



Press release

Grimaldi Lines: 40 per cent of passengers travel in a group

New route between Livorno – Valencia / Cruising flair between Rome and Barcelona

Naples, XX.07.2010 – In 2009 Grimaldi Lines welcomed a total of 550.700 guests on board its lines in the western Mediterranean. 40 per cent of the passengers were travelling in a group and more than three quarters of those were on a coach trip. In view of these figures the Italian shipping company is optimistic about this year's RDA workshop. Its portfolio for the season ahead is very tempting: the ferry route Livorno – Valencia launched in 2010 offers a new travel alternative towards central and southern Spain. Anyone looking for cruising flair will find it between Rome/Civitavecchia and Barcelona. Two cruise-ferries have been plying this route since 2008. Mario Canello, Grimaldi Lines' sales representative for the German-speaking market, will be available to answer questions from professionals at the RDA Workshop on the VFF joint stand in Hall 10.1, Stand R14.

In addition to Spain, Grimaldi Lines also sails from north Italian ports to Sardinia, Sicily, Tunisia and Malta. Holiday-makers can begin their ferry journeys to their chosen destination from Rome/Civitavecchia, Livorno and Salerno near Naples. Canello is enthusiastic about the new Livorno – Valencia route, "Livorno is just a day's journey from Germany. So compared with an overland coach trip the main attractions of the new line are time savings and greater relaxation before the holiday starts." Canello also has the following explanation for the success of the Rome/Civitavecchia – Barcelona route, "The line isn't so popular just because the destinations are attractive. The cruise-ship flair on board makes the journey into the reward."

Grimaldi Lines deploys the Cruise Roma and the Cruise Barcelona, the most modern ferries in the Mediterranean, between Rome and Barcelona. They have all the comforts of a cruise ship, such as a spa area, casino and conference centre. The garages have 3,000 sq m of space for freight and vehicles and can carry up to 2,300 passengers. These capacities enable flexible pricing, and groups of 20 people upwards enjoy special rates at Grimaldi Lines: the 21st guest travels for free, as does the coach driver. Other concessions, including free travel for the group leader and the coach, can be arranged on request.

The Italian shipping company Grimaldi Lines was established in Naples in 1954. Its ferry business includes operating 14 routes in the western Mediterranean with six ships. Civitavecchia, the port of Rome, and Livorno are linked to Barcelona and now a ferry also sails from Livorno to Valencia. From Rome/Civitavecchia there are additional crossings to Porto Torres in Sardinia, Catania and Trapani in Sicily, Tunis in Tunisia and Malta. Further connections exist between Salerno and Tunis, Palermo and Tunis, Trapani and Tunis and Salerno – Palermo. The Grimaldi Group specialises in RoRo and RoPax ships, car-transporters and ferries. Its sphere of operations stretches from the North Atlantic to the eastern Mediterranean. The company is also the majority owner of Finnlines and the main shareholder in Minoan Lines. The whole Group currently has more than 7,000 staff.

Contact for coach and group travel at the RDA Workshop:

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The Grimaldi Group operates a fleet of more than 100 ships and is a world leading operator in the transport of cars and ro/ro cargo. Established in 1947, the Group is headquartered in Naples and has 8,000 employees. In 2010, it registered a turnover of € 2.2 billion and transported about 2.8 million cars, 1.4 million trailers and TEUs and more than 2.7 million passengers. In the passenger sector, the Group controls Finnlines, leader in ro/ro transport in the Baltic Sea and Minoan Lines, the Greek ferry operator leader in the Adriatic Sea and on the route between Piraeus and Crete.