



CRUISING UNDER SAIL

Going With the Wind

With their sheer size and wealth of amenities, mega cruise ships can be awe-inspiring. The new largest, **Royal Caribbean's** 5,500-passenger *Symphony of the Seas*, launches in April. But the timeless appeal of sailing ships captures our hearts. Here are a few of our favorite wind-powered lines.

—Sherri Eisenberg

1 Europe

Sailing the Mediterranean in spring, summer, and early fall with **National Geographic Expeditions**, the 58-passenger *Sea Cloud* is a tall-masted beauty dating back to the late 1930s, when it was the private yacht of Marjorie Merriweather Post and E.F. Hutton. Itineraries haven't been announced, but **Star Clippers** plans to debut the 300-passenger *Flying Clipper* later this year. With a design based on the 1911 *France II*, it will be the world's largest sailing ship.

2 Caribbean

Island Windjammers' three-ship fleet sails five Caribbean routes with vessels like the 10-passenger *Diamant*; the vibe is casual and intimate, and travelers are encouraged to go barefoot on deck. French line **Ponant** sails the 64-passenger *Le Ponant*. One hot itinerary: Havana to Santiago de Cuba, with stops to explore Punta Frances's beaches and Trinidad's colonial architecture.

3 Other Waters

Known for its spacious teak decks and dramatic sail-unfurling ceremony, **Windstar Cruises'** 148-passenger *Wind Spirit* plies the South Pacific. Along the Nile River, **Nour El Nil's** fleet of dahabeahs, a type of shallow-bottomed sailing ship in use since pharaonic times, includes the 20-passenger *Meroe*, with luxe rooms and suites.

Adventure extra: *Aurora Arktika* accesses remote areas, including the icy fjords of east Greenland, for off-ship exploits like skiing, kayaking, climbing, and hiking.

