



### Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise, plus a full page from Celestyal Cruises.

### Celestyal deposits

CELESTYAL Cruises is offering reduced deposits from as low as \$225 when booking today.

The cruise line's seven-night 'Heavenly Adriatic' itinerary, departing round-trip from Athens, leaves three times next year in Jul and Aug, leading in from \$1,289.

Meanwhile, the 'Idyllic Aegean', also cruising round trip from Athens, sails more than 10 times from Jul to Oct in 2025 from \$1,489.

The two cruises can also be combined in a round trip from Athens, which departs twice in Aug from \$2,129.

Head to **page 4** of today's **Cruise Weekly** for more.

## Era of Sun Princess officially begins

"I NAME this ship *Sun Princess*. May God bless her and all who sail in her."

With those ceremonial words, British actress and *Sun Princess* Godmother Hannah Waddingham gave the order for the champagne to smash against the bow, officially christening Princess Cruises' new Sphere-class vessel and welcoming her into service.

Joined on stage by Princess Cruises President, John Padgett, the naming ceremony was a glittering affair, complete with a high-energy dance number performed by the ship's talented entertainment team.

The event was hosted by American actor and magician, Michael Carbonaro, who warmed up the crowd with an entertaining magic trick reflecting the ship's popular themed bar, Spellbound by Magic Castle.

"This sunray represents the 16th



ship in the Princess fleet," said Waddingham, whose family has a history of maritime tradition.

"It is a real privilege to be on this grand diva and the first of her class, so I am completely thrilled."

Waddingham is **pictured** centre left alongside Princess Cruises President John Padgett, Michael

Cabanaro and the ship's Captain Craig Street.

**MEANWHILE**, Princess has launched a new Sanctuary Collection suite category - an exclusive "ship within a ship" concept - which is now available to book on both *Sun* and *Star Princess* - see **page 3**. ML

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## NCL's *Aqua* hits the water



**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line (NCL) and Fincantieri have celebrated the float-out of the all-new *Norwegian Aqua* (pictured), which recently took place at the Marghera shipyard.

The float-out marked a significant construction milestone for the first ship in NCL's next-generation Prima Plus-class, with *Aqua* making contact with the water for the first time.

The launch signifies the completion of external work on *Aqua*, as she readies for her Apr 2025 debut.

Two ceremonial coins were welded into *Aqua*, in maritime tradition celebrating the construction milestone, which historically symbolised an offering to ancient gods and goddesses of the sea in exchange for good luck and safe passage for the vessel.

The ceremony was followed by a blessing by a local chaplain and celebratory champagne breaking across *Aqua's* hull.

"We are excited to celebrate

another milestone with our partners at Fincantieri, who are integral to the Prima-class journey and supporting us in evolving the amazing experience we design and deliver for our guests," NCL President David Herrera said.

"Building upon the guest-favourite features of the award-winning vessels of this class, the 10% increase in space provides us with more flexibility to deliver more offerings and more beautifully designed venues for our guests to relax and explore on board *Norwegian Aqua*."

Fincantieri Merchant Ships Division General Manager Luigi Matarazzo said the company is excited to mark the float out of *Aqua* with Norwegian.

"We are proud to be part of this transformative journey in which innovation, a cornerstone of our industrial plan, is one of our key points, as we strive to push boundaries and elevate industry standards," he said. *MS*

## Ponant's penguins

**PONANT** is celebrating tomorrow's World Penguin Day with newly released Emperor Penguin itineraries to Snow Hill Island during next year's Antarctica season.

Guests will embark on three exclusive departures aboard *Le Commandant Charcot* next year, where they will be able to approach Snow Hill Island's Emperor Penguin colonies on foot to within five metres.

They will also have the opportunity to linger for hours at Snow Hill Island, immersing themselves fully in the wonders of Antarctica.

Guests can also expect to observe Adelie, Gentoo, and Chinstrap penguins, among other diverse wildlife.

"As an expedition leader with Ponant, I'm thrilled to be able to offer guests the exclusive opportunity to explore Snow Hill Island aboard *Le Commandant Charcot*," Commercial Manager Japan & Korea, and Expedition Leader Ryo Ijichi said.

"Our exclusive 2025 departures offer more than just observation; they provide an immersive, authentic polar expedition," he added.

"Guests have the privileged opportunity to encounter these colonies in person venturing into the Weddell Sea from the Drake Passage, to an area that is inaccessible to other vessels."



On location in  
Barcelona

Today's issue of *CW* is coming to you from Barcelona, where British actress Hannah Waddingham has taken her place among Princess Cruises' esteemed Godmother ranks.

**HUNDREDS** of global media, passengers, Princess Cruises executives, and *Sun Princess* crew have packed the Princess Arena to witness the ship's naming ceremony in Barcelona.

Celebrities in attendance included former stars of *The Love Boat*, and Brazilian artist Romero Britto.

Prior to the pomp itself, announcements were taking place across multiple venues, with the three-deck Piazza serving to formally unveil the new 'Love by Britto' restaurant in the presence of the artist.

Clad in a gold robe, the famed Brazilian artist and sculptor was then unveiled to the crowd from the second level and greeted by Princess Culinary Arts chef Rudi Sodamin.

Simultaneously, *Sun Princess* Cruise Director Corinne Steel was onshore coordinating the rigging of the ceremonial Verve Cliquot Nebuchadnezzar, before Waddingham gave the order for the rope to be cut, sending the giant bottle to shatter on the side of the bow - see more on [page 1](#).

## Explore Norway, your way!



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The North Cape Express offers an elevated experience aboard the newly refurbished *MS Trollford*.

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## PORThOLE

**ONE** of the least enjoyable parts of a cruise is using the ship's toilet paper, which is more often than not less "ply-able" than the tissue you use at home.

However, cruise lines aren't just being cheap, as the unofficial *Royal Caribbean Blog* recently investigated, with the industry opting for one-ply toilet paper for a number of operational and environmental reasons also.

The toilet paper cruise ships use is designed specifically for marine, RV, or portable toilet use, and is intended to flush easily and quickly break down in the holding tanks, preventing any clogs.

Cruise ship toilets are also all connected, meaning if one system clogs, they're all clogged, which is a good practice in teamwork!

## Cruising on standby

**HOLLAND** America Line is offering a new "standby" cruise fare, which costs just US\$49 per day.

Pax part of the Standby List Program are warned they may not secure a stateroom until two days before departure, with the option to remain on the list up until 90 minutes before all aboard.

The program is currently not available in Australia.

## Princess Sanctuary Collection



**PRINCESS** Cruises' new Sanctuary Collection suites (**CW** breaking news yesterday) will include premium benefits, such as a private top-deck retreat (**pictured**), two exclusive restaurants, private elevator access, and more.

The new Sanctuary Collection category was unveiled yesterday on board *Sun Princess* ahead of her naming ceremony in Barcelona, and is now available to book aboard the ship.

Three categories of Sanctuary Collection suites and cabins are available, starting from 12 Premium Deluxe Balconies, 123 Mini-Suites and 80 Signature Collection suites, including the Sky Suite and Owner's Suite.

Sanctuary Collection guests will also receive Princess Premier benefits included in their fare, which unlocks access to premium dining seatings, top-tier beverage package and guaranteed seating

at the Princess Arena.

The exclusive top-deck retreat features a private swimming pool and jacuzzis, plush lounge furniture, private cabanas and exclusive wellness services, including sunrise yoga classes and sail-away receptions in the Signature Lounge, which overlooks the wake of the ship.

Guests with existing Suite reservations as of 23 Apr will receive the Sanctuary Collection amenities at no extra charge.

Princess President, John Padgett, said the new Sanctuary Collection offers an ultra-private, tucked-away space that rivals any high-end luxury resort.

"With spacious and well-appointed accommodations, along with an array of premium extras and its exclusivity, our new Sanctuary Collection delivers the ultimate in access and indulgence to deliver an unparalleled experience," Padgett said. *ML*



AUSTRALIAN CRUISE ASSOCIATION  
**ACA UPDATE**  
 with Jill Abel - CEO

### Seatrade success

**OUR** trip to Seatrade Cruise Global in Florida was a whirlwind of appointments, conference sessions, and networking, with such positive results to report.

Prior to the event, we took the opportunity to hold roundtable sessions with several of the major cruise lines, allowing for important forward planning.

We followed this up with 25 scheduled appointments over the next three days with cruise executives focusing on port operations, shore excursions, pre- and post-touring, provisioning, and itinerary planning.

It was great timing for ACA and our partners at NZCA to report on the bumper spring/summer season that has recently ended.

The number of Aussies cruising has overtaken pre-pandemic levels and the outlook for the 2024-2025 season remains strong.

Growth is expected from increased capacity coming into the region with 83 ships now operating in Oceania - a 14% increase on the previous year.

They are staying longer, visiting more ports and doing more overnights, which allows for crew and passenger dollars to flow into the cities and rural destinations, and allows for greater dispersal.

As a result of this success, it was encouraging to hear that our neighbouring Pacific destinations are enjoying a downstream effect with more cruise lines adding them to itineraries - such a worthwhile visit for our record number of attendees, with an even stronger outlook for next year.

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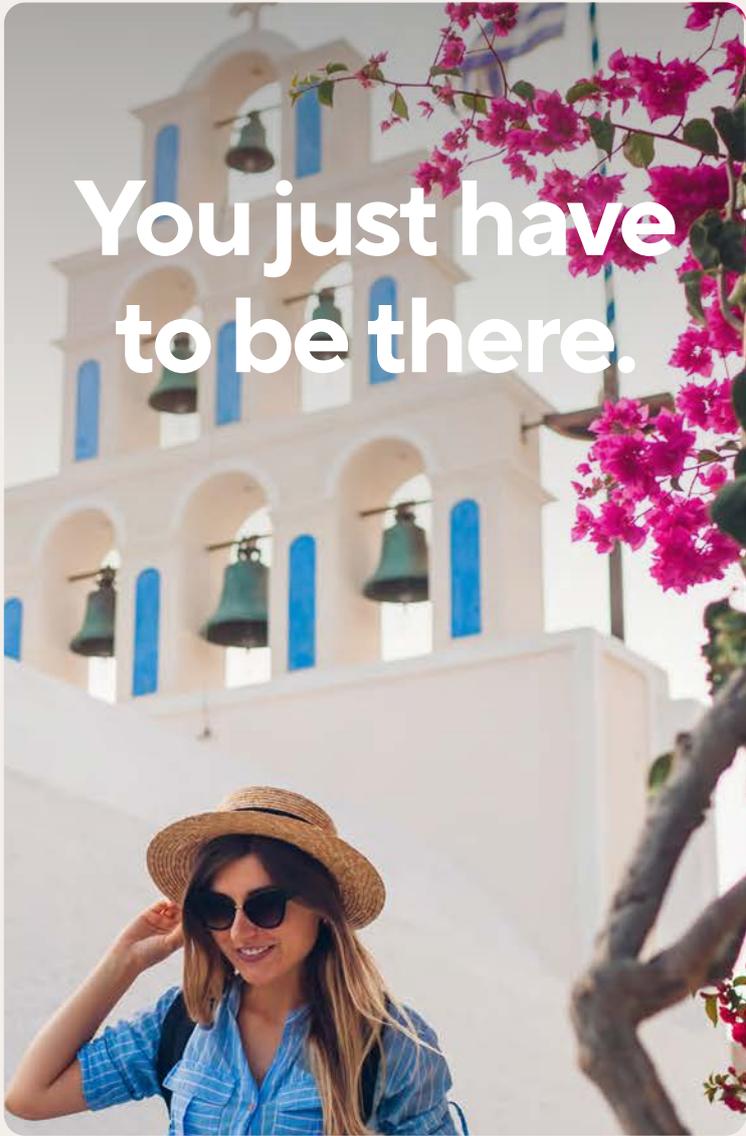
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**Departure 2025**

Jul 26  
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From **\$1289**



7 Nights

**Idyllic  
Aegean**

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Athens - Thessaloniki - Kusadasi  
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Mykonos - Milos - Athens

**Departure 2025**

Jul 5, 12, 19  
Aug 2, 16, 30  
Sept 6, 13, 20, 27  
Oct 4, 11

From **\$1489**



14 Nights

**Heavenly Adriatic  
& Idyllic Aegean**

**Itinerary**

Athens - Kotor - Split - Venice - Katakolo  
Thessaloniki - Kusadasi - Crete - Santorini  
Mykonos - Milos - Athens

**Departure 2025**

Aug 9, 23

From **\$2129**

**Contact your travel advisor for more details**

\*All prices are per-person, based on a double occupancy of the stateroom and are quoted in Australian Dollars (AU\$-AUD). Celestyal Experience Fares are based on the published Full Brochure Fares and the discount is already reflected. Celestyal Experience fares include accommodation on board in the booked category, on-board dining and complimentary select drinks and beverages during food service hours, all port and service charges and entertainment program on board. Moreover a AU\$120 discount for pre-booked shore excursions is included. Booking window is March 1st, 2024 to May 31st, 2024 for the selected cruises. Offer is valid for new, individual bookings. It is not valid for groups and cannot be held as group block. Reduced rates space is capacity controlled and may be withdrawn at any time with, or without notice. Celestyal Cruises reserves the right to add, change or modify reduced rate conditions at any time, without notification. Port and service charges and any other surcharges are not commissionable even if indicated as included in the cruise rate. Celestyal's Deposit and Cancellation standard policies apply based on the booking/sailing date. Celestyal reserves the right to correct any incorrect information due to a human error, typographical error, or technical error. In the event of any discrepancies between the rates stated herein and the rates displayed in the Reservation System, the rates provided by the Reservation System shall prevail and be deemed as the correct and binding rates for all purpose. Other restrictions may apply. The general terms and conditions of Celestyal apply.