



The Cruise Olympia delivered to Minoan Lines

The biggest Cruise Ferry in the Mediterranean employed on the Ancona-Igoumenitsa-Patras route

Naples/Heraklion, 2nd of July 2010 – The “**Cruise Olympia**”, the last in a series of four innovative cruise ferries ordered by the Grimaldi Group (Naples) to Fincantieri, has been delivered last 30th of June from the Castellammare di Stabia’s shipyards.

After her delivery, the vessel sailed with destination the Greek port of Patras where she joined her twin “Cruise Europa”, deployed since October on the Ancona-Igoumenitsa-Patras route, operated by the Greek company Minoan Lines, member of the Grimaldi Group.

The unit is 225 metres long, 31 metres wide and has a gross tonnage of 54,310 tonnes. Her cargo capacity is 250 passenger cars and 3,000 linear metres of coaches, trucks, trailers, campers and caravans. With a cruise speed of 28 knots, the “**Cruise Olympia**” can carry 3,000 passengers in 413 cabins, 18 of which owner’s suites and 50 junior suites, in addition to 548 reclining seats (114 first-class seats).

The “**Cruise Olympia**”, together with her twin “Cruise Europa”, is the biggest cruise ferry deployed in the Mediterranean, boasting the same high standards of cruiseships, both regarding the furniture of public areas and cabins; the wide range of on board services includes an à la carte and a self service restaurant, wellness and fitness areas, swimming pool, gymnasium, casino, discoteque, two lounges for truck drivers, a conference hall and one for parties, shops, internet point and children’s playground.

The “**Cruise Olympia**” is certified “Green Star” by the Italian Shipping Register (RINA) as she is designed to fully respect the environment while saving energy.

“The delivery and deployment of the “**Cruise Olympia**” confirms the revolutionary vision of our Group with regards to the maritime links between Italy and Greece. The new unit, designed to offer the maximum comfort on board and respect the environment, has an unbeatable capacity for both passengers and freight, which will allow us to offer extremely competitive freight rates and tariffs”, affirms **Emanuele Grimaldi**, president of Minoan Lines.

The managing director of Minoan Lines **Antonis Maniadakis** added: “The **“Cruise Olympia”** shows the continuous commitment of Minoan Lines towards excellence, innovation and environmental respect. Her deployment, together with her twin "Cruise Europa" on the route between Ancona, Igoumenitsa and Patras, will bring not only benefits to tourism and trade but also to the economies of Italy and Greece”.

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The Grimaldi Group operates a fleet of more than 100 ships and is a world leading operator in the transport of cars and ro/ro cargo. Established in 1947, the Group is headquartered in Naples and has 8,000 employees. In 2009, it registered a turnover of € 2.1 billion and transported 2.5 million cars, 1.3 million trailers and TEUs and about 2.7 million passengers. In the passenger sector, the Group controls Finnlines, leader in ro/ro transport in the Baltic Sea and Minoan Lines, the Greek ferry operator leader in the Adriatic Sea and on the route between Piraeus and Crete.

Minoan Lines S.A. was founded in 1972. The shipping company is based in Heraklion and connects Italy and Greece on the routes Ancona – Igoumenitsa – Patras and Venice – Igoumenitsa – Corfu – Patras. Additionally, Minoan Lines serves the domestic route from Piraeus to Heraklion and is a member of the Grimaldi Group. Operating 6 modern High speed ferries, the Greek shipping company has one of the most sophisticated ferry fleets worldwide.