

A photograph of four women on the deck of a cruise ship. They are all wearing bright, colorful, and patterned clothing, including leis and sunglasses. One woman in the center is holding a pink cocktail. The background shows the white structure of the cruise ship and some yellow umbrellas.

*Let's Explore  
The Cruise  
Features!*

By Carolyn Brenneman, Columnist

COVER: The Scarlet Sails ladies!

**L**ast month, we were delighted to share our sea cruise adventure with you. We explored some of the ship and put our focus on the excursion to Ensenada on our Royal Caribbean cruise. Wow, what a day! A cruise adventure is like a sleek resort where plush accommodations, gourmet dining, and immersive entertainment come together in one destination. Maybe that's why seniors like cruising so much.



Large selection of delicious foods!



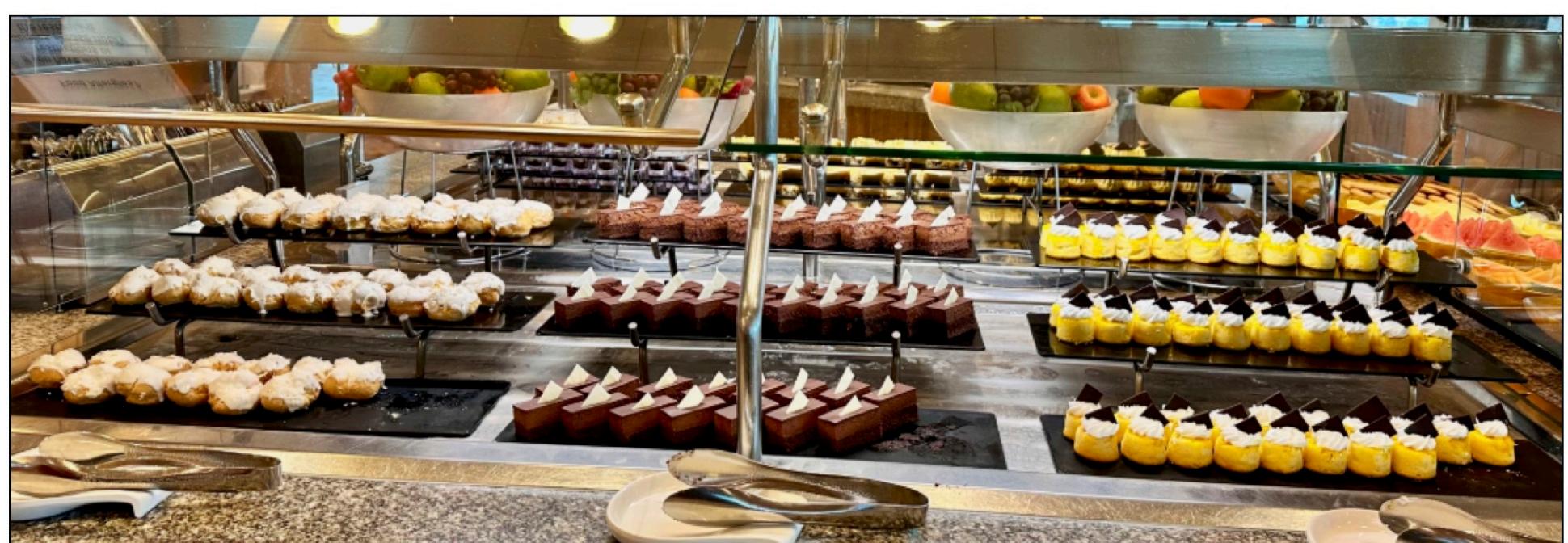
Delicious prime rib ready for us!

Now this month, we'll delve into a few of the ship's features, atmosphere and culinary journeys. Join us as we explore the cruise's ambiance and dining experiences.

Firstly, we must say that Navigator of the Seas was a delightful 3 day trip. From the moment we arrived at the pier, we found the experience easy and accommodating for boarding. Now entry onto the ship was seamless. We scanned our carry-on bags just like we do at the airport and then passed by greeters and customer service professionals directing us to our safety briefing at the muster station. The whole experience was fast and seamless, only taking several minutes.

Today we are ready to really explore some of the beauty of this 3,600 passenger ship.

My traveling friend, Marie and I are mesmerized by the decor and elegance of the ship. We take a ride on the all-glass panoramic elevators (I took several rides up to the 14th deck and down, just for fun) which are right in the ship's central atrium, offering wide views of the interior and ocean as we travel between decks.



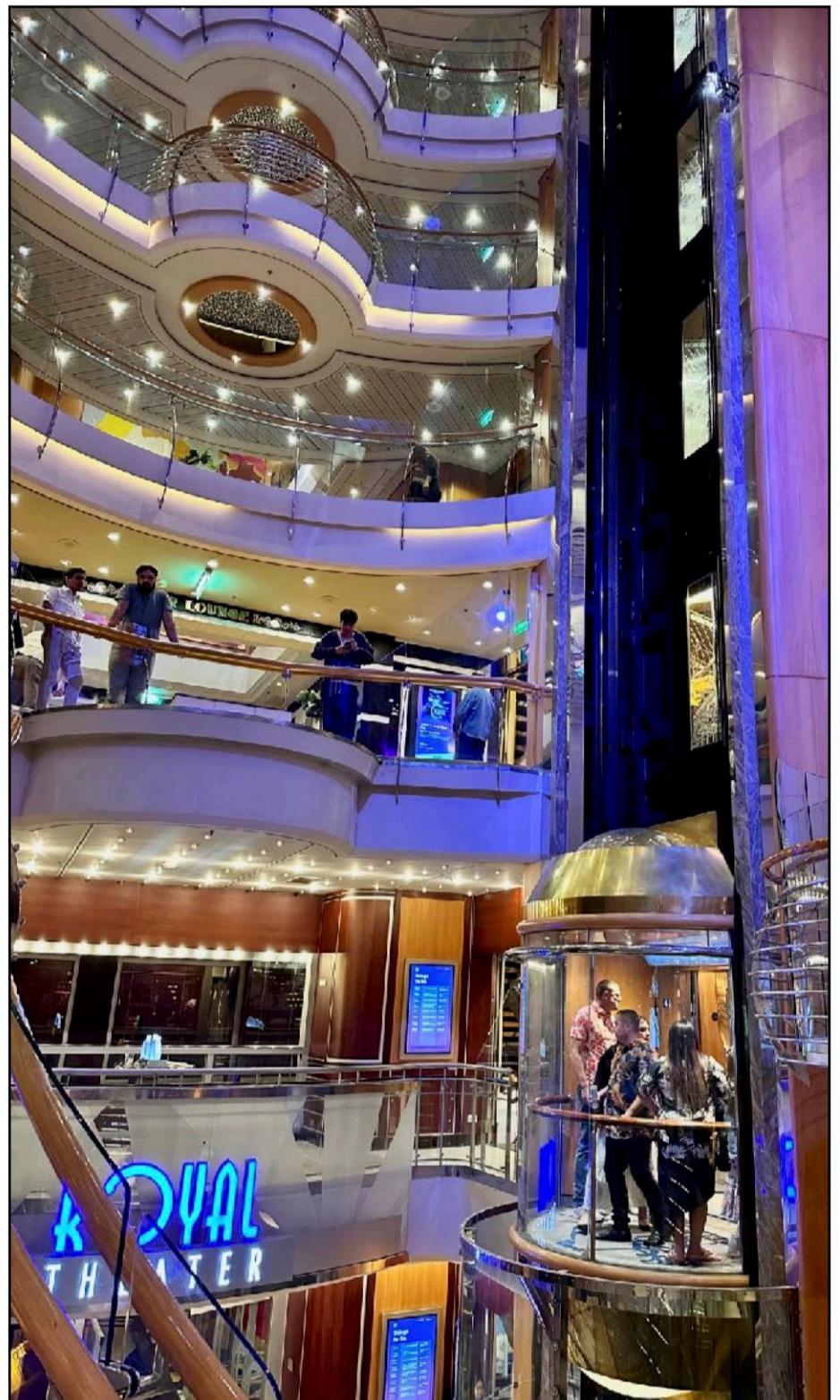
Delicious tasty desserts!

This stunning grand atrium rises through multiple decks, like a vertical cathedral of glass and gold. We see the ship's balconies which curve inward. But most notably, are the main chandeliers which rise through the vertical space from bottom to top. Glass and crystal elements curve and spiral, and it is mesmerizing. Also, there are smaller chandeliers appearing throughout lounges and stairwells, equally stunning and captivating our attention. These glow softly and create a feel of royalty. It feels like gazing into a suspended sea of light and it's all for us.

Now we will explore the dining experience on the ship. The main dining room for dinner requires reservations and is included in the package. The room is a large circular space and feels both elegant and comfortable, with high ceilings, sweeping staircases, and more sparkling chandeliers. The table arrangements in the circular rooms are precise with white table cloths, silver plated silverware and cloth napkins. It is total elegance.



Live cooking station at the Windjammer!



A view of the all-glass elevator!



Beautiful arrangements of foods!

Another complimentary dining option open for breakfast, lunch and dinner is the Windjammer. It is bright, open and lively and feels expensive with long buffet stations as it reminds me of a Las Vegas Bellagio style buffet. To the left and to the right of each circular station, are chefs preparing, cooking and serving everything you can imagine.

There are appetizers that neither Marie nor I have ever tried, soups we didn't know existed and petite salads arranged like art. "I've got to try this!" I told Marie, "it just looks so interesting." And so I did on many occasions.



The Royal Promenade deck!

There are so many choices from freshly cut vegetable dishes and warm breads and rolls and petite baked pastries to made-to-order live cooking, carved meats, and rotating international dishes. I indulged in the offerings of craved prime rib, roasted turkey, frog legs, grilled salmon, crab, white fish, and sirloin steak while Marie preferred to sample some of the international foods - Mediterranean-style dishes, Asian-inspired options, and Indian-flavored curries.

On a few occasions I did forget to pick up my beverage. But, of course! There's food servers walking around with a cart full of drinks - coffee, hot teas, cold lemonade, fruit punch, iced teas and water, ready to serve. "Wow, this is first class," says Marie.

I can't forget the sweets! The dessert options are plentiful and artfully laid out in small petite glass dishes. Marie and I indulged in several at lunch and dinner carrot halva, tiramisu, cream puffs,



Exquisite chandelier!



Pam and Jack enjoying the entertainment!

blueberry parfait and many more. There are many cute, petite and stylish cakes, tortes and things I have never seen or heard of. All so delicious.

But wait! First upon entry into the Windjammer dining room, and surprisingly, we are greeted by a hostess who sings “washy washy” your hands to the cutest rhythm as all guests oblige in the ritual using one of the many faucets equipped with warm water, hand soap, and paper towels, located on each side of the entryway to the dining room. Such attentive services give the Windjammer a refined yet relaxed atmosphere.

During our 3-day adventure, Marie and I met others – Pam and Jack from Nevada and a group of senior women dressed in costumes and redwigs who call themselves the Scarlet Sails, celebrating together and sharing stories proving that joy doesn’t age – it only grows louder with time.

And yes, there is more to this story and we tell you in March about the people and extraordinary entertainment on the cruise ship! So seniors, don’t miss out on an

And yes, there is more to this story and we tell you in March about the people and extraordinary entertainment on the cruise ship! So seniors, don’t miss out on an exciting adventure.



Washy washy greeting!

# *Vintage Gardens*

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## *Vintage Gardens*

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