

## \*\*\*\*SPECIAL NEWSLETTER\*\*\*

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# PASSENGERSHIPS CRUISING IN THE MEDITERRANEAN (2)

Pictures / Text : Piet Sinke ©

The Mediterranean is a popular area for cruising in Europe, a lot of cruise vessel are operating on several routes and visiting the most popular ports in Italy, Greece, Croatia, Spain and North Africa. You can find in the Mediterranean large cruise vessels for mass entertainment or smaller ones for more cozy cruising with less passengers onboard, but with a lot of attention of the staff onboard. The cruise season normally ends during November when the most of the vessels are shifting to the Caribbean until spring arrives again in Southern Europe.



fleet early 2003 and another newbuilding named **COSTA MEDITERRANEAN** is on his way to join the fleet during 2004.

One of the largest cruise operators in the Mediterranean is **COSTA CROCIERE**, at present this company, which is part of the US based **CARNIVAL** group, has two new ships under construction, in Genua at present the **COSTA FORTUNA** fitting out and will join the





The **COSTA FORTUNA** under construction at the Fincantieri yard in Genua during October 2002, this vessel is capable to handle 2720 passengers and will have a GRT of 105.000 tons, it will be the largest vessel of the **COSTA CROCIERE** fleet, the vessel is due to start cruising November 2003, the reported newbuilding price of this vessel is \$ 400 M.

The sistership of the **COSTA FORTUNA** will be the **COSTA MAGICA** which will be build by the same yard and is due to be delivered to COSTA during November 2004

At present also at the Kvaerner Masa yard in Finland the **COSTA MEDITERRANEA** is fitting out , this 86.000 GRT vessel ( newbuilding cost \$350 M ) will be delivered by the yard May 2003, She will depart from Genoa on her 8-day inaugural cruise on June 16, 2003, with ports of call in Spain, Morocco and Portugal. Throughout the 2003 summer season, from June 29 to October 26, **Costa Mediterranea** will be offering 7-day cruises bound for the Western Mediterranean calling at Naples, Palermo, Tunis, Palma de Majorca (Balearic Islands), Barcelona (Spain) and Marseilles (France).



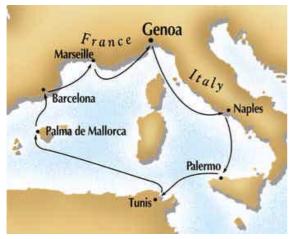
Also during October 2002, another 50.000 GRT newbuilding was fitting out at the T.Mariotti yard in Genua, this ship is called the SEVEN SEAS VOYAGER, and is under construction for Radisson Seven Seas, the newbuilding price of this vessel is unknown.

This ship will join the RSSC fleet in March 2003, this 700-guest vessel will offer inaugural cruises in

Western Europe and the Baltic. The **Voyager**, the world's second all balcony-suite vessel, will be a sister ship to, but not an identical twin of, the **Seven Seas Mariner**. The new vessel will have an exceptionally high space ratio, with every guest enjoying a minimum of 301 square feet of living space plus balcony. Four main

dining venues will be featured including the 110-seat Le Cordon Bleu-directed Signatures. The ship will also feature some of the more popular elements of the **Seven Seas Navigator's** celebrated design including ultra-spacious marble bathrooms with separate showers and full bathtub

The most Western Mediterranean cruises are departing from the **Port of Genua**, here are two terminals available for the passengersships, at the Stazione Maritima in the middle of the city, the handling agent for Costa is **Cambiaso & Risso**, which is based in Genua, and the Port Captain (Cruise department) for them is **Davide Musico** or **Sandro Costa** who always can be found at the Stazione Maritima when a **Costa** vessel is berthed, to assist the people who disembark from / or embark the vessels.



The most Eastern Mediterranean cruises commence at the port of Venice in the Adriatic.







Another special designed cruise vessel is the catamaran named RADISSON DIAMOND which is moored at the picture in the port of Nice, this vessel is constructed during 1992 by the Aker Finnyards in Finland The 20,000-ton RADISSON DIAMOND, combines small-ship intimacy with large-ship amenities to offer the ultimate cruise experience. Her inimitable profile owes to her twin-hull design (developed with advanced SWATH technology), which cuts down on pitch and roll movements and offers the stability

and spaciousness of a much larger vessel, while providing her 350 guests the intimacy and elegance of a private yacht. Life aboard is luxurious, civilized, and unhurried.



Another small passenger vessel which operates in the Mediterranean is the **SEADREAM 1**, which is at the photo below departing from the port of Monaco August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2002.



The **SEADREAM 1** was called until recently the **SEABOURNE GODDESS 1** and sailed for Cunard she was converted into the Luxury cruise yacht **SEADREAM 1** at the Lloyd Werft during May 2002. The ship can carry maximal 115 passengers, measures 104,8 mtr in length



Another new addition to the cruise fleet which was cruising during the summer season 2002 in the Mediterranean is the large Liberian flagged CONSTELLATION of Celebrity cruises. The vessel is the fourth and final Millennium-class superliner and departed May 15, 2002 from Barcelona on her maiden voyage.

The **CONSTELLATION** is powered by gas turbines and is equipped with a lot of private balconies for the passengers and outside elevators as can be seen at the pictures, at the pictures the vessel is departing from the port of Barcelona Friday October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2002.





Left: The CRYSTAL SYMPHONY a 5 star rated vessel moored in the port of Barcelona, This vessel is operated by Crystal Cruises, measures 237 mtr and is able to carry 1010 Passengers and was build during 1995.

Another oldie which is cruising is the SEAWIND CROWN, this vessel was build during 1961 at the Boelwerf Temse in Belgium (Yard number 814) started her life as the INFANTE DOM HENRIQUE in 1988 she was renamed VASCO DA GAMMA under which



name she sailed until 1996 when she was renamed **SEAWIND CROWN**. At the picture the vessel is moored at the **port of Barcelona** where the vessel is laid up since 09-20-2000 because of the Premier bankruptcy



As we talking about oldies, also the **ALBATROS** which was build during 1957 under de name **SYLVANIA**, during 1975 she was renamed in **FAIRWIND** under which name the vessel sailed until 1988 when she received the name **SITMAR FAIRWIND**, the same year she was renamed again in **DAWN PRINCESS** until 1993 when she got the name **ALBATROS** she is also one of the oldies and is still cruising around at the picture the vessel is moored at the port of Barcelona.



Left:
The COSTA
ALLEGRA
moored at the
Genua Stazione
Maritima
October 2002,
this vessel is a
sistership of the
COSTA
MARINA which
was mentioned
in Special no 1

The vessel was build during 1975 also as a container vessel named **ANNIE JOHNSON**, and was renamed during 1986 in **REGENT MOON**, 1988 in **ALEXANDRA** and finally purchased by Costa and rebuild into the passengerliner **COSTA ALLEGRA** and commissioned during 1992.



Left: The **COSTA ALLEGRA** moored in Barcelona

Photo: Stefan Roest ©

The compiler of this articles / shippingnewsletters together with son Alexander in front of the cruise terminal in Genua with in the background the COSTA VICTORIA and the MELODY.





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#### Technical details of the vessels mentioned above :

Name	built	built at	Length	Width	Draft	Passengers	Cabins
Costa Fortuna	2003	Fincantieri	272 mtr	35 mtr	8.2	2700	
Costa Mediterranea	2003	Kvaerner	292 mtr	32 mtr		2100	
Seven Seas Voyager	2002	Genua	221 mtr	31 mtr		700	350
<b>Radisson Diamond</b>	1992	Finnyards	131 mtr	32 mtr			
Seadream 1	1984	Wartsila	104 mtr	14 mtr	4.1 mtr	116	58
Constellation	2002	Chantiers Atl.	294 mtr			2450	
Crystal Symphony	1995	Kvaerner	238 mtr	30 mtr			
Seawind Crown	1961	Boelwef (Belgium	) 195 mtr	24 mtr	8.2 mtr	931	
Albatros	1957	John Brown	185 mtr	24 mtr	8.9 mtr	1100	470
Costa Allegra	1992	T.Mariotti	188 mtr	25 mtr	8.2 mtr	1066	405

Name	GRT	Speed	Power	Operator
Costa Fortuna	105.000 t	23 kn		Costa Crociere
Costa Mediterranea	86.000 t	24 kn		Costa Crociere
Seven Seas Voyager	49.000 t	20 kn		Radisson
<b>Radisson Diamond</b>	20.295 t		15.500 Hp	Radisson
Seadream 1	4.260 t			Seadream yacht Club
Constellation	91.000 t	24 kn		Celebrity cruises
<b>Crystal Symphony</b>	51.044			N.Y.K. Japan
Seawind Crown	24.568	21 kn	16.180 kW	Premier Cruises
Albatros	24.803		18.300 Kw	Phoenix Cruises
Costa Allegra	28.430		19.200 Kw	Costa Cruises

# **Pictures / Text : Piet Sinke ©**