



Cruise Weekly today

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

Fred sees the world

FRED. Olsen Cruise Lines has announced its world cruise for 2027, featuring extended stays in Japan and Hawaii.

The 98-night voyage sets off from Southampton in Jan 2027 on board *Borealis*, and will include a transit through the Panama Canal.

Guests will enjoy a four-day stay in Hawaii, along with visits to five Japanese ports, which have been timed to avoid the peak season.

Highlights include a visit to Pearl Harbor, Singapore's futuristic Gardens by the Bay, and the chance to see the 'big five' on safari in South Africa.

"This is a truly special voyage of discovery...designed especially to showcase iconic landmarks, diverse cultures and natural wonders across some world-renowned cities and wonderful hidden gems," Head of Product Innovation Martin Lister said.

"An undoubted highlight will be the extended call into Japan, at a time of year when there will be fewer crowds and the chance to witness the beauty of the late plum blossom season" - prices start from £11,499pp (A\$24,013pp).

Explora new members club



EXPLORA Journeys has launched Explora Club, a new five-tiered loyalty program designed to unlock an array of incremental privileges for guests.

The quintet of tiers - Classic, Silver, Gold, Platinum, and Diamond - will each unveil a collection of benefits, from priority access and bespoke events to personalised gifts and exclusive savings.

Explora Club benefits include priority access to the new journey collections, a dedicated area on explorajourneys.com, priority assistance at the Explora Experience Centre, private airport transfers, and complimentary suite upgrades.

Levels are determined by nights spent onboard, multiplied by suite category, with past journeys also recognised.

Additional points can be earned through Destination Experience, while eligible onboard spending

is also included, such as ocean wellness, exclusive culinary experiences and beverages, laundry, and purchases at the ship's boutique.

There will also be a status match program, allowing guests holding a certain loyalty tier with another luxury cruise line to be welcomed into Explora Club with the equivalent level of recognition from their first journey.

Explora Club will launch on 09 Apr, and by Jul, members will have access to the 'My Explora' area on the cruise line's website.

"The launch of Explora Club marks a significant milestone in the evolution of our dynamic and rapidly growing brand," President Anna Nash declared.

"It is our way of celebrating the loyalty and trust of our guests - those who have embraced our vision from the very beginning, and those just beginning their journey with us today.

"Designed to elevate every journey, it offers thoughtful privileges and unforgettable experiences that nurture the emotional connection we are proud to share - both with our guests and with the ocean itself."

The cruise line recently inaugurated its new terminal at the Port of Barcelona, with *Explora II* becoming the first ship to call it (CW 07 Apr).

Pax can also currently save up to 25% as part of Explora's new 'Upgrade Your Ocean' deal. *MS*

Festive underway

CONSTRUCTION has begun on Carnival Cruise Line's next new ship, *Carnival Festive*, just days after the company revealed the vessel's name (CW 07 Apr).

A steel-cutting ceremony was held at the Meyer Werft shipyard in Germany, marking the first milestone of the construction of Carnival's fourth Excel-class ship.

"The steel being cut for our next new ship is music to my ears, which is in tune with many of the themed experiences *Carnival Festive* will bring to our guests," said Christine Duffy, President of Carnival Cruise Line.

"From the music-themed zones to the expansive new water park we've planned for this ship, she will continue the tradition of infusing innovative new features into our fleet."

A highlight of the newbuild, which will be powered by liquefied natural gas, will be its two music-themed zones on decks 6, 7 and 8 - one with cutting-edge media and interactive experiences, and another inspired by the outdoor music performances.

Jewels up for grabs

VIKING'S 'Jewels of Japan & China' cruise, from Tokyo to Beijing or vice versa, is on sale from \$6,295 per person.

Passengers can sail for 15 days in a Veranda stateroom, with savings of up to \$12,000 per couple on select sailings in Oct and Nov.

Cruisers will delve into the history, culture, and cuisine of the Far East, discovering the German heritage of Qingdao, and the blended tradition and modernity of Shanghai.

They will also experience the natural beauty of Jeju and Miyazaki, and take in views of Mt. Fuji in Shimizu.

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\$600k	\$420,000	\$480,000	\$540,000

*plus up to 5% more





Aman names new yacht *Amangati*

AMAN has revealed the name of its upcoming luxury yacht, currently under construction at T.Mariotti, will be *Amangati*.

The ship (pictured) will feature 47 luxury suites, each featuring its own private balcony.

Amangati will also include four dining concepts, a Jazz Club, Aman Spa, plus an expansive Beach Club, once she is launched in the Mediterranean during the summer 2027 season.

"Naming *Amangati* marks a pivotal and inspiring milestone for Aman," Chair & Chief Executive Officer Vlad Doronin said.

"The vessel will embody the very essence of our brand's DNA, providing exceptional privacy, best-in-class amenities, now synonymous with Aman, and our signature unparalleled service not yet experienced on the water.

"As construction progresses behind the scenes, our vision



remains clear: to create a vessel that not only represents the highest standards of maritime engineering and design but that mirrors the tranquillity of our land-based sanctuaries."

Aman at Sea was first announced back in 2021, when a number of other luxury resort companies, such as Ritz-Carlton

Hotel Company (**CW** 16 Dec) and Four Seasons Hotels & Resorts (**CW** 24 Jan), also announced their intention to launch a luxury yacht fleet.

Amangati is a being built as a joint venture with Cruise Saudi (**CW** 12 Jul), with the ship to be one of the first to be dual powered by oil and methanol. *MS*

New Crystal menu

CRYSTAL Cruises has turned to Michelin-starred brothers Massimiliano and restaurateur Raffaele Alajmo to formulate a new menu for its Osteria d'Ovidi restaurant.

The result from the Italian duo is a multi-sensory epicurean tour of Italy with different courses focusing heavily on regional specialities.

Signature dishes from the Alajmo's land-based restaurant has been added to the menu, including cuttlefish with light potato cream; saffron risotto; and beef tartare with truffles.

The new Osteria d'Ovidio menu will be available on both *Crystal Serenity* and *Crystal Symphony* from later this year.

Massimiliano is the youngest chef to ever be awarded three Michelin stars while Raffaele co-owns their restaurant chain alongside his son Giovanni.



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IF YOU feel the need for speed, then you will soon have the option of taking a cruise on a ship powered by the same company that previously ran a world championship racing team - although which ship it is may surprise you.

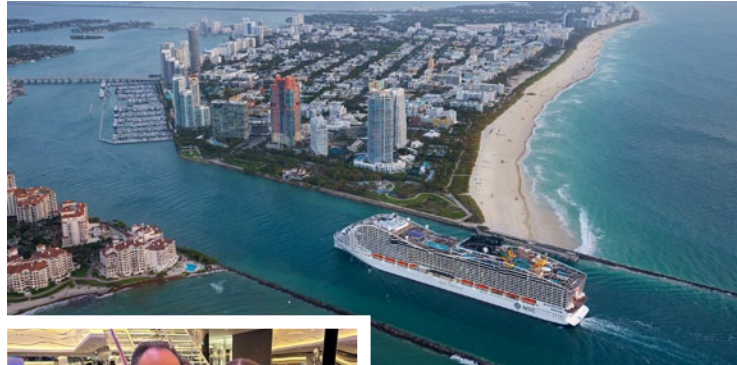
Yesterday's news that Viking would be debuting hybrid hydrogen-powered ships came with the side note that the power supply would be provided by propulsion experts Isotta Fraschini Motori - part of the Fincantieri group.

Unbeknownst to many, Isotta Fraschini Motori previously fielded a team in the FIA World Endurance Championship - run by the same organisational body as Formula 1, and including the world-famous Le Mans 24-hour race.

It was a relatively short-lived team, racing only in the 2024 season and recording a 14th place finish at the 24-hour race against stiff competition from the likes of Porsche, Toyota, Ferrari, Alpine and more - but it was one good-looking car.



MSC to inherit the World in Miami



Managing Director Joe Katz, **pictured** inset with the cruise line's Marketing & PR Manager Michelle Warren.

"It's such an honour to be *MSC World America's* godmother, and I can't wait to cut that ribbon tonight and wish the ship smooth seas and good fortune for years

to come," Barrymore said.

"I've had a lifelong passion for travel, which has always fuelled my soul and left me with the most awesome memories.

"Millions of people will create their own memories aboard this beautiful ship as time goes by, and I know they'll have a blast experiencing everything *MSC World America* has to offer."

Following the naming ceremony, *World America* will set sail for her inaugural season in the Caribbean, which will see her offer alternating seven-night Caribbean itineraries.

The naming ceremony is taking place hot off the back of the inauguration of the cruise line's new state-of-the-art MSC Miami Cruise Terminal (**CW 07 Apr**). *MS*

MSC Cruises' *MSC World America* is officially launching in a glittering ceremony in Miami today, with godmother, American actress Drew Barrymore.

The *Charlie's Angels* star will be joined by Orlando Bloom, her co-star in MSC's new 'Let's Holiday' campaign (**CW 06 Mar**).

Guests will enjoy a glamorous gala dinner and unforgettable performances, which will end with a spectacular drone and fireworks display against the Miami skyline.

MSC has welcomed select members of the Australian travel trade to Miami to celebrate this week, including Cruise Lines International Association



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