

# STOWAWAY

[www.cruiselates.com](http://www.cruiselates.com)'s exclusive newsletter

Issue 9 - July 2017

## Stowaway goes to the movies!

Cruise line videos may be heavy on the superlatives but their videos are certainly a fast track way of experiencing the ship, cruise style and destination information. We've added links to videos from Seabourn Cruise Line and from SeaDream Yacht Club. Do let us know if you enjoyed them - there's more to follow in the next Stowaway. Plus we've added the first two of a new series of ship profiles specially prepared for Stowaway by leading cruise journalist Jane Archer - see them in this issue of Stowaway.

There are several more small luxury/boutique ships currently being launched, or about to join their fleets soon and these more discerning lines recognise that guests now expect a wider choice of dining, with Italian, Asian, sushi, and American style steak house restaurants, open air pizzas and grilles, in addition to main restaurants serving international menus.

Healthy food options are becoming more widely available too and maintaining fitness and a healthy lifestyle on board are also being seen as a valuable part of travel by sea.

Read on but don't forget to keep checking our late luxury/boutique escapes website [www.cruiselates.com](http://www.cruiselates.com) for last minute opportunities to travel somewhere new in style.



## Creative Crystal

Probably the biggest and most surprising transformation in travel by sea currently is by Crystal Cruises. What amazing things the company has already achieved in both ocean and river cruising, starting with the launch some months back of the 62 guest yacht style Crystal Esprit and the beginning of Crystal's river cruise programmes.

There's more to come, including the arrival of the 200 guest Crystal Endeavor, an ice class ship built to explore the furthest regions of the globe and how's this for an innovative stroke, a luxury vessel with a single deck of private residences, the remaining decks to carry Crystal's regular guests. Plus the two signature ships of the fleet, Crystal Serenity and Crystal Symphony, have been transformed with new accommodations, dining choices and other onboard attractions. Crystal's move into river cruising, offers a fleet providing

the same levels of ultra luxury travel on European waterways.

View the video under here and contact your usual agent for further details or visit the [www.cruiselates.com](http://www.cruiselates.com) website and contact an agent via the CLIA professional agents contact details where you also find some last minute opportunities to experience Crystal's luxury style. [Crystal Esprit video](#)



## The Sky's the limit

Another extraordinary story of fleet expansion is that of Viking Ocean Cruises. Originally a river cruise only company - and there's a remarkable story of growth there too – Viking planned its entry into ocean travel with the construction of a fleet of ships carrying just over 900 passengers and offering a high standard of accommodations and dining, in a Scandinavian style design and ambiance.

Viking Sky, just launched, offers a comprehensive guest package including wines with meals, free wifi and a shore excursion programme. Following the inaugural Med programme Viking Sky repositioned to the Baltic, sailing in September from Bergen to Montreal and then south to New York, Panama and central America before returning to the Caribbean.



Future Viking ships include Viking Sun, due out this October and Viking Spirit in 2018, with a further new-build in each of the two following years. Viking anticipates that their ships will appeal to more seasoned travellers with itineraries within which there will be a minimum number of days at sea where possible, to allow passengers a maximum shoreside experience. There's some availability on Viking's ships now if you check them out on [www.cruiselates.com](http://www.cruiselates.com)

## Ultimate sushi on board

The new 604 guest Seabourn Encore features *Sushi*, a restaurant serving dishes planned in detail to ensure the absolute use of authentic ingredients, including Japanese fish, seafood and rice as well as other ingredients reflecting the traditional Japanese sushi tradition. Seabourn's culinary consultant Anton 'Tony' Eggar plans menus and recipes working with suppliers to ensure a continuous supply of authentic ingredients throughout the cruise itinerary. If the authentic ingredients are not available, the relevant dish will not be prepared. View the video to gain insight into Seabourn style.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=10&v=2Z1vdD90hn4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=10&v=2Z1vdD90hn4)



## More ships in the horizon

Following the launches this year of Silver Muse and Viking Sky, the shipyard order books still look busy with the 944 passenger Viking Sun due in October and early in 2018 sailing ship specialist Star Clippers' 300 passenger Flying Clipper is scheduled for an early year launch, as is Seabourn's 604 guest Seabourn Ovation. Mid-year arrivals will include French company Ponant's 180 passenger Le Laperouse, a second Viking 944 passenger newbuild Viking Spirit, Celebrity's 2,900 passenger Celebrity Edge and Hurtigruten, who are focusing strongly on the expedition sector now with the 600 passenger Roald Amundsen. For river cruise enthusiasts, Scenic will introduce the 228 passenger Eclipse.

Looking further ahead to 2019, the first of Hapag-Lloyd's two new 240 guest expedition ships, appears early in the year – please see keel laying picture - with a same size ship to follow in the Autumn. Hurtigruten's 600 passenger Fridjof Nansen, two more 180 passenger Ponant ships, Le Bougainville and Le Kerguelen, Crystal Endeavor and a further 944 passenger Viking ship,



also as yet unnamed are also scheduled to appear. Celebrity, Crystal and Regent Seven Seas have new ships planned for 2020.

### Like global cruising?

#### Get the taste of Surrey!

Azamara Club Cruises' 686 guest Azamara Journey sails a 20 day round UK cruise departing 19 July 2017 featuring two rather special tipples from privately owned Surrey distillers as part of their Cruise Global, Taste Local pro-gramme. High Clandon Estate's Special Reserve vintage 2010 English sparkling wine, released to mark HM The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday and Silent Pool Distillers' own signature gin, made with 24 botanicals and local honey, will be on board. Arrangements have also been made for golfers, (whether from Surrey or not), to visit the 146<sup>th</sup> Open at Royal Birkdale with opportunities to play as well.



## SHIP PROFILE

### Introducing: AmaSonata

This 164-passenger river ship is owned and operated by AmaWaterways, one of the world's leading luxury river cruise companies.

She is sailing seven-night cruises on the Rhine between Amsterdam and Basel that can be paired with two nights in Lucerne and two in Zurich. In 2018, she is also cruising the Danube between Budapest and Nuremberg, with the option to add three nights in Prague.

### We've picked five things we love about AmaSonata:

- You can take your pick from a choice of excursions included in the fare in most of the towns and cities you'll visit – expect everything from orientation tours to hikes and cycle rides (but of course you are always free to roam ashore alone). Headsets and receivers are provided so you can hear what the guides are saying.
- Wine, beer and soft drinks are served complimentary with lunch and dinner, and unlimited free bottled water is provided in the cabins. The cruise fare also includes all meals and unlimited free wifi.
- Chef's Table is an intimate alternative restaurant with a demonstration kitchen. It's open for dinner only and serves a tasting menu comprising three appetisers, three main courses and three desserts. You need to reserve a table – don't worry: the maître d' makes sure everyone gets a chance to dine there – but there is no charge.
- AmaSonata has a heated pool on the sun deck with a swim-up bar where you can cool down on a hot summer's day, a gym and massage room, and bikes you can borrow for free to explore alone or on guided tours.



## More late getaway opportunities for solo travellers

European Waterways tell us that demand for solo travel on rivers and inland waterway is growing and that their decision to waive solo fare supplements on several of their luxury barges during 2017 has been welcomed by many. Their 8 berth Anjodi, sailing the Canal du Midi, departing 6th August, La Bella Vita sailing from Venice and along the Po River, departing 9th July (if you're quick) and Spirit of Scotland, through Scottish Highlands, sailing 30th July, still have space if you're planning to travel on your own. More opportunities to sail on one of these highly individual inland waterway boats on our website [www.cruiselates.com](http://www.cruiselates.com)



## Next Stowaway issue

What's next for Stowaway? News about Oceania's new wellness and fitness programmes on board, updates on Silversea's stunning newbuild Silver Muse and 'Like Webster's Dictionary, we're Morocco bound' – thus spake Bing Crosby in the movie Road to Morocco and there's news of two interesting cruises on board Voyage to Antiquity's Aegean Odyssey to Morocco and other stimulating places. Meanwhile visit [www.cruiselates.com](http://www.cruiselates.com) for any late availability on these bracing brands and if you haven't a preferred agent to book with, you'll find one via professional cruise agents association CLIA- see their ads on all cruiselates.com pages which will take you to a link to find yours. And don't forget to let us have any suggestions for future Stowaways.

Happy sailing

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## SHIP PROFILE

### Introducing: SeaDream I and II

SeaDream Yacht Club's two little 112-passenger ships belong to a select band of truly luxurious cruise lines. If personal service and Champagne on tap appeals, these vessels are hard to beat. They spend their summers in the Mediterranean and winters sailing in the Caribbean, always seeking out popular ports and small harbours that large ships can't visit.

### Here are five reasons to consider SeaDream for your future cruise plans:

- These ships are just like being on a private luxury yacht. There's al-fresco dining, a casual dress code, relaxed but efficient service, and tips and drinks (both alcoholic and soft beverages) are included in the price.
- When at anchor in calm bays, a platform folds down and you can go sailing, kayaking and snorkelling off the back of the ships. In the Caribbean, there are beach BBQs ashore; for the ultimate spoil, the crew even serve Champagne and caviar in the sea!
- If you or friends are thinking of tying the knot, consider this: The yachts were voted number one for honeymoons by Brides magazine. Newly-weds can enjoy unlimited Champagne (included in the price!), massages on the pool deck and romantic nights under the stars on the ships' Balinese beds.
- SeaDream is the only cruise line serving Raw Food. Despite the name, the food isn't uncooked, but it is super-healthy as it is prepared with raw, organic and vegan ingredients. Prefer to tuck into lobster, beef and caviar? Don't worry. There's plenty of all three on the menu.
- Nine wine-themed cruises next year (seven in the Med, one in the Caribbean) will be joined by winemakers from around the world to host tastings and wine-pairing dinners. These cruises also have wine-tasting tours to vineyards and even a truffle hunt on a seven-day voyage from Civitavecchia (Rome) to Nice in October that ends with food and – what else - wine.

<https://seadream-1.wistia.com/medias/usvxxmrh6m0>