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**COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT**  
**For Immediate Release**

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**INTERNATIONAL**

**STAR CRUISES TO EXTEND AUSTRALIAN CRUISE PROGRAMME**  
**OF SUPERSTAR VIRGO**

Star Cruises, "*The Leading Cruise Line in Asia-Pacific*" is extending the Australian cruise program of its luxury cruise liner SuperStar Virgo following the success of the ship's relocation from Singapore to Perth, Western Australia.

SuperStar Virgo was scheduled to depart Fremantle on 25<sup>th</sup> May to return to Singapore but will now not leave Australian waters until mid July. Star Cruises will offer in the extended programme approximately 20 additional cruises from Fremantle, including two cruises to Australia's Top End which would incorporate Darwin, Australia's northern-most city.

Mr. Chong Chee-Tut, Star Cruises' Chief Operating Officer, said today that Star Cruises had been overwhelmed by the impact the ships' arrival in Australia had created, with some cruises sold out within 24 hours of their announcement. "We had hundreds of people who were disappointed that they weren't able to book on the shorter cruises out of Fremantle, in particular, but now they will have the opportunity," Mr Chong added.

Mr Chong said that with the onset of winter, SuperStar Virgo's new itineraries would involve cruises to the warmer northern waters to Broome, Ningaloo Reef, Exmouth and Darwin.

SuperStar Virgo and sister ship, SuperStar Leo, arrived in Australian waters on April 24, with the former being based in the Perth port of Fremantle and the latter in Sydney Harbour. They are the largest and among the most luxurious ships to have ever sailed into the ports of Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Fremantle, Adelaide, Cairns and Bunbury and have created a sensation wherever they have appeared.

Since their delivery from Europe in 1999 and 1998 respectively, the ships have become features on the skylines of Asia's two leading air-sea hubs, Singapore and Hong Kong and, from where they have operated into Malaysia, Thailand, China and Vietnam.

Mr Chong said that while the ships' redeployment to Australia had been a "prudent" option with the onset of SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) in Asia, the decision had so far proven to be highly successful.

"We have found that in these uncertain times, many Australians are holidaying at home rather than travel overseas and the Australian itineraries involving these luxurious ships appeal because they provide an international cruise experience and the security of departing from home ports without the cost of a long-haul flight," Mr Chong said.

### **ABOUT STAR CRUISES**

Star Cruises is the fourth largest cruise line in the world presently operating a combined fleet of 20 ships with over 26,000 lower berths, with cruises to destinations and islands in Asia-Pacific, North and South America, Hawaii, Caribbean, Alaska, Europe, Mediterranean, Bermuda and Antarctica under the Star Cruises, Norwegian Cruise Line, Orient Lines and Cruise Ferries brands. Star Cruises is represented in more than 20 locations worldwide with offices in Australia, New Zealand, China, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Norway, Philippines, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, United Kingdom and the United States of America.

For more information on Star Cruises and NCL, please visit [www.starcruses.com](http://www.starcruses.com) and [www.ncl.com](http://www.ncl.com)

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