

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Costa Cruises' Costa Deliziosa To Make First Call On St. Thomas

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ST. THOMAS -- The Costa Deliziosa (pronounced De-lee-zee-o-sa) will call on St. Thomas for the first time on Thursday, March 10th from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The ship will berth at the West Indian Company (W.I.C.O.) dock, according to a release issued late Friday.

"Welcoming a ship to our port for the first time is always a pleasure," said Joseph B. Boschulte, President and CEO of the West Indian Company, Ltd. "W.I.C.O. and Costa Cruises have had a long and mutually beneficial relationship over the years, and we look forward to welcoming more Costa ships as the line continues to expand its fleet."

Delivered to Costa Cruises in 2010, Costa Deliziosa is the second of Costa's Luminosa-class ships. Luminosa-class ships are hybrid designs based on the best features of the line's Vista and Spirit-class ships. The ships weigh approximately 92,700 gross tons.

According to the Costa Cruises website, Costa *Deliziosa* allows guests to "experience pure pleasure." The ship represents "design in its most spectacular form. *Costa Deliziosa* was created to seduce, charm, satisfy and fulfill every desire, giving passengers a unique sensory experience.

The ship's unique features include a 4D cinema; grand prix simulator; samsara spa; a cigar, coffee and chocolate bar; four restaurants and 340 original works of art by young and great masters. It accommodates 2,828 passengers and 1,100 crew.

Costa Cruises is known for the authenticity of its international experience, appealing to people through food, wine and service. The cruise line recently placed fourth out of ten in the "Best Ocean Cruise Line". *Costa Deliziosa* also was rated second "Best Ship for Entertainment" in a *USA Today* Readers Poll.

Costa Deliziosa has been hosting world cruise excursions of one-hundred days or more since 2011.

MS Costa Deliziosa at a Glance

Height: 16 decks (12 passenger decks)

Weight: 92,700 gross tons

Length: 964.5 feet

Speed: 21.6 knots (24.9 mph)

Ordered: February 2007

Builder: Fincantieri, Italy

Completed: March 2009

Maiden Voyage: February 2010

Cost: \$488 million

Port of Registry: Genoa, Italy

Class and Type: Luminosa (Luminosa class ships are hybrid designs of Costa Cruise's Vista and Spirit-class ships. They weigh 92,700 gross tons)

Passenger Capacity: 2,828 maximum occupancy

Staterooms: 1,130

Crew: 1,000

Owner: Carnival Cruises

Operator: Costa Cruises

Trivia: Christened in Port Rashid, Dubai. The first ship to be christened in an Arabian city. A special date juice was used rather than the traditional champagne, wine or prosecco in deference to the country's Muslim faith.

Sister Ship: Costa Luminosa

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