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**PRESS RELEASE**  
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**STAR CRUISES CHARTERS NEW SHIP – “ SUPERSTAR TAURUS”**  
**FOR JAPAN AND KOREA CRUISES**

Star Cruises, “*The Leading Cruise Line in Asia-Pacific*” is pleased to announce a 3-year charter of the former MS Leeward from Neptune Maritime Oyj, a listed company in Finland from whom Star Cruises purchased the **SuperStar Gemini** four years ago. The MS Leeward will be renamed **SuperStar Taurus** and commence cruise between **Japan and Korea in March 2000**.

“We originally intended to reposition **Star Pisces** from Hong Kong to Japan as the ‘path-finder’ vessel but due to the strong demand for cruises in Hong Kong, we have decided to position two ships in Hong Kong,” says Dato KT Lim, Chairman of Star Cruises. “**SuperStar Leo** and **Star Pisces** are attracting two different segment of cruise passengers – those that are price sensitive cruising with **Star Pisces** and those who are after a world-class product cruising with **SuperStar Leo**. Therefore we have decided to charter the **SuperStar Taurus** for the Japan/Korea market,” he added.

The 25,000 gross-tonne **SuperStar Taurus** entered service in 1992 and was rebuilt in 1995. She will undergo a multi-million dollar refit in December this year to restore her to an “as-new” basis prior to her start of service with Star Cruises. **SuperStar Taurus** measures 150m in length, 25m in width with a lower berth

capacity for 950 passengers. She has 10 decks, 475 cabins, three restaurants featuring Japanese, Chinese and western cuisines, numerous food and beverage outlets, a 500-seat showroom/discotheque, swimming pools (indoor and outdoor), whirlpools, a fitness centre, basketball court, sauna/steam rooms, massage and children's facilities.

**"SuperStar Taurus** will be well received by the Japanese market as the cabins are much larger. Of all the ships that I have inspected this year, **SuperStar Taurus'** young age, theme, ambience and lots of windows and light makes her the most exciting ship for the Japanese market," says Mr. Colin Au, President and Chief Executive of Star Cruises.

**Two relocation voyages** are planned – **Singapore to Hong Kong** calling at Ho Chi Minh City, Nha Trang, Danang and Sanya in **January 2000** and **Taipei (Keelung) to Japan** calling at Okinawa, Ningbo, Shanghai and Cheju in **early March 2000**. Star Cruises is evaluating the various homeports and itineraries in Japan and Korea and an announcement will be made by the end of November 1999.

**SuperStar Taurus** is the ninth vessel to join the modern and world-class Star Cruises fleet and Star Cruises offers cruise itineraries stretching the entire Asian coastline from Japan in the North to Singapore in the South. "We will be strengthening our exclusive arrangements with key tour operators in the region by providing more incentives to sell us solely," says Mr Colin Au, President & Chief Executive of Star Cruises.

"With **nine vessels** covering the entire **Asia-Pacific** region and our **year-round itineraries**, there is no reason why our travel partners should be distracted in selling cruises by other brands and waste valuable transaction time in explaining the differences between a better-than-world-class Star Cruises product compared to others who are positioning one vessel or vessels for part of the year."

“**SuperStar Taurus** will be redelivered to the owners in early 2003. By then we would have taken delivery of the 91,000-gross tonne **SuperStar Libra** and **SuperStar Scorpio** in 2001 and 2002 respectively. **SuperStar Taurus**’ itinerary will then be replaced with one of the four megaships which we have by then,” added Mr. Au.

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) or [www.starcruiises.com.my](http://www.starcruiises.com.my) which provides more information on the cruise line and the itineraries.

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