



### Cruising on the Fast Track

Crystal Cruises is offering new shore-side adventures that satisfy the need for speed. Priced from \$1,000 to \$19,500, the shore tours put passengers off the ship and behind the wheel of Maseratis, Ferraris, Lamborghinis, and Porsches for exhilarating drives through the Umbrian countryside, along the French Riviera, and on a test track at the Porsche factory in Leipzig, Germany. A two-day tour in a private Ferrari from Civitavecchia to Florence and Pisa features an overnight at the five-star Forteverde Natural Spa resort. [crystalcruises.com](http://crystalcruises.com)



### Wining and Dining Down Under

For foodies and enophiles, Regent Seven Seas Cruises offers a six-night precruse program on Australia's wine and culinary delights. Priced at US\$6,495 per person, the tour includes two-night stays in charming inns in the Yarra and Hunter valleys and at Sydney's Shangri-la Hotel. The program features visits to the finest vineyards, local hosts, and meals paired with regional wines. [rsc.com](http://rsc.com)

Affair

## Online at Sea

Set sail and stay in touch with better onboard Internet service.

CLAD IN A PURPLE SWIMSUIT, BROAD-RIMMED HAT, AND POLARIZED SUNGLASSES, RAELEYN Lucklow of California is enjoying yet another sunny day at sea. One of 700 passengers on Regent's *Seven Seas Mariner*, Lucklow appears totally at ease. But something is amiss. Instead of reaching for sunscreen or a tropical cocktail, she reaches for her laptop. "I can only take time off if I can work with my computer," says Lucklow, a design consultant for a tree-scaping company. "If there were no Internet on the ship, I wouldn't have come." Catering to customers like Lucklow, cruise lines are promising total connectivity through upgraded Internet cafés, shipwide Wi-Fi, and cell phone service at sea. "The thought of being cut off is just overwhelming for some people," says Mimi Weisband of Crystal Cruises, which recently upgraded its fleet to offer "the fastest Internet at sea." Cruise lines say that keeping guests connected has created an unlikely breed of passenger: **young professionals**

**taking longer cruises.** "We have an increasing number of guests on world cruises [typically 100 days or longer] who manage their businesses while at sea," says Mark Conroy, the president of Regent Seven Seas Cruises. And though some would balk at the idea of working while on vacation, others argue that doing so has a distinct advantage: **the ability to take more vacation time.** Passenger Dennis Gabrick says, "Nobody knows if I am in the office or on the deck of a cruise ship. Soon your office can be anywhere"—even in the middle of nowhere. ■—*Ralph Grizzle*

### cyber sidebar

See how passengers on Crystal Cruises stay connected at [hemispheresmagazine.com](http://hemispheresmagazine.com).