



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

Two Quark events

QUARK Expeditions is hosting upcoming Explorers Events in Sydney and Brisbane, where it will celebrate the launch of its Arctic and Antarctica 2026 season.

Arriving in Australia especially for the events will be Senior Director of Global Partnerships Beth Mercier, Director of Trade Marketing Seb Canape, and Expedition Guide Ian Johnson, who will share stories from the field.

They will also details Quark's latest total solar eclipse-, Iceland-, and helicopter-focused itineraries.

CLICK HERE to RSVP to the Sydney event and **HERE** for the Brisbane night.

Funding secures new Chimu ship

CHIMU Adventures has received investment from shipping company Nordic Hamburg, which will enable the Aussie expedition line to embark on a "new phase of growth" (**CW** breaking news yesterday).

The investment will see Chimu charter a new lower-emissions vessel, *Ocean Nova* (pictured), which will arrive in Mar 2026.

Nordic's funding will also see Intrepid Travel divest its stake in Chimu, into which it originally invested 50% in back in 2017 (**CW** 15 Aug 2017).

Chimu said the new Nordic Hamburg investment will enable it to innovate within the polar expedition market, with a focus on low-emission cruising.

"We're thrilled to join forces with Nordic, leveraging their shipping expertise to expand our polar offerings and advance low emission technology in this



industry for the future," Chimu MD Chad Carey said.

"Our continued partnership with Intrepid will allow us to maintain our commitment to delivering purpose-driven, experiential polar adventures," he added.

"As we look ahead, we're also excited to extend the Chimu brand and business model into the North American and European markets."

Intrepid will remain a close

distribution partner of Chimu's and the two will continue to offer polar journeys together.

The two are in the last season of a three-year charter of *Ocean Endeavour* ship to Antarctica.

"We are proud of what Intrepid achieved in Antarctica, but now with our ship lease ending, it is the right time for us to re-evaluate our approach," Intrepid Chief Executive Officer James Thornton said. *MS*

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Mitsui sets sail

MITSUI Ocean Lines, the new cruise brand from Mitsui OSK Lines, has welcomed its new ship, *Mitsui Ocean Fuji*.

The new cruise line recently received the ship, the former *Seabourn Odyssey*, in a handover with Seabourn Cruise Line (**CW** 13 Oct).

The ceremony was held in the port of Yokohama, at the end of the ship's 22-day Farewell Voyage from the United States (**CW** 29 Apr).

The handover saw the flag of Mitsui raised aboard the ship, as she becomes *Ocean Fuji* ahead of her debut with her new cruise line on 01 Dec.

Ocean Fuji will now move to Mitsubishi Shipyard in Yokohama for refurbishment, which will include an upgrade to all suites, galley equipment, and onboard venues.

The 458-guest *Ocean Fuji's* inaugural season with Mitsui will see her sail a special New Year's sailing, Spring & Golden Week cruises, and a 66-day 'Grand Asia Cruise'.

"It is my pleasure to be part of this commemorative day," Mitsui Ocean Lines Chief Operations Officer Shoichiro Yamashita said.

"We offer our sincerest respect to Seabourn."

Mitsui is aiming to become "the future of luxury cruising in Japan", the cruise line declared at the ceremony.

TA's new-to-cruise success



TRAVEL Associates (TA) has welcomed 80% new-to-cruise customers at its recent luxury cruise events (**CW** 13 Sep).

The travel agency network has so far delivered three near-sell-out events around Australia, with Adelaide and Melbourne still to come, following on from Sydney, Gold Coast, and Newcastle.

The Travel Associates Luxury Event: Cruise series, a first for the brand, has also visited Auckland.

GM Rachel Kingswell said the events offer guests exclusive on-the-day cruise deals, one-on-one consults with Travel Associates advisors, and product insights from 20 of the world's luxury cruise lines.

"So far the events we've had across Australia and New Zealand have been an incredible success - to see the event space buzzing with guests interacting with our

suppliers and advisors was just amazing," she enthused.

"This is a new format and it has gone to show that showcasing the Travel Associates experience in this way really works for us - it's invaluable for our clients to be able to sit down and speak with one of our advisors to go through all the options and find their perfect cruise.

"Our clients know that we're the best-kept secret in luxury travel, and are so loyal to us, but it's been amazing to welcome so many new clients through these events who are in the process of booking their first Travel Associates holiday."

The upcoming Adelaide event will be hosted on 13 Oct at Eos by SkyCity, before Travel Associates visits The Ritz-Carlton, Melbourne on 20 Oct - **CLICK HERE** for more information and to book. *MS*

All you can Eataly

MSC Cruises' upcoming new flagship, *MSC World America*, is set to feature the world's only Eataly at sea.

Guests sailing on *World America* will be able to enjoy the large Italian food hall, which will include exclusive dishes only available on board the ship.

World America will also feature new Greek restaurant Paxos, along with a range of new complimentary fast and casual options.

"As an international cruise line with a strong European heritage, we are committed to taking our guests on a gastronomic journey of discovery with the onboard dining experience as we believe that the best memories are made when sharing good food together," VP of Global Hotel Operations Bernhard Stacher said.

"*World America* stays true to this philosophy, which is why we have partnered with Eataly - an emblem of Made in Italy and Italian culinary artistry.

"We share a passion for high-quality, authentic food made with fresh ingredients and together we are creating a unique experience that can only be enjoyed on board."

The ship will welcome guests in Apr, and spend her inaugural season sailing from PortMiami to the Caribbean.

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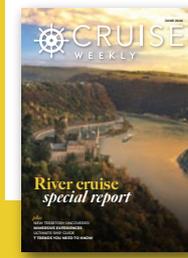
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EVERYONE has heard of Hurtigruten's Havets Bobler submerged wine (*CW* 15 Nov), but one man has just found his own lake-bottom liquor.

The Canadian man was exploring a local wreck - a taxicab which sank when it perilously attempted to drive across an ice sheet.

The taxicab was said to be carrying liquor and holiday bonuses for local gold miners working in a town in Northern Ontario, with divers having searched for the submerged wreck for years.

The vehicle was recently found, and when the lucky diver opened the boot, he unearthed one part of the supposed treasure - six bottles of what tasted like whisky.

Unfortunately, three of the bottles burst on the way to the surface due to the pressure, but one of the century-old bottles will now be auctioned.

Culinary celebrated at Key

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has pulled the curtain back further on Celebration Key, giving the public a first look at the culinary offerings that will be available at the private island (*CW* 02 Aug).

Set to open on Grand Bahama in Jul 2025, the private island will boast more than 30 food and beverage outlets,

including four full-service restaurants, a food hall, nine food trucks, five snack shacks, two counter-service kiosks, and 12 bars.

Guests visiting Celebration Key will have their pick of local Bahamian specialties, beachside snacks, seafood, and barbeque, to name just a few, with some venues including complimentary lunch options as part of the destination's 'Island Eats' offering.

Highlights include classic burgers, tacos, steak, and more at waterfront restaurant, Mingo's Tropical Bar & Kitchen (*pictured*); slow-smoked meats at

Surf N' Sauce BBQ & Brews; and Caribbean seafood at the family-friendly Starfish Lagoon.

For a quick lunch, guests can head to Captain's Galley Food Hall, which comprises of five outlets, or visit one of the many self-ordering kiosks, food trucks or snack shacks.



There's also a swim-up bar serving frozen cocktails, an ice-cream parlour,

a coffee shop, as well as an exclusive club.

"Great food and beverage options are essential to the Carnival experience, and we've designed Celebration Key with an array of dining opportunities," commented Christine Duffy, President of Carnival Cruise Line.

"Just like there will be no shortage of ways to enjoy their day in paradise, there will also be something for everyone to eat and drink at Celebration Key." *JM*

CLIA AK comments

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) has reinforced it believes in conversing with the communities its members visit, as Juneau prepares to vote on banning ships on Sats (*CW* yesterday).

"The industry's most recent MOA demonstrates the shared commitment to maintaining vibrant and sustainable tourism in communities like Juneau and throughout Southeast Alaska," a CLIA statement said.

"We believe ongoing, direct dialogue with local communities is the best way to jointly self-regulate to preserve great resident and visitor experiences while providing a predictable market for the many local businesses that rely on the cruise industry," CLIA added.

The initiative from Juneau locals, dubbed 'Ship-Free Sat', would ban any cruise vessel with more than 250 passengers from docking in the city on Sat, as well as Independence Day.



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