

Via Valletta

Waterfront transformation progresses



■ *The vision is to recreate the bustle and activity which Grand Harbour was known for in its heyday*

Valletta's Grand Harbour is undergoing a transformation with a number of previously run-down areas around it being refurbished and renovated.

A key component of this renaissance is the Valletta Waterfront project, conceived by VISET Malta plc partly to meet the demand from growing cruise activity in Grand Harbour. The vision is to recreate the bustle and activity which this area was known for in its heyday. VISET is investing **€25m** on developing the site which stretches about one kilometre along Pinto Wharf on the northern shore of the harbour.

Restoration of the historic Pinto and Forni warehouses was completed last year. The next major milestone in the project was reached this

summer when restoration of the old sea wall along Pinto Wharf, which until recently had been buried under rubble and concrete for a number of decades, was completed.

The newly restored sea wall, dating back to the construction of the Pinto Stores in around 1750, will now serve as the shoreline for the Laguna which Valletta Waterfront is constructing between Pinto Stores and the cruise liner quay. The sea wall, some 70mtr away from the modern shoreline, has a crescent shape reflecting the original Valletta waterfront.

These features will become an integral part of the enhanced promenade that will present this part of Valletta in the most attractive historical setting possible for the enjoyment and

appreciation of both tourist and locals. From next summer, the public will be able to enjoy not only a walk around the laguna but will also have the possibility to dine al fresco at one of the various restaurants and wine bars by the restored sea wall and slipway.

The restoration of the sea wall, together with the slipway and steps that used to form the shoreline in the 18th century has been a long a difficult process. Valletta Waterfront was determined to ensure that as much of the original stonework as possible was maintained. This meant that a lot of work had to be done by hand.

In June 2005, Pinto Stores will open to the public offering a range of leisure and entertainment facilities. The newly restored area will add to the backdrop of Fort St Angelo transforming this once dilapidated area into a historic setting with a unique atmosphere for a variety of activities ranging from dining al fresco to arts and music festivals as well as other special events.

Valletta's existing cruise terminal has been refurbished and is now handling transits and turnaround calls. By July 2005 another terminal will be built that will be dedicated for port of call operations whilst the current terminal will be focused predominantly on home porting and turnarounds.



■ *Transformation almost completed*



Via Almeria

Itinerary planners Fam trip

In May the port of Almeria-Motril welcomed cruise line itinerary planners from Cunard, Crystal Cruises, Radisson Seven Seas and SeaDream Yacht Club (pictured) who visited on a Fam trip organised by the Spanish Tourism Office in Miami and Suncruise Andalucia. The executives visited all the Andalucian cruise ports and Ceuta.

During their stay in Almería they visited the Mini Hollywood Desert Resort, the horse fair, learnt about tapas and went to Alcazaba Moorish Castle. They also visited Almería Port to inspect the cruise berths and security systems.

Next stop was Motril Port, where they visited Motril City and went to Granada to see the Alhambra Palace, before proceeding to Málaga.



Between June and August Almeria-Motril received 14 cruise calls, two of them in Motril. Six of the calls were from MyTravel's Carousel. She will call 13 times this year at Almería Port. On September 23 HAL's Westerdam became

the biggest ship to call at the port. The 85,000gt and 285mtr long vessel arrived from Mallorca and departed for Ceuta. Carousel was also in town so it was a busy day for the Andalucian port.

Via Cartagena

Fortified city and spectacular facades



The two most popular tours for passengers visiting the Spanish port of Cartagena are the city itself and Murcia.

Cartagena is a fortified city with a wealth of history and beautiful architecture. A panoramic walking tour of the city, beautifully situated in a natural harbour, includes the monument Heroes of Cavite and the Town Hall. Then admire the 18th-century Casino and the modernist houses. Find out about the history behind the Roman Theatre, as well as the ruins of the Old

Cathedral. From the 14th century Castle of the Conception there are spectacular views over the city. In the city there are plenty of parks and squares surrounded by a good selection of bars and restaurants.

In Murcia you can visit the Casino; its façade is the work of Pedro Cerdan Martinez and displays decorative elements from classical through to modern styles. Many architects worked on the building that took 50 years to finish. In the city centre a visit to the Cathedral - the most symbolic and important building in Murcia with architectural styles

from more than five centuries, including an impressive Baroque façade with a tower that is over 90 metres high.

Cartagena expects to welcome 26 calls by the end of the year, an increase of four calls from 2003. Its busiest week this year was in May when it received five calls, with two ships calling on two of the days. New callers this year have been Thomson Spirit and Adonia and in November another newcomer AIDAcara will start calling. The Seetours ship will visit 12 times (every other week) throughout the winter season.



Via Balearics

250 transit calls a year

The Balearic Islands received 677 ships last year bringing over 920,000 passengers. Whilst Palma was homeport to seven vessels in summer 2004 it is also a popular transit port with around 250 calls a year.

Cruise passengers approaching Palma by sea cannot help but be impressed by the graceful Gothic cathedral as it gradually emerges into view.

Its upward-reaching lines seem to rise endlessly as the ship gets nearer, until they merge into its protective shield of palm trees in front, the old quarter houses behind it, and the colourful fishing boats in the waters of the bay.

Begun in 1230, the cathedral was finished in 1601. Made from golden limestone from the Santanyi quarries and designed in the French Gothic style, the cathedral is 121mtr long and 55mtr wide. The main body of the



church is set in the middle of a mass of pillars and spires, behind which lies the strong buttress reinforced with a double row of flying arches. The bell tower, still unfinished today, is 52mtr high with three ogive-arched stories. It holds nine bells, the most famous of

which is the N'Eloi: 2 mtr in diameter, it weighs more than 5.700 kilos.

On the other Balearic Islands popular tours include Mahón and Ciutadella in Menorca, the old city of Dalt Vila in Ibiza and the beaches of La Savina.

Via Valencia

City tours



A stop in Valencia gives passengers the opportunity to visit the city of Porcelain, Lladro .

The town of Tavernes Blanques, home to The City of Porcelain, nestles among the Valencian market gardens. Since 1970, this is where all Lladro creations have been designed, a place of work and inspiration for over two thousand craftspeople.

These studios and workshops safeguard all the secrets of what today is defined as the finest artistic porcelain of the mid-20th century onwards.

Visiting The City of Porcelain means discovering step-by-step the entire creation process of Lladro porcelain - from the original model design all the way through to kiln firing.

The Exhibition at the studios displays all current Lladro creations, plus a selection of works from the past. Another hall nearby presents the private collection of artworks brought together by the Lladro brothers over the years, including paintings by El Greco, Sorolla, Zurbarán, Ribera and other great Spanish artists.

There are no visits on Friday afternoon through to Sunday or local holidays.

For more information visit www.lladro.com

This year Valencia expects to get 110 calls and about 100,000 passengers, almost double that of 2003 when 68 ships called bringing 57,974 passengers.

Other popular tours from Valencia are the city itself (below) and the City of Arts & Sciences, the largest cultural leisure complex in Europe which combines interesting scientific and diffusion contents with fun items for all kinds of people (left).

2007 is an important year for Valencia when the city and port will host the Americas Cup.





Via Zadar

Adriatic hub

Zadar in Croatia is centred around the Roman Forum within the preserved city walls. The Archeological Museum which was founded in 1832 is the second oldest museum in this part of Europe. The museum houses archeological remains from the Zadar region dating back to pre-historic, classical and early Middle Ages.

Zadar is also the oldest university town of Croatia and also the birthplace of the first Croatian novel as well as the first Croatian language newspaper.

Five national parks surround Zadar. The lakes of Plitvice are a two hour ride away and has been under protection from Unesco since 1979. A

woody mountainous region, sixteen dark blue lakes descend one into the other. A two hour boat ride from Zadar takes you to Kornati and Tulasica – a labyrinth of 150 islands, islets and rocks that rise from the sea in different shapes and sizes.

Zadar is planning to build a new passenger and car ferry terminal in the next 2-3 years (pictured). The port, linked with Adriatic counterpart, Ancona in Italy represents the shortest connection of inter-regional transportation routes. Zadar is 2-3 hours from Zagreb and the same distance from



Rijeka and Dubrovnik. Under the new Zadar passenger and car ferry terminal project the port will become one of the best Adriatic traffic hubs with good highway, rail, air and sea connections.

Via Piraeus

Olympic record



Piraeus, one of the largest passenger ports in the world serving 19m passengers annually, held centre-stage this summer as the eyes of the world focused on the 2004 Olympic Games.

Eleven cruise ships accommodating some 15,000 passengers lined up alongside the 3km of quays, used as floating accommodation throughout the Games.

The Port of Piraeus is an important destination for cruise ships in the Mediterranean Sea. The cruise terminal has 11 berths, including the newly constructed ones at the Palataki area, which can accommodate even the largest cruise vessels. Queen Mary 2, chartered by the Athens 2000 Committee was

located in this area during the Games. Six passenger terminals are provided, three of which handle exclusively international traffic.

At the International Passenger Terminal, passengers can take advantage of the facilities provided by the port bank, several exchange bureaus and duty free shops.

The Port of Piraeus (P.P.A. S.A.) implemented the following modernization works in the lead-up to the Games:

- Construction of a new water supply and wastewater collection network within the Passenger Port
- Rehabilitation – improvement – upgrading of the land area in the Olympic Zone at the Central Port
- Traffic arrangements and reconstruction of

the supply networks (lighting, telecommunications etc)

- Restoration – Rehabilitation of Port zone building facilities
- Additional building facilities: fire station, pilots station
- Works supporting a standard security system (special sensors, cameras, lighting, access control)

Finally, the Port of Piraeus, enriched with the Olympic activity, is now available, inter alia, as one of the most excellent ship bases thus promoting the city of Piraeus, and Greece in general, at international level, as a place of economic and cultural development that respects the natural and human environment.



Via Trieste

Gateway to Europe

Trieste, known as the gateway to Europe, was the ancient port of the Habsburg empire and thus there are many historical sites of interest for excursions. Already upon arrival in the port of Trieste, visitors will disembark at one of the main points of attraction: the 'Stazione Marittima' - Trieste Cruise Terminal, located in the immediate vicinity of the city centre, facing the main square - Piazza Unità d'Italia - which is also the largest seaside square in Europe.

The most popular tour, 'Castle of Miramare and Trieste Tour' starts from the historical centre of the city. You will be guided through the history of Piazza Unità d'Italia - surrounded by splendid 1800's buildings - Molo Audace, the Verdi theatre, Palazzo della Borsa, the church of San Nicolò, Borgo Teresiano and the Castle of San Giusto - a XV century fortification with bastions and



ramparts -, from where you will enjoy a breathtaking panorama of the entire city. The tour includes the Cathedral built on the Capitoline and the Epigraphic Park. The city tour ends at the Revoltella museum - the city residence of Baron Pasquale Revoltella, now home to the museum of modern art.

Leaving the city centre along the coast, you will come upon the enchanting, historical residence of Maximilian of Habsburg and his

wife Carlotta. An exotic park - rich in numerous varieties of plants chosen by the Archduke Maximilian himself - surrounds the castle.

Trieste is expecting 19 cruise calls this summer, up from 16 last year. The largest ship to call was P&O's Star Princess' at 245.60mtr loa which visited from July 5 to 7th 1992. Part of the existing passenger terminal has just been restored and the Port Authority is preparing to restore the remaining part of the terminal.

Via Venice

A look at Murano's glassmakers



One of the most popular tours from Venice is the islands of the northern lagoon: Burano and Murano. The first is famous for its lace-making tradition, the latter

for its glass-blowing factories.

Murano was a commercial port as far back as the 7th Century, and by the 10th Century it had grown into a prosperous trading centre. In 1291, the Venetian Republic ordered glassmakers to move their foundries to Murano because the glassworks represented a fire risk to Venice's wooden buildings.

Murano's glassmakers virtual monopoly on quality glass lasted for centuries. Murano is still an exporter of traditional products like mirrors and glassware, and its factories produce modern items such as faucet handles, glass lampshades and chandeliers. Paperweights, glass beads and necklaces and items of glass jewellery are popular with tourists.

The Museo Vetrario, or Glass Museum, which is located in the Palazzo Giustinian near the island's centre has samples of

glass from Egyptian times through the present day, and the displays show how the art and manufacture of glass developed over the centuries. (Its open every day except Wednesday).

The Church of Santa Maria e San Donato is worth a visit too. Its richly decorated interior has a marble-and-mosaic floor that was laid in 1140. The boat ride to Murano takes less than 10 minutes.





Via Livorno

Special welcome for QM2

The biggest event of Livorno's year was the visit of Cunard flagship Queen Mary 2 which came three times between August and October. For the first visit on August 8, the Livorno community (Port Authority, Municipality, Province and Tourism Organisations) offered a very special 'Welcome Day' to the liner and her passengers and crew.

As the 150,000gt vessel berthed, the City's Band played a concert on the quay. For those passengers who did not leave on an excursion, free city tours were organised by Porto di Livorno 2000 s.r.l. and the Livorno Municipality Tourism Office.

When the vessel sailed in the evening a warm 'arrivederci' to the passengers was given by Suvereto flag-wavers and musicians together with 'La Livornina' an historical procession Group wearing copies of XVIII century costumes.

Livorno port is near to the Tuscany Art Towns of Firenze, Pisa, Lucca and Siena.



Livorno Passenger Port & Terminal will be exhibiting within the MedCruise pavilion at Seatrade Med 2004. Porto di Livorno 2000 s.r.l. is hosting a short visit to the Livorno area for selected European Tour Operators on November 5th and 6th, as a Seatrade Med post-event. The visit will include a Tour by bus through Livorno

Province including Bolgheri, Castagneto Carducci and Suvereto, old villages located in the vineyard area well known for the production of Sassicaia and Ornellaia wines; a visit to one of the top cellars for wine and local agricultural product tasting and a visit to Populonia Etruscan archaeological park located at Golfo di Baratti.

Via Bari



Apulia treasures

Bari, situated on the Adriatic Sea, is expecting 124 cruise calls during 2004 including four new visitors, Costa Mediterranea, Costa Victoria, MSC Armonia and AIDAaura. Last September Bari inaugurated a new cruise terminal which is part of a €144m investment aimed at developing existing structures and increasing the multi-functional activities of the Italian port.

Two of the most popular tours undertaken by passengers visiting Bari are San Nicola's Cathedral and Alberobello, the city made of trulli.

The trulli are limestone dwellings found in the southern region of Puglia. They are remarkable examples of drywall (mortarless) construction, a prehistoric building technique still in use in this region. The trulli are made of roughly worked limestone boulders collected from neighbouring fields. Characteristically, they feature pyramidal, domed or conical roofs built up of limestone slabs.

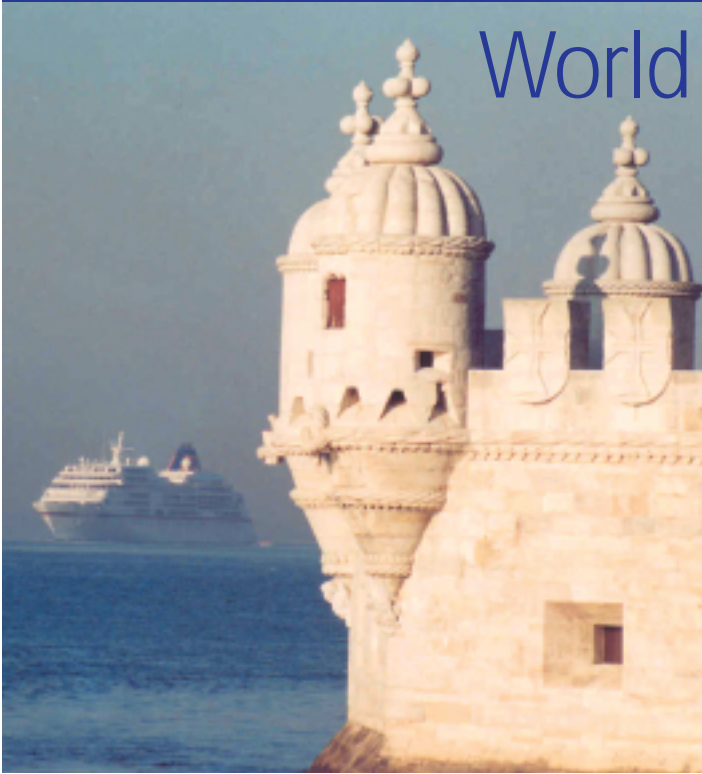
Today there are approximately a thousand trulli in Alberobello which has been inhabited since the 15th century and was designated a national monument in 1930 and also UNESCO.

San Nicola's Cathedral is located in Bari itself. In May each year the feast of San Nicola is celebrated here. A procession of some three hundred persons in the costumes of the Norman era leaves the Swabian castle to reach the church of San Nicola. There they re-enact the delivery of San Nicola's bones to the Dominican friars, recalling the events of 1087, when some merchants of Bari managed to steal the saint's relics from their resting place in Myra. The saint's statue also has a place of honour in a procession of boats that makes its way along the coast.



Via Lisbon

World Heritage attractions



The two most popular tourist attractions in Lisbon are the Belem Tower and the Jeronimos Monastery, both are classified as World Heritage Sites by UNESCO.

Built in the 16th century as a stronghold to assure the defense of the entrance of the River Tagus, Belem Tower is one of history's most beautiful military constructions. An identical fortress should have been constructed on the other side of the river, but this never happened.

Recently restored, its outside architecture is richly decorated with symbols of the Manueline style and others inspired by the Portuguese travels to discover the world.

Jerónimos Monastery (located in the Belém area) was built in the 16th century too to lodge the monks of St. Jerome's Order.

The tombs of Vasco da Gama and Luís Vaz de Camões are in the Church, and those of Fernando Pessoa and Alexandre Herculano are in the cloisters.

The monastery also houses the National Museum of Archaeology and part of the Maritime Museum. This includes models of square-rigged caravels, fluvial boats and coasters from the age of the Discoveries to the 19th century, besides arms and uniforms, navigational instruments and maritime charts.

Lisbon is expecting 281 cruise calls in 2004, up from 264 received last year.

Via Ceuta

Host of 26th General Assembly in May, 2005

Ceuta, a Spanish city in the north of Africa is located just 17km away from the Iberian Peninsula.

Ceuta will host the 26th MedCruise General Assembly in May, 2005.

Visitors will find a unique enclave, the Spanish gate to Africa in which two continents converge. Two seas also converge here, to create an unequalled natural environment. And finally, you will find four cultures: the Christian, the Moslem, the Jewish and the Hindu, all living together in perfect harmony. Strolling through the streets of Ceuta you can relive a thousand-year-old history and at the same time, enjoy all the comforts of a modern-day city.

On its beaches and coasts you will find the perfect combination to enjoy multiple options, such as underwater activities and water sports, watching migratory birds or the flamboyant show put on by the whales or inland, hiking and climbing the hills, to enjoy the best views.



Ceuta has been a cultural melting pot. Berbers, Carthaginians, Romans, Mauretanians, Vandals, Visigoths, Byzantines, Arabs, the Portuguese, Spaniards... all have been welcomed here and have found a home. And left here a sample of their cultures and

traditions for the enrichment of Ceuta.

The city boasts an interesting history with ancient city walls and fortresses, whilst shopping is a must in Ceuta. Typical bazars offer electronic goods, gifts and hand-made products.



Sevastopol

Sevastopol is MedCruise's newest member



Long forbidden to visitors, Sevastopol is now emerging under the sun of the Black Sea. In 2004, Sevastopol Sea Trade Port celebrates the 220th anniversary of its founding. Sevastopol is located on the south western part of the Crimean peninsular and its location in a unique bay means it is sheltered from storms and the port never freezes.

Translated from Greek, Sevastopol means magnificent, glory and worshipful, the name seemingly justified having survived two prolonged attacks during the Crimean War of 1853-1855 and World War II. The city was twice destroyed and twice rose from the ashes.

Today Sevastopol is considered the industrial, scientific, historical and cultural centre of the south of Ukraine. There are two other Ukrainian cruise ports: Yalta and Odessa. Yalta is the most popular tourist resort and health centre in the country and also the summer residence of the last Russian Tsar Nicholas II. This place will

forever be remembered for February 1945, when the Allied leaders Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt met to agree the resulting division of Europe. Odessa is famous for its Vorontsovskiy Beacon, the city's main symbol which has guided ships in and out of the port since 1862.

Must-see attractions in and around Sevastopol include the national Preserve of Chersonesus of Taurida, which features in the list of monuments of world importance, the Black Sea Fleet museum which follows the history of the fleet from foundation in 1783 to today, Sevastopol Art Museum which includes pieces from the private collections of the Tsar's summer palace in Lividia and Balaklava, mentioned in Homer's Odyssey during the Crimean war it was the base of the British Army. During Soviet rule there was a secret submarine tunnel inside the mountain which is now a Cold War museum.

Sevastopol has a 230mtr long quay and passenger terminal which is located in the heart of the city centre.

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MedCruise Yearbook 2005/06

The MedCruise Yearbook 2005/06 is publishing in October and will be presented for the first time at the Seatrade Med Cruise & Ferry Convention in Genoa, 3rd-5th November, 2004.

The yearbook contains information on the 43 members, representing 56 ports throughout the region located in 15 countries and three continents. It also contains information on destinations accessible via these ports.

A pocket-sized fold-up map of the region with member information, contact details and five must-see tourist attractions at each destination is also available.

If you would like to receive either a yearbook or a fold-out map please contact MedCruise at secretariat@medcruise.com

