

Can anyone identified this Blue Star ship seen on this recent stamp issued last year by Pitcairn Is?



New 'Cruise Liners' stamps issue by MaltaPost

On the occasion of the arrival in Malta of the **RMS QUEEN ELIZABETH 2** on her last voyage towards Dubai, MaltaPost p.l.c. Philatelic Bureau issued a set of four stamps in the maritime series, entitled 'Cruise liners' on Nov. 18, 2008.

The departure of the **QUEEN ELIZABETH 2** from Southampton on November 11 marks the end of an era which had the last of the great ocean liners sail through the Mediterranean and the Suez Canal en route to her final resting place in Dubai. From November 27, Cunard's longest-serving liner and flagship became a floating "hotel, retail and entertainment destination" at the Palm Jumeirah, the enormous palm-shaped artificial island currently being developed as a complex of tourist hotels and apartments, also by Dubai World from 2009.

The stamps, designed in-house by Daniel Mangani, have a face value of Euro 0.63, Euro 1.16, Euro 1.40 and Euro 3.00. The stamps reproduce four world class liners that regularly visit Valletta Grand Harbour. The liners are **MSC MUSICA**, **VOYAGER OF THE SEAS**, **WESTERDAM**, and obviously the **QUEEN ELIZABETH 2**.

Additional information on this and other issues is available on the MaltaPost website www.maltapost.com.

Source: <http://gozonews.com/item/new-cruise-liners-stamp-issue-by-maltapost/>

MSC MUSICA
(passenger)
Malta # (2008) 0.63€
2006 – Cie Musica
Bail, Panama; Aker
Yards (former
Chantiers de
l'Atlantique yard), St
Nazaire, France
(yard No.Q32); Gt.
92,409, nt. 65,640,
dwt. 10,000; 293.80m
x 32.30m x 7.85m
(draught); five
Wärtsilä W16V38B
diesels, 35,000 kW
(47.554 hp.), twin
screws, 23 kn;
accommodation for
2,550 passengers,
crew 987. 13 Decks.

Built as a cruise vessel under by Aker Yards (former Chantiers de l'Atlantique yard), St Nazaire, France for Cie Musica Bail, Panama, her keel was laid down in May 2004 as **L'ATLANTIQUE**. But in November that year, her name was changed to **MSC MUSICA**. She was completed on June 15, 2006 and delivered on June 19, 2006 to



Compania Naviera SA, Panama, managed by Mediterranean Shipping Co., Genoa, Italy.

She sailed from St Nazaire bound for Venice, Italy, where she was christened by the famous Italian film star, Sophia Loren, on June 29, 2006.

She is used in worldwide cruising and in 2009 listed with the same owner and manager. She has two sister ships, the **MSC ORCHETRA**

and **MSC POESIA**.

Source: Bureau Veritas, Miramar, http://www.faktaomfartyg.se/msc_musica_2006.htm; Gibraltar Post; *Lloyd's* 2006-07; A. Palmhof; D. Rodlie.

(Malta Cruise Ships, continued on page 50)