



EXPLORA JOURNEYS APPOINTS ACHILLE STAIANO AS CHIEF COMMERCIAL OFFICER

Geneva, Switzerland, 4 September 2023 - Explora Journeys has appointed Achille Staiano as its Chief Commercial Officer based at its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

Mr. Staiano joins the luxury travel brand of the MSC Group from sister company MSC Cruises where most recently he was SVP Global Sales also based in Geneva. He will report to Explora Journeys' CEO Michael Ungerer.

Achille has worked for the MSC Group for nearly 30 years and this appointment demonstrates the commitment of the Group in developing and investing in talent from within the organisation. Joining MSC in, 1994 Achille spent the first 11 years in MSC's shipping container business in Naples, Italy and New York where he undertook a variety of senior commercial roles.

He moved to MSC Cruises in 2004 and helped to shape the line's ambitious global sales strategy to become the third largest cruise brand worldwide and saw the fleet nearly double in size over just six years with 22 vessels in service. In his new role at Explora Journeys, Achille will play a key role in the brand's next phase of growth, having seen the successful launch of EXPLORA I in July this year.

Michael Ungerer, Explora Journeys' CEO, said, *"Achille's in-depth knowledge of sales, global distribution channels and revenue management within the maritime industry are tremendous assets to have as we continue to establish our new brand in the luxury travel sector. He will play a pivotal role in the future growth of our business as more ships join our fleet and our capacity expands. This appointment demonstrates the development opportunities that are open to our people within MSC Group and I am pleased to have Achille bring his extensive expertise to our senior leadership team."*

Achille Staiano, Explora Journeys Chief Commercial Officer commented, *"I have been a part of the MSC family since I was 19 years old and I am proud of the constant growth that I have experienced. My new role with Explora Journeys is an exciting challenge and I look forward to contributing to the continued global growth and success of the brand in the luxury travel sector."*

Norbert Stiekema, who worked as CCO at Explora Journeys since March will continue to work for the Cruise Division of the MSC Group in a senior commercial role.

EXPLORA I is currently sailing in Northern Europe. EXPLORA II will enter service in summer 2024 and liquefied natural gas-powered ships EXPLORA III and EXPLORA IV will join the fleet in 2026 and 2027 respectively.

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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 will blend renowned destinations with lesser-travelled ports, for a journey that inspires discovery in all its forms.

A fleet of four ships will be launched from 2023 to 2027, 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 our guests, all with sweeping ocean views, private terrace, a choice of eleven distinct culinary experiences, across six vibrant restaurants plus in-suite dining, twelve bars and lounges, (eight indoor and four outdoor), Chef's Kitchen, 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.

To learn more about Explora Journeys, visit explorajourneys.com or follow us on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).