



### Cruise Weekly today

**CRUISE Weekly** today features four pages of all the latest cruise industry news, including a photo page from **Celestyal Cruises** and a full page from **Disney Cruise Line**.

### Ilma makes debut

**ILMA**, the newest superyacht from The Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection, has made her debut, embarking on her maiden voyage on Mon.

The ship is sailing a seven-night journey from Monte Carlo to Rome, offering innovative dining, expansive suites, and a pool deck.

"It is with immense pride and excitement that we welcome *Ilma* to our growing fleet," Executive Chairman & Chief Executive Jim Murren said.

"Since *Evrima's* debut, we have been steadfast in our pursuit of excellence at sea.

"The addition of *Ilma* signifies a continuation of our mission to deliver legendary service and unparalleled enjoyment to our guests."

*Ilma's* inaugural season in the Mediterranean includes visits to Santorini, Porto Cervo, and Valletta, before departing for the Caribbean.

There she will visit Virgin Gorda, Gustavia, and St. John, before making the cruise line's debut in the North and Baltic seas during the ship's 2025 summer season.

## ACA conference ships out

A **TRUE** "whole-of-government" approach is seemingly the missing piece from leading the Australian cruise sector into one of its most successful periods in history.

Australian Cruise Association (ACA) Chief Executive Officer Jill Abel, speaking to **Cruise Weekly** ahead of the organisation's conference today, lauded the industry's successes of late, and touched on how close the sector is to firing on all cylinders.

"I think the big push from an ACA perspective is to get that whole-of-government approach, making sure that all of the agencies are behind each other

to create an environment for that growth to happen," Abel said.

"Enthusiasm from the destinations is definitely there, the drive from the consumer is there, the product is there, we've just got to make it a bit more seamless," she added.

Abel, speaking on the eve of the ACA's largest-ever conference, said she believes the cruise industry is getting the message across, but that the job is certainly not done yet.

This year's conference, taking place in Adelaide, will be about ensuring the cruise industry reaches its next phase of growth.

"We will be reporting a record economic report in a couple of weeks, which is great, but we also have to recognise that there is going to be a bit of a flattening for the next couple of years, and we need to work really hard to turn that flattening into that next phase of growth," she added. *MS*

### SA to attract cruise

**THE** Government of South Australia is set to form the 'South Australian Cruise Attraction Working Group', increasing the state's commitment to the sector.

SA's Minister for Tourism, Zoe Bettison, confirmed the news at today's Australian Cruise Association conference,

"I need to hear from you - what would be a game-changer, what's attractive to you, and then [we] need to work out how we can deliver."



### A date with *Destiny*

**DISNEY** Cruise Line will introduce its next vessel, *Disney Destiny*, on 20 Nov next year, the line has confirmed.

Based in Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale, *Destiny's* maiden voyage will be a four-night trip to the Bahamas, calling in at both Lookout Cay and Castaway Cay.

Following that, *Destiny* will begin regular four- and five-night adventures to the Bahamas and Western Caribbean, with stops at one or both of its private islands.

Meanwhile, Disney's Magic Ahoy virtual cruise is now sailing - and it holds your chance to win a stateroom aboard a *Disney Wonder* voyage next year.

Participants will learn about Disney's rotational dining, onboard entertainment, private island, and more - visit **page five** for further details.



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## Aurora to expand from expeditions

**EXCLUSIVE**

**AURORA** Expeditions has introduced new destinations and new voyage styles in its 2026 season release (**CW** breaking news), which Head of Global Sales David Tanguay has described as the line's "most complete and diversified" ever.

The company's 2026 season will see it expand to Southeast Asia, **Cruise Weekly** can exclusively reveal, with voyages in Indonesia and Borneo sailing from Raja Ampat to Singapore on board *Greg Mortimer*.

Aurora will also embark on its first small-ship-style cruises to the Mediterranean, the Atlantic Coast, the British Isles, Africa, and even transatlantic voyages, which will be a distinct program alongside its core offering of polar and remote area expeditions.

Tanguay told **CW** the release marks Aurora's transition from

pure polar expedition operator to small ship cruising, framed by included pre- and post-land programs, as well as a choice of all-inclusive shore excursions at every port.

The season features 42 departures in total, with Aurora also introducing new solo staterooms on every sailing.

Ten cabins on every departure will be set aside for singles, which will attract no supplement.

Other highlights will include an opportunity to view the solar eclipse of 12 Aug 2026 in Greenland on Aurora's 'Jewels of the Arctic' itinerary, which will sail from Oslo to Reykjavik.

The season will also see additional cruises to Aurora's popular destinations of Scotland (aboard *Greg Mortimer*) and Costa Rica (*Sylvia Earle*).

Chief Exec Michael Heath said Aurora would not be sacrificing

any of its brand promises, as the cruise line expands to different styles of cruising.

"The Aurora style of travel is focused on destination immersion and responsible small ship exploration in a relaxed and informal setting - and is consistent no matter which corner of the planet we are exploring," he added.

"We have grown from our core offering of polar and remote area expeditions to a greater diversity of destinations, climates and exploration styles to allow our passengers to experience more."

The development comes as Aurora prepares to welcome its new ship *Douglas Mawson* into its fleet in Nov 2025, as exclusively revealed by **CW** earlier this year (**CW** 03 Apr).

Aurora is also planning an event in Sydney to welcome *Douglas Mawson*, Tanguay revealed. **MS**



**CRUISE WEEKLY**  
On location in  
**Adelaide**

Today's issue of **CW** is coming to you from Adelaide at the Australian Cruise Association conference at EOS by SkyCity.

**CRUISE Weekly** has arrived in Adelaide for this year's Australian Cruise Association conference, its biggest ever.

More than 150 delegates will join one of Australia's peak cruise bodies to learn how the industry can better collaborate to ensure the sustained success of the industry.

The conference, themed 'Steering Ideas to Success', will be addressed by international talent such as Seabourn Cruise Line's Jessica Ashe, and Norwegian Cruise Line's Chad Berkshire, among others.



# En gladlaks.

'A happy salmon.'

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# CRUISE WEEKLY Celestyal celebrates at Cruise360

WEEKLY

Thursday 5th Sep 2024

**CELESTYAL** Chief Commercial Officer Lee Haslett and VP Business Development Janet Parton flew down from their head office in the UK for Cruise360 and enjoyed a few extra days of glorious spring weather while they wined and dined Australian travel agents, distribution partners, industry leaders and media.

Following a panel appearance at Cruise360, where Lee discussed the importance of new-to-cruise customers, the Celestyal executives climbed the Harbour Bridge and visited the Hunter Valley, then took media on a 'Taste of Celestyal' tour with Gourmet Safaris in Sydney.

Similar to Celestyal's authentic excursions, the local food tour visited family-run businesses, offering a taste of Greece, Italy and the Middle East in Sydney.

It was a celebration of the line's new year-round program offering the best of the Aegean, Adriatic and Arabian Gulf.

With ambitious growth plans for the Australian market, Haslett and Parton, along with Celestyal Regional Manager Stewart Williams and Australian Business Development Manager Mary Williams, hosted more than 20 partners and industry stalwarts at a lavish dinner at Crown Sydney's Woodcut restaurant.



**THE** Celestyal team at Hunter Valley: Mary Williams, Janet Parton, Stewart Williams, and Lee Haslett.



**CAITLYN** Paris, Stewart Williams, Mary Williams, Janet Parton, Carina Mullen, and Lee Haslett.



**MICHAEL** Gazal and Karen Kotseles.



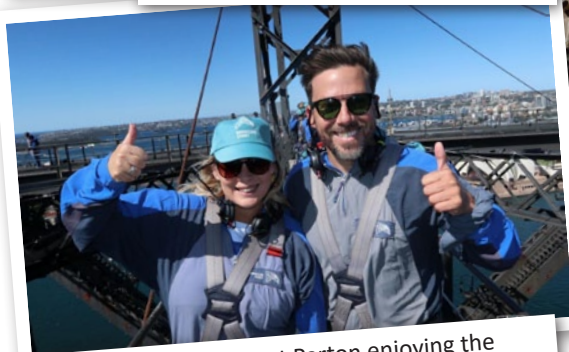
**BRAD** McDonald, Brett Jardine and Greg McCallum at the partners dinner.



**GUESTS** at the Celestyal partners dinner ready to tuck into their delicious meals.



**MARY** Williams, Stewart Williams and Janet Parton at Cruise360.



**LEE** Haslett and Janet Parton enjoying the Sydney BridgeClimb.



**JANET** Parton, Brad McDonald, Mary Williams and Lee Haslett.



**GREG** McCallum, Caitlyn Paris, and Stewart Williams.



**JANET** Parton and Lee Haslett enjoying a food tour in Sydney.



**THEY** say politics doesn't mix well with anything, and it would appear Carnival Cruise Line agrees.

John Heald, in his role as Brand Ambassador, recently fielded a question about politics, *TheStreet* reports.

A future cruiser set to sail on *Carnival Breeze* wanted to know whether the cruise line would be "considering the wishes from many" to screen the United States Presidential Debate, which will be occurring around the time of the sailing.

"Respectfully, we will not be showing it," Heald wrote.

*TheStreet* noted the propensity for Carnival to show other large and important events on board its ships, such as the Super Bowl.

However, while sports ignite one kind of passion from viewers, contemporary politics seems to elicit another far less healthy kind of "passion".

## Avalon, FCTG gather in Portugal



**FLIGHT** Centre Travel Group (FCTG) has wrapped up its Global Gathering in style on the Douro with Avalon Waterways, with 18 senior leaders from the company boarding the line's newest ship.

Guests were welcomed aboard *Avalon Alegria*, and were hosted by Globus family of brands sales leaders, including Head of Commercial, Brett Simon, Global Account Manager, Mitch Spencer, and US National Director of Field Sales, Archy Arushanyan.

The trip saw the group

experience *Alegria* first-hand, exploring the beauty of the Douro Valley on Avalon's new eight-day 'Vida Portugal: Vineyards & Villages' cruise along the Douro.

**Pictured** are Brent Novak, Anita Emilio, Blake Newell, Chadd Andre, Nick McCrohan, Jason Hartley, Lisa Wright, Sasha Lazarevic, Brett Simon, Allie Sparr, Mitch Spencer, Megan Henderson, Gary Smith, Christina Pedroni, Bhavna Thapar, Archy Arushanyan, Graham Turner, and Selena Byrnes. *MS*

## APT Antarctica '26

**APT** has launched its 2026 Antarctica adventures, highlighted by a fully chartered, ultra-luxury cruise aboard *Seabourn Venture*.

The 10-night cruise will see guests guided along a flexible itinerary in Antarctica, with an expert expedition team leading Zodiac adventures and shore landings.

Guests can extend their holiday with the 29-day 'Antarctic Voyage with South American Discovery', which also offers up a stays in the Sacred Valley, where guests will take in Machu Picchu before stays in Cusco, Lima, and Buenos Aires.

After the Antarctic Voyage, guests will return to Buenos Aires for a further two nights followed by a two-night stay at the Gran Melia Iguazu - which sits within Iguazu National Park, where a sommelier-led wine tasting awaits.

Guests will visit Iguazu Falls from both sides of the Argentina-Brazil border, then finish the tour with three nights in Rio de Janeiro.

# Discover the all new *River Cruise Special Report*



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*Cruise Weekly* is Australasia's leading travel industry cruise publication.

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# THE *MAGIC AHOY!* VIRTUAL CRUISE IS NOW SAILING AND IT HOLDS YOUR CHANCE TO **WIN** A STATEROOM ONBOARD A DISNEY WONDER VOYAGE IN 2025!



**What is *Magic Ahoy!* all about?** This virtual cruise gives you the opportunity to explore Disney Cruise Line at your leisure. You can dip in, have a break, come back later, or complete all the training in one go – it is completely up to you. You'll learn all about our infamous Rotational Dining, onboard entertainment, Disney's Private Island, and more! This training covers all five ships in our fleet, including *Disney Wonder*, the ship sailing from Australia and New Zealand.

There are 3 Levels to complete – once you have reached Level 3, you'll be entered into the draw to win a Stateroom for you and a Guest onboard a Disney Cruise Line sailing from Sydney!

The competition runs between 26 August and 18 November 2024, with spot prizes to be won throughout the incentive, and an **exclusive *Magic Ahoy!* pin\*** once you collect all the Mickey Stamps.

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