



## **New Partnership Between Costa Cruises And Neos: 90,000 Seats On Flights From Italy Joining Cruises In The Caribbean, Dubai And Northern Europe**

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*Thanks to a 3-year agreement, Costa's cruisers departing from Italy will have an allocation of about 90,000 seats on special charter flights operated by the airline Neos. There will be departures from Milan Malpensa, Rome Fiumicino, Verona, Bologna and Catania with new services for Costa's guests offering them more comfort, quality and flexibility.*

Genova - October 28, 2015 - Costa Cruises, a global ambassador for Italian style and excellence for the past 67 years, and Neos, the Italian airline which is part of the leading Italian tourism company Gruppo Alpitour, have announced a new **3-year agreement**, by virtue of which Costa's cruisers departing from Italy will be able to travel on special flights operated by Neos taking them to their ports of embarkation for cruises in the Caribbean, Dubai and Northern Europe.

Under the deal, there will be a total of approximately **90,000 seats on Neos flights** exclusively set aside for Costa Cruises during the three year-period 2016-2018. This partnership is further confirmation of the growth on the Italian market of fly+cruise packages, which Costa Cruises introduced to the world back in 1968.

The Neos-Costa Cruises flights will connect the airports of Milan Malpensa, Verona, Bologna, Rome Fiumicino and Catania to highly sought after destinations like Guadeloupe Pointe-à-Pitre for winter getaway cruises in the Caribbean, Warnemunde-Rostock and Stockholm for summer cruises in the Baltic Sea and the Norwegian fjords, and Dubai for winter cruises in the UAE and Oman. Under the terms of the agreement it will also be possible over the next three years to add other Italian cities to the list of those offering the fly+cruise option.

*"The new agreement with Neos, an Italian partner we've been working with for some years now, marks the continued expansion of Costa Cruises' fly&cruise formula, which is designed to truly meet the demands of our customers," said Costa Cruises President Neil Palomba. "It is confirmation of our great commitment and determination to offer excellent quality service epitomizing 'Italy's finest', meaning innovation, style, comfort and attention to detail."*

Neos Ceo Carlo Stradiotti stated: *"For many years we've been partnering Costa Cruises and this new 3-year deal is a ground-breaking agreement between two companies who share the main aim of continuing to support and improve Italian tourism. Our objective is to make Costa's customers feel that they're already on vacation as soon as they get to the airport, by offering them the best in terms of service, quality and comfort."*

The goal of the agreement between Neos and Costa Cruises is to satisfy customers' needs so effectively as to exceed their expectations. Guests will be looked after by staff who are there specially to help them long before they actually board the cruise ship. They will enjoy significant advantages in terms of schedules, flexibility and above all quality and comfort, the idea being to minimize the waiting and procedures needed to board and disembark and maximize the time spent enjoying the cruise holiday.

Costa cruisers will be able to drop off their suitcases at the airport and not have to worry about them again, with delivery direct to their cabins on board ship. At Warnemunde-Rostock Airport the service will be even more innovative and make the trip home practically effortless: on the eve of disembarkation, cruise guests will be able to drop off their luggage and pick up their boarding passes for the return flight on board the ship!

On long haul flights, in addition to Economy seating, there will also be places available in Premium class with bigger

seats, in-flight entertainment on individual iPads where you can choose your own films, music and games, and quality dining with a selection of traditional Italian dishes.

The Neos fleet consists of 3 Boeing 767s and 6 Boeing 737s. Neos has ordered 3 new Boeing 787 "Dreamliner", thus confirming its reputation for innovation and efficiency distinguishing the company since its debut in 2001. Neos has always been committed to achieve high levels of efficiency and quality, in-flight and on the ground. Renowned as one of the best airlines in Europe for the quality of its services, Neos strong point is represented by attention to the smallest details. Spaces on board have been renovated with a modern, essential design. An innovative Board-Connect system was introduced recently: guests can use their own smartphone or tablet and the airline will stream content such as videos, music, magazines and games directly to the device. To access this service, simply download the app before departure.