



Sections

- News
- Entertainment
- Life
- Business
- Financial Post Biz
- Technology
- Sports
- Travel
- Driving
- Househunting
- Obituaries
- Jobs

TRAVEL PORTS AND BOWS

Cruise news and views you can use



The Norwegian Escape, home of the first Margaritaville At Sea

COMMENT



[Phil Reimer, Ports And Bows](#)

Published: December 2, 2015, 11:00 pm

Updated: 1 month ago

A A A

According to a [Norwegian](#) spokesperson, Jimmy Buffett's first *Margaritaville At Sea* — on the [Norwegian Escape](#) — has proven to be so popular the cruise line added an a-la-carte fee.

I remember when [Starbucks](#) opened on [Oasis of the Seas](#). Although I knew the answer, I asked one executive why they were charging for the coffee when other shops were free.

"Starbucks was such a popular brand we knew that if it was complimentary this part of the ship would be jammed all day. We had to put street-level pricing [what you would pay at home] in order to keep from being over-run by line-ups blocking the flow of traffic."

I wonder why that thought process didn't apply with star power of *Margaritaville*.

Now, snacks like chips, queso and salsa are priced at only \$2.99, conch fritters are \$3.99, fish tacos \$6.99 and the Key West fish sandwich is \$8.99. The famous "Cheeseburger in Paradise" is at \$6.99 — and I'm not sure if the dishes include the gratuity.

The Pepin family is staying connected to Oceania Cruises for another generation.

Claudine Pepin, the daughter of famed chef [Jacques Pépin](#) — a long-time member of the Oceania family, will be godmother of the [Sirena](#), the new ship that will be christened in [Barcelona](#) at the end of April.

Claudine's "pere" has been Executive Culinary Director since Oceania's inception. Jacques' involvement



had already blossomed into a family affair, with Claudine's joining him on Oceania's annual *Jacques Pépin Cruise*, co-hosting special culinary events and cooking demonstrations.

"Claudine's passion for food, wine, travel and deep family traditions make her the perfect choice for Sirena's godmother," said Jason Montague, president and chief operating officer for Oceania Cruises. "If the culinary world had a royal family, it would be the Pépin family. As we continue to expand upon our finest cuisine at sea offerings, we are excited to deepen our relationship with the Pépin family and absolutely thrilled to have Claudine serve as godmother for Sirena."

She is an acclaimed cookbook author and regular co-host on Jacques' PBS show *Heart and Soul in the Kitchen*. Following the ceremony in April, she will sail on Sirena's maiden voyage with her father, mother, husband and 12-year-old daughter, Shorey. Claudine will interact with guests at cooking demonstrations and book signings that will take place throughout the cruise. All guests on the maiden voyage will receive a complimentary copy of Claudine's cookbook, *Let's Cook French*, published earlier this year, which pays homage to French-style, family home cooking.

All the details are waiting at oceaniacruises.com.

Low water's not much of a problem for CroisiEurope's new paddle-wheeler river ships. It's odd-looking, sitting low in the water, but it's the paddle-wheeler's underpinning that counts, as it does for others being built by [CroisiEurope](#).

The draft is so low that during the low-water times these ships should have no problem continuing their journeys on the Elbe and Loire rivers.

CroisiEurope has placed an order for a third European paddle-wheeler. The second one, the *Elbe Princesse*, will start cruising in March on its namesake river. The ship has now been floated out at [Neopolia Shipyard](#) in Saint-Nazaire, France.

Like *Loire Princesse* — the 96-passenger sister ship launched earlier this year — the 80-passenger *Elbe Princesse*'s main propulsion will be two modern, stern paddle wheels.



with Wi-Fi and flat-screen TVs. Like the Loire Princess, the Elbe Princesse will be decorated with Missoni Home textiles and furnishings, and will feature a panoramic restaurant, a lounge bar with a central dance floor and a sun deck.

All for now.

For a weekly newsletter from Ports and Bows with lots of cruise information and the best deals that we can find, click here to sign up: www.canada.com/newsletter.

[Read more Articles from Phil Reimer, Ports And Bows](#)

© COPYRIGHT - POSTMEDIA NEWS

The newest ship will cruise on the Elbe and Moldau rivers between [Berlin](#) and [Prague](#) in April, calling in the German towns of Potsdam, Wittenberg, Meissen and Dresden, as well as Litomerice in the Czech Republic.

What will you find on board?

The Elbe Princesse will be 311 feet long and 34.5 feet wide, and will feature 40 outside-facing staterooms