



CUNARD

SUMMER 2025





WELCOME

◆ As the rich and vibrant colours of our front cover invite you in, we're excited to welcome you to this summer's loyalty magazine. For those of you who have travelled on Queen Anne, you may recognise the deep red foliage adorning this edition. The illustration is from the Aranya menu, and you can read about the creation of the restaurant's sublime dishes from page 40.

We enjoy showing you behind the scenes and, naturally, this Cunarder is no exception. Captain Hashmi takes us through a day in the life of a Captain from page 4, including some of his career highlights. Head to page 14 for an insider's view of Queen Elizabeth's recent refresh, and peek behind the curtain from page 30 for an insight into how our fabulous production shows are brought to life.

Our much-loved Transatlantic Fashion Week makes a triumphant return in 2025, headlined by designer Christian Siriano, whose celebrated designs have bedazzled many a red carpet. Christian delights us with his tales from page 26 ahead of joining our flagship later this year from New York.

Local tour guides are on hand to give their valuable knowledge and expertise from page 44 as we travel with them to Dubrovnik, Croatia, and Sorrento, Italy, as well as Canada's Charlottetown.

And finally, we've always believed that sailing with a Cunard Queen is beneficial for our wellbeing, and now we have the evidence to back it up. Neuroscientist Dr Jack Lewis discusses the cognitive benefits of travelling with us on page 22.

THE CUNARD TEAM

Cover image by Diana Delgado Millan

Left & inside back cover The Queens Room on board Queen Elizabeth has been refurbished into a beautifully elegant Art Deco masterpiece

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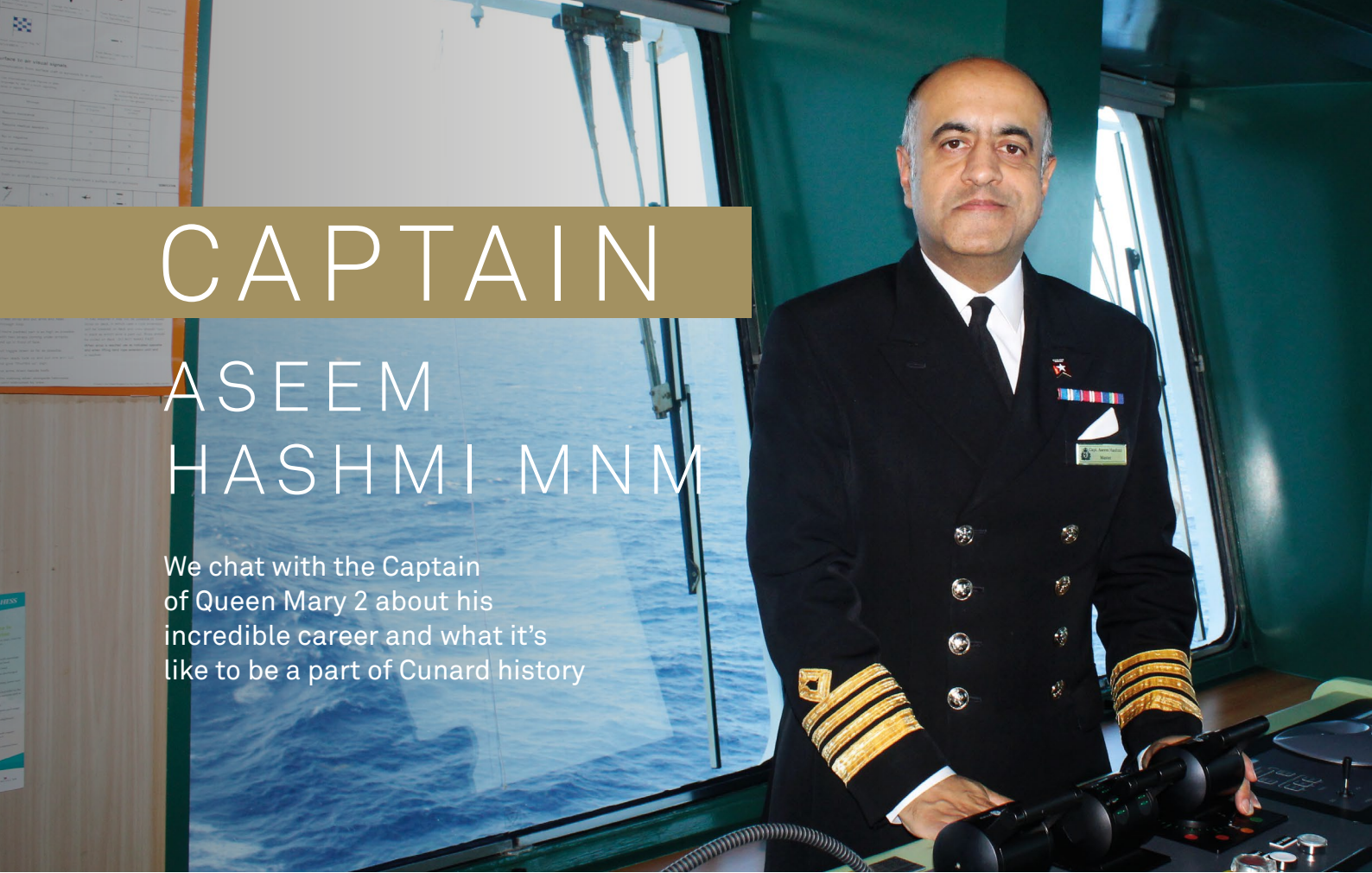


CUNARD

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CAPTAIN ASEEM HASHMI MNM

We chat with the Captain of Queen Mary 2 about his incredible career and what it's like to be a part of Cunard history

I never thought I would embark on a career at sea let alone assume command of a ship. Having transitioned from pursuing a career in civil aviation to a career on the high seas, I realised from the outset that the steps needed to one day become a Captain would be a gradual incline interspersed with steep learning curves at times. I am lucky to have been mentored by so many accomplished

Cunard Captains who inspired me to follow 'in their wake'. I believe being a Captain is a role one must grow into rather than just step into. However, after a brief secondment ashore while I was a chief officer within our Maritime Operations, I realised how much I missed the sea and it's when I returned to the fleet I became more determined to strive eventually for the 'left-hand command seat'.

◆ ***What does a typical day look like for you when you're on board?***

Every day is 'Monday', as we say at sea – no weekends as such, but that is the reason that I love being at sea. Each day is quite different and depends on whether we're at sea, in port, cruising in the fjords, cruising in the tropics or crossing the Atlantic in dense fog. As Francis Drake once said, "It isn't that life ashore is distasteful to me. But life at sea is better," which is something that I can certainly relate to in my career (for now).

A typical day at sea for the Captain is definitely not 9-5. Strictly speaking, you're 'on call' 24/7 and my office is only ten steps from the Bridge (the best traffic-free commute to work!). On a port day, I will get my wake-up call perhaps one and a half hours before arrival at the port pilot station, so for Southampton or New York we're talking around 2.30am. A quick check of emails in case there have been any important messages overnight and then to the Bridge for a briefing from the watch officers, after which I would take

charge of the navigation again. 'Charge' is quite different from 'command' in that the Captain is always in 'command' of the ship, 'charge' just means the actual physical control of the ship's navigation on the Bridge. For both Southampton and New York, it's around a 25 nautical mile transit upriver under pilotage before we berth the ship – the 'valet parking', as I call it. Depending on the complexity of the manoeuvre and prevailing weather conditions, the Captain will execute the pre-planned manoeuvre with the support of the



Bridge team. However, where circumstances permit, the deputy captain or other navigation officers may be afforded the opportunity to manoeuvre the ship under the Captain's supervision as part of their professional development, which is very important. A detailed arrival manoeuvre briefing will have taken place the afternoon before with the Bridge and Technical teams.

Once alongside, there will be administration tasks as in any management role and a lot of time is spent behind a computer screen. The maritime industry is one of the most regulated industries and there are also statutory inspections to oversee weekly. The ship's Senior Management and Operational Team meet regularly to ensure that all departments are in sync with our four Cs ethos of collaboration – co-operation – co-ordination – camaraderie (the latter being the most important).

There is also a statutory rest period in the afternoon and then it's up at 3pm ready for departure. Before retiring for the night, I will visit the Bridge to brief the bridge watch officers and leave my written Night Orders that detail any specific navigational instructions and,

quite importantly, under what circumstances they should call me. Sea days are somewhat different, when I have perhaps more time to be out and about the ship amongst the guests, 'walking around the parish' and attending various functions, such as cocktail parties, hosting my dining table with guests, conducting Sunday church service and even officiating weddings at sea!

◆ ***Do you enjoy meeting the guests when they come on board?***

Welcoming our guests on board is our 'raison d'être' and why we're all in the cruise industry. There are so many reasons guests choose to travel on board Queen Mary 2 in particular. Yes, it's a vacation, but for many it's much more than that. Sailing on a Transatlantic Crossing, or indeed on the world's only ocean liner, is a bucket list experience for many; or re-living a journey they or their families may have taken before. Whatever the reason, there is an unmistakable and tangible air of excitement on board. I sincerely aspire, together with my ship's company, to be able to deliver and exceed that excitement and expectation and make



it into a reality. Even after 30 years in the company, I still feel most privileged to be able to converse with so many interesting and fascinating people from all walks of life and backgrounds, share stories and good conversation and endeavour to be part of their sailing experience, just as they are of mine.

◆ ***Do you have any tips for guests to make the most of their voyage?***

Particularly on Queen Mary 2, I quite often advise guests who are sailing with us for the first time to not only regard the ship as a 'means of transport', but as the destination and resort in itself. Do as much or as little as you want, don't feel obliged to fit everything into just this voyage. I hope that there will always be a next time when we can welcome them on board.

◆ ***What's your favourite place on Queen Mary 2?***

The hustle and bustle around the ship is the heartbeat that keeps the rhythm at sea going, but one place I may take even just 20 minutes of solitude in the mid-afternoon is sitting on the Bridge wing that extends seven metres over the side of the ship, just with my cup of Darjeeling and thoughts. It may be as simple as gazing out across the 15-mile horizon ahead; marvel at the 300 metres of ocean-going splendour



Captain Assem Hashmi first worked for Cunard in 1985 and is now Captain of its flagship vessel

(the ship) trailing behind me; or the dark ocean some 40 metres beneath me through the glass viewing pane on the deck. It's the 'me time', or as I sometime say, it's 'The Queen & I' moment.

◆ **What's the proudest moment of your career so far?**

I think it most definitely has to be the honour of representing Cunard and laying a wreath at The Cenotaph in November 2024. I was accompanied by two Cunard veterans – one gentleman was 101 years of age, who had served on our liners during World War II. We took the Royal Salute, first from His Majesty The King as we marched past The Cenotaph and then from HRH The Prince of Wales in Horse Guards Parade. The day before, I also had the privilege of representing the Merchant Navy at the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall, both experiences that will remain

etched in my memory forever and a most proud moment personally.

◆ **Of the destinations that you sail to, is there one you enjoy the most?**

I have now sailed into New York more than 120 times over 30 years, but each time I do always feel a personal sense of accomplishment on completing yet another Transatlantic Crossing. The awe of passing under the imposing Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, gliding quietly past the iconic Statue of Liberty as the unmistakably magnificent Manhattan skyline illuminates the horizon ahead of you. It's a sight that would not be lost on the millions of migrants of yesteryear who would have experienced the same feeling of euphoria as they sailed from the old world to the new, which regular Transatlantic travel has made viable since the mid-19th century. It may be dark and cold in the early hours of the

morning when Queen Mary 2 slips into New York, but the decks are always bustling with guests, all vying to take in the sights, just as the crew do.

◆ **Do you get to explore locations you visit or do you stay on board?**

I always endeavour to make time to explore the majestic scenery of the fjords and mountains of Norway. When we sail to the beautiful valley of Flåm or Skjolden, we sail over 90 miles inland from the sea along Sognefjord, passing waterfalls and snowcapped peaks even in the height of summer. I always try setting off on a most scenic and testing 20-mile bike ride from the idyllic farming village of Olden. The ride passes a fast-flowing white-water river, glass-like lakes meandering through quaint Norwegian villages and finally an ascent up to the magnificent Briksdalsbreen Glacier.

“The awe of gliding quietly past the iconic Statue of Liberty as the Manhattan skyline illuminates the horizon ahead of you”



Above The Manhattan skyline forms the backdrop as Queen Mary 2 sails in and out of New York

Opposite right Captain Aseem Hashmi and Captain Claire Thomson sign the official affiliation papers

Left The Captain with members of his crew



◆ ***You were given the Merchant Navy Medal for improving maritime safety – what did this involve?***

During my brief exposure to civil aviation before coming to sea, I learned about one of the most innovative systems of working: Human Factors, and what the industry refers to as Crew Resource Management (CRM). The understanding of human interactions in critical operations and mitigating the risk of human errors is the backbone of what CRM attempts to address. The maritime industry was going through a major reset in the 1990s with the introduction of a worldwide safety system for ships (known as ISM). It was this framework that I was a part of, and helped introduce the CRM fundamentals into the maritime industry that we today

know as Bridge Resource Management (BRM). I was awarded the Merchant Navy Medal (MNM) in 2013 by the First Sea Lord Admiral Lord West in recognition of my work on Human Factors to help improve safety at sea.

◆ ***This year, Queen Mary 2 became officially affiliated with aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth – what does this mean and what does this mean for Cunard?***

The history between Cunard and the Royal Navy dates back to 1853 when the company's liners were requisitioned by the Admiralty for the Crimean War and later the company also answered the call to duty in both world wars and the Falklands campaign.

I started my personal liaison with HMS Queen Elizabeth's (QNLZ) first Commanding Officer Captain Jerry Kyd back in 2017 during the aircraft carrier's final stages of construction in Scotland. After a number of exchange visits we finally 'affiliated' the two flagships in January 2025, when her new Commanding Officer, Captain Claire Thomson OBE RN, and senior team came on board for a special ceremony. The affiliation will be a forum to enhance the four Cs of 'collaboration – co-operation – coordination and camaraderie' between the two ships and on a variety of mutual current operational demands and training needs. It is an opportunity to share and build on a wealth of sea-going knowledge between the two maritime fraternities.

NEWS



SEE THE WORLD WITH QUEEN ANNE

Embark on Queen Anne's 2026 World Voyage

- ◆ Following her incredibly successful 2025 World Voyage, Queen Anne sets sail again on 11 January 2026, returning to Southampton on 30 April 2026, for a 110-night trip. Visit incredible destinations, including Portugal, Cape Verde, Namibia, Mauritius, Malaysia and Fiji. You'll even enjoy two days in port in Cape Town, Singapore, Hong Kong, Sydney and Los Angeles.

On board, experience delicious dining locations with a range of restaurants to choose from. You can also watch a show, listen to talks from our programme of Insights speakers or relax around the pool after a long

day of adventuring and discovering new destinations.

Cunarders on Queen Anne's inaugural 2025 World Voyage enjoyed the ship's incredible amenities and luxurious staterooms, as well as visiting so many must-see destinations around the world. The 2026 World Voyage is proving to be popular, so book your suite or stateroom now at cunard.com/H603D

For more information, go to cunard.com/H603D



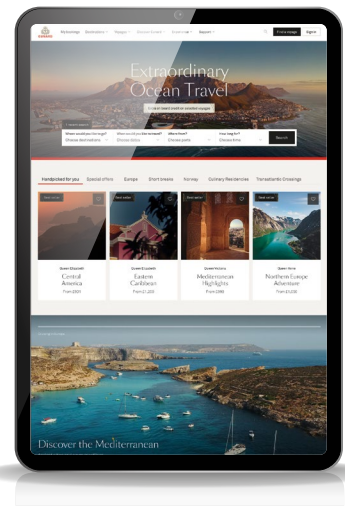
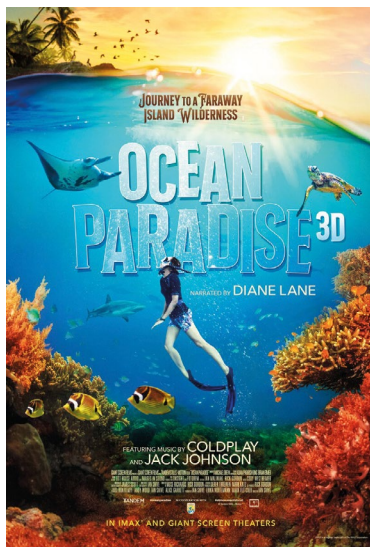
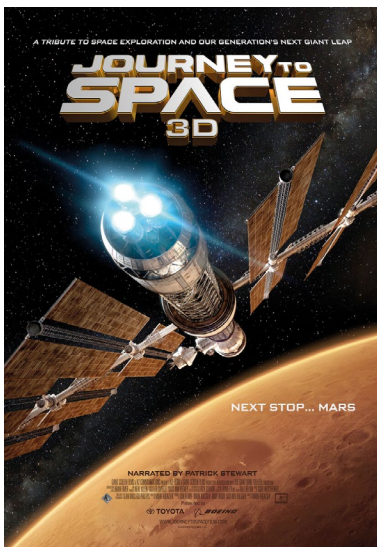
ENJOY EXCITING 3D FILMS ON BOARD QUEEN MARY 2

Take the opportunity during your voyage to be immersed in an incredible spectacle, while also learning more about the world we live in

- ◆ Three exciting 3D documentary films are now playing in Queen Mary 2's Illuminations Theatre – *Journey to Space*, narrated by Patrick Stewart; *T.Rex*, narrated by Sam Neill and *Ocean Paradise*, narrated by Diane Lane.

Journey to Space gives a broad overview of the achievements we've made so far in space, what's being done currently to advance space travel and what the plans are for the future. In *T.Rex*, learn more about the famous prehistoric predator with the benefit of incredible CGI wizardry, and learn the secrets of the Pacific Ocean's most remote islands in *Ocean Paradise*.

Each film is 40 minutes long and you'll be provided with 3D glasses so you can put yourself right at the heart of the action. You don't need to book and the films are available to watch at no additional cost, so head over to the Illuminations Theatre to enjoy one of these spellbinding offerings.



A NEW ONLINE EXPERIENCE

We're putting the finishing touches on our beautifully redesigned website. Whether you're planning your next voyage or managing an existing booking, our new site will make the process simpler, more seamless, and a pleasure to explore – on any device.

Watch this space – your new Cunard online experience is almost here.



ENJOY NAUTICAL DELICACIES ON BOARD

Join Nathan Outlaw and experience his famous Fish Kitchen

- ◆ Our Culinary Residency programme offers you the chance to enhance your voyage by enjoying delicacies from some of the world's most renowned chefs who are bringing the experience of their famous restaurants on board.

On selected Queen Victoria sailings from July to September this year, Michelin-starred chef, Nathan Outlaw, will be treating us to a special residency of Fish Kitchen. You can enjoy the finest, freshly caught fish of the Mediterranean. During these sailings, the fish will be acquired from Barcelona's fish markets, where Nathan will choose from the day's catch, which will dictate the menu.

Nathan believes in letting ingredients sing and serves fish simply, so you can enjoy the rich, varied flavours of the Mediterranean.

During the residency, Nathan will also be taking part in a Q&A so you can get to know him better and ask your burning questions. Don't miss his cooking demo either, where you can pick up tips on the best ways to create perfect fish dishes, and have the opportunity to meet the man himself.

Nathan began his career alongside his father before gaining experience in London's prestigious five-star hotel restaurants. He developed his passion for seafood working in Padstow and

earned his first Michelin star for The Black Pig in Cornwall at the age of 25.

Looking forward to the voyages, Nathan says: "I'm excited to go and visit all the destinations, because where I get the most inspiration from is travelling and seeing different things. It's all very well seeing travel destinations in a book, but it can never replace the real thing and actually being somewhere and experiencing it. So from my point of view, it's a win-win for me. I'll be cooking, which I love doing, and I'll get to visit new places."

To experience Fish Kitchen for yourself, visit cunard.com/nathan-outlaw



Voyage du Vin



Join us on Queen Victoria this October for our iconic Voyage du Vin, in partnership with Corney & Barrow, one of the UK's oldest independent wine merchants. Whilst visiting some of the Mediterranean's best wine-producing regions, learn more about the wonderful world of wine. Enjoy talks, tastings and events hosted by industry experts and connoisseurs, including legendary wine producer Peter Sisseck, award-winning wine writer Will Lyons and wine judge, broadcaster, and writer Aleesha Hansel, to name a few.

For more information, or to book, visit cunard.com/voyage-du-vin



CORNEY & BARROW
INDEPENDENT WINE MERCHANTS - 1780

**13-24
OCTOBER 2025**
11 NIGHTS, V525N,
QUEEN VICTORIA,
MEDITERRANEAN



CELEBRATE 185 YEARS OF CUNARD

Commemorate our incredible history with our bellhop bear

- ◆ As we celebrate our 185th anniversary, we've created Bailey, wearing the uniform of our iconic bellhops. Bailey is the latest in our range of collectable teddy bears and makes the perfect memento of your voyage. The bear's uniform is dipped in the exact colour of our bellhop uniform and Bailey contains recycled filler to make him more sustainable.

You can purchase a piece of Cunard history on board for \$30 with \$2 from each sale being donated to our charity partner, The King's Trust, to support young people and transform their lives. The King's Trust is a registered charity incorporated by Royal Charter (RC000772) in England and Wales (1079675) and Scotland (SC041198). To find out more about our partnership, please visit cunard.com/thekingstrust



A SENSORY JOURNEY LIKE NO OTHER

Ignite your senses with an exciting new offering on board Queen Anne.

Visit the Bright Lights Society to experience Bitter Sweet Symphony, an immersive show that combines performance, live music, dance with cocktails and nibbles to create an afternoon like no other.

Travel through three worlds and discover them on a whole new level on a journey of sight, sound, taste and smell, enjoying three delicious cocktails and sumptuous nibbles alongside energetic live music and a stunning selection of costumes.

Admission costs \$46 per person and reservations can be made on My Voyage once you're on board, so be sure to book your space for this unique experience.



THE LONDONER
LEICESTER SQ.

WHERE DRAMA
MEETS ELEGANCE

LEGENDSM
— — — — —
Preferred
HOTELS & RESORTS

A REGAL REFRESH

As Queen Elizabeth prepares to set sail for her inaugural Alaska voyages and a vibrant Caribbean season from Miami, she does so with a beautiful new look

◆ Following a transformative three-week refit, Queen Elizabeth emerges not only revitalised but reimagined – a seamless blend of timeless elegance and modern luxury.

Stepping on board, guests are welcomed into revitalised signature spaces – from the elegant Queens Room and traditional comforts of the Golden Lion to the sun-kissed Pavilion Pool. This refresh represents more than just a visual update; it marks the beginning of a new chapter for the ship, redefining the guest experience for the seasons ahead.

Cunard's longstanding partnership with international design studio SMC once again lies at the heart of the transformation. A collaboration that stretches back to the early 2000s and the debut of Queen Mary 2, it's one rooted in trust, expertise and a deep appreciation for heritage.

"The team from SMC are experts in helping us to evolve our design language. A major focus for us is translating and reinventing our extensive archival patterns into

modern and contemporary designs," says Brand Manager, Chris Peck. "They're fantastic at drawing from our past to shape our future – every detail tells a story."

This story-focused approach saw the designers delving into the lives of remarkable women from Cunard's 185-year history. These include Queen Elizabeth II, artist and activist Nancy Cunard, and Captain Thorhauge – the first female Captain for Cunard. Their legacy is artfully woven throughout the ship in subtle, thoughtful touches to explore while on board.

"We looked into the history of women within Cunard, from Hollywood stars to royalty to the women who worked in the engine rooms," explains Liz Richardson, Senior Design Project Manager at SMC. "We've brought their stories to life using small but meaningful details, such as the Grills lift lobby carpet drawing inspiration from one of Queen Elizabeth II's favourite and most-worn jewellery pieces, an aquamarine Boucheron brooch."

Right The Queens Room has had a vibrant transformation with a new dance floor, furniture and soft furnishings, to set a sumptuous stage for afternoon tea, live music and ballroom dancing







INSPIRED BY THE PAST, DESIGNED FOR THE FUTURE

With its rich history and signature Art Deco aesthetic, Queen Elizabeth has always evoked a sense of refined grandeur. Now, the refresh draws new energy from this tradition while responding to evolving guest expectations.

"Stylings on a ship are unique, particularly for Cunard, because of its strong heritage," says Senior Interior Architect Christina Budd. "There are certain parts of the architecture that will never change. So we need to work out how we can delight guests with an interesting design that is respectful to the original styling of the ship."

Elegant materials – from rich woods to intricate mosaics and cool marbles – pair with lighter layouts and brighter spaces, creating an inviting atmosphere throughout. The introduction of elements first seen on board Queen Anne adds contemporary touches, particularly evident in The Pavilion Wellness Café, which celebrates plant-based cuisine alongside sustainably sourced meat, fish and dairy.

A SEA OF TEXTURE

It might not steal the spotlight like a chandelier or a grand staircase, but carpet sets the tone for every space on board, and plays a defining role in Queen Elizabeth's revitalisation. Working with Carpet and Textile Designer Georgia Vintner, these underfoot masterpieces were designed to serve both aesthetic and practical purposes, considering



Above The Grills Terrace has been optimised to balance laid-back Caribbean luxury with Cunard's signature refinement, ensuring a relaxing al fresco experience

Below The Queens Room boasts a beautiful textural carpet inspired by the gardens of the Royal Palace

texture, pattern, durability and directional cues.

Senior Interior Architect Christina Budd says "Carpet design is a huge part of our remit. We have the interesting challenge of thinking about the guest journey, through a variety of different spaces, and finding ways to support that and make it more interesting. One great aspect of the carpet on board that's been a particular success on Queen Anne, and that we've integrated into Queen Elizabeth, is using colour and pattern to aid in wayfinding. Directional carpets help guide guests towards the closest lift lobby and the stairways feature different colours to help guests identify their position on the ship. We've explored that in a new way that's unique to this ship."

In the Queens Room – a particular design highlight – guests glide across carpets inspired by palace gardens. The redesign exudes the elegance and luxury reminiscent of the golden age of ocean travel, reinvented with a focus on the future. Taking inspiration from the Royal Palace's heritage of planting Mulberry trees since King James I, the new carpet pattern replicates a lush garden shrubbery. Blooming with floral borders and softened by orangery hues, there's even a discreet bee motif paying homage to the royal family's environmental ethos.

From bow to stern, hand-crafted, luxurious carpet subtly completes the new aesthetic with designs shifting to signal location and orientation, blending form with function in true Cunard style.





Above The Pavilion Wellness Café serves light, fresh options throughout the day

Left The Queens Grill restaurant oozes hand-crafted touches to form an elegant space

“As Queen Elizabeth begins this exciting new chapter, we are delighted to offer guests an even more refined experience on board”

ALFRESCO ELEGANCE FOR CARIBBEAN DAYS

With Queen Elizabeth soon to sail the tropical waters of the Caribbean, thoughtful updates have ensured her outdoor spaces are ready for warmer climates. Guests will find alfresco areas expanded and refined – places to relax, dine and drink in the stunning ocean view.

The Grills Terrace, an exclusive outdoor space for guests staying in the Grills Suites, now balances coastal charm with sophistication. Ocean-hued palettes, flexible seating and luxurious textures create a sanctuary at sea.

“The Caribbean invites you to slow down and savour your surroundings,” says Chris Peck. “whether guests want a casual meal, cocktails at sunset, or a just tranquil afternoon in the sun.”

Nearby, The Pavilion and Lido Pool Club areas exude effortless elegance. Under clear blue skies, plush loungers and nautical accents set the scene for sunbathing or stargazing. Blue and white tiling evokes serenity, while cabanas and whirlpools offer comfort by day and glamour by night.

The Pavilion Wellness Café – a standout new addition – offers light, nourishing meals that reflect a mindful approach to dining. Influenced by Queen Anne’s design ethos, it brings a contemporary twist to the cuisine served on board.

LOOKING FORWARD

Whether sailing the sun-drenched shores of the Caribbean or the icy splendour of Alaska glaciers, Queen Elizabeth’s updated design enhances every journey she embarks on. Each refreshed space invites guests to immerse themselves in the voyage – connecting past and present, elegance and innovation.

As President of Cunard Katie McAlister puts it, “As Queen Elizabeth begins this exciting new chapter, we are delighted to offer guests an even more refined experience on board, with beautifully updated spaces that combine classic Cunard style with modern comfort.”

And so, with her signature red funnel cutting through sapphire seas, Queen Elizabeth sails into her next adventure – this next chapter in her story promising to be among the most exciting yet.



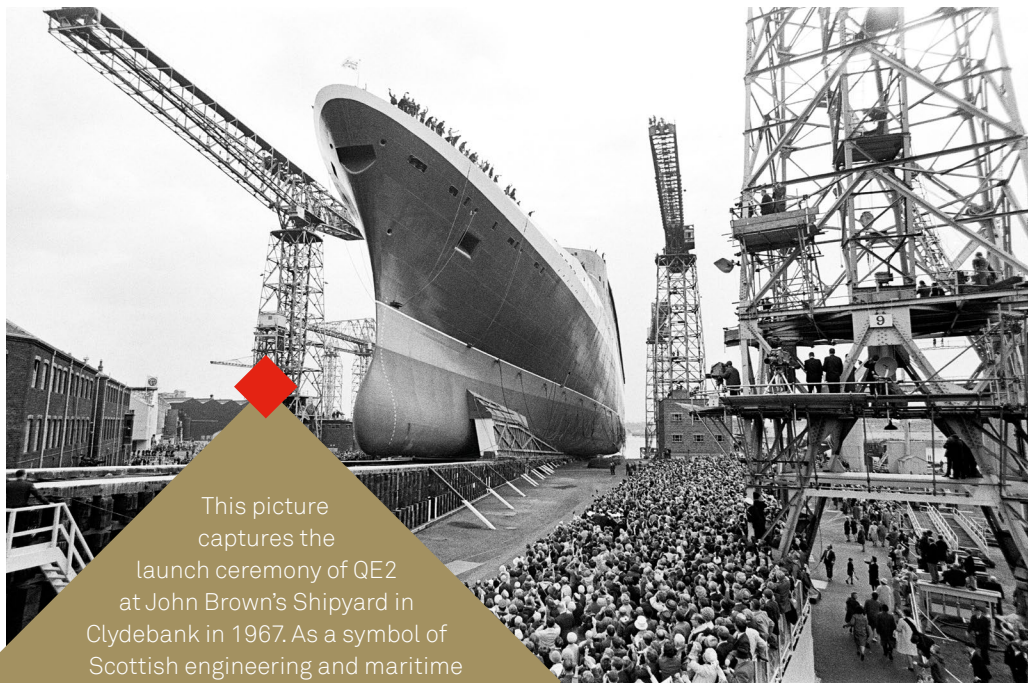
A WINDOW INTO THE PAST

As part of our 185th anniversary celebrations, we've put together an incredible exhibition

Images with thanks to Mirrorpix

- ◆ 2025 marks 185 years since the start of Cunard and our first Transatlantic Crossing, which is a huge milestone. To celebrate, we've put together our Sea of Glamour exhibition, featuring a stunning collection of 184 images sourced from guests, crew, celebrities and the Cunard archives. Renowned photographer, Mary McCartney, is curating the exhibition – and, she will take the 185th image herself of Queen Anne's Icons – Mel C, Katarina Johnson-Thompson, Ngunan Adamu, Natalie Heywood and Jayne Casey.

The free exhibition launches at The Royal Liver Building in Liverpool later this month, and is open until 17 June. It will then sail around the world on board our iconic Queens for their 185th anniversary voyages this year. We will have more stories to share with you in the next issue, but across these pages you can enjoy some of the images from the archives, as well as three photos with very special stories. These stories came about as part of a mission to find people featured in fascinating photos from our archives.



This picture captures the launch ceremony of QE2 at John Brown's Shipyard in Clydebank in 1967. As a symbol of Scottish engineering and maritime excellence, QE2 being launched into the River Clyde was significant, with the river being the setting for many historic maritime moments.

► Find out more about the Sea of Glamour exhibition at cunard.com/seaofglamour

Rod Stewart and his wife Alana Stewart arrive at Southampton with their six week old baby Kimberley. They had travelled on QE2 from the USA. The image shows the family disembarking from QE2, which is visible in the background of this shot. Picture taken 1 October 1979.





Queen Mary's chefs wave farewell as she sets sail for the final time. Picture taken 31 October 1967.



A getaway on one of our ships always offers the opportunity to get dressed up and enjoy the iconic glamour of a Cunard voyage. These guests (right) are pictured in one of our luxurious dining rooms. They are dressed in their best eveningwear, including tuxedos and eye-catching dresses, to enjoy dinner and drinks on board our ships. You can also see the grandeur of the room, with magnificent chandeliers and plush chairs.



The Cleaning Ladies of 1975, known as the 'cyclic cleaners', were crucial to keeping QE2 in pristine condition. Anne Logan, who recognised herself in the photo, spent over 20 years on board the QE2, first as a nursery nurse, and later as a stewardess, making sure guests had everything they needed.



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II talks to Captain William Warwick on the bridge of QE2 during her visit to Southampton. She visited the ship several times following her first visit in 1969. This picture was taken when she met with the Captain and crew as part of her tour to find out what goes on behind the scenes of a Cunard ship.



A couple enjoy a deck game on board one of our ships, overseen by a crew member. Deck games have been a popular part of our voyages throughout our history.

Beatles drummer Ringo Starr en route to the USA on board QE2 on 16 May 1969.



Hollywood icon Rita Hayworth enjoys the wind in her hair at the bow of Queen Elizabeth.



This picture, taken in 1982, shows Leading Air Crewman Roy Eggleston saying goodbye to his then girlfriend before leaving Southampton on Cunard's Queen Elizabeth 2, as part of the 825 Naval Air Squadron.

This photo from 1982 shows David Lawrence on his driveway in Gelli, Llanharry, South Wales, standing on top of the QE2 lifeboat he purchased at auction. David worked tirelessly to transform it into a seaworthy fishing vessel. The lifeboat was affectionately named 'Rhona' after David's daughter.

Happy guests enjoy a delicious tea on deck in the sunshine.





Queen Elizabeth brings home New York's own. This photo shows her pulling into the city carrying hundreds of brave servicemen after the end of World War II.



Southport lifeboatmen James Bond (left) and Dennis Gallev welcome the QE2 at The Mersey Bar on behalf of *The Liverpool Echo* newspaper.
Picture taken 24 July 1990.

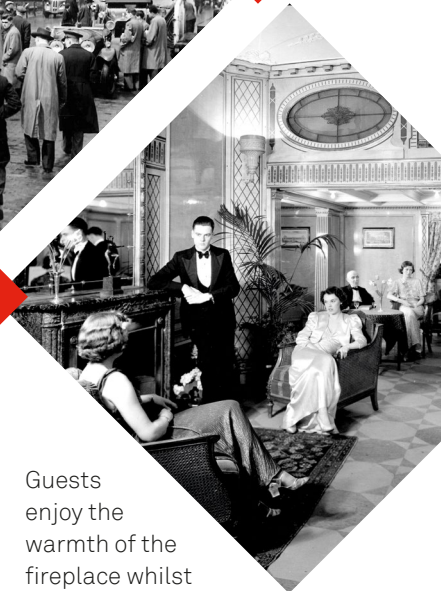
The iconic Scythia II waiting for passengers and cargo to be loaded at the dock ahead of a voyage in the late 1930s



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II with Commodore Ronald Warwick on the bridge, during her tour of Queen Mary 2, in Southampton on 8 January 2004.



Bing Crosby is pictured with his camera sitting on the railings of Queen Mary. The actor and singer was a regular guest on the ship.



Guests enjoy the warmth of the fireplace whilst listening to the piano.

WAVES OF WELLNESS



Dr Jack Lewis

We carried out an exciting study into the cognitive benefits of travelling with Cunard, with surprising results. We spoke to neuroscientist Dr Jack Lewis about the findings

For 185 years, we have championed the restorative power of ocean travel. We asked Human Understanding Agency Walnut Unlimited to carry out a scientific study to find out exactly what positive effects a Cunard voyage can have.

On one of Queen Mary 2's Transatlantic Crossings, 40 guests were asked to take part in a number of tests to discover whether their eight-day voyage affected their relaxation levels and cognitive abilities. These tests were carried out using biometric tools to measure cognitive and physiological changes

before and after the voyage, and the results were very impressive.

As you might expect when travelling with Cunard, participants' perceived relaxation increased by 158 per cent from the start to the end of the trip but, perhaps more surprisingly, their performance in cognitive tasks also increased. The study, which asked participants to complete various tests, found a 29 per cent improvement in short-term memory recall, a 125 per cent increase in complex problem-solving ability and a 14 per cent improvement in attention levels.



Neuroscientist Dr Jack Lewis says this increase in cognitive ability could be attributed to the activities on offer on a Cunard voyage: "Being on an ocean liner with White Star service and lots of activities, lectures, art lessons and classical concerts is stimulating to the mind, while at the same time stress relieving. The most likely explanation is the cognitive enrichment, the stimulating activities and the fact that guests have the freedom of choice to do as much or as little as they want."

Dr Jack goes on to explain that this

effect can be caused by a change of cortisol levels during a voyage. Cortisol is a hormone that can be helpful to us in small amounts but increases during times of stress. The rise in cortisol releases extra resources such as glucose from storage so it's available in our bloodstream. This can help our bodies and brains respond to any perceived threats or stressful situations but makes it more difficult to access our full cognitive abilities due to resources being used elsewhere. While this isn't a problem every now and then, extended

Above The study found a Cunard voyage can help lower stress levels

Below The study was carried out on one of Queen Mary 2's Transatlantic Crossings



"This increase in cognitive ability could be attributed to the activities on offer"

periods of stress can leave us with chronically high levels of cortisol, which puts us on high alert, day in and day out.

The possibility of some of the participants experiencing chronic stress could explain some of the findings of the study, as Dr Jack explains: "The high level of cortisol over long periods of time may have been getting in the way of their full cognitive performance, and so by bringing those stress levels down again, it kind of unlocks their full potential, because they're able to engage with things in a less panicked frame of mind." Dr Jack attributes the increased cognitive performance to both being more enriched by the wonderful range of activities on offer, as well as the effect relaxing has on reducing cortisol levels.

To measure relaxation levels, the study used a range of biometric methods, including observing participants' galvanic skin response (GSR). This involves

measuring the amount of sweat on a fingertip, as Dr Jack explains: "When you sweat, it's a sign that you've activated the sympathetic nervous system. When you're in a rest state of being and the parasympathetic nervous system comes into play, you tend to sweat less because you're not doing so much and losing heat as much, so GSR is a very well-established scientific measure of stress levels."

The study also used a neurofeedback device, which is a series of electrodes positioned mostly across the front of the head that track engagement by comparing alpha waves on the left versus the right and can be used to measure stress levels. Combined with the GSR testing, as mentioned, the study found a significant increase in relaxation levels across the participants.

While Dr Jack says he was expecting to see improved levels of relaxation, he was

"Combined with the GSR testing, the study found a significant increase in relaxation levels across the participants"

Below The chance to do as little or as much as you like on board contributes to increased cognitive benefits





“It’s a really cool neuroscience trick that our brains do, that people don’t think about. But it’s quite powerful in this regard of an ocean liner experience”

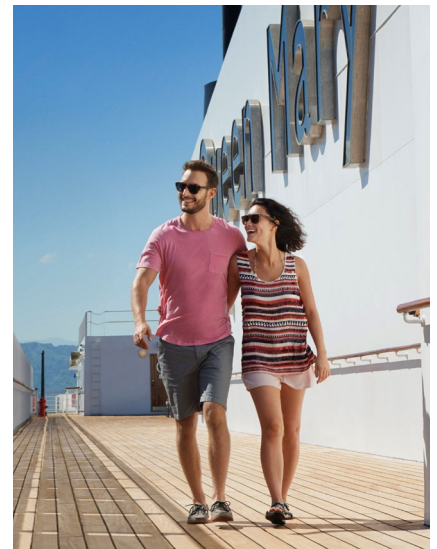
surprised to see the increase in cognitive performance. Having become more familiar with our ships, he believes that, as well as the range of enriching activities on offer, the layout of Queen Mary 2 may also have played a part.

“A ship is the perfect kind of rabbit warren of different spaces where you have experiences in those different rooms, in those different locations. So, you can build your knowledge of each room and, just by moving into a place where you were the night where you previously felt really relaxed and comfortable, you can feel relaxed and more comfortable anyway,” he says. “And it’s a really cool neuroscience trick that

our brains do, that people don’t think about. But it’s quite powerful in this regard of an ocean liner experience.”

He also explains that, while getting to know a ship’s layout can seem like a challenge on embarkation day, as you become more familiar with it and get to know your way around, you’ll likely see a decrease in stress levels and more positive emotions as you “gain a mastery of your environment”, as Dr Jack calls it.

So, when you’re booking your next Cunard voyage, you can do so safe in the knowledge that it’s been scientifically proven to make you more relaxed and could even end up improving your cognitive abilities!



Above Participants took part in a range of biofeedback and cognitive tests

Above right A trip with us can have a number of benefits for guests

CHRISTIAN
SIRIANO
WILL BE SAILING
ON QUEEN MARY 2 FOR
TRANSATLANTIC
FASHION WEEK,
31 OCTOBER-
7 NOVEMBER
2025

HIGH FASHION ON THE HIGH SEAS



Christian Siriano is excited to sail with Cunard
Photo: Janice Yim

We're so excited to welcome award-winning fashion designer Christian Siriano on board for the return of Transatlantic Fashion Week later this year – we sat down with him to find out more about his career and what he has in store for the voyage

Right Supermodel
Coco Rocha will be
joining Christian
during Transatlantic
Fashion Week
Photo: Sara Kerens



◆ *How did the partnership with Cunard come about?*

My mum is a longtime fan of cruises and has been on a ton over the years, but I've never had the chance to really experience one, so I'm excited to see what it's all about, especially on a ship like Queen Mary 2. I think Cunard is a very chic brand, so when they approached me it was an easy decision.

◆ *What events are you part of on board? Will you be doing talks as well as runway shows?*

We have all kinds of great stuff planned. There will be a Q&A, some sketching classes (which are my favourite, because they're so fun), as well as two runway shows. My good friend, the supermodel Coco Rocha, is joining us too, which I'm thrilled about. We've got lots of surprises planned with her. We're both giddy about this idea of a fashion cruise and all that it entails. It's going to be fabulous!

◆ *What sorts of pieces can guests look forward to seeing on board? What inspires your designs?*

My brand is now in its 17th year, which is insane to think about. The pieces will be what I've always done, which is combining glamour and whimsy with beautiful and well-tailored designs. I've never been a



rule follower, which I also try to incorporate into my work. And it's important that it's fun, because fashion is meant to be fun! I've been told that this cruise is where everyone really brings their A game in terms of dressing up on the ship, which is so exciting. I've always endorsed over-the-top dressing – the bigger the better! I'm the one encouraging women to wear couture gowns to the grocery store, so I can't wait.

◆ ***You've dressed a wide range of celebrities – which look has been your favourite?***

Honestly, it's impossible to choose just one, but I will say that dressing Billy Porter for the Oscars in 2019, which was the first time a man wore a dress on that carpet, was really a historical moment. We were on the front page of every magazine across the globe and it became such a viral moment. That gown now has a life of its own and has been displayed in several museums around the world, and is likely heading to the Smithsonian next. It's been a really wild journey that neither of us could have predicted, but I've heard from so many young kids in the Midwest and from small towns who say that moment made them feel brave and empowered to be themselves, so that's truly been the highlight. It makes me emotional if I think about it too long.

Above Christian's brand combines glamour and whimsy with beautiful and well-tailored designs
Photo: Sara Kerens

Right Billy Porter caused a stir when he wore a tuxedo dress designed by Christian to the 2019 Oscars
Photo: Getty



◆ **Can you tell me about some of your career highlights?**

My journey has been a really wild one. I have been so fortunate but also worked really, really hard. A few things that come to mind are the Time100 honour for my contributions toward body positivity; having three separate looks included in The MET Costume Institute in 2021; being given my own retrospective at SCAD Atlanta and SCAD Savannah; and the Super Bowl commercial with my friend Alicia Silverstone. I've also been an answer on *Jeopardy*, parodied on *The Simpsons*, and Amy Poehler impersonated me on *SNL*. So many insane moments have happened. I've also really enjoyed starting my interiors business and am very proud of it. Furniture and interiors are huge passions of mine.



“I’ve never been a rule follower, which I also try to incorporate into my work. And it’s important that it’s fun, because fashion is meant to be fun! I’ve always endorsed over-the-top dressing”



Above Christian's designs, reinforce his belief that “you don't have to abide by anyone's agenda – there are no rules when it comes to fashion!”
Photo: Shane LaVancher

Left Coco Rocha, a supermodel who can often be found modelling for Christian
Photo: Sara Kerens

◆ **You've written books, launched an interior design brand and are a mentor on *Project Runway* – what's next for you?**

I actually took a page from Coco Rocha's book with her incredible model camp and have launched a similar programme to help mentor young designers. A lot of what I've been doing recently is with the next generation in mind, like my last book *Christian Siriano: The New Red Carpet*. Again, I like to show that you don't have to abide by anyone's agenda – there are no rules when it comes to fashion! I really enjoy the mentoring process and getting to see new talent up close. I have an entrepreneurial spirit and am excited to launch a new venture.

◆ **What are you looking forward to about *Transatlantic Fashion Week*?**

Honestly, just a new experience. My team and I have never done anything like this and I think it's going to be so much fun. Who knows, maybe this trip will even inspire a collection or two.

▶ To book, visit cunard.com/TFW



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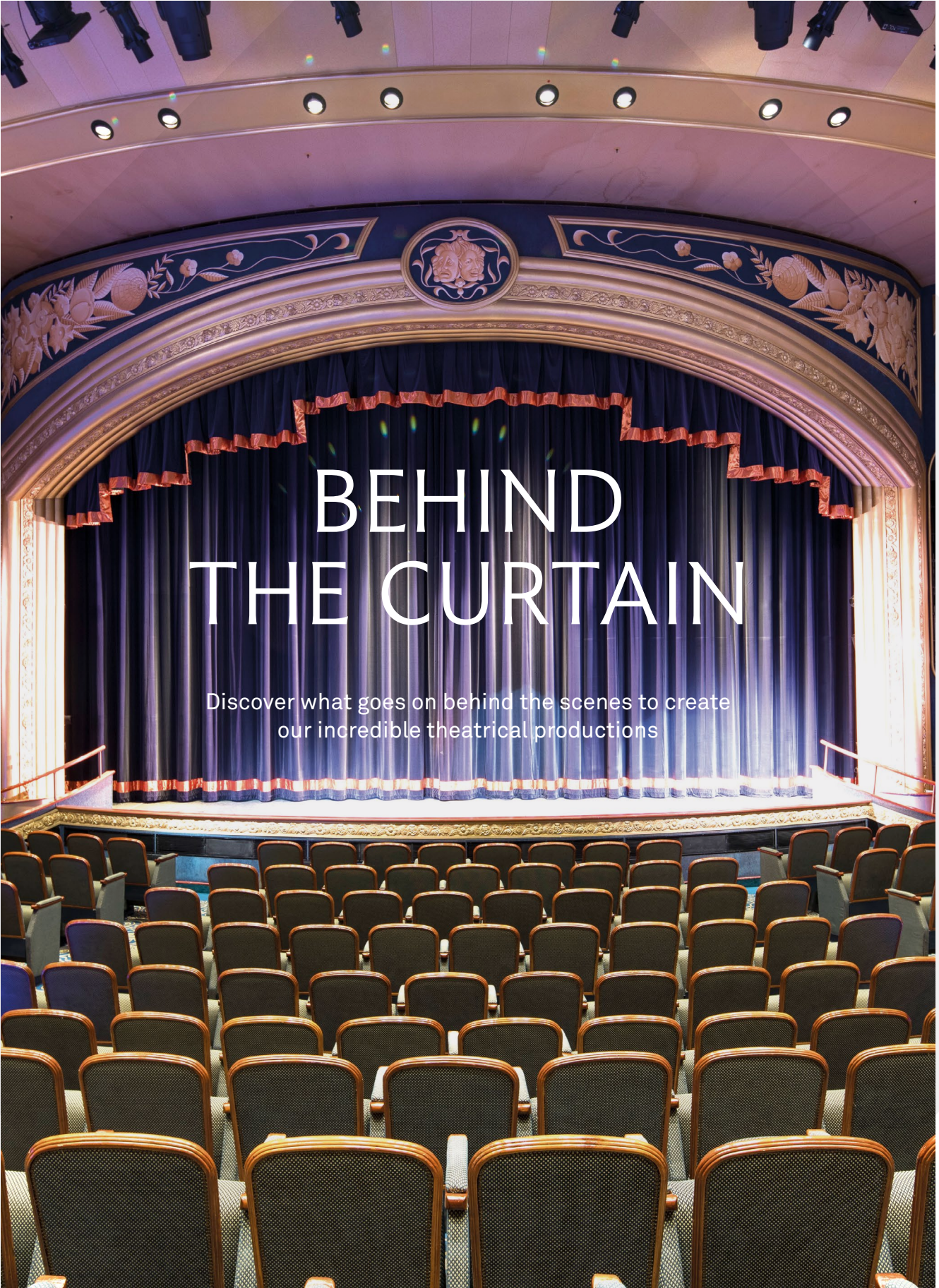
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BEHIND THE CURTAIN

Discover what goes on behind the scenes to create
our incredible theatrical productions



ADAM JENKINS

SENIOR MANAGER, PRODUCTION SHOWS

If you've ever sat in one of our on board theatres and enjoyed one of the brilliant shows, you'll know how entertaining and well put together they are. However, there's a lot that goes on before our performers hit the stage to get that end result. We spoke to Adam Jenkins, Senior Manager, Production Shows, who is part of our Academy that puts together the shows performed by the Royal Court Theatre Company.

Everything that goes into a show originates from the Academy, from casting the performers and learning the content of the shows to costume fittings and set designs. Adam says, "We will always take the casting out on the road, because we're more likely to find amazing performers if we go out of our way to find them. We just spent a week in London and auditioned over a thousand people. We bring that information back to the Academy and complete the final casting there."

"We're constantly casting, we're constantly looking for our next group of performers. So at any one time, there'll be three groups of performers. There'll be cast on board performing now, there'll be the cast that's in rehearsals and



"While the Academy's process is always ongoing, with casting, rehearsals and maintaining the existing shows, they're also always working on new ideas"

there'll be the preparations for auditions to find the next group," he explains.

Before any cast members are recruited, however, there has to first be a concept for a show. Adam explains the process using *Imagination*, one of our shows on board Queen Anne. "At the very beginning, there'll be a conversation with the brand team, asking what do you see? What do I see? And we meet somewhere in the middle," he says. "And then it will

Above: New shows including *Sounds of London* took to the stage

Left: Sumptuously decorated in royal blue and gold, the Queen Elizabeth theatre stages world-class shows

be numerous creative meetings where we sit down and basically brain dump ideas. The idea for *Imagination* came from wanting to use LED costumes. We thought it was cool, modern and fun. So effectively, we started at the end with that show and worked backwards."

The space and facilities available in the ship's theatre also play a part in which ideas can move forward. Adam says, "On Queen Anne, we've got a wonderful LED wall, which can be anything you want. You can be in a forest, in space, on

the London Underground. So in those concept meetings, we go into the design stage and say, 'We want to do a section on the London Underground. How much of it do we put on the LED wall and how much is a practical set?' Once a workable idea is agreed, then comes the lighting, sound and costume design. "Really, it's layering up," Adam says, "But it always takes longer than you think it will, and it always takes longer than you've got."

Going on to speak specifically about Queen Anne, Adam says it can be a



"Cunard is a classic brand but with Queen Anne we had the opportunity to step change. Queen Anne's shows are very different to the ones currently on the other ships. We wanted to modernise it"



challenge when the time comes to install a show on a brand-new ship. "For Queen Anne, we were rehearsing here in the Academy for three or four months before we flew out to the shipyard, and we're one of the first departments on board a new ship that gets access to their venue.

"There's time and effort going into installing a show for the first time. You've got to tell the stage what to do, you've got to install your set and video content into the theatre for the first time. So it's a long-winded process while the ship was being built around us. We were installing these shows so we were ready to perform when the ship launched," he continues.

Five new shows were created for Queen Anne, *Pride & Prejudice *(Sort of)*, Noel Coward's *Brief Encounter*, *Sounds of London*, *Let's Dance* and *Imagination*. "Queen Anne was a step change for Cunard," Adam explains. "Cunard is a classic brand but with Queen Anne we had the opportunity to step change. Queen Anne's shows are very different to the ones currently on the other ships. We wanted to modernise it.

"For *Imagination*, we went really modern and threw loads of technology at it. We've got LED costumes in the finale; we've got a flying spaceship. We've got a purpose-built laser show with a big cube with a laser in it and a performer on top manipulating the laser.



Let's Dance is a more traditional production showcasing various styles of dance, but in a new way. "There's different styles of dancing throughout this one. We wanted to keep that concept so people wouldn't miss having the dance, but we wanted to bring it right up to date," Adam says. "It's still different styles of dancing but it's very modern. There's a section we call the Hip-Hop Masquerade. It uses up-to-date songs with a classic style of dance in a very modern way."

Adam says that audiences on board Queen Anne have responded extremely well to the new shows and, just before Christmas, *Let's Dance* moved to be performed on Queen Mary 2 as well as on Queen Anne. "The show was such a great success and we wanted to share that with more guests and more ships. And it's done the same on Queen Mary 2 – it's being really well received."

While the Academy's process is always ongoing, with casting, rehearsals and

Left: *Brief Encounter*, a unique adaptation by Emma Rice, debuted on Queen Anne's maiden voyage

Above left: Cast members from *Brief Encounter* interact with guests before the curtain rises

Above: West End productions are adapted for our stages including the multi-award-winning *Pride & Prejudice* *(Sort Of)

"We went really modern and threw lots of technology at it. We've got LED costumes in the finale, we've got a flying spaceship, we've got a purpose-built laser show"

maintaining the existing shows, they're also always working on new ideas for the future. "We're just about to go into our ten-year plan now," Adam says. "It's important to keep updating the entertainment, because our guests want to return and see something new. Even if we don't know what the end goal is today, we're still working on a pool of possible ideas that could become shows in the future." We're excited to see what the Academy comes up with for our guests to enjoy next!



ENJOY THE STAGE AT SEA

We're excited to announce the return of our popular London Theatre at Sea Event Voyage for 2026!

This hugely popular event in partnership with the Olivier Awards returns for its third run, and will be taking place on Queen Mary 2's Transatlantic Crossing, starting 22 May 2026 for seven nights. This voyage, curated by Julian Bird OBE, takes guests behind the curtain to enjoy an immersive theatre experience. Expect performances from award-winning stars and creatives, workshops to try acting, vocal and dancing skills for yourself, as well as talks and Q&As and our much-loved musical singalongs. The voyage culminates in an extraordinary must-see performance, The Oliviers in Concert, that sees the stars, cast and orchestra unite for an incredible production taking you through the history of the Olivier Awards.

London Theatre at Sea takes place in partnership with the Society of London Theatre and the Olivier Awards, British theatre's most prestigious honours since 1976. We present the Best Revival Award at the ceremony, recognising fresh interpretations of theatre classics and also the annual Nominees' Celebration. We are proud to continue to support the arts, both ashore and on board our ships, playing host to an incredible array of talent across our Queens.

Keep an eye on our website as the exciting line-up is announced.



Above top Cunard Bellhops & Oedipus Director Robert Icke, Winner of the Cunard Best Revival award for Oedipus (c) Joanne Davidson

Above and right The cast and orchestra join together to present The Oliviers in Concert, taking you back through the history of the awards.



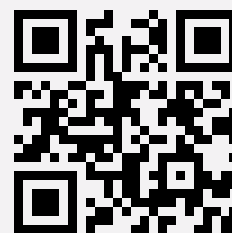
▶ To book this incredible voyage go to cunard.com/LTAS



WIN £250 OF THEATRE TOKENS

To celebrate the upcoming London Theatre at Sea, in partnership with the Society of London Theatre we're offering you the chance to win £250 of Theatre Tokens to enjoy your favourite shows, or discover new favourites at theatres around the country.

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Entries close 13 June 2025

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Enter at cunard.com/theatre-tokens before 2359BST 13/06/2025. One entry per person, no purchase necessary. One winner of one prize of Theatre Tokens with equivalent value of £250. Participating theatres only. Tickets subject to availability, restrictions and booking fees apply. Promoter is Carnival plc trading as Cunard. Additional terms and conditions apply - see entry page for details.



A PERFECT UNION

We've been working together with Union Hand-Roasted Coffee for more than a year to bring our guests a world-class coffee. **Sue Quinn** discovers more



Left and below The extensive three-part training programme ensures a perfect cup of coffee every time for guests on board our ships



Cunard has long been associated with luxury, impeccable service and quality. Now, that same commitment to excellence extends to coffee through our new partnership with Union Hand-Roasted Coffee, offering our guests a world-class coffee experience.

Guests on board can now look forward to enjoying specialty coffee, sourced and developed utilising Union's network of smallholder farmers to secure the very best beans. The result is coffee that aligns with our exceptionally high standards.



Above Jeremy Torz, a pioneer in the coffee industry, brings his expertise to Cunard

STRONG VALUES

Union was founded in the early 2000s with a mission to set new standards, not just for the coffee beans it roasted, but also the way they were sourced and traded. Rather than relying on traditional supply chains, the company forged direct relationships with co-operatives and coffee farmers, ensuring they were properly paid and supported. This approach was groundbreaking, reshaping how premium coffee was sourced.

Jeremy Torz, who co-founded Union after witnessing the challenges faced by coffee producers, says the industry had historically overlooked the interests of farmers. "The traditional brokerages and trading houses were happy to take margins and give producers what they thought they were worth," he says. "When you have that sort of situation, quality doesn't develop."

Now a certified B Corp company, with a proven commitment to the highest standards of social and environmental performance, Union has won awards for being the most ethical coffee brand in Europe. And going forward this award-winning coffee will now be available for guests to savour on board our ships.

ETHICAL SOURCING

Union prioritises fairness and pays above Fair Trade minimums to help coffee farmers thrive in the long term. But the company also recognises that ethical trade extends beyond pricing. It's about empowering farmers with knowledge and resources to build a better future.

The company works directly with coffee producers, providing training on sustainable farming practices, quality improvement and business skills. This helps farmers enhance their yields, improve coffee quality and increase their financial stability. "It's not enough to say you're paying a fair price," Torz says. "You need to make sure that money translates into real improvements in farmers' lives."

This approach aligns with the values of Cunard and our guests, says Claudia Carrozzì, Fleet Beverage Development Manager. "Union and Cunard are mutually dedicated to making a positive impact at every step of the coffee journey, from a farmer's field to our guests' cups," she says. "If you're choosing to travel with a luxury brand like Cunard, you expect nothing less than the very best."



“We wanted something that people would enjoy when they wake up in the morning and with cake in the afternoon”

QUALITY BLEND

Once this partnership was formed, our expert team worked closely with Union for a year to develop the exclusive Cunard blend, which led to the selection of beans sourced from Honduras and Peru.

“We were looking for a sweet, well-balanced coffee,” explains Pascale Schuit, Union’s Head of Ethical Sourcing. “We wanted something that people would enjoy when they wake up in the morning and with cake in the afternoon.”

Another key factor was ensuring it appealed to our diverse international clientele. “Our guests come from all over

the world, and their coffee preferences vary greatly,” Carrozzi explains. “The challenge was to create a blend rich enough to stand alone as an espresso but smooth enough to complement milk.”

Rather than a dark roast, which can mask coffee’s complexity, the blend is lightly roasted to allow the nuanced flavour notes of dark chocolate, roasted walnut and biscuit to shine.

All Union’s beans are roasted by hand at its London headquarters using traditional methods. “It’s the difference between something cooked at home versus something mass-produced,” Torz says.

Above Peruvian coffee co-operative members work with Union coffee to provide the ultimate beans for the best final product

Right All of Union’s beans are roasted by hand at its London headquarters using traditional methods



BREWING AT SEA

There’s more to a quality cup of coffee than exceptional beans. We use the finest Italian coffee machines on board to ensure that every cup meets the same standards as the best specialty coffee shops in the world. High-quality equipment is just as essential as the beans.

Coffee is one of the most hands-on beverage products in the world, from picking the coffee cherries through to roasting and brewing. And together with Union, we have developed a three-stage training programme to ensure our baristas know how to bring out the best in every cup. “We sent training teams to the ships, working with the bar training team to build barista skills,” says Torz.

Our baristas also understand the coffee’s provenance. “When we train baristas, we’re teaching them to understand the nuances of the coffee,” Torz says. “From grind size to extraction time, every detail matters.”

The Cunard blend is served in most of our restaurants, bars and venues on board – as well as in dedicated Espresso Bars – on Queen Mary 2, Queen Victoria and Queen Anne.

“Cunard guests are sophisticated travellers with high expectations for food and beverage quality,” says Torz. “The unique aspect is that they are getting a boutique coffee shop experience at sea.”

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A wild forest of flavours

Aranya is our Indian-inspired restaurant on Queen Anne. We spoke to our Head of Culinary Development, **Gareth Bowen**, to learn about its cuisine

This issue's stunning cover that catches the eye with its rich colours and striking motifs, is taken from the menu of Aranya, one of Queen Anne's restaurants where you can enjoy exquisite Indian cuisine.

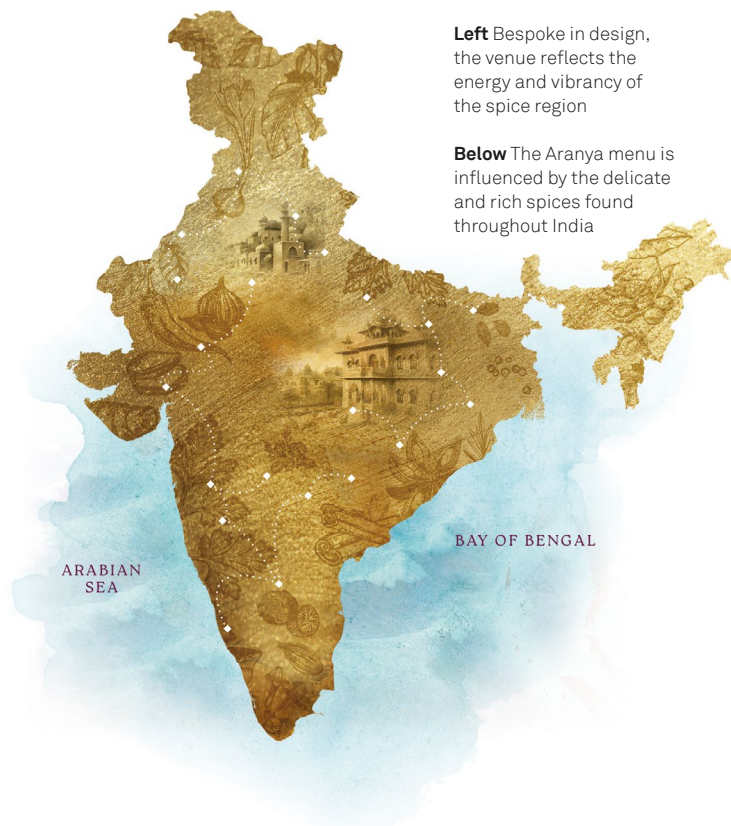
Our culinary development team worked with Surjan Singh, also known as Chef Jolly, a pioneer in Indian cuisine, to develop some of the dishes on the menu. Gareth Bowen, our Head of Culinary Development, explains why it was so beneficial to work with Chef Jolly on developing Aranya's menu: "Chef Jolly is indeed renowned for his extensive knowledge of Indian cuisine, spanning the entire country. His expertise covers a wide range of regional dishes, flavours and cooking techniques making him a celebrated figure in the culinary world."

Chef Jolly says: "It is an absolute pleasure to be working with Cunard on such an exciting project. Aranya is not just a restaurant; it is a multi-sensory

culinary experience that is designed to immerse diners in the rich spice flavours of the Indian subcontinent. Every dish has been curated with authenticity and quality at its heart, resulting in a harmonious blend of tradition and innovation that I hope diners will remember long after their voyage."

Gareth explains more about the motivations behind the menu: "What we really wanted to pull together was a colourful taste of the culture and the experience from north to south and east to west along the spice trails. A lot of the spices that are grown from India come from specific regions, as well as Afghanistan, Pakistan and the Kashmir. We were very much guided by that and the cuisine of those areas."

To allow Aranya to stand out from other Indian restaurants, Gareth and the team looked in great detail at the different flavour profiles of the



Left Bespoke in design, the venue reflects the energy and vibrancy of the spice region

Below The Aranya menu is influenced by the delicate and rich spices found throughout India

elements of each dish. "Kashmiri chillies are really rich and dark in flavour and, aside from flavour, bring a whole new colour to the dish that no other chilli can bring," he says. "From southern India, we brought cloves, chocolates and cardamom and darker spices. The flavours have been carefully layered and balanced to create a very modern approach to Indian cuisine."

When dining at Aranya, guests will be treated to a multi-sensory tour of the Indian sub-continent, with dishes ranging from banana leaf-wrapped fish to cashew lobster tail and biryanis served in the pots they're baked in. There's also a range of vegetarian dishes on offer, as well as "really nice, bright, colourful desserts," as Gareth describes them.

He also explains that while, at first, the meal may look like a standard progression from starter to main and

"What we really wanted to pull together was a colourful taste of the culture and the experience from north to south and east to west along the spice trails"

then on to dessert, "in between some of the dishes there are 'surprise and delight' elements. We interweave little surprise elements for the guests to taste as we go through."

The courses themselves have been elevated from the presentation you'd perhaps normally expect, with a lot of thought and detail going into each one. For example, the papadams are smoked to create a unique flavour, and the chutney served alongside is a



Above Kashmiri chillies bring a new flavour to a dish

three-layered chutney, with the top consisting of coriander and mint, the middle yoghurt and then a tomato and mango layer at the bottom, giving you a very different experience of eating an Indian staple.

This was very much the intention when developing the menu, as Gareth says the dishes and flavour journey were developed to take diners above and beyond a standard experience: "The way we've done it is more of a tasting and more of an educational menu, which I think people enjoy a lot more."

As the word Aranya means wilderness or forest in Sanskrit, the design of

the restaurant focuses on leaves winding through the space. From a lush vine winding its way across the ceiling of the restaurant to leafy accent on the crockery, Aranya uses the motif to transport guests to a forest that is full of flavours.

This alternative dining offering on board Queen Anne is an all-new taste direction for our fleet. It offers guests the chance to learn something new, as well as opening up their senses so they can savour the layered flavours and spices that have been painstakingly selected and crafted for the ultimate experience of Indian cuisine.



Above Head of Culinary Development, Gareth Bowen, worked with Surjan Singh, also known as Chef Jolly

"The way we're done it is more of a tasting and more of an educational menu, which I think people will enjoy"



Above Layers of flavours have been combined to create the ultimate dining experience



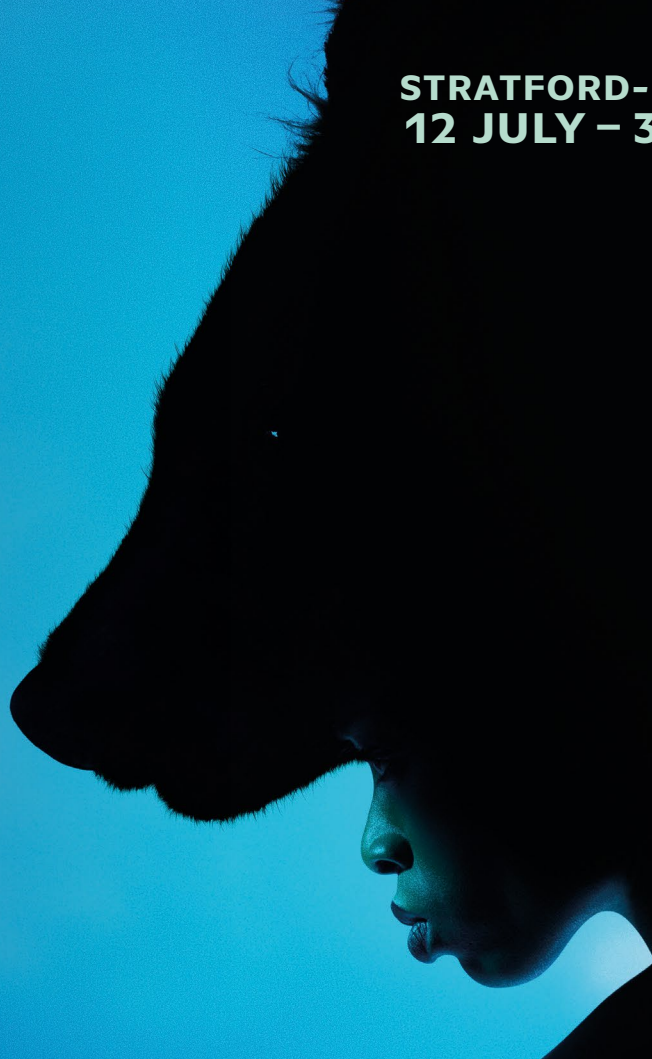
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DUBROVNIK





Denis Kurcan

“A STRIKING MIX OF BEAUTY AND RICH HISTORY”

Dubbed the ‘Pearl of the Adriatic’, Dubrovnik is where centuries of Eastern and Western influences meet, offering an intoxicating blend of history, culture, winelands and breathtaking coastal vistas. Tour guide Denis Kurcan gives us a taste of this captivating Croatian city.

► For more information go to:
cunard.com/dubrovnik

SIGHTS TO SEE

- ◆ “Those that seek paradise on earth should come to Dubrovnik”, wrote playwright George Bernard Shaw, and it’s easy to see why. With majestic city walls rising from the sea, surrounding a historic core that seems set in time, Dubrovnik offers a striking mix of natural beauty and rich history.

Begin your adventure in the Old Town, a labyrinth of cobblestone alleyways, Renaissance fountains, palaces and churches. To grasp its intricate layout, walk the UNESCO-protected city walls, a familiar sight for fans of TV show *Game of Thrones*. Towering 25m high and stretching for two kilometres, they encircle the city, offering panoramic views of sun-baked terracotta rooftops and the sparkling Adriatic Sea beyond.

I’d highly recommend stopping at the Franciscan Monastery, home to one of Europe’s oldest continuously-operating pharmacies. Here, you’ll find handmade cosmetics crafted from centuries-old Franciscan recipes. Wander through the 14th-century cloister, explore the collection of ancient manuscripts, paintings and gold chalices and pause in its orange and palm tree-shaded central garden.

One of our most popular tours begins with a cable car ride up Mount Srđ for sweeping views over the Old Town, the sparkling Adriatic and the scattered islands beyond. You’ll also



Left The sparkling Adriatic Sea and sun-baked terracotta roofs

Above The famous city walls

visit neighbouring Cavtat, a picturesque harbour town with roots stretching back to Ancient Greece. Wander its palm-lined promenade, step back in time at the Renaissance-era Rector’s Palace or seek out a hidden cove for a cooling dip.

EXPERIENCES TO TRY

- ◆ To uncover a side of the city most never see, hop onto an electric Tuk Tuk tour. With your driver-guide sharing local stories, you'll weave through the city's tangle of backstreets to secret viewpoints beyond the tourist trail. You'll ride past historic landmarks, cross the striking Franjo Tudman Bridge for postcard-worthy views of Gruž Harbour and the Elafiti archipelago before ascending to the summit of Mount Srd for a jaw-dropping vista.

To unwind, head to the city's beaches. Just steps from the Old Town lies Banje Beach, a mix of shingle and soft sand with stunning views of the city's storied skyline. For something a little



Left Leafy pine forests offer respite from the city's buzz

Above right Copacabana Beach is packed with bars and luxury cabanas

Below The striking Franjo Tudman Bridge, Gruž Harbour and the Elafiti archipelago

more adventurous, head to Buža, where you can leap from rocky ledges into crystal-clear waters, or relax at the cliffside bar as the sun sets. If you fancy a livelier spot, Copacabana Beach, a half-moon stretch of crystal water and fine white pebbles, is packed with bars and luxury cabanas for hire. But, for the ultimate retreat, I'd choose Lokrum. Just a short taxi-boat ride from the Old Town, this leafy islet of pine forests, olive orchards and botanical gardens offers shaded respite from the city's buzz.



TASTES TO TRY

- ◆ Dubrovnik's cuisine is shaped by Greek, Italian and Turkish influences, with seafood at its heart. My favourite is black risotto at Gradska Kavana Arsenal in the old port. Infused with squid ink and shellfish, the dish is more of a decadent seafood stew than a typical risotto. Another must-try is mussels buzara-style, steamed in olive oil, wine, garlic and fresh herbs. For this, try Kamenice, a cosy eatery with an outdoor terrace perfect for lingering over a glass of red Plavac Mali or crisp white Pošip. For something more casual, family-run street food joint Barba serves up fresh, inventive bites – try their octopus sandwich with mascarpone or shrimp tempura.

Pašticada Dalmatian – slow-cooked beef in a wine-laced sauce – is a mainstay on most menus. And for something a little sweeter, try Rozata cake, Dubrovnik's take on crème caramel – a custard pudding drizzled in caramel and laced with homemade rose liqueur.

For a taste of the region's winelands and traditions, I highly recommend our Croatian Wines and Trolley Train tour through the lush Konavle Valley. Travel between family-run wineries to sample local vintages, tuck into a rustic 'peasant's lunch' and learn about the ancient art of milling and wool-making in the charming village of Ljuta.



Above Rozata cake is a custard pudding drizzled in caramel and laced with liqueur



Right Black risotto, a decadent seafood stew



Above Trinket shops abound in Stradun

SHOPPING

- ◆ Stradun, the Old Town's main artery, has a little bit of everything, from quaint trinket shops to designer clothing stores and independent boutiques. The real finds are tucked away in the small side streets. One standout is Clara Stones boutique, where you'll find rare Adriatic red coral jewellery – venture downstairs to watch the artisans at work. Next door at Dolce Vita, gelato is sold in every flavour imaginable, plus an irresistible array of sweet treats – perfect for a pick-me-up.

For a taste of Dubrovnik's daily life, visit the bustling open-air market in Gruž where locals shop at stalls laden with fresh seafood and seasonal produce such as sun-ripened strawberries, peaches and figs. In the Old Town, Gunduliceva Poljana Market offers an assortment of local crafts and keepsakes. Browse under the red-and-white parasols for candied nuts, oils, handmade soaps and spirits.

To take a little piece of history home, don't miss the cravat-inspired souvenirs. Dubrovnik proudly claims its role as the birthplace of the necktie (the word 'cravat' stems from the Croatian *hrvat*, meaning Croat), a fitting tribute to the city's cultural charm.



SORRENTO





Stefano De Novellis

“HISTORY IS WOVEN INTO EVERY CORNER”

In Greek mythology, Sorrento was home to the Sirens who lured passing sailors with their songs. Today, the southern Italian town continues to enchant with its sun-soaked charm and rich history. Tour guide Stefano De Novellis shares why Sorrento offers a taste of la dolce vita.

► For more information go to:
cunard.com/sorrento

SIGHTS TO SEE

- ◆ With terraced vineyards, sun-drenched lemon groves and cliffs plunging into a sea that shifts through a spectrum of blue, Sorrento is the embodiment of Mediterranean allure. For me, the best way to soak it all in is on foot. A short walk from the harbour leads you to a maze of

Left Sorrento offers incredible views

Below Experience bustling harbours



pastel-hued houses and cobbled alleys, scented with citrus and sea salt, where history is woven into every corner. Don't miss the cathedral or the Basilica of Sant'Antonino, an 11th-century church, dedicated to the town's patron saint. Nearby, the vine-covered Cloister of San Francesco offers a tranquil escape in summer months.

The bustling, café-lined Piazza Tasso sits at the heart of town, named after Sorrento's famous son, Renaissance poet Torquato Tasso, whose statue stands proud. Enjoy a morning cappuccino at Fauno Bar, one of my very favourite spots, while Vespas zip by and life in the square unfolds around you. Once a defensive high point, the square is the perfect place to admire the picturesque shoreline. On a clear day, the mighty Mount Vesuvius looms across the bay – a view to bottle up and take home.

When the piazza's bustle gets too much, head to Marina Grande, an ancient fishing port. Here, the waterfront, with its bobbing fishing boats and checkered-tablecloth trattorias, offers a welcome change of pace. Sun-seekers flock to the town's stabilimenti balneari (beach clubs), where wooden-decked pontoons stretch into the sea. Rent a sunbed, sip a spritz and take a dip in the clear waters.



TASTES TO TRY

- ◆ Few places embrace food as passionately as southern Italy and Sorrento is no exception. Fertile volcanic soil and abundant sunshine give local produce an intensity of flavour you won't find elsewhere. Fresh salads, handmade pastas and the famous Gnocchi alla Sorrentina are staples in every restaurant and streetside café, where simplicity lets the ingredients shine. While Sorrento's own take on pizza is well worth a try. And, naturally, being a seaside town, fresh seafood is plentiful. My favourite is spaghetti alle vongole – a dish of perfectly-cooked pasta tossed with clams, garlic and white wine.

Top & right Try delicious Italian dishes

Below Learn to create your own mozzarella



Lemons play a huge role in Sorrento, with the town surrounded by terraces of groves. They are used in everything, from soaps to bath oils, but their most famous use is in limoncello, a tangy liqueur that's the pride of the region. Served chilled as a digestif, it's the only way to round off your meal.

For a true taste of the region's flavours, there's nothing like joining the locals so I recommend our Taste of Sorrento tour. You'll visit a family-run farm, nestled among fruit-laden citrus trees to learn mozzarella making and indulge in a spread of fresh breads, white cheeses and salami.

EXPERIENCES TO ENJOY

- ◆ I recommend a tour of Herculaneum, a hauntingly well-preserved glimpse into life in Ancient Rome. Destroyed when Mount Vesuvius erupted in 79 AD, this once-thriving seaside retreat for the elite remains remarkably intact. Unlike its more famous neighbour Pompeii, which was covered in ash, Herculaneum was engulfed in mud, preserving organic materials like wooden doors, fabrics and even food. Wander its streets to explore frescoed villas, public baths, and mosaics – an unparalleled window into the past.

Sorrento is the gateway to the legendary Amalfi Coast, home to Italy's most breathtaking route and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Our tour is a must – wind along the dramatic coastal road past the stunning cliffside towns of Positano, Ravello and Amalfi, seemingly suspended between sea and sky. In Amalfi, stroll through storied streets and sun-dappled piazzas on a guided walk, leading to the magnificent Cathedral of Saint Andrea, with its striking medieval cloister.



Above Immerse yourself in the history of Herculaneum



SHOPPING

- ◆ Shopping in Sorrento is an adventure itself. Wander along the main shopping street, Corso Italia, and the alleys of Via San Cesareo, where boutique shops overflow with hand-painted ceramics, leather sandals, linen and lacework. For a slice of Sorrentine life, head to the weekly Mercato Rionale where residents shop for their essentials among stalls piled high with fresh produce, local cheeses, cured meats and oils. You'll find handmade leather goods and clothing – often at lower prices than in the tourist-heavy parts of town. Of course, no visit is complete without picking up a bottle of limoncello. If there's one keepsake that truly captures

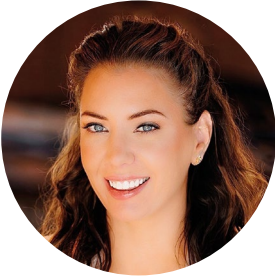
Above left Explore the treasures of Sorrento's markets

Above right Experience the winding roads along the coastline

Sorrento's spirit, it's a piece of Intarsia Sorrentina – the town's famous inlaid woodwork. For centuries, artisans have honed the delicate craft of marquetry – the arrangement of slivers of walnut, mahogany, olive and cherry wood into finely detailed patterns. While most souvenir shops sell an array of jewellery boxes, trays and coasters, the finest pieces come from family-run workshops where the tradition has been passed down through generations. Many are even happy to ship goods home. To delve deeper, visit the Museo Bottega della Tarsia Ligne, housed in an 18th-century palazzo – an ode to this time-honoured art.



CHARLOTTETOWN



Kelly Murphy

“DISCOVER THE CHARM OF A BYGONE ERA”

Tour guide Kelly Murphy takes us through Charlottetown, the capital of Prince Edward Island, which is Canada's smallest province. Known as the 'birthplace of Canada' and land of Anne of Green Gables, the city is a hub of indigenous culture, historic sites and welcoming island hospitality.

► For more information go to:
cunard.com/charlottetown

SIGHTS TO SEE

- ◆ From deep red sandstone cliffs and russet-toned beaches to rolling green farmland and colourful clapboard villas, Prince Edward Island is bursting with colour. Once you arrive in Charlottetown, the best way to take in the city is on foot. The historic downtown, relatively unchanged from its 19th-century heyday, is wonderfully walkable and compact. Stroll along tree-lined George Street, passing Saint Dunstan's Basilica to Province House, Charlottetown's most significant cultural landmark. Recently restored, this neoclassical building offers an immersive audio tour that transports you back to 1864, when the idea of Canada was born.

Another must-visit is the Confederation Centre of the Arts, a national hub for Canadian arts and culture, where you can catch the iconic Anne of Green Gables musical. For a breath of fresh air, Victoria Park, a short stroll from the port, offers wooded trails, a boardwalk and Kiwanis Dairy Bar, a well-loved local hangout that has been serving sundaes and smoothies for generations.

Exploring Charlottetown is best done on what we call 'island time' – slowing down, embracing the moment and seeing where the day takes you. For me, nowhere captures this better than the waterfront area, where you can sip



Left The harbour at Charlottetown is the gateway to Prince Edward Island

Above right Painted clapboard villas can be found in the historic district

a drink by the bustling harbour, browse the array of gift shops or even hop on a boat tour.

For a taste of what the whole island has to offer, I'd recommend our Best of Prince Edward Island tour. After a tour of Charlottetown's historic district, you'll head to the countryside and Front Range Lighthouse for views of the spectacular Confederation Bridge. Then, it's onto the red sandy beaches of North Rustico, a pretty port village, before arriving at Green Gables House – the farmstead that inspired L.M. Montgomery's beloved novels about the spirited fictional heroine.

EXPERIENCES TO TRY

- ◆ The Indigenous PEI Store offers a window into the heritage of the Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq, the island's Indigenous people who have called this land home for over 10,000 years. You'll find a collection of artisan crafts alongside passionate storytelling staff who happily share the history, traditions, and culture of the Mi'kmaq people.

The island boasts over 800 km of coastline and around 90 beaches. For easy access from Charlottetown, Brackley Beach on the North Shore is hard to beat. The South Shore is ideal for those seeking red sand and dramatic cliffs, with warmer waters as a bonus. For me, the most stunning spot is Greenwich Beach, with its breathtaking dunes, singing sands and boardwalk trails cutting across salt marshes, it's a scene straight out of a storybook.

The region is famous for its Malpeque oysters, long considered the world's finest and farmed in these chilly waters for generations. Our Island Oystering Experience is a perfect way to dive into this maritime tradition. At the Raspberry Point Oyster Company, you'll discover the ins and outs of oyster farming and master the art of shucking.



Above Take a walk among the dunes of Greenwich Beach

Below East Point Lighthouse was built in 1867 and remains operational today

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention what truly makes Charlottetown so special – its people. Warm, genuine and salt-of-the-earth, they are deeply connected to their city and eager to share its charm. So, to experience the city at its fullest, strike up a conversation with the locals; their stories will add a richness to your visit that no guidebook can match.



TASTES TO TRY

- ◆ The island's rich farmland and cold Atlantic waters provide the foundation for an incredible food scene, shaped by the passion of local farmers, fishers and chefs, earning it the title of Canada's Food Island. This coastal province is world-renowned for its shellfish, whether you're cracking into a just-caught lobster, by itself or in a warm, buttery roll, or enjoying a platter of oysters, you'll quickly understand the hype. Pair it with a steaming bowl of creamy corn chowder for the ultimate maritime meal.

Potatoes are another island staple and are a true point of pride. There's no better way to enjoy them than a cone of crispy, hand-cut fries, served everywhere. For a truly local treat, try COWS Creamery's chocolate-covered potato chips, which are sweet, salty and, for me, outrageously moreish. And, of course, no visit is complete without a scoop (or two) of their signature ice cream.

Founders' Food Hall & Market is a great spot to sample local food and drink, while The Gahan House serves up craft brews and hearty pub fare. Red Island Cider on the east side of downtown is the perfect spot for cider lovers, offering a cosy taproom and taste of the island's apple heritage. For something a little softer, try a bottle of the legendary raspberry cordial from the Anne of Green Gables' store.



Above Seafood, including oysters, is a speciality

Right Buy exquisite artisan crafts

Below Victoria Row is just a short stroll from the port



SHOPPING

- ◆ Charlottetown's downtown is packed with independently owned shops, all within a short stroll of the port. Wander along the pedestrianised Victoria Row, where historic façades house an array of bookstores, 'mom and pop' shops and galleries. Down by Peake's Wharf, browse the colourful waterfront shops for island-made goods, from hand-knitted woollens to preserves. Many shopkeepers will offer international shipping, which even includes our famous lobster!

For an authentic taste of local life, visit Charlottetown Farmers' Market. Held on Saturday mornings (with an additional mid-week market during summer), it's the heart and soul of our community. Stroll through stalls stocked with produce from nearby farms, baked goods and handcrafted pottery.



TIME OUT WITH FISHERMAN'S FRIENDS

We spent some time with Fisherman's Friends, who'll be travelling with us on Queen Mary 2's British Isles voyage in September, talking about their amazing career

◆ Fisherman's Friends is made up of a group of friends who started performing sea shanties in their fishing village of Port Isaac in 1995. Since then, although the line-up has changed slightly, they've seen great success in the form of a record deal, two films, a documentary, a musical and book, while continuing to enjoy performing around the country.

In September, they'll be joining Queen Mary 2's British Isles voyage to share their songs and stories with our





guests. We spoke to Jon Cleave, Jason Nicholas, Jeremy Brown, John McDonnell and Toby Lobb from the band to find out more.

When asked about their career highlights, the band speak about different places they've performed, from massive crowds at Glastonbury, the Royal Albert Hall and Twickenham, to smaller, intimate gigs. "We just bring our own sort of laughs and fun wherever we go," Jeremy says, while Toby adds, "We get a lot of opportunities to try different things, there's no one single highlight, but we feel very lucky that we've been able to do so many different things. 82,000 people were at Twickenham, which was crazy."

Jon says, "Intimate gigs are great.

Sometimes you get a small theatre, like a tiny, old Victorian theatre in Margate, which was brilliant because the audience were right on top of you. So that's got an appeal to it. But then, if you get a big audience like we did at the Albert Hall...", "It's quite flattering that they've actually come along to see you," Jeremy finishes.

The process for choosing which songs to perform is quite democratic Jon explains, "Everyone takes a number of solos every performance. So, in effect, everyone becomes the backing singer to everyone else's solo, doing the chord performance, which works. If you're going to sing a solo song, it's nice to pick one that you like. So you bring those to the group, we all chip in and learn our own

parts and just take them like that."

While their set list features old favourites, John says, "We do try to shake them up a bit now, chop and change a little bit, just so we're not singing the same old songs all the time."

Toby adds, "Some of the songs are about 300 years old. They're not the newest, but we put our spin on them. And the good thing is, shanties changed

"We feel very lucky that we've been able to do so many different things"

Above The cast of the film including James Purefoy and Tuppence Middleton

Left When time allows, Fisherman's Friends can still be found performing outdoors in Port Isaac
Photo: Chris Hewitt

Right The band performed a sold-out show at the Royal Albert Hall last year
Photo: Rob Blackham



structure and lyrics and words when they passed from ship to ship. So if we don't particularly enjoy or agree with – or remember – the proper words, we change it to make it more personal to us."

"And some are a bit profane, so we weed that stuff out mostly," Jon laughs.

When asked when they realised they were a success, the band say that they still don't think they are, but the way they have to do things has changed. They started off singing on the Platt (the harbour) in Port Isaac, raising money for charities that meant a lot to them locally, but their rise in popularity has made that more difficult, as Jon explains, "After the film came out, instead of getting a couple of hundred people, we were getting a couple of thousand. So we had to start getting stewards and up the insurance and tell the police and get paramedics."

Toby says, "We still get to sing on the Platt, but it's very different to how it was before the movies kicked us up." The band still raises money for charity, but it now happens at a bigger, annual event instead of smaller, more frequent gigs.

However, the band sometimes meet up on the Platt for an impromptu gig, as Jon explains: "We look at the forecast for Thursday or Friday at the beginning of the week and if it looks good, and we're not at a festival or something, we rock up



at six down by the harbour and have a few drinks. If anyone's unfortunate enough to be there, it serves them right!"

Jason says that the band was pleased with how their story was portrayed in the films *Fisherman's Friends* and *Fisherman's Friends: One and All*, but that "the reaction from everybody around us is hard to judge, because you know what real life is in the group. To see different people acting your story for a loosely based version on film is a bit strange but the reaction from the people that know us and the popularity of the films show that they were a huge success."

The group are excited to join the British Isles cruise in September, with Jeremy saying, "It sounds like a lovely trip, I'm really looking forward to it", while Toby mentions that he has never been on a cruise before, although he's visited RMS Queen Mary, now docked in Long Beach, California, so he's looking forward to sailing on an active Cunard Queen. Jon jokes that he might have to drop one of the songs he sings, called *God Moves on the Water*, for the occasion.

In an interesting coincidence, Jeremy's brother John, who sometimes performs with the band, once worked as an engineer on QE2, so he's keen to pick up the Cunard connection. So, if you're sailing on Queen Mary 2's British Isles voyage departing 14 September, be sure to catch up with Fisherman's Friends for fun, energetic performances and rich history and storytelling.



Top The Royal Albert Hall is among the largest venues that the band has performed at

Above The Cornish flag provides a backdrop on tour taking a taste of the county around the UK
Photos: Rob Blackham

ON TOUR



Catch Fisherman's Friends on their UK tour later this year. Visit thefishermansfriends.com for more dates and to book



02 Oct	STOKE	Victoria Hall
03 Oct	YORK	Barbican
04 Oct	MILTON KEYNES	Theatre
05 Oct	POOLE	Lighthouse
23 Oct	CHELTENHAM	Town Hall
24 Oct	CAMBRIDGE	Corn Exchange
25 Oct	LEICESTER	De Montfort Hall
26 Oct	EXETER	Uni Great Hall
06 Nov	AYLESBURY	Waterside Theatre
07 Nov	HALIFAX	Victoria Theatre
08 Nov	SHEFFIELD	City Hall
09 Nov	BASINGSTOKE	The Anvil
27 Nov	LLANDUDNO	Venue Cymru Theatre
28 Nov	MIDDLESBROUGH	Town Hall
29 Nov	WARWICK	Arts Centre
30 Nov	PLYMOUTH	Pavilions

Speakers and details are subject to change



To find out more visit cunard.com/m528





