



Frecce Tricolori and Fireworks: Big Party in Trieste for the Naming of Costa Venezia

March 1, 2019

On Friday, March 1, the whole city will be involved in the celebrations for Costa Venezia, the first Costa ship built specifically for the Chinese market.

An unforgettable show for all the city's inhabitants and the 2,000 guests expected.

During the day Costa Cruises and Fondazione Banco Alimentare donated the food prepared, but not served, in the restaurants on board to two associations in the area that care for people in need.

Trieste, March 1st, 2019 – Today in **Trieste** there was the **naming ceremony of Costa Venezia**, the **first Costa Cruises ship designed specifically for the Chinese market**, built at the Fincantieri shipyard in Monfalcone. The celebration has been shared with the whole city, thanks to a collaboration with the **Municipality of Trieste**, the **Friuli Venezia Giulia Region** and the **Eastern Adriatic Sea Port Authority**.

The day began in a truly spectacular style with a fantastic display by the **Pattuglia Acrobatica Nazionale - "Frecce Tricolori"**, which renewed the strong bond of the Italian Air Force with the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region and Trieste. Starting at 3.30 pm, the famous Italian acrobatic team flew over the port of Trieste, where the ship Costa Venezia is anchored, making passages in tight formation, coloring the sky with white, red and green of the Italian flag. The President of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region and the Mayor of Trieste involved the Italian Air Force to allow citizens to admire the flight of the Frecce Tricolori, which will be visible from Piazza Unità d'Italia and from the city centre. At 4.30 p.m., the **Costa Venezia naming ceremony began** in the ship's Teatro Rosso and was displayed on the giant screen installed in Piazza Unità d'Italia. The ceremony followed the protocol set by maritime tradition, with the Italian national anthem being played, as the ship is registered in Italy, followed by the bell being delivered to the ship's Captain Giulio Valestra and installed on the bridge, and the ship being blessed by his excellency **Gianpaolo Crepaldi, Bishop of Trieste**. The ship was greeted by the **Italian Minister of Agricultural, Food, Forestry and Tourism Policies, Gian Marco Centinaio, Roberto Dipiazza**, Mayor of Trieste, **Massimiliano Fedriga**, President of the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia, the authorities of the Port of Trieste, **Michael Thamm**, Group CEO of Costa Group and Carnival Asia, **Giuseppe Bono**, CEO of Fincantieri, **Mario Zanetti**, President of Costa Group Asia.

The most exciting moment was the breaking of the bottle, during which the **godmother was the protagonist**: Gan Beiye and her family, **a big fans to Costa since the family started their first Costa Cruises journey in 2011**. They represent the ideal family for whom Costa Venezia is intended.

At 7.30 p.m., around 2,000 guests of Costa Venezia from China, South Korea, Japan and several other European countries, will attend an exclusive gala dinner, enjoying a menu inspired by the Italian chef **Umberto Bombana** of the three-star Michelin restaurant "8 ½ - Otto e Mezzo BOMBANA". From 9.00 p.m., at the Teatro Rosso, guests will attend the premiere of "Venezia Innamorata" show inspired by the love stories of Giacomo Casanova, which has been created specifically for Costa Venezia.

The first day of celebrations will end at midnight with an exciting **show of over 3,000 fireworks**, accompanied by music, which will last around 15 minutes. The fireworks will set off from three different places on the Molo Audace quayside.

The activities dedicated to Costa guests will last until March 3, when the ship will depart for its vernissage cruise to Greece and Croatia: on the day after the naming, in fact, the guests staying on board will be able to enjoy a discovery tour of Trieste and surrounding area offered by the Municipality of Trieste and the Friuli Venezia Giulia Tourism

Promotion Authority. On their return, there will be no lack of surprises: after dinner, the guests will be invited to attend the **Bulgari Fashion Show** and, following that, a performance by **Rondò Veneziano**, an Italo-Swiss musical ensemble who fuse Baroque music with the characteristic elements of pop and rock music.

The naming ceremony of Costa Venezia was also an opportunity to make Trieste the protagonist of the programme of Costa Crociere and Fondazione Banco Alimentare for the recovery and reuse for social purposes of surplus food produced on board of the ships of the fleet.

With the aim of sharing the happy occasion of the naming ceremony of the ship, in fact, the food prepared, but not served, in the restaurants on board was destined to two associations that, in the area, care for people in need: **Casa La Madre** and **Casa il Teresiano**, which give hospitality and assistance to people with fragility and socio-economic difficulties, at risk of social exclusion.

The program by Costa and Fondazione Banco Alimentare, launched in July 2017, has already allocated 100.000 portions of "ready-to-eat" food with a very high nutritional value. The cruise company, the first in the maritime sector, is committed to grow and to evolve the project at the same time as the expansion in many ports in Italy and around the World.

With a gross tonnage of in at 135,500 tons, 323 meters in length and a capacity for over 5,200 guests, Costa Venezia will be the biggest ship introduced by Costa to the Chinese market. It will offer a series of unprecedented innovations created specifically for Chinese customers, which will introduce guests to Italian culture, lifestyle and excellence, beginning with the interior, which is inspired by the city of Venice.

Costa Venezia's first cruise will depart from Trieste on March 3, 2019, heading for Greece and Croatia. On March 8, it will be back in Trieste for the departure of the inaugural cruise: an exceptional 53-day voyage following in the footsteps of Marco Polo, crossing the Mediterranean, the Middle East, Southeast Asia and East Asia, before arriving in Tokyo. The vernissage and inaugural cruises will be the only departures available to European and American guests to enjoy a vacation on the new ship. From May 18, 2019, Costa Venezia will in fact be dedicated exclusively to Chinese guests, offering cruises in Asia departing from Shanghai.

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