



Construction Work Begins On Costa Smeralda, Costa Cruises' First Cruise Ship For Global Market Powered By LNG

September 13, 2017

The steel-cutting ceremony for the first of two Costa Cruises ships to be powered by liquefied natural gas (LNG), the world's cleanest burning fossil fuel, was held at Meyer shipyard in Turku, Finland.

Set to debut in October 2019, Costa Smeralda will be the world's first LNG-powered ship to be broadly marketed to consumers from multiple countries, including Italy, France, Spain, Germany and Switzerland.

The ship's name pays tribute to the Emerald Coast (or Costa Smeralda) in northern Sardinia in the Mediterranean, widely known as one of world's most beautiful and famous destinations and natural environments.

Turku, 13 September 2017 – Construction work began today on Costa Smeralda after her steel-cutting ceremony held at the Meyer shipyard in Turku, Finland. The new [Costa Cruises](#) ship will be the brand's first ship powered by **liquefied natural gas (LNG)** and the world's first cruise ship to be broadly marketed to consumers from multiple countries throughout Europe.

Construction of the Costa Smeralda is part of a strategic plan from Carnival Corporation & plc – the world's largest cruise company with 10 brands, including Costa Cruises – to build seven LNG-powered ships for its 103-ship fleet, starting in fall 2018 when the company's German-based AIDA Cruises brand introduces AIDAnova, which will be marketed largely to German consumers.

Costa Smeralda, which will enter service in October 2019, will exceed 180,000 gross tons and offer more than 2,600 passenger cabins for a total of about 6,600 passengers onboard. A second ship, sister to Costa Smeralda, will be delivered by Meyer Turku in 2021.

The two new Costa Cruises ships will be powered both in port and on the open sea by LNG, the world's cleanest burning fossil fuel. LNG will be stored in special tanks on board ships and will be used to generate 100 percent of the energy required for navigation and onboard services, thanks to dual-fuel hybrid engines. The use of LNG is a major innovation in terms of environmental impact, as it will significantly reduce exhaust gas emissions, in particular sulphur (SO₂), nitrogen (NO₂), CO₂ and particulate matter.

*"These ships will strengthen the leadership position for the Costa Group, which is already the market leader in all the major continental Europe markets," said **Michael Thamm**, CEO of the Costa Group and Carnival Asia. "The multibillion dollar contract with Meyer, which also includes two new LNG-powered ships to be built for our German brand, AIDA Cruises, reflects our strategy of constantly innovating our vacation offerings and providing our guests with an unmatched cruise experience."*

*"The two new Costa Cruises ships are a true global innovation and set new standards for the entire sector," added **Neil Palomba**, president of Costa Cruises. "They will be among the first cruise ships powered by LNG, spurring the development of this green technology, especially in the Mediterranean area, and they will be*

the world's first LNG-powered ships that will be marketed to consumers from multiple countries, including Italy, France, Spain, Germany and Switzerland. The new ships will also offer unique services and present a state-of-the-art interior design, serving as the perfect expression of our Italy's Finest concept, which is a distinguishing feature of the Costa Cruises brand around the world for providing guests with a truly immersive Italian experience."

"In the last two years, we have had a very intense design collaboration with our customer and the outcome is a really fresh and new design fused with the latest of technology. We are happy to bring our experience with building LNG powered passenger ships to bear. Today is a very special moment in shipbuilding, when all the ideas, creativity, technology and signature design that is going into Costa's new ships, are finally starting to become reality." – stated **Jan Meyer**, CEO of Meyer Turku.

Costa Smeralda will be offering cruises in Western Mediterranean, which will be on sale beginning the first few months of 2018. LNG bunkering will be provided by Shell Western LNG B.V. (Shell), as announced last year.

The two LNG Costa ships – as well as two new ships for AIDA Cruises – are part of a multibillion dollar contract signed with the two Meyer shipyards in Turku (Finland) and Papenburg (Germany). The contract with Meyer is the result of a larger previously announced memo of understanding between Carnival Corporation, the parent company of Costa Group, and leading shipbuilders Meyer Werft, Meyer Turku and Fincantieri S.p.A. for nine new ships between 2019 and 2022.

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