



MedCruise NEWS

issue 61

September 2021



#CruiseTheMed

#PortsTogether

www.medcruise.com

MedCruise celebrates the third edition of the MedCruise Awards and its 25th Anniversary

Categories and winners/receivers of the awards:

MEDCRUISE AWARDS Best Social Media Award

Winner: Port Authority of Valencia, Spain

MEDCRUISE AWARDS Adaption and Resilience Award

Winner: Heraklion Port Authority, Greece

MEDCRUISE AWARDS Best Cruise Article Award

Winner: "At home in the Med," Jon Ingleton, Cruise & Ferry Review

MEDCRUISE AWARDS Environmental Responsibility Award

Winner: Galataport Istanbul, Turkey

MEDCRUISE AWARDS The MedCruise Honorary Award

Receiver: EU Healthy Gateways Joint Action

25 years special award

MEDCRUISE AWARDS Devoted Member Award

Receiver: Fernando Muñoz, Business Development Director, Port Authority of Cartagena, Spain

MEDCRUISE AWARDS Commitment to MedCruise Life Award

Receiver: Carla Salvado, MedCruise Honorary President and Deputy General Manager Commercial and Marketing, Port of Barcelona, Spain

MEDCRUISE AWARDS Lifetime Recognition Award

Receiver: Catherine Lafon, Head of the Cruise Port Promotion Dpt, Cruise Port of Sete, France (retired)



The third edition of the MedCruise Awards and the 25th Years Anniversary were celebrated on June 11, 2021. The online event was co-hosted by the Port Network Authority of Central-Northern Tyrrhenian Sea, which presence expands to include the birth-place of MedCruise.

For the third year, MedCruise- the largest cruise port association- awarded the adaptation and resilience during a year that the world still faces a global health crisis. Awarded the influencing social media strategies. Awarded innovative environmental projects that promote sustainability. Awarded its media partners and recognised the role of institutions that provided the tools for the safe resumption of the cruise activities. But also MedCruise awarded the devotion, the excellence and the commitment to MedCruise life.

In a period that the Mediterranean was a significant yet comparatively tiny cruise region, they thought that collective action in promoting this cruise region was essential for transforming business ideas to reality.



Investments in new cruise terminals that allow modern, big and small, cruise ships to be hosted in some of the best terminals worldwide, developed sophisticated cruise strategies, reformed operational practices, reorganised the ownership and expanded the involvement of terminal operators in cruise services provision. Best practices allow the satisfactory hosting of millions of cruisers in the Med and its adjoining seas.

With the occasion of the celebration of the 25 years, MedCruise celebrated together the 3rd edition of MedCruise Awards. Congratulations to the receivers and winners of the MedCruise Awards 2021, says MedCruise President Aris Batsoulis.

The Awards categories of MedCruise Awards 2021 were eight. Four awarded to most voted by cruise industry nomination of each category, three were 25 Years special and the MedCruise Honorary Award.

Exactly 25 years ago, on 11 June 1996, in Rome, 24 visioners from the cruise ports of Ajaccio, Ancona, Barcelona, Brindisi, Civitavecchia, Genoa, La Goulette, Livorno, Malta, Monaco, Naples, Palermo, Piraeus, Suez Canal, Tarragona, Trieste, Venice and Volos established MedCruise, the Association of Mediterranean Cruise Ports. 25 years later, responding effectively to the demands of a growing cruise industry, MedCruise members changed the last two decades in too many respects.



Toulon-Var Provence

HAPPY 25TH ANNIVERSARY MEDCRUISE!



Tenerife ports



Leixões

Cheers! I wish the next 25 years to be successful too.



Cerrea

Fabio Cappocaccia, MedCruise President, 1997-2002



Souda/Chania

Happy Birthday MedCruise!



Valletta

Best Wishes from the Port of Valletta for the 25th Anniversary.



Lisbon

Dear MedCruise, Happy 25th anniversary!



Cabo Verde



Intercruises Shoreside & Port Services



Thessaloniki Tourism Organisation

Happy anniversary MedCruise! Happy anniversary from sun shining Thessaloniki. Safe travels!



Ancona, Pesaro, Ortona

From the Adriatic Central ports, best wishes MedCruise!



Turkish Chamber of Shipping

I wish Happy 25 Years Anniversary



Marseille

Under the sun of Marseille!



Thessaloniki

Dear MedCruise, Dear MedCruise members we wish you Happy 25 Years Anniversary.



Heraklion

From Heraklion port, we wish happy birthday MedCruise.



Malaga



Tangier

On the occasion of MedCruise 25th anniversary, Tangier City Port wishes you



Bastia

From the port of Bastia, happy anniversary MedCruise!



Egyptian ports

Happy silver jubilee. Thank you.



Naples, Salerno, Castellammare di Stabia

Happy Birthday to you, happy birthday to you...



Livorno, Piombino, Portoferraio

Best wishes MedCruise from the Ports of Livorno, Piombino and Portoferraio. 25 Years!



Bari, Brindisi, Manfredonia, Barletta, Monopoli,

Best wishes MedCruise, happy 25th Anniversary!



Castellon

From Castellon, happy 25th anniversary!



Istanbul

We are celebrating the 25th anniversary of MedCruise. Regards from Istanbul.



MedCruise Diary 2021

Seatrade Cruise Global, Miami 28-30 September



GreenPort Congress, Piraeus 20 - 22 October



Italian Cruise Day, Savona 29 October



ITALIAN CRUISE DAY

Savona | 29.10.2021

59th MedCruise GA, Barcelona 4 November



International Cruise Summit, Madrid
17-18 November



MedCruise members

ALANYA
ANCONA, ORTONA, PESARO
ANTALYA
ASHDOD
AZORES
BALEARIC ISLANDS
BARCELONA
BARI, BARLETTA, BRINDISI,
MANFREDONIA, MONOPOLI
BASTIA, NORTH CORSICA
BURGAS
CABO VERDE PORTS
CADIZ
CANARIAN PORTS
CARTAGENA
CASTELLON
CATANIA, AUGUSTA
CEUTA
CIVITAVECCHIA, GAETA,
FIUMICINO
CONSTANTA
CORFU
COSTA BRAVA CRUISE PORTS
CYPRUS PORTS
DUBROVNIK, KORCULA
EGYPTIAN PORTS
FRENCH RIVIERA PORTS
GENOA, SAVONA
GIBRALTAR
GIOIA TAURO
HAIFA
HERAKLION
HUELVA
IGOUMENITSA
ISTANBUL
KAVALA
KOPER
KOTOR
KUSADASI, BODRUM
LA SPEZIA, MARINA DI CARRARA
LEIXOES (PORTO)
LISBON
LIVORNO, PIOMBINO,
PORTOFERRAIO
MADEIRA PORTS
MALAGA
MARSEILLE
MESSINA, MILAZZO, REGGIO
CALABRIA
MONACO
MOTRIL-GRANADA
NAPLES, SALERNO, CASTELLAMMARE
DI STABIA
ODESSA
PALERMO, TERMINI IMERESE,
TRAPANI, PORTO EMPEDOCLE
PATRAS
PIRAEUS
PORTIMAO
PORTOFINO
PORT-VENDRES
RIJEKA
SARDINIAN PORTS
SETE
SIBENIK
SOUDA, CHANIA
SPLIT
TANGIER
TARANTO
TARRAGONA
TENERIFE PORTS
THESSALONIKI
TOULON-VAR PROVENCE
TRABZON
TUNISIAN PORTS
VALENCIA
VALLETTA
VARNA
VOLOS
ZADAR

Associate members

ALGERIA CRUISE SERVICES
CEMAR
CEUTA TOURISM
COUNCIL OF SANT CARLES DE LA RAPITA
CRUISE SERVICES MONACO
CYPRUS DEPUTY MINISTRY OF TOURISM
DP WORLD LIMASSOL
DUBROVNIK COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY
FIVE SENSES
INTERCRUISES SHORESIDE & PORT SERVICES
KVARNER REGION TOURIST BOARD
KYRIAKIS TRAVEL S.A.
LA GOULETTE CRUISE TERMINAL
LANZAROTE TOURISM
LIVORNO 2000
MEDOV SRL
MERCANTILE MARINE SHIPPING
MH BLAND
PAN MARINE GROUP
PATRONAT DE TURISME COSTA BRAVA
PENINSULA TOURS
PEREZ Y CIA
PUERTOS DEL ESTADO
SEAWAY SHIPPING & TOURIST SERVICES
SNEAL
TENERIFE TOURISM CORPORATION
TERMINAL NAPOLI SPA
THESSALONIKI TOURISM ORGANISATION
TRAINOSE S.A.
TURISME DE BARCELONA
TÜRKIYE TOURISM PROMOTION AND
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (TGA)
TURKISH CHAMBER OF SHIPPING (TCS)
VAR PROVENCE CRUISE CLUB

MedCruise launches a powerful online marketing campaign showcasing cruising in the Mediterranean

MedCruise, the largest cruise port association worldwide, which mission is to promote the cruise industry in the Mediterranean, Black Sea, Adriatic Sea, Red Sea and Near Atlantic, launched (during the International Cruise Summit 2020) a powerful online marketing campaign to run during 2021 and 2022 to support, more than ever, its members and destination for the resumption of cruising.

There is nowhere else where one can cruise to so many different countries within a short period of time and to enjoy, meet, feel, taste, smell as many flavours, nature, cultures and retrace the footsteps of history as one can in the Mediterranean and its adjoining seas.

This marketing campaign is divided into five different extraordinary experiences, presented in short video clips, which one can live when cruising the Med!

Culture & History

Nowhere else can such a variety of culture and history be found in such a relatively small area, home to a thousand-year-old heritage recognized by the UNESCO. The ports of the Mediterranean are the gateway to territories that treasure the achievements of the civilizations that have preceded us. *#FullyAstonishing, #FullyInspiring*

Active Tourism & Nature

There is no better way to experience a destiny than to immerse yourself in it with all five senses. The Mediterranean and its adjacent seas offer an endless range of outdoor activities to enjoy and make the most of the voyage. While the weather from Spring to Autumn is almost invariably ideal, even in the winter months the weather is generally very mild. *#FullyAlive, #FullyNatural*



Gastronomy

The Mediterranean cuisine, one of the most admired in the culinary world, was proclaimed Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2013 by the UNESCO, highlighted as being one of the most beneficial diets for our health and lifestyle. *#FullyTasty*

The purpose of the campaign is to remind cruise passengers and potential new consumers of the wonders of the Marenostrum, that MedCruise ports and destinations, are offering a five senses experience, that starts from the minute that passenger disembarks and steps immediately into an unforgettable lifetime experience.

MedCruise has historically focused its marketing strategies primarily within the industry. For the first time, the Association is willing to make a major investment in the end-consumer for the benefit of its members, and the industry as a whole.

MedCruise Director of Marketing, Mrs. Maria Cano, stated:

"The current pandemic is strongly hitting the cruise industry. MedCruise believes that now, more than ever, it is time to support the cruise industry, it is time to innovate, and it is time to think outside the box. In hard times, new and positive ideas are needed. This new online marketing strategy responds to this new era. MedCruise creates, adapts, and innovates to continue giving the best to its members and to the industry".



Bringing the Med Together

MedCruise will celebrate its 59th General Assembly and Elections on Tuesday November 4th in Barcelona, Spain

**59th
MedCruise
General Assembly**

**Internal Matters
November 4th, 2021
Barcelona, Spain**

Save the date

Secretariat:



**Aris Batsoulis
President**



**Aimilia Papachristou
Secretary General**



**Anja Lohrum
Secretariat Advisor,
Marketing and Events Management**



**Sara Valls
Secretariat Advisor,
EU Relations and Project Management**

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- [youtube/MedCruise](https://youtube.com/MedCruise)

Port System Authority of Central Adriatic Sea

Ancona, Pesaro, Ortona

The Central Adriatic Sea welcomes the resumption of cruises in all passengers ports: Ancona, Pesaro and Ortona.

The 2021 cruise season at the port of Ancona began with the arrival of MSC Splendida - the



biggest cruise ship to ever enter the port. The Cruise schedule foresees 15 weekly calls until September 2021.

Every Sunday, the MSC Cruises' vessel sails from Ancona port to Greece, Croatia, (Montenegro), Bari and Trieste.

The arrival of MSC Splendida is the result of the strong teamwork of the Central Adriatic Ports Authority and the Harbour Master with local institutions and the shipping company, in the firm belief that the cruise market will have a strategic role in the development of regional sustainable tourism.

Several itineraries have been made to discover the Marche region: the Old Port area, the heritage of Ancona and its nature parks are the main attractions. Other itineraries include Frasassi, one of the most grandiose subterranean natural caves, the Conero

Riviera, with its beautiful villages, and the Senigallia beach, known as the 'Velvet Beach' for its fine golden sand.

From August 27 until November 2021, Artemis cruise ship calls the ports of Ortona and Pesaro, valorising the beauty of Abruzzo and Marche regions thanks to the attractive mix of traditional highlights (the Aragonese castle of Ortona and the heritage of the composer Gioacchino Rossini in Pesaro) and other unconventional tourist destinations. Pesaro and Ortona are also expected to welcome the sea and river cruise ship La belle de l'Adriatique, with an innovative model of tourism "cruise&bike," to explore local destinations in a sustainable way.

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Port System Authority of Southern Adriatic Sea

Bari, Brindisi, Manfredonia, Barletta & Monopoli

The Southern Adriatic Ports Authority, which includes the ports of Bari, Brindisi, Manfredonia, Barletta and Monopoli, has been a leading partner in the THEMIS project, financed by the Interregional Territorial Cooperation Program V-A Greece-Italy 2014-2020, for supporting the development and the activities of minor ports, in order to attract more maritime traffic, particularly cruise ships, to destinations which are still undeveloped from a tourist point of view.

Within the framework of the THEMIS project, the Chamber of Commerce in Bari has developed experiential tours aimed at discovering the most authentic beauty of the local region called SEADOO.

Each tour provides a multi-sensory experience in contact with nature and the landscape enabling tourists to immerse themselves in the most ancient traditions and feel part of the local community. A couple of examples are:

Bitonto of Beauty and Goodness is focused on the town of Bitonto and the surrounding territory located 30 mins for Bari port; starting with a walking tour of 90 minutes of beauty, culture and tastes. Past aristocratic buildings, the mystic atmosphere of places of worship, culminating with the Cathedral dedicated to

the Virgin Mary of the Assumption. Lunch is typical dishes of the traditional Apulian cuisine and learning how to make the famous "bocconotto", a traditional Apulian dessert with ricotta cheese.

In the afternoon the tour will continue in the countryside and the olive groves of the hamlet of Palombaio, to discover the processing techniques of the green gold of Puglia, with a visit to the oil mill of the farm Cuonzo, which has made organic farming its philosophy.

This tour will end with a bike tour through the landscape full of olive and almond groves.

Another is SEATour offering an immersion in the heart of the Adriatic coast of Puglia, accompanied by a tourist guide graduated in biology and expert on the local history and art.

The tour starts from the port of Monopoli, and a two hour walk through the bustling and noisy life of the narrow streets and white alleys. Experience the traditions of this town closely entwined with the sea and the venerated Madonna of Madia, whose image can be found at every corner of the old town.

In the workshop of Oronzo, a young shipwright, participants will have the possibility of experiencing the building of little fishing boats (so called gozzo) and then onto a fish lunch and fisherman take visitors to the Regional Park of the coastal dunes on their boats, and taste typical Apulian sea cuisine and high quality local wines.

Once ashore, visitors will be given e-bikes for a beautiful ride up to the Archaeological Park of Egnatia, an ancient Greek-Roman town passing by fig groves, thousand-year old olive groves and fields of Regina tomatoes and birdwatching stop.

By slowly biking, participants will come back to Savaneltri, but not without having tasted a lemon ice cream, in the shade of the lighthouse of the village of Torre Canne.

Another part of THEMIS is to provide better port infrastructure and services

to accommodate cruise ships and passengers and these have been completed in the ports of Manfredonia, Monopoli and Barletta.

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Balearic Islands



Infanta Elena, the sister of Spain's King Felipe, serves as the godmother for Sea Cloud Spirit during naming festivities at Palma de Mallorca.

The three-masted, full-rigged vessel is the first new ship in 20 years for Sea Cloud Cruises. It was built at Metalships & Docks SAU in Vigo and delivered in May.

Two Champagne bottles were carried on foot by Spanish shipping lawyer and legal representative of Sea Cloud Cruises, Javier Arias-Camisón, in a 74-mile/120-kilometer pilgrimage to the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela to be blessed - part of the September 3 christening ceremony.

One of the bottles smashes on Sea Cloud Spirit's hull during the christening while the other is auctioned off for charity on the maiden voyage, September 14 -24.

MedCruise contact: Eva Gonzalez, evagonzalez@portsdebalears.com



Barcelona

The Port of Barcelona estimates cruise traffic in the second half of 2021 will be between 75 and 100 calls amounting to 200,000 passengers.

Barcelona Port Authority's new chairman, Damià Calvet, made the forecast on July 21 as part of an overall briefing on the port's traffic in the first half of this year.

He stressed that the situation is 'continually evolving' and that the port 'remains in close contact with management of all cruise operators.'

The Barcelona Port Authority (APB) has



Carla Salvadó

created two new departments, one overseeing innovation and strategy and the other, commercial and marketing.

The Department of Innovation and Business Strategy, headed jointly by Santiago Garcia-Milà and Emma Cobos, will be responsible for coordinating APB's IV Strategic Plan 2021-2025, which rests on three pillars: sustainability and the

environment, social aspects and the economy, incorporating innovation and digitalization as strategic vectors.

The department, reporting jointly to the offices of APB Chairman Mercé Conesa and Director General José Alberto Carbonell, will be responsible for carrying out innovative projects within the vision of APB to the year 2040.

The Commercial and Marketing Department will be led by Carla Salvadó, who rejoined APB late last year.

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Bastia & North Corsica ports



Since the cruise restart in France in July, Bastia and North Corsica ports have already received 30 calls, mostly from French cruise lines Club Med, Ponant and CroisiEurope which successfully propose exclusive itineraries around Corsica since last year.

Globally, between 80 et 90 ships should be calling in Bastia and north Corsica Ports during the whole summer season amounting around 20 000 passengers.

On a technical point of view, the Port Authority

of Bastia is finalising the implementation of new stairs, right in front of the Terminal, in order to upgrade tendering operations for anchorage calls.

Meanwhile, the Cruise Department is also working on new shore excursions for the upcoming years, all focused on sustainability, wellbeing, outdoor activities, organic cosmetics and organic local food. The purpose is always the same as ever: to fully live the Corsican experience, close to its people and its land. Among the latest gems to be soon visited by our guests, a factory of organic soaps made from endemic plants such as myrtle or helychrisum, beautifully surrounded by the renowned Patrimoine vineyards. This brand new visit will be part of a tour including also honey and wine tastings.

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Cabo Verde



Hurtigruten Expeditions is adding the West Coast of Africa and its archipelagos – including Cape Verde – to its growing list of new destinations.

The 13-day itinerary includes four countries: Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal, with Hurtigruten's Spitsbergen sailing from Dakar.

'2022 will be one of the most adventurous years for Hurtigruten Expeditions,' CEO Asta Lassesen said.

'...We know our guests want to explore many different parts of the globe, and our ambition is to offer the world's most exciting destinations that can best be explored by our small ships,' she continued. 'With the Bissagos Islands and Cape Verde, we offer a truly unique and off-the-beaten-track destination that is perfect for an expedition adventure like no other.'

Passengers will spend four days exploring Cape Verde. The 10 rugged volcanic islands that make up the country present a blend of African and Portuguese influences. Besides colonial churches, mansions and old forts, the islands are a birdwatcher's haven with many migratory and endemic species. Other wildlife includes whales, dolphins and sea turtles.

Carrying fewer than 200 passengers, Spitsbergen features a Science Center with a program offering citizen science research projects.

The Africa cruises will depart Dakar on November 27, December 9 and December 21, 2022, and January 2 and January 14, 2023.

While the Canary Islands and Madeira are known tourist destinations among European travelers, Hurtigruten said its cruises will show a different side of these islands, focused on hiking, national parks and cultural walking tours.

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Burgas

The newly built Congress Center near Burgas port's Magazia 1 terminal hosted the International Maritime Forum 'The Blue Future - Our Responsibility' (BeFOR) forum on June 25, coinciding with the Day of the Seafarer. Attended by more than 150 guests, over 20 Bulgarian and international experts in education, marine insurance and law, ship and port operations discussed the economy, entrepreneurship, research, innovation and business in the Black Sea. On show was the first Bulgarian-made eco-hybrid catamaran, 'MAVI,' developed with hybrid engines and solar panels at a factory Tsarevo. Speeches were made by the city mayor and the minister of transport, information technology and communications.

Construction of The Congress Expo Center began in 2018 funded by the Bulgarian Ports Infrastructure Company. Measuring 7692 sq. m., it is designed over six levels, housing two large halls for conferences, exhibitions and concerts.

The Children Science Center in the Public Access Area of the Maritime Station building is now operational. Made up of three zones – Workshop, Kids' Corner and Exhibition Zone – it teaches about science, technology,



underwater archaeology and astronomy. Located on the first and second floors, its aim is to make natural sciences and engineering more attractive to youngsters. Visitors can take 'walks' along the bottom of the Black Sea, learning about the flora and fauna of Burgas.

In front of the Maritime Station, a project is also underway for a 50-seat planetarium, complete with 12-mtr dome, which will show space in both 2D and 3D. Several opportunities for eco-tours are now available to tourists including trips to rural fishing village, Chengene Scaffold, part of a 160ha protected area which retains its cultural heritage.

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Corfu

The Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) conducted research in Corfu and Heraklion to assess the sustainability status of both areas, co-funded by Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA.)

GSTC embarked on a three-phase initiative over the course of five months: firstly, preparatory research and data compilation, a second phase of on-site assessment with stakeholder engagement, and a final phase of analysis and report. The report phase will map out a plan for improvements.

The GSTC Destination Assessment focuses on four main categories of destination sustainability: destination management and governance; economic benefits to local communities; protection of cultural heritage,

community, and visitor well-being; and environmental protection and conservation.

'CLIA is delighted to be expanding its partnership with the GSTC on this new initiative jointly with two such important Greek destinations and cruise ports,' said CLIA president and CEO, Kelly Craighead. 'The cruise industry is dedicated to sustainability and our experience supporting previous sustainability assessments has shown what can be achieved when city leaders, local communities, and industry work together towards a common goal.'

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Cyprus

Royal Caribbean International sailed Cyprus-Greece cruises this summer on Jewel of the Seas from a new homeport for the line, Limassol.

The fully vaccinated cruises began July 10, with calls at Piraeus and the Greek islands of Rhodes, Crete, Mykonos and Santorini.

The cruises were available to adult guests who were fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and those under the age of 18 with negative test results. Crew were vaccinated, too.

RCI President Michael Bayley said, 'Cyprus is a beautiful island, and we are thankful to the Cypriot government for their support and enthusiasm in making these incredible itineraries possible.'

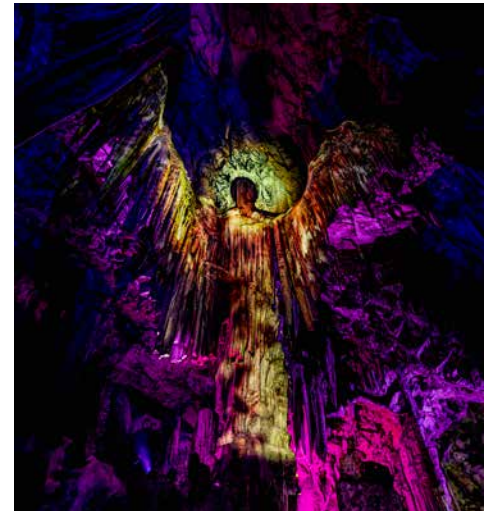
'We are delighted that Royal Caribbean will call Limassol its homeport for the first time ever,' Deputy Tourism Minister Savvas Perdios said. 'This has been an ambition of ours for many years, and we are thrilled that, finally, this dream has come to fruition.'

He added, 'We have every confidence that Royal Caribbean's presence in Limassol will be beneficial to Cyprus and, similarly, we are very confident that as a homeport and as a country, Cyprus will live up to the expectations of Royal Caribbean and its guests.'

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Gibraltar



St Michael's Cave was long believed to be bottomless, giving birth to the story that the Rock of Gibraltar was linked to Africa by a subterranean passage under the Strait of Gibraltar. The famous macaques were said to have come to Gibraltar through this subterranean passage and Pomponius Mela, one of the earliest geographers who lived around the beginning of the Christian era, spoke about the cave in his writings.

The cave, situated in the Upper Rock Nature Reserve, has long been one of Gibraltar's most popular visitor attractions and even makes for a unique auditorium with a capacity for 600 people.

Three years ago, Her Majesty The Queen's Government of Gibraltar requested expressions of interest regarding the development of the sites on the Upper Rock: 'The resulting experience, "The Awakening," features an unforgettable journey through Gibraltar's natural history using projection mapping technology, lighting design and immersive audio,' a government spokesperson said. 'The cave is a unique space for this technology-led experience and the entire project sympathetically showcases the beauty of the cave while uncovering the layers of Gibraltar's natural history.'

The most advanced audio visual technology has been installed consisting of over 120 new lights, 60 speakers and 16 projectors to bring the cave to life.

The finale of the experience takes place within the main cavern, known as Cathedral Cave, and uses a 360° light projection to recount the awe-inspiring story of geological formation. From microscopic sediments to the emergence of colossal limestone bedding plates, the experience presents mighty tectonic forces and extraordinary natural events spanning millions of years. Through light, visitors will observe the life and development of the rock formations that loom over them within St Michael's Cave.

The Awakening has also become a community project for local schools and their Gibraltar Studies, with animations, slideshows, fact sheets and experiments centred around the cave. It's an experience not to be missed.

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Heraklion

The port of Heraklion played a pivotal role in the successful resumption of the cruise industry in the Eastern Mediterranean in September 2020 – both as a home and transit port – implementing the strictest health and safety protocols developed in close cooperation with the Greek University of Thessaly.

Heraklion ranked #1 among Greek ports in terms of cruise passenger traffic during 2020. On May 13, 2021 Heraklion celebrated the official start of the year's cruise and tourist season in Greece, welcoming TUI Cruises Mein Schiff 5: the first ship to sail in the East Mediterranean in 2021, on a turnaround operation.

Several global players included Heraklion in

their summer 2021 East Med itineraries, while both TUI Cruises and Hapag-Lloyd Cruises selected Heraklion as their homeport for full turnaround operations for the summer season.

Berth reservations for summer 2021 meant utilization of 100% of the maximum available, daily.

In Q2/2021, the port received the MedCruise Adaptation and Resilience Award as well as the Platinum Award at the Greek Tourism Awards (for Covid-safe practices & services, guest protection and staff protection).

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Huelva

The Port of Huelva has several infrastructure projects in progress, such as the Marina Port of Levante Wharf which will be a leisure zone where locals and passengers alike will be able to shop, dine at restaurants or access other amenities.

In the surrounding area, cruise passengers can find natural spaces made up of the fabulous Odiel Marshlands Nature Reserve and the Domingo Rubio estuary.

Levante Wharf, created for cruise ships, is located next to the old Mineral Riotinto Wharf, and the new maritime promenade Paseo de la Ría is just a five-minute walk from the centre and the commercial area.

Attractions for cruise passengers to behold include: experiencing the caravels that discovered the New World, travelling to Mars by exploring the Rio Tinto landscapes, feeling the magic of the Sierra de Aracena where the PDO Jabugo Ham is made or seeing first hand why Doñana is both one of Europe's great natural reserves and a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Tourists will be able to familiarise themselves with 19th century English legacy or instead, head to the beach.

MedCruise contact: Jennifer Garcia Moreno, jennifer.garcia@huelvaport.com



Istanbul



Reviving and redefining Istanbul's historic port, Galataport Istanbul's world first 29,000 sqm underground terminal designed with a unique hatch system is ready for cruise ships. The hatches are used to create a temporary customs area while the ship is in port, leaving the coastline free after the ship departs. Thanks to this groundbreaking innovation, the 1.2 km special promenade of the Bosphorus will be open to public access for the first time after 200 years. The terminal's interior was designed by Autoban, inspired by Istanbul's ancient underground cisterns.

In addition to its exceptional gastronomy and open air shopping experience with breathtaking views of the historical peninsula, Galataport Istanbul will also become the city's new arts and cultural centre, hosting the Istanbul Modern Museum, designed by world-renowned architect Renzo Piano, and Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University Istanbul Painting and Sculpture Museum within its premises.

Located in one of the historic and multicultural commerce centers of Istanbul dating back thousands of years, the district's rich heritage is reflected in Galataport Istanbul's historical buildings and structures. Hidden and forgotten for a long time, Tophane Clock Tower (1848) was renovated in addition to Paket Postanesi (1911). Three other historic buildings under renovation, along with a ballroom with a special guillotine facade will be the new home of the 177-room hotel, The Peninsula Istanbul.

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Leixões (Porto)

On July 25, Porto Cruise Terminal welcomed the maiden call of the newest Atlas Ocean Voyages cruise ship, World Navigator. The ship left the Port of Viana do Castelo on July 24 to board passengers at the Port of Leixões on her inaugural cruise to Greece. This 11-day itinerary also included visits to Gibraltar, Formentera, Ibiza, Capri and finally Piraeus, in Greece.

To welcome the maiden call of the ship, the Port of Leixões presented the captain with the

plaque in a ceremonial exchange adapted to COVID-19 restrictions.

'We are very pleased to welcome the first cruise ship in 16 months in maximum security conditions and in full articulation with cruise companies and national health entities,' said a spokesperson for the port.

World Navigator was the third cruise ship ordered by Mystic Cruises to the West Sea Viana Shipyard in Portugal. Launching in July 2021, World Navigator realizes the

possibilities of environmental stewardship with the latest hybrid power management and propulsion system, maximizing fuel efficiency and consuming as low as one-fifth the fuel compared to some conventional cruise-ship systems. Its alternate hydro-jet propulsion helps the ship quietly cruise up to five knots without disturbing marine wildlife.

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Port System Authority of Western Ligurian Sea Genoa, Savona

Costa Firenze was showcased July 2 at Savona port, where the line has had a presence for 25 years.

Savona Mayor Iaria Caprioglio attended, declaring, 'Savona welcomes Costa Firenze, a new ship celebrating the 25th year of Costa Cruises operations in the port.'

'In this quarter of a century, Costa and the city have grown together. During the five [years] ...as mayor of Savona, we [have] developed collaboration on inclusion and sustainability projects and ... support for cultural initiatives.'

Costa Firenze's inaugural one-week cruise began July 4, calling Savona, Civitavecchia (Rome), Naples, Catania, Palermo and Cagliari.

In August, T. Mariotti in Genoa floated out

expedition ship Seabourn Venture with Jarda Versloot-West, Seabourn's senior manager of expedition staffing, serving as madrina.

Also on hand were Seabourn President Josh Leibowitz and T. Mariotti Managing Director Marco Ghiglione.

'The dedication of all people involved in the construction is a matter of pride for T. Mariotti, and we are absolutely sure that we are building something special: a unique ship that will be the top in the luxury cruise expedition market,' Ghiglione said.

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Madeira ports Funchal, Porto Santo



Funchal Port is building a new terminal at Pier 6 to provide a higher quality service to cruise passengers in the north part of the port, through the provision of improved facilities for customs, security and border authorities enabling them to carry out controls in a more exhaustive, quick and efficient manner.

Scheduled to open in October 2021, the building will function as a maritime station for the embarkation and disembarkation of passengers from the north pier, where, before the pandemic, around fifty cruise ships berthed annually.

The building is located next to the fence separating the international area and the public area of Pier 6, to the west of the car park and CR7 square.

It is a single storey construction, with perimeter walls in exposed concrete, with an area of approximately 372sq mtr, designed by architect Duarte Caldeira and his technical team.

Madeira Port Authority invested nearly half a million euros to ensure its ports remained opened since last October.

Funchal received the first of four turnarounds of Nicko Tours' World Voyager on June 10 and health protocols were tested in the field.

Both Porto Santo and Desertas Islands in the Madeira Autonomous Region were also highlights of the itinerary which additionally visited the archipelagos of the Azores.

Cruise tourism represents more than half a million passengers, 300 calls and an economic income of more than €40m a year for the Madeira region.

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Malaga



The Port of Málaga is restarting its cruise traffic, since on June 15th it was the first port in Spain's mainland to host a cruise ship after 15 months. TUI Cruises' Mein Schiff 2 restarted cruise operations in Málaga being safety the top priority, but yet visitors could fully enjoy our destination on bubble excursions.

With 10 cruise calls between June and August, Málaga expects to have 15 cruise calls in September, heading for its high season in October-November. AIDA, Costa, Marella, MSC, Mystic, Phoenix, Silversea, TUI, Viking or Windstar are only a few of the cruise lines restarting operations in Málaga. As a highlight of the season, Marella Explorer 2, an adults-only ship will sail from Málaga on two new Spanish ports itineraries offering fly cruises from the UK from October 3.

Málaga port and destination are certified by the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) with the Safe Travels stamp, guaranteeing the safety of crew, passengers and ships. The Port of Málaga has also been granted the Responsible Tourism stamp from Spain's Ministry for Tourism.

Cruise guests are very welcomed by Málaga and its citizens: a wide spreading of the cruise industry protocols has been carried out in order to let everyone know cruise is nowadays one of the safest tourism industries, both for passengers and for destinations. Málaga, smiling destination.

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Marseille

Credit: Costa Cruises



MSC Seaside and Costa Smeralda sailed from the Port of Marseille on July 4, after a 17-month gap in welcoming cruise visitors. In total, 34 calls from four different cruise lines were received in Marseille this summer.

This year is the first where the port will follow Marseille Cruise Club's Blue Charter, drawn up in 2019 and signed by Costa Group, MSC Cruises, Royal Caribbean Cruises and Ponant and agreed upon by local and national authorities to improve air quality.

The Blue Charter - sets out four strict rules of conduct that surpass current regulations:

- Using 0.1% low-sulphur fuel, or other

systems such as scrubbers, LNG or catalytic converter that reduce the environmental footprint, within the port control zone;

- Reducing speed to 10 knots upon entering the port control zone;
- Promoting calls by LNG-powered vessels and developing dedicated bunkering infrastructure;
- Using shore-to-ship power at berth by 2025.

The cruise club and the port secure the implementation of the charter and the number of signatory companies.

Shore to ship infrastructure was put in place in the port in 2017 for Corsica ferry routes - with access for international ferries due in 2022. The port is set to equip two cruise terminal berths with shore-to-ship technology by 2025. It is anticipated that more than three quarters of port calls will result in cleaner air in Marseille in 2025 owing to the measures.

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Motril-Granada



During the past year, Motrilport Granada produced two brochures showcasing outdoor and sustainable tours as well as a new promotional destination video.

A tour dedicated to the region's tropical produce industry is featured in a visit to the nearby Bio Procam company. Surrounded by 50 acres of farm land and greenhouses and over 150 acres for subtropical crops, the tour explains how they grow, pack and sell fresh vegetables and subtropical produce under organic farming principles reaching over 12,000 tons per year in product production. The agricultural land and greenhouses where crops are grown are also visited in the tour lasting 3.25hr for between 20 to 40 participants.

Wetland birdwatching and local rum distillery is a combined guided tour of a local Nature Reserve and sugar cane plantation and rum distillery.

In the wetlands there are more than 160 species of birds, some with a high degree of protection as they are in danger of extinction. The Charca de Suarez is the most important wetland on the Costa Tropical. Located next to Poniente Beach, it's an exceptional place for birds for feeding, wintering, nesting and migration. A great variety of insectivores, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish and botanical species can also be found there. It is a unique area with paths connecting the wetlands and viewing huts.

Next up on this 3hr 10 minute tour is a visit to the only rum distillery open to the public on the European continent, Ron Montero, founded in 1963 by Francisco Montero Martin, the local master rum blender.

Discover the exciting world of rum production with this informative and enjoyable guided tour of the distillery, including a video and tasting of the rum. In the sugar cane plantation visitors will find out about how this crop is cultivated, from sowing to harvest, and reaping.

On the Olive Tour La Erilla, tourists can enjoy the beautiful landscapes of the Vega de Granada, with its incomparable views of the Sierra Nevada, on a visit to a magnificent oil mill that was in use from the 15th century until the middle of the 20th century and learn about the process of olive oil production.

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Port System Authority of Sardinian Ports

Cagliari, Olbia, Porto Torres, Golfo Aranci, Oristano

Massimo Deiana, president of the AdSP of the Sea of Sardinia, was present during the maiden call of Costa Firenze in Cagliari on July 9 and expressed satisfaction with the weekly stopovers. At

the invitation of the ship's captain, authorities in Sardinia boarded the vessel to witness the crest exchange ceremony.

'For Cagliari Cruise Port, this call is an important demonstration of the centrality of the Sardinian port, not only for the shipowner, but also within the panorama of Italian cruise ports,' said Antonio Di Monte, general manager, Cagliari Cruise Port.

Costa Smeralda called at the port every week through May and June; from September 7, Sardinia will have Norwegian Epic call every week at Cagliari.

Last but not least, AidaStella has officially reopened the cruise season in the port of Olbia: on August 4, the 253 mtr long AIDA Cruises vessel landed on the White

Island with around 900 passengers on board. Departing from Malta on July 29, the ship made its first call in Cagliari, confirming the value of the AdSP's bet on the multi-port strategy in the system ports. In late 2016, Cagliari Cruise Port became part of the network of Global Ports Holding (GPH), the world's largest cruise port operator, with an established presence in the Caribbean, Mediterranean, Asia-Pacific regions.

Cagliari Cruise Port obtained the Safe Travels Stamp a recognition granted by the World Travel & Tourism Council, which certifies the company's commitment to countering and containing the COVID-19 spread.

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Port System Authority of Eastern Sicilian Sea

Catania, Augusta

Catania Cruise Port is planning a new eco-friendly cruise terminal on the Sporgente Centrale pier, with large spaces suitable to safely accommodate turnaround operations, and a new, more comfortable and appealing retail area. The use of recycled materials is envisaged, as well as the installation of solar panels aiming at in-house production of electricity are sustainable elements of the terminal project.

Catania is the second largest city in Sicily, located on its eastern coast, facing the Ionian Sea, in a strategic position that favours the visit to many nearby historical sites and well-known seaside towns, such as the romantic Taormina and the white Syracuse.

Its position in the center of the Mediterranean Sea, equidistant from the Suez Canal, Gibraltar and all North African and European ports, makes it easily includable in any cruise itinerary. The proximity of the cruise terminal to the city center (just 10 minutes on foot) and to the Catania international airport (10 minutes by car), as well as the privileged proximity to bus and train stations, make it the ideal port for cruise ships, as well as an excellent candidate for homeport activities.

Catania also boasts a considerable range of shorex available: from the excursion on Mount Etna to the local food and wine experience, from shopping to a day at the beach, it is possible to appreciate every type of holiday in the Sicilian port, enjoying the colours and flavours of one of the most beautiful cities in Italy.

The mild climate and low rainfall make it an ideal destination for tourism throughout the year, and the presence of a strong territorial tourist armour, consisting of a lively and modern transport network, accommodation facilities and available activities, make it perfect for the creation of pre and post cruise packages.

However, in the future, when it will again be possible for passengers to visit the destination independently, our Guest Information Center will offer bikes and electric scooters for rental, giving tourists the possibility of a green tour of the city.

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Souda/Chania



Port of Souda has in progress a Master Plan focusing on the extension of the secondary pier Adrias as well as the new Passenger Terminal. As a result in the future the port will provide simultaneous accommodation for up to three large cruise ships (or five medium sized) with total pier length of 1.4 kilometres, supported by a passengers terminal for 1,500 guests with fully equipped infrastructure.

Following the guidelines on the way to the new normality and in cooperation with Chania destination, for the 2022 cruise season, the Ancient Aptera archaeological site will be open with all necessary protocols implemented to welcome cruise guests. This unique cultural site is considered as one of the most significant in South East Med with 3,000 years of history that starts at the end of the Minoan period.

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Tenerife Ports

S/C de Tenerife, Los Cristianos, S/C de La Palma, San Sebastián de La Gomera, La Estaca



The Ports of Tenerife already resumed cruise activities in November 2020, welcoming since then 150,000 cruise passengers on 206 calls, being one of the first ports in the world to welcome cruise passengers after the global pandemic outbreak and handling around four homeport operations per month as well as many others transit calls. The facilities of all five ports managed by the Port Authority of Santa Cruz de Tenerife have been adapted to the requirements of the health protocols of each cruise line. The five cruise ports that compose the port authority are: two in the island of Tenerife -Santa Cruz de Tenerife and Los Cristianos; one in La Palma island -Santa Cruz de La Palma; one in La Gomera -San Sebastián de La Gomera; and one in El Hierro -La Estaca.

All five ports are offering controlled excursions and monitored activities to visitors without

losing the charm of the four islands. Hence, cruise passengers have the chance to enjoy the beauty of the Canary Islands safely when visiting the special destinations in the different islands.

Since September 2020, Elisa Zamora is the Commercial Director of the Ports of Tenerife, focusing the main objective of the Commercial Department on attracting more maritime traffic to the ports managed by the Port Authority of Tenerife.

Elisa has been working in the Ports of Tenerife for the last 16 years involved in all types of traffics, logistics and investment. Under Elisa's leadership, the Commercial Department has lately focused on the cruise industry.

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Thessaloniki



ThPA S.A. – Port of Thessaloniki participated in the resumption of cruising in September 2020. With the restart of cruising in Greece and for the first time in 15 years, there are already 17 confirmed calls, the majority being home porting calls to the Port of Thessaloniki for 2021, providing passengers from Thessaloniki and the nearby South East European neighbouring countries to embark and disembark from Thessaloniki Port. Among ThPA S.A. – Port of Thessaloniki strategic goals is to develop a modern passenger terminal and associated supporting activities via establishing Thessaloniki as a homeport

cruise destination, including the development of a new cruise terminal. Currently, remedial works in the existing passenger terminal are underway. There is a change of contact for Communications at the port with Theodora Riga joining ThPA S.A. – Port of Thessaloniki, as Director of Corporate Communications. She has extensive experience in the port industry and especially in cruise, having served on the Board of Directors of MedCruise whilst at Piraeus Port from 2017 until 2020.

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Tunisian Ports

La Goulette, Tunis, Bizerte, Sousse



MSC Cruises' MSC Opera will make 27 weekly calls to Tunisia's La Goulette port between April and October 2022 as part of its Western Mediterranean itinerary.

Pierfrancesco Vago, executive chairman, MSC Cruises and the line's CEO Gianni Onorato met with Habib Ammar, Tunisia's minister of tourism and Foued Ben Othman for the country's minister of transport at MSC Cruises' Geneva headquarters to agree the voyages.

MSC Cruises and the Tunisian Ministry of Tourism also agreed to work jointly on dedicated future communications programmes – particularly in Italy, France and Germany – to promote cruises to Tunisia.

'Tunisia is a beautiful and hospitable country that holds a special place in the heart of MSC Group, from cargo to ferries and cruises,' said Vago. 'I have no doubt that having La Goulette on our Western Mediterranean itinerary for MSC Opera next summer will again be a great attraction.'

'There is so much to see and enjoy, such as the UNESCO World Heritage site of ancient archaeological marvels at Carthage, the charming and picturesque village of Sidi Bou Said and the Medina of Tunis with its hundreds of monuments, palaces, mosques and fountains.'

One of the most popular tours for cruise ship passengers calling in La Goulette for the first time is the archaeological site of Carthage, founded by the Phoenicians and located on a hill dominating the Gulf of Tunis and the surrounding plain. The capital of the province of Africa in Roman times, Carthage has played a central role in Antiquity as a great commercial empire. During the lengthy Punic wars, Carthage occupied the territories that belonged to Rome, which then destroyed its rival in 146 AD. The town was rebuilt by the Romans on the ruins of the ancient city.

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Port System Authority of Central Tyrrhenian Sea

Civitavecchia, Fiumicino, Gaeta

Civitavecchia is to welcome a maiden call and the maiden commercial voyage of Sea Cloud Spirit which will sail from the port on September 14, 2021.



Sea Cloud Spirit is the modern interpretation of the 90-year-old Sea Cloud, the flagship of Sea Cloud Cruises, and Sea Cloud II, built in 2001. The three-masted, full-rigger vessel has capacity for 136 passengers and 85 crew and is hand-sailed.

Going to the opposite end of the spectrum in

vessel size, Royal Caribbean International's Harmony of the Seas became the first Oasis-class ship to return to Europe this summer and features round trip Civitavecchia on a series of seven-night Western Mediterranean cruises from mid August to October.

In early July, the Port Authority of Civitavecchia in conjunction with ASL Roma 4, invited all ships calling the port to register their crew members to be vaccinated against Covid-19 in its drive to facilitate the return to pre-pandemic operational levels.

Civitavecchia was one of the first cruise ports to welcome transit and turnaround calls following the restart in operations.

During the temporary halt in cruise operations, Civitavecchia had up to 14 cruise ships laid up in the port.

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Valletta



Viking Sea and Viking Venus will both frequently homeport in Valletta this summer, as they sail three new itineraries roundtrip from the Maltese port as part of Viking's 'Welcome Back' collection exclusively for vaccinated passengers.

The new voyages include the 11-day 'Malta & the Adriatic Jewels,' the 11-day 'Malta & Greek Isles Discovery' and the 21-day 'Malta, the Adriatic & Greece' itineraries.

Viking has partnered with Lufthansa to offer non-stop charter flights from the US' Newark Liberty International Airport to Malta International Airport.

'Viking's, well-travelled guests are also experiencing our Islands' 7,000 years of history and culture on pre- and post-cruise stays. Their savviness is the ultimate stamp for Valletta's cruise industry. We are thankful for Viking's trust in what team Malta can offer,' commented Stephen Xuereb, COO of Global Ports Holding and CEO of Valletta Cruise Port.

His remarks were followed by Ivan Mifsud, MD of Mifsud Brothers which specialises in Maltese and Mediterranean cruise operation services, 'I cannot deny that this was perhaps the toughest challenge in my career, but with patience and perseverance – together with outstanding teamwork by all the stakeholders – we made it happen.

'Importantly, it gave us the opportunity to showcase Malta and Gozo as a fascinating cultural destination to the American traveller in a very effective way.'

In June, the Maltese government eased rules for the arrival of international travellers, allowing fully vaccinated US travellers with CDC-approved COVID-19 Vaccination Record Cards to arrive in the country. The first direct flight from Newark Liberty International Airport to Malta took place on July 31.

'We are delighted that Viking's operation will bring the Maltese islands and their very diverse offering closer to the American market at a time when the demand for travel is gradually recovering,' remarked Alan Borg, CEO, Malta International Airport.

During the pause in cruise operations, Valletta port worked on establishing its 'COVID-19 Cruise Operations Guidelines for a Safe Continuation of Cruising in Valletta' in collaboration with numerous stakeholders including the Ministry of Tourism, Malta Tourism Authority, Malta International Airport, health authorities and local agents.

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Valencia

TUI Cruises' Mein Schiff 2 restarted cruise activity in the Port of Valencia in late June after 15 months of inactivity.

For this resumption, all the companies involved such as the Port Authority and port operators, health authorities and tourism promotion bodies, worked hard to ensure the safety of passengers, crew and citizens.

Mein Schiff 2 arrived at the pier escorted by a tugboat and accompanied by Valencian regional music.

Late in the following month, MSC Grandiosa arrived at Port of Valencia with the vessel calling at the Cap i Casal every Friday until November 5. The call is part of a week long sailing visiting ports in Spain and Italy.

Speaking alongside MSC Cruises' CEO for Spain Francisco Lorente and Port Authority of Valencia President Aurelio Martinez, MSC Cruises' VP Gianluca Suprani said, 'We have drawn up a very rigorous protocol based on international and national regulations, together with a group of experts, to be able to resume cruise activity with the highest level of safety – a dynamic protocol that adapts to

the evolution of the epidemiological situation.' Thanking institutions such as the Generalitat Valenciana and Puertos del Estado on collaborating with the cruise line on safety measures, he went on to add that 'bubble excursions' offered by the cruise line in the city will 'guarantee the safety of the communities we visit.'

The ship, which has capacity for 6,000 passengers, has reduced its occupancy to 70%. MSC Cruises' confirmed Valencia will be a stopover destination for MSC Cruises' new luxury cruise line Explora Journeys and described the city as both 'very important in transit operations' and as 'a point for the embarkation of citizens from all over this part of Spain.'

Port of Valencia is expecting around 100 calls this season. In 2019, Valencia registered 203 cruise ship stopovers and 435,000 cruise passengers, with 16% of those embarking and disembarking at the port.

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Challenges & Solutions

MedCruise's associate members shared their experiences amid the COVID-19 pandemic - and demonstrated ways to overcome new challenges.

Algeria Cruise Services



Mifsud Brothers Ltd. based in Malta and Algeria have said 'Words cannot do justice to the countless months engaged in meetings discussing cruise protocols and lobbying to allow fully vaccinated US citizens to enter Malta.'

According to MD Ivan Mifsud, the biggest challenge throughout the pandemic has been 'the mental stress that we would make it to see the light at the end of the proverbial tunnel.'

To keep up morale, Mifsud Brothers Ltd. embarked on various projects which included reading, research, attending webinars and creating new destination experiences. They also took part in the Seatrade Awards for Innovative Shore Excursions and made it to the finals.

Adds Mifsud, 'We are now into the third month of a homeporting operation for Viking out of Valletta, which is running smoothly thanks to the robust protocols in place on Viking ships and the harmonious working relationship between the port, airport, the Malta Tourism Authority, the Ministry for Tourism and us agents and ground operators/logistics for Viking.'

'This brought with it an unexpected bonus in the form of a direct flight from Newark, a first for Malta.'

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Seaway Shipping & Tourist Services



The cruise industry after the COVID-19 pandemic changed its course. The ports in Greece closed for cruise ships, all the calls we had planned were cancelled. We only served some calls for services and deliveries during the first wave of the pandemic in Greece.

By the summer of 2020, health protocols were in place and some test cruises started with very few passengers on board. Our company participated actively in discussions and video conferences in order to exchange views on the health protocols that should be in place and in communicating these health protocols to the relevant port and health authorities in Greece.

These test cruises didn't last for long so we had another stretch of time with no calls.

Thankfully, in May 2021 cruises restarted in Greece for at least two of our four main clients. We are very grateful to see that almost six weeks after this restart there are no COVID-19 cases on board, the health protocols are followed by all involved parties and the Greek government has been vaccinating a number of crew for our ships.

Our effort is to serve as best as we can the ships, passengers and crew and assist with the compliance of all health protocols so as for cruises to continue well into the fall of 2021 - and see more ships visit our good ports.

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Medov S.r.l.



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Tenerife Tourism Corporation



future, and which, in fact, are already shaping tourism presently, on which the island seeks to become a benchmark: sustainability and digitalisation.

Accordingly, Tenerife has been acknowledged as the first Smart Tourism Island Destination following a thorough evaluation carried out by state public enterprise Segittur, attached to the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism.

The island has also received certification as a Biosphere destination, granted by the Institute for Responsible Tourism.



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Despite the pandemic, Tenerife has stepped up its work to position and differentiate the island as a tourist destination and highlights not just one but three milestones.

First, the presentation of the new tourism brand of the island and its new and ambitious marketing plan. Thanks to this, the island focuses on the experiences that travellers can enjoy at the destination based on its wide range of attractions, not just its climate, its beaches and its landscapes, but also its heritage, gastronomy, day- and night-time leisure options and its avant-garde cultural offers.

Together with the above, the island has taken a step forward in two areas that will shape the

Var Provence



Var Provence's nine ports are expecting to welcome around 30 cruise ships this season, carrying a combined 20,000 passengers.

This year has been described by Var Provence as one of 'gentle recovery' for cruising in the region, with the arrival of ClubMed's Club Med 2 at the ports of Bandol, Sanary and Saint-Tropez in July heralding a return to cruise operations locally.

In contrast, 150 calls are announced for 2022 – including several inaugural calls – with nearly 200,000 passengers expected.

Club Med 2's stopover on July 12 at Bandol port marks the first time a cruise vessel has called in Var Provence this year.

The 392-occupancy vessel carried 100 mainly French passengers.

France gave the go-ahead for domestic cruising to resume from June 30.

69 shopkeepers in Bandol and Sanary have agreed to sign the 'Cruise Friendly' quality charter, stipulating they will keep their stores open during cruise calls, provide a welcoming atmosphere for passengers, speak English and offer a special discount or gift upon any purchase.

A dedicated website – www.cruise-friendly.com – lists the Cruise Friendly establishments. Almost 800 merchants in Var Provence are signed up to the website, including in Saint-Raphael, Frejus, Cavalaire, Le Lavandou, Hyeres, Toulon, La-Seyne-sur-Mer, Sanary, Bandol and Le Castellet.

According to Var Provence, La Reunion and La Martinique, the ports of Yokohama and Sete are part of the network of Cruise Friendly destinations.

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Terminal Napoli



Terminal Napoli SpA, the company that manages the Naples Maritime Station, despite the pandemic year, is confirmed as a key player in the Mediterranean cruise scene and reference partner for the sector.

It claims to be the first cruise terminal in Italy to have obtained the Biosafety Trust Certification on the safety of management systems procedures to prevent and mitigate the spread of infections, including COVID-19.

The Naples Maritime Station, like the entire cruise sector, has guaranteed maximum safety

protocols and procedures for cruise ship passengers, visitors and operators.

The Maritime Station, in 2021, finally inaugurated the new 4-star 'Smart Hotel,' already 'sold out' to date.

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Port facilities & infrastructure

We asked MedCruise members, ports, and destinations if they were investing in new port/destination facilities and when they would be ready.

Port System Authority of Central Adriatic Sea - Ancona, Pesaro, Ortona

A new dedicated quay and berth on the external front of Clementino quay is expected to be approved by national and local authorities and delivered within a five year timeframe. It will enable larger cruise ships to be handled in Ancona port without entering the older historic part of the city, reducing ship movements and emissions whilst still being within walking distance of the city centre.

The new quay will have a 350mtr berth with at least 10mtr depth and a 28,000sq mtr area to accommodate a cruise ship up to 310mtr. The facility will be within walking distance to the Arch of Trajan – the most preminent Roman monument of Ancona. The terminal will cover an area of approximately 7,400sq mtr and, when fully operational, the estimated capacity at the Clementino quay will be 350,000-400,000 cruise passengers per year.

The terminal will be funded by the awarding cruise company from the design phase. Once the tender is published, interested parties will have 60 days for submitting any competing proposal, observations or objections. When fully operational, the estimated capacity at the Clementino quay will be 350,000- 400,000 cruise passengers per year. "This infrastructure will strengthen the role of the port of Ancona within the international cruise scenario- says Admiral Giovanni Pettorino, Special Commissioner of the Central Adriatic Ports Authority. The project, shared and pursued in synergy with local institutions, will foster the development of the cruise sector and the connected tourism in Marche region". **Guido Vettorel, vettorel@porto.ancona.it**

Barcelona

Barcelona Port Authority has awarded MSC Cruises a 31 year lease for the construction of a new dedicated cruise terminal building scheduled to open in 2024 at Adossat Quay.

Designed by well-known Barcelona-based architect, Ricardo Bofill, the three-level terminal will span 11,670 sq mtr at a cost of €33m.

In a joint announcement on the project, Barcelona Port Chairman Mercé Conesa and MSC Cruises Executive Chairman Pierfrancesco Vago stressed the environmental focus of the new building, as well as its economic impact for the port and city of Barcelona; it will provide links to the port's electrical network, allowing vessels to operate on a pollution-free basis during port calls.

'Barcelona is not only an important homeport for the cruises division, but also for the entire Group and its shipping business,' said Vago. 'As such, the new terminal is a further proof of MSC Group's longstanding commitment to the city of Barcelona.'

He went on to add, 'Perhaps most importantly, the new terminal will allow us to operate expanded homeport operations, resulting in added direct and indirect economic benefit for the city and the overall region... Homeport operations will also allow us to dedicate to Barcelona more of our new ships – including the LNG-powered MSC World Europa.'

Conesa noted the location of the new building, which will be the sixth terminal at Adossat Quay. It follows an agreement in January 2018 made between the port and Barcelona's municipal government allowing the relocation of all cruise operations from the north and south terminals near the city centre. **Mar Pérez, mar.perez@portdebarcelona.cat**



Rendering: Barcelona Port

Heraklion

During winter 2020/2021 Heraklion Port invested a significant amount in upgrading the amenities of the smaller passenger terminal which it used this year for check in / embarkation / disembarkation of cruise passengers. It also updated / enhanced its safety & hygiene protocols, according to the revised EU Healthy Gateways guidelines.

In the future, it is committed to continuing all its efforts towards developing quality and sustainable tourism and cruise business in Crete and the East Med, working closely with CLIA, Medcruise, GSTC and all cruise lines. **Kyriaki Kampana, kkampana@portheraklion.gr**

Port System Authority of the Ionian Sea - Taranto

The port of Taranto is part of the prestigious international network of Global Ports Holding, the world's largest independent cruise terminal operator, since April 2021. The new terminal operator, Taranto Cruise Port, launched the destination worldwide with the slogan 'a destination beyond your imagination'.

Terminal operations started on May 5th with the maiden call of the smart-ship MSC Seaside, which marked also the start of the summer cruise season in the Mediterranean.

For the first time ever, the port of Taranto will be serving as a homeport for MSC cruise passengers until November, providing key services in full cooperation with Taranto Cruise Port.

A brand new berthing point completely dedicated to cruise ship traffic will be available by spring 2022 as renovation works will be completed on Pier 1 East Side, facing the Old Town of Taranto. Meanwhile the newly adjusted Quay 1 will be operational again by the end of 2021, thereby increasing the competitiveness of cruise-related infrastructure of the port of Taranto.

Taranto offers a wide array of shore excursions to choose from, both in the city and the nearby area, ranging from cultural attractions to leisure activities. Known as the city of two seas, with its Old Town set on a small island linked to the land by two bridges, Taranto is an emerging destination, surprising more and more cruise travelers as one of the most culturally interesting cities in the Mediterranean, thanks to its thousand-year history.

One of the most memorable experiences is the environment-friendly dolphin watching tour, allowing cruise passengers to live the extraordinary emotion of knowing closely the dolphins and whales living in the Gulf of Taranto. The dolphin watching tour is provided by a local scientific research association, which aims at protecting the natural environment of dolphins and whales.

This summer 2021 passengers also have the chance to enjoy an exclusive day at the beach and relax on the sandy shores of the sun-kissed Salento coastline at only 25 km from Taranto, where fully equipped facilities provide excellent services. **Silvia Coppolino, silvia.coppolino@port.taranto.it**

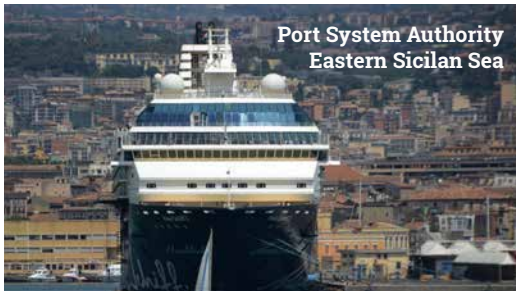


Port Network Authority of the Ionian Sea - Taranto

Port System Authority of Eastern Sicilian Sea - Catania, Augusta

The constant growth in the demand of cruise ship calls, already started in previous years and confirmed by the 2022 and 2023 schedules, has led the management of Catania Cruise Port to the design and future implementation of a brand-new cruise terminal on the Sporgente Centrale pier, with large spaces suitable to safely accommodate turnaround operations in compliance with the utmost updated Covid-19 protocols, and a new, more comfortable and appealing retail area.

Furthermore, the port has emphasised eco-sustainable activities embarking on: projects relating to the construction of its new cruise terminal, the use of recycled materials is envisaged, as well as the installation of solar panels aiming at the in-house production of electricity. **Ilaria Tomasi, tomasi@adspmaresiciliaorientale.it**



Port System Authority
Eastern Sicilian Sea



Port of Tarragona



Port of Valencia

Valencia

A tender is to be issued soon for the demolition of the former shipyard in Port of Valencia which will pave the way for the construction of a new passenger terminal and other related cruise infrastructure.

Valued at around €900,000, the work includes the demolition of some of the warehouses and other buildings on the site and the ramp of the north slipway, as well as the dismantling of most of the equipment and installations.

The work also includes the sale of reusable materials, such as bricks, tiles and metal, at an estimated value of more than €400,000.

Located between the Muelle de Poniente and the Muelle Perfecto Palacio in the area previously occupied by the Unión Naval de Valencia shipyard, it covers approximately 100,000sq mtr.

A water tank, the shipbuilding slipway, two cranes and part of building III – all over 100 years old – have been identified as of 'historic and artistic value' and will remain as part of the new project.

The new passenger terminal will serve cruise ships and regular services to the Balearic Islands and Algeria, as well as ro-ro traffic.

Baleària Group, partner of Global Ports Holding, has been awarded a 35-year concession to build and operate the new passenger facility, with the option of a 15-year extension.

GPH will operate and manage Valencia Cruise Port while Baleària will invest in the port infrastructure, to include two new terminals, ferry piers, car parking and retail, and F&B areas.

The terminal will be run using renewable energy including solar power and berths equipped with shore power facilities. 100% of the waste it generates (as well as waste from ships) will be recycled in a biomethane plant that will generate biogas. **Francesca Antonelli, fantonelli@valenciaport.com**

Tarragona

Cruise ships and large vessels will now have a new place to berth in Tarragona: the new Balears pier in the Port of Tarragona.

Construction of the pier began last year and could be ready to receive ships as early as September 2021. Its 700 linear metres of berthing and total surface area of four hectares means it will be able to accommodate up to four large cruise ships at a time.

The amount invested in the project was 27 million euros and construction of the dock took place over five phases. The fifth phase, now underway, involves construction of a reinforced concrete beam to ensure the wharf is correctly aligned; 200-tonne bollards will be installed on this to moor cruise ships.

The new quay will be up for tender for a concession of 10-12 years with the public tender process set to commence near the end of the year.

The pier is designed to be electric-powered when demand in the sector requires it.

The port recently expanded its 'Sustainability Plan – Agenda 2030' to combat climate change with the port slated to spend 1.5 million euros to reduce emissions, increase energy efficiency and reduce energy consumption by 44%. **Jordi Sendra, jordi.sendra@porttarragona.cat** / **cruiases@porttarragona.cat**

Valletta

Valletta Cruise Port is the homeport for Viking Cruises' Viking Venus and Viking Sea this summer sailing two different 11-day roundtrip itineraries - Malta & the Adriatic and Malta & Greek Isles for vaccinated guests.

Viking has partnered with Lufthansa to offer non-stop charter flights from the US' Newark Liberty International Airport to Malta International Airport.

The first direct flight from Newark to Malta took place on July 31. In June, the Maltese government eased rules for the arrival of international travellers, allowing fully vaccinated US travellers with CDC-approved COVID-19 Vaccination

During the pause in cruise operations, Valletta port worked on establishing its 'COVID-19 Cruise Operations Guidelines for a Safe Continuation of Cruising in Valletta' in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism, Malta Tourism Authority, Malta.

By year end it is estimated that Valletta will welcome over 90,000 passenger movements on around 100 calls.

Meanwhile work continues on Quays Pinto 4-5 in support of a €49.9m initiative spearheaded by Infrastructure Malta and Transport Malta to develop shore-side electricity infrastructure.

The first of this two-phased project includes a €37m investment to provide shore power on the five main cruise ship quays of the Grand Harbour by the end of 2023. **Stephen Xuereb, sxuereb@valletta.cruiseport.com**

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