Sunday, 10th November 2013



Did You Know?

- Costa Cruises has been in the luxury cruise business for over sixty years. This may seem like a long time, but the average age of our passengers well exceeds this.
- Most sea creatures, like the friendly bottle-nosed dolphin, will not attack humans.
- During an average seven days at sea, the Costa Luminosa will go through over a ton of beef. That's five cows worth of meat. Moo!
- Our professional staff includes nearly one thousand people, representing sixty two different countries all over the world.
- To produce the water that you drink and bathe in every day, the Costa Luminosa employs four state-of-the-art desalinators. Each one weighs as much as a two-thousand pound pallet of masonry bricks.
- The Costa Luminosa Casino staff is among the most highly trained in the world. Our friendly dealers come from major casinos around the world, including the Bellagio in Las Vegas, USA and The Venetian in Macau!

Captain Guiseppe Russo's Watch Notes

Today, as we leave the coast of Africa for the open seas of the Atlantic, the swells have picked up considerably. For a salty seafaring dog like me, this is maritime paradise. Ahoy!

Barnacle Brainteaser of the Day

What starts round, is always around, and won't make you frown?

(Answer from yesterday: Tie the rope around the starfish, dip it in the sink, then open the window.)



Monday, 11th November 2013



Did You Know?

- Nearly all of the food items you eat aboard Costa's ships are certified as "safe to eat" by the agricultural bodies of both the European Union and the United States.
- When you flush your toilet, it's dumped straight into the ocean. Most neighbors would be outraged, but the fish love it!
- While maces, truncheons, knuckle-dusters and sharpened sticks are explicitly forbidden aboard the ship, battleaxes are not! Just watch where you swing, please!
- In addition to the crew quarters, below decks we have a jail, called a "brig", and a morgue! The brig usually remains empty, but unfortunately the same can't be said for the morgue: It's already at half capacity.
- Famous Greek mathematician Pythagoras guarded his secrets closely: when one of his acolytes disclosed his theorem to the uninitiated, the other acolytes put him to death!
- Since its christening, the Costa Luminosa has been home to 50 reported sightings of the ghost of the infamous Caribbean pirate "Brackish Pete" Smythe. Boo!

Captain Guiseppe Russo's Watch Notes

Not much to report today! For administrative reasons I was not allowed to leave the bridge. While you were out enjoying the sunny beaches of Lanzarote, I was watching you through the same telescope I usually use to spot distant ships!

Barnacle Brainteaser of the Day

When just begun, I'm tossed and spun. Who am I?

(Answer from yesterday: The delicious pizza from the Andromeda Pizzeria, of course! Please grab a slice now!)



Tuesday, 12th November 2013



Did You Know?

- In 2004, each cabin on the Costa Luminosa was outfitted with a state-of-the art flat screen entertainment system. Woo!
- Our dedicated, hard-working crew live to make your cruise magical. They love Costa passengers so much they routinely put in 90 hour weeks!
- The thermostat in your cabin is purely decorative and for entertainment purposes only. It has no bearing on the actual temperature of your room.
- For security purposes, all rooms, including bathrooms, aboard the Luminosa are equipped with high-resolution hidden cameras.
- The Costa Luminosa is equipped with 12 lifeboats. At peak capacity, this is enough to bring over 80% of our crew and passengers to safety.
- Maybe something about whales? Do you any whale facts?

Captain Guiseppe Russo's Watch Notes

I hope you had a wonderful day in sunny Tenerife! I was hoping to visit myself, but due to procedural reasons surrounding last night's emergency, I was barred from leaving the bridge. It is not unheard of for a captain to be detained in the bridge for two days in a row, but it is certainly unusual! I hope to be released tomorrow.

Barnacle Brainteaser of the Day

What's black and white and red all over?

(Answer from yesterday: Andromeda Pizzeria's delicious house-thawed dough! Seriously, guys, this pizza WILL not eat itself. Get in there and grab a slice! It's going fast!)



Wednesday, 13th November 2013



Did You Know?

- Costa is committed to providing its passengers with the peace of mind that only a robust defense system can afford. In the case of breaches by pirate, we are able to respond tactically with our onboard cannons, torpedoes, muskets/bayonettes, and trained attack animals. Shoo!
- The term "Finders Keepers" originally comes from maritime law, under which any property may be claimed simply by finding it when the owner is not around. For this reason, it is important to never leave a vessel unattended in international waters.
- The incomparable Andromeda Pizzeria is serving up hot pies thirteen hours a day. There is literally no excuse for you to not be eating pizza right now.
- Costa employees are strictly forbidden from engaging in sexual conduct with passengers, whether in public or private. However, tenured employees are granted, upon application, one exception per year.

Captain Guiseppe Russo's Watch Notes

Good news and bad news from the bridge! The bad news is that I have not left these beautiful confines in over three days. The good news is that my "subordinates" have been supplying me with all of the pizza (from the Andromeda Pizzeria) that I can eat! This stuff is phenomenal.

Barnacle Brainteaser of the Day

What goes down to up, empty to full?

(Answer from yesterday: A delicious olive pizza from Andromeda Pizzeria! It's imperative that you go get one now. Go. Do it.)



Thursday, 14th November 2013



Did You Know?

- Today's "Breakfast Hog of the Day" award goes to Lucia in Cabin 5180, for eating more breakfast than anyone else on the ship. Congratulations, Lucia!
- Our state of the art sound system in the Antares Piano Bar on Deck 3 is so loud that it can be heard clearly in staterooms two floors above or below. Dance the night away in the comfort of your cabin!
- You cabin steward did not steal anything from your room yesterday.
- Costa Cruises has proudly hosted dozens of internationally recognized stars such as Angela Merkel, George W. Bush, John D. Rockefeller, and that kid from Home Alone.
- To maintain freshness, all poultry aboard the ship is kept live and slaughtered only minutes before cooking.
- Any guest who captures a teen who has escaped from the designated Teen Zone, found on floor 10, will be justly rewarded with one complimentary 5x7 photo from our Photo Gallery.

Captain Guiseppe Russo's Watch Notes

What are you looking at. Let me out. How much longer must I stay here? I am doing everything I can to get them to eat the pizza. Please have mercy. YOU CAN'T KEEP ME HERE FOREVER! What's that for?

Barnacle Brainteaser of the Day

Fill in the blanks. I am everyone's favorite place:

A _ _ _ _ A _ _ _ Z Z _ _ _ A

(Answer from yesterday: A delighted passenger, doing his part to eat all of the tasty pizza up in the Andromeda Pizzeria! That could be you!)



Friday 15th November 2013



Did You Know?

- Wow! A Costa First, passenger Lucia in cabin 5180 has won the "Breakfast Hog of the Day" twice in a row! Please visit her cabin to congratulate her on this impressive achievement (and bring her any breakfast-related leftovers you may have!).
- Ever wonder why housekeeping never visits when you're in your room? All staff have full access to our hidden camera network, allowing them to stay out of your room while you're there, and avoid invading your privacy.
- Costa is proud of its unparalleled record for efficiency. Any food left on your plate can be reused by our expert chefs to create wonderful buffet options for later meals.
- Health regulations prohibit us from recycling food more than once, so some waste is still dumped directly into the sea. Every day that quantity of food would have been enough to feed a medium-sized African village for a week. But it doesn't.
- Costa offers an innovative dining program for those passengers who are no longer physically able to chew their own food. Upon request, we can provide you with a staff member to pre-chew your meal and transfer it to you orally. Birds have been doing this for ages, but Costa is the first to bring it to cruise passengers.

Second Mate Steve's Wise Waves of Wisdom

Ahoy there, passenger! I'm writing to you because Captain Russo's notes were deemed "Unfit For Passenger Consumption". I plan on using this space to share intimate details of my relationship with my somewhat-beautiful wife and The Great Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Barnacle Brainteaser of the Day

Unscramble this jumble: A ZIG ZAG POET

(Answer from yesterday: ANDROMEDA PIZZERIA! To be totally clear, if you do not eat three or more slices per day, we will crush a baby seagull. Get to it.)



Saturday, 16th November 2013



Did You Know?

- Tomorrow is our traditional lifeboat race! Come to the overlook on deck Giada or Turchese to root for your favorite boat and watch them compete for the Costa Spaghetti Cup.
- Russia is the third largest continent (on earth).
- Due to the staff medical emergency, the Costa Luminosa's engines are being run at 100%. You are witnessing history in the making: no cruise ship has ever run its engines this hard for this long. Our on-board scientist/dancer is confident that they will be able to run at this level safely until we reach our destination.
- Our duck, turkey, and chicken all come from the exact same animal. It's pigeon!
- No one has ever used our pristine miniature golf course. You could be the first!
- In addition to the twelve decks accessible to passengers, there are twenty-three decks below sea level accessible only to staff, livestock, and stowaways.

Second Mate Steve's Wise Waves of Wisdom

Captain Russo managed to stage a crew-wide emergency drill from his current mandatory confines. Please accept our apologies for this inconvenience, and rest assured that he has been silenced. Permanently. Amen.

Barnacle Brainteaser of the Day

What flavor(s) of pizza did you eat yesterday? There is only one right answer.

(Answer from yesterday: GO GET A PIZZA. Great advice. Don't mess with me.)





M/N COSTA LUMINOSA

16.11.2013

Dear Guests,

It has come to our attention that many of the guests on this ship have been receiving a fraudulent newsletter entitled "Seaman's Sonar". We have obtained copies of this newsletter and found it to be filled with mostly incorrect and libelous information. Please understand that despite looking authentic, it is a criminal work created by malicious passengers.

We are currently investigating the source of this newsletter and have been informed by witnesses that it was created by two young male passengers. Our security team is following up on leads and expects to apprehend these troublemakers shortly. If you have any information on their identities, please contact the information desk. A reward may be provided.

Costa Crociere takes its sterling reputation very seriously and will defend itself to the fullest extent of the law. Upon apprehension, the perpetrators will be transferred to the onboard jail and will be held until they can be extradited to their country of origin. At that time, Costa will press charges including, but not limited to: fraud, libel, malicious intent to deceive, and causing a public disturbance.

We apologize for any inconvenience caused by this unauthorized newsletter. Costa is fully dedicated to bringing its creators to justice, and asks for your help. If you have any information that could lead to the capture and arrest of the perpetrators, please contact us immediately.

The Captain