

Windstar Completes First Milestone on Its *\$250 Million Star Plus Initiative*

Fincantieri Cuts Windstar's *Star Breeze* in Half, Inserting 84-Foot (25.6 Meters) New Section in Palermo, Italy



Caption: Windstar Cruises' Star Breeze is cut in two, with the new section inserted, at Fincantieri's Shipyard in Palermo.

PALERMO, ITALY, October 17, 2019 – It's only appropriate that the culture that gave birth to the Renaissance is where [Windstar Cruises](#) ushers in a new era as the leader in small ship cruising by making the final cut to the hull of *Star Breeze* to "stretch" the first of its three ships and begin the process of inserting a new 84-foot mid-section (25.6 meters) that will help evolve and transform the Windstar experience.

The first Windstar ship to emerge from this transformation, *Star Breeze*, will sail from Barcelona to Lisbon on February 20, 2020, and celebrate re-inaugural activities in North America at the Port of Miami on March 19, 2020.

While many a ship has been "stretched," as it is referred to in the cruise industry, the complexity and significant undertaking with *Star Breeze* (and sister ships *Star Legend* and *Star Pride* in 2020) is not just cosmetic or experience-based. It also involves removing and replacing the engines to ensure a cleaner,

more environmentally-friendly operation as the ships sail through some of the world's most beautiful waters and call at small, enchanting ports for decades to come.

"The *\$250 Million Star Plus Initiative* is the most complex and comprehensive small ship lengthening, engine replacement, and renovation project undertaken in cruising, and we are very proud to be working with Fincantieri, the leader in major cruise ship renovations," stated Windstar Cruises President John Delaney. "The slightly larger ships and new enhancements will significantly build upon the signature onboard environment Windstar is famous for. The social and friendly public spaces on the ships create a welcome chemistry with guests and the crew."

This is the first of three new mid-ship sections to be constructed and inserted as part of Windstar's [*\\$250 Million Star Plus Initiative*](#), which is committed to the expansion and transformation of the cruise line's three *Star*-class vessels. In addition to the all-important propulsion system and "back-of-house" investment, what guests will welcome most are the two new restaurants including the eclectic, Spanish-styled *Cuadro 44 by Anthony Sasso* and a modern, alfresco *Star Grill by Steven Raichlen* capitalizing on the ships' increase in deck space.

That additional space also translates into a new pool and whirlpool on the upper deck, a re-imagined, world-class spa and fitness center, a new retail shop, and more. In addition, every bathroom on the ship will be re-built and fitted to modern luxury standards. The new 84-foot (25.6 meters) mid-section will also welcome most of the 50 new suites. With the new section, *Star Breeze* will now be able to accommodate 312 passengers (previously the ship accommodated 212 guests). The expanded ship will also allow for more crew and maintain the enviable 1.5-to-1 guest-to-service staff ratio.

Vice President of Fleet Operations for Windstar Christopher Prelog said, "This is a momentous undertaking for Windstar and a major milestone. Thanks to our partners at Fincantieri, we are literally witnessing the evolution of a cruise line. *Star Breeze* and her sister ships have always been coveted for their beauty, pleasing lines, and cozy yet seemingly spacious environments. The significant investment and the transformation of these ships will be stunning, and we are all eager for our guests to experience the renaissance of Windstar Cruises."

Vice President Ship Repair and Conversion of the Fincantieri Services Division Andrew Toso stated, "Today is a big day. A proud day. A day of amazing accomplishment by Windstar, Fincantieri, and our shipyard in Palermo. Cutting *Star Breeze* in two, inserting a new section, replacing the main engines and diesel generators is evidence of our ability in these kinds of highly sophisticated and complex operations, which require engineering and design skills, as well as project management competence that represent the state-of-the-art in the industry."

Windstar is transforming three of its *Star*-class ships – *Star Breeze*, *Star Legend*, and *Star Pride* – and renovating each ship in succession at Fincantieri's Shipyard in Palermo, Sicily, Italy. Work will be complete in late 2020.

The second ship to undergo the transformation, *Star Legend*, will debut in Barcelona on July 2, 2020. The third and final ship, *Star Pride*, will be complete with the departure of *Star Pride* from the shipyard in fall of 2020, with her first cruise sailing from Barcelona on November 20, 2020.

Reservations are open for 2020 and 2021 cruises aboard the post-*Star Plus Initiative* *Star Breeze*, *Star Legend*, and *Star Pride*, including a *Colors of Key West & Central America* 10-day voyage from Miami to Colón, Panama on March 20, 2020; sailing from Miami will be a first for the Seattle-based company.

For more information contact a travel advisor or Windstar Cruises at 1-800-258-7245, or visit www.windstarcruises.com.

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Editor's note: images of the final cut and new section insertion can be found [here](#).

Media Contacts: Sally Spaulding Percepture PR sspaulding@percepture.com
René A. Mack Percepture PR rmack@percepture.com

About Windstar Cruises

Windstar Cruises operates a six-ship fleet of masted sailing ships and all-suite motor ships cruising throughout Europe, the Caribbean, Costa Rica and the Panama Canal, Asia, Alaska and British Columbia, Canada and New England, Tahiti and the South Pacific, and new for 2019, Mexico and U.S. West Coast. Windstar's fleet is the market leader in small ship cruising with a total of 1,242 passenger berths calling on off-the-beaten-path and popular ports in nearly 80 countries. The boutique line carries less than 350 guests on each sailing and takes travelers on cruises that are 180 degrees from ordinary. Windstar is known for immersive experiences and destination authenticity, port-intensive itineraries, exceptional award-winning service, and an innovative culinary program with culinary-themed cruise as the Official Cruise Line of the James Beard Foundation. Windstar Cruises is a part of Xanterra Travel Collection, an award-winning, globally diversified travel company offering once in a lifetime experiences in some of the most beautiful and iconic places on earth.



Fincantieri is one of the world's largest shipbuilding groups and number one for diversification and innovation. It is leader in cruise ship design and construction and a reference player in all high-tech shipbuilding industry sectors, from naval to offshore vessels, from high-complexity special vessels and ferries to mega yachts, as well as in ship repairs and conversions, production of systems and mechanical and electrical component equipment and after-sales services. With over 230 years of history and more than 7,000 vessels built, Fincantieri has always kept its management offices, as well as all the engineering and production skills, in Italy.

With over 8,900 employees in Italy and a supplier network that employs nearly 50,000 people, Fincantieri has enhanced a fragmented production capacity over several shipyards into strength, acquiring the widest portfolio of clients and products in the cruise segment. To hold its own in relation to competition and assert itself at global level, Fincantieri has broadened its product portfolio becoming world leader in the sectors in which it operates.

With globalization, the Group has around 20 shipyards in 4 continents, over 19,000 employees and is the leading Western shipbuilder. It has among its clients the world's major cruise operators, the Italian and the US Navy, in addition to several foreign navies, and it is partner of some of the main European defense companies within supranational programs. Fincantieri's business is widely diversified by end markets, geographical exposure and by client base, with revenue mainly generated from cruise ship, naval and Offshore and Specialized vessel construction. Compared with less diversified players, such diversification allows it to mitigate the effects of any fluctuations in demand on the end markets served.

www.fincantieri.com

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FINCANTIERI S.p.A. – Media Relations

Antonio Autorino	Laura Calzolari	Cristiano Musella	Micaela Longo
Tel. +39 040 3192473	Tel. +39 040 3192527	Tel. +39 040 3192225	Tel. +39 040 3192247
Mob. +39 335 7859027	Mob. +39 334 6587922	Mob. +39 366 9254543	Mob. +39 366 6856280
antonio.autorino@fincantieri.it	laura.calzolari@fincantieri.it	cristiano.musella@fincantieri.it	micaela.longo@fincantieri.it

Emanuele Macaluso

Tel. +39 040 3192667

Mob. +39 344 2737019

emanuele.macaluso@fincantieri.it

FINCANTIERI S.p.A. – Investor Relations

Tijana Obradovic	Emanuela Cecilia Salvini
Tel. +39 040 3192409	Tel. +39 040 3192614
tijana.obradovic@fincantieri.it	emanuelacecilia.salvini@fincantieri.it