



FINCANTIERI

**TODAY IN GENOA THREE IMPORTANT EVENTS AT FINCANTIERI FOR MSC:
DELIVERY OF EXPLORA II, COIN CEREMONY FOR EXPLORA III, AND STEEL
CUTTING FOR EXPLORA IV**

- These are part of the fleet of six ships belonging to "Explora Journeys," the luxury brand recently launched by the MSC Group.
- All ships are being built in Italy by Fincantieri, thanks to MSC's total investment of over 3.5 billion euros, which will have an economic impact of more than 15 billion euros in the country and create thousands of jobs.
- They represent the best of "Made in Italy" and are at the forefront of naval design and technology, with four vessels to be powered by liquefied natural gas (LNG).
- Edoardo Rixi, Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Transport, said: *«Explora Journeys ships represent the ultimate expression of naval engineering and design. Fincantieri's contribution was fundamental in the realisation of this innovative ships, which meet the highest expectations of quality and reliability, further consolidating Italy's position among the global leaders in the shipbuilding industry»*

Geneva, Switzerland - Genoa, Italy - 12 September 2024 – The Cruise Division of the MSC Group and Fincantieri today celebrated three significant events in Genoa related to the Explora Journeys fleet, the luxury lifestyle brand recently launched by the MSC Group: the delivery of EXPLORA II, the coin ceremony for EXPLORA III, and the steel cutting for EXPLORA IV.

The ceremony, held at the historic Sestri Ponente shipyard, was attended by Edoardo Rixi, Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Transport, the Mayor of Genoa, Marco Bucci, Executive Chairman of the Cruise Division of the MSC Group, Pierfrancesco Vago, CEO and General Manager of Fincantieri, Pierroberto Folgiero, Chairman Biagio Mazzotta, and General Manager of the Merchant Ships Division, Luigi Matarazzo.

Edoardo Rixi, Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Transport, said: *«Explora Journeys ships represent the ultimate expression of naval engineering and design. Fincantieri's contribution was fundamental in the realisation of this innovative ships, which meet the highest expectations of quality and reliability, further consolidating Italy's position among the global leaders in the shipbuilding industry»*.

Pierfrancesco Vago, Executive Chairman of the MSC Group's Cruise Division, commented: "We are delighted to continue our growth in the luxury segment, taking delivery today of the second of six Explora Journeys ships, while the third and fourth are already under construction at this shipyard. These vessels represent a combination of innovation and sustainability and are part of an important expansion plan for our new European luxury brand. They also strengthen our long-term partnership with Fincantieri, which began 10 years ago and currently includes the delivery of four more ships by 2028, in addition to the six already delivered to date. The construction of the Explora Journeys ships plays a crucial role both locally, boosting the shipbuilding sector and the economy of Genoa and Liguria, and nationally, ensuring significant economic and employment benefits for the entire country."

Pierroberto Folgiero, Chief Executive Officer and General Manager of Fincantieri, said: «We are proud to deliver EXPLORA II, which represents not only a technological advancement, but also serves as a symbol of our vision for a sustainable and innovative future, as well as an extraordinary example of Italian design. The partnership with MSC, consolidated through the construction of the iconic Explora Journeys ships, demonstrates Fincantieri's leadership in the luxury cruise segment. Together with the MSC Group, we continue to set new standards of excellence and sustainability for the global cruise industry by pioneering technologies that will drive the boundaries of innovation even further. This is the 'Made in Italy of talent', which we aim to bring into the future technologically, accelerating our efforts to modernize shipyards and enhance the domestic craftsmanship in our Country by creating the high-skilled workforce of the future».

The event celebrated three key moments in maritime tradition and, above all, in the construction of the Explora Journeys fleet, which currently includes six ships, with the first delivered in July 2023. All vessels are built in Italy by Fincantieri, with a total MSC investment exceeding 3.5 billion euros, of which around 500 million euros was allocated for EXPLORA II. This investment has an economic impact of over 15 billion euros on the country, with significant downstream effects and the creation of thousands of jobs. The construction of each ship requires over seven million work hours and provides employment for an average of 2,500 people for two to three years.

The Explora Journeys ships are highly innovative and cutting-edge in terms of design and naval technology. They represent the best of "Made in Italy" and serve as splendid "Ambassadors" on the seas worldwide. MSC, like Fincantieri, is deeply committed to innovation, research, and development. The luxury segment vessels are no exception. Four of them – including Explora III and Explora IV, currently under construction at the Sestri Ponente yard – will be powered by liquefied natural gas (LNG).

All ships are also ready to use bio-LNG and renewable synthetic LNG once they become widely available in the maritime sector. The last two ships – Explora V and Explora VI, to be delivered in 2027 and 2028 – will also be LNG-powered. Additionally, there is a project underway for

both to have large fuel cell capacity capable of transforming renewable LNG into hydrogen and significantly reducing emissions.

Explora II, designed and built under RINA Class, has earned several additional voluntary notations due to innovative design and construction focused on environmental sustainability and passenger comfort. It received RINA's "Green Plus" notation for comprehensive environmental performance. The ship was also awarded the "Comfort Noise and Vibration" notation for its low noise and vibration levels, enhancing onboard comfort. Additionally, it received the "Dolphin" notation for minimizing noise impact in ecologically sensitive marine areas and is certified under the Polar Code C, enabling safe navigation in Polar waters.

About Fincantieri

Fincantieri is one of the world's largest shipbuilding groups, the only one active in all high-tech marine industry sectors. It is leader in the construction and transformation of cruise, naval and oil & gas and wind offshore vessels, as well as in the production of systems and component equipment, after-sales services and marine interiors solutions. Thanks to the expertise developed in the management of complex projects, the Group boasts first-class references in infrastructures, and is a reference player in digital technologies and cybersecurity, electronics and advanced systems. With over 230 years of history and more than 7,000 ships built, Fincantieri maintains its know-how, expertise and management centers in Italy, where it employs 10,000 workers and creates around 90,000 jobs, doubling the employment figure worldwide thanks to a production network of 18 shipyards operating on three continents employing over 21,000 direct workers.

www.fincantieri.it

About Explora Journeys

Explora Journeys is the privately-owned luxury lifestyle brand of the MSC Group, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, created at the heart of Swiss luxury hospitality. The brand stems from the long-held vision to redefine the ocean experience for a new generation of discerning luxury travellers, drawing on the Aponte family's 300 years of maritime heritage. The brand's aspiration is to create a unique 'Ocean State of Mind' by connecting guests with the sea, with themselves, and like-minded others, while remarkable itineraries blend renowned destinations with lesser-travelled ports, for a journey that inspires discovery in all its forms.

A fleet of six luxury ships will be launched from 2023 to 2028, starting with EXPLORA I's delivery that took place on 24 July 2023. Explora Journeys introduces a new style of transformative ocean travel. EXPLORA I offers 461 oceanfront suites, penthouses and residences designed to be 'Homes at Sea' for guests, all with sweeping ocean views, private terrace, a choice of eleven distinct culinary experiences across six vibrant restaurants plus in-suite dining, Chef's Kitchen, twelve bars and lounges (eight indoor and four outdoor), four swimming pools, extensive outdoor decks with 64 private cabanas, wellness facilities, and refined entertainment. Inspired by the company's European heritage, Explora Journeys will provide guests with an immersive ocean experience and respectful and intuitive hospitality.

EXPLORA II will come into service in September 2024. EXPLORA III will come into service in 2026 and EXPLORA IV in 2027 with both ships being LNG-powered. EXPLORA V and EXPLORA VI will enter service in 2027 and 2028, respectively.

To learn more about Explora Journeys, visit explorajourneys.com or follow us on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

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