

Destination MEDCRUISE

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Via Toulon

Toulon-Var-Provence, an area to discover!

In furthering its promotional strategy, the Port of Toulon's cruise team organised an exclusive discovery weekend in southern France's Var-Provence region for cruise companies and ship agents on September 26-28th.

Representatives of Fred Olsen Cruise Line, Croisfrance / Louis Cruise Line, Compagnie des Iles du Ponant, Cruise Management Consulting and MedCruise attended the event.

During these three highly condensed days, in a delightful scenery and warm atmosphere mixing business and relaxation, the participants had the opportunity to enjoy various visits and activities such as a kart challenge on the famous 'Circuit Paul Ricard' High Tech Test Track and a golf initiation on one of the most famous golf courses of the area, the 'Dolce Fregate Golf Club', set upon bluffs overlooking the Mediterranean Sea.

In passengers' footsteps, the guests inspected the Port of Toulon, its cruise facilities and its immediate surroundings: the marina, a Provençal street market (the biggest one in Provence), shopping streets in the historic quarter, and Toulon's Haussmannian district (designed by the famous French urbanist, Baron von Haussmann). The participants sampled a variety of shore excursions usually proposed to cruise passengers such as the very

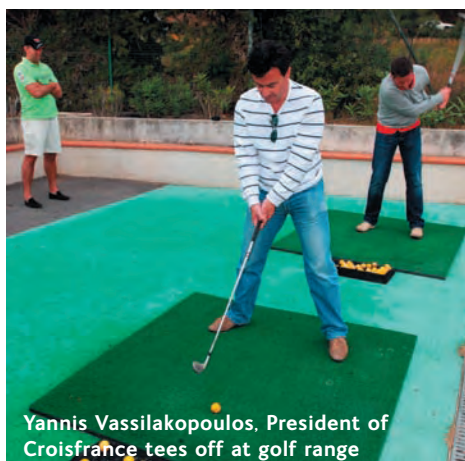


charming fishing village and intellectual enclave, Sanary-sur-Mer; wine and olive oil tasting in a traditional vineyard property with millennium-old olive trees; and the historical medieval hilltop village of Le Castellet with its Romanesque church, tiny pedestrian streets and authentic crafts boutiques.

The weekend ended with a hearing at the Var Chambre of Commerce and Industry on cruise tourism, port infrastructure and the local economy on 29th September, with presentations by John Tercek, vice president at Royal Caribbean International, and José Campos, secretary general, MedCruise.



Port of Toulon's Delphine Beudin and Tim Moore



Yannis Vassilakopoulos, President of Croisfrance tees off at golf range



Provençal street market (above) and village



Via Bari

Bari goes back to nature



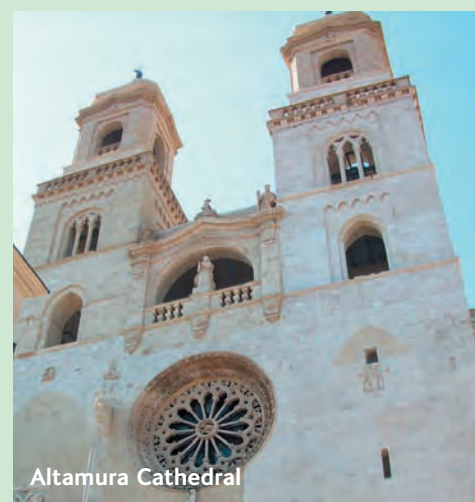
The National Park of Alta Murgia, located 46km from Bari, opened in 2004. Covering 68 hectares this environment is home to 1,500 species of wild plants, many listed in Italy as protected. The natural meadows and pastureland are dotted with ancient farmhouses and shelters for sheep

(pictured). In this harsh natural setting, there are signs of prehistoric times, like the footprints of the dinosaurs and the remains of Neolithic men.

Close to Bari are the towns of Bitritto (15 minutes away by road) with its Norman Castle in the centre and Sannicandro di Bari (10 minutes travelling time) with its imposing Swabian castle.

The latter has a wide courtyard surrounded by old houses, stables, store rooms and a hall now used for cultural activities.

Half an hour away from the port, up in the hills, is Altamura. Once inhabited by the Moors, Greeks and Jews who were amongst the followers of the court of Frederick II, the town has Byzantine churches, Greek Orthodox churches and rich palaces of the local nobility such as Palazzo Melodia in the Cathedral square. Just outside the town during the excavations of the Grotto Lamalunga the remains of a human skeleton from the Paleolithic Age were discovered in 1993.



Altamura Cathedral

Via La Spezia

First time caller

In September P&O Cruises' 116,000gt Ventura called in La Spezia for the first time, anchoring in the port's bay for the day.

The disembarking operations were quick and managed through the ship tenders. By 9:00am passengers were ready to leave La Spezia to visit the classical tourist areas of Firenze, Lucca, Pisa, while others walked to La Spezia downtown, for shopping or cultural visits to the local museums, some explored the villages of Lerici and Portovenere, within the Poets Gulf. Others went to Cinque Terre, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Calling La Spezia, cruise passengers have the possibility to appreciate something really different: the town of Parma (120 km away), with its historical buildings and some food specialities, namely parmesan cheese and Parma ham (Prosciutto di Parma). The excursions to Parma include visits to both the cheese and ham factories.



Lerici

Via Valletta

Half millionth visitor



Shannon Berg from Jacksonville, Florida (pictured left with her husband and Chris Paris General Manager of VISET Malta plc) became the half millionth cruise passenger to visit Valletta in 2008 when she stepped off Norwegian Gem on November 11th.

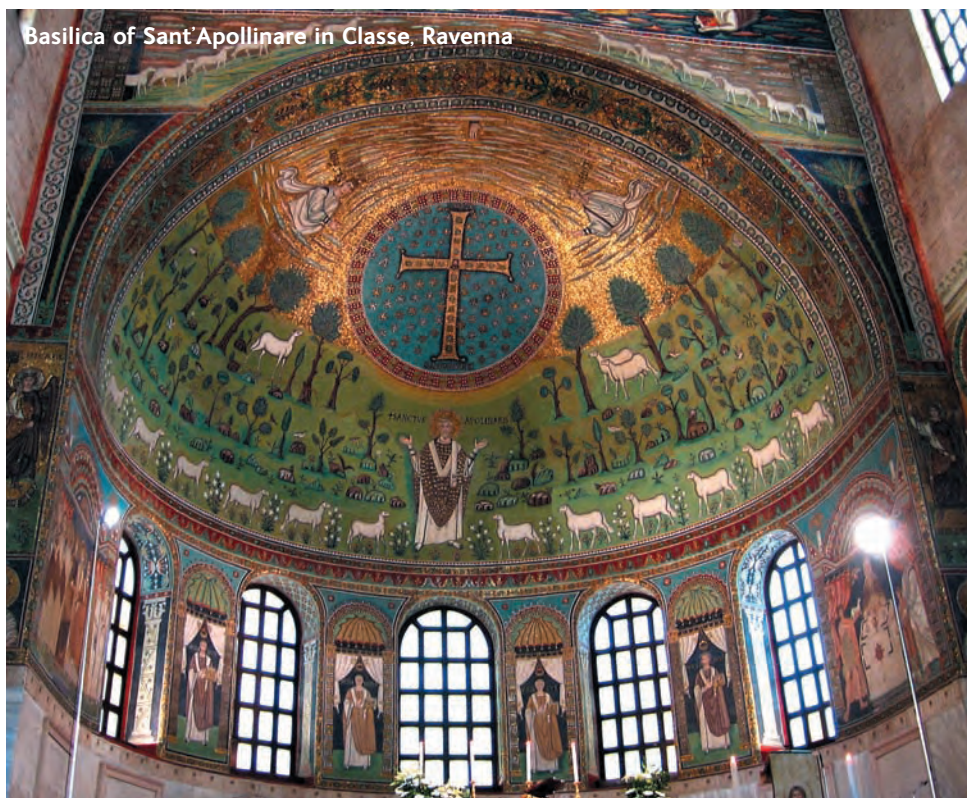
To celebrate the event, Ms Berg was awarded a return flight for two from a destination operated by Air Malta, courtesy of the national airline, and a seven-night stay at The Palace hotel in Sliema for two, together with spa

treatments and a free dinner. She was also handed a commemorative plaque by Bristow Potteries and a Malta 360° book. 530,000 passengers are expected to call in Valletta in 2008.



Religious riches

Basilica of Sant'Apollinare in Classe, Ravenna



Ravenna is well known for its UNESCO monuments including eight early Christian and Byzantine religious buildings housing extraordinary mosaics dating back to the 5th and 6th Centuries. Recently Ravenna signed a partnership with popular tourist destination San Marino Republic, also on the UNESCO World Heritage List, to promote tourism in the region.

Port of Ravenna Authority is building a new cruise terminal in Porto Corsini at an overall investment of €21m. The main berthing will consist of two 300mtr long quays with bollards to accommodate ships up to 360mtr long. Water depth alongside will be 11.5mtr. The new facility will be ready in spring 2010. Expressions of Interest to manage the passenger terminal are being sought by the authority for which the deadline is December 15th, 2008. The final tender will be launched by February 15th, 2009.

The Italian Adriatic port is expecting 24 calls in 2009 with Azamara Journey, Black Prince, Braemar and Delphin Voyager all set to make maiden calls.

Via Balearic Islands

Balearics buzzing



Mahón

Representatives from Carnival Cruise Lines, HAL and NCL visited the islands on a familiarisation trip in September arranged by the local port authority, Autoritat Portuaria de Balears (APB), and the Miami-based Spanish Tourist Office.

The group stayed in the west-Mediterranean archipelago for five days

spending two days in the so-called 'Piti-usas', the islands of Ibiza and Formentera. Subsequently the group moved on to Mallorca, the Balearics' capital island, before concluding its visit in Menorca, the archipelago's second-largest island which was declared a UNESCO biosphere reserve back in 1993.

Highlights of the trip included – among

others – a visit to the Santa Eulària des Riu village in Ibiza, to the ancient town of Palma and the Serra Tramuntana mountain range in Mallorca as well as to Ciutadella, the former capital of Menorca Island. 2008 has brought the Balearic Islands new records in terms of cruise ship calls. The first six months saw a 13% increase in passenger volumes, totalling 506,404. The largest number of passengers, 432,705 (+13%), was recorded in Palma. Yet also the smaller ports of Ibiza (+19%) and Mahón (+9%) registered significantly increasing passenger numbers.

Figures for the whole year will not be available until late December as the Balearic Islands have long ago turned into a year-round destination. However, it is clear that 2008 will exceed all previous records. For the first time in history Palma de Mallorca expects the 500 calls bench-mark to be surpassed. The 1.2m passenger record of last year will also be significantly exceeded.

For 2009, Palma has 482 calls booked so far, Mahón 113 and 119 in Ibiza, where a 25% rise in calls is anticipated. According to a recent report by local 'Sa Nostra' savings bank, cruise passengers contributed more than €85m to the local economies of Mallorca, Menorca, Ibiza and Formentera in 2007.



Malaga

Malaga and Costa celebrate long connection

In 2009, eight Costa ships will call 52 times in Malaga, including new delivery Costa Luminosa in June. In total, the Italian line will bring 156,000 passengers to Málaga, who will spend

an estimated €8m during their calls.

During a Costa Mediterranea port visit in October Enrique Linde, president of the Port Authority of Málaga presented a commemorative plaque to Costa in

recognition of the line's 60th anniversary and long connection with Malaga.

'84 years ago the shipping line made calls to Malaga transporting cargo, and then passengers,' said Luis Grau, president of Costa Crociere in Spain. Grau highlighted that Costa arrived at the Port of Málaga in 1924 with a ship loaded with cargo. In 1966 Anna C made the first call with tourists. On one of the visits that year the cruise ship received a barrel filled with Málaga wine, which was refilled in following calls.



L-R: President of Costa Crociere in Spain, Luis Grau; President of the Port Authority of Málaga Enrique Linde, with the captain of Costa Mediterranea.

MedCruise goes East



Representatives from three MedCruise members namely Venice, Trieste and Koper visited Shanghai in October to attend the first Seatrade All Asia Cruise Convention. Pictured left to right are Gabriele Zecchin and Enrica Capretti (Venezia Terminal Passeggeri), Raffaella Terpin (Trieste Terminal Passeggeri) and Graziano Cosmo (Venezia Terminal Passeggeri). Also participating at the two day event was Bojan Babic from Port of Koper.

Gibraltar's new London office

Gibraltar's First Chief Peter Caruana (right) and Albert Poggio, the UK representative for the Government of Gibraltar and SVP of MedCruise are pictured in the Government's new London offices in The Strand. Earlier in the day the pair watched as more than 6,000 performers took part in the annual Lord Mayor's Show in the City. Amongst them a Gibraltar float consisting of a large inflatable 'Rock' accompanied by students portraying various aspects of Gibraltar's economy.



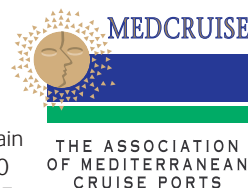
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■ Bari	■ Palermo
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