

Windstar Cruises and Coral Gardeners Partnership Celebrates One Year Anniversary With the Launch of New Initiatives to Support Coral Reefs



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MIAMI, FL, November 7, 2023 – <u>Windstar Cruises</u>, a leader in small ship cruising, celebrates the one-year anniversary of its partnership with <u>Coral Gardeners</u>, a Moorea (French Polynesia)-based organization determined to revolutionize ocean conservation and create a global movement to save the coral reefs through reef restoration, awareness activities, and innovative solutions. With the collaboration entering its second year, Windstar Cruises has announced new efforts to support Coral Gardeners including the expansion of its coral reef adoption program for cruise guests, new educational shore excursion in Tahiti, and its recently launched informative speaker series on coral reef preservation.

The partnership launched in October 2022 onboard Star Breeze in Moorea with Windstar's 1000 adoption donation to Coral Gardeners with the option for all guests sailing on a cruise in French Polynesia to adopt a coral for a \$35 per person donation. Windstar has now expanded the program allowing all guests sailing in any destination the opportunity to adopt a coral.

To date, Windstar, along with its guests, have adopted over 2,400 corals and expect to exceed its goal of 2,500 by the end of the year. The cruise line's ultimate goal is to open a dedicated nursery supporting 5,000 corals in 2025.

Beginning in 2024 in <u>Tahiti</u>, when Star Breeze returns to this region with a <u>brand new itinerary</u> <u>including the Marquesas</u>, Windstar will introduce a new shore-excursion taking guests to the

Coral Gardeners facility to meet the team, visit the nurseries, and learn about the importance of protecting the corals in a hands-on and interactive way. Staff from Coral Gardeners will explain their process of selecting heat-resistant coral, growing coral in nurseries, and replanting healthy coral on damaged reefs to restore the entire ecosystem and bring back marine diversity.

In an effort to continue to raise awareness, Windstar Cruises has also recently launched an engagement speaker series on board the ships calling in Moorea. The informative lecture by a Coral Gardeners team member raises awareness and educates guests on coral reef preservation. Newly created videos and pamphlets are available to all guests and tour operators globally.

"We are proud of this important partnership with Coral Gardeners and the support and interest from our guests," shared Windstar President Christopher Prelog. "Having sailed in Tahiti for more than 35 years, Windstar has a deep-rooted relationship with the destination and is excited about the work and positive impact Coral Gardeners is making for the health of our oceans. By working with Coral Gardeners, we can actively contribute to the preservation of these fragile ecosystems and inspire meaningful change."

Learn more about Windstar Cruises' partnership with Coral Gardeners here. For more information on Windstar Cruises and all of its itineraries, visit www.windstarcruises.com. The all-suite 312-guest Star Breeze takes over from Wind Spirit in February 2024 as the year round ship in Tahiti.

Watch a video about Windstar's partnership with Coral Gardeners: https://youtu.be/CdiefAWwDis?si=tKQIPd0vaNukICI3

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About Windstar Cruises

Windstar Cruises operates a fleet of six boutique all-suite and sailing yachts carrying 148-342 guests. Small ship cruises sail throughout Europe, the Caribbean, Costa Rica and the Panama Canal, Asia, New England and Eastern Canada, the Middle East, and the South Pacific, including a ship year-round in Tahiti. Windstar launched the \$250 Million Star Plus Initiative to transform the three all-suite Star Plus Class yachts with new suites, restaurants, and a world-class spa and fitness center. The award-winning line is known for immersive experiences, destination authenticity, port-intensive itineraries, exceptional service, and an innovative culinary program. Windstar Cruises is part of the Xanterra Travel Collection®, a group of global hospitality and travel companies, one of which traces its history back over a hundred years of operating our country's iconic national parks, including Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, Glacier, Death Valley, and many others. Xanterra Travel Collection®, is owned by The Anschutz Corporation, the ultimate owner of the Broadmoor, Sea Island, and entertainment giant AEG, Anschutz Entertainment Group.

About Coral Gardeners

Started in 2017 by a small group of island kids concerned about the degradation of the coral reef where they live on Moorea, Coral Gardeners has matured into a successful non-profit staffed by scientists, engineers, creators and advocates working together to save the reef. Corals may be adopted online through donations. In 2022, Coral Gardeners planted 15,225 nursery-grown corals in only one year, reaching a total of 30,980 outplants since their founding. They are now on a mission to scale up coral reef restoration as an adaptive solution to mitigate the effects of climate change and plant 1 million corals around the world by 2025.