



MSC CROCIERE BRINGS THE "TALL SHIPS" BACK TO GENOA THE RACE OF THE BIGGEST VESSELS IN THE WORLD

**MSC CROCIERE IS THE MAIN SPONSOR OF THE EVENT THAT ONCE MORE WILL
FINISH THE RACE UNDER THE LIGHTHOUSE IN JULY 2007**

Genoa, May 11th, 2006

MSC Crociere will be the main sponsor of the **Tall Ship's Races Mediterranean**, the races of the Big Vessels (ex Cutty Sark), that are organized on the occasion of the America's Cup, to be held in **2007 in Valencia**.

The event foresees a series of races in the Mediterranean and will touch the ports of Alicante, Barcelona, Toulon and then finish in Genoa, where the vessels stay from **28 to 31 July 2007**.

Dozens of vessels will be hosted at **Porto Antico di Genova**, from Molo Vecchio to Ponte dei Mille, and there will be side events, parades and entertainments to enliven the area. There will be the sea giants, some more than hundred metres long and others of smaller dimensions.

The vessels are all to be discovered by visits and dinners organized on board and the crews will organize activities in line with their origin and tradition. There will also be an historical parade with side events and shows, always regarding sea.

In this way, **MSC Crociere**, already sponsor of **Shosholoza** and co-sponsor of **Alinghi** at the 32nd America's Cup, wants to confirm its innate seafaring tradition, by carrying on promoting the values of sea through this historic and prestigious event.

"Our company" declared **Franco Zuccarino, Managing Director of "Le Navi"**, the maritime agency of MSC Group, "has an innate vocation for everything that is linked to sea, its history and its tradition. Our ships plough courses and touch ports in all the globe, and it is an honour and reason of pride for us to be able to offer Genoa, home port of our cruises, the possibility of hosting one of the most prestigious events of traditional sailing in the world".

"MSC Crociere" added **Leonardo Massa, Italian Commercial Manager**, "is very sensitive to everything regarding the sporting world, especially nautical. We believe that there is a guiding thread that can join a growing company such as MSC Crociere, that in 2009 will count up on **12 units**, among which the two biggest ships ever commissioned by an European shipowner, and the world of sport: the possibility of improving through a correct competition, with firmness and devotion, high concentration, spirit of group and great talent".

The Tall Ships' Race, created in 1956 and organized by the English association "Sail Training International", aims to promote sailing among the youngsters of the whole world. The crews are coming from the North Sea, the Baltic and the Indian Ocean, and half of the sailors is between 15 and 25 years old.

*MSC Crociere has a fleet of eight ships: **MSC Musica**, the new flagship, **MSC Sinfonia**, **MSC Opera**, **MSC Armonia**, **MSC Lirica**, **MSC Melody**, **MSC Rhapsody**, and proposes itineraries in the Mediterranean all the year round, in North Europe, Atlantic, the Caribbeans, South America and South Africa. MSC Crociere fleet will arrive to have 11 units within 2009; in 2007 **MSC Orchestra** will be launched, and in spring 2008 **MSC Poesia**, the third ship of the class "Music". In autumn 2008 and in spring 2009 respectively **MSC Fantasia** and **MSC Serenat**, the two biggest ships ever built by a European shipowner, will be launched. MSC Crociere is co-sponsor of Alinghi in the 32nd America's Cup, to be disputed in Valencia in June 2007.*

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