



Michael Ungerer to Leave Explora Journeys

Geneva, Switzerland, 4 March 2024 - Explora Journeys announced today that Michael Ungerer will be leaving the company for personal reasons. Ungerer has held the position of CEO for nearly five years. During this time, he played a key role establishing the new luxury lifestyle brand, Explora Journeys, and successfully launching the first ship, EXPLORA I.

Pierfrancesco Vago, Executive Chairman Cruise Division of MSC Group commented: “It has been an absolute pleasure working alongside Michael as we have brought to life this incredible new brand and built everything from the bottom up. I would like to thank Michael for his efforts and contribution, and we wish him well for the future.”

Michael Ungerer stated: “Creating a new luxury hospitality brand from scratch in today’s world has been a true, once in a lifetime opportunity, and an incredible journey. It has been a real privilege working with the visionary Pierfrancesco Vago and the entire Aponte family, which I am forever grateful for. Their firm commitment and their long-term generational view as only a family owned and operated company can, made it all possible.”

Michael Ungerer will remain as advisor for the brand through to the end of August 2024, and Pierfrancesco Vago will assume his responsibilities as CEO for the time being.

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For media enquiries please contact press@explorajourneys.com

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 ships will be launched from 2023 to 2028, starting with EXPLORA I’s delivery that took place on 24 July 2023. Equipped with the latest environmental and marine technologies, 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 is currently under construction and will come into service in August 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](#).