

PONANT EXPLORERS : Cutting the first sheet of steel



6 January 2017 | The first sheet of steel for *Le Lapérouse* was cut on 3 January. This ship is the first in the new PONANT EXPLORERS series of 4 exceptional yachts, scheduled for 2018 and 2019.

PONANT, the only French cruise ship company and world leader in luxury expeditions, officially launched the construction of *Le Lapérouse* with the cutting of the first sheet of steel. This yacht is the first of the PONANT EXPLORERS series, and will be joined by three sisterships. *Le Lapérouse* and *Le Champlain* will be available for the summer 2018 season, the other two will follow for summer 2019.

Vard, the Norwegian subsidiary of the Italian shipbuilder Fincantieri, has been entrusted with the building of this new generation of ships sailing under the French flag and fitted with the latest technologies, certified as a 1C vessel (ice class). With these ships, all of which comply with the requirements of the international Cleanship label (Bureau Veritas) as a result of their innovative environmentally-friendly equipment, PONANT has once again made the choice of intimate, luxury, smaller-capacity ships (131 metres in length, 92 cabins and suites, 110 crew members).

Combining a moderate size, design, technology and respect for the environment, these new ships have been designed to allow access to even the most remote sites, where others do not go. They will allow the company to offer an even wider range of destinations, including new itineraries to tropical and subtropical zones.

PONANT will thus maintain its position as the reference in a new type of luxury cruise, offering passengers the unique experience of authentic discovery combined with the elegance of the French art of travel, to all destinations, even the most isolated.

ABOUT PONANT

The only French-owned cruise line and the world leader in luxury expeditions, PONANT was created in 1988 by Jean-Emmanuel Sauvée and a dozen officers of the French Merchant Navy. Today, PONANT is leading the way with a new style of luxury cruising through a unique conception of sea travel which combines exceptional itineraries and luxury hotel services, aboard luxurious smaller-scale ships.

PONANT is a member of Charte Bleue d'Armateurs de France, and also belongs to the IAATO (International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators) which is committed to responsible behavior to safeguard the flora and fauna.