

# MedCruise News

## Med Ports in Hamburg



**You are invited!!**

**Don't miss the MedCruise reception at Seatrade Europe**

**Thursday 10 September, 12:00-14:00  
Stand A4.413**



Once again MedCruise, the Association of Mediterranean Cruise Ports, is present with a stand at the Seatrade Europe Cruise & River Cruise Convention, taking place 9-11 September 2015 in Hamburg, Germany.

The extended list of MedCruise members exhibiting at Seatrade Europe 2015 includes the ports of Azores, French Riviera, Kavala, Lisbon, Madeira, Malaga, Marseille, Portimao, Sete, Tarragona, Tenerife, Var Provence and Valletta. In addition, various MedCruise members will participate in the Italian ports pavilion (Assoporti), the Spanish umbrella stands of Puertos del Estado and SunCruise Andalucia.

The Association itself will maintain its own stand. Operated by the MedCruise secretariat, this stand will provide the opportunity to several of its port members and their associates to be present at the exhibition and not least hold fruitful business-to-business meetings. In line with the MedCruise tradition, members will also gather together at the stand, to advance several collaboration projects that are currently in progress.

Carla Salvadó, MedCruise President, has acted at panel of judges for the 2015 edition of the Seatrade Cruise Awards.

MedCruise Honorary President Stavros

Hatzakos under his capacity as President of the Cruise & Ferry Port Network, ESPO and General Manager of Piraeus Port Authority SA will be providing a view from the Mediterranean as a speaker in the conference, shaping discussions in the 'Understanding the Cruise Industry: How Can the Pan European Dialogue Create a Platform for Sustainable Growth?' session. The session will take place on September 10th between 09.00-11.00.

MedCruise is hosting a reception on September 10th, between 12.00-14.00 on the MedCruise stand A4.413 in the Hamburg Messe.

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## 47th MedCruise General Assembly

Olbia in North Sardinia, Italy will be the host of the 47th MedCruise General Assembly to be held 14-17 October 2015.

During the General Assembly meeting, MedCruise member representatives together with other esteemed guests will discuss the latest developments of the cruise industry, as well as the implications and prospects of cruising in the Med and its adjoining seas.

In line with the MedCruise tradition, all regular and associate members will have a first class opportunity to discuss the developments in the region, while they will also devote time in B2B meetings and interactive Workshops with esteemed cruise line executives.

A special session of the 47th GA will be devoted to the efforts of MedCruise to promote its member ports as the mostly preferred cruise destination among Chinese cruise tourists.

A number of workshops will also take place, allowing cruise ports and their associates to engage in depth discussions with participating cruise line executives.

The list of cruise line guests has already

started expanding. Among the first cruise line executives that confirmed their attendance are Kerry Anastassiadis (Celestyal), Sander Groothuis (Windstar), Adam Sharp (Royal Caribbean), Javier Rodriguez Sanchez (Pullmantur), Marcus Puttich and Tine Oelmann (TUI).

Several more are expected to confirm over the next days, transforming the MedCruise GA to the key Autumn 2015 cruise event in the Med.

This edition's host, Port of Olbia, forms today the main doorway to Sardinia. Besides being one of the most important passenger ports in the Mediterranean with four million passengers every year, is also an important trading port with nearly six million tons of goods, annually. Large cruise ships are handled in Isola Bianca wharf, whilst smaller ships can tie alongside the Interior berths site of Olbia's ancient Roman port. Kissed by sun, caressed by sea waves, surrounded by a unique, unspoiled natural scenario, North Sardinia has three cruise ports: Olbia, Golfo Aranci and Porto Torres. Phoenicians, Greeks and Romans all left their

mark on the territory. This history is still alive in well preserved remains, fully accessible to cruise passengers. The land expresses itself via several different environments - sea, plains, hills, mountains, cultivated fields and desert areas. Several oak forests fill out the landscape; from them cork is extracted whilst nearby is the exclusive Costa Smeralda, a luxury resort created in the 1960s by the Aga Khan IV.



### Did you know?

MedCruise GA Participants are engaged in fruitful workshops

In the last General Assembly, MedCruise introduced a number of new futures in the two day program of the event. Cruise line participants and MedCruise members enjoyed workshop meetings with lively interactions that produced interesting recommendations.

The MedCruise Newsletter reminds the key recommendations of the 46th MedCruise General Assembly, as reported by the guest journalist Jon Ingleton:

#### Recommendations

##### Destination

- Enhance the guest welcome
- Deliver strong first impressions at port
- Create destination stakeholder groups
- Engage city/tourist board
- Share guest satisfaction ratings
- Consider free wifi in port

##### Infrastructure

- Synergy between port terminal, airport and line
- Flexibility to cope with peak time demands
- Create standard port infrastructure guidelines

##### Traffic & competition

- Home and transit port collaboration to set itinerary standards
- Create destination demand within source markets
- Public and transparent berthing policy
- Create demand for year round cruising

# MedCruise creates a culture of cruising the Med in Asia

With the Mediterranean area having the potential to become a popular cruise destination for Asian tourists, in the medium and long term, MedCruise has started to explore the advantages of this new source market.

The renewed interest of cruise companies to expand cruising in the Asian market provides today new opportunities for the growth of cruising in the Mediterranean and its adjoining seas.

In order to achieve this potential, MedCruise 71 port members decided to turn the 'reaching of Asia' to a key target. Missions to Seatrade events in Hong-Kong and Singapore, talks with travel agents, and the participation in educational programs of travel agents in Far East started in 2013 – and will be repeated in

the coming months and years aiming to create a culture of cruising the Med.

Recently, MedCruise embarked in a major project intensively to emerge the Mediterranean and its adjoining seas as the known and preferred destination for cruise tourists and people from China who decide to visit international places.

In particular the Association now works to create and disseminate for MedCruise, and each of its members, a corporate image promoting the Mediterranean and its adjoining seas in China as a benchmark destination for Chinese tourism.

MedCruise emphasises that Med and its adjoining seas is a region that represents a high degree of attraction as an experience of history, nature, culture, gastronomy etc. very much appreciated by Chinese tourists in general - and creating a competitive advantage for those ports being part of MedCruise. Being at the crossroads of three continents, the region offers a combination of numerous destinations, richness in history, cultural diversion, whereas weather conditions allow for extended cruise seasons.

MedCruise port members will further explore the best way to generate such positive image and enable Asian tourists to realise the excellent product and attractions offered by the Med ports during the forthcoming General Assembly to be held in Olbia, North Sardinia in October 2015.



MedCruise Chinese newsletter, 2nd edition

# Fact Finding Report highlights the main challenges facing members

MedCruise has been engaged in an effort to detail the characteristics of the cruise port industry in the Mediterranean and its adjoining seas and the challenges that the MedCruise member ports are facing.

MedCruise members participated in the 2015 Fact Finding Report of the association answering 70 questions related to a range of subjects including profile, port structure, challenges, berth booking practices, operational issues and financial responsibilities.

On the question of challenges facing cruise ports, the three issues highlighted of upmost importance were the relationship with the cruise lines, followed by port infrastructure (other than transport) and the increasing size of cruise ships.

On the issue of procedures, ports responding identified those related to passengers and crew arriving/moving in/out of Schengen areas as the highest importance, followed by crew visas and the checking/stamping of crew passports.

The outcome of this study will be a special MedCruise Fact Finding Report that will detail the state of the cruise ports industry in the Mediterranean and its adjoining seas.

The flagship publication of the Association is expected to be circulated in early 2016, part of the celebrations that will mark the 20th birthday of the Association.

Major challenges for cruise ports (0=Not a challenge, 1=Lowest importance, 5=Highest importance)	Not an issue (%)	Of highest importance (%)	Mean
Relationship with the cruise lines	11.9	54.2	3.83
Exploiting the potential of winter cruising	6.7	30	3.35
Relationship with people and businesses around the ports	5.1	22	3.32
Relationship with the city of arrival and local authorities	11.7	31.7	3.25
Bigger cruise ships (in size)	13.6	32.2	3.2
Security	16.7	40	3.17
Infrastructure (other than transport) in the port	11.9	37.3	3.15
Becoming a homeport	15	30	3.12
Transport infrastructure to and from the port	10.2	27.1	3.12
Connectivity of the destination with source markets	5.1	15.3	3.1



# Ports of Tenerife to host Seatrade Cruise Med 2016



Tenerife's Santa Cruz is the venue for 2016's largest cruise industry event focussing on the Mediterranean and its adjoining seas: Seatrade Cruise Med 2016. Seatrade Cruise Med, previously known as the Seatrade Med Cruise Convention, will be hosted by the Port Authority of Santa Cruz de Tenerife, from 21-23 September 2016 at the International Trade Fair and Congress Centre in Santa Cruz de Tenerife.

Pedro Rodriguez Zaragoza, president of the Port Authority of Santa Cruz de Tenerife explained: 'it is a great honour, and we are absolutely delighted to have this trade fair in Tenerife for the first time in the Atlantic Islands.'

Airam Diaz Pastor, commercial director Port Authority of Santa Cruz de Tenerife and director, projects & studies for MedCruise added 'For the first time in history the event will be held outside the Mediterranean but that is because we are a member of MedCruise.'

Since its inception MedCruise and its members have been major supporters of the event.

Alongside a showcase exhibition, conference and travel agent training, the event's conference will focus on the industry's

key topics including the current state of the cruise industry in the Mediterranean region and its adjoining seas, itineraries and shorex, the cruise line/port relationship, shipbuilding and ship supply.

The conference will build on the event's 2014 success in Barcelona, Spain, where almost 700 delegates from the industry discussed the principal issues facing the Mediterranean region. Over 3,500 participants visited the exhibition in 2014 which showcased over 180 exhibitors including many newcomers to the cruise market.

Tom Matesanz, vice president, communication and public affairs, CLIA Europe (Cruise Lines International Association) commented: 'At a time when collaboration is so important, Tenerife has shown that they can rise to the challenge for everything this sector means.'

Complementing the conference sessions, the exhibition will see ports and destinations, tourism authorities, cruise associations, ground handlers, tour operators, port agents, technical equipment and hotel suppliers showcasing their products and services to the cruise industry. The event will also feature a travel agent training programme, and a full social programme for attending delegates.



L-R: Tomas Matesanz, vp, communication and public affairs, CLIA Europe; Jose Manuel Bermudez Esparza, mayor of the City of Santa Cruz de Tenerife; Pedro Rodriguez Zaragoza, president of the Port Authority of Santa Cruz de Tenerife; Carlos Enrique Alonso Rodriguez, president of the Cabildo of Tenerife; Andrew Williams, gm Seatrade; Airam Diaz Pastor, commercial director Port Authority of Santa Cruz de Tenerife

MedCruise will be participating at the following events worldwide in autumn 2015

**Seatrade Europe, Hamburg**  
09-11 September, 2015



MedCruise will have its own stand (413) at Seatrade Europe. The event will take place on 09-11 September 2015, at Hamburg Messe

**Italian Cruise Day 2015, Civitavecchia**  
02 October, 2015



The 5th edition of the Italian Cruise day, the annual event of reference for the cruise industry in Italy that is held under the auspices of MedCruise will take place in Civitavecchia, October 2nd, 2015

**GreenPort Cruise Conference 2015, Copenhagen, 06 October, 2015**



It will focus on the impacts the increase in cruise passenger numbers is having on ports, cruise lines and service providers.

**47th MedCruise General Assembly, Olbia, North Sardinia, 14-17 October, 2015**



MedCruise member representatives together with other esteemed guests will discuss the latest developments of the cruise sector.

**International Cruise Summit 2015, Madrid, 18-19 November, 2015**



It will bring together the combined talents of the industry and its major players in a business that continues to thrive.

**Mediterranean Week of Economic Leaders, Barcelona, 25-27 November, 2015**



A unique platform for the exchange of experiences and debates in favour of the Euro-Mediterranean's promotion and integration

# Azores



140 cruise ships are scheduled to visit Port of Azores in 2015, with 15 maiden callers. Bookings for 2016 are projected to increase with 130 calls already booked.

The most popular tour is a full day excursion to Furnas Valley incorporating Lagoa das Furnas (Fire Lake) on Sao Miguel Island. The genesis of the Azores is found upon 1,766 volcanoes, nine of which are still active. Underground, almost three hundred volcanic cavities, including caves, ravines

and cracks, have been surveyed. The landscape is filled with dry calderas, crater lakes, fumaroles and thermal water springs. In the sea, there are submarine geothermal springs. The mountain of Pico, majestic and with an intact cone, appears to be protecting all this geological wealth.

**MedCruise contact:** André Velho Cabral Moura  
amoura@portosdosacores.pt

# Brindisi

Brindisi has seen a huge increase in passenger traffic in the last year. In 2014, 24 cruise ships called at Brindisi, and in 2015 there are 70 with a further increase expected for 2016. A new caller is MSC Magnifica and TUI Cruises has doubled its number of visits this year with Mein Schiff 3.

This year, the Brindisi Port Authority has already furnished its new Cruise Terminal, and is expected to complete dredging and reinforcement works at the 300mtr long Montecatini Quay and pave the existing quay in the outer port of Costa Morena by the end of the year.

The Port Authority and local Brindisi institutions have also developed various tourism related programs aimed at promoting the city, these include making



sure the shops are always open when a ship calls, even during lunchtime. The Port Authority and the mayor organized a gourmet food market, which takes place every week and different companies offer products in the fantastic setting of an ancient monastery.

**MedCruise contact:** Laura Cimaglia  
laura.cimaglia@portodibrindisi.it

Monopoli



# Bari

Monopoli is a white town on the sea with ancient small alleys, a port with picturesque boats, a castle by the sea, baroque churches, a white large 'piazza' where in the evening all people walk around.

A City of nearly 50,000 inhabitants, on the Adriatic coast, 45 km southeast of Bari close to the towns of Polignano a Mare, Conversano, Castellana Grotte and Alberobello.

This white city port spreads over 15km of coastline with many coves, sandy beaches and rocks - reason alone for holidaymakers and tourists to choose Monopoli as a destination to spend their holidays. The medieval town, with its churches and museums, is emerging today, thanks to major restoration work, such as the complex of fortifications of the Castle of Charles Vth. The old castle is located in the picturesque historical area of the old port of Monopoli. It is a small tower along the walls built to protect the city. Beautiful scenery to take nice pictures in the charming old town in between white narrow streets, the picturesque small port full of boats and the blue of the Adriatic sea.

The beauty of the old town is enriched by a series of noble mansions, like the grand palace of the Palmieri family. Among the many churches, the most notable are Chiesa del Purgatorio, San Domenico and Santa Maria Amalfitana. Works of revitalisation and improvement of port structures have been carried out in the course of recent years with the renewal of the Pier of Tramontana in 2004, the Port of Monopoli has today a new dock for merchant and cruise ships at its disposal which follows the two created during the past centuries.

**MedCruise contact:** Anna Carlucci  
a.carlucci@aplevante.org



# Cartagena



**F**or 2015, the Port of Cartagena expects 110 cruise calls and more than 140,000 passengers. New ship visitors to the port will include P&O Cruises' Britannia, AIDAaura, MSC Sinfonia, MSC Opera, Quantum of the Seas, Explorer of the Seas, Costa Magica, Norwegian Epic and The World.

In 2014, new works for the expansion of the Cruise Terminal area took place. It consisted of filling in of an area of water between the Marina and the cruise berth, obtaining additional space in the Cruise Terminal of 1,400sq mtr, and therefore improving the access zone for passengers and vehicles. Works for the improvement of the access to the Cruise Terminal, for buses and passengers have also been completed. Likewise the Port Authority of Cartagena has decided to enlarge the cruise berth by 150mtr, enabling larger

ships to berth in the Cruise Terminal simultaneously.

During the first call of Quantum of the Seas in Cartagena, Royal Caribbean decided to carry out provisioning operations of the ship in port. This entailed the placement of a mobile crane in the Terminal in order to reach the ship's height of 15mtr. Other equipment used during the operations included three forklifts of three tons capacity and a forklift of six tons capacity. All the necessary supplies were loaded on-board from seven trailer-trucks, including different stage equipment for the ship's theatre. Likewise, the complete stage of Mamma Mia was unloaded from the ship to be taken to Cádiz.

**MedCruise contact:** Hortensia Sanchez  
hortensia@apc.es

# Corfu



**C**orfu Port Authority is focusing on three major projects, which shall be operational this year: the completion of a new 430mtr pier, which will enable the port to handle seven ships simultaneously; the completion of a new pier dedicated to domestic services to better manage passengers, vehicles and cargo traffic and a seaplane base – the first in Greece offering a connection between the Ionian Islands and

the rest of Greece, with future development plans in the Mediterranean region and shorex options. In 2014, 395 ships and 672,378 passengers visited the Greek port. In 2015, that figure is expected to reach 410 by 37 cruise lines with a variety of new ship callers.

**MedCruise contact:** Aristidis Batsoulis  
abats@corfuport.gr

# Cyprus

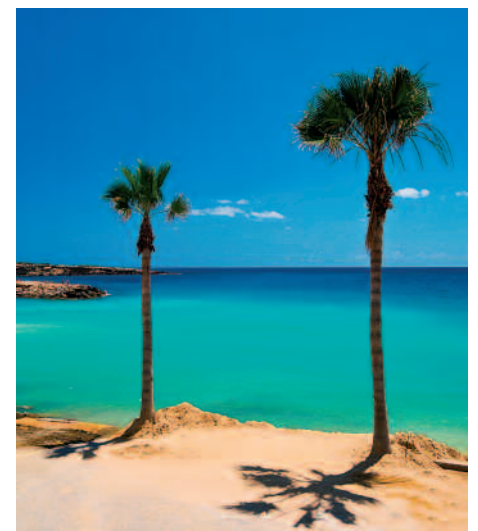
**T**he estimated number of calls to Cyprus Ports for 2015 is approximately 160 including some new visitors. Up to now, bookings for 2016 indicate that calls will remain approximately at the same levels.

The new passenger terminal at Lemesos, at a cost of €14.4m, is included in the commercialisation process of Lemesos port activities, a process being carried out by the Ministry of Transport, Communication and Works, which has already seen the submission of pre-qualification documents by interested parties.



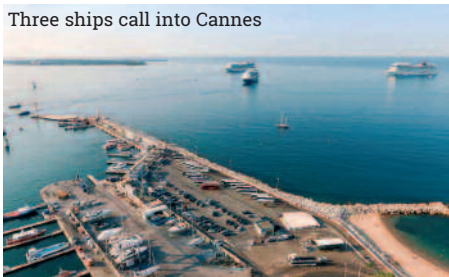
Additionally, the Authority's efforts related to cruise envisages further expansion into the spheres of Information Technology, the Environmental Management, the further strengthening and enhancing of infrastructures and superstructures and areas under CPA's jurisdiction, such as Paphos Port, as well as the promotion of Cypriot ports with actions such as the securing of competitive payable rights. Towards this direction, latest actions implemented have resulted to the elaboration of important studies, but also, importantly, the amendment of CPA's Law, thus achieving greater flexibility on the commercial aspects of Cypriot Ports' operations, amongst others, fees payable.

**MedCruise contact:** Eftychia Christodoulou  
echristod@cpa.gov.cy



# French Riviera

Three ships call into Cannes



**T**he French Riviera ports are set to welcome 345 cruise calls and 560,000 cruise guests in 2015 with further growth anticipated for next year as 350 ships bringing up to 608,000 passengers are already booked.

As a new popular excursion is Nice City Sights providing views of the glamorous cities and exquisite landscape of the Côte d'Azur on a scenic drive along the Riviera's three main

coastal roads visiting Nice, Eze and Monaco.

Nice played host to the naming ceremony of Windstar Cruises' Star Breeze earlier this summer as travel influencer Wendy Perrin served as the godmother at a celebration prior to the inaugural cruise through France, Monaco and Italy.

Each season the French Riviera Cruise Club offers "special welcome days for cruise passengers" at each of its ports. The latest one took place on the inaugural visit of Royal Caribbean International's Anthem of the Seas in Villefranche-sur-mer on July 10th.

More than 100 stores sported "Welcome to Cruise Passengers" pennants as 5,000 passengers and crew members were offered a special greeting and discounts.

During July, the port of Cannes welcomed a record number of passengers with more than

11,000 passengers with two days of three-ship calls.

On July 10th: Norwegian Epic, Sovereign and Emerald Princess visited and on July 17th: Norwegian Epic and Sovereign returned along with P&O Cruises' Azura.

French Riviera Cruise Club has also identified the added value offered by the travel agent community to the overall cruise experience and is creating a dedicated newsletter for international travel agents to provide valuable and updated information about the destination. It is particularly targeting the Asian travel agents community as this source market is increasing its bookings on Mediterranean cruises.

**MedCruise contact: Anne Sophie Peyran**  
anne-sophie.peyran@cote-azur.cci.fr

# Gibraltar



**N**oble Caledonia is using Gibraltar as the turnaround port for two of its 2016 itineraries in the region. This represents a major breakthrough for the Rock's cruise business, which has been achieved after lengthy negotiations by the cruise company's local agent MH Bland, with the support of the Gibraltar Tourist Board.

The 100-passenger Serenissima will undertake two turnarounds in Gibraltar in October and November 2016: The 'Morocco Bound and Beyond' cruise takes in coastal Morocco and the Canary Islands from November 2-14, 2016.

On arrival in Gibraltar airport by scheduled flight from London, passengers will transfer to the vessel and spend a full day on the following day visiting the Rock's main tourist attractions, before continuing the journey to Casablanca on day three.

Gibraltar will also feature in the 'Caliphs

and Kings' themed cruise, which will explore the architecture and art of Islamic Spain from October 25 – November 2, 2016.

After boarding in Seville, the cruise ship is scheduled to sail to Malaga and Motril and then onto Gibraltar, where passengers will disembark for a full day exploring, including a lecture on the Rock's history before transferring to Gibraltar airport for the scheduled return flight to London.

These are the first turnaround operations in Gibraltar for many years, something the Government of Gibraltar has keenly pursued, in addition to normal transit visits from cruise ships.

The move by Noble Caledonia will provide further opportunities for the port in terms of bunkering, stores, crew changes etc.

**MedCruise contact: Nicky Guerrero**  
nicky.guerrero@gibraltar.gov.gi

# Huelva

**P**ort of Huelva received seven visits in 2015 by ships operated by Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines, Silversea Cruises, V. Ships, Holland America Line, Azamara Club Cruises and Saga Cruises. There are 20 calls book in advance for 2016 from Holland America Line, Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines, Thomson Cruises, Azamara Club Cruises and NYK Cruises. As a new cruise port these are all first time visitors.

The cruise community is working together as the Huelva Cruise Network, a group formed by local authorities, public and private companies oriented to develop Huelva, its province and the Port as a cruise destination. The purpose is to provide the best response to cruise industry needs. This is being done by a series of questionnaires targeting cruise lines and by workshops involving, amongst others, the port, City Hall, Tour Operators, and Tourist Board.

To further improve handling facilities, a new passenger terminal is being built at a cost of €3m.

The most popular tour is "Following the trail of Christopher Columbus" and exploring Huelva's historic links to his voyage to the New World.

**MedCruise contact: Manuel Vega**  
mvega@puertohuelva.com





# Igoumenitsa

Ancient Theatre of Dodoni



**T**hompson Cruises will be a new visitor in Igoumenitsa in 2016, part of eight cruise calls that have been secured so far and matching the number of calls in 2015.

Phase II of the port's development project amounting to €66.2m investment is 90% completed. This includes: a 3,041sq mtr passenger terminal 2 building; a 2,324sq mtr passenger terminal 3 building that will serve

Schengen Agreement controls and be a dedicated cruise ship facility; a 197mtr long finger pier for the mooring of 300,000dwt ships (up to 227mtr long and max loaded draft of 9.4mtr); a 371mtr long connecting platform with a depth of 10.2mtr, and the dredging of a 170mtr wide and 1,700mtr long straight channel with water depth of 10.5mtr. 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 the 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.

**MedCruise contact: Konstantinos Grinias**  
[kgrinias@olig.gr](mailto:kgrinias@olig.gr)



# Koper

Lipica stud farm - since 1578



**K**oper is expecting 50 calls in 2015 and approximately 60,000 passengers including seven maiden calls already completed by MSC Musica, FTI Cruises' Berlin, P&O Cruises' Oriana, Silversea's Silver Cloud and Celebrity Cruises' Celebrity Constellation and in September, Phoenix Reisen's Artania and Swan Hellenic's Minerva.

In the past years the Port of Koper has renovated the cruise terminal and invested €2m in dredging and other important cruise facilities like free WI-FI in the terminal area, security with 24h video surveillance and restyling of the bus parking area. The Municipality of Koper has invested in a new lift for improved connections with the main town square and city centre.

Beside Port of Koper, anchoring in the bay of Piran is becoming more popular by small cruise ships operated by Ponant, Star Clipper, SeaDream and others.

Slovenia, the new cruise destination offers more than 50 different shore excursions for passengers needs. The most popular are Ljubljana the capital of Slovenia, Lake of Bled, Postojna Cave, Lipica stud farm (with Lipizzaner horses with more than 500 years of history) and medieval Piran with architecture influenced by the Venetian Republic.

The forecast for 2016 season is very promising with passenger numbers predicted to rise by 40%.

**MedCruise contact: Bojan Babic**  
[bojan.babic@luka-kp.si](mailto:bojan.babic@luka-kp.si)

# Kotor

**K**otor is expecting 409 ship calls in 2015, including newcomers Holland America Lines' Zuiderdam, MSC Musica, Fred Olsen Cruise Lines' Braemar, Ponant's Le Lyrial, Royal Caribbean's Vision of the Seas, Rhapsody of the Seas, and Celebrity Constellation, Cunard's Queen Victoria and Norwegian Cruise Lines' Norwegian Spirit. Also, three new cruise lines: Viking Cruises with Viking Star, AIDA Cruises with AIDAvita and Celestyal Cruises with Celestyal Crystal will sail into the Montenegro destination this year.

The port has a 290mtr maximum berth plus has anchorage for up to four more ships at a time. A new terminal opened for this season, costing in the region of €700,000.

Visitors can enjoy the open-top Double Deck Bus and submarine tours which are available from the port.

**MedCruise contact: Mladen Lucic**  
[mladen.lucic@luckauprava.gov.me](mailto:mladen.lucic@luckauprava.gov.me)





# Marseille



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**T**he Port of Marseille set a one-day cruise record on August 9 with seven ships and 21,000 passengers in transit or embarking/disembarking.

'This is the reward for the investments implemented by the port and the Marseille Provence Cruise Terminal in the last years,' said Jean-François Suhas, who succeeded long-time chief Jacques Truau as head of the Marseille Provence Cruise Club.

Six ships called at the Léon Gourret jetty and one at the Joliette terminal. They were Costa Diadema, Costa Magica, Zenith, Nieuw Amsterdam, Emerald Princess, Seabourn Sojourn and MSC Armonia.

Cruising is one of the bright lights for the Marseille-Provence economy.

'Cruise passengers are real ambassadors for our region, and these who call here in transit today will be our tourists tomorrow,' Suhas said. According to research, seven out of every 10 passengers say they plan to return.

In 2015, Marseille expects 1.5m cruise passengers, a 12% increase from 2014, and including 500,000 on turn-around calls. The French port will receive 465 calls and 68 ships belonging to 30 companies.

**MedCruise contact: Christelle Maubec**  
cmaubec@marseille-cruise.com



© C. Moirenc

# Lisbon



**L**isbon is expecting 310 cruise calls in 2015 bringing in more than 510,000 passengers. The most popular shore excursions are to the City centre, Cascais & Estoril, Sintra, Óbidos and to Fátima. A new excursion on offer is a river tour for waterfront sightseeing.

During the summer of 2014, LCT – Lisbon Cruise Terminals (a consortium formed by Global Liman Isletmeleri A.S., Sousa Group Investments SGPS Ltd., Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. and Creuers del Port de Barcelona SA) started operating three cruise terminals and are now set to go a step

forward with the construction of the new Lisbon Cruise Terminal, a project from a Portuguese architect – João Carrilho da Graça, involving an estimated value of around €22.7m, that should be completed no later than 2016. Lisbon has been working hard to achieve the status as a major cruise port, enabling the port and the city the right resources needed to manage increases in vessel size and quantity of turnaround and transit operations.

**MedCruise contact: Ana Lourenco**  
alourenco@portodelisboa.pt

# Mersin

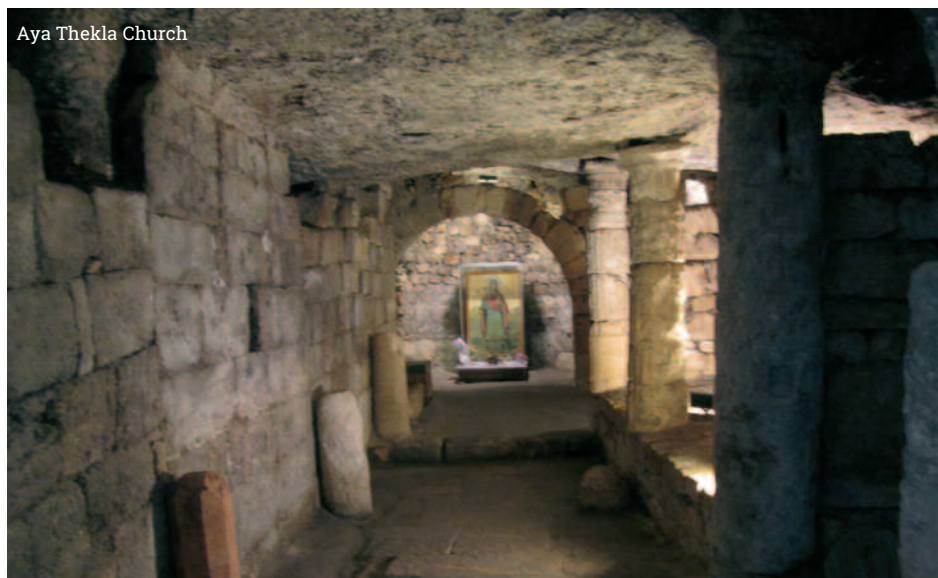
**M**ersin will welcome two cruise ships this year. The city is one of the warmest and most beautiful cities of the eastern Mediterranean region offering authentic flavours and sandy beaches at any time of the year.

Aya Thekla Church, one of the earliest centres of Christianity, is located 5km south of the town centre of Silifke, itself 85km from Mersin. Thekla was one of the apostles of St Paul, it is believed she initially lived in a natural cave. The Cave is

in Dedeler Village, which is 14 km northwest of the city centre. Up to 312, Thekla's cave was a place of secret pilgrimage.

In the nearby surroundings of Capadoccia is St Paul's sacred place in Tarsus as well as numerous historical sites and ruins such as The Gate of Cleopatra and the Temple of Zeus.

**MedCruise contact:**  
marketing@mersinport.com.tr



Aya Thekla Church



# Motril-Granada



**M**ost cruise passengers visiting Motril head to Alhambra, just 68km and 35 minutes from the port. The Alhambra (pictured) is a palace and fortress complex of the Moorish rulers of Granada in southern Spain occupying a hilly terrace on the southeastern border of the city of Granada. Once the residence of the Muslim rulers of Granada and their court, the Alhambra is now one of Spain's major tourist attractions exhibiting the country's most famous Islamic architecture.

The Costa Tropical, the tropical seaside of Granada, is the stretch of coastline between the Costa del Sol and the Costa de Almería, a privileged seaside historically occupied by several settlers, such as Phoenicians, Romans

and Arabs. Their passage left a rich architectural heritage, such as the Arab castle of Salobreña, the impressive aqueduct of Almuñécar or the Preindustrial Museum of the Sugar Cane in Motril.

Locally grown mangos, avocados and custard-apples mix with the Mediterranean vegetables and an impressive range of local fish and shellfish. If you order a coffee, add some locally distilled sugar cane rum.

The port has recently produced a new brochure with a modern design aimed at showing cruise passengers in a simple way the many places of interests in the area.

**MedCruise contact: Lorenzo Vera Franco**  
[lvera@motrilport.com](mailto:lvera@motrilport.com)

# Messina

**I**154 ships including maiden visits by Zuiderdam, MSC Armonia, Asuka II, Emerald Princess, Rhapsody of the Seas, Vision of the Seas, Star Breeze, Med Club 2 and Louis Aura are expected in the Sicilian port of Messina. 193 ships are expected in 2016.

The most popular shore excursion from Messina is to the small town of Taormina and Mount Etna. Taormina stands 200mtr above sea level and looks down onto the Ionian Sea.

The Greek-Roman Theatre is a fantastic sight, built early in the seventh century it is the second largest of its kind in Sicily and is still frequently used for operatic and theatrical performances as well as for concerts.

Mount Etna is Sicily's greatest natural attraction. At approximately 3,350mtr, it is Europe's highest active volcano.

**MedCruise contact: Cristiana Laura**  
[segreteria@porto.messina.it](mailto:segreteria@porto.messina.it)



# Odessa

**O**dessa port is expecting 19 cruise calls in 2015 and Thomson Spirit is a new visitor with three calls scheduled. 31 cruise ships are expected for 2016, as of early August.

A great way to see the city of Odessa is by Segway - Meet your guide at the pier to start ascending Potemkin Steps, considered the formal entrance into the city from the direction of the sea and are the best known symbol of Odessa. Proceed to Londonskaya Hotel to start your Segway tour.

Start your ride along the Boulevard, which is surrounded by early 19th century buildings, the shady promenade and the park tumbling towards the sea. In front of colonnaded Odessa City Hall have a photo stop near Pushkin Statue.

Then you will ride on to the impressive building of the world-known Opera & Ballet Theatre designed in the 1880s by Viennese architects Felner & Gelmer.

From the theatre ride along Deribasovskaya Street to City Garden, a small park centrally located beside the famous Deribasovskaya Street. Then continue your Odessa exploration

riding along old Odessa streets along Prymorsky Boulevard to Londonskaya Hotel where the tour will end.

The Port Authority would like to stress again that the situation in the port and the city of

Odessa is safe and stable and is full of tourists of all ages; hotels are 99% occupied.

**MedCruise contact: Elvira Leshchynska**  
[esk@port.odessa.ua](mailto:esk@port.odessa.ua)





# Palermo

In 2015, Palermo is a newly addition to the UNESCO's World Heritage list with its Arab-Norman history, so it is very popular for visitors to walk among the churches and palace that takes in the Cathedral, the Royal Palace and the Palatine Chapel, the Churches of St. Giovanni degli Eremiti, the Church of Martorana, Church of St. Cataldo, Ponte dell'Ammiraglio, the Zisa Palace and the Cathedral of Monreale and its cloister, just outside Palermo.

Another suggestion is a visit to the Mandralisca Museum, where you can admire the "Portrait of an unknown man" by Antonello da Messina.

The current passenger terminal at Palermo is undergoing works to enhance overall port effectiveness. The building will receive interior modernisation including a departure lounge providing all the facilities necessary: panoramic restaurant, café, a shopping area, ticket office, public safety services and an area for maritime operators. The works will be finished in 2017 and investment costs are about €28m.

**MedCruise contact:** Daniela Mezzatesta  
promotion@portpalermo.it



# Palamós

The port of Palamós has been recently certified as a Schengen frontier. This is great news because it means non-EU passengers can embark and disembark to and from Palamós. Girona Airport is a strength together with the Schengen frontier. The port plans to enlarge the cruise terminal in Palamós to have all security and frontier requirements needed to attend to non-EU passengers.

At Palamós, man's work at sea has become an unrivalled spectacle of colour for visitors, when, in the middle of the afternoon, the fishing boats dock at the port and unload their catch. At Palamós, however, the world of fishing does not end at the quay – it continues at L'Espai del Peix

(Fish Space) a culinary encounter with the sea. Guided tours with tasting: The harbour, the fishing, the fish auction and classes on fish. At cooking workshops, discover the flavours of fish cuisine made with spices shipped to the port of Palamós.

In 2015 the Costa Brava Cruise Ports (Palamós and Roses) are expecting 44 calls and 42,000 passengers. New visitors include Costa Magica, Mein Schiff 2, Oceania, Riviera and Saga Pearl II (Palamós) and in Roses, Tere Moana and Le Ponant. For 2016 44 ships are set to visit the Costa Brava Cruise Ports (38 in Palamós and 6 in Roses).

**MedCruise contact:** Maria Cano  
maria.canoo@gencat.cat

# Portimao

In 2015, Port of Portimão is expecting 48 calls, the same number that is booked for 2016, so far.

A series of development works will shortly begin in Portimão, in order to turn it into a more attractive port for bigger cruise vessels. Notwithstanding, a series of new fire and pollution fighting equipment has been installed in the area, turning it into a safer and environmental friendly port.

APS is investing about €1.6m at the Port of Portimão on refurbishing the Ro-Ro quay,

now completed while work on the floating berth Bartolomeu Dias is almost finished. Refurb of the passenger areas inside the Cruise Terminal is also underway.

Deeply influenced by the Age of Discovery, many of the monuments in Portimão still reflect the Portuguese adventurous spirit. The Fortaleza de Sagres (Sagres' Fortress) is the western point of Europe and was built by Prince Henry the Navigator. It is the most visited monument in Algarve and one of the most visited in the country. From here, where

the land ends and the sea begins, Portuguese navigators sailed to conquer the World. Approximately six km from the village of Sagres, the Cape St. Vincent is a landmark for a ship traveling to or from the Mediterranean. The cliffs rise nearly vertically from the Atlantic to a height of 75mtr. The cape is a site of exuberant marine life and a high concentration of birds nesting on the cliffs.

**MedCruise contact:** Jose Pedro Soares  
jose.soares@apsinesalgarve.pt





## Rijeka



2015 has been a very successful year for the Port of Rijeka with four calls by Thomson Majesty - one being its maiden visit - along with three calls by Crystal Serenity, including a maiden call as well. Nothing but positive comments were received from the guests on tour, and shore excursion participation was very high, especially compared with other itineraries. Guests were greeted on their maiden calls with live music and dancers in local costume as they exited the gangway.

2016 looks set to be even better, with 17

cruise ships booked so far including inaugural calls from Thomson Cruises, Silversea Cruises, Voyages of Discovery, Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines, Swan Hellenic, Saga Shipping and Princess Cruises.

The Port of Rijeka Authority, the Rijeka Tourism Board and also the City of Rijeka are thrilled with the success of 2015 and are continuing to promote the Port of Rijeka as the new 'must see' cruise destination.

**MedCruise contact: Sniježana Papes**  
sniježana.papes@portauthority.hr

## Sete

Port of Sete is expecting 33 calls in 2015, including three newcomers: Berlin, Marina and Voyager. Over 40 calls are expected for 2016.

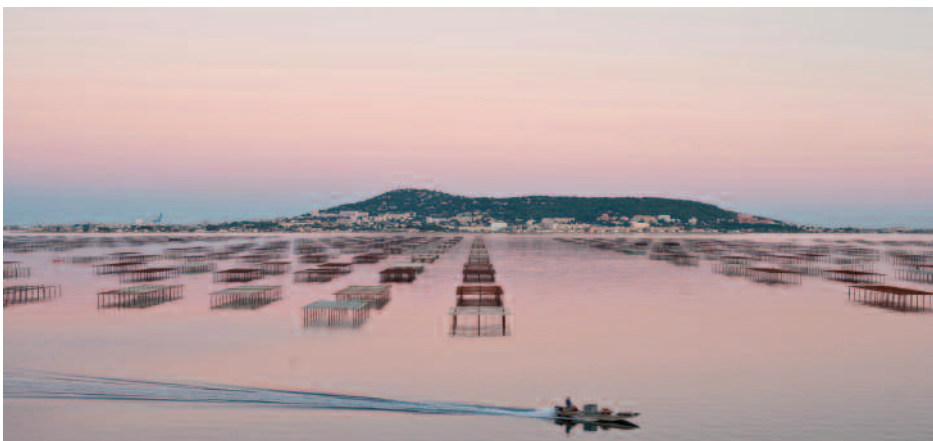
Among the wide range of shore excursions available is Carcassonne, a UNESCO World Heritage site accessible on a full day tour. It is the largest and best-preserved fortress in Europe and its walls contain more than 2,000 years of history, which knowledgeable guides recount with enthusiasm. On the way back to Sete, a stop at the Cistercian Abbey of Fontfroide provides an outstanding cultural

experience set amongst Mediterranean vegetation.

Two dedicated cruise berths have been built and operational since June 2015, one of 240mtr long and one of 220mtr.

Port of Sete is continuing to invest and the newest project is the "H" quay enabling the port to welcome the largest ships (300mtr, and longer) by the autumn of 2016. A brand new terminal will also be operational, by 2019.

**MedCruise contact: Catherine Lafon**  
lafon.catherine@portsuddefrance-sete.fr



## Savona



There are 233 cruise ships scheduled for 2015 and port of Savona is expecting to confirm the 1 million annual cruise passenger milestone. (2014: 1,018,794 cruise passengers). On November 8, 2014, on the occasion of the first call of the new flagship Costa Diadema, the second terminal of Palacrociere, built with a total investment by Costa Cruises of around €9m, was officially inaugurated.

Costa Cruises continues to strengthen the bond between Savona and the cruise company that has recently announced the construction of two next-generation cruise ships, with the largest guest capacity in the world, that will be powered at sea by Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG). Using LNG to power the ships in port and at sea will significantly reduce exhaust emissions to help protect the environment. The new ships will be delivered between 2019 and 2020 and will have Savona as home port.



"The news that the new Costa Cruises ships will be powered with LNG and will call Savona helps our aim of being a Green Port, as in this case the environmental impact will be eliminated. The Port Authority has committed a feasibility study with the aim of developing a power auto-production system from renewable resources with energy storage plants of big dimension", said Gian Luigi Miazza President of Savona Port Authority.

On 8th August, 3 Costa Cruises ships berthed simultaneously in the Palacrociere of Savona: Costa Magica, Costa neoRiviera and Costa Diadema, the Queen of the Mediterranean and Costa Crociere flagship of the Costa Cruises fleet, for a total of 14,000 passengers.

**MedCruise contact: Cristina De Gregori**  
degregori@porto.sv.it



## Sochi



In 2015 the Port of Sochi is expecting 20 cruise calls. One of them is a new caller, MSC Cruises' MSC Opera.

As Sochi is developing as an international port of the Black Sea, new venues appear throughout the city. There will be a multifunctional exhibition centre and congress hall with a port museum. Numerous fairs, exhibitions and events will take place at areas outside of the port.

Sochi can offer more than 15 shore excursions of differing kinds: city and nature tours, active and relaxing tours. The most picturesque place on the coast is Krasnaya Polyana, a brand new winter and summer resort, offering a fantastic view of the Caucasus Mountains. There are some other sights worth seeing in Sochi: unique Botanical Garden 'Dendrarium', secret Stalin's Dacha, local Tea plantations, relict Agura Canyon, adventurous and breathtaking SkyPark, authentic Akhun Tower, interesting and exciting museums, beautiful waterfalls, and more besides.

Sochi is both special and irresistible for those who respect and value historical monuments, cultural heritage, beauty of nature and passion for adventure.

**MedCruise contact: Alexander Belkin**  
belkin@sochi.com



## Souda/Chania

The 2015 cruise season for the Port of Souda and Chania is positive, not only for the quantitative figures but also for the qualitative ones. 63 calls are expected for the season with almost 90,000 cruise visitors. During 2015, the port will welcome three new cruise lines and eight maiden calls. The positive trend is set to repeat in 2016.

The Port of Souda Authority participates year-round at major cruise events to promote its facilities and the importance of the destination in the South east

Mediterranean region.

The Port of Souda is one of the safer ports able to accommodate ships more than 345mtr length in the South eastern Mediterranean. Port of Souda Authority is progressing a facilities & procedures development plan, focusing on new ISPS special equipment, approved passenger terminal extension at an estimated cost of more than €1m.

**MedCruise contact: Stella Manioudaki**  
stelman@ltnx.gr



## Tarragona

Thomson Dream visited Tarragona on 7th August, for the second time this year. The ship moored at 7am in the cruise terminal, located on the Levante dock, with 1,610 passengers on board.

The passengers visited the city of Tarragona, recognised by UNESCO; Montblanc and Poblet; the art nouveau route of Reus and Cambrils; Altafulla; Barcelona; and PortAventura, one of the leading theme parks of Europe on various tours. At midday, on the dock, passengers were invited to a Vermouth tasting party, and in the afternoon they were sent off with a display of "Castells" (human towers)

at the cruise terminal, thanks to the Colla Xiquets del Serrallo (one of the human towers teams of Tarragona).

After three years of hard work on a consolidated strategy for attracting cruise ships to the city, Tarragona is now situated firmly on the Mediterranean cruise map. The forecast for 2015 is to welcome 11 cruise ships with 10,000 passengers, which represents a significant growth on last year.

**MedCruise contact: Alba Colet**  
cruises@porttarragona.cat





# Tenerife



**P**orts of Tenerife is developing a new 8,473sq mtr cruise passenger terminal. The facility will include a 3,300sq mtr luggage area, 50 check in desks, lounge area, restrooms, mechanical ramps, an aerial gangway, scanners and security arches, Port Police control according to ISPS, a crew internet corner, a wide bus parking area, and a taxi line. The berthing line is 395mtr with 10mtr draft.

In 2014, the Canary Islands welcomed 1,629,452 cruise visitors during the winter months compared to 278,757 cruise passengers visiting during the summer - a total of 1,908,209 passengers. Nevertheless the number of regular tourists averaged 1 million a month throughout 2014 for a total of 12,991,012.

The issue of seasonality was discussed at the 1st Tenerife Cruise Forum which took place in Santa Cruz on June 18th.

For seasonality to change cruise line representatives recommended the Canary Islands' stakeholders to work together not only to improve product and services in general but to also educate the consumer through their existing tourism platforms which contributes close to 13m tourist visitors annually.

Positive news is AIDA Cruises is positioning AIDAcara in the Canaries from June to October, 2016 resulting in 20 calls.

Ports of Tenerife will be hosting Seatrade Med in Santa Cruz in September 2016. The 49th MedCruise General Assembly will be held in the city the same week, incorporating celebrations to commemorate MedCruise's 20th anniversary as an association.

**MedCruise contact: Airam Diaz Pastor**  
[adiaz@tenerifeport.org](mailto:adiaz@tenerifeport.org)

# Zadar

**F**or 2015, between 90-100 calls are expected in Port of Zadar, bringing in over 70,000 passengers.

The city is surrounded by a wealth of fantastic countryside such as Krka Waterfalls National Park, Plitvice Lakes National Park and the island of Pag.

Krka National Park is named after Krka River, the park covers an area of just over 142sq km and became a National Park in 1985. The top attraction in the park are its magnificent waterfalls, including the famous Skradinski Buk falls which are one of Croatia's most famous sights.

The Plitvice Lakes National Park is

Croatia's most popular tourist attraction and was granted UNESCO World Heritage status in 1979. There are 16 lakes within the park, all inter-connected by waterfalls, and set in deep woodland populated by deer, bears, wolves, boars and rare bird species.

Pag Island, although an island, is connected to the mainland at its southern tip which makes access very easy. It is the second largest island in the Adriatic and is famous for its carnival, with both a winter and summer version.

**MedCruise contact: Djoni Stambuk**  
[dstambuk@port-authority-zadar.hr](mailto:dstambuk@port-authority-zadar.hr)



# Valletta



**J**uly 22 was a busy day at the port of Valletta, Malta. Five cruise ships from five brands tied alongside the historic natural port, with over 14,000 passengers and over 5,000 crew members on board, covering a total quay length of 1.37km.

MSC Fantasia was the first ship to enter port, followed by Zenith, Norwegian Jade, Costa neoRiviera and Celebrity Equinox.

An Inguardia re-enactment courtesy of the Malta Tourism Authority was also organised along the quays, highlighting events happening during the Knights of St John period.

Tourism Minister Edward Zammit Lewis noted the importance of the occasion for Malta's tourism industry. 'Today we had the opportunity to showcase the highlights of our islands to over 19,000 cruise passengers and crew that are all potential repeat visitors to our island.'

Stephen Xuereb, CEO of Valletta Cruise Port plc, operator of the Valletta Cruise and Ferry Terminal facilities and of the Valletta Waterfront destination said, 'Larger ships with a bigger number of passengers means that we need to be even more proactive in our planning. Valletta needs to continue to cater for such peaks in demand with further investment in quay infrastructure in the Grand Harbour area.'

Valletta Cruise Port has appointed two new senior managers: Karl Azzopardi has been appointed as the Head of Operations and Projects, and will be playing a key role in chalking out Valletta Cruise Port's overall operational and project development strategy.

Meanwhile, Andre Parnis is taking on the role of Head of Finance and Corporate Services and will be responsible for the development of financial strategies in line with the business objectives and in conformity with industry standards.

**MedCruise contact: Stephen Xuereb**  
[sxuereb@vallettacruiseport.com](mailto:sxuereb@vallettacruiseport.com)



L-R: Karl Azzopardi, Stephen Xuereb and Andre Parnis from Valletta Cruise Port, Malta

## New Med sailings for Viking Ocean in 2016 and 2017

Viking Ocean Cruises announced new 2016 sailings as well as opening 2017 bookings on Viking Star, Viking Sky and Viking Sea. The 2017 program includes new Mediterranean and Holy Land sailings.

New 2016 cruises include a 15-day Rome (Civitavecchia) to Istanbul program with three days in Israel, making stops at Ashdod and Haifa, with stops at ports in Greece and Turkey.

Also new next year is 'Bergen to the Bosphorus,' a 15-day Bergen to Istanbul journey that includes Lisbon, Tunis (La Goulette), Valletta and Athens.

New in 2017 is 'Secrets of the Southern Mediterranean,' an eight-day Rome to Barcelona cruise through the southern Mediterranean, including Tunis, Algiers, Valletta, Sardinia and Valencia.



View from Viking Star's Explorers Lounge

## Inaugural 2017 Med season for MSC Meraviglia

MSC Meraviglia, due to sail an inaugural 2017 Med season will have family cabins, a large LED ceiling feature, an expanded MSC Yacht Club with a solarium and near field communication technology to facilitate passenger services.

Gianni Onorato, ceo of MSC Cruises called the 315mtr MSC Meraviglia 'one of the greenest and safest ships in the industry, as well as one of the most technologically advanced,' adding 'this ship is perfect for cruising year-round in any destination.' Steel cutting took place at St Nazaire Shipyard in April this year.

The 5,700-passenger, 167,600gt MSC Meraviglia, due to be delivered in May 2017, will spend her first summer sailing the western Mediterranean and using three homeports:

Genoa, Marseille and Barcelona.

The company is also introducing cabins with specially crafted family cabins (sleeping up to six with two connecting cabins, two bathrooms with one balcony), super family cabins (sleeping up to five with two connecting cabins, two bathrooms and two balconies) and super family plus cabins (sleeping up to 10 with three connecting cabins, three bathrooms and two balconies), duplex cabins and an extended MSC Yacht Club with a vast solarium and a private lounge and restaurant.

MSC Meraviglia is the first of two identical ships on order from STX France. The second is due to service in 2019. In addition, MSC Cruises has options for two further Vista-class ships to be delivered by 2022.



## Oceania's Insignia plans extensive stay in Med

Oceania Cruises will chart Insignia's fourth 'Around the World in 180 Days' voyage in 2017. Sailing round-trip Miami, the ship will visit six continents, 36 countries, 50 UNESCO World Heritage Sites and 98 ports, including stops in Spain and Turkey not offered during its previous world cruises.

An extensive period of time is planned in the Mediterranean, visiting Greece, Italy and Spain before reaching Gibraltar.



## Star Clippers' newbuild to debut in Med

Tall ship sailing specialist Star Clippers has started building a fourth ship at Brodosplit shipyard in Croatia.

The new vessel, yet to be named, will be the company's biggest and most ambitious to date and will be launched in the second half of 2017, carrying 300 passengers, measuring 8,770gt and powered by more than 6,350 sq mtr of sails. Estimated cost is €100m.

The new ship will technically be a five-masted, square-rigged barque and will initially sail the company's most popular itineraries in the Mediterranean and the Caribbean.

There will be a watersports platform in the stern for use when the ship is at anchor and a variety of cabin grades, including 34 suites with balconies and four owner's suites.





## An outstanding 2015 Med season for Silversea



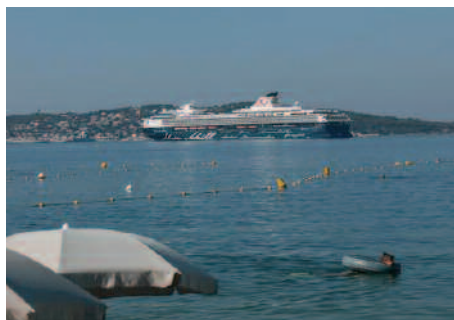
Silversea Cruises is set to welcome renowned artist Alexandre Renoir and two Relais & Châteaux Chefs, Erik Arnecke and Fabio Pisani, to host an enhanced enrichment programme on board Silver Spirit's seven-day sailing from Rome to Barcelona departing on November 2, 2015. This exclusive 'Farewell Mediterranean' voyage celebrates the culmination of another 'outstanding Mediterranean summer season' reports the company.

The voyage features an overnight stay in Livorno, gateway to the artistic treasures of

Florence, as well as calls in Monte Carlo, Marseille, Porto Mahon, and Palma de Mallorca.

Contemporary impressionist painter Renoir, great-grandson of French impressionist painter Pierre-August Renoir, will be on board throughout the voyage to present lectures about his grandfather's life and demonstrate his own artistic talents. During the visit to Monte Carlo, Renoir will host an exclusive optional shore excursion to his estate at Cagnes-sur-Mer, where Pierre-August Renoir spent the last years of his life.

## Port of Toulon hosts Mein Schiff's 2 maiden call



On July 20th, TUI Cruises' Mein Schiff 2, called at anchor off the Mourillon beaches, Toulon.

Toulon has two cruise terminals: one 300mtr long one in the city center and a second across the bay in La Seyne-sur-Mer which is 340mtr long with 9.15mtr draught. As the latter was already occupied that same day by Island Princess, the German ship anchored in the Bay of Toulon.

The Var Chamber of Commerce and Industry, that manages the Ports of Toulon Bay, found a way of marking Mein Schiff 2's maiden call by transforming the Palais du Commerce et de la Mer (PCM), a spacious conference hall, into an ephemeral cruise terminal able to welcome the passengers and crew members.

In total, 80 journeys by tenders and boats, between the ship and PCM, ensured 1,300



cruise passengers (two-thirds of the total) went ashore during the day.

Bilingual hostesses provided information about the touristic attractions of Toulon, and around ten coaches brought the passengers on excursion to Aix-Marseille, Cassis, Sanary, Le Castellet.

With 119 calls and 233,000 passengers expected for 2015 (+ 222% of the number of passengers since 2008), the Var Chamber of Commerce and Industry will use the Palais du commerce et de la Mer transitory terminal more often for calls at anchor in order to respond to the booming success of Toulon as a cruise destination and the arrival of bigger ships in the future.

The Mein Schiff 2 will berth at anchor in the Bay on Toulon on September 8th for the second time.

## Port of Nice celebrates 20 years of Le Ponant calls



Le Ponant celebrated its 20th season of calls in the port of Nice this summer. Every summer from May to October, since 1995, cruise guests have embarked the sailing ship in Nice for Mediterranean itineraries.

16,000 guests have enjoyed the nearly 250 calls made in the port of Nice these 20 past years.

On July 6th, the city and the port of Nice celebrated this anniversary on board, with the crew and the guests of the sailing ship. The day-long festivities included a cocktail party music and local cuisine.

This long-term relationship seal the years of loyalty between the French cruise line Ponant company and the Port of Nice.

## Returning to Med: Queen Victoria

Cunard is promoting new nine- to 12-night Mediterranean voyages for Queen Victoria in 2016. In May next year Queen Victoria will sail from Southampton on a round-trip to Spain and Portugal.

During summer and fall 2016, Queen Victoria will venture to the Mediterranean on a number of nine- to 12-night voyages. These include a nine-night tour of Spain, Italy and France and a 12-night cruise through the Adriatic, to Italy and Barcelona.

Routes include Southampton to Civitavecchia (Rome), Venice to Barcelona, Barcelona to Venice, Venice to Istanbul and Istanbul to Venice.

Many of Queen Victoria's 2016 Mediterranean voyages provide overnight stays in Venice and Istanbul.



# MedCruise News



L-R: Aimilia Papachristou, Carla Salvadó, President, Thanos Pallis, Secretary General and Kleopatra Arapi

President: Carla Salvadó

## Secretariat

Thanos Pallis, Secretary General

Email: [thanos.pallis@medcruise.com](mailto:thanos.pallis@medcruise.com)

Contact: Aimilia Papachristou

Email: [aimilia.papachristou@medcruise.com](mailto:aimilia.papachristou@medcruise.com)

Contact: Kleopatra Arapi

Email: [kleopatra.arapi@medcruise.com](mailto:kleopatra.arapi@medcruise.com)



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## MedCruise

10 Akti Miaouli Str.

185 38 Piraeus, Greece

Tel: +30 210 40 50 282

Fax: +30 210 45 50 286

[secretariat@medcruise.com](mailto:secretariat@medcruise.com)

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