



Cruise Weekly today

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

D'Silva promoted

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) has appointed Wesley D'Silva as its new president, the line has announced.

Based at RSSC's head office in Miami, D'Silva has worked at parent company Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) for more than a decade, primarily within the line's finance and management departments.

He was most recently RSSC's chief commercial officer.

In a post on LinkedIn, D'Silva said he will focus on building the brand's strong foundation and continuing to raise the standard of ultra-luxury travel.

"I am incredibly energised and optimistic about what lies ahead," he enthused.

Cunard to focus on longer voyages

SLOW travel and longer voyages will be a heavier focus for Cunard Line in the future, senior vice president commercial Liz Fettes told *Cruise Weekly*.

This style of sailing is popular with Australians, explained Fettes, who is Down Under for Cunard's 'A Letter from Australia to the World' event aboard *Queen Mary 2* (see **page 3**).

Despite the ending of its home port program in Australia, the market remains one of Cunard's most important, she said.

"Australia is such a vital market for us, and we appreciate the loyalty and the affinity for the brand," said Fettes, **pictured** right with sales & marketing director Amy Williams.

The local market will be key to the cruise line's guest sourcing for its lengthier, more destination-heavy voyages.

"Grand World Voyages will



always have a presence with Australia, I think that's a huge push for us.

"We're also looking at specific voyages we can do back-to-backs on," Fettes added.

Other programs popular with Australians are Cunard's 'connected voyages', she said, which encourage guests to daisy chain sailings aboard the cruise

line's different 'Queens'.

Cunard's European program will also begin to include more long voyages, in response to the line's focus on extended voyages.

A lot of Cunard's current European itineraries are seven nights, Fettes explained, with the cruise line to incorporate more 14, 21, and 28 night voyages with few repeated ports. *MS*



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Disney sails on a new Adventure

DISNEY Cruise Line (DCL) has welcomed the arrival of its new ship, *Disney Adventure* (CW yesterday), with a christening ceremony in Singapore.

Hosted at the cruise line's new home port of Marina Bay Cruise Centre, the celebrations kicked off on board the new vessel in the Walt Disney Theatre.

Entertainment included performances by regional vocalists and musicians, enhanced by visual effects and special appearances by Captain Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse, and other Disney friends.

Guests were then regaled by a 23-piece orchestra, which was joined by Hollywood Performing Arts Hall of Fame inductee Jed Madela and international recording artist, Australian Dami Im, as they performed tunes from Disney, Pixar, and Marvel.

The godparent of *Adventure*,



movie star Robert Downey Jr, also took to the stage for the ceremonial blessing of the ship and all her guests, before iconic Disney characters led a rendition of *Let's Set Sail*.

"As our first ship to home port in Asia, the *Disney Adventure* represents a new chapter for Disney Cruise Line and will introduce Disney to audiences who may be experiencing our

magic for the very first time," said chair of Disney Experiences and incoming chief executive officer of The Walt Disney Company, Josh D'Amaro.

"It offers fans across this region an opportunity to immerse themselves in unforgettable ways and create memories that are uniquely Disney."

Adventure will set sail on her maiden voyage on 10 Mar. JM

Celestyal cancels

CELESTYAL Cruises has cancelled the remainder of its Arabian Gulf season, consisting of four voyages, two each from Doha and Dubai.

The cruise line will now reposition both *Celestyal Journey* and *Celestyal Discovery* back to Athens, subject to operational conditions, to prepare them for their Med season.

Guests on board the two ships will be advised of disembarkation plans in the next 24-48 hours, with the ships' onboard teams to support guests with onward travel arrangements.

Passengers have been advised to contact their airlines directly regarding flight arrangements, and to register with their respective embassies for any official updates or repatriation.



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IMAGINE enjoying a relaxing cruise, only to wonder if you have wound up in the plot of John Carpenter's *The Fog*.

A traveller sailing off the coast of Antarctica recently uploaded a video on TikTok that appeared to show what one could only describe as a ghost ship (pictured).

"A ghost ship, perhaps?!" TikTok user @lucy.jets queried in the caption, and you could forgive her for thinking so.

Her footage - which has at the time attracted more than 15.5 million views - shows a historic, three-masted tall ship shrouded in fog.

As it turns out, thankfully (or disappointingly), the vessel is indeed real and goes by the name of *Bark Europa*.



Cunard writes to the world



CUNARD Line's 'A Letter From Australia to the World' letter was unveiled aboard *Queen Mary 2* yesterday, as she arrived in Sydney on her 108-night world voyage (**CW** 19 Jan).

Led by Australian author Anna Funder (**CW** 12 Feb), the letter was created from more than 500 submissions from Aussies, which reflect on the country's identity and our emphasis on slowing down in a fast-moving world.

Funder described reading the submissions as "a moving experience", and said she was

drawn to "the openness [and] the generosity with which people wrote to someone they may never meet."

The letter was designed to stimulate a pen-pal exchange throughout *Queen Mary 2's* ports of call across Asia, Africa, and Europe, with guests able to submit and respond to letters from around the world.

Another of Cunard's Queens, *Queen Anne*, is set to arrive in Sydney in two weeks. **JB**

Pictured are Funder and *Queen Mary 2* Captain Tomas Connery.

Barbados is back

PRINCESS Cruises has expanded its 2027 and 2028 Southern Caribbean programs, which now feature Barbados as a home port.

The cruise line will operate more than 30 voyages across 15 destinations, giving guests the option of sailing round trip from Barbados or San Juan.

Crown Princess will sail Jan-Mar 2027, while *Emerald Princess* will offer cruises from Nov 2027 to Mar 2028.

The itineraries, which are on sale now, range from six to nine nights, and feature a mix of destinations, including Antigua, Dominica, and more.

"This expansion to include Barbados departures adds even greater variety in the highly sought-after Southern Caribbean," said Eithne Williamson, Princess UK, Ireland & EMEA vice president.



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