

MEDCRUISE NEWS

BRINGING THE MED TOGETHER

A message from MedCruise President Stavros Hatzakos

MedCruise continues to expand

It has been a very busy and fruitful year since I was elected President, together with a new Board of Directors, at the 39th MedCruise General Assembly in Sète, France in October 2011.

Today the Association has grown to 72 members representing more than 100 ports around the Mediterranean region, including the Black Sea, the Red Sea and the Near Atlantic, plus 28 associate members, representing other associations, tourist boards and ship/port agents.

MedCruise continues to search for new ports and destinations to welcome into our unified family that stretches its boundaries from the near Atlantic region to the Black Sea and the Red Sea. Attracting new ports into MedCruise not only strengthens our message but also helps cruise lines, when planning their deployment strategies.

We have had many ports joining quite new to the cruise industry that have profited by working with and learning from their MedCruise colleagues from larger, well-established ports.

An interesting development for our Association in 2012 was being given the honour of chairing a new coalition of cruise ports associations, which joined forces to discuss

common policies on various matters and share best practices. The coalition was finalised during Cruise Shipping Miami in March this year and a follow-up meeting takes place at Seatrade Med in Marseille in November to take the initiative forward.

Another important step taken this summer saw the Secretariat of MedCruise move from Barcelona to Piraeus. This involved the physical move of our office and Secretary General, Maria de Larratea, to Greece to establish a new MedCruise headquarters in the Port of Piraeus Authority's office. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Port of Barcelona for hosting the Association's headquarters for the past nine years.

As 2012 draws to a close we are proud to announce our new-look website brimming with

information on all our members, new features and useful tools for cruise lines planners.

MedCruise's strength over the past 16 years since it was formed is working together in a common interest which benefits the whole region and as we head towards 2013 we hope to build on the work already achieved by the new Board of Directors in its first year of office.



MedCruise Today

- 72 members
- 100 ports
- 41 General Assemblies
- 6 presidents
- 28 Associate members
- 8 leading Mediterranean cruise ports are all MedCruise members
- Top 5 European home ports are MedCruise members
- 168 ships sailing in Med waters

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MEDCRUISE

THE ASSOCIATION
OF MEDITERRANEAN
CRUISE PORTS

3rd Black Sea Cruise Conference, Odessa



Of the 320 cruise ships deployed worldwide, 168 ships with 220,000 lower berths sailed in the Mediterranean in 2012. However Black Sea cruises only attracted 40,000 lower berths this year, representing 1% of the market.

The third International Black Sea cruise conference, held in Odessa in September, focussed on cruise growth potential for the area as well as the obstacles facing the region.

Although the Black Sea is not drawing the desired cruise numbers, Peter Wild said there is great potential as the ports are located close to each other, enabling fuel-efficient

itineraries and opportunities to spend more time in each destination. He also pointed to the great deal of itinerary choices the Black Sea offers as well as the potential for butterfly cruises from Istanbul.

Steven Young, head of port operations and services at Carnival UK, spoke of the 'right speed' between ports when itinerary planning. 'The aim would be 17-18 knots in 2013 and then maybe down to 14-15 knots in the future,' he said.

The Black Sea is abundant in heritage and culture and offers a whole host of different fuel-efficient itineraries with varied shore excursions.

Russian port of Sochi is due to not only host the 2014 Winter Olympics but also Formula 1's first Russian Grand Prix will take place that year around the site of the Olympic village and in 2018, it will be one of the host cities for the Football World Cup.

Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd.'s John Terek, vp commercial and new business development, spoke of the added opportunity for the Black Sea due to the current troubles in surrounding countries like Syria, Greece and North Africa. 'Passengers are likely to be drawn away from places like these and the Black Sea could benefit,' he added.

With regards to passenger connectivity into the region the ports of Batumi, Sochi and Constantza all have good airports served by a variety of airlines. Reconstruction has begun at Odessa airport but the Crimean airport at Simferopol (closest to Sevastapol) needs work.

The main problem the region faces is the poor infrastructure. Port facilities plus city infrastructure needs to be developed, said Yuriy Vaskov, general manager of the Port of Odessa.



With its historical architecture, which has a style more Mediterranean than Russian, having been heavily influenced by French and Italian styles, and its wide streets and squares, Odessa's rich history makes it a joy to visit. The city itself was only founded in 1794 by the decree of Catherine the Great, but by the 19th century it was the fourth largest city in Imperial Russia, after Moscow, Saint Petersburg and Warsaw.

The main tourist attractions in the city are the 142mtr long Potemkin Steps, made famous by Sergei Eisenstein's famous motion picture The Battleship Potemkin. Odessa Passage, built in the 19th century

was originally the best hotel in Southern Russia. Now housing shops and restaurants, its architecture decorated by numerous sculptures draws many visitors. The Odessa Opera & Ballet Theater, finished in 1887, is regarded as one of the worlds finest. The theatre is still fully operational and the most recent renovation work was completed in 2007. It is said that thanks to unique acoustics even a whisper from the stage can be heard in any part of the hall.

Another popular site, just 20 minutes from the city, is the catacombs. The tunnels extend 1,400km around the city and date back to the beginning of the 19th century. They were used by smugglers to move

contraband in and out of the city, but it is their link to the Second World War that is the real draw as the tunnels were used by partisan fighters to resist German control of the territory.

Odessa's cruise passenger numbers are rising year on year. In 2012, 122 ships called at the port bringing an estimate of 73,078 passengers. For 2013, 125 calls have been booked so far bringing an estimated 93,326 passengers. With the development of the region of the Black Sea ongoing, these numbers are set to rise in the future.

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Potemkin Steps



Odessa Opera & Ballet Theater



Catacombs





Gala dinner at the Londonskaya Hotel



Stavros Hatsakos, MedCruise President, joining in the folk dancing



Elvira Leschinskaya of Odessa Commercial Sea Port, and Stavros Hatsakos, MedCruise President



Teodor Patrichi from Constantza Port and Bea Eering from Intercruises



Kristijan Pavic (Dubrovnik Port), a MedCruise board member and Bojan Babic (Koper Port), MedCruise Vice President



MedCruise and Marketing Project "Cruise Black Sea" meet to discuss ways of increasing cruise traffic to the Black Sea



Maria de Larratea, MedCruise Secretary General and Stavros Hatsakos, MedCruise President on the Potemkin Steps



MedCruise members and Cruise Line Executives enjoy the Odessa city tour



B2B meetings between Port delegates and Cruise Line Executives

Rijeka

Rijeka's second cruises season is ready to accept all size cruise ships, providing new possibilities within its offer. The arrival of the first cruise ship in year 2012, accepted in the newly constructed passenger terminal, is the significant step forward for the ongoing conversion which plays a major role in modernisation of the port area.

The Delta area and Baros port, known as the Rijeka Waterfront Project is expected to take a considerable step in the modernization



process of the port area. This part of the Rijeka Gateway Project, funded by the World Bank Loan, should transform the city into a new centre with vast public areas and nautical centre, accessible to both visitors and local citizens (investments exceed 300 million Eur). Preparations for the international tender are underway. Future plans include the construction of new berth with 12mtr depth of the sea, capable of handling ships up to 300mtr in length. New berth will be located close to the already constructed passenger terminal. In addition, the plan includes berths for tourist sailing ships up to 40mtr in length and a seaplane terminal.

Port of Rijeka Authority, Kvarner County Tourism Office and City of Rijeka are working closely to establish the city, port and surrounding areas as an important cultural, historical and leisure destination, for cruise, as well as land tourism.

Active visitors to Rijeka can climb the 500 steps to reach the ancient district of Trsat and the Church of Our Lady, the oldest Croatian sanctuary dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Pope John Paul II visited the Shrine of Our Lady on Trsat on June 8, 2003 and prayed before the image of Our Lady of Trsat.

Trsat is full of churches, monuments and artefacts and is one of the best places for relaxing and enjoying panoramic views of Kvarner Bay and the town of Rijeka.

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Dubrovnik

In its on-going project of development and modernisation of the passenger port of Dubrovnik, the Port Authority is aiming to create optimal business conditions as well as achieving a competitive package of services and a controlled combination of price and quality. It cites one of its main challenges is to continually identify requirements, needs and expectations of its customers, mostly cruise passengers, through open communication and constant monitoring of user attitudes and satisfaction.

A review of the first eight months of 2012 shows 432 ships calling in the Croatian port collectively bringing 627,385 passengers. A

quick look ahead to 2013 and the same period January to end August shows 441 cruise ships are expected and 658,754 passengers, representing an increase of 2% and 5% respectively on this year's numbers.

The majority of passengers arriving in the port are drawn to the old town with its pedestrian zone making walking a pleasurable way of discovering its narrow streets, stone houses, wrought iron railings, boats anchored in the harbour, the azure sea and contours of distant islands.

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Zadar

Zadar is expected to double its cruise passengers next year when 45,000 are due to visit the Croatian port. This year the port welcomed 72 calls and around 20,000 cruise visitors. A new cruise and ferry port at Gazenica, 3.5km south of the existing facilities in the old town centre are under development. Plans call for the creation of 12 new berths including three for cruise ships up to 370mtr in length and also a new fishing port. Work is due to be completed in summer 2014. At the same time, a new passenger terminal is planned, which should be ready by the end of 2014. The tender process for expressions of interest in the concession for the three-storey terminal building, each floor comprising 17,000sq mtr, was opened in

October. Currently the port handles 2.4m passengers each year from domestic ferry lines and about 91,000 from international ferries and cruise ships.

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French Riviera



French Riviera Ports, namely Cannes, Golfe Juan, Antibes, Nice and Villefranche, are expecting 379 scheduled calls between them next year. Up to end August 2012, Nice/Villefranche recorded 168 calls and 262,642 passengers, whilst Cannes/Antibes received 105 ships



and 233,893 passengers. Some of the most popular tourist destinations for cruisers visiting the French Riviera are Monaco, Nice and St Paul de Vence.

The French Riviera has a wide variety of thematic excursions to offer.

The French Riviera Cruise Clubs aim is always to attract a larger number of passengers to its ports of Nice, Villefranche, Cannes, Antibes and Golfe Juan with its specially designed programme of 'green' excursions and smartphone applications "cruise passenger guide".

The port of Cannes was pleased to accommodate cruise passengers this season in a new 200sq mtr cruise terminal (pictured left).

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Sete

Sete is anticipating 57% growth in cruise calls in 2013 with 33 ships scheduled to visit, up from 21 this year. The port represents an interesting alternative to other congested ports in the region and its targeting of niche operators is starting to reap rewards. The cruise terminal was totally refurbished two years ago at a cost of €200,000.

The three most popular shore excursions from the port are Sete itself and the Thau Lagoon with a visit to an oyster farm, the medieval fortified city of Carcassonne and Montpellier and surrounding châteaux and vineyards.

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Toulon Var Provence

Saint Tropez, Le Castellet & Sanary and Aix en Provence are the top billing shore excursions for cruise passengers arriving in the southern French port of Toulon. 320,000 of them will visit this year and a further 300,000 are expected in 2013 on 100 calls.

The old town of St Tropez is just over 1 hour away from Toulon where you will discover picturesque squares and little streets with lovely architectural details, Place Garezzio, the Portalet tower, la Ponche, the Jarlier tower, Rue Gambetta and Place des Lices, all part of Saint Tropez's heritage. Here you can learn about the town's inhabitants, noteworthy



seafarers, captains, sailors and others, all of whom made their living from the sea for centuries.

Sanary-sur-Mer is a genuine fishing port and village, situated in the heart of Provence. It is reputedly one of the French Mediterranean coasts-most typical and authentic fishing ports. Its very ancient natural harbour, set in the heart of the town, is permanent home to around 100 heritage vessels dating back as far as 1895.

Wander through its pedestrian streets and discover its charms: the mosaic of colours of the buildings bathed in sunshine: the warm welcome of the local population, small, shady, timeless squares with the refreshing sound of water flowing from the fountains and the numerous arts and crafts workshops, design and fashion boutiques.

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Kavala

Kavala is planning the relocation of cruise traffic to another berth of 360mtr length with a depth of 10mtr. The relocation does not involve any significant infrastructure works, but mainly the procurement of new fenders and it is expected the switch will take place in 2013.

This year Kavala had nine calls and 4,105 passengers and is hoping to increase awareness within the cruise community of the wider Kavala region as a cruise destination and secondly, to explore any opportunities that will arise from the further development of cruise traffic to and from the Black Sea.

Most popular shore excursions from Kavala all within 30 minutes of the port are the ancient theatre and basilicas of Filippi (20 minutes), St Lydia Baptistery, where the first baptism in Europe by Paul the Apostle took place (25 minutes) and the Byzantine castle Acropolis, Imaret (5 minutes away).

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Corfu



Corfu is expecting to finish 2012 with around 637,500 cruise passengers on 488 calls. Bookings for next year are already standing at 440 ships with more expected from smaller vessels.

Architectural plans for a new cruise terminal were due to be completed at end October as the port aims to add a couple of more homeporting ships in the future.

Most popular excursion from the port is Corfu town and Empress Sissi's, and then Kaiser William's, palace in Achilleion, found in the village of Gastouri, 10km southwest (pictured).

The stunning appearance of this stately palace takes the visitor back in history to when the palace was inhabited by two great figures from European history whose only

common bond was their adoration for Corfu, Greece and its culture, Empress Elisabeth of Austria (known as 'Sissi') and Kaiser William II of Germany.

Empress Elisabeth built the palace to escape the tragedies of her life, and William II purchased it after her untimely death. William II, however, never had a chance to enjoy the palace's beauty because of a war that broke out, from his own doing.

During the First and Second World War the palace was abandoned and pillaged. After years of rebuilding and restoration, the palace was finally restored to its former beauty.

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Igoumenitsa

Igoumenitsa, Greece's newest cruise port, is seeing its business go from strength to strength. From a total of four cruise ship visits this year, 27 are scheduled to arrive in 2013, including 14 calls from MSC Melody and nine calls from Seabourn Spirit. Seabourn Cruise Lines' Seabourn Pride and Odyssey will also each make a call as will Holland America Line's Prinsendam and Saga Cruises' Quest for Adventure. These collectively will bring 18,761 passengers to the Greek port compared to just 1,908 this year. Meanwhile the port is investing in two new passenger terminals and a 197mtr long finger pier for ships up to 227mtr long.

Among the many highlights: UNESCO World Heritage Site of Meteora, Syvota and Parga's magnificent seaside villages, lakeside town of Ioannina, Arta's rare Byzantine treasures, Octavian's Nicopolis and the eagle nest villages of Zagori. The number one attraction accessible from Igoumenitsa is the UNESCO World Heritage



site of Meteora, one of the world's most remarkable monastic clusters. Meteora literally means 'suspended in mid air'. The imposing rocks of Meteora were formed about 60 million years ago and evidence dates human presence there as far back as 50,000 years. Christian hermitage probably

started around the 12th century. Of the six monasteries still active today, Great Meteoron and Varlaam are the two largest and most visited.

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Patras

Greek port of Patras is a great gateway for visiting Olympia and Delphi, as well as Kalavrita. In the western Peloponnese, in the Valley of Gods, lies the most celebrated sanctuary of ancient Greece, and the birthplace of the most important athletic mega-event of all times; the Olympic Games. Olympia is one of the most well known tourist destinations in Greece, and one of the most powerful brand names worldwide. Olympia is only 1 hour from Patras port.

The visitor can walk through the impressive ruins of the area where athletes trained and ran in the ancient stadium. They can also visit the museum and get the chance to see sculptures such as the sculpted decoration of the temple of Zeus, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the famous Hermis of Praxiteles and the statue of Nike of Paionios.

Patras is looking to grow cruise calls from three in 2012 to between 8 to 10 next year when passenger numbers are expected to reach between 8,000 to 12,000.

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Thessaloniki

Thessaloniki Port Authority recently completed a €1.2m renovation of its first pier which now offers a picturesque view of the city and the port. Future plans call for the restoration of the passenger terminal building at an estimated cost of €8m.

Around 12,000 cruise passengers will visit the port this year and with 15 confirmed calls from major cruise lines already booked for 2013 and further calls anticipated from smaller ships it is expecting to welcome about 25 cruise ships next year, representing an increase of around 15%.

Historical, cultural and religious monuments are the most compelling reasons for a cruise passenger to visit Thessaloniki. Apart from

these, it is a modern city which can provide additional alternatives like shopping, cycling etc. Specialised tours are available for wine lovers with a visit to local vineyards and wineries, as well as for those seeking relaxation, the nearby beautiful beaches of Halkidiki. On a city tour it's imperative to stop at the Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki, the Byzantine Churches of Agios Dimitrios and Agia Sophia – both dating back to the 7th Century – and the Arch of Galerius amongst an impressive collection of historical places.

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Souda-Chania



Souda Port-Chania in Crete will tally 65 cruise calls and 130,000 passengers in the first 11 months of this year and a similar number is expected to visit in 2013 where the port is financing

the design of a new passenger terminal. Work is due to start in 2014 but in the meantime in an effort to improve its services until the new building is completed, a small passenger station is in

place which contains a waiting area, WCs and information desk.

Popular for visiting cruise passengers is the old town of Chania and various beaches like Agia Marina and Agii Apostoli.

Chania was the former capital city of Crete (from 1847 until 1972). Nowadays, it is the second largest city of the island after Heraklion. It is one of the most beautiful and picturesque cities in Greece and for food lovers, it's a paradise!

It is easy to get acquainted with the city of Chania by wandering around in its streets, visiting its museums and admire the different architectural styles.

After Arabs and Byzantines it was conquered by Venetians in 1252 and was given to the Turks in 1669, later it was annexed to the rest of the Greek State on December 1913 under the administration of Eleftherios Venizelos and King Konstantinos the 1st. The old town is an integral settlement with visible boundaries set by the Venetian walls surrounding it.

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La Spezia

Despite a dip in passenger numbers this year to around 50,000 from 71 cruise ship visits, La Spezia is hoping for a 20% increase in numbers in 2013 when 60,000 passengers are expected to visit.

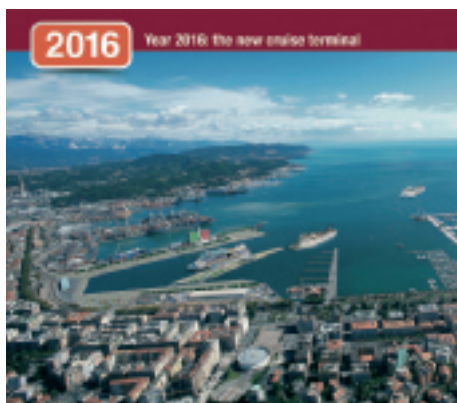
The Port Authority is involved in a major new waterfront development, which includes a new cruise ship handling area. Plans are currently being drawn up for the realisation of a new berth for cruise ships and at the same time work is taking place on defining a new cruise terminal. Both structures are due to be completed in 2016 and at that time La Spezia will be able to receive two large cruise vessels of the latest generation.

In addition, from spring 2013, cruise ships will also be able to count on Garibaldi pier; a new berth located within the general port, which is currently being extended.

Florence represents one of the most charming and important art cities in Italy, visited every year by thousands of tourists from all around the world and is the most popular shore excursion for cruise visitors to La Spezia.

Cradle of Italian language and culture, it is inscribed on UNESCO's prestigious World Heritage List, and its historical town centre gathers monuments, religious buildings, architectural works and gardens that are unique, designed by ingenious artists such as Giotto, Brunelleschi, Michelangelo and many others.

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Cagliari

Cagliari will have around 68 cruise calls this year and a similar number in 2013. But with plans afoot to develop a new deep-draught terminal, and Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines (winning bidder for the cruise terminal along with Aloschi Brothers and Venezia Terminal Passeggeri) promising homeport status within three years, the Sardinian capital is poised to exploit its rich potential.

An ancient city with a long history, Cagliari has seen the rule of several civilizations, from the Carthaginians to the Romans to its destruction by the Saracens and reconstruction by the Pisans, its development as a Spanish-styled city under the Aragonese to its transformation under the Savoy dynasty.

Cagliari has two wetlands where wild birds live and nest throughout the year and the most spectacular of these are the resident pink flamingos. Within a radius of 50km from the city are interesting archaeological sites and natural parks to visit. The ancient city of Nora offers extensive remains from the Phoenician-Roman times, including an amphitheatre, a temple and a host of mosaics. At the opposite end of the spectrum, the beach at Chia, 42km away, with its famous white sand dunes and nearby small islands, is considered one of the most beautiful in Sardinia.

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Civitavecchia



Italy's leading cruise port of Civitavecchia welcomed 1.5m passengers in the first eight months of this year, on the back of 2.6m passengers last year where the number one attraction is visiting the city of Rome. Also popular is the Tuscia countryside, land of Etruscan culture. Here, the past and present melt into a harmony of colours,

sounds, and flavours that sweep throughout the territory, with treasures hiding even in the smallest, most quaint towns.

But Tuscia is above all the integral part of Via Francigena 'the pilgrim's road' which led from Canterbury to the city of Rome and was one of the pathways of European history. Today in the Lazio region it is still possible to travel along stretches of the ancient path to Rome on foot, on horseback or by bicycle. In 1994, the Via Francigena was designated a European Cultural Route by the Council of Europe.

It is estimated around 14% of passengers decide to remain onboard the ships or walk into the nearby city of Civitavecchia which offers shopping in tree line streets and restaurants and cafes.

All the cruise facilities in the port are managed by RCT - Roma Cruise terminal and a new terminal project is expected to start next year.

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North Sardinian Ports



La Maddalena

North Sardinia's ports of Olbia, Golfo Aranci and Porto Torres are expecting to finish the year with 142 calls and around quarter of a million passengers. With congestion an issue at many of the Mediterranean's marquee ports, North Sardinia offers itself as a good alternative and less crowded as its infrastructure can handle any size ships. At Olbia the port authority is investing in a new cruise terminal which will be located in between the two berths on the north side of Isola Bianca wharf. Investment is calculated at €4m and is at planning stage at the moment.

Two popular excursions from Olbia are a scenic coach tour to Costa Smeralda and Maddalena archipelago by boat. The first

tour proceeds along the panoramic road to the village of San Panteleone, which is surrounded by huge granite peaks, up to Baja Sardinia before arriving at Porto Cervo. After a short guide tour passengers are given time to visit the Isola Crafts Centre, and take a stroll and browse around the elegant shopping area.

The archipelago of Maddalena is a nautical nature reserve where anchoring, fishing and diving are subject to restrictions. Passengers go to one of the islands where they can swim and relax followed by a pasta lunch served with a glass of good local wine.

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Venice



Steady innovation is at the top of the agenda of Venezia Terminal Passeggeri, which is expecting to finish the 2012 season with 663 cruise calls and 1.78m passengers.

Investment of over €26m has been set aside between 2011 to 2013 in order to improve the efficiency of port facilities, reduce the impact of port activities on the environment and enhance passenger comfort and safety.

The €9m conversion of buildings at 109/110 along Tagliamento Quay into modern cruise facilities starts this year. When completed it will bring the number of cruise terminals in Venice to 10. A second Ship Boarding Bridge, developed by VTP Engineering, a sister

company of VTP in charge of developing technical solutions for optimising operating efficiency and enhancing passenger experience, will be available in the short-term at Tagliamento Quay. Other investments involve refurbishment works at Building 112 and conversion into a storehouse and installation of a dedicated luggage handling facility close to terminal 107/108.

On the basis of berthing requests received at end September, it's looking likely 1.87m passengers will visit Venice by cruise ship in 2013 on 603 calls, representing a 5% growth in numbers compared to this year.

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Palermo

The current passenger terminal in Palermo is to be renovated at a cost of €24.8m to meet the increase in traffic and to offer better facilities and service. A series of refurbishments will improve passenger comfort and increase the terminal's operational efficiency. The interior will boast a wide departure lounge and all modern amenities. For cruise ships the Port Authority is also planning a second terminal at Sannuzo Quay offering longer berths for accommodating larger cruise ships and new car park areas.

Palermo is expecting 160 calls this year and around 375,000 passengers, and



bookings already planned for 2013 suggest similar targets will be reached next year.

Located just outside Palermo are Mondello, with its sandy beach, and Monreale, one of the most renowned touristic spots of Sicily and all of Italy because of its artistic heritage, represented by the Cathedral of Santa Maria la Nuova. One of the most exquisite samples of Norman architecture, it is elaborately adorned with art and decoration on the inside.

Cefalù, 100km from the port is also popular with cruise passengers, offering a beach resort, and the fine artistic legacy of its Duomo, which dates to Norman times, and the Mandralisca Museum, with its rich art and archaeological collections. On the cliffs above the town, you can find the remains of an ancient sanctuary and, on the coast, numerous remains of old fortifications.

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Cathedral of Santa Maria la Nuova



Koper



Koper in Slovenia has invested €2m in dredging up to 10mtr depth along the entire length of its 420mtr long dedicated cruise pier. The 2012 season will likely finish on 47 cruise calls with 40 ships received in the first nine months of the year.

Similar numbers are projected for 2013 with 45 advanced bookings already confirmed. The port is studying plans for a new cruise terminal for a combined homeport service for small ships plus transit calls and commercial activities.

The three most popular shore excursions from Koper can all be reached within a half day stay at the berth: the capital city of Ljubljana, the Postojna caves and the beautiful city of Piran, located on the coast.

Piran is the country's best-preserved cultural monument with architecture influenced by the Venetian Republic, which left its mark on most Istrian towns. Today Piran has maintained its clustered narrow winding streets with houses huddled close together, rising in cascades, overlooking the sea with numerous squares and churches. Tartini Square is the gem found in the very centre of Piran. It was named after the famous violinist and composer Giuseppe Tartini, whose statue is located in the centre of the square. A circular wall surrounds the city. The Church of St. George, the patron saint of Piran, rises above the town. From its tower there is a spectacular view of Piran and its surroundings and across to the Croatian and Italian coastlines.

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Piran



Valletta

In 2012, Valletta Cruise Port plc will welcome around 590,000 passengers on 315 calls. Malta's capital, Valletta - a UNESCO World Heritage Site, has just been confirmed as the European Capital of Culture for 2018, which is a big plus as the baroque city is within a short distance from the natural harbour where cruise ships dock. This magnificent fortified city is a living testament to the Knights of St. John. Located in the famous St. John's Co-Cathedral is the largest painting by Caravaggio 'The Beheading of St. John the Baptist'.

The medieval city of Mdina, known also as

'The Silent City', derives its name from the Arab word 'Medina' meaning 'the walled city'.

There are a number of architectural treasures to visit including the pre-historic temples, the oldest freestanding monuments in the world and also an underground wonder - The Hypogeum.

A 53mtr high lift will connect Valletta's Grand Harbour to Central Valletta, making the city even more accessible to cruise passengers.

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Cyprus

Cyprus Ports Authority is building a new 7,000sq mtr passenger terminal at Lemesos Port, fully compliant with criteria set by the Schengen convention and latest EU safety and security requirements.

The terminal building will include a departure hall as well as two arrival halls, and a separate area for luggage handling. The first floor will feature a restaurant and there will be a large parking area as well as offices. Investment is estimated at €14.4m.

Plans for redeveloping Larnaka Port and Marina are underway. At the same time, the

Cyprus Ports Authority promotes the ability for cruise handling at Paphos port.

During 2012, Cyprus Ports Authority is expecting 190 calls and 180,000 passengers of which around 40 calls and 40,000 passengers originate from homeporting ships at Lemesos port.

Amongst the most popular tours from Lemesos are: Kourion, one of the most spectacular archaeological sites on the island, noted for its magnificent Greco-Roman Theatre and early Basilica; the Temple of Apollo about 2.5km west of Kourion and Omodos Village in the Troodos Mountains and 80 km from the capital of Nicosia.

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Kourion

Azores



A new cruise terminal was inaugurated in Horta on Faial Island, part of the Azores archipelago, this summer. The €40m investment (pictured) provides a 263mtr dedicated cruise and ferry berth for cruise ships up to 201mtr in length and a draft of 8.75mtr. A dedicated tender pier is also available for bigger ships that anchor in the bay.

The Horta cruise facility complements the Portas do Mar cruise terminal in Ponta Delgado on St Michael Island, which currently draws the majority of cruise ships visiting the Azores. However the opening of the Horta terminal immediately improves the Azores offering to the cruise industry and its

main challenge now is to convince cruise operators to make two calls in the islands each time they visit the archipelago.

124 ships and around 104,000 passengers will visit the Azores this year mainly in the winter and shoulder months. Five months of the year are extremely busy, followed by four months with one or two ships a week. A challenge is to try and increase calls in the summer months of June, July and August which are traditionally its low season as most ships are focused on cruising in the Med, Baltic and Norway.

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Balearic Islands

Calls to the five Balearic Islands are set to reach 653 this year, down from 746 last year. Palma secured over 60% of ships numbering 415 in 2012, whilst 154 ships will visit Ibiza, 78 in Mahon, five in La Savina on Formentera and one at Alcudia.

Despite the drop in numbers this year, Palma is set to increase its traffic again in 2013 with 438 ships booked at the beginning of October. The newly extended berthing at Western Docks, costing €28m, will be ready to start receiving ships at the end of this year, enabling the simultaneous docking of six cruise vessels over 300mtr in this area of the port.

New docks at Ibiza's Botafoch opened this year enabling the reorganisation of port activities and transfer of coastal cargo ships to a new terminal away from the old city. A new area of 75,000sq mtr providing two 200mtr long berths enables the simultaneous



Port of Palma de Mallorca

handling of five ships, either mixed ferries and or cruise ships.

Meanwhile €1.8m has been set aside for dredging work at Port of Mahon where the most popular shore excursions feature an

Lisbon

Port of Lisbon Authority has completed the construction of a new cruise pier in Santa Apolonia and is able to offer cruise berthing facilities of 1,450mtr in that area. Simultaneously, the port has increased the existing terminal facilities with two new 500sq mtr buildings each and expanded the car and bus parking areas alongside.

The Lisbon Cruise Terminal, a project by Portuguese architect Carrilho da Graca, is planned for completion in 2014. With an overall investment of €20.5m the new terminal will cover an area of almost 8,000sq mtr.

Lisbon is anticipating a rise in cruise visitors this year with around 525,000 passengers and 329 ships compared to 502,000 in 2011. Next year passengers are expected to rise again around 6% to 558,000 arriving on 349 ships.

Popular with arriving tourists is a city tour which can be viewed either from the road or via the River Tagus by boat. Either way must-see attractions include the Monument to the Discoveries, the unique Belem Tower and the ornate Gothic-style Jeronimos Monastery. Other notable landmarks include Pombal Square, Liberty Avenue, Black Horse Square and Rossio, in the very heart of the city.

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equestrian show and cheese factory visit and round island tour.

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Ceuta



Port of Ceuta, located in North Africa, promotes itself as the most efficient bridge to visit the Magreb neighbouring countries, with Morocco just a few kilometres distance away via coach. For passengers staying in Ceuta and its surrounding area most popular excursions involve a visit to the Royal Walls accessed via a moat, a trip around Ceuta by boat and a tour to the Monte Hacho which is the highest mountain in Ceuta and on of Hercules pillars.

For those seeking relaxation a visit to the Parquet Maritime del Mediterraneo leisure complex, close to the beautiful Puerto Depotivo, with its lakes, waterfalls and magnificent gardens allows you to take a swim, a walk or relax.

Ceuta's waters are abundant with fish and seafood and its many restaurants offer varied gastronomic delights. Most are situated close to the cruise terminal which is 100mtr from the city centre.

This year ten cruise ships visited Ceuta where vessels around 220mtr long with capacity of between 1,500 to 2,000 passengers can be accommodated alongside, and a similar number of expected in 2013.

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Cartagena

Spanish port of Cartagena is anticipating a record year of cruise activity in 2013 with 27 cruise lines bringing 114 ships and around 130,000 passengers. This represents a 43% rise in number of calls and a 45% increase in passengers. In 2012, around 85,000 passengers on 76 ships visited the city, where the Roam Theatre and its museum remain the number one attraction.

Earlier this year the port extended its cruise berth to 560mtr long and provided an enlarged area for buses, taxis and an information point. The new quay allows the simultaneous handling of two cruise ships at the same time and passengers to be in the city centre in just 200mtr.

Upon completion of the berth, the Port Authority then turned its attention to its development, making it more attractive and welcoming for passengers. The new facility completed in October 2012 provides rest and shade areas, Port Police and Civil Guard centres and an information desk, as well as parking area for buses and taxis.

Cartagena Port Authority has been working over more than ten years on promoting the destination as a cruise port

Barcelona

The three most popular draws for cruise passengers arriving in Barcelona are the city sightseeing tour combined with either Gaudi, or FC Barcelona, or shopping.

Anyone interested in Gaudi must visit the Casa Museu Gaudí, built in 1904 as a show house in the Park Güell, which was originally designed as a garden city in Barcelona. Gaudí made it his home, and it still contains some of his personal objects and mementoes.

Located in the centre of Barcelona, the Basílica de la Sagrada Família (pictured) has become one of the most iconic landmarks of Barcelona, despite remaining unfinished at the time of Gaudí's death.

Gaudí's design consisted of a large church with a basilican floor plan consisting of five naves and three transepts, in the shape of a Latin cross. It has bell towers; the tallest of

them will be dedicated to Jesus Christ. There will be four shorter towers built around it, which will symbolise the four Evangelists, and another one will be built behind it, above the apse, dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Four more towers will be built over the Glory, Nativity and Passion façades, which will symbolise the 12 apostles.

Two of the three façades are open to visitors, as well the apse and museum, which provides an insight into the past, present and future of the church with models, photographs, plans, decorative objects and audio-visual exhibit.

This year Spain's leading cruise hub is expecting 777 cruise calls, whereas for next year 829 ships are already booked.

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and as a result calls and passengers have increased over 50% during that time.

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Alanya

Alanya welcomed 38,000 passengers in 2012 including those from newcomers Costa Atlantica, Seabourn Quest and Seven Seas Mariner. Pictured was the busiest day in the port taken on October 3, 2012 when Costa Atlantica, Seabourn Quest and Minerva all docked on the same day.

Norwegian Cruise Lines' Norwegian Jade scheduled eight calls for the coming winter, visiting Alanya every three weeks through the season.

Business continues to grow with 42 ships already booked for 2013 and scheduled to bring 56,000 passengers representing a 50% over this year. Next November two Holland America Line ships Prinsendam and Rotterdam are scheduled to visit the Turkish port for the first time.

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Motril-Granada

Motril-Granada will receive 27 ships this year, resulting in around 11,400 passengers although the final figure will depend on occupancy onboard vessels arriving in the final few months. In October five calls are scheduled and a further four in November. The final call of the season is on December 1, a maiden call by Seabourn Spirit. All this results in a passenger increase of 22% compared to 2011.

Next year 25 calls and 17,542 passengers are booked to visit representing a 32% rise on 2012. Two new lines will use Motril-Granada for the first time, Thomson Cruises

with four calls by Thomson Dream and Paul Gauguin Cruises with three calls of Tere Moana. In addition Holland America Line will make four calls, Azamara Cruises four calls and seven visits by Star Clippers.

Most visiting cruise passengers head to Alhambra and Granada city being just 64km from the port. The three top requested excursions are La Alhambra (half day); La Alhambra (full day) and half day visit to Granada city.

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Palamós

With 26 ships bringing 33,500 passengers in 2012, Palamós on Spain's Costa Brava, is experiencing steady growth. Next year ship calls jump four to 34.

Most popular shore excursions centre on Palamós itself although with Barcelona located just an hour's drive from the city it is

also a draw. Surrealist genius Salvador Dalí was born in Figueres where the Dalí Theatre-Museum houses much of his work as well as the jewellery collection that he designed between 1941 and 1970. Dalí spent many years in Portlligat cove near Cadaqués, where he built a house and studio and drew inspiration from the rugged landscapes and coves of nearby Cap de Creus. The third point of the Dalí triangle is Púbol Castle, the residence that Dalí presented to his spouse, Gala.

The Jewish Quarter in Girona is among the

best-preserved in Europe, and the heritage of the Sephardite communities in medieval Catalonia can be seen in the city's Museum of Jewish History. Besalú village, with one of the few remaining ritual mikvah baths in Europe, is another testimony to the Jewish heritage in the province. Visitors can admire Girona's Cathedral which boasts the widest Gothic nave in the world.

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Monaco



The Port of Monaco, operated by SEPM (Société d'Exploitation des Ports de Monaco), has undergone a dramatic transformation of its cruise fortunes over the last 10 years since it installed a semi-floating sea wall, designed to have minimum ecological impact on the seabed, accompanied by a lee breakwater, turning it into an attractive deepwater facility.

At a stroke Hercule harbour was able to berth large vessels up to 300mtr in length that previously had to anchor out to sea; only vessels up to 100mtr in length having been able to tie up alongside the Quai d'Etat.

The number of cruise calls at the port subsequently rose from 101 in 2002 to 214 in 2011, representing a passenger total of around 260,000, a level likely to be reached or exceeded in 2012.

A dozen different large ships of over 270mtr in length are booked to call in 2013, including the Carnival Legend, Crown Princess and Ruby Princess, Queen Elizabeth and Serenade of the Seas, all over 290mtr.

The port is currently working on upgrading its marina and superyacht facilities in Fontvieille harbour, which may affect nearby Hercule, and recommends all vessels take care when entering or leaving the port.

Considering the solid-gold passenger appeal of the Monaco and its capital Monte Carlo, a wealth of attractive shorex possibilities nearby and even a new Hollywood biopic of Grace Kelly starring Nicole Kidman due out soon, the cruise future of the Principality seems assured.

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Marseille

For a number of years the Marseille-Fos Port Authority (MFPA) and the private terminal operator Marseille Provence Cruise terminal (MCPT) have been investing heavily in infrastructure in order to meet the cruise lines' needs and adapt to the increasing size of cruise ships. Presently, the terminals can serve a total of five mega cruise ships simultaneously.

In 2013, MCPT is investing €6m in a new footbridge, and new 6,000sq mtr terminal (24) with Check-In and luggage area and parking for coaches and cars.

The MFPA is also carrying out a feasibility study (including consultation with MPCT's shipowner clients) on the widening of the northern channel so as to improve access and allow greater manoeuvrability for the largest

vessels, especially in adverse weather conditions. The works are expected to finish 2014/2015.

For the luxury cruise market, MFPA is developing a new luxury terminal with two berths offering direct access to the city's historic centre. This elite clientele will be able to disembark safely in a unique environment. The renovation of this part of the city adjoining Marseille's Old port and financed in part by the Euromediterranée urban regeneration plan will be ready by 2013 in time for the Marseille Provence European Capital of Culture program.

For 2012, Marseille is expecting 412 calls and 932,000 passengers.

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Gibraltar

Prior to the farewell cruise of Ocean Countess, Cruise and Maritime Voyages (CMV) passengers were given the VIP treatment in Gibraltar during her penultimate voyage in October.

The CMV local agents and the Gibraltar Government laid on a special shore excursion culminating in a private and exclusive visit to the Mayor of Gibraltar's Parlour. During the tour, passengers visited the Botanical gardens where a guide and the Head Gardner led the group around. Then it was the popular Cable Car ride up to the top of the Rock to see the legendary apes, and for views of the port with the Ocean Countess before descending back down to meet the Mayor (pictured).

Gibraltar will receive around 180 calls and 307,879 passengers this year, down slightly on 2011 when 330,000 passengers visited the Rock. Advanced bookings for 2013 stand at 175.

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Messina



Messina is anticipating a 16% rise in cruise passengers in 2013 when 196 ships will bring almost 500,000 visitors to the Sicilian port city. A new cruise terminal is still at planning stage and meanwhile the Port Authority is promoting calls at Milazzo, situated 40km from Messina and under the Authority's jurisdiction.

Messina is an ideal gateway to Taormina and Mount Etna, however the city itself has a Cathedral, built in 1200 and destroyed several times, renowned for its astronomical clock, and the biggest in the world.

Messina Museum hosts a rich collection of portraits, sculptures and masterpieces by Antonello da Messina and Caravaggio.

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Kotor

Over 200,000 passengers will visit Port of Kotor this year, the UNESCO World Heritage site, and haven for luxury yachts and cruise ships which will number 350 by year-end. Looking ahead to 2013, even more and larger vessels are headed for one of Montenegro's most beautiful bays. The old city centre is reached via the southern most fjord in Europe. Popular shore excursions from Kotor are visits to nearby Perast and Svet Stefan. In addition, cruise traffic is also being tempted to call at Port of Bar, situated at the entrance of the Adriatic Sea.

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La Goulette

Cycling enthusiasts onboard MSC Splendida set off from the port of La Goulette on October 9 to discover the city on two wheels. Dressed in pink tights, they travelled the following route: La Goulette, Carthage, Sidi Bou Said, La Marsa, Raoued, Kalaat Landlous and Riadh Andalous arriving two hours later back at Goulette Village Harbor, where they were greeted in the central square.

Last year's Giro d'Italia champion, Canadian Ryder Hesjedal, and multi-event winning Mario Cipollini, the Italian favourite nicknamed the Lion King for his powerful final sprint, were onboard this special cycling cruise which departed Civitavecchia on October 5.

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Heraklion

This year Costa Atlantica has its base of operations for homeporting in the port of Heraklion. Through elaborate planning for the safety procedure, bearing in mind the use of a dedicated charter flight and through close cooperation with the port police and airport authorities, the port managed to plan and execute a unique operation for both passengers and their suitcases. From the time of the plane landing to get to the ship takes passengers only 15 minutes, and for suitcases an average of 45 minutes, leaving plenty of time to visit the city or go on an excursion before the vessel departs. The new system is possible due to the new security plan with military style bus pre-checks and a security guard to escort every bus from airport to the port.

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Batumi

Batumi, Georgia welcomed eight cruise ships this year in a season starting in July and finishing on October 23, 2102. Visitors included three calls by Noble Caledonia's Island Sky, two calls by Oceania Cruises' Regatta and a September visit by Swan Hellenic's Minerva, a regular Black Sea cruiser.

The port provides two berths for cruise ships, one of 225.7mtr long and one of 188.5mtr. The three most popular shore excursions from Batumi Sea port are: Botanic garden excursion, Gonio Castle excursion, and organised folklore concerts in various concert halls.

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MEDCRUISE NEWS

BRINGING THE MED TOGETHER

Livorno

Over 1 million passengers will visit Livorno this year on 468 calls and a similar number of cruise visitors is expected in 2013 on 491 ships.

Florence remains the number one draw for passengers which can be reached from the port by train, bus and taxi. The train takes one and a half hours, so tourists catch the train early in the morning and return to the pier in the afternoon.

Also popular is a visit to Pisa just 20 minutes away from the port. The must-see attraction is of course the Leaning Tower located in the main square, Piazza dei Miracoli along with the Baptistery, the Cathedral, the Campanile and the Campo Santo (graveyard).

A recent addition to the list of local attractions is Bolgheri, renowned for its Tuscan products

such as wine, oil, cheese, various kind of cold pork meat and crispy toasted bread.

In 2013 Port of Livorno will build a new 4,500sq mtr cruise terminal 'C' for mega ships at Calata Alto Fondale number 46/47 at an expected investment of €10m. A second one (Alto Fondale 43/44) will follow in the 2014 season.

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Madeira

345 ships are expected in Madeira's Funchal and Porto Santo in 2012 and passenger numbers are anticipated to reach 638,595, although next year ship calls are likely to be 10% down, reports Portos da Madeira which inaugurated a new terminal in Funchal in 2010.

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Med ports in China

Three MedCruise representatives attended the Seatrade All Asia Cruise Convention in Shanghai, China. French Riviera's Anne-Sophie Peyran and Caroline Valadie were

delegates along with Figen Ayan, marketing director of Global Ports Holding and director of MedCruise, who also spoke.

Ayan was a speaker at a terminal operation and passenger handling seminar along with Royal Caribbean's John Tercek, Chi Wang, chairman of China Ports & Harbours Association, Melvin Vu, ceo SATS-Cruers Cruise Services Pte Ltd and Mark Ittel, vp ports and maritime, Bermello Ajamil & Partners.

Global Ports Holding, oversees three ports: Kusadasi, Antalya and Bodrum, which collectively handle just over half the cruise passengers to Turkey—850,000 in 2011. Ayan spoke of the benefits to ports being part of an association, like MedCruise, citing advantages such as 'overcoming rivalry and competition and finding solutions for our common interests.'



Ayan at the Japanese stand

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