MedCruise News



The Association of Mediterranean Cruise Ports

MedCruise, the key player for a sustainable cruise business growth

A message from MedCruise President Airam Diaz Pastor

MedCruise celebrated with success its 52nd General Assembly in Malta; event that has established itself as one of the most important cruise events in the Mediterranean and its adjoining seas. MedCruise members' representatives came from 20 different countries and 3 continents to enjoy the beauty of Valletta, the European Capital of Culture 2018.

"Valletta Cruise Port, a founding member of MedCruise in 1996, hosted the 52nd edition of the MedCruise General Assembly, where more than 140 delegates from MedCruise ports and associate members, cruise lines executives, international media journalists and local authorities gathered in Malta to discuss the latest trends and develop synergies towards sustainable cruise services. In addition, members had the opportunity to hold B2B meetings to explain their latest developments to the media and cruise lines attendees.

"Our prestigious Association, as a key member of the industry, is committed to the new opportunities and challenges that are to come. We are willing to contribute during a Golden Age of our industry that brings more capacity, requires new investments and needs the collaboration between the stakeholders — ports, terminal operators, municipalities and cruise lines.

"The evolution of the cruise industry over the past decade not only concerns vessel size and green regulations, but also refers to the increase that MedCruise port members have experienced —a 33% rise in cruise passengers. To continue to boost cruise traffic, MedCruise plans to increase and strengthen its partnerships with cruise port associations over the coming years.

"MedCruise is currently in contact with different associations seeking for promotion and cooperation in issues of common interest. "A good example on this purpose is the MedCruise and Cruise Lines International Association Europe (CLIA Europe) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed last June in Brussels. Both organisations will work together to boost the cruise business in the Mediterranean, Black Sea, Red Sea and near Atlantic. Under the new deal, MedCruise and CLIA Europe will share statistics, studies and reports of common interest on trends in the industry, shipbuilding and new technologies; collaborate with professional development for MedCruise members; and create new studies related to the cruise industry.

"Through this agreement, we signify that we want to build a stronger relationship between ports and cruise lines which will help us both to grow the contribution the cruise sector makes to



the region that represents the 15.8% of the cruise ships global deployment share.

"MedCruise will also be present at Seatrade Cruise Med 2018, the main cruise event in Europe, with a Pavilion of more than 600 Sq mtr and by being the principal sponsor of the exhibition. MedCruise member Port of Lisbon is delighted to welcome this major biennial cruise event focused on the world's second largest cruise destination —the Mediterranean and its adjoining seas.

"Port of Lisbon Authority will host more than 4.000 participants during the days of the exhibition and conference where exhibitors from all around the world come together, showcase their products, demonstrate exciting new innovations on the exhibition floor, discuss on the latest trends and topics affecting the region, complemented by an exciting social programme.

"In addition, MedCruise will be present and

will promote the Mediterranean Cruise ports during 2018 in many key cruise-industry-events such as the 6th China International Cruise Summit (Qingdao), Seatrade Cruise Asia-Pacific (Shanghai) and International Cruise Summit 2018 (Madrid).

"We have also had several meetings internally to develop new strategies and discuss new actions. We have organized **September 2018** Issue 56

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six Board of Directors meetings during the first semester of 2018 and four Working Group meetings: one dedicated to the measurement of the impact of the cruise activities on ports, cities and destinations, which includes the analysis of LNG facilities in cruise ports, and another one dedicated to promote the Med in the Asian market. Moreover, two new Working Groups were created during our last General Assembly and will be launched during this autumn to promote cruise activities in the Black Sea region and in North Africa.

"Finally, it is important to highlight the several cruise industry conferences and events where MedCruise Directors and myself as President are participating as speakers.

Moreover, it is worth mentioning that we are actively involved in several European Commission Working Groups as well.

"All these initiatives and achievements are successful thanks to the MedCruise ports and associate members commitment and engagement, to work together to face challenges with efforts and experience and an outstanding willing to promote day-by-day MedCruise ports and destinations."



Members of the MedCruise Board of Directors with first MedCruise President Joe Grioli (5th left) in Valletta during the GA Gala Dinner

52nd MedCruise GA in Valletta



edCruise President Airam Diaz Pastor opened the 52nd MedCruise GA attended by over 120 members and associates

Malta and celebrate together the 52nd edition of the MedCruise General Assembly. This major cruise event is proudly hosted by MedCruise members Valletta Cruise Port and Global Ports Holding in Valletta; city that offers premier cruise opportunities and hosts the title of European Capital of Culture in 2018."



Stephen Xuereb, Chief Executive Officer, Valletta Cruise Port, welcoming participants to Valletta



PRESENCE IN EVENTS

52

MEDCRUISE
ENERAL
EMBLY

Maria Cano, MedCruise Marketing Director
presenting the new Marketing Plan

MedCruise General Assembly has established itself as a major cruise event in the Mediterranean and its adjoining seas, bringing cruise ports and their partners together with the invited guests –cruise line executives and international press representatives."



Walking tour of The Silent City of Mdina

Cour Association has grown to more than 100 members, among regular and associate members, representing the majority of passenger movements and cruise calls in the second biggest region of the world, including the Mediterranean, Black Sea, Red Sea, Adriatic and Near Atlantic. MedCruise members welcomed almost 26 million cruise passenger movements and about 12,200 cruise calls in 2017; while 2018 forecast shows that this figure will increase up to 28 million."



Aris Batsoulis, MedCruise SVP (left) and Capt. Vassilios Gazikas



B2B meetings with cruise line executives



Gala Dinner at the Mediterranean Conference Centre, La Valette Hall



ports, destinations and cruise lines



Welcome reception at Hilton Malta Hotel





The 52nd MedCruise General Assembly is a great opportunity for our members to discuss how to achieve and further benefit from this growth. In this edition we are proud to present 13 cruise lines executives and a total of 7 international press representatives as wells as an esteemed participation of more than 140 attendees. Our regular and associate members will have the opportunity to develop networking with every cruise line executive and international press representative during the social events, and share all their expertise and knowledge during the B2B meetings and plenary sessions."

#52MedCruiseGA #PortsTogether #WeAreSocial





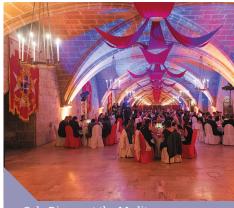








MedCruise GA



Gala Dinner at the Mediterranean





Bringing the Med Together

Seatrade Cruise Med 2018, Lisbon 19-20 September



53rd MedCruise General Assembly, Lisbon 21 September



GreenPort Cruise & Congress 2018, Valencia 16 October



Italian Cruise Day, Trieste 19 October



Seatrade Cruise Asia Pacific, Shanghai 23-25 October



Ports & Cities (4th Tourism & Strategy Festival, Dubrovnik 7-10 November



International Cruise Summit 2018, Madrid

27-28 November



MedCruise Diary 2018 MedCruise joins Seatrade Cruise Global 2018 event



edCruise was actively present at the 2018 edition of Seatrade Cruise Global event, held 6-8 May 2018, in Fort Lauderdale, US. The Association of Mediterranean Cruise Ports was present at the event with its own stand, dynamically promoting cruise activities in the Med and beyond.

The MedCruise booth hosted numerous business-to-business meetings between member representatives and cruise industry professionals. For three successive days, the stand of the Association formed the meeting point of port representatives, cruise line executives, and other stakeholders, advancing cruise activities in the region.

During a special "Trends in the Med" session, MedCruise President Airam Diaz Pastor presented to the cruise world the 2018 edition of the Association's annual Statistical Report, covering in detail the cruise activities in MedCruise ports during 2017. "Cruise Activities in MedCruise ports: Statistics 2017" report is available to be freely downloaded via this link.

MedCruise President was also among the conference speakers; during the first day of the event Diaz Pastor joined the other expert panelists discussing "The Future of European Cruising".

The highlights of Seatrade Cruise Global included a welcome reception organised at the MedCruise stand, an event attended by cruise professionals

that provided excellent networking opportunities to its members.

MedCruise would like to address a special thanks to its members that kindly sponsored the MedCruise reception, turning it into such a memorable and successful event.

Thanks to Delta Ebre Port, Costa Brava Cruise Ports, Transcoma Cruises, Hamilton y Cia and Global Ports Holding.



MedCruise leads discussions on the role of LNG in cruise

edCruise, represented by its President Airam Diaz Pastor, led the discussions in the VI GASNAM Congress -the Iberian association for compressed natural gas (CNG) and liquefied natural gas (LNG) as alternative fuels for road, railway and maritime transportationthat took place on 11th and 12th of April 2018 in Madrid.

MedCruise President took part in a discussion panel and gave a presentation

titled The role of the LNG in the cruise industry. MedCruise has early recognised the importance of studying collectively the use of alternative source of energy by the cruise industry and in particular the use of LNG by cruise vessels. Therefore, a Working Group has been formed to advance the

work on this direction. Sharing best practices with European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) and cruise lines in order to study the supply of LNG by ports in the Med and its adjoining seas is a necessity.

In the 52nd MedCruise General Assembly to be held 23-26 of May in Valletta, Malta, LNG supply in cruise industry will be on the centre of discussions with the participation of ports, cruise lines executives and other relevant players to set the way forward.





CLIA Europe and MedCruise sign partnership deal

edCruise, the Association of Mediterranean Cruise Ports, and Cruise Lines International Association, Europe (CLIA Europe), signed a new partnership deal in Brussels.

The organisations will work together to promote the cruise business in the Mediterranean, Black Sea, Red Sea, Adriatic Sea, North Africa and near Atlantic. Through the newly signed Memorandum of Understanding, both will coordinate to present a unified position to support sustainable cruise growth before European Union organisations, national governments, local authorities and other stakeholders.

Kyriakos Anastassiadis, CLIA Europe Chairman said: "We are delighted to be working so closely with MedCruise, we both have distinct areas of expertise and represent a broad membership and this partnership will enhance both our operations."

Airam Diaz Pastor, President of MedCruise



Airam Diaz Pastor shakes hands with Kyriakos Anastassiadis

commented: "The cruise lines are extremely important to MedCruise's members and it is vital that we work closer together. Today we signify that we want to build a stronger relationship between ports and cruise lines which will help us both to grow the contribution the cruise sector makes to the region that represents the 15.8% of the cruise ships global deployment share."

Under the new deal, MedCruise and CLIA Europe will share statistics, studies and reports of common interest on trends in the industry, shipbuilding and new technologies; collaborate with professional development; and create new standalone studies related to the cruise industry.

A joint committee comprised of members of both organisations will be formed. This agreement signed at the heart of the European Union symbolise the importance of this partnership deal between MedCruise and CLIA Europe.



Airam Diaz Pastor with Theodora Riga, MedCruise Director Cooperation with other Associations and Kyriakos Anastassiadis

MedCruise supports terminal inaugurations

ruise ports in the Med recently celebrated the inauguration of four new cruise terminals, confirming their long-term commitment to offering quality cruise infrastructure and achieve long-term sustainable growth of cruise activities in the region.

MedCruise president Airam Diaz Pastor attended Carnival's Corp's second cruise terminal official opening at the Port of Barcelona on May 5th attended by government, business and community representatives.

Located on Adossat wharf, the Helix terminal covers 12,500sq mtr distributed on two floors.

Heraklion celebrated the official opening of the upgraded cruise terminal - with MedCruise svp Aris Batsoulis joining Port of Heraklion Authority President & CEO, Apollon Fillppis at the ceremony.

The terminal, which has already received its first home-porting activities, includes a permanent tent construction covering 1,125sq mtr providing all the required services and equipment for turnaround and transit calls.

MedCruise President Airam Diaz Pastor joined Lisbon Port Authority Board representatives Ricardo Medeiros, and Ana Lourenço at the inauguration of the new Lisbon Cruise Terminal operated by Global Ports Holding, and following a €24 million investment and a two-year construction process.

In the eastern stretches of the Med a new cruise passenger terminal at DP World Limassol was inaugurated in May by Cyprus President, His Excellency Nicos Anastasiades; Minister of Transport, Communications and Works, Mrs Vassiliki Anastassiadou; the Mayor of Limassol, Nicos Nicolaides and DP World Group chairman and ceo, Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem.





Posidonia 2018

edCruise was actively present at the Posidonia 2018, held in 4th – 8th of June in Athens, Greece. Organising a most interesting seminar on Wednesday 6th June 2018, in the context of Posidonia, MedCruise President Airam Diaz Pastor welcomed a full room and made an introductory presentation about MedCruise, while he discussed the latest statistical, environmental, operational trends of the cruise industry and the initiative that MedCruise has in progress in order to meet all challenges.

Esteemed guest was Mrs Ioanna
Papadopoulou Director, Communications &
Marketing of Athens International Airport,
Greece. Mrs Papadopoulou during her
intervention listed the top 10 criteria that need
to be met in order a port to become a homeport:
availability of an international airport safe
environment, air connections / international
routes, safe air transport, ports ability to
process big number of pax, depth of port, port
infrastructure for safe and fast embarkation
and disembarkation, lifting of cabotage, airport

capacity, port security services, with four (4) to relate with aviation. She emphasized the importance of a port-airport strategic synergy for the cruise sector, with the technology to play an important role but with stakeholders' engagement and full commitment to be the most important criterion.

BoD member Thrasos Stavridopoulos shared his knowledge on Greek ports privatization process and updated the audience with the most recent achievements on this issue. He also highlighted the importance on working together to promote the cruise industry in Greece in particular and in the whole Med in general.

MedCruise was also represented by its Vice President Mr Aris Batsoulis, BoD member Ms Theodora Riga and Secretary General Jordi Caballé. The seminar was followed by a welcome reception.

Posidonia is the largest International Shipping Exhibition, organised bi-annually in Athens, Greece, with over 23,000 visitors within a four days exhibition.

MedCruise President visited 3 port members in 3 days in the Black Sea

iram Díaz Pastor supported MedCruise members in the Black Sea region during a visit in early Summer. After experiencing a decline in both passenger movements and cruise calls during the last years, MedCruise members from the Black Sea have started to implement some actions to promote the region.



The President of MedCruise was present during the official opening of the most significant event related to maritime policy of the EU Member States-European Maritime Day-2018, held in the Bulgarian Black Sea port city of Burgas the 31st of May and 1st of June, together with representatives from MedCruise members Port of Burgas, Port of Varna and Port of Constanta. At this forum that has existed for 10 years now, he had the opportunity to meet the Mayor of Burgas, Dimitar Nikolov; The European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Karmenu Vella; The Minister for Transport, Information, Technology and Communications of Bulgaria, Ivaylo Moskovski; The Deputy Prime Minister for Economic and Demographic Policy of Bulgaria, Valeri Simeonov; The State Secretary of

Romania, Maria Magdalena Grigore; The Chair of Regional Development Committee of European Parliament, Iskra Mihaylova; and The Minister for Environment and Water of Bulgaria, Neno Dimov, among other authorities, Ministers, MEPs and more than 500 maritime experts from all over Europe.

In his speech at the start of the construction of the future Congress and Research Center at the port of Burgas, Mr. Pastor said that the future of cruises in the Black Sea is guaranteed only with the combined efforts of the municipality, the Ministry of Transport, the Government and the Port Authorities. Also, very important is a close collaboration between Black Sea countries. MedCruise President attended this inauguration together with Teodor Patrichi, MedCruise Director responsible for the Black Sea and BoD member and met the MedCruise members' representatives Dian Dimov, Port of Burgas Executive Director; Ivan Kapitanov, Port of Burgas Chairman of Board of Directors; Stoycho Dimov, Port of Burgas Manager FR & Marketing; and Lubomir Dobrev, Port of Varna

The event also included a high-level debate on "Big Bang Black Sea" and a plenary session on EU funds for Blue Growth and sea-basin cooperation.

The day after, Mr. Pastor, visited MedCruise member Port of Varna and met the mayor of this city. They discussed the relevance of the cruise industry for the local economy but also for the whole region as well as the necessity of implementing actions to promote cruise destinations in the whole Black Sea.

After this, the MedCruise President visited the cruise facilities in the Port of Constanta, member since 2007, together with Teodor Patrichi (MedCruise Black Sea Director), MedCruise BoD member and Port of Constantza Manager, where they had the opportunity to visit the cruise terminal and the main attractions of the city and discuss about new MedCruise actions in the region with a view to increase the cruise passenger traffic for the following years.

Upon his visit, he was impressed with the unicity of Constantza, the most ethnically diverse area in Romania and home to 12 different minorities for centuries. Not only does the city have an impressive history but it also possesses 10 resorts, which welcome hundreds of thousands of tourists every year. Constanta is located at a one-hour drive from the Danube Delta and a two-hour drive from the country's capital, Bucharest. Its infrastructure and scenery make day-trips both enjoyable and entertaining experiences.

During the 52nd GA in Malta, the Black Sea working group, consisting in Black Sea port representatives and Teodor Patrichi as MedCruise Black Sea Director, agreed upon and subsequently signed a two-year Action Plan that will further help with the effort of the ports in the region for reviving the Black Sea cruise port calls. The hope is by 2020 the Black Sea cruise industry will be back to normal



Black Sea working group: 2020 vision

In 2014, the Black Sea was the most dynamic region of all time, in 2016 in the Black Sea ports the recordings were exceptionally low, only 16,742 passengers were registered. After an annual decline of 76.4% in 2016 (the second year of major decline), the Black Sea cruise activities have evaporated. In 2016, the Black Sea region recorded a decrease of 88.2% or 130.000 passengers compared to 2012.

Taking into account the regional trends, the Black Sea ports, which recorded the most remarkable growth of all times in 2013 and 2014, returned in 2015 to half of 2010.

The last year has been particularly difficult for the Black Sea region, especially due to the prevailing conditions in Turkey, and has led to zero cruise traffic in Turkey ports and neighboring ports. Similarly, the conditions of

the last two years in the Black Sea were difficult, where there were geopolitical tensions that led to the emergence of negative perceptions of cruises in the region. Thus 2018 is the first year when no maritime cruise ship calls the Black Sea.

In order to resume passenger traffic, the managing bodies of the ports in this region are working to encourage the return of cruise lines to the area and to promote ports and increase the number of cruise ships.

Constanta port has assumed the leading role in developing a strategy for attracting cruise ships. So, as the MedCruise Black Sea director, we implement this strategy with the help of the Black Sea partners.

This year, in Odessa the MedCruise conference of the Black Sea MedCruise working group will be organized: Constanta, Odessa, Burgas and Varna, with the aim of developing itineraries for returning cruise ships.

We are convinced that the major cruise lines are attracted to the Black Sea region, an unexplored enough region, and there will be a return to the area in 2020 as berthing requests are indicating.





Azores



In the Azores, 2019 is shaping up for another busy year with 145 ship visits booked and around 175,000 passengers expected, about the same number due to visit the Portuguese archipelago this year.

With ships getting bigger and calls growing, days with three and four cruise ships in the port of Ponta Delgado at the same time is common, reports Port of Azores Authority.

To cater for the increasing cruise activity improvements are underway at the commercial berth to better accommodate visiting cruise vessels berthing outside the

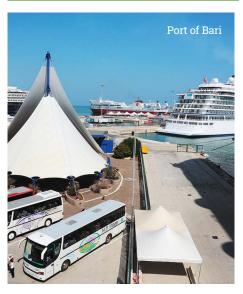
cruise terminal.

Popular shore excursions mainly focus on nature based trips. Furnas Valley, Fire Lake or Sete Cidades Lakes are the most requested tours, each one of them providing guests with thrilling experiences and amazing landscapes combined with local gastronomy.

Elsewhere the Port Authority is looking to expand cruise activity at a small port Velas, in São Jorge Island.

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Bari/Brindisi



he port network of the Southern
Adriatic Sea gathers together the ports
of Bari, Brindisi, Manfredonia, Barletta
and Monopoli, all located on the west
Adriatic coast of Italy.

Bari and Brindisi are both turnaround ports with fully equipped cruise terminals for vessels up to 330mtr with a maximum draft of 12mtr.

In the last five months of 2018, Bari is looking to welcome 106 ships with many 'two ships a day' visits. Costa Cruises and MSC Cruises use the port for partial turnaorunds on a weekly basis: Costa neoRiviera (every Saturday to November) and Costa Luminosa (Sundays) and Costa Deliziosa (Mondays) through to the end of the year. MSC Lirica (on Saturdays) and MSC Poesia (Sundays until October). AIDAblu is a regular weekly transit visitor.

In Brindisi, MSC Musica is a regular weekly caller this year visiting 30 times from March through to October. In total, Brindisi will welcome 46 ships this year.

The ports offer exciting shorex options including gothic churches, Romanesque abbeys and medieval castles listed on UNESCO's World Heritage, together with the Trulli, Castellana Grottoes and Sassi and Ruperstrian Churches of Matera along 250k of coastline.

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Balearic Islands



lassic tours continue to hold their appeal across the five ports managed by the Port Authority of the Balearic Islands: Palma, Ibiza, Mahon, Alcudia and La Savina.

These include: city tour and Drach Caves (Portocristo, Manacor) from Palma de Majorca; city tour and hippy markets in Ibiza; Menorca



tour for ships calling Mahon and city sightseeing and Roman ruins tour in Alcudia.

Some new thematic tours are proving popular especially those featuring local gastronomy.

A new terminal is under construction in busiest port Palma de Majorca to handle turnaround traffic and also capable of accommodating the largest cruise ships afloat in transit. It will be ready in 2019.

Challenges include extending the season to welcome more winter calls between November and March in Palma and increased calls in April/May and September/October in Ibiza and Mahon.

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Bastia/North Corsica



018 is already shaping up to be a peak year for Bastia and North Corsica Ports with 122 calls and 21 maiden calls booked for the four ports of Bastia, Saint Florent, L'Ile-Rousse and Calvi.

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Bastia, concessionnaire of the port, is involved in a European project to develop new sustainable tours for luxury cruise lines. Under the banner ItinERA, the project aims to develop ecotours based on environmental and local values and also involves the French and Italian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

An example of a new ecotour for cruise passengers visiting the Port of Bastia is discovering the city and sharpening the five senses! Listen to a Corsican polyphony concert (UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage), taste the famous home made "canistrelli", create your own perfume using organic local scents and meet with a local artisan of jewellery to know more about Corsican sacred and secular stories... It is more than a tour, it is a human experience!

In addition, Bastia is developing different new 'slow tours' based around organic cosmetics and aromatherapy workshops, ebikes tours, multi-sensory trail... It is a 'green' destination development we are proud to have initiated!

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Burgas



espite the decline in fortunes of cruising in the Black Sea in the last three years, Burgas Port officials have continued to actively work for the return of cruise ships, meanwhile investing in new infrastructure in anticipation.

As a result Crystal Cruises has confirmed Crystal Symphony will visit in August 2021.

Bulgaria's leading port, offers a 3,000 sq mtr maritime station with two ship berths, totalling 330 mtr in length. Recently renovated is a hundred-year-old warehouse 'Magazia 1' providing a second passenger terminal plus shopping centre, restaurants and places for cultural events. This facility can also accommodate two ships simultaneously.

In addition, a modern Congress and Expo Center with a total floor space of 8,000sq mtr is under construction and is due to be opened in time to host the MedCruise General Assembly in 2021

At the MedCruise General Assembly in Malta in May, the Black Sea ports - Burgas, Varna, Constanta, Odessa, Istanbul and Turkish port of Trabzon signed an action plan to promote the region to the cruise market.

A first working meeting took place during the European Maritime Day.

Addressing the meeting MedCruise president, Airam Diaz Pastor, said that the future of cruises in the Black Sea is guaranteed only with the combined efforts of the municipality, the Ministry of Transport, the Government and the Port Authority.

The nearby ancient towns of Nessebar and Sozopol are proven as popular tours for visiting cruise passengers, as well as St Anastasia, an island in Burgas Bay, located 6.5km southeast of the city.

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Cartagena



ounded almost three thousand years ago, Cartagena is the second oldest city of Spain with a very rich past: Roman, naval and Art Nouveau. It is located in the region of Murcia, in south-eastern

Spain.

Cartagena lived its glory days during the Roman Empire, when the city was known as Carthago Nova. This era left behind an impressive cultural heritage: Roman Theatre and amphitheatre, Roman quarter, Roman roads, typical homes and much more.

Due to its ideal location, the city has

been capital of the Spanish Navy's Maritime Department in the Mediterranean since the 18th century. Dozens of fortifications were built, including several external forts on the main hills at Galeras, Atalaya and Los Moros, which were declared cultural heritage assets in 1997.

Cartagena is also home to numerous Art Nouveau buildings from early 20th century, when the Bourgeoisie settled down in the city due to the growth of the local mining industry.

Cartagena is forecasting 164 cruise ships and 240,000 cruise passengers next year including 18 maiden calls.

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Ceuta



euta has invested 2.2m Euros to modify its cruise berth and terminal to provide new lighting, signposting, green areas, a new configuration of security introducing new locking systems that take into account organization of traffic schemes and circulation of authorized light vehicles and public transport traffic. It has made the embarking and disembarking of passengers more efficient and enabled the port to accept larger cruise ships.

12 cruise ships are expected to visit in 2019, the same number as this year.

Ceuta is the perfect base from which to explore Morocco and the UNESCO-listed World Heritage Site of Tetouan medina and its unique network of shaded alleyways. Its large mellah (Jewish quarter) was called Little Jerusalem. It is the most lively area abounding with souks. Tarafin street, which is lined with jewellery shops, leads to Hassan II square and the Royal Palace, a fine example of Hispano-Mauresque architecture.

The most popular tour is to travel from the port to the highest point of the city stopping enroute to see wonderful views of the Strait of Gibraltar and the south coasts of mainland Spain as well as a panoramic view of the city of Ceuta and then the north coast of Morocco as well as a nice view of the city.

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Ports of Catalonia



ew trends are coming in shorex offerings particularly focussed around food and drink such as wine tasting in an old typical farm or enjoying a brunch with local produce in the middle of a vineyard. However, the most popular shore excursions in the ports of the Catalonia, especially those calling at the port of Palamós, are Charming Medieval Villages and Girona city while from Roses the most wanted tour is Bohemia Life in Cadaqués.

The ports of Catalonia, Palamós and Roses, will together host more than 60 calls in 2019, 50 of which will be at the former, a record with 48 listed for this year.

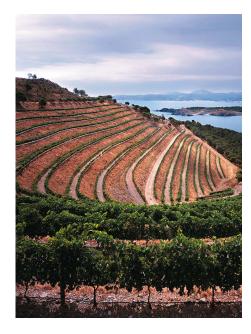
Marella Cruises is calling more than 20 times in Palamós in 2018, as well as three visits to Roses Bay.

Seabourn will visit the Costa Brava three times this year which together with Marella Cruises have been calling at Palamós since

AIDA Cruises is calling for a third consecutive year at the port of Palamós.

In order to manage more than the 10,000 expected passengers this year, Roses(an anchor stop) improved facilities at its tender pier while Palamós is reinforcing its berth this autumn to be ready in 2019.

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Civitavecchia



ivitavecchia is the gateway for Rome and as a result the majority of cruise visitors do visit Italy's capital during their stay, however the surrounding areas of Civitavecchia are equally rich in treasures and history and many passengers especially those returning to the port are taking local tours or in the town itself as an alternative to Rome

2019 is looking very good again for Italy's top cruise port with a 6.5% rise in ships

anticipated resulting in a 9.3% growth in passengers.

The new Amerigo Vespucci cruise terminal was inaugurated earlier this year covering 11,000sq mtr with full floorto-ceiling windows, with passenger and luggage facilities on the ground and a check-in and welcome area

on the first floor with a terrace facing the sea and the port.

At the same time an development project for the port of Fiumicino (10 minutes from the biggest international airport in Italy) has been approved as well as in the port of Gaeta, which is starting to welcome cruise ships (15 last year).

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Cyprus ports



new cruise passenger terminal at DP
World Limassol was inaugurated in May
by Cyprus President, His Excellency
Nicos Anastasiades; Minister of Transport,
Communications and Works, Mrs Vassiliki
Anastassiadou; the Mayor of Limassol, Nicos
Nicolaides and DP World Group chairman and
ceo, Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem.

The operational opening of the terminal was attended by almost 300 guests and will enable the largest cruise ships to berth in Cyprus for the first time.

The building features seven pods with a total floor area of 8,205sq mtr designed for both transit and turnaround calls. The East berth is 480mtr long with a depth of 11mtr.

The DP World chairman, said: 'Today is a celebration of the teamwork and collaboration in creating a new front door for tourists coming to Cyprus. We are proud to be part of a strategic partnership with the Government and the city of Limassol to realise this national asset, and our aim is to be the port of choice in the Eastern Mediterranean.'

The 12,500sq mtr terminal by Batlle i Roig Arquitectura has a modern and graceful style with straight lines.

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Catania



t the foot of Mount Etna and overlooking the Ionian Sea, Catania is a city of art, with undisputable examples of Sicilian baroque architecture. Visiting Catania you can walk along grand eighteenth-century avenues and relax in one of the coffee shops along the beautiful Via Etnea, pulsating heart of Catania's society life and ideal place for shopping.

No trip to Catania is complete without a visit to Mount Etna, the highest active volcano in Europe, and a UNESCO World Heritage site since 2013. Taormina, idyllically perched on a rocky promontory high above the sea, has been the most popular tourist destination in Sicily for two hundred years. Beautifully restored medieval buildings, breathtaking views around every corner and a network of winding streets full of shops, bars and restaurants.

New tours planned this year and 2019's season include a half or full day sailing along the coast of Catania, visiting the tiny villages of Brucoli or Acitrezza and a visit to Villa Romana del Tellario, just a few minutes away from Noto, a masterpiece dating back to the fourth century AD and discovered by chance in 1971.

97 calls bringing about 200,000 passenger are expected in Catania next year including newcomers Aegean Odyssey, Koningsdam, Veendam and Marella Celebration.

Thanks to the proximity of the fourth busiest airport in Italy and the leading one in Southern Italy, Catania is aiming to become a homeport too.

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Dubrovnik

ubrovnik is often referred to as the 'Pearl of the Adriatic'. The Croatian port is expecting 470 calls and around 800,000 passenger in 2019, a slight increase over this season. New visitors in 2018 include Carnival Horizon, Seabourn Ovation, Nieuw Statendam and Viking Orion with seven maiden calls booked in for next year.

Dubrovnik Port Authority is in process of acquiring building permission for the construction of new 450mtr long cruise berths, with two ferry ramps. They are expected to be operational in the first quarter of 2023.

DPA in cooperation with the City of Dubrovnik is developing the programme

Respect the City' which aims to harmonize tourist flows through the city infrastructure, where cruise passengers represent significant numbers of daily visitors. The aim of the project is to find optimal solutions for sustainable tourism in the destination.

Popular tours are city panorama and sightseeing, a trip to the Dubrovnik countryside to the small village of Čilipi located in the green and fertile Konavle valley where you can also visit on a jeep safari or experience on a horseback riding tour.

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French Riviera

he splendid charm and fragrances of Nice and Grasse can be experienced during this scenic tour to the two cities from the French Riveira ports. Walk along the lovely Promenade des Anglais in Nice to view the beautiful city and stop for leisurely free time and then next to the the Old Town in Grasse and trip to the historic Parfumerie Fragonard, one of the oldest in the city. Parfumerie Fragonard was opened in 1926. Eugène Fuchs chose to name it after the famous Grasse-born painter, Jean-Honoré Fragonard (1732-1806), as a tribute to both the town of Grasse and to the refinement of 18thcentury arts. Three succeeding generations have run the business since and are still running the company.

The four French Riviera ports of Cannes, Antibes, Nice and Villefranche sur mer are expecting to welcome 383 port calls and 667,000 cruise passengers in 2019.

At the port of Cannes, construction work is underway to improve the cruise welcome facilities to be ready by mid-2021.

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Genoa/Savona

he Ports of Genoa, cruise ports of Genoa and Savona, have hosted two important events in June 2018. On June 9 the Port of Genoa provided the spectacular backdrop of the christening of MSC cruises' new flagship MSC Seaview dedicated to Italy and scheduled to sail in the Mediterranean Sea during the summer. While on June 19 Disney Magic made a maiden call in Stazioni Marittime Genoa. Disney cruise Lines has scheduled for the first time three calls at the port of Genoa this summer that has already reconfirmed for 2019.

Regarding Savona, Costa Crociere will invest in the renovation of the Palacrociere and will buy two new passenger boarding bridges. Plans are afoot to refurbish Savona's cruise terminal: Costa Crociere has presented the Port Authority of the Western Ligurian Sea its proposal to restructure specific areas of the Palacrociere Terminal West, built in 2003, to cater for the future requirements of the introduction of increasingly larger cruise vessels with higher volumes of passenger traffic such as the future new flagship Costa Smeralda that will call Savona in November 2019. The investment programme amounts to approximately €5m.

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Egyptian ports



he city of Alexandria was originally established by Alexander the Great, the most famous Greek king and army leader, in 332BC and soon became the cultural and commercial centre of the Mediterranean Sea region and it is considered one of the most magnificent coastal cities of Egypt.

The Port of Alexandria has upgraded its cruise terminal with a surface of 8,725sq mtr, parking area for up to 80 buses, accommodating more than 5,000 tourists and five cruise ships, at once. Renovation of the terminal took inspiration from Alexandria's history with the design comprising Pharaonic architecture with features from the Roman era.

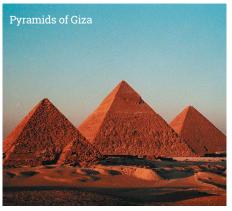
From Alexandria it is possible to take a full day to Cairo to visit Egypt's iconic pyramids of Giza, the Sphinx and explore the Egyptian Museum's antiquity collection, see a bazaar and ride on a camel.

Another full day tour option is to visit Marsa Matruh, 290km west of Alexandria.

It started as a small fishing town during Ancient Egyptian times and the reign of Alexander the Great and was named Amunia. There are ruins of the Temple of the King, Pharaoh Ramesses II (1200 BC); Drowned Palace of Cleopatra, Rommel's Hideout: A cave, hewn in the rock, where Rommel drew up plans of his military operations. It has now been turned into a military museum and British, German and Italian cemeteries for fallen soldiers from World War II.

Other Egyptian ports are Port Said, located in the Suez Canal at the northern entrance to the Mediterranean, Sharm El Sheikh, approximately 360km from Suez and 490km from Cairo, Suez, originally a port for pilgrims, and Hurghada, located on the western coast of the Red Sea.

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Gibraltar



ibraltar's newest tourist attraction, the Skywalk, stands 340mtr directly above sea level offering 360-degree views of three countries and two continents and linking to other popular sites for cruise passengers visiting the Gibraltar Nature Reserve, Upper Rock including the Windsor Suspension Bridge and the famous Apes' Den via a series of walking trails.

Actor Mark Hamill, aka Luke Skywalker in the Star Wars film series, opened the Skywalk at the top of the Rock of Gibraltar earlier this year.

The floor and balustrade panels are made of laminated glass. The walkway is 2.5mtr wide

and projects a maximum of 6.7mtr from the main structural support point.

Another new attraction, albeit more exclusive is the Gorham's Cave Complex, inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2016, as providing 'evidence of Neanderthal occupation over a span of more than 100,000 years... (and) exceptional testimony to the cultural traditions of the Neanderthals'.

Gibraltar is expecting 249 planned cruise calls in 2018 with over 403,000 passengers (based on double occupancy).

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Huelva



ort of Huelva continues to push to be a regular cruise stop as an alternative for visiting Seville and the Portuguese Algarve.

Huelva port is also engaged in promoting the province of Huelva as a visible 'hidden gem' for the cruise sector because of its historic heritage, white sandy beaches, golf destination (nine golf courses), nature and 3,000 hours of sunshine a year.

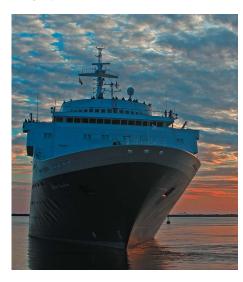
Two top draws for visitors are a trip to Seville and 'The Route of Columbus' which starts in Huelva from where the journey of Christopher Columbus began in 1492. Travel back in time and get on board the replica Discovery vessels on the 'Muelle de las Carabelas' wharf.

A new tour is 'The wonders of Jabugo'. The village of Jabugo is the supreme area for Iberian ham, located in the Sierra de Aracena and Picos de Aroche Nature Reserve.

This involves an immersive tour to get to know how the Iberian pig is raised and fed, and the secrets of the most important gastronomic treasure. As a great finale, visitors get to taste Iberian ham paired with wine followed by a guided walk through the town.

A new road access to the south wharf has been built to separate cruise and cargo traffic a provides better and faster access to the highway.

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Igoumenitsa



mong the many highlights that are accessible from Igoumenitsa on full and half day tours are the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Meteora, the fascinating lakeside city of Ioannina and Dodoni ancient theater (3rd century B.C.), Octavian's city of Nicopolis and the charming seaside towns of Syvota, In 2018, about 13 ships, will call at the west coast of Greece port bringing around 12,500 passengers.

For next year Azamara has chosen Igoumenitsa as a new destination, visiting with Azamara Pursuit.

Igoumenitsa has finished Phase II of a

port development project which includes the creation of a 170mtr wide and 1,700mtr long straight access channel with depth of 10.5mtr; completion of Passenger Terminal 2 building which is already in use as is a 371mtr long connecting platform. Under construction are a third passenger terminal building to serve Schengen Agreement Controls and dedicated as a cruise ship terminal and a 197.6mtr long finger pier, for the mooring of ships up to 227mtr long.

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Istanbul

urkey's leading cruise homeport of Istanbul, Galataport, located in the old city, is undergoing a major reconstruction which is set to be completed for the 2020 season.

Extension of the existing cruise quay has already been completed and planning is now underway for the construction of a new terminal. When completed, the new facility will offer a 980mtr long cruise berth, terminal building, hotel, cafes & restaurants, small boutiques and many international brands, together with the museums in the port area.

Bookings for both homeporting and

transit calls are already being taken for the 2020 season which sees the return to Istanbul by Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings brands, Holland America Line, Azamara and Saga Cruises, amongst others.

Galataport is attending Seatrade Cruise Med in Lisbon in September and Ismail Gültekin the deputy governor of Istanbul in charge of foreign affairs, culture and tourism will be in attendance and holding a series of meetings with cruise line representatives about future calls to Istanbul.

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Koper



Port of Koper is forecasting a record cruise season in 2018 when it will break the milestone of 110,000 passengers and 85 calls representing an increase of 40% compared to last year. The season started in February and will finish in late December. Maiden calls include MSC Poesia, Marella Discovery 2, Mein Schiff 2 and Seabourn Ovation. For TUI Cruises it will be the first season calling Koper.

Slovenian tour operator, Atlas Express and the local tourist organization, organized a spectacular choir performance at Tito's square in Koper for Azamara Cruise Club passengers twice last year. World famous 'a capella choir' Perpetuum Jazzile, performed traditional Slovenian and international songs. The musical event under the stars included traditional Slovenian culinary, wine and champagne. Passenger's experience was definitely exceeded and AzAmazing evening will be repeated four times this year between July to October 2018, when Azamara Quest visits.

Cruise activity in 2019 is expected to mirror the number of calls and passengers as this year. New comers next year are MSC Lirica, Azamara Pursuit, Mein Schiff 6, Celebrity Infinity, Silver Shadow and Koningsdam.

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Kavala



he most popular shorex undertaken by passengers visiting Kavala is the archeological site of Philippi (ancient Theatre/Museum) and the steps of Apostle Paul within the Baptistery of Saint Lydia.

Other interesting tours related with nature are the delta of Nestos river, the Alistrati Cave or linked with the sea including the Ammoglosa of Keramoti and many beaches close to the port. Also other topics of special interest are wineries, spas, mud baths, home of Mohamed Ali, Tobacco Museum and Wax Museum.

For 2019, eight ships are booked with around 3,500 passengers expected in total.

In order to improve the port's facilities the Port Authority is at tender stage for supplying power and water for berthed vessels as well as an industrial floor coating and adding mounting buffers.

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Kotor

otor in Montenegro is heading for a new record in 2019 with over 500 calls expected. Located at the end of the southernmost and only fjord in the Mediterranean, Kotor offers many beautiful monuments and churches, cathedrals and fortresses, interesting places, good restaurants and museums providing a rich experience and a destination for exploring the surrounding areas.

The most popular shorex is still the 'Montenegrin tour' transversing the Budva Riviera on mountainous coastal routes through villages, resorts and a medieval fortification. Lovcen, a mountain and national park in southwestern Montenegro offers fabulous views over the town of Kotor. The full day tour is enriched with a newly constructed road helping traffic flow and reducing the time spent on the road.

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La Spezia

n 2018, La Spezia is expecting to host 130 cruise ships, bringing around 490,000 passenger on transit calls.

This represents an increase of 7% compared to 2017. Maiden calls by Symphony of the Seas, Mein Schiff 6, Costa Victoria, Costa Magica and MSC Opera will feature on the 2018 roster of ships visiting.

For next year, La Spezia expects to increase quite dramatically with over 160 calls about 700,000 passengers expected representing an increase of about 40% compared to 2018 including maiden calls by AIDAnova, Mein Schiff 2 and the newly

delivered Costa Smeralda.

The most popular shore excursions from La Spezia until now are Florence, Pisa and Cinque Terre.

La Spezia Port Authority is undergoing a new urban waterfront project, which will include, in the next years, a new dedicated cruise area with the construction of a new quay offering two berths of 393mtr and 339mtr, and at the same time, work is taking place on designs for a new cruise terminal.

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Livorno



he most popular tour from Livorno is to the Venezia district and Fortezza Vecchia. The Venezia district is the historic heart of Livorno, designed in the 17th century, the area has an island feel, crisscrossed by bridges and canals reminiscent of Venice. The excursion can be made easily on foot and concludes with a picturesque boat trip along the Medici canals offering a different perspective on the city. The Fortezza Vecchia (Old Fortress) is of historical importance and overlapping architecture from the 11-16th centuries is evident.

A new tour available from Livorno is Bolgheri: landscapes and wine tasting. Bolgheri, 40 minutes from Livorno, and famous for its connections with Italian poet Giosué Carducci, is known for its wine. Visitors are invited to try the local wine, as well as oil, cheese and various meats, all local Tuscan products.

In 2019, Livorno is expecting 396 calls bringing 810,000 passengers.

Port of Livorno plans to more than double the present space and berths, to provide four dedicated berths at Calata Alto Fondale and Calata Orlando and two new terminals in the next five years.

In the meantime, Livorno offers three berths where cruise ships have priority with no length limitation.

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Lisbon



isbon Hidden treasures is a new tour taking you to one of Lisbon's best kept secrets: The Palace of the Marquis of Fronteira.

As this estate passed from generation to generation, the palace is still inhabited by family members being therefore a home filled with personal memories that happen to be deeply connected with the history of Portugal. Only a few rooms are opened to the public, nevertheless the ones on display are the most relevant, as one can see a collection of tiles that range from the early period of introduction of this decorative art in Portugal to the 18th century "fad" of blue and white tile panels.

After visiting the Palace and its gardens it will be time for a panoramic ride through the city centre and pause at a local tavern for a Portuguese snack. Afterwards walk down to a brief visit to the intriguing Casa do Alentejo, also a 17th century palace built in Neo-Moorish style.

The port of Lisbon expects 330 cruise calls and around 600,000 cruise passengers in 2019, when there will be 18 new visitors.

The Lisbon Cruise Terminal, inaugurated on November 10, 2017, features 1,490mtr long berth, able to welcome all cruise vessels with a draft up to 12mtr.

The new facility provides the port with a capacity to expand to 1.5 million passengers and will promote the growth of turnaround operations.

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Messina

uests seeking an adventurous, off-road encounter with Mt Etna delight in this full-day excursion, which will reveal the wonders of this amazing volcano. Climb aboard a mountain bike for a look at the marvels of Mt. Etna that cannot be seen from the road. Cross age-old lava fields and a more recent (2002) lava flow which gives an idea of the destructive force on nature. Ride through the oldest pine tree woods on Etna, the Pineta Ragabo. Properly helmeted and briefed, the length covered is about 10 km. At the end relax and enjoy 'Il

Cannolo' the typical Sicilian sweet served with a hot or cold drink in a cozy mountain refuge (excursion by Mediterranea Trekking).

Also new is a tour to medieval Castroreale, one of the most beautiful small villages in Italy, standing on the Torace Hill and lying on the side

of the Peloritani Mountains. It is often defined as 'a balcony with a view on the Eolian Islands. between the volcanoes Etna and Stromboli'.

The medieval structure has been perfectly maintained, with interwoven alleys beautified by steps, arches, and flower-adorned balconies.

Messina will welcome 160 calls and 436,626 passengers next year and plans to have a new terminal inside two years and new pier.

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Motril-Granada



n 2019, Motril is anticipating 23 calls and just over 9,000 passengers including visits from ships operated by Zegrahm Expeditions, Scenic Luxury Cruises and Tours, Oceania Cruises and Azamara Club Cruises.

Most popular full day tour is Granada and The Alhambra, Spain's magical Moorish city, located beneath the Sierra Nevada mountains.

Granada itself is beautiful, and its remmants of stunning architecture quite superlative. Visit the cathedral, a masterpiece of Renaissance

style constructed after the reconquering of Granada by the Catholics. Perhaps not surprisingly, it was built right over the top of Granada's largest mosque. It is fair to say that nothing in all of Spain compares to the wealth of architectural art found in the 14thcentury Alhambra- a Muslim- Hispano complex of palaces and gardens. This breathtaking example of Muslim architecture is completely encircled by walls and towers, and inside are

palaces, military buildings, a fortress, an administrative center, courtyard and fountains wrought in exquisite detail.

In contrast, a new tour is an excursion to an emblematic place of Motril, where a local baker presents a pastry class, in this case, how to make a typical dessert of the area, the Pionono, and subsequent tasting.

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Marseille



50 excursion options in Marseille Provence have been drawn up for cruise guests during their call to Marseille or on pre/post cruise stays.

Thanks to this large choice, repeaters can experiment new experiences with no risk of overcrowding such as a new tour called Beautiful Camargue. Cruise passengers will enjoy a scenic drive through the countryside. Stop at the Parc Ornithologique de Pont de Gau, a nature reserve that is home to thousands of birds, including the emblematic bird of the region, the striking and graceful flamingo. From here, it is a short drive to the charming capital of the Camargue, Saintes Maries de la Mer. In town, enjoy a brief walking tour of this former fishing village, now a popular seaside resort.

For newcomers in Marseille, the most popular shorex is a 3 hours bus tour from the Old Port to Notre Dame de la Garde Basilica for its panoramic view then driving along La Corniche up to Prado promenade, and then the Palais Longchamp, la Canebière street, the Old Port, the MuCEM, the Villa Méditerranée, and the Regards de Provence Museum.

Recently ranked the Mediterranean's number 4 cruise port, Marseille Provence is expecting more than 1.7m cruise passengers and 513 calls in 2018.

The Marseille Port Authority is investing in bunkering facilities to supply LNG and new types of fuels; shore-based power for ships during calls and studying technical solutions regarding air pollution and emissions from berthed ships.

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Portofino



popular tour from Portofino is hiking in the Portofino Regional Park:
Portofino is not only a picturesque village; it's also a Regional Park that includes the Portofino Promontory. It's an area rich in biodiversity, it is a paradise of Mediterranean vegetation that can be explored hiking an extensive network of trails. It is possible to hike all year round on the magnificent coastal paths that run like balconies overlooking the coast or in the forests of the interior and the higher areas that provide

shade during the hotter months. It's a walk in a unique environment both for the flora and for the geological conformation.

Portofino is a small fishing village which can get easily congested when multiple ships call on the same day. However, we always make sure to avoid such situations by communicating with the cruise line companies and agencies.

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Naples/Salerno /Castellammare Di Stabia



ort Network Authority of the Central Tyrrenian Sea manages the Ports of Naples, Salerno and Castellammare di Stabia.

Naples is experiencing strong growth in cruise traffic with 442 calls expected next year. From the tourist area of the port, in the historical center of Naples, it connects, by fast boats and ferries, the islands of the Bay of Naples and Sorrento. Similarly the archeological sites of Pompeii, Herculaneum and the Phlegraean Fields can be easily reached from the port.

The Port of Salerno offers access to Pompeii via a 5hr coach ride with a visit to the excavations and then to a coral factory where you can observe the carving of cameos. Continue to the Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary.

In 2019 Salerno is expecting a 15% jump in cruise traffic with Marella Cruises a new customer and Costa Cruises returning and TUI bringing the new Mein Schiff 2.

Salerno is widening the entrance of the port basin, an ambitious project which consists in raising the head of the inner breakwater (up to 100mtr length) and a 200mtr extension of the outer breakwater.

Meanwhile the restyling of Manfredi Pier including the area in front of the passenger terminal and berth where it is located is part of a larger modernisation plan for the waterfront.

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Piraeus



he most popular shore excursion in Athens (Piraeus) is the half day tour to the Acropolis, especially for a new tour we would like to mention "The Acropolis Virtual Reality tour" in which visitors can immerse themselves into a world that existed thousands of years ago.

The visit of the Acropolis is aided by the use of Virtual Reality Software. Guests are provided with a pair of VR goggles - viewing the surrounding architecture as it once stood, thousands of years ago!

Specially trained local guides offer a unique

insight as guests navigate the exterior and interior of this incredibly elaborate structure.

Port of Piraeus is also planning to increase its cruise port infrastructure with the creation of two additional berths with lengths of 390mtr and 350mtr respectively able to facilitate the berthing of new generation cruise ships and will include the construction of a new cruise terminal that will upgrade services to cruise lines and passengers.

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Portimao



ne of the most popular shorex at Portimão is a visit to the nearby caves by boat. This tour takes you to magical places in an unforgettable journey through the stored charms of nature using small boats passing through narrow canals and ravines.

Recently Portimao on Portugal's Algarve has seen an increase in demand for more radical activities such as sky diving and diving.

Nearly 30,000 passengers passed through the Portimão Cruise Terminal in 2017, representing

a steady increase and as 46 ships are already booked for 2019 the port is expecting another good year next year.

Located in the heart of the Algarve, offering calm waters and a beautiful landscape, the port of Portimão is getting ready for the future, aiming at improving operations for the increasing number of cruise ships visiting.

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Sardinian ports



here are five 5 ports in Sardinia dedicated to cruising: Cagliari, Olbia, Oristano, Porto Torres, Golfo Aranci which collectively are expecting to welcome 200 calls in 2019 and around 600,000 passengers.

Port of Cagliari is investing in enlarging its security check point and in the Port of Olbia recently a contract was signed for the levelling of the access channel to improve cruise traffic; while in Porto Torres, the reopening to traffic, in July, of the High Fund wharf which will allow ferries to berth and, once the excavation works and preliminary drafting to the Antemurale have been carried out, large cruise ships.

Sardinian ports are working very hard for LNG: in July in the port of Oristano the release of the maritime state concession - with a duration of 50 years - was approved in favor of Edison SPA, for the construction of the dock for the landing of gas tankers to service a deposit coastline of Liquefied

Natural Gas and naval units that intend to use the port as a Mediterranean hub for the supply of fuel. In Porto Torres the favourable opinion to restart the process for the construction of a LNG plant was renewed. Last but not least the Port of Cagliari is working to approve the maritime concession of LNG in the industrial port.

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Rijeka



ijeka is a city of rich history and dynamic present, new perspectives and the joy of life.

One of the most popular Rijeka shore excursions is to discover the rich history of Rijeka old town and the Trsat, a medieval fortified town and once home to one of the oldest Croatian noble families - the Frankopan family. Trsat is an unavoidable landmark as the oldest Marian shrine sanctuary in Croatia. A wonderful view of Kvarner Bay extends from Trsat.

Rijeka's calendar of events is overflowing throughout the year so regardless of the season, guests will find interesting and attractive music, as well as urban clubs for the younger generations.

Together with the interesting summer events program, such as Rijeka Summer Nights and Summer at Gradina, visitors of all generations will enjoy a rich program of drama, and art performances prepared by the most famous artists from Croatia and around the world.

Acting as a 'warm-up' to the European Capital of Culture 2020, Summer in the City will focus on concerts, children's festivals, art exhibits, regional cuisine, outdoor performances and film screenings, providing visitors with the most authentic and diverse experience of Rijeka.

In 2019, Rijeka is expecting a rise in cruise traffic with some new companies sending ships for the first time.

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Souda/Chania

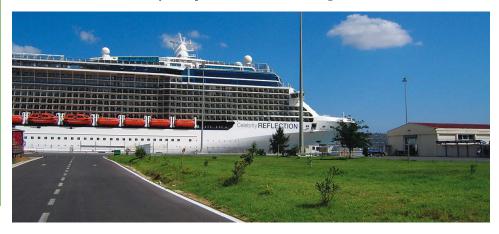
he most popular shorex for the cruise guests visiting Souda Port and Chania destination is the Old Harbour with Old Municipal Market and Archaeological Museum just a short drive away. Strolling the small winding cobblestone streets and old alleys of the Old town, cruise guests can enjoy the Venetian and Ottoman structures, fortresses and loggia churches of medieval times.

Ancient Aptera archaeological site is located only 10 minutes driving from Souda Port and characterized as one of the very best open air museums in Crete.

For the 2019 cruise season expectations are good, having (as of July 2018), more than 120 cruise calls with over 200,000 guests booked. 10 cruise ships are calling for first time.

Souda Port Authority is planning an extension of the Passenger Terminal (to be ready for the 2019 cruise season) and a Master Plan for an extension of the Adrias berth.

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Sibenik



ort of Sibenik expects 110 cruise ships in 2018 and the number of passengers to rise from 28,000 in 2017 to 37,000 in 2018. In 2019, similar numbers of calls and passengers are expected.

The construction of the Vrulje Quay created conditions for berthing of larger passenger ships and at the same time the new Zablace anchorage as a new anchorage point for cruise ships is defined outside the Sv. Anthony Channel, where larger ships have difficulties passing. It offers a great addition to the Vrulje Quay which can accommodate ships of 240mtr LOA. Distance from the anchorage to city center is only 5km.

This year, Port of Sibenik Authority will

receive maiden calls from Viking Sky, Viking Star, Viking Orion, Marella Celebration and Queen Elizabeth.

Popular is Krka National Park, one of Croatia's most famous national parks. Impressive waterfalls of the Krka river are a once in a lifetime experience. Sibenik is situated only 20 km from Krka, taking 15 minutes to reach.

Visitors can enjoy swimming in the lower lake in the crystal clear water and explore the waterfalls by a wooden paths and bridges.

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Sete



ete is expecting 80 calls and 125,000 cruise visitors in 2019 many of who will no doubt participate in the most popular shorex (except for a trip to Carcassonne) undertaken by passengers visiting the port is a walking tour of Sete where you can taste local products in its famous and magnificent covered market in the centre of town.

The passengers appreciate the proximity to the local population and the quality and taste of local specialties.

The walking tour lasts around two hours. An example of a new tour from the port of Sete is Discover the Hérault Gorges and the village of Saint Guilhem le Désert and its Gellone Abbey one of the best examples of the first Romanesque style and part of the UNESCO World Heritage.

This trip to Saint Guilhem Le Désert first passes the Hérault Gorges to admire the exceptional and natural landscape as well as the Pont du Diable which was built during the XI century by the Benedictine monks. Then you will reach and stop at Saint Guilhem Le Désert. This pretty village is built around an old abbey at the mouth of untamed river gorges and owes its history to the Benedictine abbey which still holds the relic of the cross and the tomb of Saint Guilhem.

It was also a stopping place on the pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela.

Your guide will lead you throughout the small streets of the village and up to the abbey as well as having some free time after to stroll in the village by yourself. Then you will return to Sète stopping at the pont du Diable bridge for a photo stop.

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Toulon-Var-Provence



aint-Tropez and Aix en Provence are the most popular tours from Toulon whilst new this year is a catamaran sailing boat trip to discover the beautiful coastline and enjoy the turquoise translucent waters and underwater life. After a welcoming drink on the Yacht Club House Terrace, guests get onboard the catamaran. Together with the skipper, the guests can captain the sailing vessel for a while and discover the most secret and beautiful diving's spots within the bay of Toulon. At

anchor, various options are offered: sunbathing, snorkeling, sea kayaking, stand up paddle boarding.

About 90 calls and 150,000 passenger are expected to visit Toulon Bay in 2019.

A new cruise berth and terminal is planned for down town Toulon with an international call for tender launching by the end of this year.

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Taranto (Port Network Authority of the Ionian Sea)



ruise passengers calling at Taranto can enjoy a unique experience by taking a boat excursion which combines adventure and scientific research. Visitors can observe from a close distance the life of dolphins living in their natural habitat in the Gulf of Taranto..

A both old and new tour is to visit Matera, 2019 European Capital of Culture. This city — already inhabited more than 10,000 years ago - surprises tourists with its extraordinary architecture featuring the famous 'Sassi' (caves), dwellings carved in rock. The Sassi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, have been turned into fancy boutique hotels and restaurants.

In 2019, the port of Taranto will welcome three new ships: Marella Discovery, Marella

Celebration and Noble Caledonia's Serenissima. The estimated number of passengers is 9,000.

The Port Network
Authority of the
Ionian Sea is
investing in the
upgrade of the port
areas destined for
cruise traffic.
Currently
construction works
are ongoing on the St.
Cataldo Pier - which is
the oldest part of the
port and the closest

one to the old town/city centre – for the new Falanto Port Service Center. Works will be completed within 2018.

Extending over an area of 3,461,10sq mtr (2 buildings with three floors each) the Falanto Center will feature: Passenger services related activities (passenger terminal); Port Network Authority offices; Promotional activities of maritime culture: multipurpose auditorium, conference room, areas for exhibitions and educational activities; General welcome area: information point, lounge area, bar, restaurants, restrooms, etc...)

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Tangier



angier is known by its tourist attractions that make it one of the top destinations of the southern Mediterranean area.

Passengers visiting Tangier have the chance to visit the old Médina/Kasbah, and the American Legation Museum which are only a few minutes away from the port's exit.

The Médina with its monuments and heritage of different civilizations has great historical and architectural legacy. The Kasbah – the beating heart of the city - is separated from the medina by ramparts and built on the highest point in the city, overlooking the harbour.

The American Legation is the first American historical monument located outside the United States. It is a small palace in the heart of the Kasbah, offered in 1821 by Sultan Moulay Suleiman to the fifth President of the United States, James Monroe. This was a significant event for the US government as it was one of the first pieces of property it had ever owned abroad. Today, inside is a collection of pictures on Moroccan history, maps, prints of Tangier and historical events that took place in the Medina, and The McBey Collection, that includes several paintings from over forty artists originating from eleven countries.

The Caves of Hercules, only 14km west of the city of Tangier, is a place of stunning natural beauty and great archaeological significance. This is where the mythical figure, Hercules used to sleep to rest from the 12 labours that was given to him by king Eurystheus of Tiryns.

So far, Tangier has 60 calls booked for 2019 from line such as MSC Cruises, Holland America Line, Seabourn Cruise Lines, Pullmantur, Wind Star and Oceania.

Extension of the cruise quay, including the deepening of the channel and berth to receive ships up to 10mtr draft, is expected to be completed by the end of 2018, while the cruise terminal is fully functioning.

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Tarragona

arragona is expecting 69 calls and 110,000 passengers next year with 11 new ships visiting.

The most popular excursions sold in Tarragona so far have been the UNESCO Roman legacy in Tarragona and the UNESCO Poblet Monastery. Another two tours that prove popular are Modernism in Reus

together with Cambrils city walk. For families the PortAventura World and Ferrari Land theme parks are in big demand.

A new tour offered this year taking place on Friday evenings is the chance to attend a human towers castells rehearsal. Reaching up to 10 stories high, teams compete to build the tallest and most complex tower made only of human beings

standing atop one another. This guided visit enables cruise passengers to live this experience as well as understand the history of this UNESCO listed Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

MedCruise contact: Sandra Domenech cruises@porttarragona.cat



Venice



Based on the reservations to date, 2019 is expected to be consistent with the 2018 season with 65 different cruise ships visiting Venice of which (to date) four will be new.

Venice is continuing to face the challenge of finding an alternative route for large cruise ships to reach the Marittima cruise port facility avoiding sailing in front of St. Mark's Square and along the Giudecca Channel.

Alternative solutions are under scrutiny. To this extent, Venezia Terminal Passeggeri S.p.A. along with the fleet commanders of Costa Cruises, MSC Cruises and Royal Caribbean successfully carried out joint simulations in the second half of 2017 between Netherlands (CSMART Center in Almere), Denmark (at the Force Technology Institute in Copenhagen) and Italy (Centro per la Simulazione della Navigazione in Venice) aiming at testing access to the Marittima via the Vittorio Emanuele III commercial channel.

The most popular shorex undertaken by visiting cruise guests are: the Doge's Palace and St. Mark's Basilica, including Ponte dei Sospiri (Bridge of Sights); tour of Burano and Murano Islands with their lace-producing and glass-blowing traditions; and a gondola ride.

MedCruise contact: Francesco Drigo f.drigo@vtp.it



Varna



arna is Bulgaria's summer tourist capital. The oldest gold treasure in the world has been found in Varna and is now on display for seekers of the ancient art less than 1km from the Port of Varna.

Passengers can make short sightseeing tours to the old Bulgarian cave monastery complex, the Aladzha Monastery, the largest historic monument of its kind in the country.

Close to Varna, is another remarkable landmark - the Madara Horseman, part of the UNESCO World Heritage List. Also popular are the Botanical Garden of Balchik, food master classes, exploring local wine cellars, off road tours in the forest parks, golfing, fishing, and bird watching on Durankulak Lake.

On the back of a slow-down in Black Sea cruising in recent years, Varna has received two cruise ship berth requests for 2019.

During the quiet period for cruise activity Varna Port has made major investments in infrastructure with the front of the passenger terminal fully renovated, and the surrounding space landscaped and improved to offer various recreation options. This favorite place for both residents and visitors is continuously developing with additional attractions.

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Western Sicilian ports



In the port of Palermo, the Port Network Authority of Western Sicilian Sea is building a new cruise terminal on Sammuzzo quay, which is positioned alongside (and south of) the Vittorio Veneto quay, today hosting the Stazione Marittima's passenger terminal, where renovation works have started again.

In the meantime, the AdSP has authorized dredging up to 12mtr depths in Palermo and – 10mtr in Termini Imerese ports, in order to accommodate larger ships, and will study enhancements to both Trapani and Porto Empedocle.

Palermo and Trapani are both shaping up to receive similar passenger numbers as 2018 in 2019 with 580,000 predicted at the former and 50,000 at the latter. Meanwhile Porto Empedocle is expecting 15 ships next year.

2018 is a magic year for Palermo as it is Italian Capital of Culture, and also hosting Manifesta, the 12th European Nomadic Biennale of Contemporary Art, under the title 'The Planetary

Garden. Cultivating Coexistence'. The event takes place in about twenty spaces opened to the public for the first time, spread around the city, including the unmissable Botanical Gardens.

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Valencia



here are many opportunities to visit Valencia and enjoy the city in a sustainable manner and contributing in taking care of the local natural environment and traditional local customs.

In the last year the city has introduced an extensive network of bike lanes that allow cyclists to explore the historical centre, the modern part of the city as well as the beaches on two wheels in a safe and secure manner.

For those who want more of a thrill in their excursions, they can choose water sport activities like flyboarding or jetskiing found only 2km from the port.

For lovers of silence and nature, an excursion to the Albufera Natural Park will undoubtedly be the best choice. The Albufera is a Mediterranean ecosystem covering 20,000 hectares with unspoilt dune beaches, forest, rice fields and a huge lake where you can enjoy boat trips and discover the fauna that lives there

A bike ride is one the best ways to explore and afterwards taste a unique product, tiger nuts, which are used in the preparation of Valencia's most famous drink, horchata, locally produced and a source of income for many Valencian families.

True to the concern for a sustainable cruise tourism, Valenciaport will host the GreenPort Cruise Conference & Congress Europe 2018 taking place between October 16-19, 2018.

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Zadar



entrally located on the Croatian and Adriatic coast, Zadar expects to welcome about 135 calls and approx. 160,000 cruise passengers this year which is a huge jump compared to 2018. For 2019 about 140 ships will bring 165-170,000 visitors.

The 3,000 year old City of Zadar is full of historical monuments (Medieval City walls - UNESCO site from 2017, St. Donat Church etc.) and attractions like the Monument to the Sun and Sea Organ.

It is surrounded by many beautiful villages, five National Parks and three Nature Parks, good highway connections and vicinity to other Dalmatian cities like Sibenik and Split making Zadar a perfect shore-ex destination for exploring Croatia.

Zadar also has a brand new port infrastructure. At the new passenger port of Gazenica Zadar, located just 3km from the city centre, a new terminal building was finished in July as the last phase of a €178m Euros total investment. A concessionaire will be announced soon and it should become operational in the next six months.

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Challenges and Solutions

We asked MedCruise member ports and destinations what is the biggest challenge they are facing in the cruise business and what is the solution - and in less than 120 words!

Portimao

he main challenge is related to the massification of the market. If in the past, few ships exceeded 2,000 passengers, nowadays ships with 6,000 guests are common. This represents not only a major challenge for ports, as ships have increased in size, but also for the land-based tourist attractions, attempting to deal with more people on each ship's call. Luís Miguel Silva, systems planning and communications Ports of Sines & Algarve Authority representing Portimao

Livorno

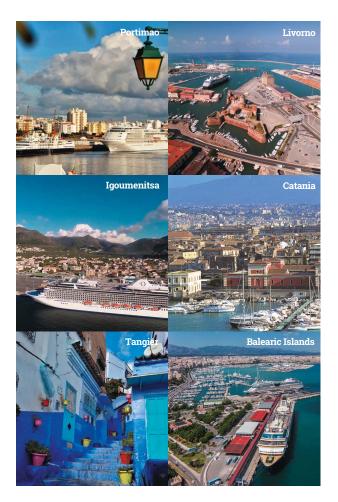
ivorno's €100m expansion plan to provide more cruise berths and terminals will create extraordinary development opportunities for the port but our challenge is ensuring that the time it takes to implement matches the number and capacity of new cruise ships being ordered and delivered.

Sara Pardini, marketing Porto di Livorno 2000

Igoumenitsa

As a new cruise port, our main challenge is to deliver service excellence to all cruise lines that have trusted us and are presently making their first calls in Igoumenitsa. We wish to build an excellent relationship with our clients and a reputation in the industry for cruise friendliness and competitiveness. We expect growth to accelerate as more cruise operators discover the yield potential of the destination we serve. The Region of Epirus offers an unusually wide scope of historic sites and monuments, great cultural wealth, traditional lifestyles and stunning natural beauty. Anna Pyroti, marketing department

Anna Pyroti, marketing department Igoumenitsa Port Authority



Catania

The biggest challenge is to become a homeport. How? 1) Thanks to the proximity of the fourth largest airport in Italy by number of passengers (over 9 million in 2017) and the first in Southern Italy, served by many direct connections and low cost carriers; 2) Through B2B meetings and offering fam trips to cruise line executives/representatives

Ilaria Tomasi, Marketing, Promotion & External Relations, Port System Authority of the Eastern Sicilian Sea

Tangier

ur challenge is the creation of national and local Cruise Committees bringing together several crucial actors from the public and the private sectors (Tangier City Port Authority, Authorities of Tangier, Regional Council of Tourism and Moroccan National Tourism Office) to collectively develop cruise activities in Tangier and Morocco as well as monitor and improve the cruise passengers' experience.

Jamil Ouazzani, Marketing & Strategic Intelligence, SGPTV SA (Tangier City Port Management Company)

Balearic Islands

he biggest challenge is to extend the season in Ibiza and Mahon.

This means to have more calls in April and May and September and
October. Plus for Palma, to welcome more calls in winter (from
November to March).

Francisca Leal Albons, cruise promotion and commercial Autoridad Portuaris de Baleares



Burgas

he biggest challenge facing Burgas port is the decrease in cruise ships due to the unstable geopolitical situation in Ukraine, Turkey and Middle East.

This is having a knock-on effect on Burgas, and other major Black Sea cruise ports but together with Varna, Constanta, Odessa, Istanbul and Trabzon we signed an action plan to continue promoting cruises, by attending meetings, events and keeping in close contact with the cruise line executives with a view to seeing cruise ships return in 2020.

Stoicho Dimov, manager FR & marketing Port Burgas JSC

Lisbon

e are part of a market that has a few key challenges: over the next 10 years, we will receive 106 new cruise ships, 18% of them LNG-powered with the first vessel starting operating by the end of this year; concerns regarding environmental issues, including waste management or environmental regulation are always on the front line; city-port relations will grow in relevance, demanding new port and city driven solutions and cruise passengers are expected to grow not only in quantity but also, and even more demanding, in its composition, reaching new generations, new source markets and with it new needs and expectations.

Ana Lourenco, cruise manager Port of Lisbon

Huelva

Port of Huelva's biggest challenges are to become a regular feature on itineraries for cruise lines wanting a real alternative to visit Seville and the Portuguese Algarve and also to make the province of Huelva visible as a 'hidden gem' for cruise ships because of its historic heritage, white sandy beaches, nine golf courses, nature and 3,000 hours of sun a year. The solution is to continue promoting to the industry and keeping our service levels high on ships already visiting Huelva.

Jennifer García Moreno, technical and commercial department Autoridad Portuaria de Huelva

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Taranto

Currently the biggest challenge is promoting a small and new destination in the over-saturated Mediterranean market. We are confident that we will find ourselves a niche in this scenery as Taranto is a hidden gem in a favourable position in the heart of the Mediterranean Sea, between East and West and facing North Africa.

Silvia Coppolino, head of general and international affairs Port Network Authority of the Ionian Sea – Port of Taranto

Dubrovnik

Dubrovnik Port Authority in cooperation with the City of Dubrovnik is developing a programme 'Respect the City' which aims to harmonize tourist flows and migrations through the city's infrastructure, where cruise passengers represent a significant percentage of daily visitors. The aim of the project is to find optimal solutions for sustainable tourism in the destination.

Katarina Varez, marketing sales manager Port Authority of Dubrovnik

Sardinian ports

The LNG challenge: providing services and infrastructure to meet the fueling needs of the next generation of cruise ships.

Valaria Mangariotti, marketing manager Port Authority of the Sardinian Sea

Ports of Catalonia

ur aim is to keep growing. Destinations always expect increased numbers every season. Working hard is not the only reason why cruise lines choose one destination or another one, but it helps to keep you on their radars. Our biggest challenge is to keep reinventing our marketing strategy in order to be always on cruise line's minds.

Maria Cano, cruise manager Ports of Catalonia

Venice

he main challenge we are facing is to find an alternative route for large cruise ships to reach the port facility of Marittima avoiding sailing in front of St. Mark's Square and along the Giudecca Channel. Alternative solutions are under scrutiny. To that extent, Venezia Terminal Passeggeri S.p.A. along with the fleet commanders of Costa Cruises, MSC Cruises and Royal Caribbean successfully carried out joint simulations in the second half of 2017 between Netherlands (CSMART Center in Almere), Denmark (at the Force Technology Institute in Copenhagen) and Italy (Centro per la Simulazione della Navigazione in Venice) aimed at accessing the Marittima port facility via the commercial channel Vittorio Emanuele III.

Serena Tiepolato, marketing, PR and events, Venezia Terminal Passeggeri

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Canarian ports, Spain

Cartagena, Spain

Castellón, Spain

Ports of Catalonia, Spain

Catania, Italy

Ceuta, Spain

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Constanta, Romania

Corfu, Greece

Cyprus ports, Cyprus

Dubrovnik, Croatia

Egyptian ports, Egypt

French Riviera ports, France

Genoa/Savona, Italy

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Heraklion, Greece

Huelva, Spain

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