



Tianjin International Cruise Terminal



The Costa Romantica

### ITALIAN CRUISE COMPANY INVESTS IN CHINA

The Italian travel group Costa Cruises inaugurated the new international cruise terminal in Tianjin on July 13 with the first port call of the *Costa Romantica*.

The *Costa Romantica* will call at Tianjin 10 times this year, joining her sister ship the *Costa Classica* and effectively doubling the number of Costa liners deployed in the Far East.

Costa Cruises says in 2006 it became the first international cruise company to enter the Chinese market. It has invested around 50 million euros in the region and quintupled its cruise capacity to 93 Chinese port calls in 2010, including Hong Kong, Singapore, Shanghai, Vietnam and South Korea. It expects to carry 120,000 passengers in Asia this year.

The new Tianjin terminal has a floor area of 59,000sq m and can handle up to 4000 cruisers and half a million passengers a year.

The company says it has two new liners on order from Fincantieri for delivery by 2012.

### SHIPBUILDER DELIVERS LANDING CRAFT TO BAHRAIN

Abu Dhabi Ship Building delivered the first of two 42m landing craft for the Royal Bahrain Naval Force on July 13.

The vessels are being built at its shipyard in Mustafa. They are designed to carry troops and vehicles in coastal waters and can be used for cargo transportation and beach landings. The second landing craft will be delivered late this year.

Abu Dhabi Ship Building was founded in 1996 and says it operates the most modern naval shipyard in the Arabian Gulf. Its client base includes navies, coast guards and other military, paramilitary and commercial vessel operators across the region.

### ARSONISTS STRIKE NEW CRUISE SHIP

French authorities say a series of suspicious fires aboard the new cruise ship *Norwegian Epic* were the result of arsonists.

The ship was at the STX Europe shipyard at St Nazaire on France's Atlantic coast when she was hit by three fires in four weeks, the authorities said on June 15.

The latest fire occurred while nearly 17,000 shipyard workers and their families looked over the ship during an open day following her completion. Hundreds were evacuated with no reports of injuries.

She was handed over to her owners, Norwegian Cruise Lines, on June 17, as scheduled. She set sail with about 4200 passengers on board on her maiden voyage from Southampton to New York on June 24, and arrived on July 1.

### NEW TERMINAL ATTRACTS CRUISE SHIPS

The new Dubai Cruise Terminal at Port Rashid is already helping to grow the emirate's tourism sector, says the Dubai Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing.

DTCM says it expects to host 120 cruise ships and over 325,000 passengers this year. There were 182,000 passengers from 82 cruise ship visits to Dubai in 2008, and 250,000 passengers from 100 visits in 2009.

The terminal, which opened on February 23, can accommodate up to four ships at a time. It spans 3450sq m and includes a bureaux de change, a post office, duty free and souvenir shops and a wi-fi business centre with free internet access.

Some of the ships to call in during the first three months were the *Silver Whisper*, the *Seabourn Odyssey*, *Brilliance of the Seas*, the *Costa Luminosa* and the *Ocean Princess*. The *Costa Deliziosa* carried 10,358 travellers on five voyages.

### SHIP HAS NAME CHANGE AFTER SPILL

The cargo ship behind one of Australia's worst environmental disasters has been given a new name. The *Pacific Adventurer* is now known as the *Pacific Mariner*. She is carrying cargo between New Zealand and the Middle East.

The ship, pounded by Cyclone Hamish on March 8, 2009, spilled 270 tonnes of fuel oil and 31 containers of ammonium nitrate into Moreton Bay. The oil washed up on Moreton Island beaches and along the Sunshine Coast.

"It is not uncommon in the shipping industry to rename a ship when she goes into dry dock before subsequently being redeployed," said a spokesman for her owners, Swire Shipping.

The *Pacific Adventurer's* captain at the time of the accident, Bernardino Santos, was due to reappear in a Brisbane court in July charged with one count of discharging oil into



The Pacific Mariner

Queensland waters, and company executives will hold talks with Premier Anna Bligh over compensation. The clean-up cost an estimated A\$34 million.

## NEW REGULATIONS STRESS SHIP SAFETY

New passenger ship regulations which came into effect on July 1 embrace the concept of the ship being "its own best lifeboat," says the International Maritime Organisation.

The amendments affect passenger ship regulations in the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS). They are designed to put more emphasis on reducing the chance of accidents and improving survivability, especially with larger passenger ships now being built.

The IMO, a specialised United Nations agency, began the review in 2000 and the amendments were adopted in 2006.

They include:

- providing safe areas and essential systems to be maintained while a ship proceeds to port after a casualty
- on-board safety centres
- fixed fire detection and alarm systems
- fire prevention, including enhancing the fire safety of atriums, and
- time for orderly evacuation and abandonment.

## EIGHT PLUCKED FROM BURNING SHIP

Eight crew members on the Taiwanese fishing vessel *Jiang Sheng 18*, which caught fire in the Straits of Malacca on July 15, were saved in the nick of time by a passing cruise ship.

The crew had been battling the fire for several hours until the *Star Virgo*, which was on her way from Singapore to Port Klang, came to their rescue.

The 56m fishing vessel was on her way back to Singapore after a fishing trip to Mauritius when she encountered engine problems.

The fire forced the captain to send a distress call to the Taipeh Rescue Centre in Taiwan, which directed two rescue vessels to the scene. The billowing smoke was visible for miles around. The *Star Virgo* arrived before the two rescue vessels.

The blaze was extinguished and the crew members were rescued and taken to Port Klang.

## CAPTAIN LOST OVERBOARD

Maersk Supply Service lost Captain Kim Gunnensen, aged 39, from the supply vessel *Maersk Responder* in the South China Sea. He was last seen on the bridge shortly before midnight on June 20. The next morning he did not show up for breakfast and was not found during a search. The ship was immediately turned around and the South Korean Coast Guard was also engaged, but there was no sign of Gunnensen.

## CLEAN-AIR RULES COULD HOBBLE CRUISE OPERATORS

New emission controls along the Canadian coast are threatening to restrict the number of visiting cruise ships.

Cruise ships operating within 200 miles of the Canadian coast are currently allowed to use fuel containing 1.5 to 2.5 percent sulphur. That is set to drop to one percent by 2012 and to 0.1 percent by 2015.

Betty MacMillan, speaking for the Saint John Port Authority, said the numbers were set in stone. "It is a large decrease," she said. The new regulations are expected to raise the cost of cruise ship operations in Canadian and United States waters. The two countries signed a joint agreement in March.

Fred Olsen Cruises, which lists Halifax as a destination, said switching to a cleaner fuel would cost the company an extra \$17,000 per day.

About 130 cruise ships are expected to dock in Halifax this summer, along with hundreds more in other Canadian ports on both coasts.

Industry members said the biggest problem was the lack of guarantees that the cleaner fuel would be affordable or readily available by 2012.

## SHIP FIRE GENERATES FIERCE HEAT

A fire touched off by a container explosion on the containership *Charlotte Maersk* on July 8 generated temperatures of 1000° Celsius before it was put out.

The captain reported a fire on the foredeck and the 21 crew immediately initiated fire-fighting procedures. Four tugs, two Malaysian Coast Guard vessels and numerous experts also provided assistance, said a spokesman for the Maersk Line. Three


The *Charlotte Maersk*



PHOTO: S. SCANPIX

tugs sprayed the hull to cool the surface.

Nothing has been revealed about the content of the containers. The ship was supposed to be "ferrying" containers, presumably empties, from Port Klang, Malaysia to Oman.

"Around 150 containers were opened and surgically (ie, one container at a time) extinguished," said a spokesman. 



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