

BALTIMORE SUN

Royal Caribbean ship returning to Baltimore next year
Grandeur of the Seas is undergoing a \$48 million renovation
By Steve Kilar, The Baltimore Sun
8:23 PM EDT, May 15, 2012

Royal Caribbean International will bring the newly renovated Grandeur of the Seas cruise ship back to Baltimore next year, officials said Tuesday.

The ship, which is undergoing a \$48 million modernization, will replace another cruise vessel early in 2013, according to a statement from the Maryland Port Administration.

The refurbished ship will have new dining options, a new nursery and technology upgrades, including ship-wide wireless Internet service, the port administration said. It will sail year-round from Baltimore to the Bahamas, the Caribbean and Bermuda.

Grandeur of the Seas' first trip, to Bermuda, is scheduled for May 3, 2013.

Enchantment of the Seas, which will be replaced by the renovated ship, will continue to sail from Baltimore until April 2013.

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Royal Caribbean bringing renovated ship back to Baltimore
Baltimore Business Journal
Date: Wednesday, May 16, 2012, 7:13am EDT
(this article picked up by cruise-addicts.com)

Royal Caribbean International is bringing its Grandeur of the Seas ship to Baltimore for year-round voyages in Spring 2013 following a \$48 million makeover of the vessel.

The cruise ship was previously in Baltimore from 2004 to 2009 and is undergoing renovations. It was replaced by the Enchantment of the Seas, which will leave the Port of Baltimore once the Grandeur returns.

CRUISEINDUSTRYNEWS.COM

Governor O'Malley on Royal Caribbean Maryland Deployment
Tuesday, 15 May 2012

Governor Martin O'Malley today praised Royal Caribbean International's decision to bring the newly renovated Grandeur of the Seas back to the Port of Baltimore in 2013. The ship is currently undergoing a \$48 million

revitalization that will include many of the company's most innovative features that are available on its two largest class ships.

The changes will include new dining options and entertainment venues, renovated staterooms and technological upgrades. In returning to Baltimore, the Grandeur of the Seas will offer year-round cruises to the Bahamas, Bermuda, Caribbean, and New England/Canada and replace the Port's current Royal Caribbean cruise ship Enchantment of the Seas.

"A revitalized Grandeur of the Seas is a valuable asset and Royal Caribbean's decision to place that asset in Baltimore demonstrates the confidence it has in the Baltimore cruise market," said Governor O'Malley. "Sitting in the heart of the fourth largest consumer market in the nation, Baltimore, with its excellent cruise facility and great hospitality, has become a favorite of cruise customers throughout the mid-Atlantic and beyond. We look forward to welcoming the new and improved Grandeur of the Seas back to the Port of Baltimore next year."

The Grandeur of the Seas is the third of Royal Caribbean's Vision-class ships to undergo massive renovations. It will offer passengers nearly double the total amount of dining options as Enchantment of the Seas, including new venues like Giovanni's Table (Italian), Izumi Asian Cuisine (Asian and sushi), Park Café (outdoor gourmet market), Chops Grille (steakhouse), and Chef's Table (an exclusive five-course dinner event co-hosted by the Executive Chef).

In addition to the new dining experiences, the Grandeur of the Seas will have a new Diamond Lounge for its Crown and Anchor guests, a Concierge Lounge for suite and top-tier loyalty guests, and a new Viking Crown Lounge. A new nursery will offer parents childcare drop-off options for children six to 36 months old, and the ship will also add ship-wide Wi-Fi service and an outdoor video screen overlooking the pool deck.

"Royal Caribbean International thanks Governor Martin O'Malley for his administration's continued support of the cruise industry," said Adam Goldstein, president and CEO of Royal Caribbean International. "The Maryland Port Administration also has been a great partner for many years and we are thrilled to bring the newly revitalized Grandeur of the Seas to Baltimore in 2013 and offer metropolitan area vacationers an array of exciting year-round itineraries along with the best onboard dining and entertainment options in the industry."

The first cruise of the Grandeur of the Seas from Baltimore will be a May 3, 2013 cruise to Bermuda. The ship will offer six, seven, eight, and 10-night

cruises from Baltimore. Until the arrival of the Grandeur of the Seas, the Port of Baltimore will be served by Royal Caribbean's Enchantment of the Seas through April 2013.

Last year a record 251,889 people sailed on 105 cruises from the Port of Baltimore. Baltimore has 100 cruises scheduled for 2012. The total economic value to the State of Maryland of cruising from the Port of Baltimore is about \$90 million. Approximately 220 direct jobs in Maryland are generated by cruise activity.

The Port of Baltimore handled the fifth-largest amount of cruise passengers among East Coast cruise ports and 12th largest in the U.S. in 2010. Last year the Port began using a state-of-the-art, climate-controlled enclosed passenger boarding bridge. The bridge is mobile and flexible to accommodate various sized cruise ships.

In the last four years, Baltimore has seen a marked increase in its number of cruise passengers. In 2010, 210,549 guests sailed on 90 cruises while in 2009, its first year of year-round cruising, more than 167,000 passengers sailed on 81 cruises. In 2008, about 61,000 people sailed on 27 cruises that operated in the spring, summer and fall.

Baltimore is within a six hour drive of 40 million people. It is the closest East Coast drive-to port from Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Indianapolis and Chicago and is within a three-hour drive from the New York City metro area. The Cruise Maryland terminal is 2.5 miles from Baltimore's world famous Inner Harbor and 10 miles from BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport.

Maryland's median household income of \$68,845 is the highest in the U.S. Baltimore is also located within a four-hour drive of eight of the ten wealthiest counties in the U.S. The Baltimore-Washington DC-Northern Virginia region is recognized as one of the most affluent in the nation.

Royal Caribbean Announces 2013-14 Caribbean, Bermuda, and New England/Canada
Tuesday, 15 May 2012

Royal Caribbean International today announced the remainder of its 2013-14 Caribbean & Panama Canal itineraries, marking the cruise line's largest deployment ever in the region. In total, vacationers can choose from among more than 630 sailings aboard 15 ships, departing from nine homeports, and calling at 45 different ports on more than 110 distinct itineraries.

From San Juan, Puerto Rico, Royal Caribbean will once again offer year-round options aboard Jewel of the Seas with three Southern Caribbean itineraries in the summer and autumn 2013 seasons, and two itineraries in the winter and spring 2013-14 seasons. Departing every Saturday, the seven-night, round-trip itineraries include calls at a range of exciting ports throughout the Windward and Leeward Islands, including St. Lucia, St. Kitts, Antigua, and the U.S.V.I., as well as St. Maarten, Barbados, Aruba and Curacao. Additionally, Adventure of the Seas returns for the winter 2013-14 season to bolster Royal Caribbean's offerings from San Juan, alternating two seven-night Southern Caribbean itineraries. On one itinerary, guests call at St. Thomas, St. Kitts, Aruba and Curacao, while the second calls at Barbados, St. Lucia, Antigua, St. Maarten and St. Croix. These sailings open for sale today.

Grandeur of the Seas returns to Baltimore, Md. on May 3, 2013 to take over for Enchantment of the Seas, currently deployed in Baltimore through early April 2013. Grandeur of the Seas was Royal Caribbean's first ship deployed in Baltimore from 2004-09, and is currently undergoing an extensive revitalization to deliver a host of new dining venues – including six new specialty dining choices, technological upgrades and new entertainment features, as well as a refresh of all furniture, carpet, upholstery and staterooms. Families with toddlers can take advantage of the newly installed Royal Babies and Tots Nursery, which cater to the cruise line's youngest guests, age 6 to 36 months. Guests also will enjoy an oversized LED video screen offering entertainment as guests lounge by the pool, and take in a new high-flying experience, where aerialists glide through the ship's five-story atrium.

Throughout the year, vacationers can choose among a variety of itineraries to Bermuda, Bahamas, and the Eastern and Western Caribbean. In the summer, the itineraries will alternate between seven-night Bermuda sailings, featuring a two-night call at Kings Wharf, and seven-night sailings to the Bahamas, calling at Port Canaveral, Fla.; Nassau, Bahamas; and CocoCay, Royal Caribbean's private island paradise in the Bahamas. In autumn, Grandeur of the Seas will alternate between six-night Bermuda and eight-night Canada and New England sailings. The winter season will consist of rotating 10-night sailings to the Eastern and Western Caribbean as well as eight-night sailings to the Bahamas. These sailings will open for sale on Thursday, May 17, 2013.

Legend of the Seas returns to the Caribbean in Winter 2013-14, alternating an 11-night Southern Caribbean – with calls at Aruba, Bonaire, Grenada, Barbados, St. Lucia, and Antigua – and a 10-night Eastern Caribbean itinerary – Tortola, St. Maarten, Dominica, Antigua and St. Kitts – roundtrip

from Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. A 15-night Eastbound and Westbound Panama Canal sailing between Port Everglades and San Diego bookends the season. Scheduled for its revitalization in early 2013, Legend of the Seas will offer guests a virtually new ship that features more dining options, new and exciting entertainment, upgraded technological conveniences and much more. These sailings opened for sale today.

Also in winter 2013-14, vacationers can choose four- and five-night Western Caribbean itineraries aboard Brilliance of the Seas, sailing round-trip from Tampa, Fla. and calling at Cozumel, Mexico on the four-night, and George Town, Cayman Islands and Cozumel on the five-night cruises. Aboard select five-night sailings, guests call at Key West, Fla., instead of George Town. Vacationers also can select a 13-night Southern Caribbean itinerary, departing on Oct. 27 from Boston, Mass. to Tampa. These sailing will open for sale on Thursday May 17.

Short Caribbean Getaways

Enchantment of the Seas arrives at Port Canaveral on the heels of the transfer of Monarch of the Seas to Royal Caribbean's sister cruise line Pullmantur. Starting Apr. 13 2013, Enchantment of the Seas offers a 12-night Southern Caribbean sailing from Baltimore to Port Canaveral before inaugurating her year-round service, sailing three- and four-night Bahamas itineraries from the port starting April 25. Enchantment of the Seas also is scheduled to be revitalized in Dec. 2012, to offer guests more onboard amenities and refreshed spaces for a rejuvenating Bahamian getaway.

Majesty of the Seas will complement this program continuing her three- and four-night year-round itineraries from Miami. Departing every Monday and Friday, both ships call at Nassau and CocoCay. The four-night itinerary for Majesty of the Seas also features a call in Key West.

Liberty of the Seas will round out the short Caribbean itineraries with four- and five-night cruises sailing from Port Everglades. The four-night itinerary calls at Cozumel, while two five-night itineraries alternate Cozumel and Belize City, Belize, and Falmouth and Labadee, Royal Caribbean's private destination in Haiti. Liberty of the Seas features world-class entertainment including Saturday Night Fever, the Broadway show, and the DreamWorks Experience bringing the popular characters from Shrek, Madagascar and more into Royal Caribbean's renowned entertainment programs including themed parades, ice shows and character breakfasts. These sailings open for sale on Wednesday, May 23.

Autumn Charms of New England

Throughout autumn 2013, Brilliance of the Seas and Grandeur of the Seas will deliver the incredible colors of autumn foliage and unmatched charm of New England and Canada. Brilliance of the Seas offers six sailings every Sunday from Boston on seven-night round-trip itineraries from Sept. 15 through Oct. 20, while Grandeur of the Seas will offer four sailings from Baltimore on eight-night round-trip itineraries departing alternate Thursdays from Sept. 5 through Oct. 17. Guests aboard both ships will call at Portland and Bar Harbor in Maine; and Saint John, New Brunswick, and Halifax, Nova Scotia, in Canada.

WJZ TV CHANNEL 13 (CBS LOCAL)

State-Of-The-Art Royal Caribbean Cruise Ship Heads To Baltimore

May 16, 2012 12:47 PM

BALTIMORE (WJZ)– Something grand is headed to the Port of Baltimore after a \$48 million facelift.

Royal Caribbean is bringing its ship, Grandeur of the Seas, to the port next year.

Grandeur is being renovated right now.

Royal Caribbean says it's a state-of-the-art ship with new and updated dining and entertainment.

It will offer cruises year round to the Bahamas, Bermuda and New England and Canada

BALTIMORE SUN

Royal Caribbean revamps Baltimore-bound Grandeur of the Seas

June 1, 2012

By Richard Tribou, Orlando Sentinel

11:23 a.m. EDT, June 1, 2012

Video at this link ~

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/travel/vacation-starter/cruise-lines/royal-caribbean-international/vs-royal-caribbean-grandeur-of-the-seas-renovation-060112,0,2618953.story>

There's nothing like that new-ship smell, and Royal Caribbean is breathing in the scent of a \$48 million renovation on the Grandeur of the Seas.

The refurb, which was completed at Navantia shipyard in Cadiz, Spain, includes five new restaurants, a poolside LED screen, a new nursery, shipwide technological upgrades and sprucing up the staterooms with new furniture, carpets, upholstery and flat-screen TVs.

"It was an opportunity for us to change the look, change the feel, get a much fresher contemporary look," said Kevin Douglas, Vice President of Technical Projects. "I think we've done that very successfully and it seems to be a big hit."

Also new to the ship will be aerial entertainment in the six-story Centrum. Each night of the week will offer choreographed flying experiences with talent on apparatus designed just for the cruise line.

"We looked at the Centrum and said wow this could be really something," said Peter Compton, Vice President of Entertainment, "because in the theater we have maybe 30 feet height. Here in the Centrum we have 65 feet. We said we wanted to produce what we were calling a Centrum Wow, and somebody flying down from 65 feet sounded well, that sounds like a 'Wow' to me."

The new dining options have been seen on other Royal Caribbean ships including the Chops Grille, Park Cafe, the a la carte priced Asian cuisine of Izumi, the R Bar in the Centrum and a chef's table located in the dining room.

Grandeur of the Seas will spend the summer offering a variety of Mediterranean itineraries from Venice, Italy and Provence, France and continue to homeport in Europe through spring 2013. In May 2013 it will begin Bermuda as well as Bahamas and Florida itineraries from the Port of Baltimore, replacing the Enchantment of the Seas.

The 916-foot-long, Vision-class ship was built in 1996 and last refurbished in 2001. It's one of the older and smaller of the fleet's 22 ships with a regular capacity is 1,950.

"If you walked onto Grandeur of the Seas you literally would think she was a brand new ship," said Lisa Bauer, Senior Vice President of Global Sales and Marketing. "I would put her up against any ship in the fleet in terms of going from a ship that was maybe a little bit more mature in her age to absolutely looking like a brand new ship."