

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news, plus a full page from **Cruise Lines International Association**.

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RSSC to order third Prestige-class ship

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line Holdings has confirmed a third Prestige-class newbuild order for Regent Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC), signed with shipyard Fincantieri.

The as-yet-unnamed ship is scheduled for delivery in 2033, and will follow on from the highly anticipated debut of *Seven Seas Prestige* (pictured) next year (CW 10 Jul), the first vessel in the Prestige-class.

A second will arrive in 2030, while the third will build upon the hallmark design and elevated guest experience the class is set to introduce.

"This newbuild order continues our measured, strategic expansion within the luxury space, providing guests with yet another way to experience the unrivaled aboard The World's Most Luxurious Fleet," the company's Chief Luxury Officer Jason Montague said.



"It reflects our confidence in the growing demand for Regent's best-in-class offering and reaffirms our long-standing partnership with Fincantieri, one rooted in craftsmanship and shared pursuit of perfection."

RSSC's Prestige-class ships begin a new legacy in ultra-luxury travel for the cruise line, marking its first new class in 10 years.

Prestige will be 40% larger

than previous RSSC ships, yet will accommodate only 10% more guests, carrying just 822 passengers and offering some of the highest space-to-guest and crew-to-guest ratios in the sector.

The all-suite ship will offer 12 accommodation categories, including four new suite types, and the largest all-inclusive, ultra luxury cruise ship suite in history, the Skyview Regent Suite. *MS*



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MARRIED Tennessee couple, Monica Brzoska and Jorrell Conley, are enjoying life on the seas since they caught the cruise bug several years ago - and are yet to return to land.

It all began when the pair booked a week-long cruise two years ago, then continued to plan consecutive trips while renting their home.

"By the time we stepped on board in March 2023 in Miami, we'd left our jobs and sold nearly all our possessions," Brzoska said.

"I instantly felt free - we didn't know how long our money would last, but in the meantime we decided to make the most of every minute."

LE opens Bondi boutique

LUXURY Escapes has opened its second physical store today at Westfield Bondi, Sydney.

Inspired by a premium airline lounge and some of the operator's most popular tropical destinations, the store features immersive LCD screens, an in-boutique bar, and a palm tree oasis feature.

The space is staffed by 15 full-time consultants.

"It's a pretty spectacular space, it feels like you're going on holiday when you walk in the store," founder Adam Schwab told *Cruise Weekly*.

"It's the ultimate travel retail experience - what we tried to create was something totally different to any other travel store, even Chadstone."

To celebrate the opening, Luxury Escapes is giving away dozens of domestic and international holiday accommodation packages, worth more than \$100,000,

to destinations including Bali, Vietnam, Dubai, Sri Lanka, Hawaii, Thailand and the Cook Islands, as well as travel vouchers and prizes.

This will be followed by a week of exclusive in-store discounts and promotions.

The new Bondi store will open for a public preview and the Great Luxury Escapes Giveaway today, with regular trading to kick off tomorrow.

Luxury Escapes is now looking at sites for its next store, Schwab told *Cruise Weekly*.

"The type of site and centre [we get] will make the decision for us," he said.

"If it's in a prime location, Brisbane will likely be the next cab off the rank, but that can change," he added.

Meanwhile, the Chadstone store has gone on to become "one of the world's highest grossing travel stores" since it opened two years ago. *JHM*

Maldives bans cigs

IT IS no longer legal for tourists or residents to smoke in the Maldives, which has banned the sale and use of tobacco products for anyone born after 01 Jan 2007.

The new legislation came into effect this month.

Shops, resorts and airport duty-free outlets are all banned from selling tobacco to younger adults.

People born after the date can still purchase cigarettes, but smoking in certain public places is forbidden, including restaurants and cafes.

Tourists above the age limit may still smoke in private areas or designated zones within resorts.

Tourists found with vapes or e-cigarettes face fines up to \$500 and could have their devices confiscated at Male's Velana International Airport.

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MSC's Texan debut

MSC Cruises has announced the recent arrival of *MSC Seascope* at her new home in Galveston, ahead of the line's first-ever sailings from the Texas port.

The ship has begun operating seven-night Galveston cruises to the Western Caribbean, with stops in Costa Maya and Cozumel in Mexico and Isla de Roatan in Honduras.

Departing every Sun, *MSC Seascope* will continue these trips year-round from the port's new state-of-the-art cruise terminal 16.

On board, guests will enjoy new food and beverage options highlighting Southern, Texan and Gulf Coast flavours; a fresh entertainment lineup including country line dance classes and a Big Texas Sailaway party; high-tech activities such as an F1 racing simulator; and MSC's exclusive ship-within-a-ship concept, MSC Yacht Club.

"Expanding our North American footprint to Galveston and cutting the ribbon on the port's brand-new cruise terminal 16 are exciting steps for us on our path to making MSC Cruises a household name in the North American market," said Lynn Torrent, President, MSC Cruises North America.

With the opening of the new terminal, the Port of Galveston is projected to welcome an additional 3.9 million passenger movements and 445 sailings at its four cruise terminals in 2026.

Disney's *Destiny* has arrived



DISNEY Cruise Line's *Disney Destiny* received a hero's welcome to the fleet on Sun, with the ship officially christened during a celebration at her new year-round home port, Fort Lauderdale (pictured **above**).

The waterfront concert-meet-Disney extravaganza was complete with live music and drone effects in the night sky (pictured **inset**), with *Destiny* herself becoming a canvas for scenic projections, honouring the ship's heroes-and-villains theme.

Scenes from some of the beloved Disney stories that guests will experience on board were brought to life through sparkling drone projections and music, with special pop-rock renditions of classics from *Hercules*, *The Lion King*, *Frozen*, *Black Panther*, and many more.

The celebration culminated with *Destiny's* godmother Susan Egan - voice of Megara in *Hercules* - giving *Destiny* her traditional

maritime blessing,

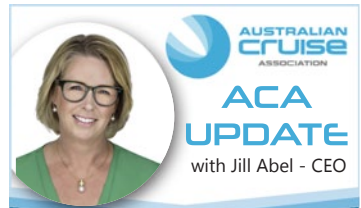
"For more than 100 years, we have entertained our fans in new and innovative ways, connecting them to the Disney stories they love," Disney Experiences Chair Josh D'Amato said.

"Disney Cruise Line is a powerful part of that legacy because our ships become brand ambassadors that travel the globe and bring joy to our guests in ways only Disney can," he added.

"Now, *Disney Destiny* makes its own extraordinary entry into our growing fleet."

Added Disney Signature Experiences President Joe Schott: "The Disney Cruise Line team, alongside our Disney Imagineers, have invested years of their expertise, creativity and dedication into this beautiful ship, and they have created something truly spectacular."

The new ship will now prepare to sail on her maiden voyage on 20 Nov. *MS*



Cruise climbs in the NT

CRUISE tourism in the NT continues to grow, with a 13.3% rise in economic impact to \$205.6 million last financial year.

This reflects broader territory-wide momentum, with the NT achieving the strongest growth in visitor numbers and expenditure in the nation for the year ending Jun 2025.

This growth sits alongside a refreshed strategic direction for the region.

The newly rebranded Tourism & Events NT has released the Northern Territory Visitor Economy Strategy 2032, an ambitious, whole-of-visitor-economy roadmap designed to drive increased visitor spending and lift overnight trips through coordinated investment, stronger connectivity and expanded experience development.

Darwin continues to anchor the NT's cruise success.

As the prime entry point for ships transiting from Asia and a key home port for expedition vessels, the city serves as a launchpad to some of Australia's most remarkable landscapes.

Access to Litchfield and Kakadu National Parks delivers guests unforgettable Top End experiences, with the depth of product helping drive an uplift in overnights and extended port calls across the 2024/25 season.

Darwin Port is matching this demand with strong capacity at Fort Hill Wharf and a secondary berth at East Arm.

A new heli-terminal is now also under development.

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