Making waves on the Rhine, Main and Danube are two new vessels from Crystal River Cruises (crystalcruises.com). The 110-passenger Crystal Bach and Crystal Mahler are the first of four intimate, allsuite river yachts - with Crystal Debussy and Crystal Ravel taking a bow in 2018. Boasting the highest crew-to-passenger

ratio on any European river cruise ship, a bevy of butlers tend to the suites, menus reflect an epicurean élan, and each cruise includes a gastronomic experience ashore.

Game-changer is an epithet that's bandied around with abandon, but when it comes to AmaWaterways'

(amawaterways.com) new AmaMagna it has gravitas. This 194-passenger vessel, to be unveiled in 2019, will be a ship on steroids. Twice the width of traditional river ships, there will be expansive staterooms and suites, not to mention multiple dining choices including an alfresco glass-enclosed restaurant. •



SMART SAILING Denizens of the largest private residential community at sea can set their sights on enlightenment. The World might be their oyster for the 142 families from 19 countries aboard this peripatetic halcyon, now four Nobel-Prize winners (including Japanese inventor Shuji Nakamura, pictured above) will host enriching lectures in the "World Laureate Series" as this inimitable vessel circumnavigates the globe. aboardtheworld.com

BREAKING BOUTIQUE

A septet of indie purveyors offering unexpected journeys into unchartered waters







Katarina Line's MV Admiral approaches Dubrovnik's ancient citv walls



Snorkelling in the Galápagos Lindblad Expeditions



A spectacular view of the Northern Lights with One Ocean Expeditions

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NAME	GUESTS	USP
Esma Sultan esmasultanyachting.com	14	This gullet, with its luscious interior, ups the ante next year with leisurely sailings from Lavrion on the Attica Peninsula near Athens through the Corinth Canal to Corfu in the Ionian Sea.
Natural Habitat Adventures nathab.com	16- 20	Natural Habitat Adventures offers the highest guide-to-guest ratio in the Galápagos during its specially crafted sailings designed for up-close, private encounters in this isolated sanctuary of biodiversity.
Lindblad Expeditions expeditions.com	96	Lindblad's newest vessel, National Geographic Endeavour II, offers a Galápagos expedition helmed by a team of respected scientists and expert naturalists in these isolated volcanic islands.
UnCruise Adventures uncruise.com	62	Explore Panama's Darién Jungle, snorkel Guna Yala's pristine islands and hike Costa Rican rainforests spying macaws, sloths and monkeys aboard the recently refurbished <i>Safari Voyager</i> .
Katarina Line katarina-line.com	various	Explore Southern Dalmatia and the Makarska Riviera, far from the madding crowd.
AdventureSmith adventuresmithexplorations.com	100	The National Geographic Quest is a new state-of-the-art vessel chartered by AdventureSmith for cruises around the San Juan Islands in America's Pacific Northwest, known as the "Gourmet Archipelago".
One Ocean Expeditions oneoceanexpeditions.com	96	In 2018, Canadian cruise specialist One Ocean Expeditions will undertake a Circumpolar Art in the Arctic programme as well as Classic Northwest Passage and High Arctic Explorer voyages aboard <i>One Ocean Navigator</i> .



FIT FOR A KING The priciest suite at sea is the 28lsq m Regent Suite on Seven Seas Explorer. Not only is there a private spa, there's a \$250,000 Steinway Grand Maroque piano, king-size bed with a custom-built mattress by Savoir of London, and a pair of original Picassos grace the entrance hall. rssc.com

departures-international.com 39