

As the end of yet another fascinating year for the global cruise industry draws to a close, with very twist and turn documented 24/7 by Seatrade Cruise News and its team of writers, editor **Mary Bond** invites you to take a look at the 20 most popular stories in 2018 up to mid-November.

**By clicking on each headline it will take you through to the full story at Seatrade Cruise News in case you missed it.**

**January**

**1. Jamaica signs with SeaWalk to open access to Port Royal**



The Port Authority of Jamaica has contracted the floating pier system, SeaWalk, for use at historic Port Royal, opening the opportunity for cruise ships to visit this fascinating destination without impacting its fragile environment.

**February**

**2. Damen's all-weather expedition cruise design**

A restyling of Damen Shipyards Group's expedition cruise vessel design shows continuity with the lines of SeaExplorer, the world's first purpose-built, Polar Code compliant range of expedition yachts created by Damen.

**March**

**3. Adam Goldstein elevated to vice chairman RCL**

Longtime Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. senior executive Adam Goldstein, one of cruising's most respected leaders, has been elevated to vice chairman. This allows him to focus on the externally facing relationships so critical to cruising's global growth.

**4. Viking plans 6 more newbuilds, pushing orderbook to stunning 100**  
Viking Cruises and Fincantieri announced an agreement for six further ocean-going



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**20 top news stories of 2018**



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newbuilds, which will make Viking a 16-ship brand and push the global cruise ship orderbook to a stunning 100 vessels.

**April**

**5. Symphony of the Seas: Inside \$85,000 Ultimate Family Suite**

Up on the exclusive Deck 17 for suite guests aboard the world's largest cruise ship, Symphony of the Seas, look for number 1733. It's the only door fronted by a red carpet. The Ultimate Family Suite has a slide, cinema, air hockey and games inside, and ping pong, a climbing maze and whirlpool on the balcony.



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Meyer Werft, will have one main restaurant, a suites neighbourhood and SkyPad.

**May**

**7. Newly transformed Marella Explorer unveiled**

More choice and more flexibility for guests is what Marella Cruises set out to create on its newest ship Marella Explorer, md Chris Hackney, told SCN.

**June**

**8. STX France to be known again as Chantiers de l'Atlantique**

The Saint-Nazaire shipyard of STX France,

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# MARELLA EXPLORER



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which is moving closer to being under Fincantieri's control, will be known again as Chantiers de l'Atlantique once the deal is complete.

### 9. Royal Caribbean buying majority stake in Silversea

Silversea's Manfredi Lefebvre d'Ovidio, left, and Royal Caribbean's Richard Fain shake on the deal Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. is acquiring what chairman and ceo Richard Fain called 'a crown jewel,' Silversea Cruises. RCL is taking a 66.7% stake for \$1bn and assuming about \$500m in debt...

### July

### 10. Lindblad declares itself free of single-use plastics

Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic has completed a comprehensive single-use plastics elimination program fleetwide. Lindblad's ships are now 100% free of single-use plastic bottles, cups, straws and stirrers.

### 11. Virgin Voyages calls its first ship Scarlet Lady, bans plastic, launches 'Scarlet Squad'

During lively festivities at Fincantieri's Sestri Ponente shipyard, Virgin Group founder Sir Richard Branson and Virgin Voyages president and ceo Tom McAlpin announced the first ship's name.

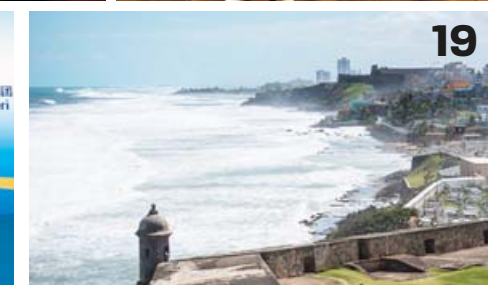
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Lindblad Expeditions

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**12. NCL pulls Joy from China**

Among key changes to 2019 and 2020 itineraries, Norwegian Cruise Line will deploy China ship Norwegian Joy in Alaska next summer, joining sister Norwegian Bliss, and Joy will remain year-round on the US West Coast.

**September**

**13. First look at Celebrity Edge**

This Celebrity Edge reveal topped all others. At Chantiers de l'Atlantique trade partners got their first ride on the Magic Carpet, first stroll along the glass-lined ramps of the spectacular Eden lounge and first look at the newly announced Grand Plaza at the heart of the ship.

**October**

**14. Cosco and CTS the new owners of Oriana, V. Ships to manage**

The new owner of Oriana is a joint venture company between China Travel Service (CTS) and China Ocean Shipping Group Company (Cosco), which recently purchased the 1995-built vessel from P&O Cruises.

**15. MSC Cruises dives into ultra-luxury**

MSC Cruises and Fincantieri signed a memorandum of agreement to build four 500-cabin, ultra-luxury ships for a total value in excess of €2bn.

**November**

**16. Virgin dining: No buffets, main dining room or upcharges, lots of creative choices**

Virgin Voyages will offer more than 20 food venues aboard Scarlet Lady, from a lively Korean barbecue spot to a vegetarian eatery with meat 'add-ons,' a CBD-infused cocktail and a Drag Brunch.

**17. Why Frank Del Rio is so bullish**

Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings shares surged 4% in early trading Thursday after the company reported record third quarter earnings, raised guidance and set a bullish tone for the Caribbean, Alaska and Europe.

**18. Contracts inked for two newbuilds in Shanghai for Carnival-CSSC China cruise brand**

It's official: The contracts have been signed for the first two cruise ships to be built in China to operate for the new Chinese cruise brand CSSC Carnival Cruise Shipping Ltd.

**19. Cruise chairmen mull Caribbean demand, disaster response, Cuba etc**

The Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association's 'Caribbean is Open/Caribbean for Everyone' campaign has enticed travellers to the region, but 'horror stories' continue to pop up in the media, showing conditions that no longer exist, say cruise execs at the 2018 FCCA in San Juan (pictured).

**20. Crewing the newbuild orderbook – sourcing and retention**

With some 113 newbuildings on order cruise lines will face a major challenge in the next few years to find all the crew required both for hotel staff and maritime deck and engine positions.

As a rough rule of thumb of 1,000 crew per ship (a 225,000gt cruise ship like Oasis of the Seas carries a crew complement of over 2,000 whereas a 30,000gt vessel the crew would be more in the region of 380) current orderbook equates to a demand for an additional 113,000 staff, both hotel and maritime, on board cruise ships.