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**PRESS**  
For Immediate Release

**August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1999**

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## ***STAR CRUISES TAKES DELIVERY OF SUPERSTAR VIRGO***

Star Cruises, "*The Leading Cruise Line in Asia-Pacific* " is pleased to announce that it has taken delivery of the brand new US\$380 million **SuperStar Virgo** on Monday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1999 from world-renowned German shipbuilders, Meyer Werft.

Whilst alongside at Eemshaven, **SuperStar Virgo** impressed more than 500 European travel trade agents and media personnel for three days from **July 31<sup>st</sup> – August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1999**. Star Cruises hosted familiarisation tours aboard the ship to enable them to have first-hand experience and knowledge of the megaship and its extensive facilities before she sets sail for Asia-Pacific.

At the hand-over ceremony attended by over a hundred invited guests from the shipping industry, media and financial community at 1800 hours on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, Dato' KT Lim, Chairman of Star Cruises said, "We are pleased to take over the **SuperStar Virgo** more than one month earlier than scheduled due to the excellent working relationship with Meyer Werft and the world-class experience of our newshipbuilding team ."

" We must also compliment the dynamism of our operations and marketing teams who were able to put the ship into service much earlier than expected," added Dato' Lim.

**SuperStar Virgo** will sail to **Alexandria, Egypt** for a one-day showcase to the Middle Eastern market, the first time in the history of the Middle East where a cruise vessel is specifically showcased. Then she will sail for **Mumbai (Bombay)**, where after a one-day showcase, her maiden one-week voyage to **Singapore** will commence on **Friday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 1999** calling at the **Maldives, Colombo and Langkawi**. She will arrive in **Singapore** on **Friday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, 1999** where she will replace **SuperStar Leo** in her year-round itineraries.

**SuperStar Virgo** at 76,800 GRT, 32m wide and 268m long is one of the most powerful cruise ships built in modern times at just under 59 megawatts of installed power, delivering a top speed exceeding 25 knots. She has 1000 cabins, 1300 crew and a passenger capacity of 2000.

She features a breath-taking 7-storey atrium, over 30 food and beverage outlets, entertainment and recreational facilities.

“The arrival of the much anticipated **SuperStar Virgo**, another world-class megaship means that Star Cruises can position two megaships in the key cruise hubs of Singapore and Hong Kong, covering Southeast Asia and North Asia. This will reinforce Star Cruises’ brand leadership in Asia-Pacific,” says Mr. Colin Au, the President and Chief Executive of Star Cruises.

“Having gained experience with the multiple award-winning twin-sister, the US\$360 million **SuperStar Leo**, we have spent a further US\$20 million on **SuperStar Virgo** which has more enhanced facilities and features. **SuperStar Virgo** is expected to surpass industry and passenger expectations,” he added.

Star Cruises, “*The Leading Cruise Line in Asia-Pacific*”, is one of the five largest cruise lines in the world. By 2005, Star Cruises will have a fleet of 12 vessels with

lower berth capacity of about 18,000 and an annual growth of 25% per year for the corresponding period.

Star Cruises has also one of the youngest and most modern cruise fleets in the world with the highest safety standards. Its ships are based throughout Asia-Pacific with Singapore, Port Klang, Phuket, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Taipei and Osaka/Kobe (early 2000) as ports of embarkation. Star Cruises' award-winning fleet has the best services afloat with the highest crew-to-passenger ratio reflecting the high standards of the hospitality industry in Asia-Pacific.

Star Cruises has offices in Asia (China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand); Australia (Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth), Europe (Austria, Germany, Sweden and United Kingdom) and the United States of America. New offices will be established in the Philippines and Korea by the end of this year.

Star Cruises' completely new web-site is at [www.starcruiises.com](http://www.starcruiises.com) which provides more information on the cruise line and the itineraries.

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For editorial please contact:

MALAYSIA

*Jane Poh*

*Vice President, Corporate Communications*

Tel : 603-309 2526

Fax : 603- 301 1479

e-mail : [sjpoh@starcruiises.com.my](mailto:sjpoh@starcruiises.com.my)

Port Klang, Malaysia