



MAIDEN CALLS IN DECEMBER 2000

Two cruise ships made their maiden calls to Singapore in December. They were the Renaissance Two and the Crown Odyssey.

Renaissance Two (R2)

Renaissance Two is part of the new series of Renaissance cruise ships (R1 to R8) owned by Renaissance Cruises USA. The R2 made her Maiden Voyage to Singapore on Wednesday, 6 Dec 2000. Commissioned in 1998, the 30,300 GT ship differs from the original series of ships as the new series can convey up to 684 passengers instead of 114. Built in France, R2 was in port for three days to turnaround two groups of American passengers. Each of the former series of also eight ships had also called at Singapore in the past. Mr Henry Tan, Executive Vice President, Logistics & International Business, PSA Corporation, was the guest-of-honour at a plaque presentation ceremony organised by the local port agent, BarWil Agencies. Capt Trond Baade, General Manager of BarWil Agencies, was also present at the event. Mr Tan presented a commemorative plaque to Capt Konstantinos Skourlis, to mark the Maiden Voyage of the R2 to Singapore. She will cruise in Asia this winter and make another two calls in January and February 2001. Her sister ship, the Renaissance One, is due to make her Maiden Voyage to Singapore on New Year's Day.

Crown Odyssey

The Crown Odyssey made her First Call to Singapore on Wednesday, 13 Dec 2000. The 34,250 GT cruise ship belongs to Orient Lines, another regular visitor to Singapore during the winter season. Though built in 1988, the Crown Odyssey was only refurbished in 1999 and still looks as elegant as ever. She can convey up to 1,050 passengers and replaces the Marco Polo in her Asian stint. Ms Kathleen Gan, Singapore Cruise Centre Manager, was the guest-of-honour at a plaque exchange ceremony organised by the local port agent, Inchcape Shipping Services. Mr Das Nair, its General Manager was also present at the ceremony held on board the ship. Capt Erik Bjurstedt, the Master of the Crown Odyssey, is no newcomer to Singapore and was delighted to come back to Singapore. He previously captained three other cruise ships which also called at Singapore - the Pearl of Scandinavia, Frontier Spirit and the Marco Polo. The Crown Odyssey will be calling Singapore again and drydock before sailing off in January.

In November, two other cruise ships made their maiden calls to Singapore - the Regal Princess and the Seven Seas Navigator.