



Cruise Weekly today

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

A river of upgrades

AMAWATERWAYS will offer elevated experiences across its fleet this year, as the cruise line continues to invest in its guest experience.

Enhancements extend to every detail, including refreshed exterior paintwork on AmaWaterways' ships.

The cruise line's culinary offerings have been elevated, with new Italian lunches to be introduced in the Chef's Table restaurants, and signature dinners by the line's culinary director Robert Kellerhals.

AmaWaterways' onboard lounge, which has been renamed The Lark, will offer refreshments throughout the day, with a new 'Savor at The Lark' all-day menu.

The updated culinary program introduces new freshly baked bread varieties each day, along with always-available snack jars filled with house-made protein balls and muesli bars, dried fruit, nuts, and freshly baked cookies.

AmaWaterways has also partnered with acclaimed regional chocolatiers on select itineraries, delivered directly to guests' staterooms.

The cruise line's wine experience has been further elevated with an expanded selection of more than 30 red, white and rosé wines available on each sailing, included for every guest, alongside additional premium bottles available for purchase.

Other upgrades include new plush linens, updated bathrobes and slippers, luxury and sustainable bathroom amenities by Marie-Stella-Maris, and new premium skincare and make-up.

CCL decreasing Aus cruises

CARNIVAL Cruise Line (CCL) has announced *Carnival Adventure* will only sail seasonally in Australia from Apr 2028, after which she will relocate to North America during the southern winter (**CW** breaking news).

The move will leave the brand with just two year-round vessels based Down Under: *Carnival Encounter* and *Carnival Splendor*.

Meanwhile, *Adventure* will sail during the summer from Sydney, and *Carnival Luminosa* from Qld.

While CCL remains the only cruise line sailing year-round in Australia, country manager Peter Little said the decision to relocate *Adventure* was made due to more favourable market conditions elsewhere, and the uncertain regulatory environment in Australia.

Little said the cruise line is seeing stronger momentum and government support in other major travel and tourism markets.

"Carnival is adjusting its deployment to better capture greater opportunities elsewhere, while continuing to champion a more competitive and certain operating environment – matters we've long emphasised," he said.

Adventure will complete her scheduled voyages, with Carnival noting the 2027/28 season will see her sail from more Australian home ports than ever before.

The outcome is one Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) has in the past warned of, due to the threat Australia's regulatory environment is proving to cruise.

"CLIA and the Australasian cruise industry have consistently warned that regulatory uncertainty and a complex operating environment make Australia uncompetitive among cruise destinations," the association stated.

"While demand for cruising is at record levels internationally and Australians remain some of the world's most passionate cruisers,



Australia is at risk of losing deployment to other countries that offer a more competitive operating environment.

"CLIA has previously called for a national action plan across federal, state, and territory governments, to support cruise tourism, improve Australia's competitiveness, attract more ships, safeguard jobs, and create greater economic opportunities in destinations around the country," the Association said.

The Australian Cruise Association (ACA) described CCL's announcement as a "significant blow to confidence" across Australia's cruise ecosystem, highlighting broader challenges, particularly for ports, destinations and regional communities that rely on long-term certainty to plan and invest.

ACA chief executive officer Jill Abel said the Association's membership continues to see strong demand for cruising in Australia, even as the difficulty of cruise operations becomes increasingly apparent.

"When compared with competitor regions, there is a growing perception that Australia is rolling out red tape rather than rolling out the red carpet for cruise's contribution to jobs, regional economies and the visitor sector," Abel said, as ACA also called for a coordinated national approach to cruise.

"These are the issues the ACA is addressing through its strategic action plan, to be released in the coming days, with a focus on policy alignment, infrastructure planning, destination development and collaboration to support sustainable cruise growth," Abel added. *MS*

CLIA will entertain

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) is turning up the entertainment for its 23rd annual Cruise Industry Awards, set to take place next Sat.

More than 100 performers will take over ICC Sydney on 07 Mar, as the industry celebrates its Australian trade partners.

The night's entertainment will include young dancers from Sydney's Brent Street performing arts school, whose performances at the annual CLIA Awards have put a spotlight on the thousands of entertainers who work aboard the world's cruise ships.

Tim Campbell will play host, welcoming more than 600 attendees on the night.



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HLC warming up

HAPAG-LLOYD Cruises (HLC) has expanded its northern winter 2027/28 warm weather expedition, operated aboard *Hanseatic Nature*.

The ship will sail across the Western Indian Ocean, featuring Madagascar and the Seychelles, offering 10 cruises from Oct 2027 to Mar 2028.

Cruises will explore the region's remote islands and atolls, and the coast of Africa.

FS to the Caribbean

FOUR Seasons Yachts has unveiled 18 new Caribbean voyages, which will take place across 2027 and 2028.

The cruises will visit destinations including Costa Rica, offering rare access to the country's Pacific coast.

Select sailings in Jan and Feb will coincide with humpback whale migration season, while voyages will also visit wildlife refuges and private marinas, including Marina Papagayo and Marina Bahía Golphito.

The season also spans from Cartagena's colourful waterfront to Gustavia in St Barths, with overnight stays, Panama Canal transits, and dedicated holiday voyages during Christmas and New Year's Eve.

Four Seasons' first ship, *Four Seasons I*, is set to make her debut next month.

Seabourn's Aussie Sojourn



SEABOURN Cruise Line hosted an exclusive celebration in Sydney this week, marking the Australian leg of this year's world cruise.

The intimate event was hosted aboard *Seabourn Sojourn* by president Mark Tamis (pictured centre with trade partners), with guests invited on a private tour to experience the ship.

They then enjoyed a cocktail reception, four-course dinner, and dessert at sunset at the Observation Bar.

The world cruise departed Long Beach on 06 Jan, beginning a 129-day voyage that will visit 63 destinations across 14 countries (CW 12 Jan).

The Australian leg of the voyage continues with the ship calling at Melbourne today, followed by Tasmania on Mon.

MEANWHILE, Seabourn has elevated the culinary program in its Seabourn Square and The Colonnade venues, with updates

to roll out fleetwide.

Seabourn Square will undergo a comprehensive refresh to further establish the venue as an all-day cafe and gathering place.

Guests can now enjoy an expanded selection of freshly prepared items, including sandwiches, quiche, and pizza.

These new offerings complement Seabourn Square's existing menu of fresh pastries, sandwiches, and sweet treats.

Seabourn has also reimagined the daytime dining experience in The Colonnade, creating a brighter, more dynamic venue with a greater culinary focus.

The enhanced experience places greater emphasis on made-to-order preparations and destination-driven flavours, as well as chef interaction.

These updates are being introduced across the fleet in phases and are scheduled to be completed by mid-2026. MS

Poesia work begins

MSC Cruises' *MSC Poesia* has begun her major refurbishment ahead of her Alaska debut later this year.

Poesia has entered dry dock in Malta, with upgrades to include the addition of MSC Yacht Club, and enhanced dining, wellness, and fitness venues, as she prepares to make her Alaska debut in May.

The new Yacht Club will bring to *Poesia* 69 suites with private amenities and a 24-hour butler service.

Over the past year MSC has been rolling out its Yacht Club aboard its older ships.

Culinary updates include two new specialty dining venues: Butcher's Cut, an authentic American-style steakhouse, and Kaito Sushi Bar, where guests can savour sushi and other authentic Asian dishes.

Other enhancements will include a newly designed MSC Aurea Spa and MSC Gym powered by Technogym, complete with various workout studios, an outdoor area, a barber, and a solarium.

Refurbishments are expected to be completed in Apr.

The ship is the second from the cruise line's Musica-class to undergo a major refurbishment at the Maltese shipyard, following sister ship *MSC Magnifica*, which left the shipyard in Dec (CW 23 Dec) currently a world cruise.





THERE'S few things constant cruisers love more than unique ship collectables, and Holland America Line is answering the call this year.

The Seattle-based brand has partnered with stationery brand Crane to introduce an original collection of cards designed by artists from the US Veterans' Artists Alliance.

One card has been produced for each of Holland America's 11 ships.

The keepsake cards will be available for purchase on board from the end of Apr.

Holland America has also recently introduced an Alaska throw blanket, custom-designed by Pendleton Woolen Mills, also available on board.



The Cormorant takes flight



SILVERSEA has unveiled the public spaces at The Cormorant at 55 South, which will be the world's southernmost hotel (**CW** 17 Apr).

The 150-room property in Puerto Williams has been designed to streamline travel to Antarctica, with Silversea today unveiling a look at its lounges, gathering areas, and the panoramic views of the surrounding wilderness.

A highlight of The Cormorant will be the fireplace lounge (**pictured** above), which will offer a variety of plush seating, fine wines, signature cocktails, and sweeping vistas of Patagonia.



Each of The Cormorant's 150 guest rooms will feature a view of the surrounding forest or the Beagle Channel, with interiors featuring wood tones and handcrafted items created by Chilean artisans.

Guests will enjoy a culinary experience rooted in Chilean flavours at Latitude 55 (**pictured** inset), with a dining venue that celebrates the region's ingredients and traditions.

The Cormorant is set to welcome guests in Oct. *MS*

Brothers in arms

CRYSTAL has announced an exclusive culinary voyage with the acclaimed Alajmo family, who will join *Crystal Serenity* later this year.

Michelin-starred chef Massimiliano Alajmo and his celebrated restaurateur brother and partner Raffaele will join a Venice to Athens cruise from 08-15 Sep.

Throughout the voyage, guests will enjoy rare access to the brothers through a Q&A session and book signing, as well as a guided wine tasting highlighting selections from their acclaimed cellars led by wine expert Giovanni Alajmo.

There will also be hosted onboard dinners at Osteria d'Ovidio and The Vintage Room, personally led by Massimiliano and Raffaele, which will be available for booking from 12 Mar.



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