

The World promotes Lionel Catherin to Executive Chef



Lionel Catherin

The World, Residences at Sea has promoted Lionel Catherin to Executive Chef, effective July 2026, succeeding Geoffrey Murray and continuing the ship's globally focused culinary programme.

FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA – **The World, Residences at Sea** has announced the promotion of **Lionel Catherin** to Executive Chef, effective July 2026, marking a leadership transition within its culinary team.

Catherin succeeds Senior Executive Chef **Geoffrey Murray**, who will retire on May 9, 2026, following a long career. Murray previously confirmed plans to pursue his interest in art.

Catherin joined the ship in August 2004 as Chef de Partie and has progressed through several roles over more than two decades, including Sous Chef in 2008, Chef de Cuisine in 2009, and Executive Sous Chef in 2014. Between 2018 and 2024, he also served as Relief Executive Chef.



Born in Brittany, France, and raised in Moëlan-sur-Mer, Catherin developed an early connection to seafood and seasonal ingredients. He began his formal training at the age of 16 in a Relais & Châteaux restaurant and later gained experience in French Polynesia and across France, working with chefs including Charles Barrier and Jacques Maximin.

During his tenure with The World, Catherin has collaborated with Michelin-starred chefs and worked across a range of culinary styles, from traditional cuisine to molecular gastronomy. He has also been involved in mentoring and team development within the organisation.

In his new role, Catherin will work alongside Executive Chef **Sebastian Gnida** to oversee the ship's culinary operations. His responsibilities will include managing provisioning, inventory, public health compliance and quality control across six restaurants, as well as leading In-Residence Dining and supervising a team of more than 50 culinary professionals.

Jessica Hoppe, President and CEO of The World, Residences at Sea, said: *"Lionel's promotion is a testament to his dedication, creativity, and leadership over 20 years with The World. We are incredibly proud to recognize his exceptional talent and are confident that under his guidance, our culinary program will continue to thrive and elevate the dining experience for our Residents & Guests."*

Lionel Catherin added: *"It is an incredible honor to step into the role of Executive Chef aboard The World, a place that has been my professional home for over two decades. I am deeply grateful for the trust placed in me and proud to work alongside such a talented culinary team. I look forward to continuing to innovate, celebrate global flavors, and create unforgettable dining experiences for our Residents & Guests."*

The appointment reflects the company's focus on internal talent development as it continues to manage its global culinary programme.