



Press Conference

Paris Boat Show 5 December 2006

First of all I wish to thank “Toulon Provence Méditerranée” for inviting us at the 2nd Press Conference of the four Ports hosting “*TALL SHIPS’ RACES 2007 MED*”.

The first Press Conference took place on October 10th in our city, Genoa, on the occasion of the “46th Genoa International Boat Show”.

Genoa will be the Port of arrival of all the race. The final prize-giving of the two races, Alicante/Barcelona and Toulon/Genoa, will take place in Genoa.

For this reason we want the four days of stay in our city, and especially Sunday, July 29th (date of the official prize-giving) to remain in the memory of participants and public.

In the lovely environment of Porto Antico, re-designed by the Architect Renzo Piano, where the vessels will be moored, the youngsters will be able to compete in sporting competitions (football, basket, handball, swimming, rugby and boat races), while, in the evening, there will be films, shows and discoteque at dead of night.

All the crews will be able to take part to the big parade through the streets of the city, together with the historical dress procession, that intends to reconstruct the return of Willian Embriaco from the Holy Land after the First Crusade (XIth century).

We also wish to remind you that in Porto Antico it will be possible to visit the Aquarium, the second in Europe.

Our project of big and small events from the Arena del Mare to the town’s squares, will allow everyone to discover not only Porto Antico, but also our Historic Centre, the biggest in Europe, and all the city.

The welcome to the Big Vessels has been possible, as usual, thanks to the collaboration of the Institutions, the Ligurian Region, the Province of Genoa, the Town Council and thanks to the main sponsor, MSC CROCIERE. And it's exactly on a MSC ship that a party is foreseen for the "afterguard".

The Mayor will welcome the vessels' Captains at Palazzo Tursi, seat of the Town Council, along the Genoese Via Aurea, where there is the famous Museum Centre.

The great gala dinner for the vessels' Captains, hosts and Authorities will take place in the hall of the Major Council of Palazzo Ducale – once seat of the Doges, where important shows of international value are held, and in 2001 seat of the G8. The evening will finish with an amusing show of young girls, now successful theatre actresses, some years ago constant participants of Tall Ships races.

Genoa, already European Capital of Culture in 2004, with its "*Le strade Nuove ed il Sistema dei Rolli*", today is *Unesco Universal Patrimony*.

Many nobiliary residences of our town (some forty) have been recognized of such value to be able to host visits of high authorities and kings. The owners of these residences open to the public in order to let private people discover precious sixteenth/seventeenth-century fragments.

In any case, our Region, Liguria, has other Unesco acknowledgments (and I believe it is the only Region to have three Unesco acknowledgments) besides the "Rolli", the "Park of the Cinque Terre" and the "Beigua Park". These are all natural sights we would like to offer the crews, by organizing excursions all around.

Genoa, city of art, and *Liguria*, land of environmental excellences to be discovered, invite you to the great feast that will take place from 28 to 31 July 2007 for TALL SHIPS' RACES 2007 MED.