

TALL SHIPS RACES' 2007

Organised by Sail Training International

THE TALL SHIPS ARE RETURNING GENOA ARRIVAL PORT OF THE BIG MASTS VESSELS

Today, on board of MSC Musica, there has been a press conference with **MSC Crociere** together with **Sail Training Association Italia (STA-I)**, to officially present **Tall Ships' Races 2007 Mediterranea**. The race of the "big masts vessels" will take place from 4 to 31 July 2007 and will touch the ports of Alicante, Barcelona and Toulon, to finish in Genoa with a great feast. Present at this appointment, besides the **highest representatives of the local institutions** and the **MSC Crociere management** (main sponsor of the event), **Matteo Bruzzo**, President STA-I, **Antonio Cairo**, President of the TS 2007 Organizing Committee, and the **delegates of the four hosting ports**.

"The Tall Ships, the most spectacular vessels in the marine story, are at last coming back to Genoa. This is the second time that the "big masts vessels" will be sailing the Mare Nostrum, after opening the Mediterranean route in 1996. So we feel proud to be able to count on the presence of 12 class A vessels, an exceptional fleet, that we only saw on the occasion of the start of the 1992 Columbus Race" this is how Matteo Bruzzo introduced the event.

"It will be an international event that involves the four ports, and particularly the 2000 members of the crews, in a kermess of celebrations and parades characterized by the love for sea and passion for sailing"- confirms the President of STA-I -; "Genoa will be theatre of parades, sports tournaments, shows and many cultural initiatives, organized thanks also to the help of the local Institutions and of MSC Crociere. In any case the real protagonists of these Tall Ships will be their crews – their composition is for the 50% of youngsters of age between 16 and 25 from all over the world – that, thanks to the initiative and mission of the Sail Training International – the Italian filiation is STA-I – will be able to live the emotion of sailing on some of the most beautiful sail training vessels in the world, but mostly to know the world and share experiences of life, care and respect of the fundamental values that sea inspire".

Since 1956, when **Bernard Morgan**, passionate of sailing and vessels, gathered **21 vessels in a race from Torbay to Lisbon**, the vessels adherent to STI – Sail Training International - go sailing in the northern seas, in the Atlantic and recently in the Mediterranean, offering the youngsters of age between 16 and 25 an original school of sailing and life, in the passion for sea and the reciprocal collaboration and socialization. In 2006, **on the occasion of the 50th anniversary**, a memorial race from Torbay to Lisbon was organized, which had the patronage of Prince Philip of Edinburgh.

It is exactly for its activities in encouraging friendship among the youngsters through a sailing school, that STI has been proposed for the prize "**Nobel for peace**", traditionally assigned to the person or association that has "done the most and best work for the friendship in people". The Association, founded by Bernard Morgan, has gradually spread all over the world in such a way that in many countries national STA have originated, similar associations, independent but affiliated to STI, linked together by the common educational purposes and the exchange of embarkation programmes.

In Italy, **STA-I** was founded jointly by the **Italian Navy**, always present in the Tall Ships world with its sail training vessels, and **Yacht Club Italiano**. The statute was signed on 16 July 1996 on board of Amerigo Vespucci by the Head of the Italian Navy, Admiral Angelo Mariani, and by the President at that time of Yacht Club Italiano, Giovanni Novi.

The Tall Ships' Races 2007 Mediterranea is the regatta of the great vessels that will take place next July from Alicante to Genoa. Organized by STA-I (Sail Training Association – Italia, founded in 1966 by the Italian Navy and by Yacht Club Italiano), the event has as protagonists the big masts vessels of the sail training associations of different countries. The best European vessels will start from Alicante towards Barcelona and Toulon to arrive at last in Genoa. MSC Crociere will be main sponsor of the Tall Ships' Races 2007 Mediterranea.

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