

Windstar Cruises Unveils 2025 & 2026 Winter Mediterranean Sailings

Capitalizing on the Rising Trend of Year-Round Travel in Europe, Windstar Enhances Winter Itineraries with an Extended Early Booking Offer

MIAMI, FL, May 23, 2024 – As one of very few cruise lines to sail in the Mediterranean during the winter, <u>Windstar Cruises</u> is leaning into the growing trend of off-season travel. Today, the small ship cruise line announces its 2025/2026 Winter Mediterranean voyages and sail dates including six unique itineraries plus six Star Collectors, which are sailings that combine itineraries for more in-depth exploration. Windstar has learned that many guests wish to make the most of their travels, and these competitively priced Star Collector sailings (which also include complimentary laundry service) entice travelers to stay longer and experience even more of Europe.

Along with the opening of new sailings, Windstar is pairing an Early Booking Offer which includes a \$200 onboard credit per stateroom plus a complimentary upgrade to All-Inclusive Fares. That means Wi-Fi; gratuities; and unlimited beer, wine, and cocktails are provided at no additional charge. The offer expires on October 31, 2025.

"Winter in the Mediterranean is a fantastic time to see a different side of this magical region, get to know the locals, and celebrate special holidays like Christmas in Florence, New Years in Dubrovnik, and Carnevale across Italy," says Windstar's President Christopher Prelog. "Sailing year-round in the Mediterranean has been very successful for Windstar, so much so that we are now expanding our winter offerings due to its popularity."

Prelog says it's worthwhile to note that airfare to Europe in the winter season is a great value.

Windstar's winter sailings highlight ports that Windstar doesn't normally visit during the summer like Valencia, Spain; Crotone, Italy; and Catania in Sicily. A full complement of shore excursions will be available to book in each port and offer experiences for first time and returning visitors.

Windstar's 2025/2026 season also debuts a brand-new port: Genoa, Italy. There, guests can visit the most important maritime museum in the Mediterranean, experience the biggest aquarium in Europe, or wander the Palazzi dei Rolli, a group of stunning palaces from the late 16th and early 17th centuries. In addition, the season boasts overnights in Dubrovnik, Venice, Nice, Barcelona, Malaga, and Livorno (Florence) making long days of exploration possible, as well as late drinks and dinners while in port.

All sailings take place aboard 312-guest, all-suite *Star Legend*, which has a minimum of 277 square feet accommodations – all with ocean views and some with step out verandas. As the Official Cruise Line of the James Beard Foundation, guests dine on innovative cuisine in five dining venues: Amphora, Veranda, Candles, Star Grill by Stephen Raichlen and Cuadro 44 by Anthony Sasso. Chefs continue to shop for fresh seafood, produce, and local specialty items to bring the flavors of the destination on board even during the winter months. Additionally, sailing just after the harvest is a plus for wine tours when

winemakers have more time for personalized attention amidst the cellar season. Not to mention, guests have a chance to savor treats from the region's sparkling Christmas markets during this time of year.

Sailings depart from Athens, Barcelona, Malaga, Rome and Venice from November 2025 through March 2026

<u>8-day Myths & Marvels of the Aegean</u>
<u>8-day A Piece of Greece, a Slice of Sicily, & the Corinth Canal</u>
<u>7-day Southern Spain Winter Escapes</u>
<u>7-day Europe Winter Riviera</u>
<u>8-day Winter in Italy & the Dalmatian Coast</u>
<u>8-day Winter in Italy & the Adriatic</u>
<u>Star Collectors from 14-24 days</u>

Accompanying images are available for media usage here.

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About Windstar Cruises:

With a fleet of six boutique all-suite and sailing yachts, each carrying between 148 to 342 guests, Windstar Cruises, voted #1 boutique cruise line, offers an intimate experience like no other. Guests can explore enchanting destinations across Europe, the Caribbean, Costa Rica, the Panama Canal, New England, Eastern Canada, South America, and the South Pacific. Plus, Windstar operates year-round in Europe and will offer two unique ship experiences in Tahiti starting in 2027. Windstar will introduce two new ships to its Star Class starting in December 2025 - the *Star Seeker* and *Star Explorer*. At Windstar Cruises, it's not just about travel – it's about creating experiences that resonate with the soul. With port-intensive itineraries, iconic destinations, exceptional service, and an innovative culinary program, every moment with Windstar is an opportunity for discovery and delight.

Windstar Cruises is proud to be part of the Xanterra Travel Collection[®], a distinguished group of global hospitality and travel companies with a legacy that spans over a hundred years 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.