

SEA CLOUD NEWS ALERT



Sea Cloud Spirit on its first visit home

Sea Cloud Spirit crossed the English Channel and went up the Elbe to Hamburg amidst a rousing reception by several escort ships in honour of its first homecoming on the afternoon of Thursday, 16th June. Thousands of onlookers were at the Überseebrücke when the three-mast windjammer, under the able helmsmanship of newly-appointed Master, Vukota Stojanovic (photo right), arrived at home base. Thanks to the preceding announcements on the local media, large numbers of Hamburg residents and tourists gathered at the dock to welcome the ship and also took part in the festivities the following day.

For Germany, this has a special significance since the original Sea Cloud Spirit is seen as the modern-day tribute to the first Sea Cloud built in Kiel in 1931. The Hamburg Nature Conservation Union



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described the Spirit's wind-driven propulsion system as "a glimmer of hope" for all cruise vessels in future for its use of renewable energy and the cutback in carbon-based fuel and the pollution.

Coming from London after completing a week's journey via Bruges and Antwerp, sailing in the English Channel and the North Sea, the Sea Cloud Spirit had an impressive journey passing by several famous landmarks such as the Willkommenhöft in Wedel (Schleswig-Holstein) and the Airbus factory in Hamburg-Finkenwerder accompanied by a host of historic escort vessels. Finally, the Sea Cloud Spirit carried out an impressive turning maneuver in front of the Elbphilharmonie and then docked at the Überseebrücke.



The escort ships charged with the honour of accompanying the Sea Cloud Spirit in Hamburg were the Finkenwerder harbour's *Landrath Küster* from 1888, the oldest ship of its kind, the police steamboat *Otto Lauffer* from 1928, the *Harbour Dock* from 1929, once used by Hamburg harbor doctors, the *Hansa III*, a traditional harbour boat and the elegant *MS Jacob* from 1948.

The Sea Cloud Spirit embarked on another impressive sailing mission the following day, Friday, 17th June, with the promise of returning home once again on Sunday, 14th August, around the same time that the *Queen Mary 2* and *EUROPE* are also expected to be visiting Hamburg.

Much as it was a milestone for Sea Cloud Spirit, it

Sea Clouds to remain with old owners

Sea Cloud Cruises will remain under the existing management following the breakdown of transaction negotiations. An informal announcement to this effect may be expected shortly. According to company sources, Sea Cloud Cruises will continue to run as before and maintain the highest standards of performance and luxury that guests have come to expect over the years.

Earlier this year, Sea Cloud Cruises received and accepted a proposal for the acquisition of the company and all three vessels with the understanding that the transaction would bring fresh energy into the operations and help expand the Sea Cloud portfolio. The acquisition was also seen as an entry into the luxury cruise sector for a famous international hotel chain that operates and franchises hotels and luxury resorts worldwide.

In a recent e-mail message to the Captains, the company confirmed that Sea Cloud ships would continue sailing as before, and thanked employees for their support and cooperation while assuring them that the ships would continue providing guests with the finest sailing experience on the cruise circuit today.

was equally memorable for its new Master, 36-year-old Vukota Stojanovic, a Montenegro national who can claim to be a Sea Cloud veteran at such a young age. Captain Stojanovic started with Sea Cloud in September 2014 and has already completed over 13 missions as Chief Officer. He worked alongside the Spirit during the final stages of the shipyard, sailed as Chief Officer onboard for the maiden voyage and then received his promotion to Captain in March this year.