



Costa Cruises Completes Italy's First LNG Bunkering Operation

October 26, 2020

The LNG bunkering operation for Costa Smeralda was completed with support by Italian Coast Guard, Port Authority of Eastern Ligurian Sea, local authorities, Shell and Costa Group.

For Costa Group, which comprises Costa Cruises, Germany-based AIDA Cruises and Costa China, this was its 50th bunkering operation, marking another cruise industry milestone.

GENOA, Oct. 26, 2020 /PRNewswire/ -- [Costa Cruises](#), the leading cruise line in Europe and a part of [Carnival Corporation & plc](#) (NYSE/LSE: CCL; NYSE: CUK), the world's largest cruise company, today announced another milestone for **Costa Smeralda**, the line's first ship powered by **liquefied natural gas (LNG)**, with an LNG bunkering operation successfully performed on October 25 for the first time in Italy. Carried out in the port of **La Spezia** and completed at 6:00 pm, the operation was supported by the Italian Coast Guard, Port Authority of Eastern Ligurian Sea, local authorities and Shell, which is the LNG supplier partner for Costa Group and its parent company, Carnival Corporation.

The operation took place with the ship berthed at "Molo Garibaldi" pier, where the bunkering vessel Coral Methane was positioned alongside (bow to bow) Costa Smeralda, under the supervision of the Italian Coast Guard and in coordination with all parties involved and the crews of Costa Smeralda and Coral Methane.

"As part of our deep commitment to sustainability, we are proud to have our LNG-powered flagship Costa Smeralda mark this milestone for Italy and the port of La Spezia," said **Franco Porcellacchia**, vice president of sustainable innovation and infrastructure development for Costa Group. "Carnival Corporation and Costa were the first cruise operator to invest in sustainable innovation with LNG-powered ship technology and we continue to be committed to ensuring the highest environmental standards for a more sustainable future of cruising."

"With the LNG bunkering that took place in La Spezia, we also marked the 50th successful operation for a Costa Group ship," said **Tom Strang**, senior vice president of maritime affairs for Carnival Corporation. "This is another important milestone that we have achieved by working together with our partners, as we continue to demonstrate Carnival Corporation's commitment to sustainability and developing the most advanced fuel technologies available today. We are at the forefront of advancing LNG as a fuel source for the cruise industry and we are working to build an extensive, safe and reliable LNG infrastructure for cruise ships around the globe."

"The goal of our working group was to implement appropriate rules and procedures to ensure the highest safety standards, starting with navigation, environmental protection, fire prevention and workplace safety," said **Giovanni Stella**, captain of La Spezia Coast Guard. "Every prescription adopted was duly observed and we are particularly satisfied that the operation had a regular evolution. Thanks to this positive experience, we believe that other maritime authorities can implement the regulation we have defined in order to increase the LNG distribution infrastructure in Italian ports, as indicated by the Italian and European regulations."

"A very important milestone was reached for the first time in our country, once again right in the port of La Spezia," said **Carla Roncallo**, president of the Port Authority of Eastern Ligurian Sea. "I would like to thank in particular the La Spezia Coast Guard and the Maritime Directorate of Liguria, who together with Costa Cruises made this operation possible, always keeping safety at the first place."

Costa Smeralda is the first LNG-powered ship in the Costa Cruises fleet, and will be followed by Costa Toscana, the sister LNG ship scheduled to be delivered in late 2021. Another LNG ship, AIDAnova from AIDA Cruises, has been operating within the Costa Group fleet since 2018 and she will be followed by other two sister vessels by 2023.

As part of the overall Carnival Corporation fleet, a third LNG-powered ship, P&O Cruises UK's Iona, was recently delivered. LNG, the marine industry's most advanced fuel technology, significantly improves overall air emissions with the virtual elimination of sulfur dioxide emissions (zero emissions) and a 95% to 100% reduction in particulate matter. The use of LNG also significantly reduces emissions of nitrogen oxide and carbon dioxide by 85% and 20%, respectively.

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