

Vol. 17 NO 1 WINTER / SPRING 2019

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Welcome to the Winter 2019 issue of Cruise & Travel Lifestyles!

As we start this new year, we continue to seek out the latest travel trends for you. And we find that made-to-measure bespoke experiences are what many travellers are looking for with more specially designed itineraries, journeys offering personal encounters and exploration of far-away lands. So with this in mind, read on and discover what makes a Viking Ocean cruise in the Caribbean so special; immerse yourself, in every way in some unique spa experiences in Quebec, and for a truly unique voyage we board the intimate *Azamara Journey* and circumnavigate stunning New Zealand, delving into its spectacular natural beauty. We also explore a lesser-known Hawaii plus review two new and remarkable ships, literally taking cruising to the next level, the dazzling *Celebrity Edge* and Royal Caribbean's magnificent *Symphony of the Seas*.



ALGONQUIN TRAVEL TEAM

Whether you are considering a trip on land or sea, buying travel is a unique purchase and travel agents are trained to take a critical look at each piece in your trip puzzle. They can help to make sense of the multitude of offers from cruise lines and airlines and hotels. This year, travel companies are offering more brands than ever before in history and travel professionals can decipher the subtle differences and choose the one that fits your requirements for your unique trip.

Like a doctor or an accountant, a travel counselor will ask the right questions, listen to your answers, understand your plan, and offer expert advice to guide you in making one of your most important decisions—how to spend your invaluable time off. Travel professionals can save you time and money, be your advocate and have your back should things go wrong.

Knowledge is power. From the visa and passport requirements to the name of the maitre d' at the best restaurant in town, a good travel consultant has the inside scoop that makes your trip perfect. Because in this wide and amazing and wonderful world, sometimes you just don't know what you don't know!

So, whether it's a quick getaway or that dream vacation you've been planning for years, give us a call. We have the experience and contacts to create that truly personalized experience you are looking for in your next holiday.

Sincerely,

Ana P. Tremblay and Elaine Simpson
Algonquin Travel and Cruise Centre

P.S. Our Spring/Summer issue is ALL about Europe! We visit France on a Tauck Tours River cruise, experience Ponant's small, luxurious yacht *Le Champlain*, cruise the Med on Holland America's new ship the *Nieuw Statendam*, live like a local in Provence, spend time in Scotland and wonderful Lisbon and sail the gorgeous new *Seabourn Ovation* in the Baltic region. Watch for our next issue coming in June.



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The evolution of ship design



Vanessa Lee onboard Celebrity Edge.

TIM BOYLES PHOTOGRAPHY

AS WE SETTLE INTO ANOTHER YEAR, this annual transition always gives me pause to look back and reflect on the travel experiences I enjoyed in the previous year and, of course to ensure there are a suitable amount of trips in the hopper for this year. In 2018, I was fortunate to sail on eight ships, of all sizes – from just under 10,000 tons to over 160,000 tons. Five were brand new – always so exciting to see and something I never tire of. Three of the ships are actually featured in this issue – *Celebrity Edge*, *Symphony of the Seas* and *Nieuw Statendam* from Holland America – a wonderful trifecta. I also visited a few of my favourite European countries – Italy and France and paid return visits to Norway, Denmark, Scotland and Portugal after years of absence. I loved spending time in each of these places again and reveled in their unique beauty. Lisbon is now one of my must-return-to places – it's a marvellous and walkable city and as my visit there coincided with the holiday season, it was a delight to see everything so festive. I do recommend visiting some of Europe in the off-season as the weather can be quite temperate and the crowds are nowhere to be seen!

There's no doubt that last year's highlight for me was the arrival of those five new ships – all much-anticipated, some first-in-class and each with an emphasis on innovation and gorgeous design. It was an onslaught of the senses to such a degree that I am not sure such a year can be repeated.

One ground-breaking ship made an appearance on the world stage – the *Celebrity Edge* is unparalleled in my estimation. Having cruised on more than 250 ships on over 400 cruises, in my career, I have to say this beauty is one of the most amazing ships ever.

What became clear to me as I embarked on these new, utterly beautiful ships throughout the year, is that ship design has evolved to such a degree that we are now seeing something very different at sea. Some newly launched ships in the past few years have been greatly influenced by renowned hotel and restaurant designers and these new ships have that same sensibility; many of the spaces are inspirational as well as incredibly gorgeous and guests are literally awed by what they see. Whether it's the impressive chandeliers, exquisite fabrics, sumptuous marble, stone and wood fixtures, or the art and various art installations – all delight and surprise. As cruise lines push the envelope and use world-famous designers who bring their talent, skill and scope to ships it succeeds wonderfully and is not only pleasing for the guest but raises the level of comfort too – especially in stateroom design.

Not only can we enjoy fantastic entertainment and superb dining in a wide range of venues, we can eat a wonderful meal in surroundings that are truly remarkable and beautiful. And that simply enhances each and every experience just that much more. So when you read about *Nieuw Statendam*, *Symphony of the Seas* and the *Celebrity Edge* in this issue and think back to reading about the *Norwegian Bliss* or *Seabourn Encore* in a previous issue, consider that these are some of the ships leading this design revolution. They are giving guests something remarkable – not only a cruise to some of the world's most wonderful places, but also the experience of an extra-ordinary ship. Such memorable moments should not be taken lightly but rather embraced and enjoyed in every way.

Sincerely

PS –We have quite the year in store for our readers with a focus on Europe in our Spring and Summer issue and then a spin on our annual Exotics publication coming in the Fall. We also plan to launch our monthly newsletter this year so sign up with your email address – this will be something you will want to read!



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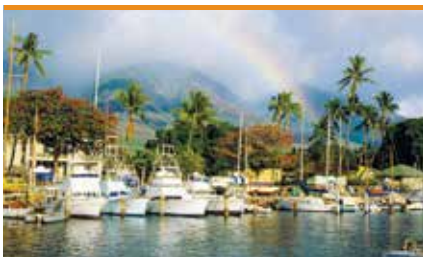
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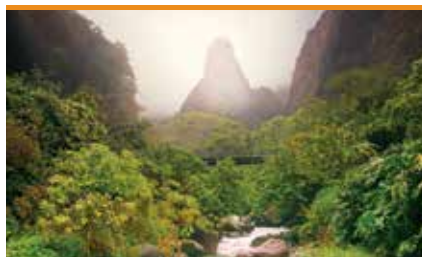


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Sultry spas show
in Quebec



Editor Liz Fleming

MONEY CAN'T BUY YOU LOVE. Fortunately, what it can buy is fascinating, exciting travel that will amp up your fun factor in a way nothing else can.

That said...who needs love anyway?

According to recent happiness studies, money spent on experiences leaves you feeling satisfied and happy far longer than any other type of purchase. That expensive handbag you're coveting? Make the big purchase and you'll find your buyer's thrill is frustratingly fleeting. All too soon, another handbag will become the 'it' look and yours will be passé. Even the most fabulous clothes fade out of fashion, those expensive shoes get scuffed and smudged, and even that money you've stashed away in wisely chosen investments won't score high on the excitement meter. Really, how often do you leaf through your portfolio?

Travel 'investors' on the other hand, enjoy every minute, starting with the planning. Surfing glam websites, devouring glossy travel magazines (like this one!), enjoying exciting planning sessions with soon-to-be travel companions, conferring with favourite travel professionals – it's an adventure in itself. Then comes the thrill of the actual travel, the precious moments on the road, aboard the cruise ship, at the resort, and in the air, experiencing new places, tastes, sights, sounds and people. Far from home, travellers discover not only new destinations, but also new versions of themselves, trying things they'd never think of at home.

Best of all, the pleasure doesn't end when the trip finishes. Those same psychological studies show that travellers continue to relive their adventures in happy memories for years to come.

I once read an article by an elderly woman who had raised her family in a too-small house. Every year, there were plans to build a second bathroom – an addition that would have made things far more convenient for their five-person brood. Instead, each time they'd saved the necessary money, a family vacation gobbled up the renovation dollars. They fished and hiked and skied, went to Disney World, took a family cruise, saw Paris and drove a camper across the country. The much-needed second bathroom was never built.

"We really could have used it," the writer said, "but I never regretted our choices. All these years later, when I watch my now-adult children pouring over albums of our holiday photos and remembering our adventures together, I'm more than sure that we were smart. I can't imagine them looking at reno photos and saying, 'Wow! Wasn't the new bathroom just the best? I'm so glad we skipped that year's vacation!'"

It's possible to convince yourself that tangible things are more valuable and longer-lasting than experiences but it's a dangerous fiction. In truth, life is far shorter than we'd like it to be so our primary goal should be to celebrate each moment and squeeze out every drop of fun and excitement we can. If we do, my guess is we could be lucky enough to reach the age of that wise, elderly writer feeling happy to have adventures to remember and relive, rather than purchases to regret.

Happy travels,

Liz Fleming

Liz Fleming
Editor-in-Chief

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Cover: Eden – Celebrity Edge

See story on page 32.

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AMAWATERWAYS

www.amawaterways.ca

An award-winning river cruise line offering a fleet of 22 custom-designed river vessels in Europe, Africa, Vietnam and Cambodia. AmaWaterways continues to set new standards in river cruising with innovative ship designs, spacious and stylish staterooms, premium amenities, exceptional cuisine and impeccable service. Each cruise includes shore excursions in every port, all dining on board, including The Chef's Table specialty restaurant; fine wine, beer and soft drinks, complimentary internet access as well as bicycles to explore on your own or with guided bike tours. In 2019, three new vessels will be introduced, including the anticipated 196-guest AmaMagna. She will be the widest ship (twice the width of traditional European river ships) to cruise the European rivers and will feature an open Water-Sports platform (another first for river cruising) complete with the Sundowner vessel for complimentary tours, a large heated sundeck swimming pool with whirlpool and a sky bar, four tempting dining venues, as well as an expansive Zen Wellness Studio. Additionally, the line will introduce AmaMora (156 guests) and the AmaDouro (102 guests), built specifically for Portugal and Spain's Douro Valley cruises. **See page 1**

EMERALD WATERWAYS

www.emeraldwaterways.com

Launched in 2014 and one of Europe's newest river cruise lines, Emerald caters to the four-star-plus market with its innovative ships, exceptional service, gourmet dining options and an array of inductions such as gratuities onboard and ashore; airport-to/from-pier transfers; all onboard meals and highlight dinner events; alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages; daily excursions as well as in-depth cultural experiences with EmeraldPLUS and EmeraldACTIVE programs, complimentary bicycles and Wi-Fi on board. The line's Star-Ships feature deluxe suites and staterooms including the new Emerald Panorama Balcony Suite, offering a new kind of indoor balcony, complete with a decked area and Emerald's ingenious open-air system. With a touch of a button, the upper half of the suite's floor-to-ceiling window drops down to let in fresh air and provide full panoramic views of the landscape. Other onboard innovations include a unique indoor heated pool that transforms from a daytime retreat into a luxe live entertainment, cinema and event hub. And in August 2019, an extraordinary new vessel will set sail on the Mekong River – the Emerald Harmony Star-Ship, offering three new itineraries exploring Vietnam and Cambodia. A bespoke boutique Star-Ship, the Emerald Harmony will fuse authentic Asian style with all the modern amenities of a world-class hotel. Also, in 2019, Emerald will begin its first foray into ocean cruising with a brand new 36-guest yacht MV Adriatic Princess sailing along Croatia's dramatic Dalmatian Coast on her 8 to 16-day itineraries. **See page 15**

HOLLAND AMERICA LINE

www.hollandamerica.com

Holland America Line's fleet of 15 ships offers more than 500 cruises to more than 400 ports in 98 countries or territories around the world. From shorter getaways to 128-day itineraries, Holland America ships visit all seven continents, with highlights including Antarctica explorations, South America circumnavigations, EXC In-Depth Voyages, Cuba cruises and exotic Asia, Australia & New Zealand voyages, two annual Grand Voyages as well as popular sailings to the Caribbean, Alaska, Mexico, Canada & New England, Europe and Panama Canal. The ships feature innovative initiatives and a diverse range of enriching experiences focused on destination immersion and personalized travel. Guests can expand their knowledge through exclusive partnerships with O, The Oprah Magazine and America's Test Kitchen and at unique BBC Earth live music and on-screen experiences. Outstanding entertainment fills each evening at venues including Lincoln Center Stage, B.B. King's Blues Club, Rolling Stone Rock Room and Billboard Onboard. The dining experience can be savoured at a variety of restaurants with menus that feature selections from Holland America Line's esteemed Culinary Council, comprising world-famous chefs who design dishes exclusively for guests. Holland America welcomed Nieuw Statendam, a second Pinnacle Class ship, in December 2018 and a third Pinnacle-class ship will be delivered in 2021. **See page 3**

LE BOAT

www.leboat.ca

Celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2019, Le Boat is the number one provider of boating holidays on Europe and Canada's beautiful inland waterways. The company we see today is a combination of three historic companies, Crown Blue Line, Connoisseur, and Emerald Star. Over the years these companies brought together their decades of waterways experience to form Le Boat in 2007. The company has the world's largest fleet of 940 self-drive boats and the widest selection of fabulous boating destinations to choose from. Le Boat's self-guided river cruises are perfect for travellers wanting to get off the beaten path and explore destinations by its waterways. Travel at your own pace and stop along the way at local towns, restaurants, shops and historical sites. Every Le Boat cruise features comfortable furnishings, light and airy interiors, fully equipped kitchens, sundecks and BBQs. Cruisers get to choose from 44 vessel types spread across Premier, Comfort, Comfort Plus and Budget models, depending on the group size. Your home on the water accommodates up to 12 family members or friends. Find out how easy it is to drive a boat and enjoy an exciting new way to explore the waterways of Europe and Canada on Le Boat. **See page 49**

MSC CRUISES

www.msccruisesusa.com

MSC Cruises, the world's largest privately-owned cruise company, is the world's fastest growing cruise line with 17 ships. The fleet will almost double in size with the introduction of up to 11 new mega-ships by 2026 - with a dazzling array of ships sailing in European waters, as well as home-ports from Miami. A new flagship, MSC Bellissima debuts in March and will have the same features as her sister, MSC Meraviglia. In November, the Meraviglia will sail a full season of 7-night cruises to the Caribbean, visiting ports in the Bahamas, Belize, Cayman Islands, Honduras, Jamaica and Mexico, increasing the number of MSC ships sailing from Miami to four. Also, in November, the dream of paradise will become a reality for MSC guests when they visit Ocean Cay MSC Marine Reserve, a one-of-a-kind island experience in the Bahamas. Ocean Cay has been designed to immerse visitors in the natural beauty of their surroundings and to create activities that allow cruisers of all ages to connect with nature and provide opportunities to learn about protection of the oceans and the importance of preserving coral reefs while providing uninterrupted sun, sand, sea and sky games and sports for its guests. **See page 31**

ONTARIO GREAT LAKES PORTS

www.ontariotravel.net

With a fifth of the world's freshwater and covering an area of around 246,000 square kilometers, North America's five Great Lakes are like inland seas, with small and large communities on their shores - including Ontario's own Goderich, Kingston, Little Current, Midland, Parry Sound, Port Colborne, Sault Ste. Marie, Thunder Bay, Windsor and of course, Toronto - as well as fishing ports, surfing beaches and historic lighthouses and car-free islands. Ringed by thousands of lagoons, the lakes were formed about 20,000 years ago when the last continental ice sheet retreated. The five Great Lakes are spread across eight American states and the province of Ontario. The smallest in surface area of the Great Lakes, Lake Ontario's tourism revolves around Niagara-on-the-Lake and Niagara Falls, one of the largest and most dynamic waterfalls in the world, while Lake Huron has some of the cleanest waters in the Great Lakes. The 227 km long Highway 21 weaves its way through the farms and forests hugging the shoreline, with some idyllic campsites en route as well as period mansions turned into B&Bs. A two-hour ride on the car-ferry from Tobermory takes visitors to Manitoulin Island, the largest freshwater island in the world. There are many wonderful places along the Great Lakes shores to visit by ship or car. **See inside back cover**

PONANT

www.ponant.com

Celebrating 31 years in business and the only French-owned cruise line, PONANT specializes in all-inclusive 5-star luxury cruises and polar expeditions offering a variety of voyages with over 200 departures to 81 countries and all 7 continents. Carrying less than 264 guests, Ponant's seven ships maintain the intimate ambiance of a private yacht while enjoying French-inspired cuisine, chic accommodations (many with private balconies) and world-class service. The cruise line will welcome four additional 184-guest Explorer yachts between April 2019 and Fall 2020 which will feature their signature Blue Eye - the world's first multi-sensory underwater lounge, and will be equipped with state-of-the-art environmental preservation technology. They are ice-class ranked and still offer the onboard elegance for which Ponant is known. The brand is also building the world's first luxury hybrid electric polar exploration vessel, Le Commandant Charcot, propelled by Liquefied Natural Gas and scheduled for delivery in 2021. Ponant offers its Quintessential Collection voyages designed exclusively for North American travellers who wish to engage with the world in order to better understand it. These voyages include exceptional activities on board and ashore, relevant to the theme of the cruise focusing on food and wine, gardens of the British Isles, classical music, current affairs, climate change, and modern art. **See page 19**

SEABOURN

www.seabourn.com

As the newest ultra-luxury fleet in the industry, carrying between 400 and 600 guests, Seabourn's five intimate ships offer elements that set the line apart: spacious, thoughtfully appointed ocean-view suites, most with private verandas; superb dining in a choice of venues including The Grill by Thomas Keller; differentiated evening experiences in partnership with Sir Tim Rice and Spa & Wellness with Dr. Andrew Weil. The all-inclusive experience offers open bars throughout the ship; fine wines poured at lunch and dinner, all gratuities, award-winning service and a relaxed, sociable atmosphere that makes guests feel at home. The ships travel to many of the world's most desirable destinations, including marquee cities and UNESCO World Heritage Sites, helping to promote sustainable tourism around the world. Voyages range from seven to 146 days on the line's World Cruise visiting exotic destinations in South America, Antarctica, Africa, India, Arabia, Australia & New Zealand, Southeast Asia, as well as classic favourites including the Panama Canal, Alaska, Canada/New England, Caribbean and Europe. Two new ultra-luxury expedition ships, carrying up to 264 guests and featuring a brand-new innovative design and a host of unique features designed to enhance the expedition experience were created specifically for the ultra-luxury expedition traveller and will launch in June 2021 and May 2022, traveling to Antarctica, the Arctic and other exotic destinations around the world. **See page 7**

TAUCK

www.tauck.ca

For over 93 years, Tauck has been a leader in guided travel. Family-owned and operated, Tauck offers over 100 premium-quality land journeys and safaris, small ship cruises, European river cruises, family travel adventures (land and river options), and active, immersive small-group travel experiences to more than 70 countries and all seven continents. Tauck has doubled its family river cruise departures and added new itineraries along the Seine, Rhône, Danube and Rhine, offering exciting shore excursions, onboard activities, and exclusive experiences all designed with families in mind. In 2018, Tauck Small Ship Cruising celebrated 25 years in business by launching all-new cruise itineraries and debuted two radically redesigned river ships (ms Treasures and ms Esprit), as well as added enhancements to the shore excursions featured fleet-wide, providing guests with more access and enrichment on shore. In 2019, Tauck will add five new small ship itineraries featuring the Arctic, Cruising Down Under, the Great Lakes, Legendary Scottish Isles as well as an eight-day 'Alaska's Inside Passage' itinerary. Tauck's Alaska cruise is offered in partnership with the award-winning nature documentary filmmakers at BBC Earth and during their travels, guests will view a collection of short, Tauck-exclusive filmed vignettes produced by BBC Earth that will provide insights and perspectives on Alaska's wildlife and landscapes, enhancing their cruise experience. **See page 38**

TRAVELBRANDS CRUISES BY ENCORE

www.travelbrands.com

TravelBrands Cruises by Encore, a cruise wholesaler with a 28-year history in the Canadian marketplace offers a wide range of travel options - including flights, hotels, cruises, attractions, rail passes, car rentals and more. The company enjoys close partnerships with many cruise lines such as AmaWaterways, Avalon Waterways, Azamara Club Cruises, Carnival Cruise Line, Celebrity Cruises, Holland America Line, Hurtigruten, MSC Cruises, Norwegian Cruise Line, Royal Caribbean, Costa Cruises, Disney Cruise Line and Princess Cruises. Offering true cruise packages, complete with protected air and any pre- or post-cruise land stays, they also feature Encore Prestige, a high-end luxury division that offers dedicated, white-glove service. Cruise expertise, remarkable value, quality and reliability have long been Encore's hallmarks and as such, their focus is on ensuring complete cruise vacation satisfaction. Whether you are an experienced cruiser or a newcomer, want an ocean cruise or a river cruise, TravelBrands Cruises by Encore prides itself on offering something for every taste and budget. **See inside front cover**

WINDSTAR CRUISES

www.windstarcruises.com

Recognized by Condé Nast Traveler as one of the world's best cruise lines, Windstar's six-ship fleet of small sailing and all-suite motor yachts known for their unique voyages to the world's best small ports and hidden harbours. Sailing throughout Europe, the Med, Greek Isles as well as to the Caribbean, Alaska, Canada and New England, Tahiti, the Panama Canal and Costa Rica, the cruise line visits more than 270 ports worldwide. This boutique cruise line carries less than 310 guests on its yachts and offers cruises that are certainly 180 degrees from ordinary. They also offer an innovative culinary program with exceptional cuisine as the Official Cruise Line of the James Beard Foundation. **See back cover**

MARTIN LEHMANN / SHUTTERSTOCK



PHOTO COURTESY TAUCK



Tauck will launch first-ever Douro River cruises

Great news for fans of **Tauck's** very impressive, all-inclusive river cruises as the company has announced that their new ship the **ms Andorinha** will debut in Portugal on the lovely and popular Douro river in 2020. Designed to accommodate just 84 guests, the river ship will sail on a choice of three itineraries and as on Tauck riverboats fleetwide, the company also provides the services of three Tauck Director guides along with a Tauck Cruise Director, thus ensuring impeccable guest attention as a part of their vacation experience. Tauck prefers to offer its guests more space and so there will be 12 suites of 300 sq. ft. and then 30 regular staterooms with some 20 of those being larger ones measuring 225 sq. ft. Other onboard amenities include a Panorama Lounge, the Compass Rose Restaurant and, for more casual fare, a second dining venue named Arthur's in tribute to company Chairman Arthur Tauck Jr. Guests may choose from a 12-day journey that includes a 7-day cruise and two-night hotel stays in both Lisbon and Madrid; an eight-day cruise-only itinerary along the Douro and a further eight-day Tauck Bridges cruise specifically designed for families with four departures set for June and July 2020. More details to come on both the design of the ship and itinerary specifics later this year.

CRUISE & TRAVEL LIFESTYLES

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We know you love reading our magazine and many of you also check out our website for new and interesting articles and the latest information about all the varied cruise ships and cruise lines we write about. We also enjoy story-telling for you – especially about the many wonderful destinations and countries around the globe.

Because we know our readers are avid travellers and want to hear all about the latest offerings and updates both at sea and on land, we have decided to start sending out a monthly newsletter commencing this Spring. All we need is your email address and you will start to see this in your inbox soon. Just sign up for it on our website.



www.CruiseandTravelLifestyles.com



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PHOTO COURTESY PONANT

Ponant's Le Champlain

Emerald Waterways offers Activity Managers

Beginning this April, when the European river cruise season kicks off, **Emerald Waterways** will offer a more robust fitness program both onboard and on-shore with the addition of a dedicated Activity Manager on each of its seven European Star-ships. Already known for providing an array of active excursions, with these Activity Managers now on every sailing, there will be more options for those guests who enjoy a fitness regimen and keeping to their goals. Staying active on the river will include Yoga and Pilates classes, guided cycling tours, urban and rural hikes and canoeing trips. Aqua aerobics are offered in the heated indoor pools and one-mile walks can be taken on the open air track on the top deck. All of these are coordinated by the Activity Manager for each vessel who are also able to assist guests with planning their own personalized and individual cycling tour or an athletic walk in port. Emerald Waterways is known for its contemporary, deluxe river ships with inclusive pricing covering all meals, most shore excursions, Wi-Fi, wine and beer with lunch and dinner and all gratuities.

Ponant continues to grow its fleet

To delight **Ponant's** travel enthusiasts and to satisfy their hunger for conquering the most extreme seas and remote polar regions, this popular French brand launched two new Explorer vessels in 2018 (**Le Lapérouse** and **Le Champlain**) with four more sister ships, all named after great French explorers, being delivered this year and in 2020. By the time they launch the world's first electric hybrid polar exploration ship powered by liquefied natural gas, the **Le Commandant Charcot** in 2021, the cruise line will have increased its fleet from five to 12 vessels in four short years. The full fleet has been 'clean ship' certified and offers a number of leading-edge technologies to protect the environment, including recycling and reuse programs, reduced exhaust emissions and sustainable purchasing practices. The unique and marvelous underwater, multi-sensory lounge named the Blue Eye, situated in the hull and under the water line of each of these small, gorgeous yachts, is a great success with guests who enjoy sitting there, sipping a cocktail and both listening to and seeing underwater life. To see it is to believe! Ponant also has a selection of themed, special departures dubbed the Quintessential Collection for both 2019 and 2020, each hosted by an expert in their field and in conjunction with a suitable itinerary in various parts of the globe.

Seabourn returns to Alaska

After a successful season sailing in Alaska in 2018, **Seabourn** returns for a series of outstanding itineraries in the Great Land with an elevated guest experience this year. Partnering on a spectacular train journey with the highly regarded Rocky Mountaineer as well as a visit to the stunning UNESCO Banff National Park, Seabourn Journeys has created a special pre-cruise package for its guests. Ride the rails deep into the Canadian Rockies on a two-day journey into scenic canyons, valleys and then the lush coast of British Columbia all the while enjoying GoldLeaf Service in a luxurious glass-domed train car. In Banff, guests will enjoy a full-day guided tour to such marvellous and iconic spots as Lake Louise, Kicking Horse Pass and striking Emerald Lake. Seabourn's Alaska season stretches from June to October and offers a series of 11, 12 and 14-day voyages and will include the highly coveted Ventures by Seabourn optional for-charge shore excursions featuring guided Zodiac cruising and kayak excursions launched directly from the ship, as well as hiking and wildlife viewing. This luxurious and highly-regarded cruise line with its all-inclusive onboard lifestyle will also return to Alaska in 2020 with yet again more itinerary options and a number of new seven-day itineraries sailing both north and southbound on **Seabourn Sojourn**.



Kinky Boots



PHOTO COURTESY MSC

MSC Bellissima



COURTESY OCEANIA

Oceania's new Allura-class concept

Norwegian Cruise Line announces entertainment line-up for new ship

The very popular Breakaway-Plus Class **Norwegian Encore** launches this fall and will debut the Tony Award-Winning Broadway musical *Kinky Boots* as the headline act onboard. Featuring stunning hit songs by Cyndi Lauper and a story line about an unlikely partnership between a fabulous entertainer and a factory owner, this show is a wow. Additional entertainment options include the guest favourite *Cavern Club* which debuted on sister ship *Norwegian Bliss* last year to much acclaim. *Happy Hour Prohibition: The Musical* will also play on the *Encore* and new for this ship is the *Choir of Man* which combines high energy, music, dance, live percussion and foot-stomping choreography. Performed by some very talented guys, this show covers everything from classic rock to sing along anthems and it's going to be a sure fire hit! Norwegian ensures that there is something for everyone on their ships and recreational activities for all include a bigger and better two-level go kart race track offering almost 1150 feet on the circuit, ten turns – with four over the side of the ship. Talk about exciting! The *Encore* will have a Laser Tag course and a Galaxy Pavilion, which is a 10,000 sq. ft. indo or Virtual Reality Complex. There's also the ever popular Aqua Park with waterslides aplenty. The *Norwegian Encore* will accommodate almost 4000 guests and will sail Eastern Caribbean cruises every Sunday from Miami. Many of Norwegian's signature features including the marvelous Haven retreat, numerous dining options and solo staterooms for single travellers will continue to delight guests.

Oceania Cruises expands

Oceania Cruises recently announced that they are ordering two new additions for their fleet which will be an evolution of their current ships. Dubbed the Allura-Class, each of these vessels will be 67,000 tons and will carry approximately 1,200 guests. This new class of mid-size cruise ships will retain all the hallmarks that have made Oceania such a success in the upper-premium category but will take things a step further with many luxurious new amenities. Encouraged by a strong demand from cruise guests who enjoy upscale culinary and destination-focused vacations around the globe, Oceania is seizing the opportunity to provide its loyal guests with many of the features of their *Marina* and *Riviera* ships along with exciting new features and design elements. More details will be unveiled soon and the ships will be launched in 2022 and 2025.

MSC Cruises launches the Bellissima

The latest ship in the fast growing **MSC Cruises** fleet is the **MSC Bellissima** which will be launched in Southampton in early March. The second ship in the innovative Meraviglia class, this lovely new vessel will be cruising the Mediterranean on a series of 7-night cruises before moving to homeport in the Emirates for Winter 2019/20. Offering the very latest in guest technology, *MSC Bellissima* will introduce Zoe – a new digital cruise assistant who can assist guests in seven languages. Fitted in every stateroom, this tool will elevate the guest service experience by enhancing and enriching life onboard. *Bellissima* will have a new Tapas restaurant located on Deck 6 in the heart of the iconic Mediterranean style promenade. The HOLA! Tapas Bar will welcome guests into an amazing culinary experience created by two-Michelin-starred Spanish chef Ramon Freixa. MSC will also introduce two brand new *Cirque du Soleil* at Sea shows and offer around the clock entertainment for guests of all ages. Six brand new Broadway style shows will debut on this amazing ship.



PHOTO COURTESY WINDSTAR

Windstar Cruises



PHOTO COURTESY LE BOAT

Le Boat



RUSS HEINL / SHUTTERSTOCK

Great Lakes Cruising – Georgian Bay

Exciting times for Windstar

Late last year **Windstar Cruises** announced the USD250 Million Star Plus Initiative, a multi-year upgrading and expansion focused on the cruise line's three Star-Class vessels. This significant investment in **Star Pride**, **Star Legend** and **Star Breeze**, each currently able to accommodate 212 guests, will lengthen and rejuvenate these lovely yachts. When complete, the upgrades will enable the ships to accommodate another 100 guests for a total of 312 – all in suites which themselves will receive new bathrooms. The renovation project will begin with *Star Breeze* in the autumn of 2019 to be followed by *Star Legend* and finally *Star Pride*, which will be upgraded in November 2020. Each Star Class ship will be cut to allow the installation of a new section and each will also gain two new dining venues – one an intimate alternative dining spot and the other a more casual barbecue space adjacent to the very popular top deck Star Bar. There will be more outdoor deck space, a more expansive pool and a larger fitness centre along with a new world class spa. These wonderful ships will still be small enough to sail on the brand's highly regarded, immersive itineraries to many small islands, ports and hidden harbors around the world.

Great Lakes Cruising expands in Canada

The Five Great Lakes, renowned for their rugged beauty, offer a great many attractions to cruisers. This area is home to the world-class city of Toronto as well as numerous charming towns and ports and also the largest freshwater island in the world – Manitoulin Island. Sailing the Great Lakes has become very popular with cruise guests as this glorious region offers some of the most spectacular and beautiful scenery in Eastern Canada. Several cruise lines offer a range of itineraries every summer and more ships will be sailing the lakes in future seasons. Various itineraries are available and may commence with a cruise down the St Lawrence Seaway past the stunning 1000 Islands to the port of Kingston with its rich historic heritage; then a journey on to Ontario's capital city, vibrant Toronto, with its interesting neighbourhoods, famous CN Tower and many great sights, and excellent shopping and dining. A transit of the Welland Canal affords a visit to impressive Niagara Falls and the small quaint town of Niagara-on-the-Lake known for its Shaw Festival and excellent wineries. Then there's spectacular Georgian Bay, home to 30,000 islands and the picturesque natural port of Midland with the nearby Saint Marie Among the Hurons; Manitoulin Island's Little Current, as well as Parry Sound, a boaters paradise and a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve are other popular ports. Other calls include Windsor, the Canada/US gateway, the Northern port of Sault Ste Marie, and the unforgettable Agawa Canyon Tour Train through rugged forest and more pristine lakes is truly memorable. And finally you can sail to Thunder Bay at the top of Lake Superior, the gateway to Northwest Ontario's wilderness with a must visit to the area's most famous landmark, the Sleeping Giant Rock formation.

Le Boat celebrates 50 years

The market leader in canal cruise boat rentals for 50 years now, is **Le Boat** offering fantastic boating vacations in nine different countries, mostly in Europe but now also in Canada for the past year. The company has a large fleet of boats – 940 choices in all – each with a variety of sizes sleeping between 2 and 12 guests. Having launched in Canada on the impressive UNESCO World Heritage Rideau Canal in the spring of 2018, Le Boat offers 20 brand new Horizon Cruisers and a range of interesting voyages in this gorgeous region from spring through the early Fall. Choose cruising along the rivers, lakes and canals either in Canada or in some of the most beautiful areas in Europe, and enjoy a great way to vacation and see the sights at your own speed.



Cunard offers a full season in Alaska

World renowned cruise company, **Cunard Line** has announced that the **Queen Elizabeth** will be sailing an extended season in Alaska with nine voyages on offer in the summer of 2020 from Vancouver. With a series of nine to twelve-night departures guests will have the opportunity to really take in the breathtaking beauty of the Great Land and combine it with the iconic experience of sailing on a legendary Cunard ship. The recently revitalized *Queen Elizabeth* is the youngest ship in the fleet and is also sailing some limited departures in Alaska this summer. These have been so well received that Cunard has decided to offer more departures from June to September the following year. There will be a pre-cruise hotel and tour offering in Vancouver and Cunard has also partnered with Rocky Mountaineer and their wonderful train experience through the Canadian Rockies. Known for impeccable White Star Service, numerous dining choices and world class entertainment, Cunard's *Queen Elizabeth* received a major refit in the fall of 2018 and has emerged with a new spa concept onboard and many public spaces, bars and lounges have been updated with new furnishings and carpets added to all Grill Suites and Britannia Staterooms.

Crystal ships undergo stunning transformations

Both **Crystal Symphony** and **Crystal Serenity** have undergone a major refurbishment in the last year and both of these spectacular ocean cruise ships are now sailing with some marvellous new features and amenities. **Crystal** has always offered guests a commitment to contemporary luxury and a superior level of service with great attention to detail in every way. With an all-inclusive lifestyle at sea and some extraordinary dining choices, these revitalized and reimagined ships truly define Crystal's renowned hospitality at sea. *Crystal Serenity* now boasts Stardust, an intimate supper club with a very glamorous vibe. Available by reservation on both the first and final nights of the Black Tie optional evenings during a cruise, the Crystal Show Band plays tunes that harken back to the days of Sinatra. Talented vocalists perform while guests enjoy a wonderful four-course dinner in a delightful atmosphere. The ship also now offers open seating dining and the Crystal Dining Room has been renamed the Waterside Restaurant. Silk Road has become Umi Uma and Sushi Bar with Chef Nobu's signature dishes a highlight. The Lido becomes The Marketplace for casual daytime fare and at night features a Brazilian steakhouse Churrascaria menu. The ship now accommodates 980 guests rather than 1070 and there are also 36 new SeaBreeze Penthouses as a result of this stunning reimagination.

Carnival names new ship the Mardi Gras

Bringing back a name from the past, *Carnival Cruise Line's* most innovative ship yet will debut in 2020 following the success of **Carnival Horizon** and soon to be launched **Carnival Panorama**. The **Mardi Gras** will offer another first at sea from this long-standing cruise company with the introduction of BOLT: Ultimate Sea Coaster – yes, a roller coaster at sea! Get ready for an adrenaline rush and speeds of up to 40 miles per hour and heart pounding twists, turns and drops with almost 800 feet of exhilarating track. BOLT is an all electric coaster that allows two riders in a motorcycle-like vehicle to race along the track 187 feet above sea level. Guests will love the breathtaking 360-degree views from up high on this open-air thrill ride. The *Mardi Gras* will be based in Port Canaveral, Florida and more itinerary details and information on this ground-breaking XL-class ship will be revealed over the coming year.

Princess Cruises has three new ships coming



Sky Suite balcony

THERE'S A LOT GOING ON at **Princess Cruises** these days as they gear up for the arrival of three Royal-Class ships in the near future. Plus there are two more, slightly bigger ships on the horizon – coming in 2023 and 2025, all adding to the current fleet size of 17 ships – an amazing growth spurt for the largest international premium brand in the cruise industry.

Launching this October in the Mediterranean will be **Sky Princess** which will sail a number of European cruises before she commences some Caribbean cruises from Florida. Sister ship **Enchanted Princess** debuts in June 2020 and will be named in Southampton, England and also sail her inaugural season in the Med. The third and last in the six ships comprising Royal-Class has yet to be given a name and will arrive on the scene in 2022.

These ships are all going to be very impressive and will also showcase a number of innovations for guests. *Sky Princess* will be the first ship to join the fleet already activated with Princess MedallionClass Vacations enabled by the OceanMedallion, the industry's most advanced wearable technology. The medallion delivers guests a hassle-free personalized cruise vacation in a number of areas. This ship will also feature MedallionNet, the best Wi-Fi at sea delivering impressive delivery speeds. OceanMedallion has already been rolled out, to much fanfare, on several Princess ships and guests love it.



All three 143,700-ton Royal-Class ships will carry 3,660 guests and include many dazzling features found on their predecessors – and of course, as with any new ship, there will be newly-introduced offerings. Guests in the Sky Suite accommodations will enjoy the largest balconies at sea – at around 1000 sq.ft. – perfect for entertaining new found friends or fellow travellers. There will be a new jazz lounge named Take Five as well as an enhanced Princess Theatre and other new and exclusive entertainment options.

On the *Enchanted Princess* a reimagined Salty Dog Gastropub will offer a chance to watch sporting events and the restaurant everyone loves, Sabatini's Italian Trattoria, will also be transformed, blending classic Italian accents with a spacious, contemporary setting. There's so much more to be found on each of these fabulous new ships, and we will provide updates on each as their launches get closer.



Sabatini's



Take Five

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Owners Suite

THE COUNTDOWN BEGINS

The Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection is less than a year from launching their first yacht. In this special series, we will feature key milestones from this luxury cruise company as they unveil more details on the design and features of the yacht, and the many spectacular onboard amenities. We begin with a look at their stunning suite designs.



Terrace Suite

YOUR PRIVATE OASIS AT SEA

There are six different suite categories, including a two-story Loft Suite, all of which boast a spacious and airy feeling with the décor offering a combination of Ritz-Carlton's renowned modern elegance and the more casual luxury found on a super yacht. The ceilings are high and the windows on your world offer floor to ceiling views of the seascape. Each suite has an expansive private terrace and all accommodations are designed to assure the finest in comfort. Whichever type of suite you choose, you will have an



Espresso machine with complimentary tea and coffee, a refrigerator provisioned to each guest's preference – The Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection offers an all-inclusive luxury lifestyle experience at sea – and your welcome will include your choice of a bottle of wine or Champagne. There is complimentary Wi-Fi and each bathroom offers a double vanity and most have a bathtub and separate shower. Most suites provide a living room space as well as a dining table – so feel free to entertain new-found friends or simply settle in for a romantic in-suite dinner – naturally there is 24-hour room service. You will also enjoy the expert ministrations of a dedicated Personal Concierge who is your key touchpoint during your cruise offering a seamless and flawless service experience.

As you settle into your gorgeous suite you will luxuriate in the expansive space, a custom king bed sleep system, luxury bed and bath linens created expressly for The Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection, hypoallergenic pillows on request, and both North American and European outlets and a USB charger. A digital flat screen smart TV as well as a make-up mirror and a roomy walk in closet add to the amenities. Suite sizes range from 312 to 1098 sq. ft. with accompanying terraces at 67 to almost 600 sq. ft. In the Owners Suite the terrace also boasts a private whirlpool.

During its inaugural year, the yacht will sail in the Caribbean, the Mediterranean, Northern Europe, Canada and New England.



TIM BOYLES

Holland America focuses on music and cuisine as Nieuw Statendam arrives

HOLLAND AMERICA LINE'S lovely **Nieuw Statendam**, second ship in the brand's Pinnacle Class was christened by Oprah in early February and now sails the Caribbean. Sister to the much admired *Koningsdam*, this ship is just as beautiful.

The highly regarded onboard cuisine in specialty restaurants is exceptional and sophisticated. Alternative restaurant, Rudi's Sel de Mer, an à la carte seafood brasserie, is spectacular in every way - the cuisine and décor - as well as its wide-ranging menu. Rudi Sodamin is the long-standing master chef and head of the Culinary Council for Holland America and Sel de Mer is now eponymous with this talented chef. On other HAL ships, Sel de Mer is a pop-up in the Pinnacle Grill one night per cruise.

Tamarind is the gorgeous Asian fusion restaurant with a separate Nami Sushi Bar by Master Sushi Chef Andy Matsuda, who provides innovative recipes; reservations required and a charge for dining. The food is impressive everywhere - ranging from made-to-order pizza at the pool area, to the main dining room and Canaletto for Italian with its elegant décor in a specific area of the Lido Market. The Lido itself is lovely and spacious with a number of stations, all with good food and service.

It's the music, however, that makes this HAL ship a stand-out and the addition of the Rolling Stone Rock Room - in partnership with the magazine - is a massive hit. Packed every night for each of the three sets, the audience loves this spot along Music Walk with guests singing, dancing and clapping along. The house band makes great sound and plays favourite tunes including the Eagles, John Mellencamp, the Stones, The Band, CCR and more.

Across from the Rock Room are the dueling pianos of Billboard Onboard with audience requests happily received and then down the hall, the B.B. King's Blues Band belts out three sets most nights too - spectacular voices singing great soul and blues. Lincoln Center Stage performs during the day or early evening from this same venue. In the main theatre, you may find an opera performance or a Spanish guitar foursome and the World Stage offers great production shows and special evenings in conjunction with BBC Earth.

Nieuw Statendam is an elegant, modern explorer and the epitome of design with a beautiful musical theme; there are many favourite spots for repeat guests and an eye to the future for new-to-Holland America cruisers.



TIM BOYLES



PHOTO COURTESY HOLLAND AMERICA



PHOTO COURTESY CELEBRITY

Galápagos glamping with Celebrity Cruises

In an elevated, inspired approach to marine exploration, **Celebrity Flora** marks another example of a revolutionary ship design by allowing the destination – in this case the Galápagos – and its environment to influence every decision taken in the ship's meticulous layout. It's all about high quality, sustainable tourism. **Celebrity Flora** virtually erases boundaries and brings this typically remote destination closer to guests. Educational, research-based programming gives travelers an opportunity to continue learning about the wildlife-rich Galápagos Islands. One of the most energy-efficient ships of its size in the diverse archipelago, the 100-guest *Celebrity Flora* will offer seamless sea-to-shore transportation, and includes anchorless technology that maintains the ship's position while protecting the sensitive sea floor. Innovative outward-facing design gives guests 360-degree views of the islands, while luxurious all-suite accommodations, personal suite attendants, new dining venues, an open-air stargazing platform, and expert-led ecological seminars will round out the modern luxury vacation experience. Guests will feel as though they're boarding a high-end yacht for a week of unparalleled adventures – and they will be! For the no-expense-spared expedition traveller, *Flora*'s two Penthouse Suites are the largest in the Galápagos with separate indoor and outdoor living areas, customizable lighting and shades, and a telescope for stargazing or sea lion-peeping. *Celebrity Flora* will sail from Baltra year-round, making her first sailing on May 26, 2019.

Lindblad Expeditions

Expedition travel pioneer **Lindblad** recently unveiled the first polar build in the line's history and the world's most advanced polar expedition ship – the 126-guest **National Geographic Endurance** – named to honor legendary explorer Ernest Shackleton and featuring innovative design and development. Fully stabilized with the highest ice class of any purpose-built passenger vessel, she will travel where few have gone, see what few have seen and experience what few can, venturing earlier and penetrate farther into the most adventurous and unexplored Arctic regions starting in early 2020. The most striking feature of the vessel is her distinctive profile, featuring the patented X-Bow. This unique design affords the smoothest, most comfortable ride imaginable, in all sea conditions, which results in greater fuel efficiency and fewer emissions for reduced environmental impact. The X-Bow also significantly facilitates wildlife viewing, enabling optimal forward and straight down-the-sides vantage points and photography, with no leaning out over the deck rail required. Sleek and powerful, fire and ice are twin themes throughout the ship, in the color schemes and the feelings engendered by her spaces—from the 'chill' ambiance of the Ice Lounge, the expedition community hub for Recap, talks, presentations and sociability to the conversation-kindling warmth around the fireplace of the Den on the Observation Deck. The ship will also feature a suite of Lindblad's signature tools for exploration: a fleet of Zodiacs, kayaks, snowshoes, cross-country skis, an ROV, hydrophones, video microscope, underwater video technology, and a hyper-efficient Zodiac loading for 'getting you out there' more swiftly and safely.



PHOTO COURTESY LINDBLAD

Silversea adds new ship in the Galápagos

In redefining the concept of immersive travel and pushing the boundaries of ultra-luxury cruising, **Silversea** is expanding its current expedition fleet of four ships with the addition of a new 100-guest vessel, named **Silver Origin**, thus creating a new generation of environmentally friendly ships. She will serve the Galápagos Islands itinerary currently sailed by **Silver Galapagos** and her expected delivery is March 2020. An expedition with Silversea luxury cruises is unlike any other form of travel – thrilling, awe-inspiring and humbling all at the same time, providing an intimate introduction to some of the most remote regions of the planet. Designed for the curious traveller longing to see an orangutan in the wild and eager to see what lies behind the next mountain ridge, Silversea cruises immerse you in the culture, landscape and habitat of a region with the help of experts who can illuminate all you see. From the lush rainforests of the equatorial Pacific to the polar extremes at the very edge of the world, Silversea expedition ships sail to all seven continents. Explore pelagic wonderlands, admire volcanic plateaus gushing with geysers, or enter the realm of the polar bear. No matter where you go, you'll enjoy a uniquely immersive experience, expand your global perspective and be prompted to re-evaluate what really matters – but rest assured that no creature comfort will ever be denied on an expedition cruise with Silversea!



SHALANOV / ISTOCK



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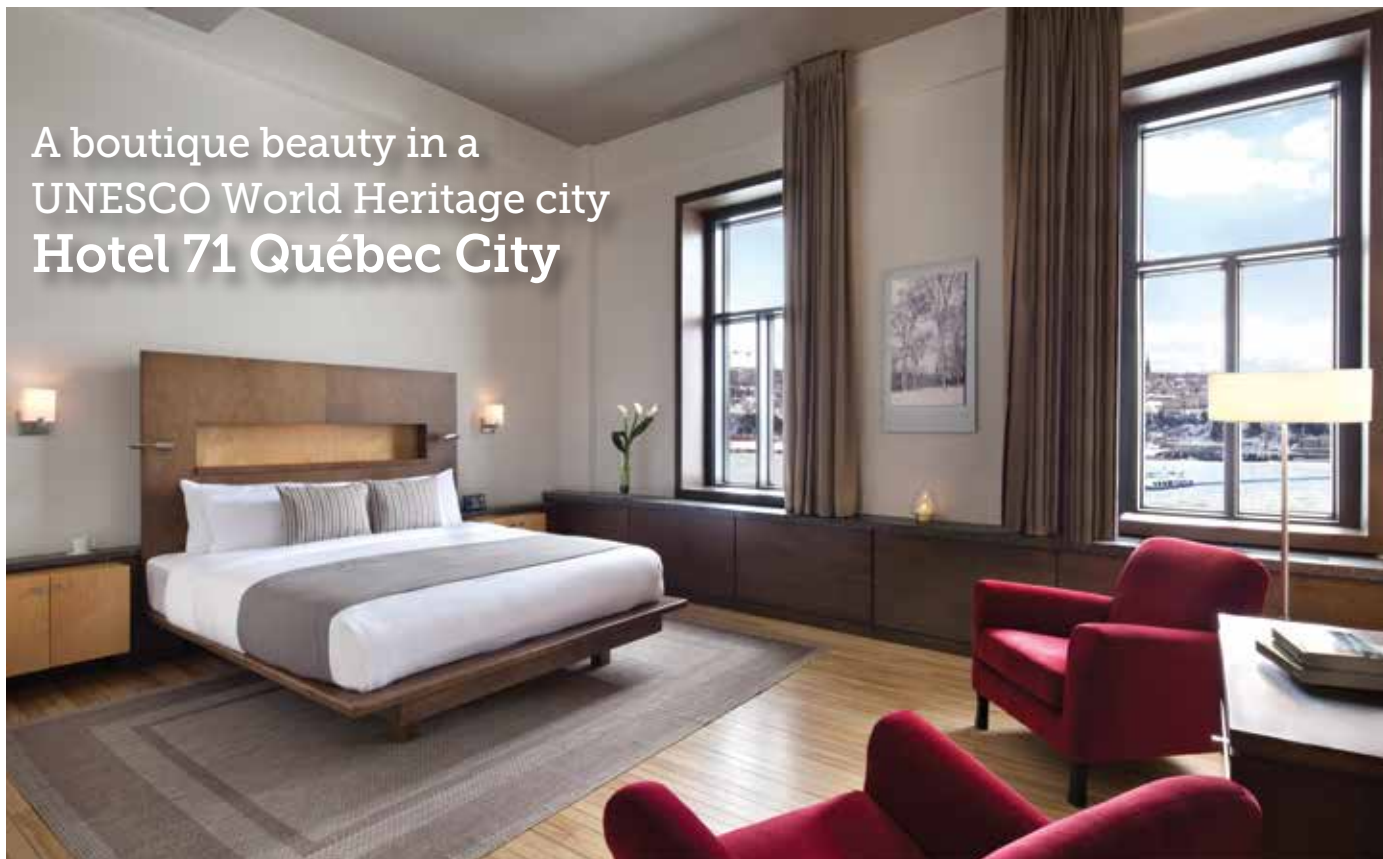


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A boutique beauty in a UNESCO World Heritage city Hotel 71 Québec City



PHOTOS COURTESY HOTEL 71

MARVELLOUSLY LOCATED on rue Saint-Pierre in the heart of historic Québec City's lower, old town, the Hotel 71 – also known as the Soixante & Onze – is utterly charming and ideally situated across from the cruise port. The hotel is actually two side-by-side hotel buildings with a mutual reception area in the middle – something that wasn't immediately obvious at check-in. The other building is named the Saint-Pierre Auberge. One was an insurance building and the other, the Head Office of Quebec's National bank. The exterior façade is a fabulous example of a 19th century neo-classic edifice but once inside, it's remarkable how modern the 60 rooms are. While enjoying your view of the St Lawrence River you can also keep an eye on the rich architecture. Exploring the quaint, charming

cobblestone streets is a must – there's a bevy of wonderful galleries, antique stores, artists' workshops and fine restaurants. Quebec City is so inviting that before or after a cruise it really is a must-stay for a night or two.

Also close to the Musée de la Civilization, the Petit Champlain and Place Royale, the Hotel 71, a member of Preferred Hotels, is perfectly situated. The staff are helpful and friendly and there's a wonderful afternoon ritual of enjoying a glass of wine with the hotel management in an area off the lobby. Bicycles are offered on a complimentary basis for three hours; the concierge, a member of Clefs d'or will assist with ideas for exploring and shopping as well as helping with restaurant choices. There are so many within an easy stroll.

Those modern, spacious rooms with 14 foot ceilings offer a minimal, neutral décor, as well as Nespresso machines and L'Occitane products. There's a blissful rain shower, a makeup mirror and a mini fridge. The bed is comfortable and they still do a turn-down service here.

Back in the mutual lobby area, between the two distinct hotels, guests will find a complimentary 24-hour Espresso lounge with coffee, tea and water and a small Italian restaurant, Il Matto for authentic cuisine. There's a fitness centre too but I recommend you get your exercise by walking and enjoying this marvellous old city, even more fascinating now than when it was originally settled in the 1600s.

— VANESSA LEE

Making the most of Maui Fairmont Kea Lani



WHEN YOUR SUN-DEPRIVED-SELF arrives in Maui, your first inclination might be to rush outside to the beach, pausing just long enough to grab a mai tai from the bar on the way. But that's before you see your stunning suite at the Fairmont Kea Lani.

Some would say that it just isn't fair to line a bathroom with so much marble or to offer a tub so generous and deep that you could start to wonder why you need to go to the pool at all. Sleek contemporary leather furniture in the living area begs you to sit, flick on the giant tv screen and to pour yourself a little something from the stocked mini bar. But it's the bed that really isn't playing fair. Draped in soft, silky sheets and piled high with pillows that not only look sink-in-downy but actually are, that bed calls to your jet-lagged soul, saying, "Just lie down for an hour..."

Then stroll onto your balcony. Overlooking the pool, this will be your own breezy nest in the sky, where you can loll on the chaise and survey the action below until you're ready to join in the fun.

When that moment arrives, you could opt simply to bask poolside but the aloha spirit is infectious so why not try one of the huge line-up of cultural programmes on offer? The Hawaiian Canoe experience will let you see what it's like to paddle a six-person outrigger, or learn a few words in the Hawaiian language at the 'Ōlelo Hawai'i session. Your real dream is to be a mermaid? That too, can happen at the Fairmont Kea Lani, where they will not only tell you tales of the mermaids of Hawaii, but they'll actually provide you with a monofin so resort experts can teach you how to swim in it.

If all that fun sounds like it might require effort, then sink into a traditional Hawaiian treatment at the Willow Stream Spa or perhaps create your own spa moments in the steam rooms, sauna, "experience showers" and Palolo (mud) bar. When you're thoroughly relaxed, lie on the heated stone bench and reflect on the fact that when it comes to making your every dream come true, the Fairmont Kea Lani has it all.

— LIZ FLEMING



Suite bedroom



Luana

PHOTOS COURTESY FAIRMONT KEA LANI



Flight: Dare to Dream



HiRo!

NOW THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

Royal Caribbean continues to excel



Boardwalk



Symphony of the Seas

Fourth Oasis-class ship delivers – it's big, bold and beautiful with epic onboard productions.

VANESSA LEE

ROYAL CARIBBEAN continues to lead in so many ways in mainstream cruising, with a truly winning formula down right. The arrival of *Symphony of the Seas* to her Miami winter home-port gives the company 25 ships, each of which delivers solidly on all promises made.

When we sailed *Symphony of the Seas* last fall, we saw that the focus is very much about families, fun (mostly via theme park slides and water parks) and, most emphatically, entertainment.

With their private island, Coco Cay undergoing a major renovation and gathering steam for a grand unveiling in May 2019, the Perfect Day at Coco Cay Island Experience will be exhilarating to say the least!

A great spot for everyone – whether to chill and relax or be on the go all day – Coco Cay will offer the ultimate Perfect Day.

This ship offers a wealth of highlights beginning with the very good food served, with a great deal of care and attention, in 20 different venues, (nine of which are complimentary) with more than 300 menu choices overall. We loved Chops Grille, Jamie's Italian and thought Wonderland was more than spectacular. The décor alone is worth the price of admission and now with a two-storey restaurant and a view out to Boardwalk, this is an amazing venue. Like a well-oiled machine, *Symphony* dazzles with great service and a diligent and competent staff – Royal Caribbean has perfected every-

thing they deliver and for this, they must be applauded.

What's new about this fourth-in-class ship? It's almost "old news" to discuss the seven neighbourhoods on board that debuted just 10 years ago on the first ship in this class – Oasis of the Seas. We know and love Central Park, the Boardwalk, the Royal Promenade, the Carousel, Rising Tide Bar, the resort pools, the AquaTheater and the various other offerings on board. They're great, but... well... we're used to them. After all, *Symphony* is the fourth ship in this series. We wondered, how does Royal Caribbean keep on keeping on? How do they continue to raise the bar and provide one of the best vacations possible – and not just at sea?



stage, too) this show was all about space flight, the moon landing, the Space Station and moving backwards a hundred years. The grand finale that took us back to the Wright Brothers and the first manned flight and the staging, props, costumes, songs and performers were all exceptional.

The AquaTheater, on the aft deck of Boardwalk has been a long-standing favourite – a showcase at sea performed under the light of a silvery moon. *HiRO*, a Japanese themed show full of acrobats, high-wire walkers, extreme athletes, divers and high-flying feats is hard to describe but suffice to say that it offers non-stop, in-your-face, heart-pounding moments, featuring talented performers in a performance that is intriguing, powerful and immensely entertaining.

In the last three years, since a new VP of Entertainment was hired at Royal Caribbean, the change in the creativity and delivery of the onboard shows is palpable. What you see is mind-boggling – Vegas-worthy, if you will.

The ice rink was the venue for 1977 – *A Thrilling Adventure On Ice* – a whimsical, fantasy of time travel mixed in with the theft of valuable jewels from the Tower of London. The talented ice skaters' performances were impeccable – and there were many surprises that blew the audience's combined mind. Costumes were stunning and the special effects – with 48 tiny drones literally "dancing" in unison to open the show – were fascinating. Then through the power of technology, the ice surface literally became an ocean, with penguins diving and a humpback whale appearing and slowly swimming through the rink. Amazing!

What really stands out with *Symphony of the Seas*, however, is that Royal Caribbean is now firmly ensconced as a family cruise line – there's so much for every generation, from kids to grandparents. The ultimate Family Suite, which is not inexpensive, is sold out for months in advance and other spacious family-oriented suites and staterooms are

Royal Caribbean's secret is to push boundaries and never cease to create. The large variety of entertainment offered on a seven-day cruise is testament to this. You'll experience at least four marquee shows, each of which comes with pent-up demand, a sense of marvel and the kind of great promise that has guests saying to each other, "You must see that show!", "This one is fabulous!" and "You can't miss *HiRO*!" And those guests will be absolutely right!

We saw *Flight...Dare To Dream* in the Royal Theater and enjoyed a performance so stunning one could barely have imagined it could take place on Broadway, never mind on a ship. It was remarkable, powerful, emotional, SRO-worthy and more. With a big cast (the same one that performed in *Hairspray* the night before – yes *Hairspray* is on the main





Symphony of the Seas delivers in the most spectacular fashion – there really is something for everyone.

also exceedingly popular. We loved the four-bedroom, four-bathroom villa suite – gorgeous and perfect for eight adults or a larger family. These accommodations come with an included beverage package, the services of a Royal Genie (think concierge-come-butler) and more, and are in Suite Class, offering access to their own private restaurant – the lovely Coastal Kitchen.

With such an array of restaurant choices, ranging from the superb 150 Central Park to casual burgers at Johnny Rockets, it's always good to see Royal Caribbean add a few new spots. We had yummy guacamole and a margarita at El Loco Fresh the new casual Mexican venue and dove into Hooked, on the upper level of

the Solarium – also casual and great for seafood lovers. Other dining choices include Japanese at Izumi, pizza at Sorrento's, a sports bar and pub fare.

And now more about Perfect Day at Coco Cay – emerging in May with a whole new take on a private island port in those crystal-line Bahamian waters. There will be an incredible line-up of experiences to satisfy everyone including the tallest waterslide in North America, the largest wave pool in the Caribbean, overwater cabanas at the exclusive Coco Beach Club, a swim-up bar, buckets of fun at Splashaway Bay for the little ones and a bird's eye view of your surroundings from a tethered helium balloon rising 450 feet above

the sand. Perfect Day at Coco Cay will offer the ultimate combo of thrill and chill, along with casual restaurants and bars scattered throughout paradise. Naturally, there will be plenty of watersports, as well as a get-away-from-it-all beach for those who just want to relax.

Symphony of the Seas delivers in the most spectacular fashion. There really is something for everyone and Royal Caribbean continues to offer their unique take on remarkable cruise vacations to some of the most marvellous places in our world.

IF YOU GO: Your travel advisor can help you find the right itinerary and accommodation for your Royal Caribbean cruise or check out www.royalcaribbean.com

Facing page:
(from top) Perfect Day at Coco Cay offers a whole new take on the private island experience.

Jamie's Italian restaurant.

The Ultimate Family Suite.

Above:
Wonderland Restaurant

Azamara Journey DOWN UNDER

Sailing New Zealand's North and South Islands, soaking up sun, silken seas and Sauvignon.

JUDY ROSS



ARABS / ISTOCK



TOURISM NEW ZEALAND



COURTESY AZAMARA





MILES HOLDEN / TOURISM NEW ZEALAND

THE BEST THING ABOUT ISLANDS IS that you can circumnavigate them on a cruise ship, and that is exactly what my husband and I did on the *Azamara Journey*, a charming ship that carried us for 13 nights around the two islands of New Zealand and in and out of the stunning harbours and quirky little ports that make that country such a popular destination. An added bonus was beginning in Auckland and ending in Sydney, Australia, allowing extended stays in both those terrific cities. For us, the lure of Sydney included a chance to visit family living there.

Above:
View of Auckland
from the vineyards of
Waiheke Island.

Facing page (from top)
Azamara's "White Night
Party" is an evening
of amazing food and
entertainment.

The Living Room,
Azamara Journey.
Mount Maunganui
in New Zealand's
Bay of Islands.

We were welcomed on board with champagne, always a nice touch, and then set out to explore the *Journey's* newly refurbished interior. She is a lovely size, with about 600 guests and over 400 staff and crew. We checked out the five freshly decorated restaurants, the luxurious spa,

cabaret lounge and inviting library (The Drawing Room) with enough books to keep avid readers happy. That night, after an excellent dinner in the main dining room Discoveries, we sat on our verandah in the silken sea air as a bright half moon lit a silvery path across the ocean. As my husband said, "Unpacked, well-fed, and relaxed ... what could be better?"

Our first port of call was in the popular playground of the Bay of Islands where we took a tender in to Russell, a delightful town with, as we learned in the tiny museum, a wicked history. It was once a shore station for whalers, full of bars and brothels, and known as the 'hell-hole of the Pacific'. Today it's a peaceful place with a historic waterfront hotel, The Duke of Marlborough, where we ate a divine seafood chowder while overlooking the harbour and our ship at anchor on the placid sea.

The *Azamara Journey* is small by today's mega-ship standards allowing it access to smaller ports like Tauranga in the Bay of Plenty, the sunniest region of the North Island. Originally settled by the Maori in the 13th century, shore options here included heritage discoveries and Maori entertainment.

I chose to take a guided hike up Mount Maunganui, a cone-shaped volcanic mountain known simply as the Mount. It was a challenging 90-minute climb in the heat of the southern sun but the view from the top up and down the coastline was spectacular.

The reward for our efforts was to have been a soothing soak in the heated saltwater pools at the base of the mountain but, by then, we were all so overheated we chose to head back to the cooler waters of our ship's swimming pool.



PHOTO COURTESY AZAMARA



PHOTO COURTESY AZAMARA



NAZAR, BEY/ISTOCK

The pool deck was a great place to relax on warm days and was the setting for the much anticipated “White Night Party”, an evening of amazing food and entertainment that is a favourite of Azamara guests. We did make good use of the walking track above the pool deck in rain or shine and often followed our morning walk with a stretch class in the bright, airy Living Room. The Living Room also became our go-to place at the end of the day. An incredible hot hors d’oeuvres buffet was presented every evening at five o’clock. We arrived promptly to order a cocktail (all included) and sample the array of delicacies like hot shrimp wrapped in bacon and mini quiches.

As we cruised south toward Wellington, the capital of New Zealand, we discovered the reason for the town’s nickname “Windy Welly”. That night, despite the rain and wind,

almost every guest disembarked for the AzAmazing Evening Event, a signature treat that is one of the highlights on Azamara cruises. The setting was the Wellington Cathedral of St. Paul, a beautiful Anglican cathedral that had been restored after suffering minor damage in the 2016 earthquake. Champagne and canapés were on offer as we took our seats and settled in to enjoy an ‘amazing’ concert of classical favourites performed by the Wellington Symphony Orchestra. It was certainly an evening to remember.

There were many more memorable moments during our cruise around New Zealand. The country’s spectacular natural beauty provided the backdrop for kayaking in Otago harbour, nature walks to see rare and unusual wildlife like tiny blue penguins and the large-winged albatross, and visits to sheep farms and kiwi fruit orchards.



JRIFOLTYN / SHUTTERSTOCK

One of our most-enjoyed shore excursions was a hike along the Queen Charlotte Track. We had reached the town of Picton in the South Island, gateway to the inlets of Marlborough Sound where the famous sauvignon blanc wines are produced. Many of our fellow guests went to visit the vineyards but we chose to hike a section of their famous hiking trail. Called ‘tramping’ here, not hiking, it is hugely popular with locals and tourists ... and Kiwi guides love to point out how safe their bush is compared to the “vermin and snake-riddled trails of Australia”.

Over the course of the cruise we sampled all the restaurants and remember, in particular, the perfectly grilled chateaubriand carved at our table in Prime C. It was topped with a wonderful béarnaise sauce and served with creamed spinach and steak frites. The menu in both specialty restaurants (Prime C for steaks and Aqualina for Italian food) always included baked souffles for dessert, a rare treat. After dinner most nights we found our way to the Cabaret for the evening entertainment which always exceeded our expectations.



PHOTO COURTESY AZAMARA

On our final day in New Zealand before crossing the Tasman Sea to Australia we sailed into the famous Milford Sound, a fjord known for towering sea cliffs and plummeting waterfalls. It was a misty rain-jacket afternoon, everything green and gauzy, except the dazzling white of the waterfalls. From the open top deck we watched in awe as our captain slowly navigated the narrow channels, nosing in so close to the falls that we could actually feel the misty spray.

After two days at sea we sailed into Sydney Harbour on a lovely

pink-sky evening. Approaching the iconic sights – the Opera House with its sail-like design, the arched Harbour bridge, the inlets filled with private sailboats out enjoying the summer weather – provided a perfect finale to an idyllic cruise Down Under. And there to greet us, our two granddaughters waiting at Circular Quay, as we disembarked. ■

IF YOU GO: If you're in search of the sun, the best months to sail in the waters around New Zealand and Australia are December to February, during their warm summer. For more information visit www.azamaracruises.com and reach out to your preferred travel advisor.

Top: View of Marlborough Sound from the Queen Charlotte Track.

Above: Prime C restaurant onboard Azamara Journey.



MSC MERAVIGLIA: THE EIGHTH WONDER OF THE WORLD NOW SAILING THE CARIBBEAN

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Celebrity Edge Rooftop Garden



CELEBRITY'S SENSATIONAL NEW

Edge

Celebrity Edge is like no other ship before her.
Truly a crown jewel in the wonderful Celebrity fleet,
the stunning Edge is a virtual masterpiece in every way.

VANESSA LEE

THE ABSOLUTELY STUNNING NEW *Celebrity Edge* has finally arrived and she is a ground-breaking addition to the Celebrity Cruises fleet. Like no ship before her, she is truly innovative, offering a series of shipboard firsts and an array of features that will wow every guest. This is a remarkable ship in every way – cutting-edge and filled with light.

Superbly designed, there is an item of beauty at every turn, with creative design elements, magnificent art, gorgeous ceiling effects, exquisite light fixtures, funky transitional spaces and delectable food and drink everywhere. *Edge* is a masterpiece – sensual, sublime, spacious, stylish and sophisticated.

Some of the best new features are the lovely Edge Infinite Veranda staterooms which offer an immediate sense of space and light and a great view out through the room as one enters. The veranda really does become a part of the space and the glass doors open onto two chairs and a table just beckoning to be used.

This page
(from top):
The innovative
Magic Carpet.
Edge Infinite
Veranda Stateroom.
The Resort Deck
Cabanas.
Facing page:
The Grand Plaza,
showcasing
Celebrity's iconic
Martini Bar anchors
Decks 3, 4 and 5
and is the heart
of the ship.



Edge is a masterpiece – sensual, sublime, spacious, stylish and sophisticated.



This innovation gives the rooms about 23 more feet of space and it shows. The intuitive accommodation design by Kelly Hoppen is fabulous. The colours are mostly neutral with white and an occasional splash of colour, a typical palette throughout the ship.

The service is particularly impressive with 95 percent of the staff and crew hailing from other Celebrity ships and more than 70 different countries too. They are clearly proud to have been chosen to inaugurate this vessel in her maiden year.

There has been a lot of buzz about the Magic Carpet, a tangerine-coloured, 90-ton moveable marvel, usually found on Deck 5 outside the Raw On 5 specialty restaurant at lunchtime. It's used from Deck 2 as

a Destination Gateway and is such a clever idea – no stairs to negotiate as it's step on and off. While waiting to board these sleek launches, guests can relax, have a drink and mingle before they tender ashore. The Carpet, about the size of a tennis court, rises further up a few times a week to host Dinner on the Edge on Deck 15 and to expand the Resort Deck on 14. There's also a plan to start a weekly brunch on board this outstanding venue. Seating is various with comfy chairs, couches, and stools at the full bar. For meals, tables and chairs are added and entertainment is also offered here. It's a wondrous spot with the best sea views – a must for every guest to experience. You have seen nothing like it on a ship – or anywhere else.





This page (clockwise from above):

Eden's Library of Plants.

The Resort Deck with Martini-shaped hot tubs.

Tuscan Restaurant.

Facing page:

Eden is a remarkable and unusual three-storey entertainment venue.

Luminae Restaurant for suite guests.

Celebrity has pulled out all the stops with a wide array of dining, lounge and entertainment choices with 29 choices in all, anchored by four outstanding main restaurants with seating for about 350 dinner guests. Cyprus is the spot for Mediterranean cuisine with a nod to the line's Greek heritage, while across the hallway, the elegant Cosmopolitan Restaurant, offers new American cuisine. You'll also find it open for breakfast and lunch daily.

On the lower deck, Tuscan beckons with stunning black and white décor, enhanced by splashes of yellow chairs and small vases with single sunflowers on each table to mirror the room's palette. The Normandie Restaurant with its soft blush colour scheme offers a nostalgic nod with both decorative and Lalique

panels originally from the Normandie ocean liner and more recently, the Celebrity Summit. Chandeliers, linens, china and crystal in each are beautiful and clearly great thought and attention has been paid to detail. The menus are about 75 percent the same in each of the four, with additional daily offerings to complement each restaurant's cuisine. All are complimentary and offer early or late seating or the dine-around, open seating option.

For specialty dining, guests have great choices, ranging from the Fine Cut Steakhouse which offers outdoor dining, and across the ship, the raw bar and seafood venue of Raw on 5. Le Grand Bistro is the boulangerie and pastry stop, serving delicious morning coffee and wonderful French cuisine for all meals.

Think French onion soup, Croque Monsieur, escargots and many other favourites. At night this spot turns into a reservations-only showcase for the imaginative and unique Le Petit Chef, which is part meal and part animation process. The little chef himself "prepares" each course for you through the wonders of amazing technology. It's a must do!

Other spots include the Café al Bacio on Deck 4, Blu for Aqua Class guests, the stunning, jewel-like Luminae – only for suite guests – and for casual outdoor fare, the Rooftop Grill and the Mast Grill.

The impressive Oceanview Café sports another great feature of the Edge with its two-story high windows – an elegant 24-hour choice for casual dining, buffet service, great pizzas and al fresco options.



Eden, described as Chillful, Sinful and Playful depending on the time of day, is a very different, multi-level space with a beautiful indoor/outdoor restaurant on the lower level, a bar and entertainment space and a partial lounge on the higher level. With three decks of windows, it is truly remarkable.

And there's so much more – a solarium, the club, the Rooftop Garden with its large movie screen and lots of places to lounge and relax, the stunning Retreat for suite guests, the serene spa and a theater that provides an immersive entertainment experience. The stage has no curtain and the audience feels a part of the various talented productions. Celebrity is changing the way we view a show and using ground-breaking technology to make that happen!

As the new flagship of the Celebrity fleet, *Edge* will be joined by a sister, *Celebrity Apex* in 2020 and then two more ships in this class will follow. She sails from Fort Lauderdale in the winter and the Mediterranean in spring, summer and early fall. Christened on December 4 last year by the Pakistani Nobel Peace Prize winner and activist for global female education, Malala Yousafzai – this was a nod to Celebrity's focus on reaching beyond borders, making a difference and being inclusive. Yet another first – on a ship that is a crowning jewel and a daring feat of ingenuity, design and wonder. ■

IF YOU GO The sensational Celebrity *Edge* is eager to welcome guests and will be sailing in the Caribbean, the Greek Isles as well as in the Mediterranean in 2019. Visit www.celebritycruises.com or consult your travel advisor for more information.

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Breathing “Ha” in HAWAII

Finding the aloha spirit
on Maui and Molokai

LIZ FLEMING

If you learn one word while visiting Hawaii, make it “aloha” which translates to “al” – face-to-face and “ha” – the breath of life. Not just an all-purpose island greeting and farewell, aloha means love, friendship and responsibility – not simply for one another but for the earth. When you’re the most isolated population on the planet, widely separated from your nearest neighbours – Japan by 4,000 miles and California, by 2,400 miles – it’s imperative to preserve harmony and care for your surroundings. The Hawaiian “aloha spirit law” enacted in 1986 and born of the aloha mentality is not simply given lip service. It’s actively enforced.

If the challenges of a less-than-kindly outside world have you planning a Hawaiian holiday, why not experience the spirit of aloha on two completely different islands – Maui and Molokai?



DANA EDMUNDS / HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY



DANA EDMUNDS / HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY



LIZ FLEMING

MOLOKAI

THE FIFTH LARGEST OF THE MAJOR islands has passionately preserved the old traditions to remain largely what Hawaii once was. Though just as beautiful of any of her sisters, Molokai has somehow, luckily, gone unnoticed by the developers. With just a few hotels and restaurants, her charms aren't commercial – they're both natural and sensual. Immerse yourself in the sweet scent of the golden flowers in the orchard at the Molokai Plumeria Farm, strolling through what feels like endless rows of flowering trees, all exuding a sweet perfume. Later, enjoy the feeling of those soft, velvety petals in your hands as you learn to string them together to make a traditional Hawaiian lei.

For something deliciously different, visit the Purdy Macadamia Nut Farm for a slightly eccentric tour led by the owner who'll sternly explain the merits of his growing systems but then graciously offer you a chance to savour the meaty, rich nuts and sweet macadamia honey.

Molokai is all about getting in touch with the natural world, so forget sleeping in one morning and instead, head to the Wa'akapaemua Canoe Club, where the welcoming members will add you to one of their canoe teams. You'll love the sound of paddles dipping into the ocean in unison as waves slap against the sides of the huge canoes. It'll be hard pulling to get out to the reefs but when you see the enormous sea turtles waiting, just below the waves, you'll know every stroke was worth it.

Hike to the sweeping cliffside at Kalaupapa National Park to see the remote site of the leper colony below,

where hundreds of souls suffering from Hansen's disease were once sent to live out their lives. A nearby museum houses photos and first-hand accounts that will give you an understanding of why despite the isolation, a sense of community grew so strong that a few residents have chosen to stay and live their last days there.

Discover why the small town of Kaunakakai has the best nightlife in Hawaii. Instead of downing expensive cocktails in the expensive frenzy of a nightclub, instead line up for a loaf of freshly baked bread, slathered with a sinfully fabulous combination of butter, cinnamon and sugar. No crowds, no over-heated clubs, no international deejays pumping out music. All you need for a great Molokai evening is to take your place at the back-street window of Kanemitsu Bakery. Make your purchase, then stand on the corner, chat with your friends and munch on that giant round loaf. It's hot bread bliss.

All of this is Molokai – sweet, simple and serene – but the quintessential moment – the moment you feel that you've truly entered the heart of the island, comes when Anakala Pilipo Solatorio blows his conch shell to welcome you to his home, the Halawa Valley. The last survivor of the 1946 tsunami, chosen at the age of five to be the protector and the keeper of valley traditions, Anakala proudly wears a traditional leafy lei as he tells the history of his people and his place, in a soft, melodic voice. Gently, he explains his understanding of the aloha spirit and the responsibility we all share to protect our earth and each other. As he speaks, the breeze softly rustles the vines, the sound of the waterfall thunders in the distance and quite suddenly you realize you've found the heart of Hawaii.

Above (left to right):
Making a traditional
Hawaiian lei at
Molokai Plumeria
Farm.

A view of the
historic leper colony
site in Kalaupapa
National Park.

Anakala Pilipo
Solatorio blows
his conch shell to
welcome you to
the Halawa Valley.

Facing page:
Outrigger canoe
at Molokai's
Wa'akapaemua
Canoe Club.



You'll love the sound of paddles dipping into the ocean in unison as waves slap against the sides of the huge canoes.





HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY



SBOSSERY / ISTOCK



CREATISIA / SHUTTERSTOCK

MAUI

THE SECOND LARGEST OF THE ISLANDS, is the Hawaii you dream of on frigid wintry days. The ultimate jet-setter's paradise, Maui features white sand beaches and aquamarine waves all near elegant shopping malls oozing big name shops. Just shake the sand off your sandals before you stroll in to buy that Coach bag. High-end hotels, like the Fairmont Kea Lani, welcome you with wall-to-wall marble lobbies, sparkling fountains and glittering swimming pools. Whether you actually are rich and famous or not, Maui will certainly make you feel that way.

But Maui is much more than a beachy shopping opportunity. This lush island invites you to hike to the top of a 10,000 ft. volcano one early morning to watch the sun rise over the ocean, or swim behind clear, cascading waterfalls. Hop into a boat with a friendly guide to search for migrating humpback whales and watch dolphins leaping in the waves. Rent a board and hang ten – it seems the surf's always up in Maui. Cool off later with a big cup of 'shave ice', a Maui treat that mixes crushed ice with any number of yummy flavourings to create a sort of high-end Hawaiian slushy.

On any island, the sea is always with you – the sound of the waves, the salt in the air, the glimpses of blue around every turn in the road. What sets Maui apart,

however, is the way the residents of that sea are celebrated at the cleverly-designed Maui Ocean Center – the Aquarium of Hawaii. This popular site is home to every kind of local sea creature you can imagine, housing one of the largest collections of live Pacific corals in the world, as well as outdoor tide pools and a 750,000 gallon Open Ocean exhibit. When you're not watching one of the presentations by skilled marine naturalists, walk through the 240-degree viewing tunnel. With creatures gliding and swimming above and beside you, you'll feel as if you're truly under the sea.

For a whiff of something entirely different visit the Ali'i Kula Lavender farm on the slopes of Haleakala (House of the Sun), in what's known as 'upcountry Maui'. You'll be immersed in the 45 species of lavender – as well as other beautiful, native Hawaiian species – grown there. If you're really a lavender-lover, buy a garden lunch basket complete with a lavender-infused dessert to enjoy on the grounds. Be sure to arrive mid-morning, so you can enjoy the intensifying scent as the sun evaporates the dew. Your head will be filled with it all day and your heart will take it home. ■

IF YOU GO The busiest month to visit the islands of Hawaii is July, followed closely by December. Rainfall is at its lowest from April through September, but hurricane season runs from the beginning of June through November. That said, April and May are ideal months with warm, dry days but January-March are also popular. Your travel advisor can assist with your booking and provide more information.

Facing page:
Maui's wild
natural wonders.
Above (left to right):
The Maui Ocean
Center is home to
every kind of local
sea creature you can
imagine.
Shave ice is a local
slushie treat.
Ali'i Kula Lavender
farm on the slopes
of Haleakala.

VIKING SEA

in the Caribbean



Elegant afternoon teas.
A stunning infinity pool.
Free island tours, safari-style.
Viking Ocean Cruises knows how to
tempt you away from the beach!

JANICE AND GEORGE MUCALOV

THE OPEN-SIDED MINIBUS grinds its way up a twisty road on our scenic tour of St. Thomas but a sudden downpour blankets what should be panoramic views at the mountain top 2,100 feet above sea level. “Well, there goes that idea,” moans our fellow guest dressed for safari weather, camera at the ready. Later, the sun takes pity on us at the Magens Bay viewpoint on the way down. Peeking out, it reveals the come-hither curve of white sand below that’s consistently voted one of the world’s 10 most beautiful beaches.

And what’s this? Waiters from our cruise ship serve rum punch from a pop-up stand set up by a roadside stop. Great way to cheer us up on this grey day!

We’re cruising the Caribbean on the Viking Sea, the second in Viking Ocean Cruises’ fleet of 930-guest vessels. Viking built its reputation on river cruising – it has more than 60 river vessels in Europe, Egypt, China and Vietnam – but now, since branching out into ocean cruising in 2015, it’s also making a name for itself with its affordable-luxury, ocean-going cruises. Part of the appeal is the one free shore excursion offered in every port (like our

St. Thomas tour) – rare on ocean cruises, unless they’re expedition-oriented. On our voyage, these also include bus and ferry tickets to explore Bermuda on our own; a visit to a centuries-old plantation manor in St. Kitts; and a guided walking tour of Old San Juan in Puerto Rico. We’re given bottles of water when leaving the ship and iced facecloths when we return. Some 50 crew members even line up on the dock as we reboard one drizzly afternoon, to shield us with red Viking umbrellas and hand us glasses of bubbly.

Guests, many repeaters, also like the design of the ships. Almost identical (except for the new Viking Orion, which boasts a planetarium), they reflect the clean Scandinavian aesthetic favored by Viking’s Norwegian founder, Torstein Hagen. Light streams in through big glass windows, bouncing off blonde wood floors. Staircase railings are wrapped in ivory leather and modernist paintings by Edvard Munch and other Norwegian artists adorn the walls; the Viking Sea showcases more than \$3.3 million USD of art. You can even download a Viking Art Guide app for a narrated tour.



Explorers' Lounge



Infinity pool



Gravlax at Mamsen's Café

GEORGE MICALOV

Staterooms (standard size 270 square feet) are particularly well thought out. Fancy gazing at a kaleidoscope of colourful island scenes from your balcony – cold gin-and-tonic in hand (the complimentary sodas are restocked in your mini-fridge daily) – as you sail away each afternoon? Well, all staterooms have balconies with rattan chairs and glass railings. Beds are king-size too, dressed with soft white duvets. We also have a Nespresso-style coffee maker. And a collection of convenient USB bedside and other plugs means we can recharge our phones, iPad, laptop and cameras all at the same time, without the nuisance of charging first one, then the other.

Wait till you see the bathrooms! They come with heated floors – great for warming tootsies if you're cruising northern Europe (but we ask our steward to turn off the heat on our tropical cruise) and you can easily lather up in the glass walk-in shower without bumping into the sides.

Early in our cruise, we spend time in the two-storey Explorers' Lounge at the bow with its floor-to-ceiling windows. Sinking into buttery leather sofas draped with reindeer pelts, we thumb through books about Amundsen, Cook and other explorers, then check out the telescopes.

You can browse scads of intriguing books all over the ship. "We offer our guests the thinking man's cruise, not the drinking man's cruise," Torstein has said. But only in the Explorers' Lounge will you find Mamsen's. The traditional Norwegian café serves delicacies like gravlax on toast and steak tartare, and best of all, made-to-order waffles with sour cream and berries.

When the weather heats up, we gravitate to the deck. Some guests laze by the central pool, which has a retractable glass roof. Cushioned loungers and plush seating areas, with overhead shade, invite dozing and reading. We prefer hanging out by the striking glass infinity pool at the stern though. Looking out from the pool's warm water, you feel as if you're swimming in the sea – why get off the ship?



Classical entertainment in the Atrium



Penthouse junior suite



Wintergarden

VIKING'S RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

Viking Ocean Cruises has struck a sweet spot with its stylish, adults-only (guests must be 18 or over) mid-size vessels. Its “no nickel-and-diming” philosophy is a hit too. Along with complimentary shore excursions, you get free unlimited WiFi, self-serve laundry, and wine and beer at lunch and dinner. There’s no charge either for the specialty restaurants or to use the Nordic Spa (complete with hydrotherapy mineral pools, steam room and “snow grotto”). All this has helped the cruise line garner a slew of awards – from “#1 Ocean Cruise Line” (by *Travel + Leisure* readers) to “Best Overall Ship” (Cruise Critic annual cruisers’ choice awards).

While Viking specializes in two-week Baltic and Scandinavian cruises, itineraries run the gamut from “quiet season Mediterranean” to the Caribbean, Australia and Asia. Come August, the Viking Sun will embark on the longest cruise in history – an eight-month journey to 59 countries around the world. Want the best of both river and ocean cruising? Combination cruises allow you to seamlessly tack on a northern Europe ocean cruise to a Viking river cruise on the Danube or Rhine.



Living Room



Fortaleza Street, San Juan, Puerto Rico



Manfredi's Italian Restaurant



Viking Sea dining room

Indeed, in Sint Maarten, where a behemoth ship also docks, we stick close to “home” – which means we don’t miss afternoon tea. At 4:00 pm in the Wintergarden solarium, we order from a menu of 25 loose-leaf teas – Earl Grey, served in a white teapot. A waiter delivers a three-tiered cake tower with almond tarts and crustless cucumber sandwiches, along with plates of warm scones, clotted cream and jam. A trio of musicians plays classical melodies in the background.

Admittedly, it’s not as if we need tea, what with dinner to look forward to later. Along with the main dining room, two specialty restaurants vie for our tastebuds.

Our favourite, Manfredi’s, is probably the best Italian restaurant at sea. Black-and-white marble floors and vintage photos of Italian actors on the walls lend it an authentic Italian feel, and it has a lively buzz. Must try: the Bistecca Fiorentina rib eye steak – rubbed with chili, brown sugar and mushroom powder – perfectly broiled to your liking. The hand-rolled gnocchi in black truffle cream is a worthy appetizer.

The Chef’s Table truly pushes the culinary boundaries. Set five-course menus rotate every three days. The amusing “Sweet and Salty” pairings are especially fun. Passion fruit with grilled scallops and beets? Grand Marnier Bavarian cream and strawberry sauce with basil jelly and black Hawaiian lava salt? It works.

After dinner, we check out the entertainment. More classy than glitzy, it caters to the mature tastes of the well-traveled audience from Australia, Britain and North America. A talented ventriloquist one evening, a classical crossover pianist another. Lectures by a ship historian, BBC producer and marine biologist are enriching too.

In Old San Juan our last day, we’re surprised the colonial buildings, shops and restaurants look in such good shape – here, you’d hardly know Puerto Rico was badly hit by Hurricane Irma in 2017. We linger on the cobblestone streets, reluctant to start packing. Pink and lemon parasols strung along high above Fortaleza Street – a new art installation – catch our eye. They make us smile as we walk back to the ship. ■

IF YOU GO: With Viking Jupiter’s debut in February, 2019, the line now has six ships, with ten more to sail by 2027. Visit vikingcruisescanada.com and see your local travel professional who can help book your cruise.

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le boat
Who's on board?



Say aaaaaah...

La belle province is home to two of Canada's most famous spas – Spa Eastman in the Eastern Townships and the Nordik Spa-Nature in Chelsea, not far from Ottawa. Because a travel editor's life is devoted to bringing readers the best stories, no matter how difficult the assignment, our intrepid editor **LIZ FLEMING** agreed to visit both!





Nordik Spa-Nature

WE FILED QUIETLY into the large, wooden-walled Finlandia sauna room, shuffling to find space on the tiered benches until we settled, shoulder to sweaty shoulder, to wait, staring at a large, open grate of sizzling stones. A few hot minutes later, the door opened and a young man entered, a sort of sarong draped around his waist, with two towels tossed over his shoulder. In his hands was a wooden bucket filled, improbably, with a dozen, large snowballs. In a mix of French and English, he explained that we were about to experience the Aufguss, “a ritual of sight, scent and feel.”

Music filled the room and our host dropped the first of the essential-oil-infused snowballs onto the hot rocks. A steamy lemony vapour filled the room as he began a whirling dance, towels waving to waft the super-heated air towards us.

Despite the soaring heat, we sat mesmerized, watching every move as another pair of snowballs hit the stones. This time, the scent was a burst of pine, like a blazing forest. A different song began and the dance intensified, towels swinging wildly. Just as we felt we might explode with heat, the final snowballs hit the rocks. The dancing became frenzied and a floral scent enveloped us. Dripping with sweat, the towel master rose with the tempo of the music, leaping, pounding and somehow still managing to slide past the sizzling sauna grate. When the final note sounded, he folded, his head dropping towards the floor in a low bow. The room shook with applause as the door burst open and we emerged in a sweaty stampede, headed for the nearby pool of icy water – with both bodies and souls cleansed by the primal combination of heat, music and dance.

Evolutionists believe that all life began in the water. Perhaps that’s what makes Spa Nordik-Nature, the largest spa in Canada, so wildly popular. A four-season retreat filled with saunas, steam rooms, hot tubs, icy cold waterfalls, plunge pools, cooling showers and more, this is a place that celebrates water in all its many states.

While massage treatments are available onsite, most people come for a personal cleansing process, sweating in saunas, plunging into cold water, then relaxing in the ‘resting rooms’ or stretching out in fire-side chairs. If you follow instructions and do a number of ‘thermal cycles’ of heat, followed by cold, followed by a resting period – particularly if you choose to do it in the silent section of the complex – you’ll soon find yourself slipping into a deep state of near-liquid tranquility. The human body is, after all, 60 percent water...

Spa Nordik-Nature, Canada’s largest spa, offers a wide selection of hot saunas, steam rooms and Jacuzzi pools, complemented by icy cold waterfalls, showers and pools and tranquil resting areas.

Spa Eastman

A RETURN TO THE WOMB wasn't ever something I'd considered but that was what I was to experience, according to the therapist at the über-elegant Spa Eastman in Quebec's Eastern Townships. Given that the therapist who was about to execute that return to my beginnings was a middle-aged man in a bathing suit, my imagination was stretched to the breaking point.

Gently taking my arm, he led me into a waist-deep pool of water, carefully heated to body temperature. Explaining that he would be creating a sense of weightlessness for me, he placed small floatation devices under my arms, legs and neck, then once I was afloat, suggested that I close my eyes. Slowly, he began to move me, simply by pulling gently on my arm. As I slid through the warm water, I felt my muscles stretch and relax. From time to time, as I was moved into a new position, my therapist cradled me in his arms and I truly did feel as if I was being transported back to my infant days.

The Watsu treatment lasted for nearly an hour, but it could easily have been ten and I'd never have noticed, given how relaxed and removed I was from the normal stresses of the day. And that was just the beginning. My entire three-day stay at Spa Eastman – one of Canada's only true destination spas – was a time-free escape. When I wasn't enjoying treatments designed to deal with my tight journalist's shoulders and neck or cocooning by the fireplace in my lovely suite, I was soaking in the jacuzzi pools outside, or lolling in the Muskoka chairs near a blazing fire.

Meals served in the dining room were healthy but delicious and every guest had the option of speaking with an inhouse nutrition specialist to determine the best food choices to meet their health goals.



Though those goals differed from guest to guest, achieving healthier weights, breaking free from stress and learning to listen to the needs of our bodies were common themes. Friendly, soft-spoken therapists and class instructors were always available to offer advice and encouragement and the overall atmosphere felt soothing and supportive – like an all-encompassing security blanket. Just gazing at the landscape in which Spa Eastman is nestled is a sort of tonic in itself. With a view of Mount Orford in the distance, the grounds of the spa are lush and forested, with paths that wind throughout.

Perhaps the most moving experience of my time at Spa Eastman came on my last evening, when I joined a women's night walk. A bright, full moon hung in the sky above, so we walked the paths without flashlights. The moonlight seemed to heighten

My entire three-day stay at Spa Eastman – one of Canada's only true destination spas – was a time-free escape.

our senses as we walked largely in silence, listening to the sounds of the creatures of the dark and savouring the evening until we reached the end of our trail – the campfire. Joining hands, we formed a circle around the flames, to offer our gratitude for the night, for the companionship and for the place we were sharing. Each woman spoke a single sentence and I quickly realized that I was the only Anglophone in the circle. While I could understand what was said, I worried that I wouldn't be able to share my gratitude in a language that wasn't my own. But somehow, the magic of that sisterhood of the night gave me words I didn't think I had and I was able to piece together my thoughts in French. My accent was no doubt dreadful and my vocabulary childish, but my heart was in it and all around the circle, my night sisters smiled.

If a spa is meant to soothe both body and spirit, Spa Eastman certainly delivers. ■

IF YOU GO Spa Nordik-Nature is popular in all seasons, so reserving your place well in advance is a good idea. Though robes and towels are provided, you'll need to bring a bathing suit and a pair of flip-flops. Spa Eastman is a full-service, destination spa with day appointments as well as residential stays. For more information ask your travel professional and visit chelsea.lenordik.com and spa-eastman.com/en/eastman





Four new boutique river ships for Uniworld

Over the next three years, Egypt, Portugal, Vietnam and Russia will see ships from the Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection begin to sail their rivers. New ships will launch on Egypt's Nile, the Douro in Portugal and the Mekong in Vietnam in 2020, followed by a new ship on the Volga in Russia in 2021. The new ships will replace existing vessels in each destination and the high standards of comfort, luxury and design will match the very best of Uniworld's custom built Super Ships in Europe. The cruise line also announced that it will be renovating and upgrading its **River Countess** vessel, offering guests an unparalleled floating hotel experience from Venice. The announcement of the new ships and the rejuvenation of the **River Countess** continue Uniworld's focus on excellence, coming on the heels of the launch of the **S.S. Joie de Vivre** on the Seine in 2017 and the Super Ship transformations of the **S.S. Beatrice** in 2018. The **S.S. Bon Voyage**, formerly the River Royale has been upgrade to a Super Ship as well and will cruise in the Bordeaux region France starting this Spring. The new floating boutique hotels will feature Uniworld's signature, all-inclusive touches and distinctive themes – more suites, more dining venues and more luxurious finishes.



PHOTO COURTESY AVALON

Avalon Saigon sets sail in Asia

The Mekong River, with its ancient traditions, colourful cultures and amazing tapestry of ever-changing sights along its banks is tempting, and the new **Avalon Saigon** offers a unique way to explore Cambodia and Vietnam as well as the river itself. A small yet very spacious suite ship with 18 comfortable staterooms onboard for 36 guests, the Saigon is now sailing on a choice of two itineraries; the 13-day Fascinating Vietnam, Cambodia and the Mekong River as well as a new 18-day journey dubbed the Heart of Cambodia and Vietnam. Regardless of which you choose, you will be pampered with a stateroom featuring an open air balcony with floor to ceiling panoramic windows and 245 sq. ft. of space. Dining is a mix of local and European cuisine and wine and beer are served at lunch and dinner. There's a wonderful open-air observation lounge, the Panorama Lounge and a fitness room as well. **Avalon Waterways** offers many inclusions and a wide range of shore excursions for their guests' enjoyment and often have special cruise and air fare offers for Asia.



PHOTO COURTESY AMAWATERWAYS

AmaWaterways set to launch double wide river ship

AmaWaterways is getting ready for an exciting season as they will launch three ships in 2019 – one of which will be a first-in-class. The **AmaMora**, sister ship to the highly regarded **AmaLea**, will set sail in early June along the Rhine, offering 78 staterooms for guests and all of AmaWaterways' included features and service. In April the second ship from AmaWaterways to sail on Portugal's River Douro will debut – suitably named **AmaDouro**. The big news though, is the much-anticipated **AmaMagna**, first of its kind, which will set sail on the Danube in May. Twice as wide as any other river ship, she will offer 98 elegantly appointed staterooms with most being spacious suites of 355 sq. ft. each with full balconies. Thanks to her width, more restaurant choices will also be available including new offering Jimmy's Wine Bar and a spot dubbed Al Fresco located at the front of the ship with a retractable ceiling and side windows to let the breeze in. Naturally, there will be the Main Dining Room and guest favourite The Chef's Table for specialty dining and great views from the ship's aft. The Godmother of **AmaMagna** will be television personality and travel expert Samantha Brown who is much admired for her extensive knowledge of the travel world. She will bless the ship in Germany in July 2019. Other revolutionary features of **AmaMagna** will include an expansive Zen Wellness Studio, a Sun Deck Pool, a Concierge Golf program and a watersports platform as well as a small Sundowner launch for further exploration of the Danube.

Vanessa Lee recently spoke with **John Delaney** President of Windstar Cruises about all the exciting things going at this cruise company and their plans for expansion.



In recent news, the company announced a massive \$250 Million initiative, dubbed Star Plus, a large investment in your three motor yachts, known as the Star-Class ships. Please expand on this for us.

Windstar's ground-breaking \$250 Million Dollar Star Plus Initiative is importantly not about getting bigger; it's about offering our guests more of what they love about Windstar. We are planning to lengthen and enhance our three Star Class motor-yacht vessels adding 50 new suites to each, while modernizing the propulsion system to be more environmentally friendly.

Each ship, once complete, will carry 312 guests total (now 212) which nearly matches the capacity for our biggest sail yacht – the *Wind Surf*. The additional capacity keeps us squarely in the under 350-guest category. We will continue to offer the world's best small ship experience but with more amenities that our many loyal guests have been asking us for like additional dining – two new venues – and a world-class spa and fitness centre. We are making these improvements to ensure these beloved ships may continue to operate well into the future.

Destination delivery is a big focus for Windstar Cruises – and this is a very personal initiative for you. Please tell our readers what the company will be doing to offer even more interesting destinations in some remarkable places.

Our guests are world travellers who want to actively experience destinations first-hand, not steal glimpses through windows. They want stories to tell, and sometimes, the most interesting and memorable travel

experiences take place after sunset. Nearly half of Windstar's cruises offer a late night or overnight in port and we stay longer so that we can provide this extra time and value to our guests. This is just one way our small ship cruise line enhances the guest experience, catering to people who take travel immersion seriously. Some port calls like Portofino, Monte Carlo, Mykonos and Cadiz, among others, are not overnight, but have departures at 10:00 p.m. or later, which leaves plenty of time to seek out restaurants and more, where other sailing enthusiasts enjoy the local flavours. In some places, special evening tours or events are offered. We do visit more than 300 ports in 80 countries, offer active Signature Expeditions direct from the ship in Alaska, and provide a variety of delightful curated, authentic cultural activities, local entertainment and culinary indulgences that truly make Windstar 180 degrees from ordinary. As we expand our itineraries we will also offer more Signature Expeditions in such places as Iceland. And I can tell you we are discussing cruises in the Australia and New Zealand region in the future.

The Wind Surf, your largest sailing vessel will also be undergoing some revitalization. This is one of my all-time favourite ships, so I am keen to hear more about your plans.

We do have a lot of plans for the *Wind Surf* and many of those are still being unveiled – so stay tuned! We have taken out all the casinos on our ships as our guests just don't use them and this will afford us much more space in our main lounge in the *Wind Surf* now. We will also move the stage and generally refresh the room and the bar area as well. Other plans are to restore this very popular ship in many areas including adding a Whisky Bar/Cigar Lounge in a spot on the yacht that is now underused near the top deck bar. We will also restore the Fly Bridge and other parts of the ship to her original condition.

Your culinary partnership with the James Beard Foundation has proven both successful and popular with guests. Please tell us more about your menus and your fantastic wine list.

Windstar aims to be the leader in culinary offerings among small ship cruises world-

wide. Our partnership with the James Beard Foundation is unique in travel as we host and collaborate with accomplished chefs and beverage experts who have meaningful connections to the ports we visit. The partnership has been very successful giving our guests access to an array of incredible culinary superstars with a huge breadth and depth of food and beverage expertise touching all styles of culinary offerings. We feature both acclaimed chefs and also notable wine and mixology experts because we believe great meals deserve to be paired with great wines, cocktails, and beers indicative of the region in which we're sailing. These chefs and beverage experts are all selected because of their connections to the countries they are visiting on their cruise – either through their own family heritage or passion for specific cuisine.

Let's expand on the culinary options on board John as I know this is of great interest to our readers. What are the plans for the shore excursions?

As the Official Cruise Line of the James Beard Foundation, every single Windstar sailing includes cooking demonstrations and nightly dinner menu selections featuring recipes from a James Beard recognized chef who has sailed with Windstar. We also offer "Shopping with the Chef" a popular complimentary activity in select ports where cruise guests get to accompany our Executive and Guest Chefs on a visit to the local market to purchase produce and other items that will be on the menu later in the cruise.

We also place a strong emphasis on culinary tours on shore and deliver authentic experiences to meet, eat and drink with locals whose livelihood we celebrate, such as touring a local chocolate farm in Costa Rica, a Caribbean rum distillery, or small French winery or cheese factory.

Finally – you have given me some interesting insight into your guests – let's share it.

Yes – our guest is an affluent one who prefers to use a travel professional to make their booking and our average age of guests is in their 50s. We also find that our clientele really enjoys cruising in the Med, Tahiti and more recently, to Iceland. They are seeking authenticity in each destination and are explorers.

Canadiana glam O'BRIEN HOTEL CHELSEA



When Justin Trudeau and his lovely wife Sophie Grégoire Trudeau want to sneak away from the paparazzi for a romantic evening, rumour has it their first choice is the newly revamped O'Brien Hotel Chelsea in the rolling hills of Gatineau Park, just two and a half miles from Ottawa. This beautiful 8,200 sq. ft. mansion, built in 1930 by Ambrose O'Brien, the founder of the National Hockey Association (later the NHL) is fabulously downhome-glam and welcoming.

It wasn't always so. Just a few years ago, the stately home stood abandoned on a bluff overlooking Meech Lake. Birds and bats fluttered through the broken windows and the staircase to the second floor had collapsed. The imposing open hearth was used only by the odd cross-country skier who stopped for a look at the ruins.

It took a \$3.9 million renovation to restore the O'Brien Hotel to its former glory – that, and access to the fabulous storehouse of art and furnishings known as the National Capital Commission's Crown Collection of the official residences. Today, the luxurious,

ultra-Canadian atmosphere in this 11-suite boutique hotel left us a little breathless. We toured the library, great room, terrace and fine dining restaurant, gazed at spectacular paintings that once hung in the offices of former prime ministers, and sat on brocade couches from the homes of the various Governors General. I was in awe of a painting of an over-sized Canadian flag that once hung in Pierre Trudeau's office.

After a spectacular dinner crafted by genius chef Patrick Marion featuring local produce prepared with whimsy and skill, paired with a series of carefully selected wines, we headed up the newly rebuilt staircase to our suites. In mine, the crowning glory was a sumptuous La Pensée bed draped not with the usual white cotton duvet but with a rich, MacAusland Woolen Mill blanket that made me think of our fur trading ancestors. The bathroom was a miracle of minimalist, clean-lined luxury with a spectacular walk-in shower, a separate thermostat and heated floors. The stars of the suite were an original Canadian art installation on one wall and



a bank of working windows (such a treat!), punctuated by a cozy window seat, on another. I opened the windows to the cool night air, snuggled under the wool blanket and slept deeply. Next morning, I sat on the window seat, cradled my tea cup, and absorbed the stunning view of Gatineau Park – all 360 sq. km. of it – laid out before me. No wonder the Trudeaus love this place so much. — LIZ FLEMING



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A man and a woman are walking through a bustling outdoor market in Morocco. They are surrounded by numerous large, shallow metal bowls filled with various colorful spices, including red, yellow, and brown powders. The woman, in the foreground, is wearing a coral-colored top and a dark patterned skirt, and she is reaching out to touch one of the spice bowls. The man, wearing a green shirt, is walking slightly behind her. In the background, other market-goers and stalls are visible, creating a lively atmosphere.

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A small image of a Windstar cruise ship, the Windstar Liberty, sailing on the water.

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