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Seabourn's newest cruise ship christened 'Ovation' in the Grand Harbour

On Friday 11th May, the Grand Harbour in Valletta hosted the christening of Seabourn's newest addition to their fleet, the Ovation.

The Ovation is Seabourn's fifth ultra-luxury cruise liner, with one of the world's most preeminent designers, Mr. Adam D. Tihany, taking care of the design and layout of the boat, focusing on providing the guests with novelty and intrigue at every corner.

The Seabourn Ovation entered the Grand Harbour in the early morning of Friday 11th May, at around the break of dawn, in preparation of the christening and celebration which took place later on in the day.

Elaine Paige, the world famous singer and actress, will be serving as godmother to the Seabourn Ovation and therefore also led the christening ceremony, which had a lit Valletta as a spectacular backdrop for the occasion. Numerous VIPs invited by Seabourn were also in attendance.

The Executive Chairman for the Malta Tourism Authority, Dr. Gavin Gulia, said that a company of this stature choosing to carry out the christening ceremony for its latest, and possibly more luxurious ship, is a sign of Malta's progression in the cruise industry as well as in the tourism industry in general. Dr Gulia continued by saying that in 2017 the Maltese Islands saw a significant increase in cruise traffic, with the total figure amounting to over 670,000 passengers for the year, which was an increase of over 7%, when compared to 2016.

Dr. Gulia concluded by thanking Mifsud Brothers Ltd (MBL), the agency representing Seabourn in Malta, for making the christening ceremony possible.

The Minister for Tourism, Dr. Konrad Mizzi, stated that the cruise liner industry is a growing one for the Maltese Islands. In fact, increases have been registered on an annual basis since 2013, with the figure in 2017 being 55% higher than the one in 2013.

Dr. Mizzi continued by saying that Malta has grown in reputation in this industry. Thanks to greater connectivity, the Maltese Islands are acting as a hub for cruise passengers with more visitors flying to the islands to commence their cruise holiday.

Dr. Mizzi concluded by saying that in many instances, tourists visiting Malta for the first time by means of a cruise will later return to explore the island.

Inawgurazzjoni tal-aħħar investiment mal-flotta tas-Seabourn, l-‘Ovation’, fil-Port il-Kbir il-Belt

Nhar il-Ġimgħa, 11 ta’ Mejju, fil-Port il-Kbir il-Belt Valletta, saret l-inawgurazzjoni tal-aħħar investiment mal-flotta tas-Seabourn, l-‘Ovation’.

Ovation huwa l-ħames cruise-liner ultra-lussuż, li internament huwa ddisinjat minn Adam D. Tihani, wieħed mill-ikbar disinjaturi tal-mument. Għal dan il-proġett, huwa ffoka fuq l-element ta’ sorpriża u t-tqanqil ta’ kurżita’ għall-mistiedna ma’ kull rokna tal-vapur.

Is-Seabourn Ovation daħal fil-Port il-Kbir kmieni l- Ġimgħa filgħodu, bi preparazzjoni għat-tnedija u ċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet li saru tul il-jum tal-Ġimgħa.

Elaine Paige, kantanta u attriċi famuża, serviet ta’ parrina għas-Seabourn Ovation u allura assistiet għat-tnedija, li kienet ikkaratterizzata minn veduti mill-isbaħ tal-Belt Valletta fl-isfond. Numru ta’ mistednin distinti attendew għal din l-inawgurazzjoni.

Iċ-chairman eżekuttiv tal-Awtorita’ Maltija għat-Turiżmu, Dr Gavin Gulia, qal li l-fatt li kumpanija ta’ din il-kalibru għazlet li twettaq iċ-ċerimonja tal-inawgurazzjoni f’Malta tfisser progress fl-industrija tal-cruiseliners f’pajjiżna, flimkien ma’ progress fl-industrija b’mod generali. Dr Gulia qal li fl-2017, il-gzejjer Maltin raw żieda sinnifikanti fl-ammont ta’ traffiku gġenerat minn cruie lines, bl-ammont totali jammonta għal aktar minn 670,000 passigġier, li kienet tfisser żieda ta’ 7% meta mqabbel mal-2016.

Dr Gulia kkonkluda billi rringrazzja lil Mifsud Brothers Ltd (MBL), l-aġenzija li tirrappreżenta lil Seabourn f’Malta, u li għamlet l-inawgurazzjoni possibbli.

Il-Ministru responsabbli mit-turiżmu, Dr. Konrad Mizzi, qal li l-industrija tal-cruise liners qed tikber fil-gzejjer Maltin. Infatti, kien hemm żidiet kull sena mill-2013 sas-sena li għaddiet, bl-2017 immarka żieda ta’ 55% fuq l-2013.

Dr. Mizzi zied jgħid li Malta qed trawwem reputazzjoni tajba f’din l-industrija. Grazi għal aktar konnettività, il-gzejjer Maltin qed ikunu ċentru għall-passigġieri tal-cruie liners, b’aktar vizitaturi jiġu bl-ajru lejn il-gzejjer Maltin biex jibdwew il-cruise tagħhom.

Dr. Mizzi ikkonkluda billi qal li f’ħafna istanzi, turisti li jiġu Malta għall-ewwel darba permezz ta’ cruise, jiġu lura biex jesploraw aktar il-pajjiż.