

MSC AND FINCANTIERI, EXPLORA JOURNEYS' FLEET CONSTRUCTION MOVES FULL STEAM AHEAD: THREE MAJOR MILESTONES MARKED TODAY AT THE GENOA SHIPYARD

- Celebrated at the Sestri Ponente shipyard were the launching of *Explora III*, the coin ceremony for *Explora IV*, and the steel cutting for *Explora V*
- The entire luxury fleet, built by Fincantieri and consisting of six vessels, two of which are already in service, will be fully operational within three years
- MSC has invested €3.5 billion in the project, generating significant economic, technological, and employment benefits in Italy, estimated at over €15 billion
- The onboard environmental technology has been significantly advanced to include cold ironing systems, liquefied natural gas (LNG) propulsion, selective catalytic reduction units, and the use of fuel cells that convert the LNG into hydrogen

Genoa, July 14, 2025 – Full steam ahead for the construction of the *Explora Journeys* fleet: the luxury lifestyle brand of the MSC Group. Today, at Fincantieri's Sestri Ponente shipyard, three major ceremonies took place: the launching of *Explora III*, the coin ceremony for *Explora IV*, and the steel-cutting for *Explora V*.

Comprised of a total of six vessels – with the first two, *Explora I* and *Explora II*, already in service – the luxury brand's fleet, entirely built by Fincantieri, will be fully operational within three years. *Explora III* will be christened next year, *Explora IV* and *Explora V* are scheduled for delivery in 2027, while *Explora VI* will take to the sea in 2028.

Hosted by Pierfrancesco Vago, Executive Chairman of MSC Group's Passenger Division, Anna Nash, President of Explora Journeys, and Luigi Matarazzo, General Manager of Fincantieri's Merchant Ships Division, the event was attended by the Mayor of Genoa, Silvia Salis; Matteo Paroli, Extraordinary Commissioner of the Western Ligurian Sea Port System Authority; Admiral Pierpaolo Ribuffo, Mission Coordinator for Maritime Policies, representing the Minister for Civil Protection and Maritime Policies, Nello Musumeci; the Prefect of Genoa, Cinzia Torracco; Rear Admiral Massimiliano Nannini; and Captain Leonardo Deri of the Genoa Coast Guard, along with numerous other civil and military authorities.

Admiral Pierpaolo Ribuffo, Head of the Department for Maritime Policies, stated: "*Italy contributes to shaping the European maritime industrial strategy with renewed awareness, firmly supporting the outstanding excellence it expresses in shipbuilding and shipping.*"

Pierfrancesco Vago, Executive Chairman of MSC Group's Passenger Division, stated: "*Today we are celebrating a triple milestone in the growth journey of Explora Journeys, our brand dedicated to the luxury segment, whose fleet will be fully operational within three years with all six vessels. We are turning our vision into reality — and we are doing so quickly. We are very pleased with the results Explora Journeys has already achieved globally, and with the positive feedback from our guests. Sustainability remains a top priority for our company, and these ships — thanks to the*

innovative solutions and technologies implemented on board — play a crucial role in our decarbonization journey.”

Luigi Matarazzo, General Manager of Fincantieri’s Merchant Ships Division, stated: *“We are proud to support the MSC Group on this journey, which demonstrates Fincantieri’s ability to interpret and anticipate developments in the cruise market, where we hold a global share of over 45%. The Explora Journeys fleet is a concrete example of how collaboration with the shipowner can translate into outstanding results, combining innovation, sustainability, and quality. Five of the six ships in the class are being built here in Sestri Ponente, a strategic asset in our production system and a symbol of an industrial vision focused on modern shipyards, green technologies, and highly complex processes.”*

MSC Group’s investment for the six *Explora Journeys* ships, with five of them built at Sestri Ponente, amounts to approximately €3.5 billion. This investment generates significant economic, technological, and employment benefits in Italy, estimated at over €15 billion, thanks also to a predominantly Italian supply chain characterized by a strong presence of SMEs. In addition to these benefits, there is a significant tourism impact in the many ports visited by the vessels. The construction of each individual ship requires over seven million working hours and involves an average employment of 2,500 people over two to three years. Including the four ships previously ordered from Fincantieri and already delivered – *MSC Seaside*, *MSC Seaview*, *MSC Seashore* and *MSC Seascope* – MSC’s total investment now amounts to approximately €7 billion.

Founded with the goal of redefining luxury ocean travel, the *Explora Journeys* brand is experiencing growing success in markets worldwide. Just two years after the launch of its first ship, and with two vessels already in service, the brand has become a benchmark for the entire industry thanks to its innovative, sophisticated, and immersive travel experience, combining global itineraries, exclusive destinations, impeccable service, and unique onboard features.

At the forefront of design, naval technology, and sustainability, the *Explora Journeys* ships represent the best of “Made in Italy,” proudly serving as its ambassadors at sea. In line with Fincantieri’s innovation and sustainability standards, the onboard environmental technology is highly advanced. All vessels are equipped with “cold ironing” systems, allowing them to connect to power on shore and eliminate emissions while docked, as well as advanced selective catalytic reduction systems, underwater noise management devices to protect marine life, and a full range of high-efficiency onboard equipment designed to optimize engine performance. The last four ships will also be powered by liquefied natural gas (LNG), a transitional fuel that significantly reduces emissions compared to traditional marine fuels, and will be equipped to use renewable fuels such as bio-LNG and synthetic LNG. *Explora V* and *Explora VI* also offer the possibility of using innovative technologies such as fuel cells, which convert LNG into hydrogen, further reducing emissions.

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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 and II offer 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 was delivered on 12 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](#), [LinkedIn](#).

Fincantieri is one of the world's leading shipbuilding companies, the only one active in all areas of high-tech shipbuilding. It is a leader in the construction and transformation of cruise, military and offshore vessels in the oil & gas and wind power sectors, as well as in the production of systems and components, after-sales services and ship-furnishing solutions. Thanks to the skills it has developed in the management of complex challenges, the Group has completed a number of world-class infrastructure projects and is a leading player in digital technology, cybersecurity, electronics and advanced systems. With over 230 years of history and more than 7,000 ships built, Fincantieri maintains its know-how and management centers in Italy, where it employs 11,000 workers and creates around 90,000 jobs, doubling the employment figure worldwide thanks to a production network of 18 shipyards operating throughout the world, employing more than 22,000 direct workers. www.fincantieri.com

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