



### Cruise Weekly today

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

### More Monaco stays

**EXPLORA** Journeys' *Explora II* is now offering exclusive shorter stays at the Monaco Grand Prix, with three- and four-night options available.

The ship will be the only luxury vessel docked in Monaco's Port Hercule, providing a stay in the heart of the action throughout race weekend, from either 22 or 23 May to 26 May.

Guests will be able to enjoy spectacular views of Monaco, bespoke events, and parties aboard *Explora II*, which will serve as a premium vantage point for one of the most anticipated sports events of the year.

## Ponant Explorations Group is born

**PONANT** has become Ponant Explorations Group, an evolution which follows on from the company's recent acquisition of a majority stake in Aqua Expeditions (**CW** 17 Jan).

The company's international growth strategy is to "build a portfolio of leading exploration voyage brands", which currently comprises Ponant, Aqua, and Paul Gauguin Cruises.

Chief Executive Officer for Ponant Explorations Group, Herve Gastinel, said the move is a confirmation of its positioning and ambition.

"We remain true to our core identity: delivering an unparalleled travel experience to iconic destinations, providing exclusive access to confidential locations with our human-scale ships, and maintaining a commitment to excellence in service," he said.



Chief Executive Asia Pacific Deb Corbett said her region is "excited and proud to be part of this phase of strong expansion".

"We all look forward to implementing our diverse and dynamic go-to-market action plans to support the vision and

growth of this portfolio."

Ponant Explorations Group will continue to uphold its brand identity, preserving the iconic visual elements of its signature three-sail logo, while each of its commercial brands will retain its own visual identity. *MS*



# CARNIVAL ADVENTURE & CARNIVAL ENCOUNTER JOIN THE FAMILY

## 29 MARCH 2025

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## CRUISE WEEKLY

On location on board  
*Norwegian Aqua*

Today's issue of CW is coming to you courtesy of Norwegian Cruise Line, which is hosting us aboard *Norwegian Aqua* for its inaugural cruise.

DAY two on board *Aqua* will see us enjoy a panel session to learn more about the vessel's enhanced Prima experiences.

Moderated by Chief International Sales & Marketing Officer Jason Krimmel, panellists include: Mark Kansley, Senior Vice President, Hotel Operations; Christian Pratsch, Vice President, Food & Beverage Operations; Bryan White, Vice President, Entertainment Production; and Angela Stark, Vice President, Assistant General Counsel, Securities, ESG & Compliance.

## 24 hours of luxury (& food)



**REGENT** Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) is treating a number of its top-performing travel advisors to its 24 Hours of Luxury incentive this week, at the opening of the Melbourne Food & Wine Festival.

The 24 hours began with advisors enjoying a luxury transfer to their accommodation at the Royce Hotel in downtown Melbourne, before they were treated to dinner at Grill Americano (**pictured**) with Vice President Sales & General Manager Lisa Pile and Senior BDM Scott Graham.

Advisors will today join the World's Longest Lunch, one of

the Festival's signature events, where they will dine on a three-course meal created by celebrity chef Curtis Stone.

The group will be among hundreds of diners at a 600-metre-long table in Melbourne's Kings Domain.

RSSC is one of the key sponsors of the festival, and will host its own Regent Lounge at the event, showcasing some of the cocktails available on board its fleet.

This week is the second 24 Hours of Luxury incentive RSSC has hosted this year, after welcoming advisors to the Aus Open earlier this year. *MS*

## Seabourn's new crew

**SEABOURN** Cruise Line is welcoming on board a new expedition team on all its Alaska and British Columbia expeditions this summer.

Naturalists, and science, wildlife and historical experts will offer guests an educational and immersive view of the region's geology and ecology on board *Seabourn Quest* from May to Sep.

The expedition team will lead the 'Ventures by Seabourn' program of expedition-style adventures through hiking, kayaking and Zodiac cruises.

These will include explorations of Hubbard Glacier, Tracy/Endicott Arm, Inian Islands, Rudyerd Bay, Alert Bay in British Columbia and more.

The team will also offer presentations as part of the onboard 'Seabourn Conversations' program.

"Wherever we travel, our focus is always on curating immersive, one-of-a-kind adventures for our guests, and this season in Alaska will be no exception," Vice President & General Manager Expeditions Robin West said.

"[The team is] eager to share their expertise and offer guests a deeper connection to Alaska, revealing what makes it such a captivating and unforgettable destination," West added.

## SH gets cooking

**PHILIPPE** Deslarzes and Franco Korperich, chefs from elite culinary association JRE-Jeunes Restaurateurs, will bring their gourmet experience to Swan Hellenic (SH) this year.

Three exclusive voyages aboard *Diana* and *Vega* will see guests enjoy a gala dinner prepared by the two chefs - [CLICK HERE](#) for more.

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**AHOY** there! Bare Necessities' Big Nude Boat is ready to set sail for another 11-day voyage and she's taking bookings now.

Guests will have the opportunity to celebrate a clothing-optional Valentine's Day on board *Norwegian Pearl*, which departs for the Caribbean from Miami on 09 Feb 2026.

The ship has capacity for 2,300 happy nudists.

*Pearl* will call into Great Stirrup Cap, Norwegian Cruise Line's private island, where guests can frolic au naturel, whether they're snorkelling with sea turtles or kayaking along the coastline, soaring high on a zipline adventure - or even swimming with the pigs of Treasure Island.

*Norwegian Pearl* will also sail to Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao and Jamaica.

Just to be clear, Bare Necessities has pointed out that the cruise is 'strictly non-sexual in nature' and definitely not an appropriate choice for swingers.

In fact, if guests are found to be violating the rules, they will be kicked off the ship at the next port.

Passengers are welcome to go nude at the self-serve buffet, but need to actually put their clothes back on for meals in the dining rooms.

## Cruise's biofuel challenges

**MARINE** testing company CM Technologies (CMT) believes biofuel testing will become essential as cruise leads shipping's green transition.

Ship engines designed for conventional fuels will require operational adjustments to handle high biofuel concentrations, CMT said, while fuel heating and purification systems will also need to be optimised for biofuel properties.

Biofuels can lead to fuel instability, corrosion, and mechanical wear, driving up maintenance costs and increasing operational risks.

The solvent-like nature of biofuels can dislodge tank residues, clogging filters and separators, the company said.

Their higher acidity risks increased corrosion, making lubrication adjustments essential.

Special lubricants will be required to neutralise acids and protect components from excessive wear.

Biofuels also absorb more water, which fosters microbial growth and fuel degradation.

CMT is urging the sector to adopt rigorous monitoring practices to mitigate the risks posed by biodiesel blends, as the cruise industry increases its use of biofuels to meet stricter emissions regulations.

The company's Managing Director David Fuhlbrugge said the chemical make-up of biofuels, and the new operational challenges they create for cruise lines is responsible for the surge of interest for its test kits from the sector.

"With that shift comes the need for greater diligence," he said.

"Research has reinforced the need for biofuel users to regularly monitor fuel and engine performance," Fuhlbrugge added.

"Operators must actively monitor fuel quality to prevent issues that could compromise engine efficiency, reliability, and compliance," he said.

When different fuels are blended in a ship's engine, the risk of fuel instability and compatibility issues increases, Fuhlbrugge explained, making it important crews continue to test and monitor this fuel regularly.

"The low energy density of some biofuels could also mean more fuel is required to maintain voyage range," he suggested.

"This will certainly impact bunkering strategies and procurement planning, making compatibility testing essential when mixing biofuels with conventional fuels.

"Otherwise fuel and lube oil inconsistencies could be missed, leading to unexpected cruise itinerary cancellations."

With feedstock variability and different blending methods, CMT advises shipowners to implement strict testing protocols for viscosity, and stability.

These checks help validate biofuel batches before use, preventing unexpected performance issues.

"With tightening fuel standards and alternative fuels becoming mainstream, shipowners must adopt systematic fuel monitoring to safeguard engine reliability," Fuhlbrugge said. *MS*

## Cruise Calendar

Current ports of call in Australia and New Zealand.

SYDNEY	
<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>	22 Mar
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>	23 Mar
<i>Artania</i>	23 Mar
<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>	24 Mar
<i>Celebrity Edge</i>	25 Mar
<i>Seven Seas Mariner</i>	26 Mar
MELBOURNE	
<i>Crown Princess</i>	23 Mar
<i>Carnival Adventure</i>	24 Mar
BRISBANE	
<i>Carnival Luminosa</i>	23 Mar
<i>Viking Orion</i>	24 Mar
<i>Celebrity Edge</i>	27 Mar
FRENANTLE	
<i>MSC Magnifica</i>	27 Mar
ADELAIDE	
<i>Crown Princess</i>	25 Mar
HOBART	
<i>Westerdam</i>	26 Mar
DARWIN	
<i>Coral Adventurer</i>	24 Mar
NEWCASTLE	
<i>Viking Orion</i>	22 Mar
TOWNSVILLE	
<i>Viking Orion</i>	27 Mar
BUSSELTON	
<i>MSC Magnifica</i>	25 Mar
BURNIE	
<i>Artania</i>	27 Mar
EDEN	
<i>Artania</i>	22 Mar
AUCKLAND	
<i>Celebrity Edge</i>	21 Mar
<i>Seven Seas Voyager</i>	24 Mar
<i>Nautica</i>	25 Mar
CHRISTCHURCH	
<i>Westerdam</i>	21 Mar
<i>Quantum of the Seas</i>	22 Mar
<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>	29 Mar