

## PONANT EXPLORERS:

Work begins on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> ships in the series!



**May 2017 | Construction of the four luxury sistership expedition yachts, the PONANT EXPLORERS, continues with the cutting of the first steel for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> ships in the series, *Le Bougainville* and *Le Dumont-d'Urville*, due to be delivered in 2019.**

After *Le Lapérouse* and *Le Champlain*, PONANT, the only French cruise ship owners and the world leader in luxury expeditions, has begun construction on the last two ships in the PONANT EXPLORERS series. The steel-cutting ceremony for *Le Bougainville* and for *Le Dumont-d'Urville* took place on 8<sup>th</sup> May in the presence of Hugues Decamus, Chief Engineer, Newbuilding at PONANT, in one of the shipyards belonging to Vard, the Norwegian subsidiary of Fincantieri.

The first 2 PONANT EXPLORERS will be operational as of summer 2018. The first block of *Le Lapérouse* was laid on 1<sup>st</sup> March and that of *Le Champlain* on 20<sup>th</sup> April.

A new generation of ships flying under the French flag, fitted with the latest technologies, certified as a 1C class (the ice class), these flagships comply with the most recent environmental regulations and have been awarded the "Cleanship" label (Bureau Veritas). Combining moderate size (131 metres in length and 92 cabins) with design and technology, the PONANT EXPLORERS are designed to drop anchor in the most inaccessible sites, where others do not go.

These 4 latest-generation yachts will be equipped with a multi-sensory underwater lounge, an exclusive concept designed in collaboration with Jacques Rougerie, architect and Member of the Institut de France. The details of this world first will all be revealed next week.

### 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. [www.ponant.com](http://www.ponant.com)

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