

Cruise Weekly today

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

Celestyal Black Fri

CELESTYAL Cruises is offering up to 70% off 113 sailings departing between Dec 2025 and Oct 2027, as part of its Black Friday promotion.

The sale also sees the extension of the CelestyalPay offer, with guests receiving a 25% bonus on all credit added before departure - worth up to €250 (A\$507) in additional on board spend.

Clients can save on 32 departures of the new three- and four-night 'Iconic Arabia', 16 departures of the seven-night 'Heavenly Greece, Italy & Croatia' cruise, and many more until 02 Dec.

Find out more [HERE](#).

Beach Club to help battle overtourism

EXCLUSIVE

CELEBRITY Cruises' recently announced Royal Beach Club Santorini (**CW** 29 Oct) will be a positive force against overtourism, in addition to adding to the company's popular Ultimate Destinations, according to President Laura Hodges Bethge.

Hodges Bethge, speaking exclusively to **Cruise Weekly** aboard the new *Celebrity Xcel* last week (**CW** 21 Nov), said her line will make up about half of the volume sailing into the new destination (**pictured**) once it opens in the northern summer.

"Santorini is a small place, and so when travellers [arrive], there can be a lot, and it can overwhelm the [destination]."

"Working in conjunction with the government, we're selling it as a package," she said.

The idea is for passengers to experience Europe's beach club



culture, while also visiting the best of the rest of the island, with the result minimising the concentration of passengers.

"There's three different stops along the way, and that journey allows us to disperse guests and make sure they are having a wonderful experience," she said.

Royal Caribbean Group Chair

& Chief Executive Officer Jason Liberty, who also spoke about the topic on a panel aboard *Xcel*, noted the company is already a highly beneficial prospect for destinations, with its passengers spending more both on cruise line-organised shore excursions and when independently visiting during a port call. *MS*



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Martin Randall unveils 2026/27 cruises

MARTIN Randall Travel has unveiled several new cultural cruises for 2026 and 2027, with itineraries spanning European waterways and the Nile River.

The release comes just a couple of months after the UK tour operator began its push into the Australian market.

From an intimate piano festival along the Rhine to archaeological journeys through Egypt, the new collection of small-ship voyages combine deep cultural immersion with the comfort and convenience of river travel.

The cruises are operated as exclusive charters, giving the operator full control over the itinerary, onboard program and guest experience.

Travellers can choose from itineraries like an 11-day Nile cruise experience, which combines four nights in Cairo with six nights on the water; an



eight-day 'History & Art on the Danube' river journey; and an eight-day Douro cruise aboard *MS Estrela*, which explores the wine-growing heritage, gardens and history of the region; as well as several music-focused sailings.

"Travellers are increasingly drawn to journeys that combine cultural depth with the advantages of small ships," said

Kelly Ward, Australia & New Zealand Country Manager for Martin Randall Travel.

"Our cruises provide a sustainable way to explore, steering clear of over-touristed routes and granting access to archaeological sites and coastal towns without the logistical challenges of land travel or the impact of large vessels." *JM*

Sporty Silversea

SILVERSEA has announced a suite of new offerings across wellness, entertainment, and sports, including two cruise firsts - amp, an AI-powered strength training system, and Off the Deck's SeaDrivePro, a portable golf simulator designed for superyachts.

Now available in the Fitness Center on *Silver Spirit* and rolling out on all the brand's classic ships next year, amp features five versatile attachments and intelligent app integration.

Silversea is also expanding its entertainment and daytime programming with pickleball courts and putting greens, beginning with *Silver Muse* later this year; creative workshops such as cake decorating; new immersive experiences including silent discos; and more.



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UK WOMAN Nicky Wake has shared with *Metro UK* how a widows' cruise transformed her life after the passing of her late husband, who she was married to for 18 years.

Like any other cruise, it featured sipping cocktails by the pool and relaxing on sun loungers, but instead of making small talk with one another, the guests shared their experiences of grief.

"We laughed, we cried, and, for the first time in a long time, I felt understood," she said.

Interestingly, it was also on this cruise that Wake found herself sitting next to "a rather delicious guy and we hit it off".

Off the back of that sailing, Wake said she found moments of joy as well as lifelong friends - and a hot date.

"The cruise helped me rediscover who I was again, in a way," she recalled.

"It was about fun in the sun but also about connection, hope and joy.

"Not only did I find myself laughing and crying, but also, somehow, healing."

Higgins named godmother



UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruises has announced its Sustainability Officer, Julie Higgins, as the godmother of its newest ship, *SS Emilie*.

Inspired by Austrian painter Gustav Klimt and named after his life partner, Emilie Flöge, the ship is set to debut in Europe in the spring of 2026 (*CW* 14 Mar 2024).

The vessel will showcase Uniworld's latest sustainability innovations, from energy-efficient systems to new water and waste management technologies.

The river ship will also offer a variety of Make Travel Matter experiences - hands-on excursions focused on giving back.

"Julie's unwavering dedication to advancing our sustainability goals makes her the perfect godmother for *SS Emilie*," said Ellen Bettridge, Uniworld President and CEO.

Higgins (**pictured**) will be appointed godmother of *SS Emilie* at her christening ceremony on 21 Mar 2026, before the inaugural sailing along the Rhine. *JM*

Azamara reserves

AZAMARA Cruises has launched a new pre-cruise reservation program for specialty dining and spa treatments, allowing customers to secure experiences before setting sail.

Guests with confirmed bookings can now pre-book specialty dining experiences at Prime C, the cruise line's signature steakhouse; Aqualina, offering Italian cuisine; or Chef's Table, a wine-paired six-course dining experience.

Dining reservations open 140 days before embarkation, while spa reservations may be booked up to 12 months in advance, and can be made via agents or the line's call centre.

Aussie pax death

AN AUSTRALIAN man died on Sat morning after jumping from Disney Cruise Line's *Disney Wonder*, which was travelling to Auckland.

Victoria Police said a report will be prepared for the coroner following the death of the 73-year-old man from Moonee Ponds, which they are not treating as suspicious.

According to pax on board, the ship had turned around in a bid to find the passenger.

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