

TRAVEL AND HOSPITALITY

## Crystal appeals to early birds with 2021 reservations

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*Crystal Mozart in Budapest. Image courtesy of Crystal*

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By STAFF REPORTS

Crystal River Cruises is responding to consumers' desires to plan ahead by launching availability for its 2021 bookings three years in advance.

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The company claims it is the first river cruise line to allow for reservations this far before itineraries. Providing additional incentive for early bookings, Crystal is giving consumers who reserve before Nov. 30 up to a \$2,000 discount per suite.

"We have seen such great demand and increasing desire by luxury travelers to secure their ideal European vacations earlier than ever and we are pleased to make our complete offerings for 2019, 2020 and now 2021 available for booking," said Walter Littlejohn, vice president and managing director of Crystal River Cruises, in a statement. "Not only does this advance ability to plan help ensure that our guests enjoy their Crystal River Experience precisely the way they wish, but our Book Now Savings adds more incentive to book early, guaranteeing the best fares for guests who plan ahead."

### Early start

Crystal has five ships that traverse European rivers, with itineraries ranging from six to 17 days. Each journey includes at least one overnight stay in port, with Crystal operating in 45 ports of call.

Itineraries include excursions along the Rhine, Moselle, Danube and Main Rivers, visiting destinations such as Amsterdam, Netherlands; Cologne, Germany; Antwerp, Belgium; Vienna, Austria and Budapest, Hungary.

The Crystal River Collection also offers more than 200 all-inclusive experiences on shore, while the cruise line also provides complimentary events and dining opportunities.

Crystal's fleet of river vessels includes all-suite accommodations with balconies and butler service.



*Crystal Mozart in Budapest. Image courtesy of Crystal*

"In 2021, more than 180 Crystal River Cruises departures invite the most discerning travelers to experience the nuances of true luxury on Europe's rivers a standard unmatched by any other line," Mr. Littlejohn said. "UNESCO-recognized Old Towns in Bamberg and Brugge, epicenters of art and music in Vienna and Salzburg and dramatic landscapes like the Wachau Valley and Middle Rhine Valley add historic and natural flavor to itineraries that also feature contemporary hubs like Dsseldorf and Basel."

Crystal Cruises recently 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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