

MSC SPLENDIDA'S FLOATING OUT CEREMONY

Saint-Nazaire, July 21st, 2008



A momentous floating out ceremony took place yesterday at the Aker Yards in St. Nazaire, France. At 06:45, accompanied by a fleet of eight tugboats in line with tradition, **MSC Splendida**, the newest addition to the **MSC Cruises** fleet, was floated out. At the end of the floating out ceremony (which lasted about 1 hour), this giant of the sea reached the dock approximately half a mile away, where she will remain until her construction has been completed.

MSC Splendida and sister ship **MSC Fantasia** are the two largest ships to be built by a European ship owner. Both will be **133,500** tonnes, **six** times as tall as the Tower of Pisa and equivalent to a **23** floor building. Each will have **1.637** cabins able to accommodate **3,274** passengers (on double basis) and **27,000** square metres of public areas including a theatre with seating for **1,649** plus the wellbeing centre - **AUREA SPA**, measuring **1,615** square metres. Additionally these ships will have **four** restaurants and **two** buffet areas, **four** pools, **12** hydro massage pools, Sports Bar, Jazz Bar, shops, casino, disco, **FORMULA 1** simulator, 4D interactive cinema, Squash Court and a **Children and Teenager's Area** of 400 square metres with a pool, waterslide and dedicated disco.

These two ships will herald a new era for cruises by introducing MSC Yacht Club, a **VIP area** with **99** elegant suites, dedicated butlers and communal spaces furnished to the highest standards. Whilst the countdown to **MSC Fantasia's** launch has already started (christening in Naples, **December 18th, 2008**), **MSC Splendida** will be christened in Barcelona during the summer of 2009.

*"The floating out ceremony for MSC Splendida confirms our commitment to increasing our fleet, and this is the fourth time we have visited Saint Nazaire in 2008", said **Pierfrancesco Vago, CEO for MSC Cruises**. MSC Splendida is the sister ship to MSC Fantasia which is joining the fleet in six months time. Then six months later her twin, MSC Splendida will also join the fleet. These two ships will be the most beautiful in the world. They are the first in the fleet to offer an exclusive VIP area, the MSC Yacht Club, plus an elegant wellbeing centre - the AUREA SPA. Both will be at the forefront of environmental protection, including an innovative water treatment process and energy efficient technology. MSC Splendida, just like her twin represents the fulfilment of a product that has a year round appeal, for example both ships will be equipped with an advanced system that allows the pool area to be used during the winter season too."*

*"Three MSC Crociere ships are currently under construction at Aker Yards, Saint-Nazaire. These vessels are the concrete expression of about 10 years of partnership between both our companies-added **Jacques Hardelay, Managing Director of Aker Yards France**. MSC Fantasia and MSC Splendida gather the state-of-the-art equipment in terms of technologies, aestheticism and environmental concerns. The men and women of Aker Yards are proud to build these ships which will fly the MSC Crociere flag aloft on the world's oceans".*

MSC Cruises currently has a fleet of nine ships: MSC Poesia third flagship of the "Musica" class, MSC Orchestra, MSC Musica, MSC Sinfonia, MSC Opera, MSC Armonia, MSC Lirica, MSC Melody, MSC Rhapsody, cruising in the Mediterranean all year round, Northern Europe, Atlantic Ocean, the Caribbean, South America, Indian Ocean and South Africa. In the fall of 2008 and spring of 2009, MSC Fantasia and MSC Splendida will be respectively launched. These will be the largest ships ever built by a European ship owner. Then in the fall of 2009, MSC Magnifica, the fourth ship in the "Musica class", will enter service. By end of 2009, MSC Crociere will have the most modern fleet in the world with a total of 12 vessels.

MSC Cruises

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