

CRUISE

2012

THE ISLAND OF
YMEIA, NEAR
SANTORINI

Don't get left behind, the world of
luxury cruising is changing beyond
recognition says **Gabriella Le Breton**

CRUISE COUTURE

No more cramped cabins with tiny portholes, unprecedented levels of luxury are ahoy

INTRODUCTION

If you're one of the 19 million people who enjoyed an ocean or river cruise last year, you'll already know that cruising has changed beyond recognition during the past decade. Pioneering new ships bursting with innovative facilities, exotic new ports of call and unprecedented levels of luxury and service have transformed this once-staid and fusty industry into a dynamic and exciting launch pad for discovery.

Gone are the days of formal dining with rigid seating plans, cramped cabins with tiny portholes, and long days at sea with nothing to do but dodge loquacious octogenarians. While the lavish glamour and romance of the 'Golden Age' of cruising is still very much alive, most cruise lines now recognise the preference among contemporary travellers for barefoot luxury and adventure, with an emphasis on understated elegance and unique experiences both aboard and ashore.

Passengers have come to expect spacious



Clockwise from top: Down quilted deck bodywarmer, £120; sebage.com/uk; Canterbury Windsor classic twill trousers, taupe beige, £65; shop.canterbury.com; Dockside in wine colour, £109.99; sebage.com/uk; Anderson's elasticated woven belt, £60; mrporter.com

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: ON DECK WITH SILVERSEA; THE SPA ON SEABOURN ODYSSEY; CRUISING WITH SILVERSEA IN VENICE

cabins with private verandas and indulgent amenities, world-class spas offering revolutionary beauty treatments, champagne and caviar on secluded Caribbean beaches, gourmet dinners served under the stars in the Namib desert or the bay of Dubrovnik, and exclusive visits to the Sistine chapel, remote Amazonian tribal communities or Tahitian pearl farms.

If you haven't yet dipped your toes in the bottomless waters of cruising, not only will you be unaware of what you're missing but, chances are, you'll be somewhat confused about what's actually involved. With unprecedented choice and diversity in ships, destinations and activities, the cruise industry is revolutionising the way in which the world travels, yet familiarising yourself with what's on offer can be a daunting task.

Should you go for a romantic week à deux in Costa Rica aboard an elegant sailing yacht? Or treat your brood to an action-packed fortnight in the Med onboard a family-friendly ship (the kids will love the children's clubs and Dad can perfect his golf swing while you unwind in the spa)? Or do you start ticking off the things on your bucket list – visit the penguins in Antarctica, hunt out the Northern Lights in Lapland and learn to scuba dive in the Bahamas?

In this report we'll introduce you to some of the world's finest ships and most imaginative voyages to ensure you don't miss the boat this year.



NEWS FLASH: AFTER 15 YEARS OF CLOSURE THE PART OF THE NILE BETWEEN CAIRO AND ASWAN WILL BE RE-OPENED FOR CRUISING. KEEP YOUR EAR TO THE GROUND FOR WHICH SHIPS WILL BE AMONGST THE FIRST TO SET SAIL DOWN THIS BEAUTIFUL PART OF ONE OF THE WORLD'S ICONIC RIVERS



LARGE SHIPS

Measuring 1,187ft long and carrying 5,412 passengers, Royal Caribbean International's twin ships *Oasis of the Seas* and *Allure of the Seas* are the world's largest cruise ships. In comparison with these behemoths, the ships below are relatively small. However, mega ships can be overwhelming and those below offer all the benefits of large ship cruising while remaining manageable.

MSC CRUISES

This quintessentially Italian cruise line is proud of its distinctive Mediterranean heritage, reflected in a warm, vibrant ambience across its fleet (11 ships and counting), chic interiors and reassuringly Italian cuisine. A family-run company, MSC boasts impeccable credentials where bambini are looked after by qualified staff who care for children aged three to 17, all day, every day, free of charge.

The pioneering MSC Yacht Club, currently offered on three ships, enables passengers to enjoy the intimacy and luxury of small ship cruising while having access to the extensive facilities of a large ship. Located on the prestigious foredecks of *Splendida*, *Fantasia* and *Divina*, the Yacht Clubs comprise some 70 plush suites, an exclusive pool deck, bar and restaurant, and come with dedicated butler and concierge service and direct access to the MSC Aurea Spa, one of the best spas afloat (msccruises.co.uk; 0844 561 7412).



OCEAN GIANTS

The great behemoths of the seas offer an incredible range of services and, if the mood takes you, even a personalised butler service nowadays



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: SUITE ON BOARD MSC FANTASIA; MSC Poesia AND FANTASIA IN THE PORT OF GENOA; HAIR SALON ON CELEBRITY CRUISES; CELEBRITY CRUISES SPECIALISE IN WINE CRUISES; MSC CHEF IN ACTION

CELEBRITY CRUISES

Celebrity Cruises achieves a unique sense of innovation and fun across its fleet, with ships featuring the interactive Qsine restaurant, where passengers help create their own dishes; lively bars serving molecular gastronomy cocktails; iPad wine lists and tutored wine classes to help you navigate the largest wine collection at sea; and even half an acre of manicured lawn on the top deck of its Solstice-class ships, where you can feel the grass between your toes as you play croquet.

Fortunately for Britons, losing patience with lengthy airport queues and rising flight costs, Celebrity Cruises offer a number of voyages sailing from Southampton, including a new wine cruise to France, Spain and Portugal with wine aficionado Oz Clarke.

With no baggage restrictions, you can stock up on Oz's recommendations along the way, making for an extremely classy booze cruise (celebritycruises.co.uk; 0845 456 0523).





CRYSTAL CRUISES

Voted the world's best large cruise line for 18 years by *Condé Nast Traveller* readers, Crystal Cruises is a key player in the 'ultra-luxury' market, despite its two ships, *Serenity* and *Symphony*, being significantly larger than others in that category. Crystal is thus the perfect choice for travellers looking for a wide choice of onboard entertainment – boutiques, theatrical productions, Creative Learning Institute classes, diverse dining venues (including the only Nobu restaurants at sea), bars and lounges, and a divine spa – while not compromising on the service typically achieved only on smaller ships.

Crystal took another step in the small ship luxury direction this spring, when it switched to all-inclusive fares, and the line continues to carve a niche for itself as the only ultra-luxury line to offer extensive children's facilities and clubs (crystalcruises.co.uk; 020 7287 9040).



Clockwise from top: Marc by Marc Jacobs striped cotton-pique polo shirt, £66; Miansai utility rope and hook bracelet, £48; Converse Jack Purcell canvas sneakers, £45; J.Crew Stanton cotton-bell shorts, £60; All from mrporter.com

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: WAITER SERVICE ON CRYSTAL CRUISES; MSC POOL DECK AT SUNSET; GOURMET SCALLOPS ON OCEANIA CRUISES

"These ships blend large ship facilities with a refined country club ambience"



OCEANIA CRUISES

Oceania offers a luxury product at competitive prices, with a focus on sensational cuisine and service onboard its five ships (included in our large ship category, although classed mid-size in the context of the cruise industry). This 'affordable luxury' is largely achieved by providing five-star facilities and service comparable with ultra-luxury competitors but not including alcohol or gratuities in the cruise fares.

Oceania's 1,240-passenger ship *Marina* and *Riviera* blend large ship facilities with a refined mid-size ship feel, while its 684-passenger vessels offer an intimate, country club ambience. While Oceania wins critical acclaim for its excellent cuisine, praise is equally deserved for its unusual itineraries – the fleet sails to 330 ports across the globe, many of which are neglected by other lines, and ships often spend multiple nights in port to enable more extensive, relaxed exploration of destinations (oceaniacruises.com; 0845 505 1920).



AMIDSHIP

The range of services, mixed with the personalised service, is the prized benefit of middle-sized cruisers



AZAMARA CLUB CRUISES

Azamara could justly promote its plush twin ships, *Quest* and *Journey*, as its core strength, yet the cruise line prefers to emphasise the unique nature of its shore excursions. With the goal of 'on-shore immersion', whereby passengers actually become part of local life, rather than mere observers, Azamara delivers more overnight stays in lesser-visited places (like Ho Chi Minh City, St Barts and Myanmar) and provides some of the industry's most imaginative excursions.

These shore-based adventures include day trips, such as a Ferrari driving tour in Civitavecchia or Croatian liqueur tastings in Zadora, and night tours, such as an Imperial Russian Court evening in St Petersburg or a private visit to the Sistine Chapel. Innovative multi-night trips, such as an overnight visit to Hiroshima from Osaka on the bullet train or a trip to Laos from Bangkok, can be arranged (azamarclubcruises.co.uk; 0844 493 4016).



SILVERSEA CRUISES

The all-suite, all-inclusive, all-frills Silversea provides old-school cruise glamour in far-flung corners of the world. The line's five larger ships carry between 296 and 540 passengers and adhere to some of the industry's most exacting standards of quality and service, while offering a wide choice of onboard facilities – the prized benefit of mid-sized ships.

Travellers looking to visit potentially challenging destinations like Antarctica, Columbia and Greenland should look no further than *Silver Explorer*, Silversea's expedition ship. *Silver Explorer* offers its 132 passengers exceptional levels of comfort in the expedition cruise sector – cabins come with butler service and marble baths, while further facilities include a spa, theatre and stylish restaurant – and its unique shore excursions (all included in the fare) are second to none. This is a ship where you'll find the crew pay equal attention to ensuring your minibar is stocked with your favourite champagne as checking your waterproofs are dry come morning (silversea.com; 0844 770 9030).

CLOCKWISE FROM
TOP RIGHT:
DINING ROOM ON
SILVERSEA
CRUISES; LISBON
PORT ON BOARD
AZAMARA; VISIT
ANTARCTICA
ON BOARD THE
SILVER EXPLORER



YACHTS OF SEABOURN

Seabourn arguably set the benchmark for ultra-luxury cruising in 2009, when it launched the *Seabourn Odyssey*. Subsequently joined by two identical mid-size (450-passenger) vessels, the ground-breaking trio offer the greatest space-to-passenger ratio of any cruise ship and the largest spas in the luxury sector, and a platform which extends from the rear of the vessel for waterskiing, sailing and snorkelling. All cabins on these ships are opulent suites (the smallest measuring a whopping 295 square feet) and 90 percent boast private verandas.

What Seabourn's three smaller (208-passenger) ships lack in facilities compared to their sisters is compensated for by a staff-to-passenger ratio of nearly 1:1, ensuring some of the most attentive service in the industry. Add to this the off-the-beaten-track ports of call and you have six-star quality on every level (seabourn.com; 0845 070 0500).



Clockwise from left: Kirsty Ward shirt dress, \$512, thebeachtomatoshack.com; Nida M Rope handle bag, \$359, hiediklein.com; Cutler & Gross round sunglasses, \$299; FB Collection towel, \$95, both thebeachtomatoshack.com; Toms University navy rope sole, \$37, toms.co.uk

“With a staff-to-passenger ratio of nearly 1:1, this is some of the best service in the business”



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: SEABOURN'S YACHTS OFFER VARIED WATER SPORTS; A SUITE ON SEABOURN; CRUISING ON THE HURTIGRUTEN

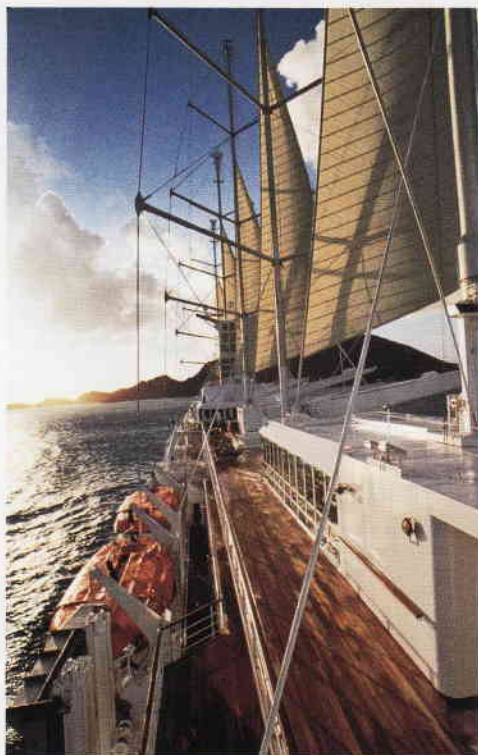
HURTIGRUTEN

Hurtigruten ships have been part of Norway's coastal scenery for over a century and, with this exceptional heritage and a fleet of 14 ships, the cruise line offers an incomparable selection of voyages around the country. Whether you want to see the Northern Lights swirling above deep fjords, visit enchanting islands basking in midnight sun or enjoy the buzz of Bergen, Hurtigruten will take you there.

However, Hurtigruten is not limited to Norwegian waters as they also have extensive experience of cruising to Greenland, Spitsbergen and Antarctica.

Sailing onboard the comfortable 318-passenger expedition ship *Fram*, together with a crack team of resident biologists, geologists and sociologists on hand at all times to lead included excursions and give informative seminars, these voyages go far beyond the traditional cruise, offering close encounters with fascinating local people, wildlife and awe-inspiring countryside (hurtigruten.co.uk; 0844 448 7601).

CLOCKWISE FROM
TOP RIGHT:
THE CONSTELLATION
RESTAURANT ON ORION;
ESCAPE TO THE ISLANDS ON
ORION'S ZODIAC; THE WIND
STAR'S ON-DECK HOT TUB;
THE WIND SURF IN FULL SAIL



ORION EXPEDITION CRUISES

Since launching in 2004, this boutique cruise line has become the leading expedition cruise operator in the Asia Pacific region, gaining a loyal following for the unpretentious luxury and impeccable service onboard and its selection of niche destinations and bespoke excursions.

Some tours are included in the fare, led by the ship's expert expedition crew, with additional excursions available, and range from guided scuba diving in Papua New Guinea and game-fishing off Australia's islands to wine tasting in Hawkes Bay or a boat trip through a floating Malay water village.

Even better, these remarkable adventures are only shared by 50 couples aboard the sleek *Orion*. From her ice-strengthened hull and strong environmental credentials to the gourmet cuisine from Sydney chef Serge Dansereau and intuitive service, Orion provides small ship expedition cruising par excellence (orionexpeditions.com; 020 7399 7620).

BIJOU BOATS

*Access the far-flung corners, away from the shipping lanes,
and discover forgotten ports and castaway islands*

WINDSTAR CRUISES

With its trio of luxurious sailing yachts, Windstar blends the age-old romance and adventure of exploring the seas under sail with contemporary comforts and amenities. The twin three-masted *Wind Spirit* and *Wind Star* each accommodate 148 passengers, while the five-masted *Wind Surf* carries 312 guests.

Despite *Wind Surf's* claim to be the world's largest sailing yacht, all three ships offer one of the key benefits of small ship cruising – access to atmospheric, bijou ports which escape the attentions (and crowds) of large ship destinations.

'Casual elegance' is Windstar's dress code and general mantra, with the clean lines of its ships reflected in understated, sophisticated interiors and complemented by intuitive service.

Large teak decks, dotted with pools, hot tubs and sun loungers, provide peaceful spots from which to admire the yacht's billowing sails and the coastline slipping past, while candlelit dinners on deck complete the decadent experience (windstarcruises.co.uk; 020 7292 2369).





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: CAVIAR ON THE BEACH WITH SEADREAM; YACHT CLUB CABIN ON SEADREAM; HIRE A SEADOO; DECK OF COMPAGNIE'S L'Austral; EXTERIOR OF L'Austral

"The private yacht feel is affirmed by bespoke cuisine, blissful spas and personal service"

SEADREAM YACHT CLUB

It sounds corny but the slogan – 'It's yachting, not cruising' – does sum up what distinguishes the SeaDream 'Club' from its competitors. Step out of the pool on one of SeaDream's 112-passenger twin mega-yachts and you'll discover a fresh towel and your favourite cocktail by your lounge (and SeaDream adheres to an all-inclusive philosophy, so you won't be charged for the pleasure).

The private yacht feel is affirmed by SeaDream's bespoke cuisine, blissful Asian spas, watersport platforms packed with jet skis, paddleboards and waterskis, and heavenly over-sized Balinese day beds on deck. Book the largest bed at the front of the ship for a night under the stars: the crew will make it up with crisp linens, place your monogrammed PJs under the pillow, bottle of bubbly of course, and rope off the deck to ensure your privacy (seadream.com; 0800 783 1373).



COMPAGNIE L'Austral

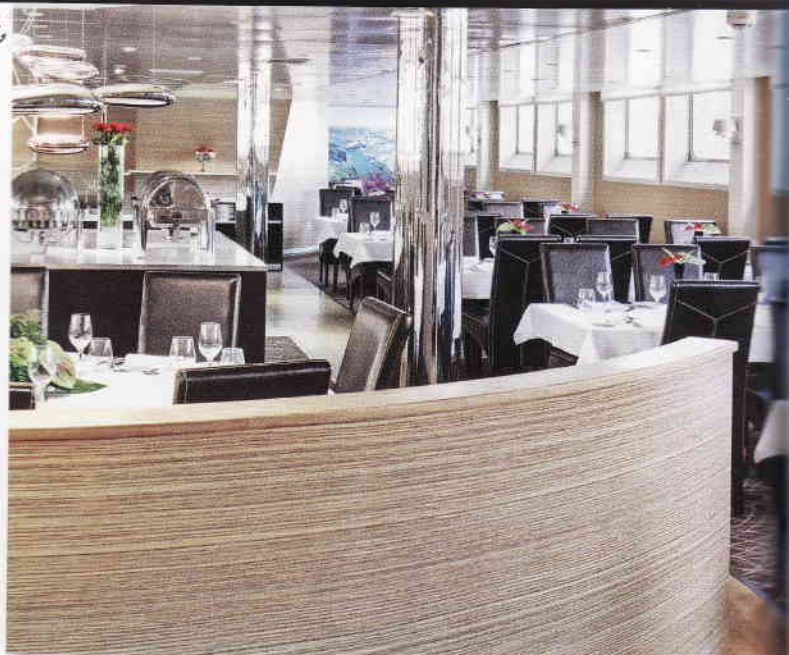
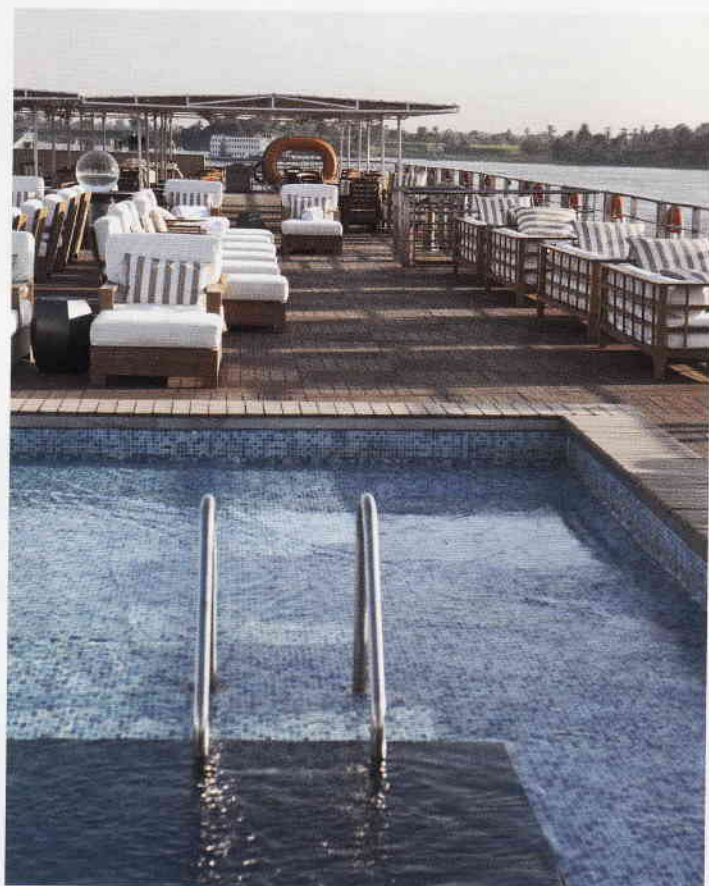
This French cruise line brings a distinctive '*je ne sais quoi*' to cruising, with chic ships and a cosmopolitan following (and matchless pastries). Of the company's three ships – *Ponant*, *L'Austral* and *Le Boréal* – the first is a three-masted yacht and the last two are slick new expedition ships. The recently refurbished *Ponant* accommodates just 64 passengers, who revel in her silence and grace as she navigates the oceans under sail.

From their sleek contours to their sophisticated nautical interiors, *L'Austral* and *Le Boréal* resemble private yachts more than hardy 264-passenger expedition vessels. Nonetheless, each ship is equally well-suited to negotiating icebergs in Antarctica as picking its way through tropical islands in the Caribbean and, with a Carita Spa, beautifully-appointed cabins (95 percent with balconies) and quintessentially French cuisine, cruising à la française is a winning formula (ponant.com; 0800 980 4027).



Clockwise from top: Jimmy Choo: Eaton fringed tasseled driving shoes, £295; mr.porter.com; Canterbury Windsor chinos, light blue, Canterbury Kanawa cable knit jumper, navy, £95; shop.canterbury.com; Persol, Steve McQueen folding sunglasses, £240; A.P.C. striped canvas leather belt, £115, both mr.porter.com

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT:
UNIWORLD'S OODRO SPIRIT
RESTAURANT; THE ROYAL
CROWN; CATCH SOME RAYS
ON TOSCA'S SUNDECK
WITH UNIWORLD



UNIWORLD

The river cruise line Uniworld has achieved a paradigm shift in European river cruising, rescuing it from rather murky depths and placing it at the forefront of captivating, luxury travel. Combining extensive experience in five-star boutique hotel management, tour planning and maritime operations, Uniworld has created an award-winning fleet, which boast the most lavish interiors of any ships on Europe's waterways. Uniworld is the only river cruise line to have received ZAGAT recognition for its restaurants and its 1:3 staff-to-guest ratio ensures equally impressive service. With voyages on eleven rivers in 20 countries (in Europe, Egypt, Vietnam, Cambodia, China and Russia) and informative guided shore excursions included in your fare, the only tricky bit is deciding which river to start with (titantravel.co.uk; 0800 988 5823).

BOUTIQUE RIVER

You don't have to compromise on luxury when cruising inland and up the world's great rivers. In fact, charter your own yacht and the style and service can be even better

HEBRIDEAN ISLAND CRUISES

Sailing onboard the 50-passenger *Hebridean Princess* is like joining a refined country house party, with the added bonus that it moves slowly around the ruggedly beautiful Scottish and Irish coast. The fact that Her Majesty the Queen has twice chartered the *Princess* for a fortnight of summer cruising is testament to the ship's faultless service, sublime cuisine and sumptuous cabins. You won't find casinos or discos onboard but you will delight in afternoon tea by the inglenook fireplace after windswept coastal walks, apéritifs hosted by lairds in fairytale castles and fresh Colonsay oysters, delivered to the *Princess* by the man who caught them.

New this summer, Hebridean Island Cruises is chartering the nostalgic 79-passenger river boat *Royal Crown*, which oozes 1930s glamour with gracious art deco interiors, for week-long cruises along the Rhine and Danube, promising to raise the bar for luxury river cruising (hebridean.co.uk; 01756 704 700).





Clockwise from top: Moschino cheap & chic pearl embellished stripey cardigan, \$265; Superga navy classic, \$40; Rayban round frame beach sunglasses, \$120, All my wardrobe.com; Violet Lake asymmetric navy one-piece, \$145, thebeachtomatoshack.com

ANANTARA RIVER CRUISES

Carrying just four and eight passengers respectively, *Anantara Dream* and *Anantara Song* represent the essence of boutique cruising. Beautifully restored century-old Thai rice barges, the boats are crafted from teak and decorated in lavish traditional style, with mahogany furniture, Siamese antiques and silk soft furnishings. Motoring slowly out of steamy Bangkok, the boats make multiple stops at temples and villages on the banks of the Chao Phraya River on their way to and from the ancient ruined city of Ayutthaya.

Four attentive crew, including an excellent chef, are on hand to provide iced towels when you return from your shore outings (a private guide and driver are provided), serve mouth-watering Thai cuisine under starry skies and teach you how to fold lotus flowers to give as offerings at temples. Believe you me – you'll be praying that your magical three-day voyage will never end (chiclocations.com; 020 8944 1973).



Y.CO CHARTERS

While small ship cruises often claim to provide an experience akin to that of a private yacht, sharing a boat with strangers simply isn't the same as having it all to yourself, your family and/or friends. Chartering your own vessel is the ultimate luxury, offering unparalleled privacy, flexibility, service and access to the world's most desirable destinations.

With access to over a thousand yachts across the globe, charter company Y.CO makes organising a private yacht holiday almost disturbingly simple. The team will sniff out the perfect yacht for you, be it the show-stopping 26-guest *Sherakhan* with its private art collection and 18-person jacuzzi, the 12-guest *Oasis* with her bevy of watersports toys or the elegant eight-guest yacht *Drumbeat*, advise on an itinerary, select a friendly yet professional crew, including an accomplished chef, and even help organise shore excursions. All you have to do is decide who comes with you... (ycoyacht.com; 0207 584 1801).

Chartering your own vessel is the ultimate luxury in terms of privacy and service



THIS PAGE, FROM TOP LEFT: ANANTARA SONG'S SUN LOUNGE, TEMPLES AT AYUTTHAYA, THE ORION'S ON-DECK JACUZZI, THE DECK OF Y.CO'S SHERAKHAN

CRUISE CONTROL

COMPANY	SHIPS	CABINS	FACILITIES	SPA	DINING
Celebrity Cruises	11 ships: 98 – 3,030 passengers	Wide range of cabin/suite categories. In-room iPad and butler service with all suites. AquaClass Suites include access to Spa and Blu restaurant	Multiple bars, lounges, pools, hot tubs, Lawn Club, theatre, cinema, boutiques, fitness centre, casino, supervised children's clubs (3-17 years)	AquaSpa by Elemis and Sensory Salon. The Mediterranean-themed restaurant Blu is affiliated with the spa, offering healthy dining	Up to 10 restaurants on larger ships, including interactive dining (Osine), steakhouse (Tuscan Grille), continental (Murano). Also casual dining (Lawn Club Grill, Bistro crêperie).
Crystal Cruises	Two ships: 1,010 and 1,070 passengers	Large cabins, many with balconies, ample storage, chic, neutral décor, excellent amenities	Multiple bars and lounges, pool, hot tubs, gym, tennis, casino, computer room, boutiques, golf nets and putting green, library, 'junior activities' children's clubs	Feng shui-designed Crystal Spa & Salon with eastern-inspired treatments	Wide choice of venues and styles, including cuisine inspired by local regions; speciality restaurants with menus by Nobu Matsuhisa and Piero Selvaggio; and three casual dining options
MSC Cruises	12 ships: 1,064 – 3,274 passengers	Wide range of spacious cabins and suites with design-lead interiors. Yacht Club suites available on three newest ships	Multiple bars, lounges, discos and pools (including adult-only pools), casino, shops, cinemas (4D and standard), Wii, extensive sports facilities, F1 racing car simulator, mini golf, bowling, waterpark, complimentary children's clubs	Stunning Asian-inspired MSC Aurea Spa, with pioneering treatments and personal training and assessment programmes	Predominantly Italian cuisine, with various international restaurants (Tex Mex, Japanese and French)
Oceania Cruises	Five ships: 650 – 1,250 passengers	Very spacious, with notably comfortable beds and luxurious bed linen. Suites are impressively large and luxuriously appointed	Multiple bars, lounges, pools, hot tubs, sports facilities, casino, internet cafe. Suites have access to exclusive spa deck with loungers and hot tubs	Canyon Ranch SpaClub – spa and fitness facilities and Canyon Ranch cuisine options at all meals	Larger ships have six gourmet restaurants, two private-dining venues and two casual eateries. Smaller ships have four restaurants, two casual eateries
SeaDream Yacht Club	Two ships: 112 passengers	Comfortable, well-appointed but not excessively large	Three bars, watersports platform, pool, golf simulator, gym, library, casino, boutique	Asian-inspired spa	Main dining salon and informal Topside Restaurant both serving international cuisine
Silversea Cruises	Six ships: 132 – 540 passengers	All cabins are spacious, plush ocean view suites with butler service, champagne and pillow menu	Multiple bars, lounges, pools, Fitness Centre, library, casino, watersports, boutiques	Spa by Elemis	Up to six restaurants on larger ships, including Asian fusion (Seishin) and the only Relais & Châteaux restaurant at sea (Le Champagne). Open seating
Uniworld	13 ships: 116 – 164 passengers	Very lavish cabins with silk and cashmere fabrics, French balconies and spacious bathrooms	Lounge, bar, library, boutique	Newer ships (notably Antoinette and Beatrice) have spa facilities	The only ZAGAT-rated restaurants in river cruising. International cuisine, with menus influenced by destinations. Al fresco breakfasts, lunches available
Yachts of Seabourn	Six ships: 208 – 450 passengers	All cabins are well-appointed suites, with sophisticated décor, a dedicated steward and large bathrooms	Multiple lounges, bars, pools and hot tubs, watersports platform, gym, casino, boutiques	Eastern-inspired spa – the largest spa of any luxury ship on the three newest Seabourn ships	Four restaurants plus course-by-course in-suite dining available on all ships. Open seating

Small, medium or large - contrast and compare the full range of cruise services at a glance

ENTERTAINMENT	DESTINATIONS	PRICE POINT	INCLUDED	USP	CONTACT
Live music; stage productions; karaoke; ballroom dancing; wine tasting; mixology; guest speaker seminars. Apple-affiliated iLearn and Rosetta Stone language classes	Global, including Alaska, Caribbean, Galapagos and transatlantic	From £1,737 for a 10-night Mediterranean voyage (Civitavecchia roundtrip) onboard Celebrity Equinox, departing August 3. Price includes flights and transfers	Full-board with some drinks; children's clubs	Quirky, innovative ships and amenities with friendly service. Regular sailings from Southampton throughout the summer, providing no-fly convenience	celebritycruises.co.uk; 0845 456 0523
Stage productions, movies, live music, ballroom dancing, seminars by guest speakers, Creative Learning Institute interactive classes, ComputerUniversity@Sea® for computing classes	Global, including Middle East, Africa, Black Sea, Mexican Riviera, Asia, Australia/New Zealand, South Pacific, Arctic Circle and New England/Canada	From £2,519 (Rome to Venice) onboard Crystal Serenity, departing August 6. Price includes flights from UK and transfers	Full-board with drinks; open bars; gratuities	Extensive facilities and entertainment. The only ultra-luxury cruise line to offer fully supervised children's clubs (3-17 years) on select voyages and 50% fare reductions for children aged 11 and under	crystalcruises.co.uk; 020 7287 9040
Stage productions, art auctions, sports	Mediterranean (year-round), northern Europe, Caribbean, Red Sea, South America, South Africa	From £799 (Genoa roundtrip) onboard Splendida, departing August 18. (Add £38 per person per night for an all-inclusive drinks programme)	Full-board; use of sports facilities; children's clubs	Family-friendly ships with complimentary children's clubs and a wide choice of activities. The Yacht Club provides a 'ship within a ship' sanctuary to create small ship ambiance with large ship facilities	msccruises.co.uk; 0844 561 7412
Stage productions, live music, enrichment classes. Cookery schools on larger ships	Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Asia and the Americas	From £699 for a 10-night Mediterranean voyage (Venice to Rome) onboard Riviera, departing August 13	Full-board with soft drinks, tea/coffee	Offers five-star service and some of the best cuisine in the industry at affordable prices, thanks to optional drinks/excursion packages	oceaniacruises.com; 0845 505 1920
Live music, Starlit Movies by the pool	Specialises in Caribbean but also Amazon, Mediterranean and Trans-Atlantic	From £2,780 (Rome to Athens) onboard SeaDream 1, departing August 25	Full-board with drinks; open bars; mini bar; use of watersports equipment and bicycles; gratuities	Offers a genuine private yachting experience with six-star service, facilities and flexibility	seadream.com; 0800 783 1373
Culinary demonstrations, enrichment classes, guest lectures, stage productions	Global, including Africa, Alaska and Pacific Coast, Arabia, Indian Ocean, Mexico and Panama Canal	From £2,699 (Venice to Monte Carlo) onboard Silver Spirit, departing August 27. Price includes flights from the UK and transfers	Full-board with drinks; open bars; mini bar. Furthermore, all excursions are included on Silver Explorer	Truly all-inclusive luxury brand with a diverse fleet offering small ship luxury, mid-size ship facilities and expedition voyages	silversea.com; 0844 770 9030
Live music, guest speaker seminars, music/shows performed by local artists who come onboard	Europe, Egypt, Vietnam, Cambodia, China and Russia	From £2,199 for a seven-night Danube voyage (Passau to Budapest) on board Beatrice, departing August 12	Full-board; wines, beers and soft drinks at dinner; guided shore excursions; airport transfers on arrival and departure days	Exceptional cuisine and boutique hotel standard luxury in the river cruise industry	uniworldrivercruises.co.uk; 0845 678 8558
Live music, movies under the stars - classic and first-run movies shown up on deck with blankets and popcorn	Global, including Arabia, India, Asia, South Pacific, Mediterranean, south and central America	From £2,199 (Athens to Venice) onboard Seabourn Odyssey, departing August 11. Price includes flights from UK	Full-board with drinks; open bars; mini bar; use of watersports equipment	A leader in the ultra-luxury market with exemplary service, superb ships and interesting destinations	seabourn.com; 0845 070 0500

TOP TIP: IF YOU ARE AFTER A LUXURY CRUISE BUT NOT SURE OF WHICH ONE TO CHOOSE VISIT MUNDYCRUISING.CO.UK. THEY HAVE TRAINED AND EXPERIENCED SPECIALISTS WHO WILL HELP YOU FIND THE PERFECT CRUISE FOR YOU