

TRAVEL AND HOSPITALITY

Crystal brings old ship tradition into the modern age

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Crystal Cruises is introducing a new ship to its fleet. Image credit: Crystal Cruises

By STAFF REPORTS

Crystal River Cruises is inaugurating its fourth new vessel for the world to see in a new modern take on ship christening.

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Crystal Ravel will be christened during a ceremony in Budapest on July 11 at 12:30 p.m. EST, which will be streamed live for fans all over the world to see. In an effort to excite luxury travelers and promote bookings, Facebook users will be able to watch the event in real time.

Christening Crystal Ravel

The new ship will hold 106 guests and join the cruise line's growing fleet.

It will feature itineraries sailing from Budapest, Basel, Vienna and Nuremburg along the Danube and Rhine rivers. Destinations include Hungary, Austria, Germany, Switzerland and Slovakia.

Crystal President and CEO Tom Wolber will spearhead the ceremony, along with the ship's "godmother," Hungarian classical music producer Mariann Peller and vice president Walter Littlejohn.

The ceremony will also include a variety of performances, including Tenor Steffan Mullan and those featured in the classical music talent show "Virtuosos."

Artists from the one-of-a-kind show, created by Ms. Peller, include clarinetist Ali Dniel Lugosi, double bassist Tams Kkny, violinist Amira Abouzahra, violinist Mariam Abuzahra and Budapest Festival Orchestra harpist gnes Polonyi.

The event will be streamed live on the Crystal Cruises official Facebook page. As well as the musical performance, the ceremony will also include the traditional bottle breaking to open the ship.

Crystal Cruises also capitalized on the popularity of experiential travel with a special culinary immersion program at sea.

The cruise line worked with acclaimed chef Nobu Matsuhisa to create a one-of-a-kind cruising experience. The June 19 voyage sailed from Stockholm to London as the "Baltic Bliss" trip with special menus curated by the chef along

with a series of other activities ([see story](#)).

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