

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features four pages of cruise news, including a photo page from **Royal Caribbean**.

A Croisi Christmas

A **NEW** four-day Christmas Markets river cruise itinerary in Belgium has been launched by CroisiEurope, allowing guests to immerse themselves in a traditional festive season during winter.

Debuting in Dec and sailing onboard *Raymonde*, the cruise travels between Bruges and Ghent and includes visits to markets in both cities.

Other highlights include a guided tour of Bruges with a

Pearl Expeditions inks first land partnership

EXCLUSIVE

OUTSIDE-THE-BOX tour operator Crooked Compass has partnered with Pearl Expeditions as a facilitator of pre- and post-expedition land extensions, **Cruise Weekly** can reveal.

The tie-up means travellers on *Paspaley Pearl* will have access to a range of 'culturally connected' extensions in Papua New Guinea, Borneo, and Indonesia to accompany the ship's movements.

"Together, we are offering the ultimate in high-class, experiential travel, allowing small groups of travellers to experience this frontier destination both by land and sea," said Crooked Compass Founder, Lisa Pagotto.

"This collaboration promises to be the most comprehensive and educational way to explore these



diverse landscapes and cultures available on the market, with a connection to culture and nature on the next level."

Itineraries are still in the process of being finalised in line with *Paspaley Pearl*'s maiden season, which sets sail from the remote WA town of Wyndham on 31 Jul.

Pearl Executive Chair Sarina Bratton said she is looking forward to working with Pagotto on the venture.

"What a dynamic woman she is...I think they're a fantastic operation," Bratton enthused.

Both women share a similar attitude towards business and travel, added Bratton.

The Pearl head said she admires Pagotto's "brave" approach towards embracing unique travel destinations as part of the Crooked Compass experience.

"I'll be supporting her and she will be supporting me," she said.

The full range of extension opportunities will be available to book through travel advisors and from both Crooked Compass and Pearl Expeditions in time for the ship's 2026 tour.

It is the second time in less than a year that Crooked Compass has aligned with the *Paspaley Pearl* ship, having last year introduced a curated pre-cruise itinerary when the ship was preparing to launch under Ponant's stewardship (**CW**

16 Oct 2024). **ML**

Pagotto and Bratton are pictured outside *Paspaley Pearl*, currently moored in Timor-Leste.



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Corinthian cruises

ORIENT Express has unveiled more details about its maiden season in the Mediterranean on its mega-yacht *Corinthian*.

Nine countries will be visited during her maiden season - Croatia; Spain; France; Italy; Malta; Morocco, Monaco; Montenegro; and Portugal.

Embarkation will be available in six ports, with the maiden departure scheduled to set sail on 06 Jun.

Highlights include a seven-night journey from Marseille to Monte Carlo, visiting three ports on the island of Corsica along the way and offering three overnight stays in port.

Travellers can also explore the Adriatic coast, embarking in Valletta and cruising east of Italy, and calling into ports in Croatia and Montenegro.

Themed voyages will also make up part of the season, with *Corinthian* to deposit guests into the heart of the Venice Film Festival on a four-night itinerary on 26 Aug.



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A new cruise Star is rising in Hong Kong

STAR Cruises' *Star Voyager* has arrived in Hong Kong to offer two-, three-, and four-night sailings.

The arrival of the ship marked the start of Star's five-month 2025 cruise season from Hong Kong.

Voyager will offer 45 round trip sailings from the city's Ocean Terminal until 14 Nov.

Those seeking a short getaway can set aboard *Voyager's* two-night cruise to Kaohsiung, or the three-night cruise to Kaohsiung and the Penghu islands.

A number of the cruises depart on the weekend, with popular two-night 'Sea-cation' cruises departing on Fri and returning on Sun.

Those seeking a longer escape can embark on a variety of five-night cruises to Keelung and Penghu, along with visits to either Ishigaki or Naha in Japan.

There is also an all-Okinawa experience, allowing guests to enjoy a five-night cruise featuring stops at either Naha and Ishigaki or Miyakojima.

Additionally, there are five-night Southeast Asia cruises offering visits to Nha Trang, Da Nang and Sanya, or to Ha Long Bay, Da Nang, and Sanya.

There is also a five-night journey to the beaches of Boracay and Coron.

Agents on song with Viking



TRAVEL advisors have gone behind the scenes of the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra with Viking, as part of the Baroque ensemble's third concert series for the year.

Viking hosted advisors from Brighton Travelworld; FBI Travel; Hawthorn Travel; RACV; and Travelrite International at the Melbourne premiere of the concert at Melbourne Recital Centre last week.

The new 'Baroque Unleashed' concert series provided advisors with a unique opportunity to enjoy privileged access to the orchestra, with members of the ensemble guiding guests on a journey through the vibrant world of Baroque music.

Advisors were also given a performance preview in Sydney

and Melbourne.

Viking's partnership with the Brandenburg (**CW** 14 Feb 2024) helps support the ensemble's goals of the orchestra.

The orchestra is an important cultural partner for Viking, providing culturally immersive performances and money-can't-buy experiences that aim to deepen their partnership and align with the brand, the line said.

Advisor events have been part of Viking's partnership with the orchestra since its inception (**CW** 11 Feb). **MS**

Pictured are attendees at the event, including Natalie from Travelrite; Mae and Amber from RACV; Sonia and Trevor Jones from Hawthorn Travel; Erica Slutzkin from FBI; and Carol Mallett from Brighton Travel.

Costa's big feed

COSTA Cruises has expanded its food donation program to a total of 16 ports, with Spain's Palma de Mallorca the latest to benefit.

In 2017, Costa became the world's first cruise line to establish a proper, scalable regulatory framework, allowing the brand to donate unserved ready-to-eat meals to local community food banks.

Since launching the program, the cruise line has donated hundreds of thousands of food portions to communities throughout the Mediterranean and the Caribbean, collaborating with food banks in the ports it visits to provide meals to local families in need.

Twice a week in Civitavecchia, nutritious surplus food and gourmet meals are offloaded from Costa ships and given to the Red Cross, Archdiocese of Civitavecchia and the Rotary Club of Civitavecchia to distribute to around 100 families in the region.

To broaden its impact even further, Costa is currently working with its sister Carnival Corporation cruise lines to replicate the model globally in other cruise port communities around the world.

Sion Riera, President of the food bank in Palma de Mallorca, invited the rest of the industry to follow Costa Cruises' lead.

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Monday 30th June 2025

Agents sail to success with Royal

IN BRISBANE last week, Royal Caribbean hosted its very first Sail to Success, a dedicated industry event for home-based travel agents.

The full-day event hosted at the Calile Hotel was attended by over 50 home-based travel agents, offering a valuable opportunity for learning, networking, and professional development, complemented by a delicious lunch and drinks after the session.

The event was joined by key members of the Royal Caribbean Sales team, including Business Development Manager Rob Patane; Director of Sales Dave Humphreys; Head of Retail Sales Nicole Stojic; Key Account Managers Alex Doyle, Asthika Ram and Roberta Chaplin; Trade Marketing Executive Brad McAndrew; and Events Executive Luisa-Marie Ronney.



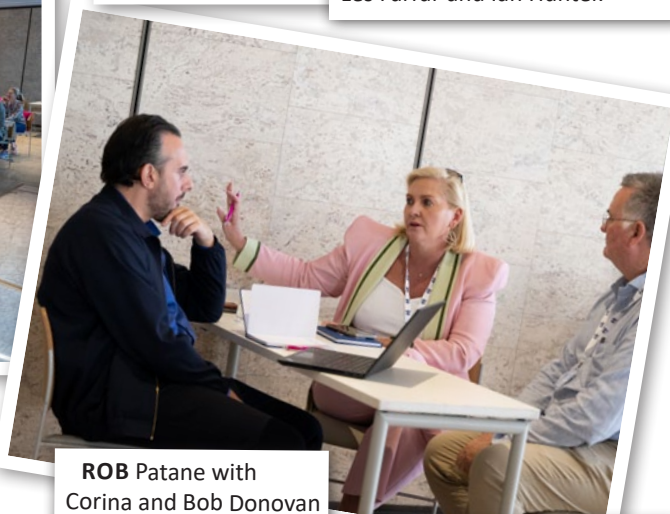
HEAD of Retail Sales Nicole Stojic shares her Caribbean experience.



BUSINESS development manager Rob Patane.



RCI'S Dave Humphreys with Les Farrar and Ian Hunter.



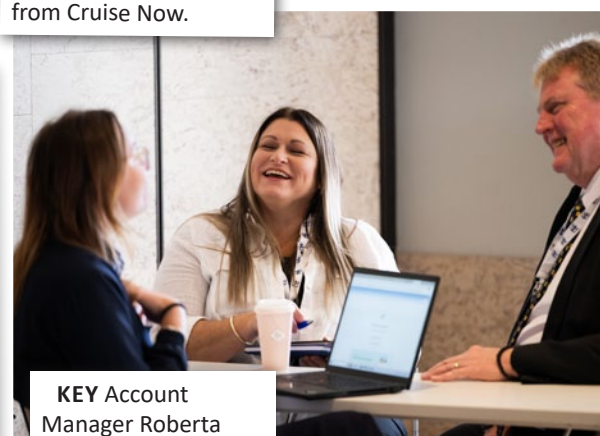
ROB Patane with Corina and Bob Donovan from Cruise Now.



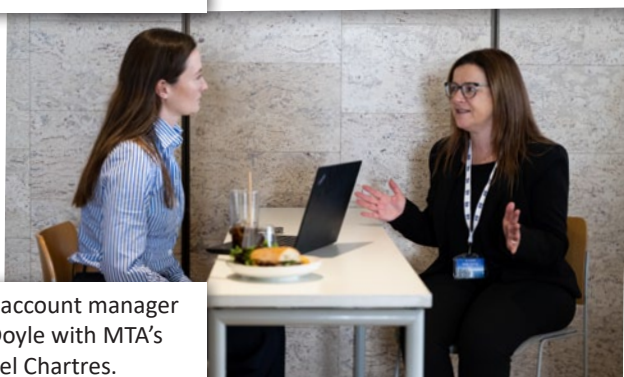
THE Royal team answers questions from eager attendees.



HOME-BASED travel agents at Sail to Success.



KEY Account Manager Roberta Chaplin with Gary and Julie Whitlock from Travel Managers.



KEY account manager Alex Doyle with MTA's Rachael Chartres.



ASTHIKA Ram from RCI discusses pre-cruise purchases with attendees.



A COUPLE in the US is proving that retirement can be far from boring. Lanette and Johan Canen were both 55 when they decided to swap life on land for full-time cruising.

The couple will spend the next 15 years living it up on board *Villa Vie Odyssey*, a residential vessel that will visit 147 countries over the next three years.

Best of all, the endless vacation is costing them less than what it would if they had continued living in their house in Hawaii.

The Canens pay just A\$5,600 a month for their cruise, which includes food, drinks, wi-fi and a cleaner.

"We had a [car rental] business which we sold to be able to afford our cabin," Johan told *The Daily Mail UK*.

"People think we're ultra rich for being able to do this, but it's cheaper than our rent and living costs in Hawaii...this is for normal people."

The couple said they don't have any plans to give up their new lifestyle in the future, and believe that more people will follow in their footsteps.

"It feels so good to have no responsibilities - we have our laundry done and get our sheets changed twice a week.

"This is the future, especially with working from home."

Ponant wraps winter sessions



PONANT Explorations has wrapped up its 2025 Winter Discovery Sessions, which were attended by around 150 trade partners and their clients in Australia throughout Jun.

The events, which took place across eight cities and 12 sessions, showcased the cruise line's luxury small-ship adventures in regions including the Kimberley, Antarctica, Northern Europe and French Polynesia.

Attendees enjoyed presentations from host Jude Cathcart, Ponant's Expedition & Small-Ship Cruising Specialist, alongside special guest speakers, and were entertained by live music, including harpists and cellists in select cities.

Guests also enjoyed a taste of life on board, with Ponant serving up macarons and cannoli towers paired with French Champagne.

Additionally, travel partners who attended had the opportunity to secure exclusive savings for their clients, on upcoming voyages.

In Brisbane and Sydney, the sessions also featured the announcement of the line's new partnership with Oz Harvest in the NT, reaffirming the company's commitment to conscious travel

and community support.

The final edition of the 2025 Discovery Sessions will take place in Oct and Nov, with more details to be announced soon. *JM*

Preserve a cruise

CRUISERS can now generate and share a digital chronicle of their exact journey via a new souvenir portal, now live.

Known as The Cruise Globe, the platform uses AIS satellite ship tracking technology to allow users to plot their course and convert it into a keepsake.

Data from each sailing reflects nautical miles travelled and includes route variations along with ports visited.

More than 220,000 cruises have been logged by users already so far via the website, with a mobile app on the way.



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For confidential discussions and further information, please contact Tom Green.
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