



P R E S S R E L E A S E

Seattle, 9 June 2011

Three Godmothers celebrate Orion II naming

Sarina Bratton, Founder and Managing Director of Orion Expedition Cruises, today joined with the ship's crew and invited guests at a dockside ceremony in Seattle to officially name *Orion II*, the latest acquisition for Orion Expedition Cruises.

Resisting the current populist use of star profiles to name new ships, Sarina chose three Godmothers from *Orion's* past guests to jointly name *Orion II*. Together they represent the most travelled females on *Orion* – Jill Bennette, Laurel Norris and Shirley Turtle; their status of Godmother in recognition of loyalty to Orion Expedition Cruises. Between them they have travelled on over 50 voyages on *Orion* and so are well placed to represent guests, past and future.

Many guests who travelled on *Orion's* first voyage from Tahiti to Australia in 2005 are joining Sarina onboard *Orion II* for the inaugural 24 night voyage from Vancouver to Otaru, Japan departing 10 June 2011.

Commenting on *Orion II* and expedition cruising Sarina said *"It seems that every day we read of another new mega liner being launched, each attempting to outdo the other with added theme park attractions. Well I am pleased to say that our approach with Orion, and now Orion II, is the opposite. For us, instead of a theatre with wide screen movies we offer the real thing, 3D outdoor 360 degree panoramas to far horizons, with surround sound emanating from cascading waterfalls or the rhythmic beat of drums. Our rock climbing takes place up real cliffs. Our version of an 'Adventure Club' includes exploration in Zodiacs up rivers, looking for crocodiles or exploring World War II sites, and our Aquarium features some of the best expanses of coral and marine-life epicentres on this planet"*.

"Orion II allows us to expand our adventures with a range of exciting luxury expeditions stretching from the Russian Far East to Antarctica. This is not growth for the sake of growth. We are expanding in order to meet the demand from past guests and new guests who seek stimulating adventures exploring paths less travelled".

Orion II departs Vancouver on 10 June for a 24 night voyage that will include Alaska, the Aleutian Islands, Kamchatka Peninsula and Kuril Islands enroute to Otaru, Japan.

The inaugural voyage will be followed by expeditions to the Russian Far East, Inland Sea of Japan, the Ryukyu Islands and then a series of varying 10 night itineraries around Borneo. Later voyages in 2011 include Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam.

Further information on all Orion Expedition Cruises during 2011 and 2012 can be obtained by visiting the website www.orionexpeditions.com

For reservations or to obtain a brochure of 2011 or 2012 voyages call Orion Expedition Cruises: 61-2 9033 8777 (Sydney callers) 1300 361 012 (regional and interstate) / 0800 444 462 (New Zealand) or see your travel agent.
Email: info@orionexpeditions.com

.....

About Orion II

Originally launched as *Renaissance Four*, later *Clelia II*, she was re-launched in 2009 after an extensive €13 million (A\$21 million) refurbishment, with emphasis on technical enhancements and upgraded environmental systems. The ship has just completed a further scheduled dry-dock maintenance overhaul plus additional cosmetic enhancements and soft furnishing redecoration to bring her fully into the Orion style.

BESPOKE SMALL-SHIP AMENITIES: The all-suite *Orion II* offers fine small-ship expedition cruise travel.

With a crew of 70 this private yacht-like cruise ship accommodates just 100 guests in 50 suites. Each suite affords ocean views and is appointed with a sitting area or separate living room, twin or queen-size beds, spacious closets, flat screen television and DVD, iPod dock and air conditioning.

Decorated with rich fabrics, handsome wood, polished brass, rare antiques and fine works of art, the ship's public spaces are warm and inviting. These include:

- Library with Internet access
- 2 Lounges with audiovisual facilities
- State-of-the-art gym/spa
- Beauty salon
- Boutique
- Medical centre
- Elevator serving all passenger decks
- Dining room
- Two sun decks
- Jacuzzi
- Swimming platform

Orion II complies with the latest international and U.S. Coast Guard safety regulations and is outfitted with the most current navigation and communications technology as well as retractable fin stabilizers for smooth sailing, an ice-strengthened hull for Antarctic voyages and a fleet of Zodiacs to enable easy shore access in remote locations.

For further media information please contact:

Michael Corbett
Public Relations Manager
Orion Expedition Cruises
Phone: (61-2) 4572 1885
Mobile: 0417 469 228
Email: mcorbett@orionexpeditions.com