

MEDCRUISE NEWS

BRINGING THE MED TOGETHER

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MedCruise centre-stage at Seatrade Med in Barcelona



MedCruise pavilion at the 2014 Seatrade Med marks the biggest presence of the Association representing Med ports, biannual cruise event ever.

The pavilion, located at the centre of the exhibition floor, will host 31 stands of more than 40 exhibiting members, while a common area hosted by the MedCruise Secretariat will allow interaction of the cruise world with several of the members of MedCruise. The list of stands include: Balearic Islands, Bari/Brindisi/Taranto (Apulian Ports), Cagliari, Cartagena, Civitavecchia, Corfu, Cyprus Ports, Dubrovnik (Croatian Ports), French Riviera, Gibraltar, Heraklion/Souda, Igoumenitsa, Koper, La Spezia, Livorno,

Malaga, Marseille, Mersin, Naples, Palamos, Palermo/Messina, Piraeus, Portoferraio, Azores/Lisbon/Leixoes/Portimao (Portuguese Ports), Savona, Sete, Toulon-Var Provence, Trieste, Tunisian Ports, Valletta, Venice.

These members hosting the largest stands of all are: La Spezia at 50sq mtr, Livorno at 36sq mtr, Palamos at 32sq mtr, Toulon-Var provence at 28sq mtr, Balearic Islands at 20sq mtr.

At the eve of the exhibition MedCruise is also sponsoring the Seatrade Conference Speakers' Dinner allowing more than 150 person representing its membership, to enjoy interactions with prominent cruise lines executives.

Launching new MedCruise website



MedCruise celebrates the launching of its new website and invites the cruise world to visit it at www.medcruise.com.

Targeting a more user-friendly, attractive and accessible site, MedCruise redesigned its website bring information about its members to the front.

The new website has a modern interface and new features, offering a rich experience to its visitors. Enhances with new technologies and practices it provides several opportunities for interaction.

Read all you want to know about MedCruise port members and associates at www.medcruise.com

The present edition of the newsletter coincides with some key developments in MedCruise.

Our Association heads to Barcelona and the Seatrade Med Cruise Convention enjoying a further expansion of its membership; MedCruise members host over 27 million cruise passengers per year and 14,000 cruise calls.

An active participation and the biggest MedCruise pavilion ever represent the enthusiasm of our members to market some of the most impressive cruise ports and destinations.

Meanwhile, along with the major associations representing ports in other parts of Europe and beyond, we are at the verge of announcing some important initiatives to promote collectively the interests of cruise ports. MedCruise is also engaged in a systematic dialogue with CLIA, the association representing the clients of our membership, in order to identify best ways of advancing cruises.

Barcelona represents another milestone in the life of MedCruise, the association will elect its new President and Board of Directors to serve the Association until 2017.

While I wish to thank all our members for the fruitful collaboration over the three years of my Presidency, I am confident that MedCruise will continue to be vital for the promotion and the best possible representation of cruise ports in the Med and its adjoining seas for many years to come.

While I wish to thank all our members for the fruitful collaboration over the three years of my Presidency - as well as Thanos and the current Secretariat for their excellent work in upgrading the work of the Association - I am confident that MedCruise will continue to be vital for the promotion and the best possible representation of cruise ports in the Med and its adjoining seas for many years to come.

Stavros Hatzakos, MedCruise President

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Naples Shipping Week 2014



Invited by the organisers, Thanos Pallis, General Secretary of MedCruise, delivered a keynote speech on "Expanding in changing cruise times: Where should a Med port focus?". The intervention took place in the context of the industrial days discussions.

The MedCruise Secretary General focused on regional developments in different cruise regions of the Med. Thanos provided a comparative analysis of Italian ports and an assessment of the potential and opportunities created by these trends along with those emerging due to structural developments in the sector. The intervention benefited by the 2013 edition of the MedCruise Statistics report and the raw passenger and cruise calls data provided by ports in the Mediterranean and its adjoining seas.

In another event held during the same week, Aimilia Papachristou led MedCruise representation at the Final Conference of Sustainable Cruise Project. In her intervention on "Involving offshore structures and orienting the European legislation of the sector", Aimilia

presented the work that was successfully completed by MedCruise in the context of the LIFE+ Project on existing waste reception facilities in MedCruise Ports.

Aimilia also pointed out the importance of Environmental Management for cruise ports, highlighting that the development of the European cruise industry is a key pillar of the Blue Growth strategy. She also highlighted that in collaboration with cruise lines, Medcruise port members in the Med and its adjoining seas are actively promoting the sustainable practice and profile of cruise activities.

Several MedCruise members attended the Naples Shipping Week - with speakers including Naples Cagliari, Civitavecchia, Genoa, La Spezia, Levante, Lisboa, Venezia- and have the opportunity to discuss with attending cruise lines executives, the representative of the association representing shipowners in Europe (ECSA), stakeholders, and European and local policy makers - with the highlight of NSW being the presence and intervention of the IMO Secretary General, Mr Koji Sekimizu.

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Sustainable Cruise Project - Reduce, Re-use and Recycle

Sustainable Cruise, a pilot project dedicated to increasing waste management efficiency on board cruise ships, recently announced the findings of its research spanning almost three years.



By resizing 126,000 Today daily printed programmes (from A3 to A4) during a six week pilot, more than 127kg of paper was saved.

The project, co-funded by the European Commission through LIFE+, the program supporting actions in the environmental field, was spread over 11 actions entrusted to various partners including: Costa Cruises, RINA Services and MedCruise, the Association of Mediterranean cruise ports.

Using Costa Pacifica as a 'pilot ship', the project experimented with management models and innovative technologies that meet the objectives laid down by the European Waste Framework Directive, which can be summarized in the so-called 3Rs: Reduce, Re-use and Recycle.

In practice, starting with a detailed analysis of the waste flows on board, the project partners concentrated on three types of waste and set about to:

- 1) Recover the economic value of 1,700cu mtr of biodegradable waste per year, corresponding to around 90% of the waste generated by Costa Pacifica,
- 2) Define a plan for reducing packaging by 30%,
- 3) Define a plan for reducing paper by 40%

Packaging - Glass and plastic bottles, aluminium and containers represent over 50% of the waste generated onboard. The partners concentrated their attention on packaging which has a higher incidence for the purposes of disposal. Each week the ship loads 24,000 either glass or plastic

bottles of water in all sizes. By replacing glass bottles with recyclable PET plastic bottles enables a reduction in greenhouse gases of 50% of the life cycle of the bottles, leading to a reduction of around 120g of CO2 equivalent less per day for each passenger. By replacing individual yoghurt pots with 1 litre tetrabriks, resulted in almost 6,500 pots less per cruise.

Biowaste on a ship the size of Costa Pacifica represents around 22% of the total waste generated on board. This waste can be disposed ashore or discharged at sea if ground to no larger than 25mm. Sustainable Cruise focussed on two prototypes for enhancing and commercialising the biowaste generated onboard including building a turbodryer by partner VOMM Impianti & Processi to treat biowaste directly. Results showed the drying process does not alter the protein and nutritional properties of the food thus making it a potential 'finished' product that in future may be resold and or re-used. The VOMM turbodryer can also perform additional processing, for example, on paper and PET plastic.

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Seatrade Winter Cruising Forum 2015, Cartagena



The 3rd Seatrade Winter Cruising Forum, supported by MedCruise, is heading for Cartagena, Spain, 21-22 January 2015 and will look at the ever-increasing popularity of winter cruising.

Since the inaugural Seatrade Winter Cruising Forum in Malta in 2008, increasing cruise passengers numbers have continued to demonstrate that the concept of winter cruising to warmer climes continues to grow from strength to strength, with a growing number of cruise lines adding these itineraries to their programmes. As well as the promise of more moderate temperatures, the other key appeal for travellers is the reduced number of tourists at key visitor attractions in the Mediterranean region.

These have lead MedCruise to offer its support to the 2015 Seatrade Winter Cruising Forum in Cartagena that will bring together ports, tourism authorities and other cruise industry stakeholders for an informative conference to discuss strategies for additional deployment of cruise vessels to the region. There will be a strong focus on the entire Mediterranean and its adjoining seas, as well as presenting to the cruise operators an overall view of the facilities and attractions Cartagena and the Region of Murcia offer to the cruise passengers as an all-the-year-round destination. In addition, there will be discussions on the development of winter cruise itineraries for destinations further afield and lessons learnt so far.

The forum will also feature a dedicated workshop on the Mediterranean, focusing on both the success stories and the issues confronting the region as it continues to lead the way as an year-round cruise arena. Following tailored conference sessions, the workshop will give regional destinations an opportunity to present their product and services to the cruise lines in one-on-one pre-scheduled meetings.

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Professional Development Course 2015

The new edition of the MedCruise Port Development course is scheduled to take place in the early days of 2015.



In line with tradition established in recent years, MedCruise will offer the opportunity to its members for a course educating them on the themes of (a) cruise marketing and (b) cruise operation. The programme will also include a part devoted to the tools available for the improvement of organisation management.

The course is expected to take place on board a cruise vessel.

The innovative MedCruise Professional Development Courses are offered free of charge to all MedCruise port members and associate partners.

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Heading to elections

September is the month of MedCruise elections. The 71 MedCruise regular members will gather to elect the new President and Board of Directors that will represent all four different geographical regions (Atlantic/West Med, Adriatic, East Med, Black Sea) for the next three years.

The elections will take place on the 19th

of September during the 45th MedCruise General Assembly in Barcelona.

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MedCruise will be participating at the following events worldwide in 2014-15

4th International Ports and Shipping Conference, 1-3 October, 2014, St. Petersburg



MedCruise President Mr. Stavros Hatzakos will be among the key note speakers of the 4th International Ports and Shipping Conference.

2nd GreenPort Congress 2014, 15-17 October 2014, Barcelona



In its 9th year, the GreenPort Congress provides decision makers from the port community with a meeting place to learn and discuss latest sustainable development and environmental practice.

Italian Cruise day, 24 October 2014, Naples



The Italian Cruise day 2014, the annual event of reference for the cruise industry in Italy that is held under the auspices of MedCruise will take place in Naples, October 24th, 2014.

International Cruise Summit 2014, 12-13 November 2014, Madrid



The 2014 INTERNATIONAL CRUISE SUMMIT will once more bring together the combined talents of the industry and its major players in a business that continues to go from strength to strength.

Seatrade Winter Cruising Forum, 19-22 January 2015, Cartagena



The main objective of the forum is to bring together ports, tourism and other cruise industry stakeholders from the Med to discuss strategies for additional deployment of cruise vessels to the region.

The Posidonia Sea Tourism Forum, 26-27 May 2015, Athens

Alanya

Turkey's Alanya Cruise Port, reports an increase in calls in recent weeks and a 'significant' number of enquiries from cruise lines asking for available berthing in the coming months, as a result of itinerary changes due to ongoing unrest in Israel and Syria.

Positioned along the Turkish Riviera and situated between Cyprus and a variety of Greek islands, Alanya welcomed Regent Seven Seas' Mariner in August, and is gearing up to host Oceania's Riviera, as well as vessels from both Hapag Lloyd and Peter Deilmann.

Alanya is dedicated to cruising, with no cargo traffic whatsoever. The berth has a prime position in the town and within walking

distance from significant 800-year-old history one way, and an extremely attractive promenade with shopping and sea front cafes going in the other direction.

A variety of full and half day tours from Alanya takes passengers to Perge, established around 1500 BC where St. Paul reputedly preached his first sermon, to rafting in the nearby Dim River and the chance to swim in the cool meltwater.

Alanya was the proud host of the 43rd MedCruise General Assembly last November.

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Mahon port

Balearic Islands

Cruise ships call at five ports operated by the Port Authority of the Balearic Islands: Palma, Alcudia, Mahon, Ibiza and La Savina.

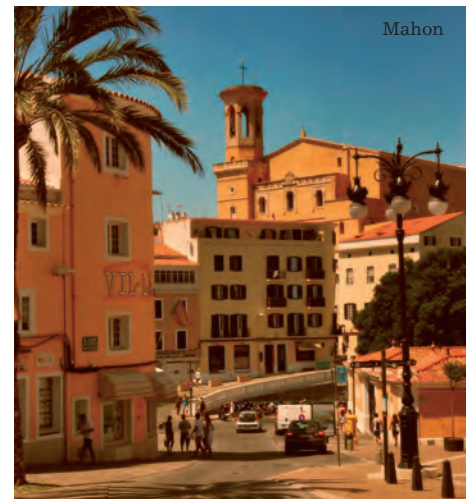
The island of Minorca, with its unique charm, has a seaport in Mahon that meets the stringent demands of an industry, which is always on the lookout for new innovative proposals.

The Port of Mahon is the main access point to this island by sea and, every year, welcomes thousands of new visitors who arrive on board cruise ships.

The Minorcan port aims to further develop the port to increase its capacity and cater for larger cruise ships. This has already included dredging the port this year to achieve minimum depths of 10mtr, bringing major safety improvements for visiting larger vessels. In addition, a new mooring area has been brought into service, providing a 250mtr berthing line close to the town centre. Other initiatives aimed at improving turning manoeuvres for large cruise vessels within the port are set to start in the near future.

Minorca's almost 70,000 hectares are full of charm which makes it an exceptional destination for nature-lovers, visitors looking to unwind, and those in search of tradition and good food, which together make up the essential ingredients for a successful Mediterranean destination.

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Mahon



Seven Seas Mariner in port

Azores



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The biggest challenge facing the islands is having cruise ships calling during the summer months, which is traditionally the cruise low season. Andre Velho Cabral, Ports of Azores, cruise manager says the islands are fully committed to reversing the slow months and to tempting cruise lines to experience an Azorean summer season. In 2015, 10 ships are expected to call in the summer months.

For 2015, it is the first time that the Azorean islands have received a ship call in every month, 145 calls and 130,000 passengers are expected. There will be 10 maiden callers: - Azores, Britannia, Serenissima, Ocean Dream, Quantum of the Seas, MSC Divina, Sea Adventurer, Island Princess, Zuiderdam and Europa 2.

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Cartagena

© Joaquin Giró



For 2014, Cartagena expects over 100 calls and more than 130,000 passengers.

First time callers include Thomson Majesty, Costa Classica, Celebrity Reflection, Serenissima, FTI Berlin, Insignia, Funchal, MSC Lirica and Armonia.

New excursions include; Tapas Route: A tour of bars and restaurants of Cartagena enjoying tapas of the region, including a visit to the number one attraction, the Roman Theatre of Cartagena; Experience 43: Learn about the history and manufacture of Licor 43 as well as Villa Massa Limoncello and Pacharán Zoco, and the wines of Mar de Frades and Ramón Bilbao; Mine Agrupa Vicenta is a mining park in La Unión dating back to 1860. Galleries with eight meter-high pillars, extraordinary tunnels and an underground red lake make it unique. A small auditorium inside the mine offers visitors the chance to watch a flamenco performance.

In addition to improvements made in 2013, the port authority hopes to enlarge the cruise berth by 100mtr, gaining a 660mtr berth.

On January 19-22, 2015 Cartagena is hosting The third Seatrade Winter Cruising Forum (see page 3).

Antonio Sevilla, president of the Port Authority of Cartagena, commented, "During the last few years, we are witnessing an increase in cruising in the Mediterranean region. The Port of Cartagena is also increasing its cruise business, with more and more calls. Our next challenge is to expand the seasonality of cruise ship visits in Cartagena and to attract vessels also in winter season, in order to generate more benefits from this tourist activity."

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Mina Agrupa Vicenta

Barcelona



Torre Bellesguard

Barcelona Tourist Board is proposing some new attractions for cruise passengers: Torre Bellesguard, a modernist manor house designed by Antoni Gaudí between 1900 and 1909; Centre Cultural El Born, an iconic marketplace recreated as an archaeological site, exhibition space and arts centre; els Encants Nous, a flea market with over 500 vendors, and Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site, an architectural collection of 19 buildings designed by Domenech i Montaner between 1902 and 1930 and housing the former Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau.

Barcelona will welcome 813 calls in 2014. New visitors are AIDA Sol, Emerald Princess, Costa Diadema, Regal Princess, Mein Schiff 3, Star Flyer and three calls from the biggest cruise ship in the world, Oasis of the Seas.

Building works are continuing and Palacruceros will extend its facilities up to 1,300sq mtr in order to effectively serve turnaround operations for the biggest cruise ships.

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Castellón

Windstar Cruises will call for the first time in November this year.

Some guests may try a new shore excursion available: a Paella master class. This is taught by prestigious chef, Miguel Martí, at a beautiful venue – Masía les Casotes, surrounded by orange groves.

Castellón hosted the 44th MedCruise General Assembly in May this year. Guests had the opportunity to visit Benicàssim, the

facilities of the Port of Castellón, a walking tour through the capital, enjoy the Vilafamés Bodegas Baron d'Alba, learn to cook a paella at Masía les Casotes and visit Europe's longest underground river in Vall d'Uixó.

A group of American cruise companies visited Castellón the week following the General Assembly for a fam-trip (pictured).

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French Riviera

The ports of Cannes, Antibes, Golfe Juan, Nice and Villefranche sur Mer expect 374 calls and 604,703 passengers in 2014.

A 'French Riviera Flavours' brochure is available featuring destination information that can create new products together with shore excursion agents and FRCC local partners promoting the destination.

Earlier this year, at the Port of Nice, a 'Green award' trophy was presented to the captain of Club Med 2. This is an award given to the cruise ship having the most environmentally friendly approach to any of the FRCC ports it visits, according to a number of criteria.



In June, more than 4,000 cruise passengers from MSC Sinfonia and Serenade of the Seas were greeted with 'A sensational day in Cannes!' To make all the passengers feel welcome they were treated to a variety of local music, cancan dancers, free workshops and food tastings on the quayside and around the town.

FRCC is working on new services for crew members and new welcome greetings for passengers. www.frcc.fr

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Egypt

Alexandria, a port city in northern Egypt in the Nile delta as founded in 331 BCE by Alexander the Great. Alexandria Port owns the third largest cruise terminal in the Mediterranean, with a surface of 8,725sq mtr and a parking area with a capacity of 350 cars or 80 buses. It can accommodate more than 5,000 tourists and five cruise ships simultaneously and has been refurbished throughout. The Board of Alexandria Port, has put all its efforts into serving cruise tourism and improving the image of the port, including security, safety and hospitality.

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Constantza



106 ships are expected in 2014 compared to the 69 that called last year bringing a 50% increase in passengers compared to the 54,614 that visited Constantza in 2013. There are two new ships calling this year, AIDAaura five times, and Celebrity Constellation three times.

Work is underway on a second berth of 160mtr, adding to the main 460mtr long cruise berth. The new facility is already in use and a link between the passenger berth and building was scheduled to be finished end July 2014. The investment is €200,000. Reconverting the

berth into a specialised passenger area will bring more income to the port and local economy in accordance with a €18m tourist project aimed for completion in October 2014.

The main event at the port this year was the SCF Black Sea Tall Ships Regatta organized with Sail Training International UK. 30,000 visitors were expected to watch the race and in the end 100,000 turned up for the three day show.

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Cyprus

The new 6,800 sq. mtr. passenger terminal at Lemesos will be ready for use next year. It is fully compliant with Schengen, safety and new security requirements as set by the EU. The modern facility houses a departure hall, two arrival halls, an area for luggage handling, a restaurant and a parking lot. Cyprus Ports Authority has also scheduled a series of other projects with an emphasis on the empowerment and the strengthening of cruise infrastructure and services to further satisfy cruise lines and passengers. Towards this direction, special economic incentives have also been promoted.

Developments are also being implemented in the fields of CPA's environmental policy and the IT systems.

Visitors arriving at Lemesos, in a short time, may amongst others visit the archeological sites of Kourion and the Apollo Temple as well as

the traditional Omodos Village, which has long history in the wine production and a unique 17th century stone built monastery via a cobblestone path.

Excursions leaving from Larnaca port include amongst others, visits to Agia Napa and Protara with their sandy beaches and holiday resorts, Nicosia's historical buildings and monuments as well as visits to the old part of the town with the traditional streets and the shopping areas. Trips to the picturesque villages in the Troodos Mountains such as Lefkara, and Agioi Vavatsinias are also offered.

From Paphos, visitors can see some of the finest mosaics in the Mediterranean, the Tombs of the Kings whilst from Latchi the baths of Aphrodite as well as walk along the Adonis Nature trail.

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Heraklion



Gibraltar

Gibraltar Port Authority has announced a series of incentives to enhance the competitiveness of the port across both the cruise sector and commercial shipping, to further consolidate its position as a leading supplier of the full spectrum of marine services at the strategic gateway to the Mediterranean.

Earlier this year, Gibraltar's Minister for Tourism, Commercial Affairs, Public Transport and the Port, The Hon. Neil Costa MP, revealed a list of discounts on passenger dues for cruise ships calling at Gibraltar.

These discounts are based on the number of calls made in a calendar year. An addition to the above incentive also allows for 'repositioning' calls from the Mediterranean to North America, South America or the Caribbean (or vice-versa) to benefit from a 100% markdown on passenger dues.

A brand new incentive has also been introduced which also offers a discount on the number of passengers visiting Gibraltar during a calendar year.

The news follows hard on the heels of the announcement by Royal Caribbean International that Anthem of the Seas will be calling seven times at the Rock in 2015.

In July, further incentives were also announced related to bunkering operations.

Last year, 179 cruise ships called at Gibraltar bringing 278,139 passengers.

Measuring just over six square kilometres, Gibraltar offers something for everyone, ranging from archaeological treasures and priceless artefacts to a wide variety of shops and restaurants. Popular Rock attractions include St Michael's Cave, the famous Barbary monkeys, Great Siege Tunnels, World War 2 Tunnels and the Moorish Castle.

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Moorish Castle

Currently, 170 ships will be visiting Heraklion's port in 2014, seven of which are new.

A visit to Heraklion's Archaeological Museum is second only to the National Archaeological Museum in Athens and interest in tours of the museum, combined with a Knossos visit is rising. Other new excursions include a visit to the traditional town of Archanes noted for its quaint architecture and charming stores selling local produce and souvenirs of Crete. Nearby, at Kato Archanes, is another significant Minoan settlement and the largest prehistoric burial site in the Aegean dating from 2800 BC.

A new special permanent tent structure is being built on Pier IV. Fully air-conditioned, it will provide all necessary embarkation and

disembarkation services. The pier is 289mtr in length and 14.2mtr depth. The €450,000 project is scheduled to start in 2015 and be completed within six months.

Another project already approved is for a dedicated cruise terminal at Heraklion International Airport.

The port has worked very hard to overcome the challenges prompted by continuing political instability in the eastern Med, continuing to introduce attractive, cruise-focused features to enhance the visitors' experience, whilst maintaining close relationships with the cruise lines. In 2014, Heraklion is projecting a 10% year-on-year growth in cruise business.

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Huelva

The Port of Huelva hopes to become an established cruise destination in the next three to five years.

The port has started an LNG bunker supply service and is the first port in Spain to have drawn up regulations for this. It is also negotiating to offer a lower price for bunkering supply to cruise vessels.

Some of the excursions available to future passengers arriving at the Port of Huelva are: the Grotte de Marvel; Doñana Natural Park; Rio Tinto Mining area or the most

remarkable is the visit to the Caravel's Wharf in the town of La Rábida (where Christopher Columbus departed to discover America).

The Spanish port has invested around €12m in the riverside so that citizens and cruise passengers can enjoy this beautiful part of the city, including a promenade, leisure area, bars and restaurants.

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Caravel's Wharf

Igoumenitsa

Meteora UNESCO World Heritage Site



Three years ago Igoumenitsa was completely unknown to the cruise industry, and now has 13 calls in 2014.

The amazing pinnacle monasteries of Meteora, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, can be reached from Igoumenitsa in what is a memorable full day tour through some of Greece's most beautiful countryside.

There are excellent beaches in and around Igoumenitsa and unlike most sea transport hubs, trucks and other ferry related traffic does not flood the city thanks to the port's immediate exit to Egnatia Highway. This unique feature is a benefit for the cruise lines, since it allows for a quick and efficient dispatch of long tours. A short walk from the quay are many cafés, bars, shops and restaurants ready to welcome cruise passengers who opt not to go on tours or crew members seeking a short break ashore. The new 2,334sq mtr cruise passenger terminal has been completed, part of the port's Phase II project within 2014. The entire Phase II infrastructure investment amounts to €66.2m.

As a new cruise port, its main challenge is to deliver excellent service to all cruise lines that have chosen to visit and the port authority expects growth to accelerate as more cruise operators discover the yield potential of the destination. The Region of Epirus offers an unusually wide scope for tours of historic sites and monuments, traditional lifestyle and stunning natural beauty.

Igoumenitsa Port Authority also manages the small port of Sivota and already has one cruise call there. Sivota, an attractive yacht haven, is ideal for small cruise vessels.

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Sivota



Istanbul



Istanbul Port expects 326 ships in 2014 with five maiden calls from MSC Preziosa, Norwegian Jade, Regal Princess, Star Pride and Le Soleal.

New excursions include a boat tour along the Bosphorus and night tours to sights and popular restaurants in the city.

Istanbul Port commonly known as Galataport, is the only operating cruise port in Istanbul, privatised in May 2013.

The new operator aims to continue to make improvements for the 37 cruise lines visiting this year.

The current berth length is 1,115mtr and

the width will be extended to 10mtr.

There will be ongoing improvements to the terminal, services and security. There is now a dedicated taxi service for the port.

The port will welcome 600,000 passengers in 2014. With the renovations, IstanbulPort is planning to have an increase of over 45% in turnaround operations and 15% overall passenger traffic by 2015.

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Koper



Dragomir Matić, the newly appointed president of Luka Koper (the company that manages the entire port area) reports, 'The paperwork for the construction of a new terminal building is in full swing, including the approval of the architectural design, and I believe construction work should commence in 2015'.

Koper, situated in Slovenia in the north Adriatic, is currently a transit port and last

year received 54 cruise calls and 65,434 passengers. For 2014, 55 ships will call bringing in 60,000 passengers. Koper has ambitions to be a homeport and a number of cruise lines have recently expressed an interest in participating in a common homeport project.

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Kotor



Port of Kotor, Montenegro, is expecting 360 ships to call in 2014, this is slightly down on last year when 387 ships called bringing 317,746 passengers. New visitors this year are Queen Elizabeth, Norwegian Jade, Regal Princess, Ventura, Dawn Princess, Mein Schiff 3 and Le Soleal.

The port has a new Montenegro Shorex Open Double Deck Bus. New modern terminal facilities opened in July.

A pilot project has been designed and

proposed for berthing of the new generation of cruise ships over 300mtr LOA with two mooring buoys 300 SWL (safe working load). A Dolphin project is also planned which will allow ships of over 300mtr to berth. It will improve safety and security for ships and passengers. A project for video surveillance is also in progress.

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La Spezia

After the extraordinary result of last year, with 214,000 passengers in transit, it looks as if the Port of La Spezia will double its traffic in 2014, with more than 490,000 passengers and 183 cruise calls expected. In 2015, a further increase is predicted.

These excellent results are also due to the location of La Spezia, which plays an increasingly important role in the Med as a new cruise port.

From the Italian port you can reach amazing destinations both in Liguria, Tuscany and Emilia such as the Cinque Terre, La Spezia, Portovenere, Lerici,

Sarzana, Pisa and Florence.

The new cruise pier and terminal projects, under study by the Port Authority, will allow simultaneous berthing for two large vessels, permitting traffic of up to 900,000 passengers a year.

Companies that have already chosen to call the Port of La Spezia include: Costa Crociere, Royal Caribbean International, MSC Cruises, Disney, Ibero Cruises, Carnival, AIDA Cruises, Pullmantur and Regent Seven Seas.

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Lisbon

The port of Lisbon expects more than 500,000 passengers and 334 cruise calls in 2014 and will welcome eight new visitors: Mein Schiff 3 will call Lisbon on her maiden voyage, the other cruise ships are Azores, Thomson Majesty, Seabourn Quest, Louis Aura, Horizon, Expedition and Sovereign.

Amongst others, a new shore excursion for 2014 is 'Surf and Yoga' a tour for the body and mind. The surfing experience includes two hours of lessons at Praia da Mata, Costa da Caparica, free time and a lunch followed by a one-hour yoga workshop and relaxation.

A 35-year contract, to include the construction and operation of a cruise terminal has been signed. Aiming to double calls from the current 550,000 passengers over the next 10 years whilst keeping up-to-date with increasing requirements.



On May 6, the Port of Lisbon welcomed Cunard's three Queens: Queen Mary 2, Queen Elizabeth and Queen Victoria. Including another three ships that day there were over 13,000 passengers and 5,000 crew in the Portuguese capital.

On April 26, the first 'Cruise Day Lisbon' took place dedicated to cruise tourism marked by a debate on the themed cruises, visits to a cruise ship and to the Portuguese Navy school tall ship NRP Sagres, followed by a regatta on the Tagus estuary. The Cruise Day Lisbon was the first initiative by Lisbon Cruise Club (LCC) to celebrate the importance of cruise business for Portugal. The strong growth of cruise tourism as well as the economic impact obtained from results compiled by Port of Lisbon last year, where the number of calls and cruise passengers broke new records, spurred the event and marked a new stage of cruise business development in the Portuguese capital.

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Marseille

Marseille's forecast for calls, as at July 1, 2014 is for 510 cruise ships bringing 1,330,000 passengers of which 480,000 expected to embark/disembark and 850,000 in transit.

New calls expected are Costa neoRomantica, Artania, Zenith, Louis Aura, Liberty of the Seas, Star Pride, Funchal, Le Soléal, Costa Diadema and Louis Cristal.

In addition to existing sights and tours the city now boasts no fewer than eight new cultural venues and an Old Port redesigned as part of the European Capital of Culture year.

The Marseille-Fos Port Authority and the private terminal operator Marseille Provence Cruise Terminal (MPCT) 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 up to five mega ships simultaneously or up to seven cruise ships depending on size.



In addition, two berths are available at the Joliette (J4) terminal close to the city centre and its new attractions (three new museums). This terminal is reserved for small and mid-sized luxury cruise ships.

There are also improved facilities at berths 2, 3 and 186 and with the opening of a new €1.3m terminal new facilities include 4,500sq mtr of terminal hall with a 2,500sq mtr check-in area, a car park and a 2,000sq mtr baggage handling zone.

There is the new Terrasses du Port shopping centre and under renovation, the Centre Bourse houses sixty shops, dining areas and the Marseille History Museum.

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Messina

A new shore excursion available from the port of Messina is to visit the Benedictine Monastery at San Placido Calonerò.

Built in 1363, the Monastery is among the most significant in the north-western Sicily, in the hills of Giampilieri Marina. It offers magnificent views of the Strait of Messina and today houses an agricultural school and wine cellar.

A guided tour through the monastery will allow you to witness the production of olive oil and wine and go on to visit the cellars and vineyards. You will sample local food such as black pork salami combined with the

"Mamertino Doc" wine, cheeses and biscuits. Produce can be bought such as: olive oil, jam, honey, as well as Sicilian pottery.

148 ships are expected to call Messina in 2014, including new visitors Costa neoRomantica, Seabourn Sojourn, Costa Classica, MSC Sinfonia, Lisboa, Sovereign, Ocean Countess, Star Pride, Celebrity Constellation, Costa Fascinosa, Azores, Funchal and Regal Princess. Public tender has been sought for the design of a new cruise terminal.

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Odessa

Odessa had 159 cruise calls scheduled for 2014, but due to the political situation in Ukraine the final tally is likely to be around 42.

Nevertheless, Odessa is far away from the unstable regions in Ukraine and continues to welcome visitors. For example, in mid summer Great Britain, Australia and France withdrew their travel warnings for Odessa.

Variety Cruises' Harmony G called on July 21 for the third time, staying in the city for three days.

A number of events are taking place this summer at the Passenger Terminal including the Silent Cinema Festival, the 5th Odessa International Film Festival, sports (diving, surfing, bike riding) events, gastronomic and

sound festivals, as well as historical and literary festivals.

Some of the new tours offered this year include Taste of Odessa, with guests visiting five different restaurants, with different menus where they are told a history of the dishes and opportunity to cook and sample the food.

Segway tours lasting either 30 minutes, one, or two hours visiting the historical center of Odessa and Shustov wine and cognac museum, offers guests a variety of interesting stories, a visit to the cognac and wine cellars and a tasting session. There is an opportunity to purchase products afterwards.

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Palamos/Roses



The port of Palamós, from the Costa Brava Cruise Ports brand, is expecting 37 calls this year in a season due to end in November 2014. Maiden visitors include Zenith, Seabourn Spirit, MSC Sinfonia, Tere Moana and Star Flyer.

Meanwhile neighbouring port of Roses, also part of Costa Brava Cruise Ports is set to welcome 10 ships in a season ending in October 2014. It also welcomes some first time callers

including Club Med 2, Sea Cloud II, Seabourn Sojourn, Azamara Quest and Azamara Journey.

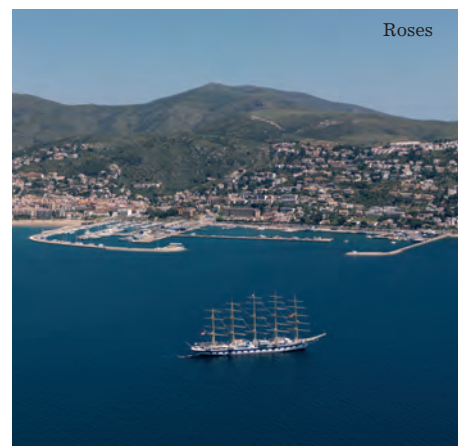
The most popular shore excursion from Palamós is Figueres and chance to see the Dalí Museum which houses much of his work as well as the jewellery collection that he designed between 1941 and 1970, combined with Jewish Quarter in Girona.

A popular tour from Roses is Bohemian Life in Cadaqués. Passengers are able to relax and

enjoy an aperitif or a snack facing the sea, like a great number of intellectuals did, such as Salvador Dalí or Marcel Duchamp, among others. Some of these bars have photographs of famous people hanging on their walls, which is a sign of the fascinating glamour of Cadaqués.

Some cruise lines combine Cadaqués with a wine tasting in the middle of a vineyard surrounded by mountains and sea.

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Palermo

MSC Cruises' MSC Musica, Cunard's Queen Elizabeth and Pullmantur's Zenith will all visit Palermo for the first time in 2014.

Passengers may have the opportunity to experience some new tours including a visit to Teatro Massimo and short concert, or Palazzo Riso, Contemporary Art Museum of Sicily or view the amazing scenery at Castello Utveglio, up Monte Pellegrino.

Another tour focuses on the sea and Castello a mare, the oldest part of the town, the amazing Gothic-Catalan 'Catena' church and Foro Italico, Porta Felice, Palazzo Butera, the

'Passeggiata delle Cattedre' and Palazzo Lampedusa.

The Passenger Terminal needs a refurbishment so the building, dating back to the late 1940's, will be fully internally restored preserving the exteriors of the building. The contemporary interior design will include a wide common area as departure lounge featuring restaurants and cafés, shopping center, ticket offices, public safety services and area for maritime operators.

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Portoferraio

There will be more than 100 ships calling at Elba in 2014 with more than 30,000 passengers.

The new ships that have chosen Portoferraio as a port of call include Star Pride, Europa 2, Costa neoRiviera and Louis Aura.

Elba is in fact a perfect choice, especially for those ships that go to Livorno and Civitavecchia, being a relaxing stopover between the two large ports, where there are long and intense tours.

Over and above this, 2014 sees the celebrations of the bicentenary of Napoleon on the island of Elba, and many events have been organised to recall the 10 months the Emperor spent on the island.

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Rijeka

Port of Rijeka Authority, City of Rijeka and Rijeka Tourism Offices are working closely to establish the city, the port, and surrounding area as an important cultural, historical and leisure destination for cruise tourism.

Located in the northern Adriatic, the City of Rijeka offers robust history, a walkable waterfront, interesting architecture, art galleries, great wine, food, ambience, culture and shopping.

It's close to the photogenic coastal town of Istria and charming Opatija, the Pearl of the Adriatic, as well as abundant nature sites including breathtaking Krk Island, known for olive oil, wine and honey, and scenic Plitvice



Lakes National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site with lakes, caves and waterfalls. Also, Gorski Kotar, a green oasis full of lakes, national parks, hills & mountains that offers lots of wonderful activities for the more adventurous. Rijeka is also the gateway to Zagreb, the Croatian capital.

Not only does Rijeka have multiple docking areas for small and mid-sized ships at its maritime passenger terminal, but its larger vessels, with up to 10.5mtr draft, can now dock at the Container port. Both terminals being only a few hundred meters' walk from the historic centre. Rijeka is also a major luxury yacht destination, hosting a beautiful marina in the centre of the city and exceptional facilities.

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Ravenna



A tour to Venice and the Venetian Lagoon and a visit to Florence are possible from Ravenna which is expecting to welcome 38 cruise ships and about 42,000 passengers this year.

Several newcomers will visit Ravenna in 2014, including Regal Princess - which will be the largest ship ever to call at the Adriatic port - Costa Classica, Grand Celebration, Seven Seas Mariner, Insignia and Braemar.

Details for a proposed new cruise terminal will be ready in late 2014. The new cruise terminal (to be operational by the beginning of 2016) will comply with the most updated standards: simple, functional, guest-oriented

and low cost.

Non-marquee ports like Ravenna are facing several issues due to difficulties for itinerary planners to find a balance between the market request of cruise-appealing ports and the need for new destinations.

Ravenna is working hard to promote the destination as one of the best cruise calls in the Adriatic and Eastern Med.

Work on the long-awaited dredging of the entrance channel and the turning basin started this summer.

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Sète

Sète has a cruise terminal in the heart of the town for ships up to 200mtr long, and another dedicated cruise berth for ships up to 240/250mtr long, close to downtown.

The port is planning to offer a new cruise handling facility in 2016 inside the port area, alongside a sheltered breakwater, using mooring dolphins. It will be able to handle ships up to 350mtr long. Ship to shore tenders will be able to take passengers to Sète Cruise Terminal in nine minutes (see below).

Sète is different to other ports in the south of France: surrounded by sea on one side and the Thau Lagoon on the other; the port and town are crossed by canals and bridges which offer a

picturesque and intimate destination experience.

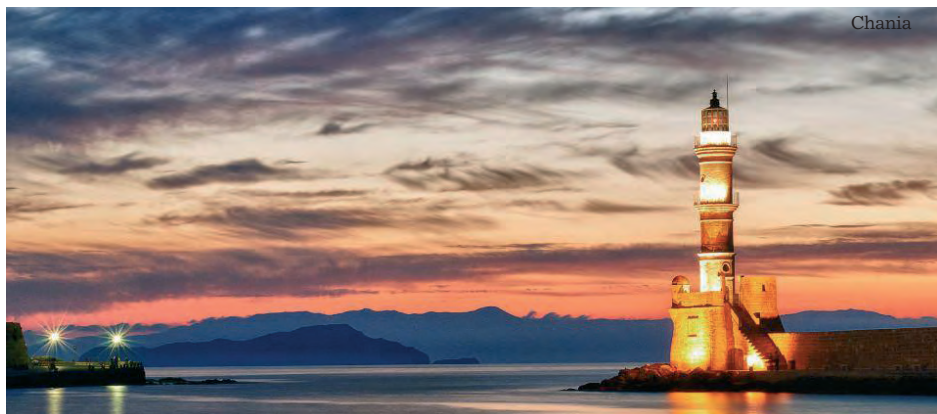
Sète is the gateway to five UNESCO World Heritage sites. Popular with tourists are Sète's water jousting and various festivals, covered and open-air markets, local gastronomy as well as shellfish farming in Thau Lagoon.

Itinerary planners may wish to build an itinerary incorporating the next 'Escale à Sète' famous festival, between March 22nd to 28th, 2016 when more than 100 old sailing ships gather.

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Souda-Chania



For the 2014 cruise season the Cretan port of Souda and destination of Chania expects to welcome the same number of passengers as last year.

Souda and Chania claims to be one of the most diversified cruise and tourism destinations in the Med region, offering a great variety of unique, authentic and quality excursions including cultural sites, island expedition, environmental monuments, etc.

Port of Souda can accommodate cruise vessels with no berth allocation problems

offering safe shelter in case of bad weather conditions.

The promotion of multi (difficulty) level options to visit Samaria Gorge catering for all types of passengers needs is foremost, in order to provide a unique opportunity to see Europe's greatest visitable gorge.

For beach lovers, Elafonisi, Falasarna and Balos are awarded among the best beaches in the world.

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Taranto

Newest MedCruise member Taranto, located at the foot of Italy, is looking to grow its currently modest cruise business. Off the main tourist track Taranto has recently drawn attention as the sheltered waters of the Gulf of Taranto are home to a vast number of breeding dolphins.

In 2014, Travel Dynamic's Corinthian will return to the port, having visited twice in 2012. Last year Deutschland and La Belle de l'Adriatique berthed close to the Old City, enabling passengers to explore by foot a number of attractions ranging from Greek culture with the national Archaeological

Museum to the Renaissance with Aragonese Castle.

Taranto Dock waterfront, located between St Eligio Pier and St Cataldo pier is earmarked for development. Total investment for the repair and expansion of St Cataldo Pier, reinforcement of Quay 1 and terminal construction is around €35m and the project is expected to be completed in 2016. A Port Exhibition Centre costing €1.2m is also part of the renovation plans.

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Sibenik

Port of Sibenik Authority expects 98 calls including first time callers Tere Moana, Le Soleal and Ocean Majesty in 2014.

Sibenik is known for its beautiful cathedral, but it is less known for its four impressive fortresses: St. Michael's Fortress is located practically in the center of town. It is built on a steep hill, overlooking the estuary of the Krka river. Archeological excavations inside the complex of the fortress revealed many prehistorical and medieval cultural remains.

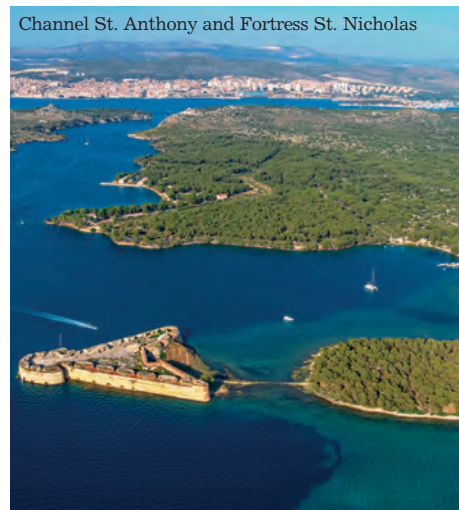
St Michael's Fortress Revitalization Project, financed by EU funds, was finalized in 2014. It includes the renovation of the fortress and the construction of a summer stage with 1,077 seats and the newly renovated exhibition space in the basement. It is accessible to visitors and promotes cultural tourism by organizing different cultural, musical and stage events in a truly special atmosphere. In addition, St. Michael's Fortress provides a great view of the historical center and the Bay of Sibenik.

The Channel of St Anthony is one of the most beautiful parts of the Adriatic coast and most lavish maritime entrances to a city. At the exit of the channel, towards the open sea, there is a pearl among Venetian fortifications – St Nicholas Fortress. This fortress, almost completely surrounded by the sea and largely preserved in its original form, is one of the most attractive fortifications in the Adriatic.

A variety of different activities (walking, jogging, Nordic walking, orienteering, cycling, sightseeing, panoramic sightseeing) are offered throughout the area in newly laid walkways.

After almost four years - works on the extension and reconfiguration of the passenger berths at Vrulje Quay will be concluded in mid-August. The port is able to accommodate two cruise ships at the same time, one of up to 260mtr and one up to 200mtr.

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Ports of Tenerife

The Port of San Sebastián de La Gomera in the Canary Islands will offer a newly extended berth later this year.

The existing 302mtr long cruise quay for ships up to 275mtr length, is being extended to 340mtr.

Mein Schiff 3 will inaugurate the new extension of the pier on November, 28th during a Canary and Madeira Islands itinerary. In 2010, Mein Schiff 1 inaugurated the current pier. The lengthening works will boost passengers to La Gomera by 43%.

In addition to TUI Cruises other cruise line using the new facility in the upcoming season includes P&O Cruises, Thomson Cruises, AIDA Cruises, Fred Olsen Cruise Line and Azamara Cruises.

The whole island is a Biosphere Reserve and the National Park of Garajonay, in the heart of the island, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Shore excursions in the island include: trekking through quaternary laurel forests, local products tasting, whales and dolphins watching, traditional handicraft, following the footsteps of Christopher Columbus, scuba diving, golf, fishing, bike tours through amazing ravines.

La Gomera has another UNESCO distinction, the whistle the which ancient inhabitants of La Gomera communicated through ravines across the island.

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Mein Schiff 1 inaugurating the pier in 2010

Thessaloniki

The Port of Thessaloniki has inaugurated a new museum at the first pier, which is dedicated to the port's history. This permanent photography exhibition is called the 'PORTrait' and has a collection of photographs from the daily life of the port zone and is divided into six sections. One is dedicated to the role the Greek port has played in the city's tourism

development.

In addition, the first pier has also been upgraded and offers unique opportunities for cruise passengers. 30 cruise ships are expected to call in port this year, compared to 18 calls in 2013.

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Toulon-var Provence

Toulon/La Seyne is anticipating 130 calls this year and 310,000 passengers. Across the Var Provence region, 12 cruise ports will receive 365 ships and 370,000 cruise visitors.

A new tour this year is La Bastide du Plantier cooking classes in Hyères: a new port that has recently joined the Var Provence cruise club network, along with Fréjus.



Beach at Hyères

The owner welcomes visitors in her charming bed and breakfast called 'La Bastide du Plantier'. The place is located a few minutes away from the beaches of Hyères but in a quiet and authentic countryside villa surrounded by huge trees. She organizes cooking classes with a renowned local chef Pascal Bonamy.

A new 500sq mtr cruise terminal is planned at La Seyne sur Mer, to be operational in 2016.

On June 28th, three cruise ships visited Toulon simultaneously: Noordam (at anchor), MSC Splendida (La Seyne sur Mer) and Costa NeoRiviera (Toulon downtown). For the second year running the town launched a cruise-friendly map with local providers and shops of Toulon and La Seyne sur Mer to ensure that they give a very warm and personalised welcome to cruise passengers (including discounts and gifts offered during their visit).

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MSC Splendida and Noordam at Toulon

Valletta



Valletta Cruise Port plc the operator of Valletta Cruise Terminal and Valletta Waterfront announces the appointment of Stephen Xuereb as the ceo of the group with effect June 2014.

Xuereb succeeds John Portelli who had been at the helm of the company over the past five years.

Xuereb, a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Accountants and a Henley MBA graduate, played a central role in Valletta Cruise Port plc's success since its inception in 2002.

Xuereb's previous role is that of Group's chief finance officer, a position he has occupied since 2009.

He has been responsible for the setting up of

the finance and administration function, overseeing the financing of the €37m capital intensive project, as well as playing an active role in developing the cruise business in Malta.

He is also responsible from the travel retail operations within the Group. Xuereb has over 20 years senior management experience, twelve of which in the cruise industry.

Joseph Zammit Tabona, chairman of Valletta Cruise Port thanked Mr Portelli for his sterling service to the company during his term in office whilst welcoming Mr Xuereb in his new role.

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Zadar

Croatia's Zadar Port Authority welcomed Celebrity Equinox July 11 as the first ship to visit its new passenger and cruise port of Gazenica.

Completion of the infrastructure works from start through to accepting cruise ships of any size at berth, has taken five years. The cost of the project is €143.8m, financed by the Government of Croatia with loans from EIB and KfW.

The new port offers 12 berths, seven for local ferry traffic and five for international visitors (including cruise ships), with the longest quay 375mtr and 13mtr draft.

The relocation of the ferry port to Gazenica

(3.5km south of the city of Zadar) will provide additional berths accommodating larger ferries, ro-ros and cruise ships.

The new port is directly connected to the new motorway network with rapid access via road to Zadar Airport, Zagreb and the rest of Croatia and central Europe.

Zadar expects about 85 calls and 50,000 passengers in 2014 and more than 100,000 cruise passengers in 2015.

Official opening of Gazenica port is scheduled for late September, early October.

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Tunisian Ports



La Goulette in Tunisia is expecting 240 calls from 38 ships this year including maiden visits ranging from Hapag Lloyd Cruises' Bremen and Europa 2 to TUI Cruises' Mein Schiff 3.

A new shorex opportunity is a visit to Oudhna, situated 30km to the south-west of Tunis.

Little is known of the city's origins; it was most likely a pre-Roman town, as attested by ceramics found on the site. It was probably a Berber-Punic urban centre transformed into a colony under Octavian-Augustus. The city declined towards the end of Antiquity and became a large village during the Arab-Moslem period.

It was only after 1993 that excavation work uncovered a large part of the city leading to the consolidation and restoration of its main monuments and making it look like a city reborn from its rubble, for the purpose of turning it into an archaeological park.

Considered one of the largest temples of Roman Africa, if not the largest, the Oudhna capitol has recently been confirmed as such, thanks to the discovery of an inscription fragment reading OPTIMO.

Situated on the northern edge of the city, the amphitheatre was half dug into the hill and its tiers of seats were adorsed to the slope. Only the upper part of the building that had a storey of arcades and an attic storey was built above ground. An underground vaulted gallery aligned to the major axis provided access to the amphitheatre basement.

Recent excavations have revealed a large theatre including the stage and walls that supported the vaults and seating for the public, as well as the site of its central orchestra.

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MEDCRUISE NEWS

L-R: Aimilia Papachristou, Stavros Hatzakos, Thanos Pallis, Kleopatra Arapi



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