

L'AUSTRAL & LE BORÉAL



After Le Ponant, Le Levant and Le Diamant, Ponant Cruises has again taken inspiration from points of the compass to name its two newest jewels of the sea ... names that hint at their future cruising destinations.

They'll be christened L'Austral and Le Boréal. Now under construction, the two new vessels will soon join their sister ships – Le Ponant, Le Levant and Le Diamant – in a move that CMA CGM's commitment to continued expansion in the high-end cruise sector.

Ordered from the Italian Fincantieri shipyard, Le Boreal and L'Austral will each have 132 cabins, 95% with balconies, and will be able to accommodate up to 264 passengers who will be looked after by 139 crew members. Designed like 'private yachts', the architecture firms Stirling Design International (SDI) and Jean-Philippe Nuel, have been entrusted with the exterior and interior design respectively. Both vessels measure 140-metres long and 18-metres wide with the same streamlined silhouettes and will be fitted with large arched windows fore and aft to further enhance their style. Capable of sailing at a speed of 16 knots, L'Austral and Le Boreal will be fitted with dynamic positioning systems to avoid anchoring in protected marine areas.

Like the current three ships, L'Austral and Le Boreal will offer the unique atmosphere associated with Ponant Cruises: A subtle blend of relaxation, sophistication and intimacy, with the French touch ... Two new luxury ships catering to today's tastes.

At 140 meters long and 18 meters wide, L'Austral and Le Boreal will have the slim, elegant lines of a private yacht. Each vessel will house 132 cabins – including some 125 with a private balcony for stunning ocean views – and accommodate up to 264 passengers and 139 crew. And at more than one crew member for every two passengers, the new vessels will offer a cruising experience that meets Compagnie du Ponant's unparalleled standards for service and hospitality.

“Inside, the décor will be both contemporary and warm, thanks to the use of luxury materials,” notes Véronique Saadé, Deputy Managing Director, Compagnie du Ponant. “And in addition to their intimate, sophisticated ambiance, L'Austral and Le Boréal – like Le Ponant, Le Levant and Le Diamant – are designed to go where other ships can't. They will be able to navigate the waters around some of the most beautiful places on the planet, including the polar regions.”

L'Austral and Le Boréal will launch in the spring of 2010.

Length overall:	142.10 m	Shipowner:	Compagnie du Ponant
Length at perpendiculars:	126.20 m		
Breadth:	18.00 m	ShipYard:	FINCANTIERI (Ancona)
Draught:	4.70 m		
Gross Tonnages :	10700 t		
Passenger cabins:	132		
Passenger capacity:	264		
Crew capacity:	139		
Speed :	16 Knots		

