



PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

7 January 2004
International

REUNION OF THE SUPERSTARS OF ASIA
SUPERSTAR LEO AND SUPERSTAR VIRGO BERTH IN SINGAPORE
7 JANUARY 2004

Star Cruises, *the Leading Cruise Line in Asia-Pacific* is pleased to announce the reunion of the **SuperStars of Asia** in Singapore on 7 January 2004. **SuperStar Leo** and **SuperStar Virgo**, the two largest sister-ships custom-built for cruising in Asia, will berth together at Singapore's HarbourFront Centre ("the Centre") today.

"It is the first time in almost four and a half years that our first two newbuilds, the Leo-class vessels, are reunited and the event is made more meaningful given that it is in Singapore, the first homeport for both ships", says Mr Chong Chee-Tut, Chief Operating Officer of Star Cruises.

SuperStar Leo will call at Singapore's HarbourFront Centre from Hong Kong enroute to Fremantle, Australia for a three-month seasonal deployment whilst **SuperStar Virgo** which has been homeported in Singapore since end-1999 returns to Singapore from Langkawi and Phuket on its scheduled 4-day/3-night cruise.

The reunion of the megaships is significant as Singapore was the first homeport for both **SuperStar Leo** and **SuperStar Virgo** when they commenced operations in Asia in 1998 and 1999 respectively.

SuperStar Leo will arrive at 1200 hrs for a 10-hour layover from Hong Kong with about 500 passengers from 15 nations such as Australia, Hong Kong, Canada, United States, United Kingdom, New Zealand, Portugal, Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia who will either be joining shore excursions or disembarking for extended stays in Singapore. **SuperStar Leo** will depart

for Australia at 2200 hrs with close to 700 passengers of which about 410 have flown into Singapore to join the ship. **SuperStar Virgo** is scheduled to arrive at 1900hrs from Phuket prior to departing for Malacca and Port Klang on the same day.

This rare and unique reunion not only presents a magnificent opportunity to catch these world-class sister-ships at the HarbourFront Centre but also highlights the capability of the Centre to accommodate two of the largest cruise ships in Asia-Pacific comfortably.

"The combined tonnage of 153,600 gross tonnes with a capacity of almost 4,000 passengers (lower berth) is believed to be the largest ever berthed at the HarbourFront Centre at any one time by a single cruise company", added Mr Chong.

Since **SuperStar Leo** was first homeported in 1998, the HarbourFront Centre has witnessed an expansion in size and facilities to cater to the growing number of calls by world-class cruise ships and the increasing number of cruise passengers.

"With the introduction of **SuperStar Leo** and thereafter **SuperStar Virgo** to Singapore, the number of cruise passengers in Singapore has increased substantially. From 1996 to 2002, Star Cruises' ships based in Singapore have registered more than 4 million passenger throughput", said Mr Chong.

SuperStar Leo's seasonal deployment to Australia with a stopover in the strategic cruise hub of Singapore is in line with Star Cruises' continuous commitment to offer more interesting and attractive cruise itineraries and experience to holiday makers.

Mr Oliver Chong, Director Cruise of Singapore Tourism Board added, " Singapore is an attractive destination for passengers and port for cruise ships. We look forward to working with Star Cruises to diversify cruise itineraries and attract more visitors to cruise out of Singapore."

Special programmes onboard **SuperStar Leo** have been planned for invited guests from the corporate sector, as well as trade and media associates in conjunction with the reunion.

ABOUT SUPERSTAR VIRGO AND SUPERSTAR LEO

SuperStar Leo and **SuperStar Virgo**, the Leo Class ships are the first newbuilds for the Star Cruises brand heralding Star Cruises entry into world-class cruising as an international cruise operator. Built at a total cost of approximately US\$700 million, the 76,800 gross tonne luxury cruise ships can carry up to a total capacity of 1,960 lower berths (passenger load) each. Both vessels offer a variety of wining, dining, and world-class entertainment options with more than 25 outlets; ensuring that all her passengers will be spoilt for options to choose from and to enjoy the ultimate cruise experience. This ranges from libraries to discos and from swimming pools to jogging tracks on deck. The sister-ships also offer a wide range of suites and staterooms to suit all tastes and budgets.

SuperStar Virgo is based in Singapore whilst her sister-ship, **SuperStar Leo** is based in Hong Kong. Both ships are ideal not only for individual and family holidays but also offer corporations a refreshing and unique venue option for their activities and meetings.



Asia's largest floating resorts

ABOUT STAR CRUISES

Star Cruises, the third largest cruise line in the world is a global cruise brand presently operating a combined fleet of 19 ships with over 24,000 lower berths, with cruises to destinations and islands in Asia-Pacific, North and South America, Hawaii, Caribbean, Alaska, Europe, Mediterranean, Bermuda and the Antarctica under the Star Cruises, Norwegian Cruise Line, Orient Lines and Cruise Ferries brands.

The *Pride of America* - the first of the two Project America vessels - is presently under completion at the Lloyd Werft shipyard in Germany. The 81,000-grt and 2,100 lower berth vessel is expected to commence Hawaii inter-island cruising in July 2004 with a "*Best of America*" theme. The second Project America vessel, which is currently sailing as Norwegian Sky will be renamed *Pride of Aloha* and will reflect a strong Hawaiian theme which will be accomplished after a refurbishment in September 2004. Both ships will sail under NCL's new US-flag brand - *NCL America*sm.

Star Cruises is represented in more than 20 locations worldwide with offices in Australia, China, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and the United States of America. For more information on Star Cruises and NCL, please visit www.starcruises.com and www.ncl.com

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