



## Senior Staff Officers Bring a Combined 95 Years of Service to Holland America Line's New Koningsdam

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*Cruise line reveals newbuild's hotel director, staff captain, chief engineer and SEH officer*  
Seattle, Wash., Nov. 5, 2015 — When Holland America Line's *ms Koningsdam* debuts in April 2016, the ship's senior staff officers will set sail with a combined 95 years of company loyalty and experience. In addition to the previously announced appointment of Captain Emiel de Vries, the cruise line announced that Hotel Director Stan Kuppens, Chief Engineer Willem Zuidema, Staff Captain Kevin Beirnaert and Safety, Environmental and Health Officer Martijn van Dam will lead *Koningsdam's* shipboard teams.

The 99,500-ton ship currently is under construction at Fincantieri's shipyard at Marghera, Italy. During its inaugural year *Koningsdam* will explore the Mediterranean and northern Europe in summer and the Caribbean in winter.

"Holland America Line has an incredible depth of talented and qualified personnel, and we're thrilled to have Stan, Willem, Kevin and Martijn joining Captain de Vries to head up the onboard teams that will bring out *Koningsdam*," said Orlando Ashford, Holland America Line's president. "With their knowledge, experience and years of dedication to the company, these senior staff officers are well positioned to ensure that the ship is a successful addition to our fleet."

### Meet Captain Emiel de Vries

Announced previously, Captain Emiel de Vries will be in command when Holland America Line's *ms Koningsdam* sets sail in April 2016. 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*. 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 ship.

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

### Meet Hotel Director Stan Kuppens

Since joining Holland America Line in 1990, Hotel Director Stan Kuppens has sailed on 12 current ships and four that are no longer with the fleet. In addition to *ms Koningsdam*, Kuppens was the hotel director who launched *ms Nieuw Amsterdam*, *ms Eurodam*, *ms Noordam* and *ms Westerdam*, the four ships most recently built for the cruise line. He also has worked on *ms Amsterdam*, *ms Maasdam*, *ms Oosterdam*, *ms Rotterdam*, *ms Ryndam*, *ms Statendam*, *ms Zaandam* and *ms Zuiderdam*.

A native of Nijmegen, Netherlands, Kuppens enjoyed sailing on the rivers and lakes of the Netherlands as a child and he looked for a career that combined his love of travel and his appreciation for hospitality. After graduating from the University of Hotel Management, he came to work for Holland America Line and was selected to be a part of the prestigious Management Trainee Program — a multiyear course that provides training in all aspects of a marine Hotel Department, eventually leading to the hotel director position. He currently lives in Seattle, Washington, with his wife and son.

### Meet Staff Captain Kevin Beirnaert

*Koningsdam's* Staff Captain Kevin Beirnaert joined Holland America Line in 2006 and worked on *Rotterdam*, *Nieuw Amsterdam* and *Eurodam* prior to being named to the newbuild team.

Hailing from Gent, Belgium, Beirnaert studied at the Hogere Zeevaart school in Antwerp, Belgium, and worked for freight company Ecuadorian Line and on dredging ships in Dubai, U.A.E. on the Palm Jumeirah Project before joining Holland America Line. Beirnaert resides in Las Vegas, Nevada.

### **Meet Chief Engineer Willem Zuidema**

Chief Engineer Willem Zuidema joined Holland America Line in 1991 aboard ss *Rotterdam* after sailing on cargo ships with Nedlloyd. During his career with the company he has served on several ships and was involved in the building of *Ryndam* and *Rotterdam*. Prior to being named to the *Koningsdam* team he was chief engineer on *Oosterdam*.

A graduate of Marine Engineering College in Rotterdam, Netherlands, the Dutch native from The Hague began his seagoing career as a dual-purpose officer (both deck and engine) before committing to the engineering side of ship operations. Zuidema also holds a Master of Arts degree in international development. He and his wife live in Atibaia, Brazil, and when on leave he is involved in several educational projects in that country.

### **Meet Safety, Environmental and Health Officer Martijn van Dam**

Growing up in Aalsmeer, Netherlands, as the fifth generation in a family of shipbuilders, Safety, Environmental and Health Officer Martijn van Dam sought his career at sea when he was 18 years old.

A graduate of Hogere Zeevaart School Amsterdam with degrees in navigation and engineering, van Dam joined Holland America Line in 2000 on the previous *Nieuw Amsterdam* in the engineering department and has since worked in several capacities on almost all the ships in the fleet. He has also served as a safety and environmental trainer for the fleet.

When he's not onboard, van Dam lives in a small village at Costa Blanca, Spain, where he is restoring an old farm.

### **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 redesigned 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 and 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 show lounge, enabling new concepts for show-time performances and immersing the audience in panoramic visual and sound effects.

For more information about *ms Koningsdam* and Holland America Line, consult a travel professional, call 1-877-SAIL HAL ([877-724-5425](tel:877-724-5425)) or visit [hollandamerica.com](http://hollandamerica.com).

**Editor's note:** Photos are available at <https://www.cruiseimagelibrary.com/c/Oramr2rv>.

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](http://hollandamerica.com).

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

Holland America Line's fleet of 13 ships offers more than 500 cruises to more than 400 ports in 98 countries, territories or dependencies around the world. From shorter getaways to 115-day itineraries, the company's cruises visit all seven continents with highlights including Antarctica explorations, South America circumnavigations, exotic Australia/New Zealand and Asia voyages; four annual Grand Voyages; and popular sailings to the Caribbean, Alaska, Mexico, Canada/New England, Bermuda, Europe and the Panama Canal. The line currently has a new 2,650-guest ship, *ms Koningsdam*, on order for delivery in April 2016, as well as a second Pinnacle Class ship due for delivery in November 2018.

The company recently announced \$300 million in brand enhancements to secure its position at the leader in premium cruising. Fleetwide, the ships feature innovative initiatives and a diverse range of enriching experiences focused on destination immersion and personalized travel. Guests can expand their knowledge onboard at the Culinary Arts Center presented by Food & Wine magazine, Explorations Café powered by The New York Times and Digital Workshops powered by Windows. Outstanding entertainment fills each evening at venues including Lincoln Center Stage, Billboard Onboard and B.B. King's Blues Clubs. The dining experience can be savored at a variety of restaurants with menus that feature selections from Holland America Line's esteemed Culinary Council that comprises world-famous chefs who design dishes exclusively for our guests.

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