



Cruise Weekly today

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

HX celebrates 130

HX IS celebrating 130 years of exploring the edge, having taken curious cruisers beyond the horizon since 1896.

The cruise line is celebrating by offering a suite for the price of a superior stateroom - head to **page 4** for more info.

Two Queens in HK

CUNARD Line's *Queen Elizabeth* recently joined the new *Queen Anne* in Hong Kong for the first meeting between the two ships.

Queen Anne is currently sailing her maiden world voyage, while *Queen Elizabeth* is based in Japan.

Carnival serves up an Ace or three

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has unveiled its strategic plans over the next five years, which will include new ships, fleet enhancements, exclusive destinations, and more.

The cruise line's 'Innovation Itinerary' will see it introduce a fourth and fifth Excel-class ship, *Carnival Festivale* and *Carnival Tropicale*, which will debut in 2027 and 2028 respectively.

The debut of *Festivale* from Port Canaveral will see *Mardi Gras* move to offering short cruises, replaced on her week-long itineraries by the new ship.

Carnival will also introduce a new ship platform in 2029, currently called 'Project Ace'.

The three ships making up this platform will be the largest in the Carnival fleet, at almost 8,000 guests each, and will be delivered in 2029, 2031, and 2033.

Carnival's 'Innovation Itinerary' will also see the enhancement



and rebranding of its private destinations, which will be marketed as the new 'Paradise Collection by Carnival'.

This includes the upcoming destination in Mahogany Bay, Honduras, which is set to debut next year, and will be renamed Isla Tropicale.

The Paradise Collection will also include Celebration Key, set to debut in Jul (**CW** 21 Feb); and RelaxAway, Half Moon Cay.

The line will also be enhancing its loyalty program, President Christine Duffy said, with details set to be announced later this year, to take effect in 2026. *MS*



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Azamara appoints

AZAMARA has appointed David Siewers as Chief Sales Officer International, effective from 22 May.

Based in Miami, Siewers will oversee all markets outside of North America, reinforcing the line's commitment to strengthening its presence beyond its home continent.

Siewers brings extensive experience in the cruise industry, most recently serving as Director of Northeast Sales at Celebrity Cruises.

He led the company's first-ever localised marketing program, managed trade partner head office accounts, and played a key role in guiding regional sales teams and agency partners through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dondra Ritzenthaler, Chief Executive of Azamara, said Siewers is an "exciting addition" to the cruise line.

"We are growing as a company and his extensive knowledge of this ever-evolving travel space will allow us to continue delivering exceptional guest experiences.

"David will guide us as we increase our global presence and performance through strategic alliances with agents and travellers alike in key international markets."

Siewers said he looked forward to "finding new opportunities".

Travelmarvel unveils '26



TRAVELMARVEL has released its 2026 Europe season, which introduces Small Group Journeys as well the operator's brand-new ship, *Travelmarvel Rigel* (**CW** 08 Nov 2024).

In response to demand for more intimate travel experiences, the Small Group Journeys collection offers a mix of river and ocean cruising, land tours, and scenic rail journeys, with a limit of 24 travellers per group.

Destinations include Ireland, Scotland, Italy, Spain, Portugal, and Morocco, with a standout of the collection being the 14-day 'Flavours of Spain & Portugal' itinerary, where guests will indulge in the culinary and cultural traditions of the Iberian Peninsula.

Available as part of a 21-day combination with the 'Douro Discovery' cruise, guests will meet the family behind an intimate flamenco show in Madrid, explore hidden tabernas of Seville for the city's best tapas, and enjoy an exclusive wine tasting at a local quinta in Porto.

The 2026 season will also see the new *Travelmarvel Rigel* make its debut, sailing the Rhine and Moselle between Amsterdam and Basel, marking the first time Travelmarvel has offered cruises along the Moselle River during the summer season.

The journey includes visits to destinations like Cochem, where guests can enjoy a tour of Cochem Castle.

Prices for the cruise start at \$3,695 per person.

Additionally, Travelmarvel has introduced a new 15-day land extension itinerary in Switzerland for next year.

The 'Spectacular Switzerland with the Rhine and Moselle' tour blends scenic rail journeys and river cruising through Switzerland's landscapes, allowing guests to explore the iconic cities of Zurich, Lucerne, and Basel, before sailing along the Rhine and Moselle.

Prices start at \$8,995 per person, with earlybird savings of up to \$2,000 per couple. *JM*

Crystal brochure

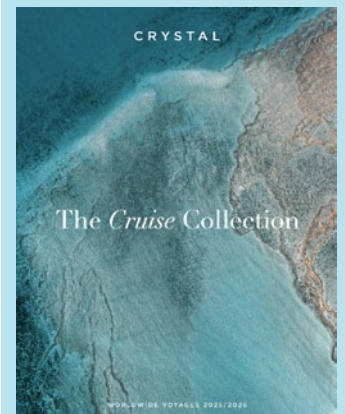
CRYSTAL Cruises has released its latest brochure in Australia, featuring a year of scheduled itineraries across two ships around the world.

The new 'Cruise Collection' guide (pictured) is available to download on the Crystal Cruises website - **CLICK HERE** - or to order via TIFS.

Across more than 100 pages, the new guide features detailed overviews of *Crystal Symphony* and *Crystal Serenity* including deck plan and a stateroom guide, plus info on the line's onboard experience.

The magazine-style brochure also includes feature articles on the line's new Monte Carlo casino experience and an interview with chefs leading its gourmet dining.

Readers will also find a chat with Abercrombie & Kent founder Geoffrey Kent, who talks about the ongoing integration of A&K land tours into Crystal's shore product.

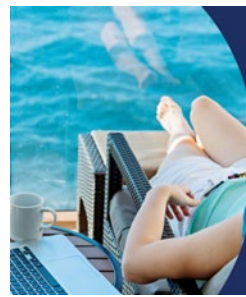


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ONE look at any collection of world records these days and you'll see there really is a category for anything.

MSC Cruises has now entered the world record realm thanks to an effort on its latest ship, *MSC World America*, which saw the world's longest line of ships made out of Lego.

More than 1,000 crew members assembled 1,391 mini Lego ships, which together spanned 89 metres, running the length of the ship's World Galleria on deck 6.

Each Lego ship took an average of five minutes to build, with the crew collectively putting in 7,000 minutes, or 116 hours, of their time.

The successful record attempt was undertaken during *World America's* repositioning voyage from the Chantiers de l'Atlantique shipyard in Saint-Nazaire to Miami, where the ship will be based.

MSC's new Barca terminal

MSC Group's cruise division has officially inaugurated its new terminal (**pictured**) at the Port of Barcelona, on the occasion of the first call of *Explora II*.

A commemorative ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on the day, attended by a number of dignitaries, including Executive Chairman of MSC Cruises Pierfrancesco Vago.

The landmark terminal was designed by Catalanian architecture firm Ricardo Bofill Taller de Arquitectura to provide a seamless journey reflecting the elegance, comfort, and service cruise passengers will find on board MSC Group's ships.

The terminal features a retail area, a spacious waiting lounge with generous seating, and an exclusive VIP lounge for premium and luxury guests.

The facility's design also includes environmental and energy-efficient features, such as energy-saving technologies and sustainable materials.

This includes solar panels and optimised natural light to minimise the need for artificial lighting, along with a rainwater



collection system to supply water for toilets and landscaped areas to reduce water usage.

Shore power connectivity will be available in 2027, allowing ships to switch off their engines when docked, and connect to the local power grid, eliminating emissions in port.

"Barcelona has been a strategic partner for MSC Group for more than four decades and for MSC Cruises for more than 25 years, and our commitment is unwavering," Vago said.

"The new terminal is not just an investment in modern port infrastructure but demonstrates that we are aligned with the city's strategy for a more balanced and sustainable model of tourism, all whilst bringing positive economic benefits to the region." MS

Red alert for Virgin

VIRGIN Voyages has unveiled 'Rojo by Razzle Dazzle', a new Spanish-inspired culinary experience set to debut on *Brilliant Lady*.

Chefs Justin Severino and Nate Hobart will be co-helming the restaurant, and will bring Spanish-inspired dishes made for sharing and savouring to the new ship.

Rojo will serve a signature brunch with a Spanish-American twist, served in a casual atmosphere.

New dishes will include jamon croquettes paired with morning classics like acai bowls, pastries, and frittatas.

When the sun sets, Rojo will transform into an elevated dining experience pulsing with vibrant Spanish energy.

The night-time menu will feature pintxos, tapas, and platos grandes, all pulling inspiration from Spain's renowned culinary regions.

Virgin has also partnered with Onada Consulting from Barcelona to add authentic cocktails with a Spanish touch to the menu.



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