



Classic International Cruises

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Announcement of New Line Voyage for Athena from Italy to Australia - November, 2012

Three maiden visits for CIC Australian Line Voyage

Classic International Cruises has announced and released for sale a line voyage on Athena in November, 2012, from Italy to Australia which will begin the line's ninth consecutive summer season in Australia.

The 36-night voyage, departing Rome on November 12, 2012, is the first cruise to go on sale for Athena's 2012/13 Australian season, full details of which will be released later this year.

The exotic itinerary features three new ports for a voyage between Europe and Australia for Classic International Cruises - Livorno in Italy (for trips to Pisa and Florence), Kotor in Montenegro and Split in Croatia.

Purpose built for ocean cruising when she served as a trans-Atlantic liner, Athena will also take passengers through the Suez Canal and to Dubrovnik in Croatia, Port Said in Egypt to see the pyramids, Aqaba in Jordan, Salalah in Oman, Penang and Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia and Singapore before arriving in Perth on December 18, 2012, for the traditional liner's annual summer season in Australia.

Classic International Cruises Managing Director, Grant Hunter, said the new voyage would appeal to Australians planning holidays in Europe in 2012, with a total of 25 days at sea for cruise lovers who love relaxing days on the ocean.

"A voyage aboard Athena is cruising as it was meant to be, with a sense of the ocean and all its mystery, adventure and nautical traditions, and that special personal touch often lacking in today's hectic age," Mr Hunter said. "Attentive, old-fashioned service and first-class cuisine are the hallmarks of the Classic Cruising experience."

In contrast to the rapid growth of ever-expanding resort-type superliners, with their rock climbing walls, flying foxes, skating rinks, rides, boxing rings and long queues, Classic International Cruises offers a return to what it calls the 'Classic Cruising Experience' where crew escort passengers to their cabins on embarkation and know their names throughout the cruise in an intimate, friendly and relaxed setting.

Carrying only 600 passengers, the classic-styled, 16,000-ton Athena features traditional wooden deck chairs, pool, fitness centre, five bars and lounges, casino, library, cinema and two restaurants. Athena has 276 spacious cabins and each boasts a bath – a luxury only found in suites on the latest superliners. The onboard currency is in Australian dollars.

Athena's 36-night voyage from Rome to Perth on November 12, 2012, is available from \$5795 per person, twin-share, in an inside cabin, \$6495 per person, twin-share, in an ocean-view cabin and \$10,995 per person, twin-share, in a balcony suite. Fares for solo passengers in selected cabins are just 25 per cent more than twin fares instead of double. A shorter 29-night sector from Rome to Singapore is also available from \$4675 per person, twin-share. Bookings and fly/cruise packages are available via travel agents. For general information, visit www.classicintcruises.com.

Media contact: Andrew Mevissen, Peak PR, 0431 883 057 or: andrew@peakpr.com.au