

## Baltimore Sun

### Celebrity Century to sail winter cruises from Baltimore

by Michelle Deal-Zimmerman

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Whoa, the Port of Baltimore is really starting to pack them in and stack them up. And I'm not talking about container ships. I'm talking about cruise ships. The Maryland Port Administration announced today that the Celebrity Century will sail 10 winter cruises from Baltimore beginning in November 2011. It will replace its sister ship Celebrity Mercury, which as many of you know, has struggled this year with serious bouts of norovirus that have sickened hundreds of passengers. Still, the Mercury will return later this year for a second season of winter cruising to the Bahamas and Caribbean.

Celebrity Cruise Line's Century began sailing in 1995, but underwent a \$55 million renovation about five years ago and was re-launched in 2006. It's a 71,545 ton vessel - similar in size to the Mercury - with 10 decks and room for 1,814 passengers. The refurbishment included stateroom upgrades including the addition of more suites, a new specialty restaurant and upgrades to the spa and fitness center.

The Century has been sailing cruises from Miami recently and this summer heads to Europe this spring to offer 12-night Mediterranean cruises. If you hurry, you can catch the 12-night repositioning cruise to Barcelona departing from Miami on May 20.

## Baltimore To Get A New Cruise Ship

May 16, 2010

Tim Williams BALTIMORE (WJZ) — If you are tired of hitting the road on vacation, one cruise line is about to offer more trips from Baltimore. Celebrity has announced a new ship will come to Maryland for winter cruises starting in 2011. As Tim Williams reports, travelers welcome the savings and convenience.

The cruise business in and out of Baltimore is already booming but leaders of the port looked beyond the windows of the World Trade Center and found more business.

"We're very excited to welcome the Celebrity Century cruise ship to Baltimore beginning next year in fall and winter of 2011," said Richard Scher, Spokesman, MD Port Administration.

Celebrity, along with Carnival, Norwegian and Royal Caribbean now serve Baltimore.

"We started looking at the date that we wanted to go and unfortunately the best available cruise was out of the Port of New York," said Garrett Marsh and Leandra Wilder.

An additional Celebrity ship in Baltimore is welcome news to travelers like Marsh and Wilder, who are from Owings Mills.

"Those are the Carnival ports of call," Marsh said.

Their party of 12 is just back from a cruise out of the Port of New York. Add the \$1,500 expense to transport passengers and luggage, and the Port of Baltimore would have been a favorable option.

"I would be more inclined to leave out of Baltimore. The cruise line wouldn't be more important than the money we would save sailing out of Baltimore," Marsh said.

"Still want it to be fun, though," Wilder said.

The Celebrity Mercury is a refurbished ship and will travel to the Caribbean and Bahamas. It will contribute to the states' projected \$90 million windfall from the cruise ship industry.

A record 167,000 passengers embarked in 2009 alone. The port's constant growth is no accident.

"Whether you're coming from right inside Maryland, DC, Virginia, Delaware, Jersey, Pennsylvania--which we attract folks from all over those states--getting on and off 95 to the cruise terminal is easy," Scher said.

By November 2011, there will be 113 cruises considering Baltimore home port, up from 29 just a few years ago.

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### **Dundalk Eagle**

Port Welcomes new Cruise Ship

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The Port of Baltimore will host the new Celebrity Century in 2011 when the cruise ship comes to Maryland for a series of 10 winter cruises. The cruises, which set sail from November 2011 to March 2012, will offer trips to the Caribbean and Bahamas.

The Celebrity Century, which replaces the Celebrity Mercury ship in Baltimore, began sailing in 1995. After extensive refurbishments, including renovations to the staterooms, spa and fitness center, the ship was re-launched in 2006.

Other additions include 314 new verandas, the most ever added to an existing ship, as well as the Murano specialty restaurant.

The Port of Baltimore expects to offer 91 homeport cruises onboard Carnival, Royal Caribbean and Celebrity cruise ships this year. In addition to the Celebrity Century, the Carnival Pride will sail to the Caribbean and Bahamas. Royal Caribbean will offer cruises to New England, Canada, Bermuda, the Caribbean and the Bahamas on their ship, the Enchantment of the Seas. These cruises will bring approximately \$90 million into Maryland in 2010.

According to the Maryland Port Authority, a record 167,000 passengers sailed from the Port of Baltimore last year.