

Life&Leisure

Sophisticated Traveller

Issue 58 | Spring 2018



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PARADISE FOR
THE SENSES

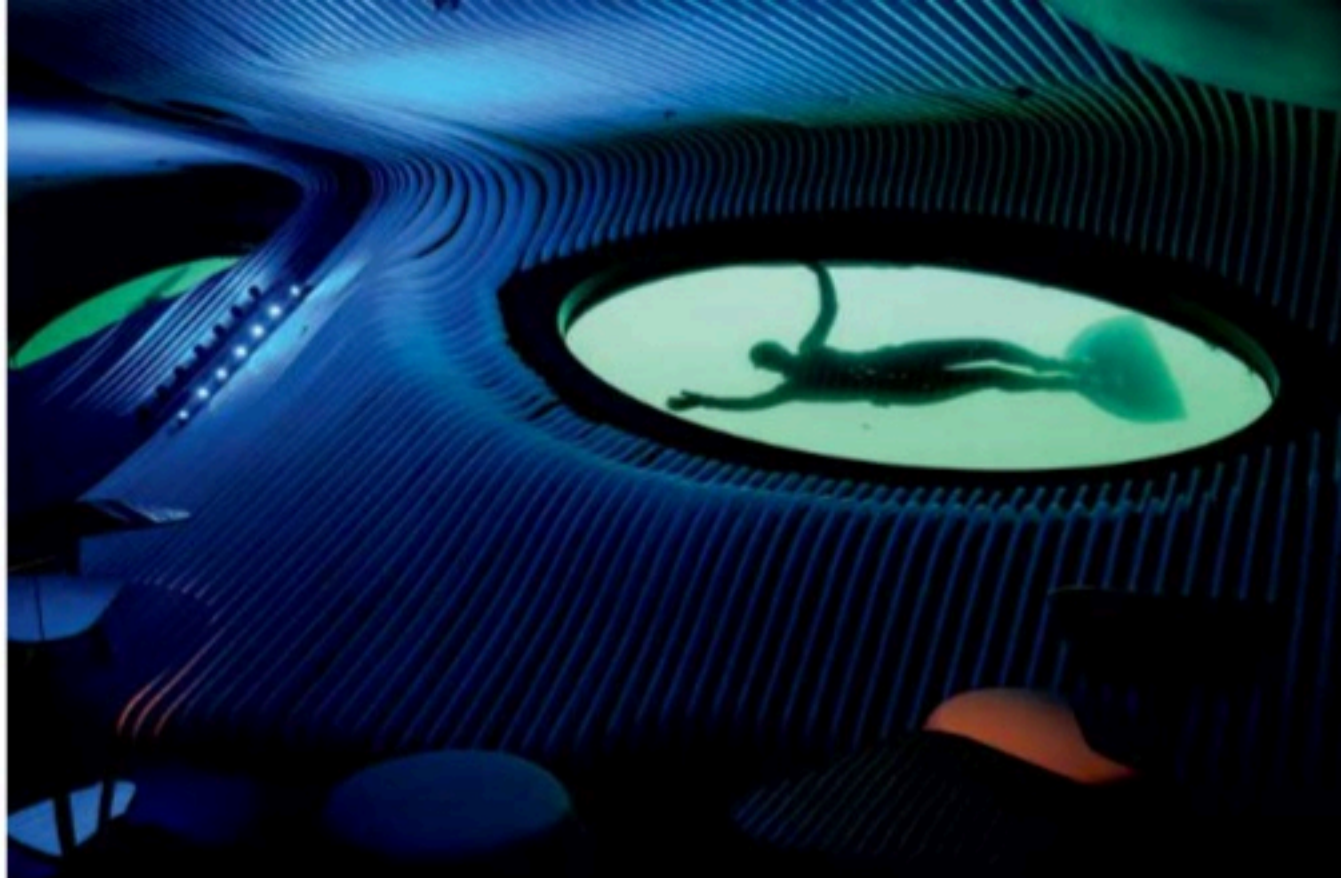
Ports of call
CRUISING EUROPE IN
HIGH SUMMER

Hong Kong
LIVE THE EXPAT
DREAM



BOAT ENVY

INVESTOR MARK CARNEGIE ON WHY BIGGER ISN'T ALWAYS BEST



Whale's-eye view



The just-christened new build Le Lapérouse strikes a celebratory note for French line Ponant, which marks its 30th anniversary this year. Le Lapérouse (pictured left) is the first in Ponant's new Explorer series, with five more like it to come.

The 92 all-balcony suites Le Lapérouse features a world-first underwater lounge. Known as The Blue Eye, the lounge centrepiece (above) comprises two large portholes in the shape of "cetacean eyes".

In lieu of sea life, passengers watched the aquatic ballet of French free-diving champion Aurore Asso during the July christening in Hafnarfjörður, Iceland.

In the lounge, guests can also view live images captured by three underwater cameras attached to the ship. Hydrophones capture the symphony of the oceanic world and pipe it into the lounge, where you can feel the vibe, quite literally, through the "body listening" sofas that gently vibrate by corporal resonance.

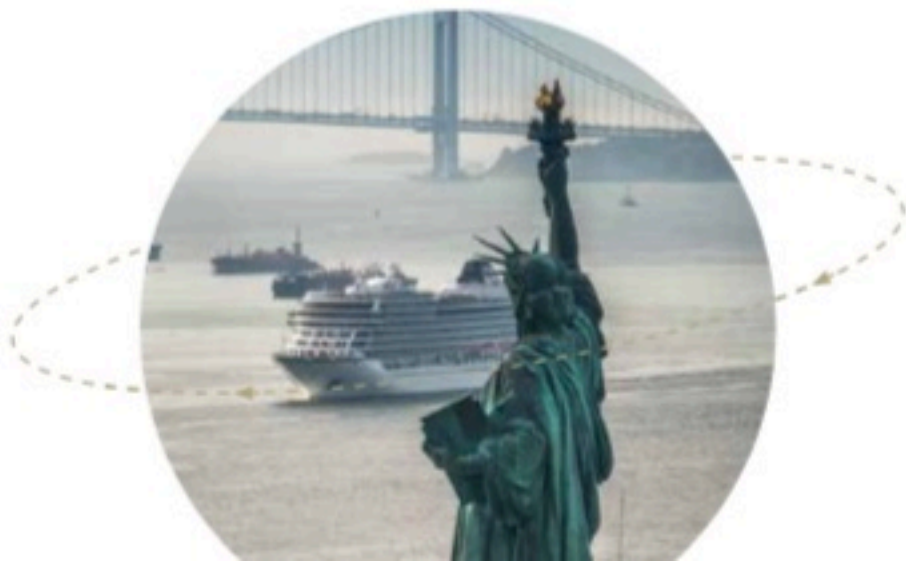


Wave therapy

ACCUMULATED STRESS can be hard to beat, but the soon-to-be-sailing Celebrity Edge has just the tonic. While the ship won't be ready until November, the dramatic new The Spa concept has been revealed – 2,000 square metres of pure rejuvenation at sea, including a hammam, salt room, steam room, float room and infrared sauna. "Our aspiration for The Spa is the same as for Celebrity Edge – to provide guests with a more profound connection to the sea," says Lisa Lutoff-Perlo, President, Celebrity Cruises. In The Spa, 31 therapists will work across 124 treatment rooms with offerings such as the Ocean Spa Wave Massage.

Let's go all the way

IF YOU WANT to see the world, cruising is certainly the way to do it. Viking Ocean Cruises recently announced their most comprehensive ever grand world tour itinerary – aptly named the Ultimate World Cruise. Spread over 245 days, it covers six continents, 59 countries and 112 ports. Priced from \$117,995, it's a full circumnavigation of the globe, making it the longest-ever continuous world cruise itinerary the Norwegian-flagged Viking has offered. If you're up for it, you'll depart from London on August 31, 2019, aboard Viking Sun. And around the world you will go.



Rock the Kata

THE KATA ROCKS Superyacht Rendezvous (KRSR) is on again this year from December 6 to 9. The event is open to sailing and motor yachts over 24 meters in length, visiting or based in Phuket, Thailand. ST attended last year (hosted by Kata Rocks resort) for three days of action-packed boating fun, including a picnic at Parnsea Beach, attended by superyachts travelling in formation. Kata Rocks is yachting enthusiast heaven, with its nautical-chic aesthetic. It's located on Phuket's sleepy south-west tip, about a 60-minute drive from the airport. All 34 villas have private plunge pools and overlook the Andaman Sea and nearby Kata Beach.