

Three Marquesas Mayors Join Windstar Cruises to Celebrate New UNESCO World Heritage Designation



Local performers welcome Windstar guests in Nuka Hiva, The Marquesas

MIAMI, FL, August 29, 2024 – [Windstar Cruises](#) began sailing in 2024 to the Marquesas Islands – a remote, South Pacific paradise that welcomes just a few thousand visitors per year, and in July the Marquesas received broad international recognition by being named one of the planet’s newest UNESCO World Heritage sites. **Windstar is commemorating the moment by offering a [celebration cruise departing September 26](#) hosted by Windstar’s French Polynesian Attaché Hironui Johnston, along with three Marquesas Islands mayors.** An additional celebratory sailing will take place on [March 27, 2025](#). Suites are available for booking on both dates.

UNESCO recognized the Marquesas for its gorgeous geography and remote location, in addition to the surrounding waters being “among the world’s last marine wilderness areas.” UNESCO also recognized the Marquesas’ unique culture and heritage.

Windstar has been sailing in French Polynesia for more than 36 years creating deep relationships and partnerships with local officials across the region and enabling the line to expand its itineraries further to include the remote Marquesas bringing the total number of islands visited in the South Pacific to eleven. Windstar’s year-round cruises (also including the Society Islands and the Tuamotus) bring the culture of French Polynesia onboard with a designated cultural ambassador for all sailings. All itineraries include a complimentary Bora Bora Celebration Destination Discovery Event, which is a private feast on

a beach with local performances from music to fire dancing. Local food and beer/spirits are highlighted onboard, while curated shore excursions led by locals enrich the cruise.

“We are honored to host the mayors of these incredible islands on board Star Breeze for this celebration of the UNESCO World Heritage status,” said Stijn Creupelandt, vice president of hotel operations at Windstar Cruises. “This designation is a testament to their work at preserving their culture and environment.”

The mayors from the Marquesas’ Ua Huka, Fatu Hiva, and Tahuata joining Windstar on the September 26 celebration sailing (a 14-day round trip voyage from Papeete) will speak to the process and journey of being recognized as an UNESCO site. They will also discuss rāhui – a traditional community-based approach to resource management; why the mayors of the Marquesas work together and the legends that inspire this cooperation; and how they are empowering the next generation to conserve and protect the destination.

Workshops will also be led on board with hands-on topics like traditional Marquesas lei crafting, Haka Manu (Bird Dance) lessons, and culinary demonstrations on how to make l’a mito (the Marquesas’ version of poisson cru - a dish similar to ceviche) and Keukeu, which is a traditional dish of goat with coconut milk. Additionally, professional photographers Pat and Rosemarie Keough will round out the programming with photography workshops aimed at expertly capturing the island’s natural beauty and teeming underwater life.

For more details on Windstar in French Polynesia, visit <https://www.windstarcruises.com/destinations/tahiti/>.

###

Contacts:

Sarah Scoltock, Director of Public Relations, Windstar Cruises / sarah.scoltock@windstarcruises.com
Sally Spaulding, Account Director, Percepture / spaulding@percepture.com

About Windstar Cruises:

With a fleet of six boutique all-suite and sailing yachts, each carrying between 148 to 342 guests, Windstar Cruises, voted #1 boutique cruise line, offers an intimate experience like no other. Guests can explore enchanting destinations across Europe, the Caribbean, Costa Rica, the Panama Canal, New England, Eastern Canada, South America, and the South Pacific. Plus, Windstar operates year-round in Europe and will offer two unique ship experiences in Tahiti starting in 2027. Windstar will introduce two new ships to its Star Class starting in December 2025 - the *Star Seeker* and *Star Explorer*. At Windstar Cruises, it's not just about travel – it's about creating experiences that resonate with the soul. With port-intensive itineraries, iconic destinations, exceptional service, and an innovative culinary program, every moment with Windstar is an opportunity for discovery and delight.

Windstar Cruises is proud to be part of the Xanterra Travel Collection®, a distinguished group of global hospitality and travel companies with a legacy that spans over a hundred years operating our country’s iconic national parks, including Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, Glacier, Death Valley, and many others. Xanterra Travel Collection®, is owned by The Anschutz Corporation, the ultimate owner of the Broadmoor, Sea Island, and entertainment giant AEG, Anschutz Entertainment Group.