



Windstar Cruises' New *Star Seeker* Floats Out in Portugal



MIAMI, FL, November 25, 2024 - The new *Star Seeker* yacht, the first Star Class new build for small ship line [Windstar Cruises](#), has floated out of the building dock, touching water for the first time at the WestSEA Shipyard in Viana do Castelo, Portugal.

A float out is a maritime tradition of marking when a ship leaves dry dock and becomes waterborne for the first time. While construction of *Star Seeker's* exterior is complete, work will be ongoing to complete the interiors, including 112 spacious suites.

The ship will also boast five dining options, a full-service spa with a grand entrance from the deck above, a fitness facility, and a fresh take on the line's iconic Watersports Platform, which turns the ocean into an infinity pool by providing guests access to the sea directly from the ship. With a capacity for 224 guests and a staff to guest ratio of 1:2, *Star Seeker* will maintain the intimate atmosphere for which Windstar is renowned, ensuring personalized service at every turn.



Left to Right: Mario Ferreira, owner of Mystic Invest and Windstar Cruises' John Gunner celebrate the float out of Windstar's Star Seeker at WestSEA Shipyard

[Star Seeker](#) will enter service in December of 2025, sailing from Málaga, Spain to Miami, Florida, where Windstar is headquartered and where the ship's christening ceremony will take place in January of 2026. *Star Seeker* will then sail its first voyage in the Caribbean and offer more cruises in the region before heading up the West Coast of the United States to Alaska for a full season of summer cruises. From there, the ship will sail to Asia, bringing back the line's popular *Around Japan* itineraries.

To commemorate the occasion, Windstar's *Star Seeker* float-out ceremony included Mario Ferreira and Manuel Barros of Mystic Invest and Windstar's Vice President of Expansion Projects John Gunner, who is directing the ship building project for Windstar. Gunner was on site for the float out and provided remarks including thanking Ferreira for his support through the process and the team at the Portuguese shipyard for their dedication and craftsmanship.

"Seeing a ship come together and be at the point where she leaves dry dock for the sea is a memorable milestone in the life of a new build project," says Gunner. "I am very grateful for this opportunity to be involved in creating a new ship for Windstar and thankful for Mario's passion and vision for ships which helped guide us to this momentous event today – the float out of a new, beautiful ship for Windstar."



John Gunner takes a photo of Star Seeker after a successful float out

Windstar will debut an additional new sister ship, *Star Explorer*, in December of 2026. *Star Seeker* and *Star Explorer* both have ice-strengthened hulls, unlocking access to new destinations. The ships are equipped with the latest technology in safety, propulsion, and navigation, including pump jet thrusters and forward-facing Sonar. To minimize their environmental footprint and uphold the brand's commitment to sustainability, the ships have tier III Nox rated Rolls Royce engines and can connect to shore power minimizing port emissions. In addition, the ships have advanced wastewater treatment systems that meet all global standards. Every aspect of their design reflects the company's ongoing commitment to preserving the environment while providing unforgettable experiences to travelers.

To plan a small ship cruise with Windstar or learn about booking offers, contact a travel advisor, reach out to Windstar Cruises by phone at 1-800-258-7245, or [request a call](#) by a Windstar vacation planner. Find more information on [Windstar Cruises here](#).

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Photos of the Seeker float out [available here](#).

Contacts:

Sarah Scoltock, Director of Public Relations, Windstar Cruises / sarah.scoltock@windstarcruises.com

Sally Spaulding, Account Director, Percepture / sspaulding@percepture.com

About Windstar Cruises:

With a fleet of seven boutique all-suite and sailing yachts, each carrying between 148 to 342 guests, Windstar Cruises, voted #1 boutique cruise line, offers an intimate experience like no

other. Guests can explore enchanting destinations across Europe, the Caribbean, Costa Rica and the Panama Canal, Alaska, Canada and New England, South America, Japan, and the South Pacific. Plus, Windstar operates year-round in Europe and will offer two unique ship experiences in Tahiti starting in 2027. Windstar will introduce two new ships to its Star Class beginning with *Star Seeker* in December 2025 and followed by *Star Explorer* in December 2026. At Windstar Cruises, it's not just about travel – it's about creating experiences that resonate with the soul. With port-intensive itineraries, iconic destinations, exceptional service, and an innovative culinary program, every moment with Windstar is an opportunity for discovery and delight.

Windstar Cruises is proud to be part of the Xanterra Travel Collection®, a distinguished group of global hospitality and travel companies with a legacy that spans over a hundred years operating our country's iconic national parks, including Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, Glacier, Death Valley, and many others. Xanterra Travel Collection®, is owned by The Anschutz Corporation, the ultimate owner of the Broadmoor, Sea Island, and entertainment giant AEG, Anschutz Entertainment Group.