



Nearly 130 members of the travel retail industry in South Florida, along with friends and family, gathered as Team Sinead to participate in the GO2 for Lung Cancer's 5K Walk/Run and Kite Fly in Hollywood, Florida on March 14.

IAADFS' #KickCancerThon on behalf of Team Sinead raises \$11,000+ to fight Lung Cancer

The Travel Retail industry banded together on March 14 to participate in GO2 for Lung Cancer's 5K Walk/Run and Kite Fly in Hollywood, Florida. Organized by the International Association of Airport and Duty Free Stores, along with assistance from 3Sixty Duty Free and Harding+, the event took place under the overall umbrella of #Team Sinead as part of the industry's global #KickCancer-

Thon effort.

Overall, the Hollywood 5K Walk/Run and Kite Fly attracted a record 650 participants, and raised more than \$80,000.00 and at press time, was still counting. Team Sinead raised \$11,540.

"It's wonderful that you had such a huge turnout for Sinead and we are honored to put these vital funds to work to advance our breakthrough early detection research and ensure that no one

faces a diagnosis alone. Thank you!" said Jaci Balcombe, GO2 for Lung Cancer's Regional Manager, Events.

#KickCancerThon, a global movement to raise funds to fight cancer, and raise awareness while fostering a sense of global unity, is the brainchild of Sinead Moodie, daughter of *The Moodie Davitt Report* Founder and Chairman Martin Moodie. Sinead, mother to

two young children, was recently diagnosed with an ultra-rare and aggressive form of cancer. She tragically passed away on Feb. 1, 2026. Her journey is the catalyst driving our collective action, say the IAADFS event organizers.

"This collaboration underscores our industry's commitment to supporting cancer research and providing aid to patients and their loved ones," said the IAADFS announcement.



Port of Galveston approves \$2.4B masterplan to meet cruise demand

The Port of Galveston in Texas has approved a 20-year master plan that involves adding new cruise terminals, hotels, and a pedestrian greenbelt to the port over the next two decades. Galveston Wharves Board officials, who operate the port, predict a \$2.4 billion investment in the projects, according to Houston Public Media.

Galveston is currently the fourth busiest cruise homeport in the United States.

According to Galveston Wharves Board officials, the Port of Galveston has moved almost 3.6 million passengers and 2.9 million tons of cargo annually in recent years.

Port director and CEO Rodger Rees said that, with global growth in cruising, officials are predicting the port could almost double its cruise passenger numbers over the next 15 years.

“We now have 46 million people that live within eight hours of this port,” Rees said.

The Galveston Wharves Board of Trustees unanimously adopted the port’s updated 20-Year Strategic Master Plan on Feb. 11.

“By following the port’s first master plan, adopted in 2019, the port has achieved remarkable economic growth and maximized



Conceptual rendering of new Port of Galveston master plan.

assets to meet market demand. In just six years, we have added two new cruise terminals, built an internal roadway, expanded cargo facilities and made progress with industrial development on Pelican Island,” said the board in its February request for input.

To meet growing needs at the port, the 20-year plan includes building up to three new cruise terminals, on-site parking garages, and increasing cargo capacity from 3 million tons a year to more than 5 million tons over the next five to 10 years.

The plan also includes adding a

maritime park, walkways along the waterfront, retail space, up to three hotels near the cruise terminals, and multifamily units along Harborside Drive intended for nearby hospital and port workers.

According to the plan, the projects would be funded through operating revenues, grants, public-private partnerships, and debt financing.

Port officials report that the Port of Galveston increased gross revenues from \$59 million in 2019 to \$87.3 million in 2025, while holding operating expenses steady at \$40 million.

MIA reports 6th year of record cargo growth; strong pax traffic outperforms national trends

Miami International Airport, the busiest U.S. airport for international freight, reports that cargo shipments “skyrocketed” by 13.6% to nearly 3.5 million tons in 2025, giving the air cargo hub of the Americas six straight years of record-breaking growth.

Passenger traffic at MIA surpassed the 55-million mark for the second consecutive year, reaching 55.3 million travelers in 2025 — just 1% below the airport’s record set in 2024.

MIA is the second-busiest U.S. airport for international travel, serving 24.8 million passengers and 30.5 million domestic passengers in 2015.

North America experienced a 2% decline in domestic air travel in 2025, according to the most recent data available from Airports Council International, but MIA outperformed national trends.

MIA ended 2025 strong with a record-setting winter holiday travel season from December 19 to January 5, welcoming nearly 3.3 million passengers for a 1.2% increase over last year. The upward trend continued into the new year, with passenger traffic up 1.5% in January.

Additionally, the first quarter of 2026 kicks off an unprecedented year of local sports and entertainment events — including the **F1 Miami Grand Prix**: May 1-3, 2026 and the **FIFA World Cup 2026**: June 11 – July 19, 2026 -- that will draw millions of visitors to Miami-Dade County this spring and all year long.

In 2025, MIA was ranked North America’s most-improved mega airport in customer satisfaction by J.D. Power, the Best Airport for Layovers by *Global Traveler* magazine, one of the Top 10 U.S. Airports for Food and Drink by *Food and Wine* magazine, and the third-best U.S. airport for business travelers by travel platform Booking.com for Business.

Paradies Lagardère names new CFO

North American travel retailer and restaurateur **Paradies Lagardère** has named Will Andrews as Chief Financial Officer.

In this role, Andrews will report to President John Jamison and oversee the company’s financial operations, including financial planning and analysis, accounting, tax, treasury and procurement. He will play a key role in driving strategic growth, enhancing operational performance and supporting the company’s long-term business objectives.

The experienced finance leader brings deep expertise in strategic planning and operational performance, says the official announcement.

Andrews joins Paradies Lagardère from Risepoint, an education technology company that partners with universities to develop, launch and grow online programs, where he most recently was SVP of Finance. He also spent more than a decade at The Home Depot in a variety of finance leadership roles.

F&B @Sea 15-16 April 2026 Mana Wynwood Convention Center Miami, FL USA

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“ F&B@Sea will undoubtedly present a fantastic forum showcasing innovative trends in F&B.”

Rudi Sodamin, Head of Culinary Art, Princess Cruises



Holland America Line and Jefferson's Bourbon make history with the first bourbon aged on cruise ships



In celebration of International Whiskey Day, Holland America Line and Jefferson's Bourbon announced a partnership for a first-of-its-kind collaboration in which Jefferson's Ocean Bourbon is aged at sea across the cruise line's fleet. This marks the distillery's maiden voyage partnering with a cruise line for its Ocean Aged at Sea Bourbon series.

The program expands Holland America Line's award-winning Single Barrel Program and marks a new milestone in its America's 250th celebration, which highlights the theme "The Spirit of Independence."

Travel Markets Insider's Michael Pasternak was onsite in San Diego, along with representatives from Holland America and Pernod Ricard, and Jefferson's Bourbon founder Trey Zoeller, for the ceremonial boarding of the first Jefferson's barrel on Holland America's *Nieuw Amsterdam*.

Beginning in March 2026, Jefferson's began loading one barrel aboard each Holland America Line ship. By the end of April 2026, all 11 ships will carry their own exclusive barrel. Each barrel will sail for a minimum of six months and experience shifting climates, rolling waves, ocean air and the constant motion of the ship. These natural elements will shape the bourbon's flavor, depth, character and finish, reinforcing the idea that every bottle has a story influenced by its journey.

"This partnership with Jefferson's Bourbon is another way we're setting ourselves apart through experiences that are too good to hurry through," said Drew Foulk, director of food and beverage revenue and innovation at Holland America Line. "Aging bourbon aboard our ships and offering it exclusively back to guests later reflects our commitment to beverage programs that are shaped by the journey itself."

Guests will be able to follow the aging journey through onboard activations like educational tastings that show how the ship's itinerary shapes the spirit. Once bottled, the barrels aged on the cruise line fleet will be made available for cruise line guests to taste onboard. Each limited-edition barrel will create approximately 150 to 300 bottles that will be delivered back to the ships for guests to enjoy in 2027 and will expand upon the cruise line's robust single-barrel program.

A Partnership rooted in innovation and America's 250th

Jefferson's Bourbon, which is an official partner of HAL for America's 250th, brings a legacy of American ingenuity that spans eight generations. Founded in 1997 by Trey Zoeller and his father, Chet, a respected bourbon historian, the brand continues a family tradition that began with Trey's eighth-generation grandmother, one of the first women officially documented for her involvement in

making American whiskey.

The concept of aging bourbon at sea began when Trey Zoeller wondered how constant motion, salt air and dramatic temperature shifts might influence the spirit. After 35 bottled voyages on cargo and fishing vessels, Jefferson's is expanding the program to Holland America Line's global fleet.

"We are thrilled to partner with Holland America Line to embark on a truly unique adventure," commented Zoeller. "By placing Jefferson's Ocean barrels on their cruise ships, we're diving into a quest to see how different routes and voyages (different climates and agitation) influence the taste, smell, and mouthfeel of our whiskey. I truly appreciate Holland America's dedication to experimentation and innovation, allowing us to craft a one-of-a-kind experience for their guests. The whiskey they enjoy will be exclusive to their ships, available only once the voyage is complete. Jefferson's Ocean is a true treasure to savor and share."

Speaking at a cocktail reception the night before the barrels were officially launched, Zoeller highlighted the uniqueness of these 11 specific Holland America barrels.

"We have now done 37 voyages of Jefferson's Ocean; 35 of those have gone on the same route, from Kentucky to Savannah through the Panama Canal, around Australia and the Tasmanian Sea, all the way



Jefferson's founder Trey Zoeller in front of Holland America's Nieuw Amsterdam in San Diego. Photo by Michael Pasternak.

up to the Sea of Japan, back across the Pacific to the west coast of Canada, U.S. Mexico, back through the Panama Canal, up to Maine, over to Europe, back to Maine, back to Savannah, back to Kentucky. We've had two that have gone into places that are always hot, and they're very different than the other 35. So with Holland America, we've got 11 different routes, 11 different ships, 11 different experiences and experiments that we're going to be able to try. When those barrels come back, we're going to have 11 unique whiskeys that nobody else has ever had the opportunity to try. And then Holland America is going to offer it back, which is a pretty damn good bonus for the passenger," says Zoeller.



Liht Organics strengthens global travel retail ambitions with new US facility



Organic beauty brand Liht Organics is strengthening its global travel retail ambitions with the opening of a new fulfilment center in New Jersey, designed to support growing demand across the Americas and accelerate the development of travel retail-exclusive products.

The new U.S. hub will enable the company to fulfil orders in the region far more efficiently, significantly improving logistics and delivery times for retail and airline partners while providing greater flexibility in developing travel retail-specific formats and packaging.

Liht Organics products are formulated with up to 90% USDA-certified organic ingredients and are vegan, gluten-free and cruelty-free. The formulations contain no nanoparticles, parabens or harmful chemicals.

With the tagline “Organic makeup that’s safe enough to eat,” the brand aims to combine high-performance makeup with ingredients that support both personal wellbeing and environmental sustainability.

The move in the U.S. comes as Liht Organics continues to build strong momentum in the channel following its debut at the TFWA duty free tradeshow in Singapore last May.

Founded by Nerissa Polke, the brand has secured several key inflight listings in Asia, as well as opening a pop-up store at Cairns Airport in Australia, which is performing well, says the company.

Best-selling inflight products include the brand’s lipsticks and primers, although the wider range has also performed well across categories.

Polke said the brand sees global travel retail as a powerful platform to introduce its clean beauty proposition to a worldwide audience.

“The channel provides a unique opportunity to showcase the brand to international travelers who are increasingly conscious about the ingredients in the products they use, particularly when they are flying and exposed to dry cabin air and environmental stress,” she said.

Travel retail opportunity/ international growth

According to the company’s travel retail Consultant Director, Richard Thorpe, director RT Travel Retail, evolving consumer attitudes are creating strong opportunities for organic and sustainable beauty brands within the travel retail sector.

Alongside its travel retail expansion, Liht Organics continues to build distribution in domestic markets around the world.

The company is increasing its Middle East footprint with major retailers including Faces and ULTA Beauty and is in discussions with several travel retail operators across Asia, Europe and the United States, while identifying significant opportunity in the cruise sector as the brand continues to expand its global footprint.

“We’ve been delighted at the initial response from the travel retail industry to our product range and are more than confident that 2026 will see a dramatic increase in our global footprint. We’re taking steps to ensure that we are better able to meet all the opportunities that are being presented to us and our U.S. investment is a key aspect of that. We’d like to thank everyone to date for their belief in us and our products.”

Proximo Spirits activates 1800 Tequila Triple Cask in JFK with DFS and iShoppes



Proximo Spirits 1800 Tequila Triple Cask Añejo, activation at JFK T4 with DFS that ran from February to March, 2026.

Proximo Spirits has partnered with DFS and iShoppes to launch 1800 Tequila Triple Cask Añejo, the brand’s first global travel retail exclusive, at New York’s JFK Airport.

Running from February through March with DFS at Terminal 4, then April to June with iShoppes at Terminal 1, the activation spotlights the new 1800 Triple Cask through a retail theater concept inspired by the three distinct wooden casks used in its ageing process: French Oak, American Oak and Cabernet Sauvignon wine casks. Port-hole podium motifs bring the 1800 brand story to life, while brand ambassadors host sampling sessions throughout the day, inviting travelers to discover this ultra-premium expression firsthand.

Commenting on the activation, Roy Summers, Head of Global Travel Retail at Proximo Spirits, said: “As the tequila category continues to premiumize, travelers are increasingly seeking authentic, high-end expressions designed to be savored and gifted. 1800 Triple Cask delivers an exceptional liquid and is perfectly positioned to introduce travelers to more aged, ultra-premium tequila expressions.

“We are delighted to partner with valued customers around the world to showcase 1800 Tequila’s first travel retail exclusive and engage travelers globally.”

The 1800 Triple Cask launch program began with the DFS partnership at JFK T4, followed by activations with DFA in Panama and Punta Cana in March. A further partnership with iShoppes at JFK

T1 from April through June continues the Americas rollout momentum – with more to come later in the year.

The expanded agenda reflects an evolution of the industry: cruise is not only scaling in size, but in sophistication, cultural relevance and global economic impact.

The four-day Seatrade Cruise Global will bring together more than 11,500 attendees and 650 exhibitors, including cruise executives, port authorities, suppliers, destination leaders and hospitality innovators. Sessions will explore AI-driven operations, sustainable design, retail and concessions, community engagement, and the evolving relationship between ships and the destinations they serve.

The event also features Retail Days and the F&B@Sea showcase.

“We appreciate the depth and character of the event,” says the company.

Tequila craftsmanship

The distillation process honors traditional tequila craftsmanship. After slow cooking for 28 hours in traditional masonry ovens heated to 96°C — followed by a six-hour resting period — the agave is milled to extract its rich juices. Fermentation lasts approximately 40 hours, allowing yeast to transform the sugars into complex aromatic and flavor compounds that define the tequila’s sensory profile. The liquid is then double distilled in copper stills using a process that isolates only the heart of the distillate, preserving purity and depth.

Heineken strengthens cruise partnerships with destination driven portfolio at F&B@Sea



Heineken has adopted a destination driven portfolio approach led by the Heineken brand and built around regional relevance, local heritage and authentic flavors to elevate onboard significance and choice for cruise guests.

The Heineken Cruise team will debut its new strategy and portfolio expansion at the F&B@Sea exhibition and conference.

Responding to growing demand for more personalized beverage experiences, this approach enables cruise operators to offer beer portfolios that feel both globally consistent and locally meaningful across different itineraries, says the company.

Heineken's strategy is further strengthened by the introduction of new brands to the portfolio, alongside draught innovations, reinforcing the company's commitment to beer innovation.

As a truly global brand available in more than 190 countries, - **Heineken** remains the foundation of Heineken's cruise offering. The portfolio is enhanced with complementary brands selected to match itineraries and passenger profiles, creating a sense of place for guests.

"Cruise operators are navigating increasingly complex guest expectations across global itineraries," said Christian Klimpke, Global Account Manager Cruises, Heineken Global Duty Free.

"Our approach simplifies portfolio decisions while giving operators the freedom to tailor

their offer of Heineken's extensive portfolio, without compromising consistency or quality."

The **new approach** exemplifies this regional focus, featuring **Birra Moretti** in European markets and **Dos Equis** in the Americas. Recent additions to the portfolio, such as **Kingfisher** and **Ichnusa**, further enhance destination relevance.

Ichnusa Non Filtrata, brewed exclusively in the small commune of Assemini, Sardinia, serves as a bridge between mainstream lager beers and craft offerings, while **Kingfisher** is included in the portfolio to specifically cater to crew needs.

Heineken is also addressing cruise operators' operational needs with the significant expansion of its One-Way Keg and Draught offerings to include European brands **Paulaner** and **Birra Moretti**. Heineken also reinforces beer quality through ongoing crew trainings, helping operators deliver a consistently excellent draught experience onboard from keg to glass.

F&B@Sea

"We are delighted to be exhibiting at F&B@Sea," said Klimpke. "It's a major opportunity to connect with leading cruise operators and share how our tailored portfolio and strategic vision can support their needs. At Heineken, our commitment to industry-leading excellence goes beyond curating bespoke portfolios and providing operational support; we are also dedicated to driving innovation inspired by consumer insights.

"Through our diverse portfolio and comprehensive partnership approach, our goal is clear: to be the number one partner for cruise clients, empowering them to deliver personalized, high-quality F&B experiences—every trip, every serve," he said.

Perfetti Van Melle strengthens Americas distribution via new partnerships: InnoTRI and Alfa Travel Retail

Perfetti Van Melle (PVM) Global Travel Retail is reinforcing its presence across the Americas through two new strategic distribution partnerships aimed at strengthening its market position in the Caribbean and Latin America travel retail markets.

The confectionery group has completed agreements with **InnoTRI** and **Alfa Travel Retail**, investments that complete its regional route-to-market structure and create a stronger platform for growth across the region's duty free and travel retail channels.

The partnerships form part of PVM's strategy to work with specialist regional distributors capable of delivering strong commercial execution, efficient logistics and deep market knowledge across key airport, border store and ship supply locations.

InnoTRI: Caribbean

PVM finalized the deal to appoint InnoTRI as its distributor for the Caribbean region at the end of 2025. The Miami-based duty free and travel retail distributor has built a strong commercial and logistical framework supporting airports, border stores and cruise supply throughout the Caribbean.

Operating from a bonded logistics hub in Miami, InnoTRI manages consolidated shipments and fast dispatch across the region, ensuring efficient delivery and compliance with duty free requirements while supporting brand visibility and execution at retail.

Alfa Travel Retail: Central America

In parallel, Alfa Travel Retail has been appointed as PVM's



Eric Vermetten,

stock-keeping distributor for Central America, covering travel retail markets from Mexico to the Guianas, excluding the Caribbean.

Based in Costa Rica, Alfa Travel Retail operates a specialized travel retail division managing a portfolio of global FMCG brands across key international airports and border stores throughout Latin America. The company combines strategic brand activation, point-of-sale execution and regional market insight to drive commercial growth across the duty free channel.

Together, the partnerships bolster PVM's distribution network across the Americas, enabling the company to strengthen availability and visibility of its globally recognized confectionery brands including **Mentos**, **Chupa Chups** and **Fruittella**.

"We are delighted to have two new partners in the Americas as we enter a period of growth in our travel retail operations in the region. With a portfolio of leading confectionery brands, InnoTRI has become a trusted and performance-driven partner in the Caribbean, making it the ideal fit for Perfetti Van Melle's regional ambitions. We look forward to working with Herman Ten Have, CEO of InnoTRI and his team," said Eric Vermetten, Area Manager Americas at PVM GTR.

Perfetti Van Melle presented its travel retail portfolio, including new products Chupa Chups Mega-Chups Sour (excluding USA distribution) and Mentos Gum Sour Green Apple & Strawberry (excluding USA & Brazil distribution).



Chiara Giorgi to leave Seatrade Cruise for senior role at CLIA

Chiara Giorgi will leave her role as Global Brand & Event Director at Seatrade Cruise on May 5, 2026, and will join Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) as Senior Vice President, Partnership & Membership Strategy, effective June 15, 2026.

At Seatrade, Giorgi has led the strategic direction and development of the cruise industry's leading global events portfolio. In her new role, she will lead CLIA's global efforts to expand membership, strengthen strategic partnerships, and advance long-term growth.

Giorgi brings extensive experience to CLIA from her leadership role with Seatrade Cruise and Informa Markets, where she has been working closely with stakeholders across the cruise ecosystem. She previously held senior roles in international event management and marketing across London, New York and Los Angeles, and has worked onboard Silversea.

Mary Bond, Group Portfolio Director of Seatrade Cruise, noted: "Chiara has been an exceptional leader and colleague, whose vision and dedication have been integral to the success of Seatrade Cruise. While we will miss her presence on the team, we are pleased she will continue to work closely with us through her new role at CLIA. Her passion for the industry and commitment to collaboration will continue to benefit the broader cruise community."

Giorgi's appointment follows the decision announced last year by Karyn Gruenberg, Senior Vice



Karyn Gruenberg



Chiara Giorgi is leaving Seatrade Cruise for a senior role at CLIA.

President, Membership & Enterprise Development at CLIA, to retire in June 2026. Gruenberg joined CLIA in 2023. Following her decision, Gruenberg has continued to lead the organization's membership and partner strategy, while supporting a smooth transition.

During her tenure, Gruenberg has led a transformation of CLIA's membership and executive partner programs—strengthening engagement, significantly improving retention, including introducing new engagement models, refreshing key programs and events, and enhancing both the scale and strategic value of partnerships across the cruise ecosystem.

"Karyn has played a pivotal role in transforming our membership and partner engagement model," said Bud Darr, President & CEO of CLIA.

Building on the foundation established by Gruenberg, Giorgi will be responsible for enterprise-wide membership strategy, development, and partner engagement.

"Chiara brings a strong global perspective and deep industry experience that builds on that momentum," Darr added. "Her ability to connect stakeholders across the industry will be instrumental as we continue to strengthen member value, expand partnerships, and advance our work across the cruise community."

Osborne cruises into new opportunities with return to Seatrade Cruise Global event

Spanish wine, spirits and gourmet food specialist Osborne Grupo, eyeing expansion in the cruise market, returns to the Seatrade Cruise Global event in Miami, where it is taking a stand (No. 51) at F&B@Sea for the first time.

Osborne team members will be present at both the F&B@Sea and Retail Days, encouraging Seatrade visitors to sample its brands, with a spotlight on Vina Monty wines and Cinco Jotas Iberian ham. A specialist ham carver will be on-stand to ensure guests are treated to the full Osborne experience.

According to Osborne Grupo Global Travel Retail Manager Cathy Aumiaux Rolland, the company sees the cruise channel as a key strategic growth pillar within travel retail.

"It's a fast-evolving environment with a highly international and premium consumer profile, which aligns perfectly with Osborne's brands," Rolland said. "Participating in F&B@Sea in Miami allows us to strengthen existing partnerships, explore new opportunities, and showcase the breadth of our portfolio – from premium Iberian products to wines, spirits, and very high-end caviar, which is particularly well suited to the cruise environment."

The Osborne portfolio includes Ham Cinco Jotas, Gin Nordés and Gin Gold, Carlos I brandies, Vina Monty and Montecillo Wines.



Osborne will spotlight its Vina Monty wines and Cinco Jotas Iberian ham at F&B@Sea during the Seatrade Cruise Global event in Miami.



Osborne Grupo GTR Manager Cathy Aumiaux Rolland

Rolland noted the cruise market's increasing importance for Osborne. "It offers a unique platform to bring our brands to a global, experience-driven consumer. From premium Iberian products to exceptional caviar, we see strong potential to grow both in retail and F&B, and we are excited to be part of this dynamic channel's development."

Osborne is set to host a Women in Travel Retail (WiTR+) networking moment during the F&B@Sea event, on the Osborne stand from 4.30pm to 5.30 pm on Wednesday, April 15. The meeting will highlight Vina Monty wines and Cinco Jotas Iberian ham. Places are limited.

Seatrade Cruise Global will take place at the Miami Beach Convention Center, Miami Beach, Florida, April 13-16.

