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SEA CLOUD NEWS UPDATE

OFFICIAL CREW NEWSLETTER FROM
UNICREW MANAGEMENT LTD.

SEA CLOUD SPIRIT

A new generation



Sailing season 2021

It was a difficult decision but one long overdue. Most cruise lines, even the ones that had suffered serious setbacks and virus outbreaks during the height of the pandemic in 2020, eventually announced plans to restart sailing in 2021, albeit with an elaborate set of safety and health protocols in place, monitored throughout the voyage by eagle-eyed professionals trained to sniff out disasters days away. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) was the last to allow cruise ships to operate again, under Conditional Sailing Order guidelines meant to prevent the shipboard catastrophes of 2020.

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So it was with much trepidation and preparation that the Sea Cloud and Sea Cloud II set sail again this summer. Meanwhile, in September, Sea Cloud Spirit had been officially named and christened in the Palma de Mallorca cruise terminal. In hindsight, it was a good idea not to plan a Caribbean itinerary for the new ship and all its sailings were bunched around the Italian coastline. Now that the 2021 season comes to a close, and all three vessels go into a short layup, we asked the Masters what it was like to be sailing in the pandemic era. Captains Gerald Schöber, Kathryn Whittaker, John Svendsen and Christian Pfenninger all gave us their feedback on how Season 2021 played out.

How did it feel to be back at the helm of your vessel after a year-long layup? Or, in the case of SC Spirit, how was your inaugural voyage?

Gerald Schöber: It was a hard and long way until we could leave Vigo on the 28th August. Everyone was waiting and the time was due. Amazing weather, a light breeze, escorted by hundreds of small boats and the Sea Cloud Spirit finally left the bay of Vigo for her first voyage to Palma de Mallorca. A new ship with a new crew and everything was perfect. We even could set some sails already inside the bay. Unique moments on a unique ship with a unique crew. At the same time, I realised again that the Spirit was a fine ship — stable, good-natured and with excellent sailing properties and she was fast under the sails. During the first manoeuvres we could determine her limits and her character.

Christian Pfenninger: It was a very mixed feeling. From one side the excitement of sailing again but on the other side the pressure to get a new crew up to the proper standards.

John Svendsen: Being the master of Sea Cloud is an honor and I truly felt that way bringing the ship back into service. As stated earlier this period has been gold for Sea Cloud concerning all of the works that had been done during layup. Showing our

crew and then our passengers all the improvements brought about a feeling of confidence and pride for all those who worked so diligently during the layup. Additionally, having all of the crew showing off their upgraded skills and knowledge felt great as well... The passengers have spoken to me about how great it is to see Sea Cloud and all of her crew back at such a high level of service and care. For me, it has been an accomplishment evoking a feeling great satisfaction and being a part of the continued legacy of the Sea Cloud family. After all we are the current stewards of the Sea Cloud, preparing her for the future generations.

Describe the highlights of the voyage. What was the feedback on returning to sailing from guests and crew? Hopefully, the feedback was different from these two groups.

Gerald Schöber: The first crew members came already one month before we left Vigo. The passage to Palma including Christening, Press and Travel Agent cruises around the Balears gave us another month to prepare the Spirit for the new task until the first guests boarded in Civitavecchia by the end of September. Expectations were quite high, the challenges as well. And it took a while to get the ship, her size and characteristic but always with



positive feedback in many aspects. We learned, that the you can't compare the Spirit with SC or SCII.

Christian Pfenninger: There was not a single event as highlight but seeing the crew progressively come together and build a team was a great satisfaction.

John Svendsen: The highlight of the voyage of Sea Cloud was celebrating her 90th year of sailing the Seas of the World! Sailing together with Sea Cloud II sharing in her 20th year not only brought the ships together but the crews as well. Even with all of the social distancing I could feel the respect and

The passengers have expressed how exceptional the service has been with a focus on caring for their needs before they knew they had them. For me the comments that have made me the happiest was that the ship and the crew truly left them feeling a part of the Sea Cloud family!

How did the social distancing norms affect the crew-guest interactions onboard? How did the crew make up for the Sea Cloud guest experience with safety and social distancing rules in place?



appreciation that comes with being a part of this historic occasion. Additionally, having Sea Cloud Spirit join us for a sunrise sail off at Ibiza was breathtaking!

The crew of Sea Cloud has often said the words "In all of my years I have never seen..." Their feedback has included items that focused on the new procedures and routines to keep the ship disinfected from top to bottom. Also a focus on the upgraded systems and equipment added to bring the ship up to the latest standards of sailing in this new era.



Gerald Schöber: Crew-Guest interactions were reduced due to distance and precautions — of course — but based on the knowledge of the pandemic, meanwhile everyone understands the 3 basic rules: Mask, Sanitising and Distance. Everyone — crew and guests — were united in spirit in their fascination of sailing. The excellent atmosphere on board overcame all restrictions and after some technical adjustments at the beginning of cruising, everyone felt safe and for this reason, finally, comfortable. As a seaman you know one thing very well: Take the life as it comes and make the best out of it. And with this spirit, and the good mood, you can inspire (almost) everyone. Thank you dear crew — you did an amazing job.

Christian Pfenninger: Interaction was very poor but I think that neither the passengers nor the crew expected anything better, so it was fine.

John Svendsen: Staying socially distanced while excited to welcome back our returning “guest” family members was the biggest challenge we faced. The crew creatively started giving air hugs and blowing kisses to the guest from afar. This kept the atmosphere light and we were able to find a way to keep in touch with the spirit of what makes Sea Cloud a family yacht even with all the new rules in place.

I believe the crew have become much more adept at speaking with their eyes and communicating with non-verbal gestures. I have watched in awe as the officers and crew have dedicated themselves to, if possible, increasing their level of service and care. This has also shown up in our comment cards and personal feedback from the passengers before they threatened to stow away on board.

Any important lessons from sailing during the pandemic? Any observations that could help your future voyages, if the pandemic continues for a couple of years?

Gerald Schöber: It is important to understand, that an outbreak can stop the ship with all consequences. Based on this, it is the utmost obligation of everyone on board to avoid risk of infection as much as possible. We all have to realise that shore leave contains a very high risk, if you are not following the given precautions. You

A team and a family

In late July and early August, after many, many months, the ship began to fill with crew again! There was a blur of activity in all corners as we ramped back up into operation. Cleaning, polishing, washing, ironing, dusting, sanding, varnishing, counting, unpacking, scraping, painting, baking, vacuuming, assembling, chopping. So many actions were happening all at once, to be honest after so long, it was unsettling in the first days but it soon began to feel normal and like home again! There was an incredible amount of teaching and training for all our new crew but also for the returning crew. From beginning to



end, each day was full of learning for all of us; safety and security training, sailing with COVID protocols, setting sails, how to do a safety round, how to set up the cabins, the lido, the restaurant, the bar, the reception area, the store rooms and even the gangway and embarkation tent! The crew worked together as a good team, managed to solve the many difficulties of sailing during a pandemic and in the end became family of 16 nationalities who were all sad to see the sailing season cut short. Let's meet on board in the spring of 2022 and start our adventure again! Stay well. Enjoy the holidays – wherever you are!

— Kathryn Whittaker, Master



Passengers spoke about how great it was to see Sea Cloud and all of her crew back at such a high level of service and care... a feeling (of) great satisfaction and being a part of the continued legacy of the Sea Cloud family

have to realise, that your individual behaviour can affect others in a very serious way. Finally, it is the task of the ship's management to implement a safe and enjoyable "way of living" on board and ashore — even with restrictions. Make the people understand it and establish a social and responsible togetherness.

Full vaccination, effective testing procedures before joining and on board for crew and guests will still be necessary.

Christian Pfenninger: Obviously the biggest

challenge was with the hotel department. It would be helpful to get crew who are willing to stay and try to make things work. I know this a Europe-wide problem, (ski resorts are facing the exact same problem now in Switzerland, and France also has to close some hotels due to lack of personnel). I would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank all those who remained for as long as it was possible and who took up this challenge without complaining or giving up. I hope these crew will be available when we restart.

John Svendsen: The most important lesson I have learned during this pandemic is that being constantly vigilant is critical to successfully implementing new ways of operating. The crew of Sea Cloud is a loving family that is struggling like every other family in the world with this pandemic that has created a sense of separation, I hope we can all come back together again. Facing the challenges of the future we can build on the successes of our present. There have been many improvements to the way that we have adapted to the unknown and continued to learn applying what is working. I believe this ability to quickly adapt will serve Sea Cloud well into the future.

CRUISE NEWS

Caribbean season cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns

Sea Cloud Cruises cancelled its Caribbean season citing health and safety concerns due to the ongoing pandemic. Sea Cloud was earlier scheduled to have two of its three sailing ships in the Caribbean beginning in December and through April 2022.

Rising incidence of new COVID-19 cases and limited access to medical care on the islands for guests were the main reasons given by officials of Sea Cloud Cruises. Sea Cloud and Sea Cloud II were meant to sail out from Barbados and St. Maarten, calling on various Caribbean ports during their voyage such as St. Barts, Nevis, Antigua, Dominica, Guadalupe, Virgin Gorda, St. Lucia and Grenada.

In a note circulated to all stakeholders of Sea Cloud Cruises, Managing Director Daniel Schäfer expressed deep concerns that the decision to sail was taken in the industry-wide hope that the end of the pandemic was in sight and bookings were showing definite signs of improvement after a long time. “By mid-summer, it looked like the cruise business was picking up and we were delighted to see incoming bookings. The cork seemed to have popped out of the bottle. Unfortunately, we then found that interest came to a halt rather quickly due to the emerging discussions about a 4 wave in the fall,” he states.

This was why as part of the company’s “strategic considerations” it was decided early on that the newly christened Sea Cloud Spirit would spend the winter of 2021-22 around the Canary Islands, even though marketing such an itinerary would pose a certain challenge because of many similar departures. To bridge the period until the Spirit’s Christmas voyage, Sea Cloud Cruises decided to offer the 2-for-1 package for 3 trips. This ensured that the Spirit would be able to sail till 5th January, 2022 given the sufficient number of guests.

Following discussions within the company management, and weighing all the available options, it was finally decided that all vessels would go into layup for the winter and resume sailing on the Mediterranean in April. All three ships will be moored at Las Palmas and remain there till further sailing plans are decided upon, subject to rebookings and alternative charters for cancelled voyages.



Mr. Schäfer expressed regret about the current situation keeping in view all work, heart and soul that had gone into the restart of sailing, and what it means for colleagues on board, but he expressed optimism that the sailings will continue and exhorted all staff members and crew to work together to make the coming Mediterranean Season a special success. He also thanked everybody involved in running the fleet for their cooperation in such difficult times and said he was optimistic that things would look up again.

CRUISE NEWS

Crew List

Sea Cloud / 3rd Aug. to 15th Nov.

Captain John Svendsen, Joined 2nd October
 CO Alexandre Bota, Joined 4th November
 2O Mykola Toporov, Joined 26th August
 3O Uros Djurickovic, Joined 18th October
 CE Alexandru Pirloiu, Joined 6th August
 2E Yevgen Kalashnikov, Joined 1st November
 ELO Erdinci Zapar, Joined 1st November
 CRD Thorsten Busch, Joined 24th September
 ETO George Ali, Joined 11th November
 AB Niksa Kovacevic, Joined 2nd October
 AB Gerry Mordeno, Joined 8th November
 DH Patrick Mendoza, Joined 19th September
 Eng. Fitter Mihai Asavoaei, Joined 9th October
 Srv. Std. Yahya Dhaou, Joined 9th September
 Srv. Std. Augusto Sadia, Joined 2nd October
 Chef Rainer Mietzke, Joined 17th September

Sea Cloud II / 3rd Sep. to 15th Nov.

Captain Kathryn Whittaker, Joined 9th November
 2O Sebastian Caramalau, Joined 18th September
 CE Aleksandar Rajkovic, Joined 14th October
 3E Zdravko Seratlic, Joined 14th October
 Hotel Mgr. Pia Leitner, Joined 25th September

CPT Louie Cabag, Joined 25th October
 AB Harold Gregorio, Joined 11th October
 DH Mario Almeida, Joined 5th November
 MaitreD' Stefan Ksenofonov, Joined 11th October
 MaitreD' Paul Trouwen, Joined 26th October
 Srv. Std. Katharina Hoenmans-Leurs, Joined 4th October
 Chef Normen Wolf, Joined 13th October
 Sous Chef Angel Yakov, Joined 13th October
 Srv. Asst. Miguel Estrada, Joined 11th October

Sea Cloud Spirit / 3rd Sep. to 15th Nov.

CE Uwe Lange, Joined 10th October
 3E Benny Callo, Joined 24th October
 ELO Kraljevic Marko, Joined 17th October
 Cruise Dir. Sabina Hawel, Joined 24th September
 EL Srecko Capunovic, Joined 3rd October
 Rig. Vilmor Gemongala, Joined 6th November
 OS Aldrin Tubar, Joined 15th September
 DH Serhat Durnasuyu, Joined 3rd October
 OL Roxas Monton, Joined 24th October
 Chef Christian Roenn, Joined 12th November
 Asst. Cruise Dir. Hanna Martinez-Reck, Joined 24th September
 Jr. EL George Ali, Joined 1st October
 Jr, EL Boris Radojicic, Joined 24th October

CRUISE NEWS

Sea Cloud partners GlobeAir to offer total safety protection

Discerning travellers can now rely on private jet travel to the Sea Cloud ships in a perfectly safe bubble. GlobeAir, Europe's leading private jet operator will be offering direct flight connections to all three of the Sea Cloud tall ships, including the newly christened Sea Cloud Spirit.

GlobeAir flights will link guests to their vessels throughout Europe from Summer 2021, travelling quickly, safely and very comfortably to their vacation and back. With connections to more than 900 airports in Europe, GlobeAir, is set to fly passengers from the airport of their choice to the regional or commercial airport closest to the starting point of their Sea Cloud trip.

Flight requests are forwarded from accredited Sea Cloud travel agencies to GlobeAir, which handles it directly. "Partnering with Sea Cloud means for GlobeAir to open up the fast lane for 5-star ships travellers and enable them to set sail to some extraordinary journeys with some more comfort. GlobeAir is positioning itself as a pioneer in the field, thanks to the expansion of its portfolio into what it results as a new way to approach the leisure travelling business," says Dieter Pammer, Director of Business Development at GlobeAir.

Private jets are the ideal means for reaching Sea Cloud departure points. From take-off to landing, passengers commute in total safety — they share the private jet with people they know, and benefit from the highest standards of bio-security. With only a 15-minute check-in and 20 touchpoints — as opposed to approximately 700 on a commercial airline flight, GlobeAir offers the safest option in pandemic travel.

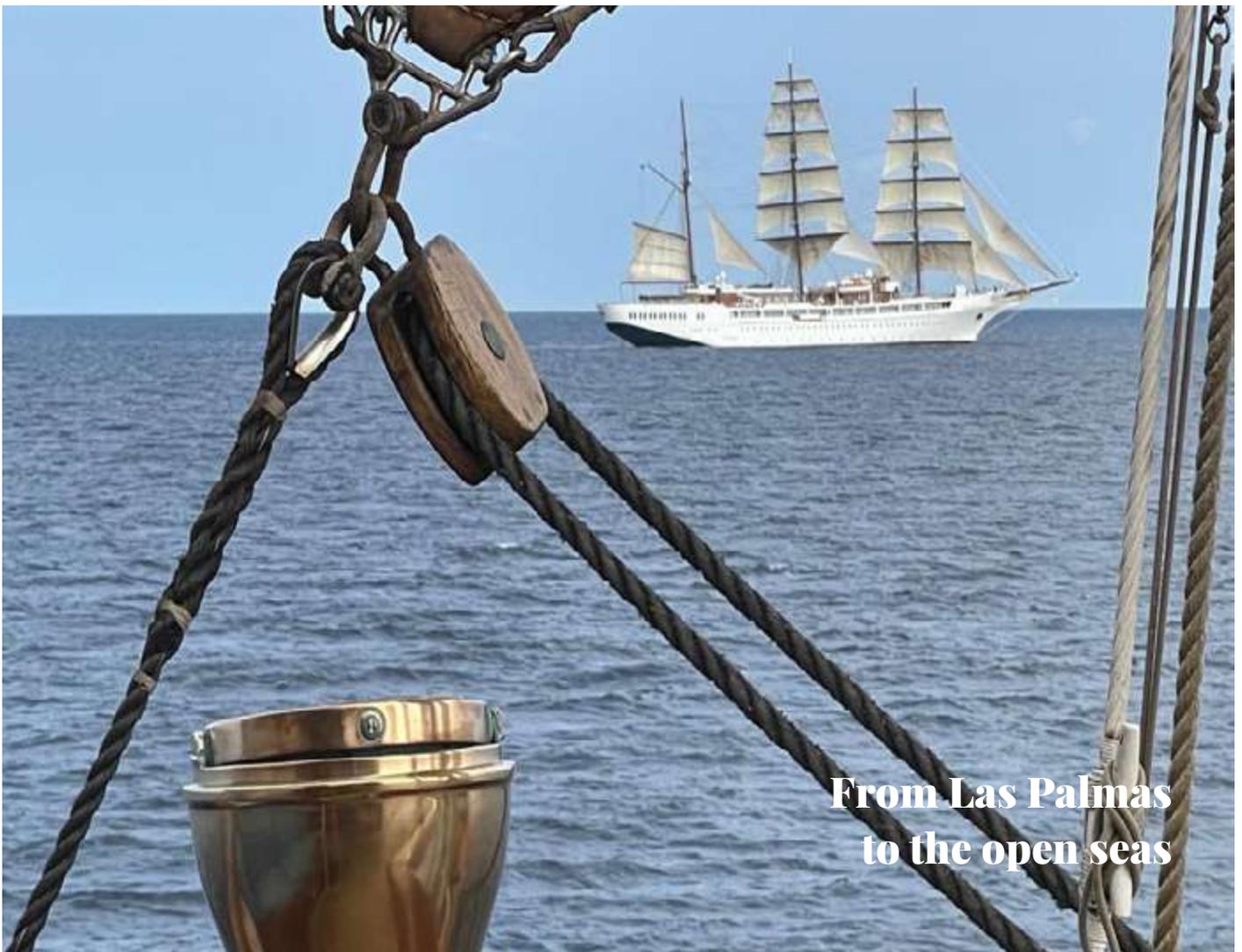
GlobeAir says it sees the Sea Cloud collaboration as an opportunity to boost the recognition of its sustainability objectives. Flights will be carbon-neutral as GlobeAir compensates its CO₂ emissions with established carbon offset programmes.

India demolition yards do brisk business in end-of-life cruisers

Demolition yards at Alang received a record number of cruise and passenger ships in the past 12 months. While none of the major cruise brands sent their ships directly for ship-breaking in India, several notable ships have arrived since November 2020. A total of 14 passenger ships were beached in the past 12 months, with port officials expecting at least one more possibly by mid-November. According to Captain Rakesh Mishra, a port officer at Alang, it was the highest number of passenger ships to arrive at Alang in a single year. He added "cruise ships came in large numbers" as well.

Several operators were either downsizing their operations or replacing older ships with newer tonnage. Paradise Cruise Line sold its vintage Grand Celebration, originally built for Carnival Line in 1987. Japan's Peace Boat modernized its operation selling the 1982 vintage Ocean Dream to the Alang breakers. The ship had begun as Tropicale, the first newbuild for Carnival. One of the pioneers of the modern cruise industry, Leisure World, more recently a casino ship, was also sold for scrap. The largest of the arrivals was Karnika, operated by an Indian start-up that failed during the pandemic. Built by Fincantieri, the 69,845 gross ton cruise ship was introduced in 1990 as the Crown Princess of Princess Cruises.

The strong demand for steel contributed to the demolition drive. Passenger ships generally receive lower prices, but since many of the ships arriving this year came from bankruptcy, they are arriving still stocked with valuable spare parts. Scrap ship buyers usually strip the spare parts and furnishings before sending a vessel for stripping. While the cruise industry is now recovering from the extended pause in operations, the pandemic became an accelerator sending many older cruise ships to the breakers. As the industry stabilizes the pace of scrapping is likely to return to the more traditional level of just a few passenger ships each year.



**From Las Palmas
to the open seas**



Preparing to welcome guests for the sailing





Sea Cloud crew get their boosters



Sea Cloud crew get their boosters





Sea Cloud crew get their boosters



From Jason's Desk

The 2021 season was a minor success, given the challenges we faced in getting the crew and ships ready to sail amidst the pandemic. I want to take this opportunity to thank all our crew and staff in making this possible. What we saw was exemplary teamwork and dedication, and the strength to bear all difficulties with a smile. As promised, we got our crew fully vaccinated for the journeys and properly trained to handle any and every possible emergency onboard.

With the cancellation of the Caribbean voyages, the vessel positions for the remaining part of 2021 and January 2022 are as follows:

- Sea Cloud wrapped up her 2021 cruise season on 14th December and will remain in layup until March-April 2022;
- Sea Cloud II arrived at Las Palmas on 16th November and will now remain in layup until March-April 2022;
- Sea Cloud Spirit will finish her cruise season on 5th January and then remain in layup until March-April 2022.

All activities are now focussed on getting ready

for the 2022 cruise season. We will continue with our health & safety commitment to the crew of all three ships and our Doctors are flying to the vessels in the coming weeks to give booster shots of the vaccine. As you can see from photos here, some of the crew has already received their boosters. Others will get theirs as and when we can schedule the vaccinations.

We have an old saying... Prevention is better than cure. At no time in our memory has this felt so true as in the COVID-19 era. Even with all the precautions and health checks, US cruise ships witnessed small scale outbreaks of the virus on board again. The U.S. CDC continues to attach Level 3 risk to cruising. With the new Omicron variant of the virus, spreading between people in close quarters aboard ships is that much faster. We hope to shore up our health & safety protocols to deal with the disease and sail again in the future.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of you. You mean the world to us and we wish your holidays are filled with joy and laughter through the New Year. Stay safe in 2022.