

MEDCRUISE NEWS

QUARTERLY MARCH 2004

ISSUE 3

MedCruise General Assembly 1st-3rd June 2004, Alicante

Alicante to host the next MedCruise General Assembly

The 24th General Assembly of MedCruise will be held between 1st-3rd June, 2004 in Alicante, capital of the Costa Blanca (White Coast) and also known as the 'Ciudad de la Luz' (City of Light). Hosted by Autoridad Portuaria de Alicante, the city port is situated on the shores of a large deep bay that forms a magnificent natural harbour (see also information on next page).

PROPOSED AGENDA

Tuesday, 1st June

- Arrival at the Altet Internacional Airport.
- Transfer to the hotel (Meliá/ Sidi San Juan/ Hesperia)
- 18:00** – Transfer from the hotel to the Marq Library (Old chapel)
- 18:30** – Board of Directors meeting.
- 21:00** – Board of Directors Dinner (Dársena / Maestral / Marq.). Kindly offered by MedCruise

Wednesday, 2nd June

09:00 – Transfer from the hotel to the

Maritime Station.

- 09:30** – General Assembly n.24 at the Maritime Station.
- 13:30** – Lunch (Maritime Station). Kindly offered by the Autoridad Portuaria de Alicante
- 14:30** – General Assembly n.24 at the Maritime Station
- 16:30** – Visit to the 'Huerto Del Cura' –Elche / Visit to the city / Concert in the 'Teatro Principal de Alicante'.
- 21:30** – Dinner (Santa Bárbara Castle). Kindly offered by the City Council of Alicante.

Thursday, 3rd June

- 09:00** – Transfer from the hotel to the Archaeological Museum (MARQ).
- 09:30** – General Assembly n. 24: Roundtable and workshops with guest speakers.
- 13:00** – Visit to the Archaeological Museum.
- 14:00** – Lunch (Archaeological Museum). Kindly

offered by the 'Diputación Provincial de Alicante'.

15:30 – Excursion (Options) / Bellas Artes Gravina Museum (MUBAG).

18:00 – Free time / Shopping

21:00 – Closing Dinner ('Terra Mítica' – Benidorm). Kindly offered by the 'Agencia valenciana de Turismo'.

There is also a weekend of optional tours which will take place after the General Assembly on 4th-5th June.

Friday, 4th June

- Visit to ORIHUELA
- ALICANTE & ELCHE (Huerto del Cura)
- One day fun at Terra Mítica

Saturday, 5th June

- Visit to La Ruta de los Castillos (Castle and Museum of Villena. Castle of Biar)
- Visit to Guadalest (and to the Eagles Valley) Golf (Alicante / Bonalba / Don Cayo).



Board View – Albert Poggio, new senior vice president

Our industry has come a long, long way over the past few years, and I am incredibly proud to be part of it. I'm looking forward to helping, along with my fellow board members, to take things onto the next level.

As many of you know, Medcruise board members will be at Seatrade in Miami in March. As always, we are looking forward to spending time in the States, and we will also be aware that Americans are still fascinated and intrigued by the Mediterranean.

A few things are worth bearing in mind here, too. For one, the international situation is far calmer than it's been over the past two years. American consumer confidence is also recovering, and the US economy is racing ahead once again.

All of this means, I think, that we should work together to unlock the full potential of the US market in the next few months: to showcase all the rich and unique cultures of the Mediterranean for a North American audience.

Nowhere can match us, in truth not for cuisine, or for history, or for culture, or for sheer variety. As the Caribbean cruise industry reaches saturation level, and consumer demand carries on rising, we

should not be afraid to promote ourselves with renewed vigour and confidence. Mediterranean cruises could soon enter a whole era: we just have to play our cards right.

MedCruise itself is firmly committed to meeting the challenges of the future. The association is happy to be able to boast an increased membership: 55 ports are now part of it, from the Western Mediterranean to the Eastern Mediterranean, while applications are currently pending from Istanbul, Lebanon and Libya.

Your Board of Directors, more importantly, is determined not to shirk the more difficult issues facing our industry. In particular, we are resolved to tackle the question of port security. Our success in dealing with this will be essential to the continued success of cruising in the Mediterranean not least where our American friends are concerned.

On this, as on other thorny issues, the Board aims to provide expertise, co-operation and leadership. You, our members, deserve nothing less.



Alicante



Alicante welcomes MedCruise members

Alicante, capital of the Costa Blanca and also known as the 'Ciudad de la Luz' (City of Light), will host the next MedCruise General Assembly on 1st-3rd June, 2004.

There are many interesting things to do in Alicante, with the most outstanding of these being the city tour, beginning with a visit to Santa Barbara Castle – the focal point of Alicante.

A magnificent fortress, built on a mountain ridge 200 mtr above the sea level, it is famous in the province, both for its history and for the fantastic views of the surrounding countryside and the city of Alicante. Next stop is the lovely 16th century baroque Church of Santa Maria and then into the Cathedral of San Nicolás de Bari, considered as one of the Spain's finest examples of high baroque architecture. Don't miss a visit to the new archaeological museum of MARQ dedicated exclusively to Alicante's archaeological heritage.

Nearby excursions include Elche (Huerto del Cura), Orihuela and Benidorm (Terra Mítica) theme park and Alicante is the natural port of Madrid, which is less than four hours away by main road or railway.

'The 2003 cruise season surpassed all our expectations with 60 cruise calls bringing more than 45,000 passengers,' says Mario Flores, Port of Alicante president and vice president MedCruise. Last summer 21 cruise ships visited and around 25 are expected this year.

The port renovated its cruise terminal last May incorporating the latest requirements concerning security, comfort, fast processing and image. The terminal has a modern finger allowing access to the ship and the pier area was improved too, through the paving of over 1,500sq mtr of esplanade.

Palamos



Palamos' Dali connection

Palamos, located on Spain's Costa Brava, is set in one of the deepest and largest natural bays in the region and has two berths for handling cruise ships.

Commercial Quay is 314mtr long, 14mtr draft at quayside, whilst the draft in the dock ranges between 17–19mtr; West Quay is 150mtr long with 7mtr draft alongside whilst the draft in the dock ranges between 10–12mtrs.

Other facilities include tugboats with 30 tons pull and the port reports it is in the process of preparing disposal facilities according to the new ISPS Code.

Last year Palamos received two cruise ships and 167 passengers. This year seven ships are expected.

The single most popular tour for visitors is the Salvador Dali Museum in Figueres (Girona) and the artist's house in Pubol which are 40–50 minutes away.

During 2004 Spain, especially Girona, is celebrating Dalí Year – the centenary of Dalí's birth (1904–2004). Throughout the year museums and other institutions will organise activities around Dalí's pictures, his life, his friends, etc. which will be of huge interest for the tourists that love this genial artist.

Venice

Modern facilities

Venezia Terminal Passeggeri offers modern facilities including three cruise terminals. Maximum ship length is 295mtr; draught 28.06ft.

VTP offers 14 berths for cruise ships with a total length of 2,809mtr. Pre-check-in service for charter flights, in close collaboration with



Marco Polo International Airport, simplifies transit in the lagoon city and promotes Venice as a problem-free destination.

Last year 450 ships called bringing 690,000 passengers representing a 36% increase in passenger traffic over the previous year.

2004 sees 11 ships coming to Venice for the first time including Star Princess, MSC Lirica, Blue Dream, Westerdam, Costa Mediterranea, AIDAaura, Le Diamant and The Jasmine.

The largest ship to visit Venice so far is Princess Cruises' Golden Princess at 108,865gt and 290mtr long. Scheduled to call this year for the first time, sister Star Princess, built in 2002, is the same length although her tonnage is 108,977gt.

Must-see tourist attractions include St Marco Square and the Basilica of St.Marco. The Secret Rooms of the Doge's Palace, The Accademia art collection, Grand canal boat trip to admire Gothic-Venetian palaces and a tour of the ghetto of Venice with its museum and two synagogues. Aside from Venice itself in the surrounding areas, no more than an hour away are the Dolomites, the Euganean hills, cities like Padua and much much more!



Dubrovnik

Gruz Harbour to be upgraded



Dubrovnik has two ferry berths and six passenger berths totalling 1,205mtr long with depth alongside ranging from 6-11.5mtr. Maximum sized vessel accommodated is 90,000gt and 300mtr length with a draught of up to 12mtr. Gruz Harbour is located about 15 minutes by coach from Dubrovnik's historic city centre. A deepwater anchorage is also available within close proximity to the city. Ship tenders can use a 40mtr landing stage located in the harbour.

In 2003, 361 cruisehips called at the Croatian port bringing 259,705 passengers. This year the number of calls is expected to reach around 380 with about 10% of these ship visiting for the first time.

Dubrovnik Port Authority has been working on the Port Infrastructure Development Project, concerning the redevelopment of the primary infrastructure in Gruz Harbour. Berthing will be upgraded so that the port can accommodate the new generation of cruise vessels (over 300mtr in length). Work includes construction of a new quay line and rebuilding the old wall as well as deepening the quay over the entire length.

The project will be financed by a loan from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the amount of which is expected to be €15m. Upgrading the port infrastructure is expected to attract private sector investment in different passenger facilities such as terminal, garage, hotel and leisure activities.

La Spezia

New cruise station planned

La Spezia is known as one of the major Mediterranean ports but thanks to the town's strategic position for tourist visits to the surrounding area, passenger traffic is also becoming a major business.

Last year 40,452 passengers passed through the Italian port and in 2004 that figure is expected to reach 55,000. Costa Romantica was a new visitor at the port in 2003.

La Spezia Port Authority is soon going to start the realisation of a new cruise terminal with a shopping centre, hotels, restaurants and large air-conditioned lounges.

The single most popular tour taken by cruise passengers from La Spezia is a visit to the Cinque Terre (the Five Lands located in Liguria between Genoa and La Spezia) and Portovenere. (situated in the far west of the Gulf and considered the sixth village) which are both very closeby – just five minutes by train or 30 minutes by bus, and 15 minutes by bus, respectively. Pisa is just 50 minutes away by road. Lucca 40 minutes and in just over an hour, Florence can be reached.



Valencia

Valencia to host Americas Cup in 2007



Valencia is set for an 80% increase in cruise traffic in 2004 when 68 calls and 50,171 passengers were recorded. In 2004 the passenger count is likely to be in the region of 90,000 with cruiseship calls numbering 125.

Through this summer the 52,926gt CostaClassica will call on a weekly basis embarking and disembarking Spanish passengers only in Valencia.

The new cruise terminal, inaugurated in June 2002, is full equipped with the most modern technology in order to provide maximum level of comfort and security to passengers: gangways, luggage belts, info tourist point, food and beverage areas, phones etc. Berthage available to handle any size cruiseship.

The terminal is located 3km from the city and wandering around the streets and squares of the city, one becomes aware of the Mediterranean spirit, the light, the bustle, the café terraces and tapas, the good food and good wine. The old quarter is a feast for the eyes, an invitation to sit outside in comfort, enjoying the climate and pampering the palate with an explosion of intense aromas and flavours.

In 2007, Valencia will be the first European city to host the America's Cup in over 150 years of the sailing competition's history. A major plan of the infrastructural needs to hold such an event is now being discussed including a remodelling of the docks at the Port of Valencia. This will involve the construction of a canal to connect it to the sea, creating new areas and restoration of existing buildings. The new development also includes a dedicated area for cruise vessels and passenger facilities.

Bari

160 calls expected in 2004

Situated on the Adriatic coast, Bari is the capital of the Apulia region in south east Italy. Bari can accommodate passengerships up to 300mtr in length and 11mtr draught, with no width restrictions.

The port offers 11 berths for cruise and ferry vessels with quay depth up to 10mtr. Two fully equipped passenger terminals include banking at pier, information point, Internet point, shops, bar/restaurant, safe and free parking, buses, taxis and free shuttle to terminals/piers.



Bari is connected regularly to Dubrovnik, Bar, Durres, Igoumenitsa, Patras and Corfù.

122 cruiseship calls were recorded last year and this summer that figure is set to rise to 160. New visits in 2004 include Seetours' AIDAaura, MSC's Lirica and Costa will be calling with Mediterranea instead of Atlantica.

Last year the port of Bari inaugurated a new cruise terminal as part of a €144m investment aimed at developing existing structures and increasing the multi-functional activities.

The cruise terminal covers a 3,500sq mtr work area. In April a new left luggage area will become operational plus a new shopping centre inside the cruise terminal.

Whilst the most popular tours of Bari are its historical centre and a visit to the Trulli of Alberobello. The 'Dinosaurs Valley' is one of the most significant discoveries in recent years providing an exciting tour across time to see the thousands of prints of the dinosaurs dating back to the Cretaceous period (65 million years ago).

Barcelona

Barcelona's traffic growth spurs terminal investment

PHOTO: ESPAI D'IMATGE (TURISME DE BARCELONA)



Barcelona, which hit the 1m passenger mark in 2003, is busy investing in new passenger terminal facilities to meet rising demand. During 2004, Terminal A (Adossat Pier) will operate with little change in the indoor structure. Terminal B (Adossat Pier) will not be operational as the concessionaire is converting the 2,500sq mtr old building into a modern 6,000sq mtr terminal with conveyors and gangways.

Whilst this is happening Terminal C (Adossat Pier) will be used as a substitute by converting a warehouse into passenger terminal with minimum investment, but offering the same level of service and security as the other terminals. Terminal D, 300mtr south from terminal C, will also be a warehouse conversion into a passenger terminal and will be only used by ships with small turnarounds or day calls. Terminal P (Adossat Pier), between terminal B and C, offers facilities for small transiting ships. At the Barcelona Pier, the World Trade Center terminals will continue being operative as always. At the East side of the pier, there is an extra berth for transiting ships.

The single most popular tour taken by cruise passengers from Barcelona is the City Tour and Gaudi itinerary. New for this year is the Forum of the Cultures 2004 which will be held throughout the city promoting the core themes: cultural diversity, sustainable development and conditions for peace, including new shows and events every week. Spain is also celebrating Dali Year in 2004 with special events throughout the year.

Malaga

New passenger terminal ready in 2005



Malaga is the Costa del Sol region's capital and a new passenger terminal is currently being designed and is expected to be operational by the end of 2005.

The Terminal will serve two new berths, creating a common space between the two zones in the shape of an all-purpose area. Special care has been taken to facilitate the access and circulation of passengers and baggage, with all the necessary safety measures required by this type of traffic being adopted.

The total surface area provided by the Ground Level and Phases I and II of the Mezzanine will be 12,493.84sq mtr.

The Port of Malaga uses the quays that are nearest to the city for cruise traffic, so that it takes the passenger only five minutes to get to all the major tourist attractions including the Picasso Museum, the Cathedral, Gibralfaro Castle, the Roman Theatre and the Alcazaba.

Toulon/St Tropez

Toulon's two terminals renovated



In 2003 Toulon welcomed 54 calls bringing 60,670 passengers which represents a 6% increase in traffic over the previous year. 70 calls are anticipated for 2004.

Toulon has three berths in the city centre and one berth across the bay: Fournel: 345mtr, draft 9.5mtr; Minerve: 165mtr, draft: 8mtr; La Corse: 184mtr draft 7.5mtr; and Marepolis accessible even in extreme weather conditions: 300mtr, draft 9mtr.

The two air-conditioned passenger terminals were completely renovated in 2003 with new security equipment and electric free shuttles for passengers. There is an 8-acre coach and parking facility. This April the Port entrance will be completely refitted.

'The most popular tour is of course St Tropez together with Toulon City centre,' reports Odile Dalle, Port of Toulon, marketing manager. Other popular tours include Hyères les Palmiers (20 mins from Toulon by car) – a coveted 19th century Spa destination, boasting such famous guests as Queen Victoria. Hyères features majestic avenues bordered by impressive British and oriental-style residences set around the Casino. The beautifully-preserved Medieval Quarter, set on the foot of a feudal castle, is a must.

Modern architecture fans will also enjoy visiting the amazing avant-garde Villa de Noailles, built in 1920's.

French Riviera

In the heart of the cities



With 460,356 passengers and 586 calls in 2003 the French Riviera ports of Cannes, Nice and Villefranche represent three famous destinations with a strong image and with a lot of advantages:

- The vicinity of the Nice Côte d'Azur International Airport: a major gateway to southern Europe, with direct flights to 90 destinations and nearly 50 airlines. For private flights there is the Cannes Mandelieu airport.
- A lot of luxury hotels such as the famous 'Négresco' in Nice or 'Carlton' in Cannes.
- The French Riviera ports are in the heart of the cities and provide direct access to

shopping and sight-seeing.

- The passenger transfer to the ports is fast and easy thanks to an efficient shuttle/bus service, and many taxi's and car rental possibilities.
- Highly qualified professionals with great experience in the field of cruising.
- The harbours of Cannes and Nice – Villefranche obtained in 2003 the certification to ISO 9001:2000.
- Acres of forests and 1,000 km of rivers.
- All beneath the sun, which shines more than 300 days a year.

Cannes offers one quay and three anchorages; Nice offers four quays and Villefranche bay has unlimited mooring. Maximum ship dimensions for berthing: Length: Cn: 150 mtr, Nc: 190 mtr, Vf: 180 mtr /300 mtr and Draught: Cn: 5 mtr, Nc: 8.4 mtr, Vf: 10 mtr /15 mtr.

Security is a priority and all ports have worked together with cruise companies to improve even further the level of security around the ships (for example the port of Nice – Villefranche bought a new mobile X-ray system available on request).

Cartagena

Welcoming allcomers

The Spanish port of Cartagena welcomed 22 cruiseships in 2003 bringing 12,423 passengers and this year the number of calls is expected to grow including two first time visitors: Thomson Spirit and Adonia.

The largest ships to have called Cartagena so far are P&O's Aurora, Oceana and Oriana which are 270mtr and 260mtr respectively.

The port of Cartagena offers a cruise quay of 300mtr long and 12mtr draught. Towards the end of 2004 the cruise berth will be extended to 400mtr length (12mtr depth), enabling any size vessel to berth.

The Cruise Terminal, with a 3,000sq mtr surface area, was inaugurated in May 2001. In this port area visitors may find bars, cafés and restaurants. In the city centre, just 200mtr from the port, there is a variety of shops and additional cafés and restaurants.

The Interpretation Centre of the city's history at La Concepción Castle is just five minutes away. At the top of this castle you will discover the different landscapes that surround the city. The telescopes found here will tell you many interesting things about the city. Once inside the castle, you will learn about the city's evolution, including a gallery with the different celebrities known through the history of Cartagena.

Located in the northern side of the 'Concepción' castle is a Roman theatre. Its construction began in the 1st century BC with materials such as travertine marble from Murcian quarries in Mula, grey limestone from the Mar Menor area, green marble and yellow sandstone found in the surroundings of Cartagena.

The city of Murcia with its cathedral, casino and Salzillo Museum, just 40 minutes away by bus is also a popular attraction with cruise passengers.



MedCruise welcomes 3 new members

Kusadasi



The Turkish port of Kusadasi, which comprises two piers, can accommodate between four and seven cruise ships at one time. At present, the maximum length of cruise ship accommodated is 300mtr, but this capacity will be extended in late 2004 through the construction of mooring dolphins and pier extensions.

In addition these planned improvements Ege Ports, the new private jv which operates the port, is constructing a US\$1.5m new passenger terminal this year with extensive duty-free shopping facilities.

365 cruiseships are expected during the 2004

season, an increase of around 45 ships compared to last year when 181,000 cruise passengers arrived at the port.

Kusadasi is the gateway to many archaeological and biblical sites, all of which are accessible within half an hour or less from the port. The ancient Roman city of Ephesus is a short 20-minute drive from the port. Ephesus fascinates visitors as they walk through its well-preserved cobble-stoned streets and discover the beautiful two-storey library, breathtaking great theatre and other landmarks of this once magnificent city.

Just a 25 minutes drive from the port, discover the place where, according to traditional lore, the Virgin Mary spent her last days under the watchful eye of St. Paul. A drive along the cotton fields from Kusadasi brings you to the ruins of the Basilica of St. John.

Last, Kusadasi is noted for its excellent shopping:- a wise traveller will tell you that for lace, one goes to Belgium; for crystal, to France; for linens, to Italy ... and for silk carpets, to Turkey. An abundance of carpet stores are found within several minutes walk from the port, and are an Aladdin's cave of rich, beautifully woven silk and wool carpets – often available at a fraction of the price back home.

Zadar

Zadar in Croatia received 30 cruise calls last year and is expecting about 40 vessels this summer. The largest ship acommodated so far is with 400 passengers. The port is investing in a new terminal which will provide one berth for ships up to 150mtr in length and 8mtr depth alongside. This will be ready in June 2004.

Downtown Zadar is centered around the Roman Forum, within the old preserved city walls full of old Croatian sacral monuments. The Archeological museum, founded in 1832, is the second oldest museum in this part of Europe.



Valuable archeological remains from the Zadar region dating from pre-historic, classical and early Middle Ages are displayed in three sections of the museum. It is the oldest university town of Croats (the University founded in 1396, while the present – day College of Humanities comprises nineteen departments). It is also the 'birth place' of the first Croatian novel as well as the first Croatian language newspaper.

The Zadar region is surrounded by no less than five National Parks: Paklenica, Kornati, Plitvice lakes, Krka Waterfalls and Northern Velebit. The Lakes of Plitvice are a two hour ride from Zadar.

This region was proclaimed a national park in 1949. It has been under the protection of Unesco since 1979. This is a woody mountainous region where sixteen crystal dark blue lakes descend one into the other. A two hour ride by boat from Zadar takes you to Kornati and Telasica – a labyrinth of 150 islands, islets and rocks of sun and salt that rise from the deep sea in different shapes and sizes. Alfred Hitchcock referred to the sunset over Zadar as 'the most beautiful in the world'.

Sochi

The Russian Sea Port of Sochi in the Black Sea has two 330mtr long berths which can accommodate cruiseships up to 220mtr in length with draught up to 8.5mtr.

The port is centrally located 1km from the railway station and 35km from the airport. Taxi and bus services run regularly.

In 2003, Sochi received 4,029 passengers and 14 cruise ships. In 2004, 22 cruiseships are expected at the port this summer including newcomers Swan Hellenic's Minerva II, Oceana's Insignia and The World.

Around \$2.5m is being spent on reconstructing one of the passenger terminals and this will be finished by 2006.



Five must-see tourist attractions within reach of Sochi are the Caucasus Mountains Discovery (7hrs), Dagomys Tea Farm (3hrs), Sochi Highlights & Stalin's Dacha (4hrs), the Botanical Gardens and mineral springs at Matsesta and Sochi Highlights & Tree of Friendship (3.5hrs) But the single most popular tour taken by cruise passengers is the trip to the Tea Plantations (Dagomys Tea Farm). This short tour enables visitors to view a fully working tea plantation and appraise the delights of Russian tea.

This year one of the most magnificent and beautiful sanatoria will be opened for viewing. In 2004 a new excursion – Sochi Highlights & Sanatoria is available. Since Sochi is a resort city its sanatoria are one of the city's main attractions. Built in the early 1950s they are surrounded by picturesque parks. The territory of the sanatoria is covered with a splendid selection of different species of trees and shrubs. Tourists can undertake a working tour alongside numerous paths and alleys of the park and are offered refreshment in the shadow of the southern greenery.



Costa Crociere

Year-round designs



Europe's leading line Costa Crociere issued a challenge to the Mediterranean winter cruise market this season placing three ships for the first time all departing from Savona's new Palacrociere terminal, co-financed by the company.

Costa Europa, Victoria and flagship Fortuna together offer an unprecedented 6,200 lower berths. Whilst Fortuna and Europa were engaged in 11-day cruise to the Canaries, Victoria, out of action for drydocking, rejoined the fleet in February offering 11-day Eastern Med itineraries marking the re-introduction post 9/11 of Egypt and Turkey to Costa's itineraries.

During summer 2004 Costa's entire fleet of 10 ships will operate in the Med with 21% more lower berths than offered in 2003.

Summer sees Costa Fortuna operating week-

long Western Med routes and the 105,000gt ship – the first Post-Panamax to operate winter sailings in the Med – which was originally scheduled to redeploy to Fort Lauderdale in November for Caribbean sailings, will remain in the Mediterranean on a year-round basis.

This will be joined in 2006 by a second even larger 112,000gt new flagship which Costa will build at Fincantieri. Designed to operate year-round in the Med, the ship will feature a range of facilities designed for winter cruise holidays; highlights will include a 1,900sq mtr wellness area arranged on two decks – making it one of the largest of its kind – and two (out of four) swimming pools fitted with sliding roofs enabling use in any weather.

With better stability and specific design features like covered and heated swimming pools, winter European weather and sea conditions are becoming less of a concern.

Thomson Cruises

Double celebration



The UK's leading tour operator Thomson, owned by TUI, will introduce another ship to its fleet in spring 2005: HAL's Noordam which will be renamed Thomson Celebration. The 1,300 passenger ship will continue to be owned by HAL and be long term, bareboat chartered by Thomson.

Noordam, a sister ship to the Thomson Spirit (subchartered by Thomson from Louis Cruise Line until 2006), will be delivered in November 2004. She will then undergo a \$10m refurbishment with extensive work to the public areas, including the addition of a secondary entertainment centre. Facilities will include four restaurants ranging from 24-hour buffet style to a premier A la Carte restaurant plus cinema, spa facilities and an Irish Theme Pub.

Thomson Celebration will start cruising in the Med in 2005. Although the summer base port has not yet been announced both Spirit and Celebration will operate in different areas of the Med.

Thomson Spirit currently operates out of Palma de Mallorca.

Cunard Line

Hosting Queen Mary 2

Queen Mary 2, named in grand style by Her Majesty the Queen this January, will spend her inaugural year in European and American waters. Cunard's flagship makes a brief foray into the Mediterranean in August en route to Athens to be used as a floating hotel during the Olympic Games. The 150,000gt liner which can carry over 2,600 passengers will help boost port figures. Gibraltar, for example, is set to welcome QM2 four times in 2004 and is busy dredging the Western Arm berth to be able to accommodate her. Other MedCruise members who have the chance to host the vessel this summer include Livorno, Piraeus, Barcelona, Malaga, Lisbon and Palma de Mallorca in the Balearic Islands.



Board of Directors meeting n.36, 27th January 2004, Madrid

The Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held in Alexandria last 3rd November 2003 were unanimously approved. Finance: Enrique Linde and Salvador Romero (Port of Málaga) presented the budget at 31st December 2003 and it was unanimously approved. Events: Mario Flores Vice President of MedCruise and responsible of Events, explained MedCruise will exhibit at Seatrade Miami (booth number 1261), and presented several proposals for the design and layout of the stand.

MedCruise will also participate in Seatrade Med 2004 in Genoa, 3rd–5th November with a Pavilion. More than 20 member ports will have a stand.

Website: Charles Axisa presented the new website which was unanimously approved by the board. It was launched at the beginning of February at www.medcruise.com (see below).

Statistics: Laurent Monsaigneon presented work carried out to transfer the MedCruise statistical data from Excel to Access. This new program, more modern and friendly–user, was very welcomed by all Directors.

Promotion: Albert Poggio informed about the evolution of the Marketing Campaign by Seatrade. In addition to the third editions of the quarterly newsletters which will be available in March at Miami, a new promotional tool will also be issued: a fold–up map of the region containing information on all members.

New Directors: Juan Madrid proposed Albert Poggio as the new Senior Vice President. All Directors agreed and this decision will be communicated to the General Assembly next May.

The next General Assembly will be held in Alicante 1st–3rd June (see front page) and the next Board of Directors will be held in Miami on 15th March, 2004.

Yiannakis Kokkinos



Cyprus port promotion

Yiannakis Kokkinos, Director of MedCruise, has been appointed General Manager of Cyprus Port Authority. Kokkinos studied economics and is a holder of B.Sc, M.A. and P.I.A.M. degrees from the London School of Economics, The School of Oriental, European and African Studies of the same University and of the Harvard University, respectively.

He worked for 14 years at the Cyprus Planning Bureau and then he transferred to the Cyprus Ports Authority, where until recently he was the Finance Director.

Kokkinos also represents Cyprus on various committees of the European Union. He is also the project manager of the Port of Larnaca Project.

MedCruise launches new website

MedCruise has launched a newly revamped image for its web site. In fact, the site has undergone a total makeover in content, layout and structure so that its usability has been enhanced and is now more attractive.

The new website at www.medcruise.com goes to further strengthen the relationship between the cruise industry and Mediterranean cruise destinations, members of MedCruise. The new website offers various sections ranging from activities related to the association and an extensive database of Member ports' facilities. Other sections include information about cruising in the Mediterranean, cruise operators in the region, as well as generic information about the set–up of the Association. Visitors can also subscribe to MedCruise newsletters, which are sent electronically every quarter.

Commenting on the launch of the new web site, MedCruise President, Juan Madrid, stated, 'in planning the web site's new image, we have sought to include facts and useful information that appeal to our various stakeholders. Although specifically aimed at cruise operators and travel agents' needs, the site also seeks to become a portal for all visitors planning to cruise the Mediterranean.'

Charles Axisa has been the MedCruise Director responsible for this project.



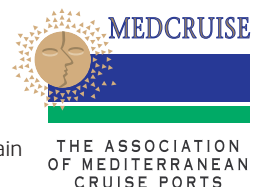
MedCruise Members

- Alanya
- Alicante
- Almeria
- Ancona
- Balearic Islands
- Barcelona
- Bari
- Cagliari
- Cartagena
- Catania
- Ceuta
- Cyprus ports
- Dubrovnik, Korcula
- French Riviera ports
- Genoa
- Gibraltar
- Israeli ports
- Kusadasi
- La Spezia
- Livorno
- Malaga
- Messina
- Monaco
- Naples
- Palamos
- Palermo
- Piraeus
- Portoferraio
- Portuguese ports
- Ravenna
- Sete
- Sochi
- Split
- Tarragona
- Toulon, St Tropez
- Trieste
- Tunis
- Valencia
- Valletta
- Venice
- Volos
- Zadar

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Seatrade

Published by Seatrade Communications Ltd

MedCruise is exhibiting at the 2004 Seatrade Cruise Shipping Convention in Miami at stand number 1261, located in front of the National Pavilions. Please come and say hello!