



Classic International Cruises

Media Release: June 30, 2009

A New Way to Enjoy the Margaret River Wine Region On a New Romantic Valentine's Cruise

Australia's Only Return Cruise from Perth to the Margaret River Wine Region

Australian wine lovers – in fact all lovers – are invited to jump aboard the only return cruise from Perth to the famous Margaret River wine region next February aboard Classic International Cruises' Australian liner, Athena.

And with domestic fares from the eastern states to Perth at record lows, the allure of fine wine and romance on the high seas is now more affordable and accessible than ever.

Athena's new four-night 'Sweethearts Sojourn' cruise sails from Fremantle in Perth on Valentine's Day, Sunday February 14, 2010, and will take a ship-load of romantics to Albany on WA's spectacular southern coastline and to Bunbury – the gateway to the world-famous Margaret River wine region – before Cupid fans return to Fremantle with ample samples of the area's acclaimed cabernets on Thursday, February 18, 2010.

From Bunbury, Athena passengers will be able to explore the Margaret River region via shore tours or hire cars, with the port being at the doorstep of more than 100 wineries as well as a smorgasbord of gourmet restaurants, art galleries, huge caves and unspoiled beaches and forests. The Mediterranean climate and rich soil provide ideal grape growing conditions, with the Margaret River region producing more than a quarter of Australia's premium wine.

The special Valentine's cruise aboard a balloon-festooned Athena will see passengers enjoy love-themed cocktails, seafood feasts, heart-shaped cakes and a free rose for every lady. And Athena's onboard chapel will also be available for weddings and renewal of vows ceremonies from just \$125.

All-inclusive fares for the four-night cruise from Perth start from **\$850** per person, twin-share while live-it-up romantics can indulge in one of Athena's 43 suites from **\$1235** per person, twin-share. All cabins on Athena offer a bath tub – a luxury only found in premium cabins on the world's latest liners.

Athena will be based in Western Australia and South Australia this summer, offering 16 cruises to Asia, Tasmania, along the Australian coastline and between Europe and Australia.

Athena is a traditional, mid-sized ocean liner offering attentive, old-fashioned service, fine cuisine, first-rate entertainment and value-for-money fares in an intimate and relaxed atmosphere with a warm camaraderie amongst passengers. The onboard currency is Australian dollars.

"By nature, cruising provides a very romantic holiday but this special Valentine's cruise to Margaret River will really provide the perfect ingredients for couples to enjoy a short break away together," said Classic International Cruises Managing Director Grant Hunter.

Bookings are available via travel agents. For general information on Classic International Cruises, visit www.classicintcruises.com.

Media contact: Andrew Mevissen, Peak PR, 0431 883 057 or amev@bigpond.net.au