

Cruise Weekly today

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

RCI set to dial up the weekend

ROYAL Caribbean is inviting cruisers to dial up the weekend, as the line takes getaways to the next level.

Lock in a short ocean adventure from \$459 per person with a two- to four-night sailing from Sydney or Brisbane.

Travel advisors can also score \$50 bonus cash until the end of the month for every booking departing between 01 Jan and 30 Apr.

Head to **page 4** of today's **CW** for more information on Royal Caribbean's short getaways.

Ritz-Carlton fine-tuning Asia product

THE Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection is continually tweaking its product, as it learns more about the cruise sector, and the preferences of its passengers.

VP & GM Seb Seward said Ritz-Carlton is already looking at ways it can adjust its Asia itineraries, as the cruise line sees good uptake on the newly launched voyages (**CW** 27 Jun).

Seward explained at yesterday's Luxperience luxury travel event Ritz-Carlton is looking to diversify the length of its Asia cruises, which were designed primarily with the US market in mind.

Future seasons will instead likely see a broader mix of cruises, Seward explained.

The Ritz-Carlton head also hinted at a future Alaska season - which appears likely to commence following on from *Luminara's* 2026 cruise from Tokyo to Seward.

Other changes will see the cruise line work to incorporate stays at its land-based properties into its itineraries, with Seward revealing The Ritz-Carlton Maldives Fari Islands and The Ritz-Carlton Bangkok as targets.

The emerging luxury brand is also preparing to publicly launch its Mediterranean & Northern Europe program for 2026, Seward added, which will feature a number of firsts for the line.

The season will include 44 voyages across *Evrma* and *Ilma*, covering 23 countries, and including six new ports, such as Greenwich in South East London - made possible by the smaller size of Ritz-Carlton's yachts.

The cruise line will also increase its presence in other parts of the world, such as Greece, Croatia, and Spain, with a season highlight to introduce themed itineraries.

These will include a wine-

themed voyage from Lisbon to Portsmouth, visiting multiple tasting regions across Europe; and a golf cruise centred on Scotland.

The cruise line will also begin incorporating the Arctic Circle on its Reykjavik round trips, as it visits the fjords of Norway.

"[Ritz-Carlton is] really trying to expand the range of experiences that are available," he explained.

"We're actually seeing that half of our customers have never cruised before, which when I speak to a lot of other cruise lines, they're very envious of.

"We also see a very high repeat booking rate, so once the customers get on board, between 20-30% of them rebook."

Ritz-Carlton is also channelling bookings from Marriott's loyalty program, with Seward revealing three-quarters of all bookings have a Marriott Bonvoy number associated with it. *MS*



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Treasure is found

DISNEY Cruise Line's *Disney Treasure* has been christened, becoming the sixth ship in the brand's fleet.

Treasure was christened in New York Harbor, debuting to a drone show.

The ship will make her maiden voyage early next month - a seven-night eastern Caribbean cruise out of Port Canaveral on 21 Dec.

Nova arrives in Australia



SILVERSEA'S *Silver Nova* has arrived in Australia for the first time, to commence her summer season Down Under.

Nova recently made her maiden call in Darwin, before sailing to Port Douglas, and then Cairns (**pictured**), from where she departed yesterday.

The ship will continue along the east coast to Shute Harbour and Brisbane, and will arrive in Melbourne and Adelaide at the end of the month.

Nova will then sail toward Sydney, calling at unique destinations like Kangaroo Island, Phillip Island, and Eden.

After *Nova's* maiden call in Sydney, the ship will embark on a journey to Tasmania, followed by New Zealand.

Nova also introduces Silversea's innovative culinary programme, S.A.L.T. (Sea and Land Taste), to Australia, as foreshadowed by **Cruise Weekly** earlier this year (**CW** 05 Mar).

The S.A.L.T. program immerses travellers in local cuisines and

ingredients reflective of each destination's heritage, with the menu having thus far featured Darwin Laksa, a local favourite known for its rich, spicy flavours, celebrated annually at the Darwin International Laksa Festival.

"We're delighted to host guests aboard *Silver Nova* in Australian waters for the first time; her arrival marks a milestone moment for experiential luxury travel in this region," President Bert Hernandez said.

"Our S.A.L.T. culinary program enables our guests to experience each destination's rich culture through its authentic flavours, while *Silver Nova's* pioneering asymmetrical design connects travellers with the destination at every turn.

"We're proud to offer guests an unmatched level of luxury with industry-leading service, deepening their connection to Australia," he added.

Silver Muse is also in the region this summer, journeying primarily from Sydney. **MS**

Aqua godfather

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line has named American actor Eric Stonestreet as godfather to its newest ship, *Norwegian Aqua*.

The *Modern Family* star will bless the next vessel in the Norwegian fleet at her official christening ceremony in Miami on 13 Apr.

Following her christening voyage, *Aqua* will depart on seven-day Orlando itineraries.



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TURTLES are renowned and celebrated for returning to their place of their birth to lay their eggs, however others are just as capable of getting lost.

One such Kemp's ridley sea turtle has just been returned to its native waters in the Gulf of Mexico after being found off the coast of the Netherlands, certainly a major off-course.

The poor turtle's continental plight began after it became entangled in the nets of a commercial fishing trawler, with ocean currents then taking over and carrying it across the Atlantic.

After being found, the turtle was taken to Rotterdam Zoo where it was nursed back to health and eventually flown back to Houston.

Earlier this month, the turtle was released back into the Gulf of Mexico, no doubt with plenty of stories to share with his turtle buddies.

Message to the Corinthian



ORIENT Express has unveiled the design and interiors of *OE Corinthian*, the newly named first of the brand's two upcoming yachts (*CW* 18 Oct 2023).

Corinthian is designed specifically to navigate the Mediterranean, Adriatic, and Caribbean, and will contain 54 suites, all featuring panoramic bay windows.

The suites are sized from 47m² to 230m², 48 of which are located on decks 4, 5 and 6, with a further six premium class suites situated on deck 7.

The 22-metre ship is being designed by Orient Express Artistic Director Maxime d'Angeac, and will boast five restaurants; eight bars, including

a 1930s-style speakeasy; a 115-seat cabaret; a recording studio; a cinema; and a spa.

There is also a marina at the stern of the ship, and a swimming pool on deck 6.

Corinthian is being built at Chantiers de l'Atlantique shipyard, and will set sail in the northern summer of 2026.

Accor Group Chair & Chief Executive Officer Sebastien Bazin said *Corinthian* is a great source of pride for the company.

"Drawing inspiration from the golden age of luxury cruises, the yacht reinvents movement and comfort on the water and is designed to meet the sustainability challenges of the future," he said. *MS*

RCI unveils 2026-27

ROYAL Caribbean has released its latest combination of 2026-27 Caribbean and Northeastern United States cruises, sailing with a line-up of 12 ships.

Headlining the adventures are four-to-12-night itineraries packed with island hopping in idyllic destinations, including Perfect Day at CocoCay, and the newest addition to the Royal Beach Club Collection, Royal Beach Club Cozumel, opening in Mexico in 2026.

Icon of the Seas will sail from Miami, while the next ship in her namesake class, *Star of the Seas*, will cruise from Port Canaveral, offering seven-night vacations to the eastern and western Caribbean.

Tropical getaways are also in store from Tampa, San Juan, and Galveston, as well as Fort Lauderdale, on the soon-to-be-renovated *Allure of the Seas*.

Serving the northeast from Cape Liberty will be *Oasis of the Seas*, *Odyssey of the Seas*, and *Independence of the Seas*, while *Vision of the Seas* will cruise from Baltimore.



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