



mv Minerva



The North Cape, Norway

I am writing to give you an update on *Minerva* following a challenging few months with ash clouds and a dry-dock. We now hope that we can look forward to the warmer summer months and the prospect of intriguing days on board and satisfying, enlightening visits ashore on a wide variety of cruises.

The All Leisure Group has made further substantial investment on *Minerva* and, after dry-docking in Syros this spring, she just completed a successful trip to the Black Sea on Gods & Tsars cruise. *Minerva* began her journey in the mesmerising city of Istanbul and continued up the Bosphorus into the Black Sea. Her next port was Nessebur in Bulgaria, inscribed on UNESCO's list for its Byzantine churches and 19th century wooden town, where she left the Black Sea and called at Canakkale in Turkey for visits to the Gallipoli peninsula and remains of the ancient city of Troy. *Minerva* then sailed on to Greece, transited the memorable Corinth Canal and concluded her cruise by sailing into the Grand Harbour of Valletta. *Minerva's* officers and crew – together with the on board Swan Hellenic team led by Cruise Directors Paul Carter and Hugh Leslie – have been pleased to welcome on board many of our loyal, repeat passengers.

Minerva recently embarked on her Romans & Moors cruise, that included ports in North Africa, Spain and Portugal, on her northbound cruise back to the UK. Our popular summer season of 'no fly' cruises from Dover began with *Minerva's* cruise to The North Cape, which departed on 14 June 2010. To secure one of the 75 cabins remaining available this summer, see our enclosed flyer for further details.

Looking further ahead to the autumn and to our Far East programme this winter, I know that many of you have already booked these cruises and have also taken advantage of cruising longer, by booking one of our Grand Voyages. These offer the opportunity of exploring a wider range of enticing destinations, with the added bonus of only ever unpacking once. We are pleased to see that, after offering expedition cruises in Antarctica for the last three winter seasons, our return to the Far East – which we last visited in 2004/5 – has been received with so much enthusiasm and interest.

I know that Captain John Moulds and Captain Giovanni Biasutti, their officers and crew, look forward to welcoming you on board *Minerva* in the coming months.

Colin Stone
Managing Director

P.S. See enclosed flyer for latest offers.

CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

Minerva's 'Gods & Tsars' cruise, which ended on 30th May, yielded some excellent results from passenger questionnaires submitted on board:

Rated as Good or Very Good

Itinerary: 100%

Shore Excursions: 99%

Hotel Services: 97%

Plan to cruise with Swan Hellenic again: 99%

