

The River Cruise Class of 2017



Ships will offer features and amenities designed to appeal to a diverse array of travelers

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PHOTO: Uniworld's S.S. Joie de Vivre will sail on Seine River cruises. (courtesy Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection)

River ships entering service next year run the gamut – from luxury vessels with butler service to a boutique paddle-wheeler to a riverboat custom-designed for multi-generational families. Itineraries for the 2017 class of river ships will be equally as diverse. Although some vessels will sail in Europe’s traditional river cruising grounds, others will venture to Portugal’s Douro River, and South Africa’s Chobe and Zambezi rivers.

Here’s a rundown on new ships to consider selling next year.

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MS Miguel Torga sets sail in April on six- and eight-day Douro River itineraries in Portugal. Its spacious cabins will boast a contemporary design. The three-deck vessel will also feature a pool.

Cool feature: Staterooms in middle and upper decks will be equipped with French balconies.

The MS Symphonie II inaugurates service in April, sailing the Rhine and Danube rivers. It will carry 106 guests in 54 staterooms on two passenger decks. The 135-passenger MS Douce France II makes its debut in June on the Rhine and Moselle river cruises. CroisiEurope will release ship details at a later date.

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Cool feature: The vessels' open and spacious public areas are expected to create a collegial onboard atmosphere.

The 80-passenger RV Indochine debuts in August on Mekong River cruises sailing between Vietnam and Cambodia. Its staterooms – all of which are outside – will measure 193 square feet.

Cool feature: All staterooms are equipped with 43 square-foot balconies.

The 16-passenger Africa Dream will inaugurate service in the fall, operating on five-night cruises on South Africa's Chobe and Zambezi rivers. It will be equipped with eight outside suites with balconies, as well as a panoramic restaurant and rooftop lounge.

Cool feature: Post cruise, guests will embark on three-night safari excursions.

Visit www.croisieurope river cruises.com.