



Holland America Line Names Captain Emiel de Vries Master of New *ms Koningsdam*

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2,650-guest ship to be delivered in April 2016

SEATTLE, May 20, 2015 /PRNewswire/ -- When Holland America Line's *ms Koningsdam* sets sail in April 2016, Captain Emiel de Vries will be in command. Having been with the company since 1997, de Vries rose through the ranks from fourth officer to captain and has been master of *ms Amsterdam*, *ms Eurodam*, *ms Nieuw Amsterdam*, *ms Rotterdam* and *ms Zuiderdam*.

De Vries currently lives near Venice, Italy, to be close to the Fincantieri shipyard where *ms Koningsdam* is being built. He has been involved with the newbuild project since 2014 and participated in the functional design of the navigation bridge — his "office" when he is onboard.

"With his knowledge, experience and dedication, Captain de Vries is the perfect choice to be at the helm when we introduce *Koningsdam* to the world," said Orlando Ashford, president of Holland America Line. "Captain de Vries' leadership and graciousness with both guests and crew will contribute greatly to the success of our new ship."

Hailing from the Netherlands, de Vries grew up just east of Amsterdam. He graduated from the Hogere Zeevaart School in Amsterdam, one of the oldest nautical schools in the world, with degrees in navigation and engineering. De Vries was introduced to Holland America Line in 1995 when he interned as a cadet on the former *ms Noordam*, and since joining the company, he has sailed on every class of Holland America Line's ships.

"It is an honor to be named the first captain of the new *Koningsdam*, and I know bringing out the ship will be one of the highlights of my career," said de Vries. "Being at the shipyard has enabled me to gain detailed insight into many areas of the ship, and I look forward to welcoming the first guests on board during the inaugural season."

When not in Italy at the shipyard, de Vries lives in Barrie, Ontario, Canada, with his wife, Susan, and their daughter.

About *ms Koningsdam*

When *Koningsdam* sets sail on its Premier Voyage April 8, 2016, the vessel will debut several innovative concepts and new public venues while still featuring popular amenities guests associate with Holland America Line.

Guests will have the opportunity to enjoy fine dining in several alternative restaurants including Sel de Mer, a new French seafood brasserie; a new immersive farm-to-table dinner experience in the Culinary Arts Center presented by *Food & Wine* magazine; a re-designed casual Lido Market with themed serving stations; a stunning main dining room; and favorites such as Pinnacle Grill, Canaletto Italian restaurant and pan-Asian Tamarind. The ship also will feature Holland America Line's first purpose-built staterooms for families as well as single staterooms among its 1,331 guest accommodations.

Onboard entertainment will be taken to a new level with the energetic Music Walk area featuring all genres of music showcased in venues including Lincoln Center Stage offering chamber music nightly; Billboard Onboard where live musicians rock the crowd with chart-topping hits; and the popular B.B. King's Blues Club in the Queen's Lounge bringing the best of Memphis music to sea. World Stage brings 270-degree LED projection to the main showroom, enabling new concepts for showtime performances and immersing the audience in a panorama of sight and sound.

For more information about Holland America Line, consult a travel professional, call 1-877-SAIL HAL (877-724-5425) or visit hollandamerica.com.

Editor's note: Photos are available at: <https://www.cruiseimagelibrary.com/c/alf3ij5r>.

Find Holland America Line on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and the [Holland America Blog](#). Access all social media outlets via the [Online Communities](#) quick link on the home page at hollandamerica.com.

About Holland America Line [a division of Carnival Corporation and plc (NYSE: CCL and CUK)]

Holland America Line's fleet of 15 ships offers more than 500 cruises to 415 ports in 98 countries, territories or dependencies. One- to 110-day itineraries visit all seven continents and highlights include Antarctica, South America, Australia/New Zealand and Asia voyages; four annual Grand Voyages; and popular sailings to ports in the Caribbean, Alaska, Mexico, Canada/New England, Europe and Panama Canal. The line currently has a new 2,650-guest ship, *ms Koningsdam*, on order for delivery in February 2016 from Fincantieri shipyard, as well as a second Pinnacle class ship due for delivery in November 2018.

Fleetwide, the company features Signature of Excellence enhancements, a commitment totaling more than \$500 million, that showcase the Culinary Arts Center presented by Food & Wine magazine — a state-of-the-art onboard show kitchen where more than 60 celebrated guest chefs and culinary experts provide cooking demonstrations and classes — Explorations Café powered by The New York Times, Digital Workshop powered by Windows, teens-only activity areas and all new stateroom amenities highlighted by flat-panel TVs and plush Euro-top Mariner's Dream Beds.

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