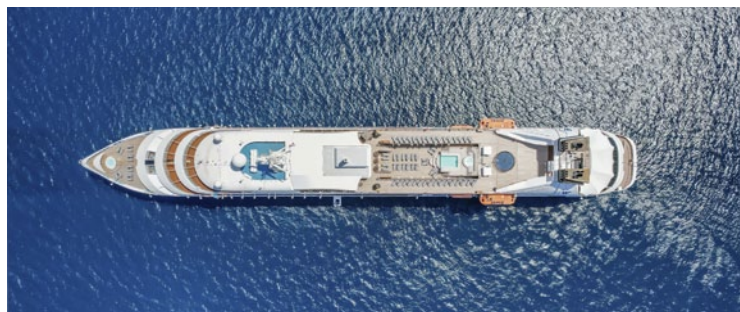
## Windstar unveils winter Euro season

**WINDSTAR** Cruises has released its 2025 and 2026 winter Mediterranean sailings, capitalising on the trend of year-round travel in Europe.

The cruise line is one of very few to sail in the Mediterranean during the winter, with the 2025/26 season to feature six unique itineraries, plus six 'Star Collectors', which are sailings that combine itineraries for more in-depth exploration.

Windstar's winter sailings sail aboard its 312-guest, all-suite *Star Legend*, highlighting ports the cruise line does not usually visit during the summer, like Valencia, Crotone, Catania, and Genoa, a brand new destination.

Cruises depart from Athens, Barcelona, Malaga, Rome, and Venice from Nov 2025 through Mar 2026, and boasts overnights in Malaga, as well as ports such as Dubrovnik, Venice, Nice,



Barcelona, and Livorno.

A full complement of shore excursions will be available to book in each port, offering experiences for first-time and returning visitors.

Windstar is also enhancing its winter itineraries with an extended early booking offer, now expiring at the end of Oct, which includes a US\$200 on board credit per stateroom, plus a complimentary upgrade to an all-inclusive fare, which incorporates wi-fi; gratuities; and unlimited

beer, wine, and cocktails at no additional charge.

There are also big perks for groups, with winter Mediterranean sailings departing from Dec through Feb being part of Windstar's Star Group Sailings incentive program, where one free berth can be earned for every seven sold.

The groups' offer also includes a 10% savings beyond the listed fare, a guest amenity of \$100 per person shipboard credit, and a \$100pp bonus commission. *MS*

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\*Offers are valid until 3 June 2024. Valid on select sailings. Conditions apply. ©2024 NCL Corporation Ltd. NCL Australia Pty. Ltd. ABN 80 607 578 781. Ships' Registry: Bahamas and USA. 1707488 05/2024



## P&O bowls us over

**P&O** Cruises Australia has set sail with Bowls NSW as its newest partner.

The governing body for the sport in the state of New South Wales plans to integrate P&O Australia across a range of exciting activities over the coming year.

"We pleased to be partnering with Bowls NSW as the Official Cruise Partner for 2024," P&O Senior Vice President Peter Little said.

"At P&O Cruises Australia, we cherish the opportunity to bring people together to enjoy unforgettable experiences, whether on land or at sea.

"We eagerly anticipate hosting the Bowls NSW community aboard our ships, where memories are made and bonds are strengthened."

Bowls NSW Chief Executive Officer Tim Rowe said the partnership reflects the hard work the organisation and its staff are currently executing behind the scenes to develop an exciting and enticing group of partners to drive benefits for its members.

"Partnering with an iconic brand like P&O Cruises Australia is a huge boost for our members and our sport, and we've enjoyed working with the leading cruise line over the past twelve months," he said.

## Much Murray merriness



**AUSTRALIA'S** first five-star overnight river cruise ship, Murray River Paddlesteamers' (MRPS) *Australian Star*, has attracted interest from overseas markets at last week's Australian Tourism Exchange in Melbourne. MRPS conducted 85 meetings in four days with international travel product managers, showcasing the currently under-construction *Australian Star*.

"*Australian Star* is going to transform the tourist market for the Murray region and will quickly become a hero product for the area, attracting new international visitors from all over the world," said Director Craig Burgess, who is pictured with National BDM Natalie Freeman.

"Overseas buyers are very excited and surprised to see a five-star luxury river cruise experience available in regional Victoria," he added.

"Many international figures at ATE are not aware that you can do overnight accommodated cruises on the Murray River and as river cruising is now so popular worldwide, they are excited about being able to sell a new, quality river cruise experience in Australia to their markets overseas," Burgess said.

The luxury, \$6.75 million ship, set to debut next year, will offer Australia's first-ever five-star overnight river cruises, fusing heritage and luxury.

The 38-guest *Australian Star* will be the largest paddlesteamer in Australia, offering year-round, all-inclusive cruises of up to a week on the Murray River from Echuca.

*Australian Star* will boast a deluxe and contemporary lounge offering sweeping river vistas, a fine dining restaurant, multiple outdoor relaxation areas, an elevator, and 19 plush staterooms, all opening to a deck and offering an en suite, air conditioning, complimentary wi-fi, luxury linen and a television entertainment system, as well as river views. *MS*

## River cruise crash

**HUNGARY** has detained the captain of a cruise ship involved in a collision on the Danube late on Sat local time, which killed two people.

According to local police, five others are still missing from the accident which occurred 55 kilometres from Budapest.

The body of a man was recovered downstream south of Veroce, while a woman's body was found near a bridge on the northern outskirts of Budapest, where police also recovered the damaged ship.

"The captain did not alert his crew after the accident, did not follow provisions of the rescue protocol, and took no action," police said.

### The Chat

with Jenny

Travel Daily

A conversation with  
Michelle Ashcroft  
Phil Hoffmann Travel

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## A-Rosa's new entertainment department

**A-ROSA** River Cruises has created a dedicated entertainment department, which will feature diverse hosts and guest artists this season.

The new department will be based at A-Rosa's headquarters, with the four-strong team to be headed up by Entertainment Manager Fadi Gaziri.

The team (**pictured**) will be responsible for the continuous development of all onboard entertainment, which will be a key strategic priority for A-Rosa moving forward.

The department will manage the entertainment programs during the day and in the evenings, as well as themed cruises and children's offerings.

A-Rosa is the first river cruise line to create its own entertainment department, rather than using a third party, which allows it quality control,



and to pick up on new trends and continue successful concepts.

Alongside pop, jazz, folk, and rock singers, the artist portfolio will now showcase musical theatre names and international performers from shows such as *Phantom of the Opera*, *Cats*, and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*.

Onboard musicians will include trumpeter Francoise Berody; violinist Tamas Seres; and 'Grandcelli Duo', a pair of cellists; alongside tribute artists covering Elvis Presley, and Elton John.

The line will support young artists, and invite singer-

songwriters on board to perform in an intimate atmosphere of the A-Rosa Lounge.

Guests will also enjoy cabaret, magicians, cartoonists, and even sand painting shows from a range of artists.

Themed cruises also fall under the entertainment department, which will feature meditation, mindfulness, photography, dance, nutrition, and yoga.

Most A-Rosa ships will continue to feature an onboard Entertainment Host, who is responsible for the running of the day-to-day program. *MS*

## Bowman's new role

**CHERIE** Bowman has joined Scenic Luxury Cruises & Tours as its Future Cruise Sales Manager on board *Scenic Eclipse II*.

Bowman, who was formerly ittravel Head of Product & LUXE by ittravel, said she has been warmly welcomed by *Eclipse II*'s onboard team, and is excited to spend the coming months creating "moments of wonder" for the ship's guests in the Kimberley.

"My attachment to these Discovery Yachts has been a long one - and this opportunity truly feels like a dream come true, and somewhat of a homecoming," she said.

Bowman has enjoyed a long career in the cruise and travel industry, working with Lindblad Expeditions, Princess Cruises, Flight Centre, and a prior stint with Scenic.



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## Pearl Sea unveils Great Lakes '24 season

**PEARL** Sea Cruises has opened its 2024 Great Lakes season, introducing a new Great Lakes Explorer cruise from Duluth.

The line will operate its biggest-ever season on the Great Lakes, cruising four different itineraries which visit 16 ports.

Pearl Sea's new 14-night Great Lakes Explorer cruise between Duluth and Toronto will deliver the opportunity to sail all five Great Lakes in a single journey.

The season opened on Fri, and will operate through late Sep, with other cruises offered including an 11-night Great Lakes & Georgian Bay itinerary, and a seven-night Great Lakes itinerary, both sailing between Milwaukee and Toronto.

There will also be a 15-night St. Lawrence Seaway & Great Lakes cruise between Milwaukee and Quebec City, with each of Pearl Sea's unique itineraries exploring bucket list destinations, such as Mackinac Island, Niagara Falls, Thunder Bay, and Parry Sound.

Pearl's 2024 cruises offer diverse experiences including memorable visits to Niagara Falls with boat tours of Horseshoe Falls; scenic



explorations of Muskegon, known as the Riviera of the Midwest; and strolls through quaint Holland in Michigan's Lower Peninsula, home to the only authentic working Dutch windmill in the United States.

Guests can also learn about the history of the automobile at the Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation and enjoy a visit to The Motown Museum in Detroit; visit the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland; explore

Mackinac Island by carriage; and enjoy lunch on the veranda of the Grand Hotel.

Visitors to Parry Sound can experience a birds-eye view of the South Channel and Killbear Provincial Park on a seaplane ride, and discover the world's largest freshwater archipelago; kayak on serene waters while spotting local wildlife in Georgian Bay; and discover the art, culture, literature, film & television, and music history of Montreal. *MS*



**CARNIVAL** Corporation is doing its bit for the environment with upgraded buses in Alaska.

The move will reduce traffic and emissions from Carnival Corp's land operation tour buses this month, in time for the Alaska summer season, with new models for both Holland America Line and Princess Cruises.

Carnival Corp is swapping out its Juneau fleet of eight older buses, used to reliably shuttle passengers from the dock to tours of the Mendenhall Glacier, with four new double-decker, environmentally friendly models.

Each Enviro500 bus has about the same capacity as two older ones, and reduces Carnival's fuel consumption.

"We want to do our part and help with cleaner air and less traffic," Division Manager Juneau Bill Hagevig said.




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# Get more out of your river cruise holiday with a group

Cruise Europe's iconic waterways on a Riviera Travel River Cruise with a group of your nearest and dearest

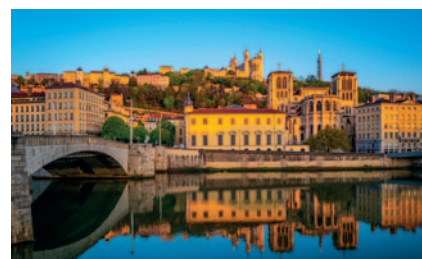
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- For every 8 guests that travel, we will offer one free berth (based on a twin share)<sup>†</sup>
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- Name change can be accepted without penalty until 40 days prior to the cruise start date
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\*Unlimited quantity of drinks at lunch and from 6pm to midnight while on board (selected drinks available). <sup>†</sup>1 in 8 offer available on cruises of 7 nights or more. Terms and Conditions apply.