

Carnival drinks up

CARNIVAL Cruise Line's partnership with Coca-Cola is going global, with the brand's range of beverages to soon be available on United States-based ships, in addition to its Australian vessels.

The cruise line anticipates the partnership will be fully integrated across its American fleet sailing from its 13 US home ports by the end of Sep.

Celestyal refinances



CELESTYAL Cruises has announced its successful refinancing as it accelerates its growth strategy.

The cruise line has replaced its original vessel acquisition funding with a more efficient financial model, substantially lowering Celestyal's cost of capital, and unlocking additional flexibility to reinvest in its fleet, product, and commercial operations.

"This refinancing marks a powerful endorsement of the progress we've made to evolve and fuel Celestyal's ambitious development strategy," Chief Financial Officer Marios Theodosiou said.

"From a full fleet renewal and more sustainable operations, to expanding our commercial footprint, launching year-round operations, and announcing our sailing program further ahead than ever before, we've demonstrated our ability to transform at pace.

"It also signals growing confidence in Celestyal's long-term business model, underpinned by improved

profitability, enhanced financial resilience and consistent operational delivery."

He said Celestyal is well-positioned to continue delivering on its strategic ambitions with a strong financial foundation.

This includes diversifying its source markets and expanding into new regions. *MS*

Sea Cloud cooking

SEA Cloud Cruises is set to offer a culinary sailing with celebrity chef Ben Robinson next year.

The seven-night voyage is a part of Sea Cloud's 'Cultivated Journeys' collection, with the *Below Deck* chef to join *Sea Cloud Spirit*.

The ship will depart from St. Maarten on 25 Jan on an itinerary that stops at St. Barth, Antigua, and more.

Cruise Weekly today

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

New Pandaw suites

PANDAW has released new Tonle suite departures, with additional dates on the line's 'Classic Mekong' cruise.

The new sailings between Vietnam and Cambodia allow passengers to book either the full seven-night journey or choose from a three- or four-night segment.

Tonle suites are Pandaw's most spacious offering.

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Helloworld sets sail on new *Adventure*

HELLOWORLD Travel's cruise division recently came together for a two-day conference in Sydney aboard Carnival Cruise Line's *Carnival Adventure*.

The conference was focused on celebrating key successes and wins, as well as sharing updates and working together on new ideas and innovations.

There were almost 30 personnel present for the conference from across various teams, including remote employees who flew in for the event, representing sales, front-line staff, agency support, commercial, logistics, and tech.

Highlights included interactive workshops, open feedback sessions, and a deep dive into team culture.

The second day of the conference was spent aboard *Adventure*, which was moored at Circular Quay, where the division came together to create a shared



future mission and vision for its teams, before enjoying lunch on board and a ship tour.

Helloworld Head of Cruise Steve Brady commented on the success of the conference.

"It was excellent to get everyone together to reflect on an incredible year and plan for the future," he said.

"I'm proud of what the teams

have achieved in the last 12 months and the potential still ahead of us.

"Thanks to Carnival for hosting us on board for the day and for their strong partnership."

Helloworld's cruise division is one of the strongest performing in the company, with sales growing rapidly (**CW** 09 May).

HLO has witnessed around 40% growth across its top 20 destinations and cruise lines over the course of the fiscal year.

The company last month also announced it will house its luxury cruise offerings within a new brand (**CW** 05 Jun), 'Signature Collection by Cruiseco', unveiled at the Helloworld Travel Owners/Managers Conference in Canada.

The label will sit alongside Viva Gold, another recently launched line for premium land product, and will feature luxury cruise packages with elite brands. *MS*

Through HAL's lens

HOLLAND America Line (HAL) has teamed up with Sony Electronics to bring onboard photography experiences to the 2025 Alaska season.

As part of the collaboration, the duo will launch the 'Alaska Through Your Lens' photo sweepstakes, giving guests the chance to win prizes by capturing Alaska's landscapes and wildlife.

Grand prizes include a HAL Alaska cruise for two, plus a Sony Alpha 7R V camera with two lenses.

Additionally, Sony recently hosted an interactive pop-up photography class aboard the seven-day 'Alaska Inside Passage' cruise on 25 Jun, as part of the 'We Love Alaska' onboard experience.

Guests received professional insights and hands-on practice - learn more **HERE**.

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YOU know the luxury cruise sector is booming when even Louis Vuitton wants to get in on the act.

Yes, even the French luxury fashion house has built a cruise ship of its own - but not one that floats.

Louis Vuitton's newbuild, *The Louis* (pictured), has been constructed in the middle of Shanghai, serving as a concept store for the brand.

The Louis is already sparking plenty of conversation, and perhaps it is fair to wonder - would LV be interested in entering the real cruise industry any time soon?



Spice-y savings

CRUISE Traveller has announced savings for couples and less than half-priced fares for solos on its new 'Exploring the Spice Islands' package.

The deal includes hotel stays and tours on the Indonesian itinerary, which also pairs with a Ponant cruise - [CLICK HERE](#) for the full details.

Heritage makes Filipino cruise history



HERITAGE Expeditions made cruise history in the Philippines recently, becoming the first line to visit a number of the country's remote destinations.

The islands of Samar, Patnanungan, Matukad, as well as Caramoan and Northern Sierra Madre national parks, were all visited as part of the 'Asian Island Odyssey' voyage aboard the cruise line's *Heritage Adventurer*.

Guests were treated like "rock stars" upon their arrival at each destination, with incredible turnouts from locals - sometimes even the whole village or island.

Commercial Director and Expedition Leader Aaron Russ said it was a thrilling few days visiting the new destinations and being so warmly welcomed by local villages and communities.

"It really is an incredible privilege to share the first ship visits to these beautiful, tropical islands and outposts with our intrepid guests," he said.

"Making connections with, and supporting remote communities, understanding and experiencing new cultures, and exploring the wilderness and enjoying wildlife encounters well off the beaten

path is the essence of authentic expedition cruising and all part of the Heritage Expeditions experience," Russ added.

Also joining the cruise was special guide and lecturer Toby Nowlan (pictured), who directed and produced *David Attenborough: Ocean*.

Guests were treated to a Q&A with Nowlan during the voyage,

as well as a special screening of the documentary.

Some of Nowlan's most unexpected moments of the voyage were when he was recognised by Filipino locals from TikTok videos about *Ocean*.

"The global impact and reach of Ocean with David Attenborough has been completely overwhelming, and like nothing we've known before," he said.

Nowlan described his time aboard *Adventurer* and as part of the cruise line's team as "an absolute pleasure".

"Heritage Expeditions is clearly a very special company which offers something very different, with a clear legacy of conservation and support for remote communities and endangered island wildlife," Nowlan said. *MS*

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