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Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines' Black Watch, Braemar and Balmoral to undergo refurbishment at Hamburg's Blohm+Voss in November and December 2014

Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines' three ships *Black Watch*, *Braemar* and *Balmoral* are all due to enter dry dock at the Blohm+Voss shipyard in Hamburg, Germany in November and December 2014, in preparation for the forthcoming 2015/16 cruise season. This is the first time that so many Fred. Olsen ships have undergone refurbishment within such short succession.

Work has started with 804-guest *Black Watch*, which arrived at Blohm+Voss

on 4th November 2014. The ship will then continue on Fred. Olsen's first-ever sellout 'Mystery Cruise' of 14 nights, W1417, which sails from Tilbury on 15th November 2014.

Braemar will then arrive in Hamburg on 12th November 2014, after which the 929-guest ship will depart on a three-night M1430 'France Mini-Cruise' from Southampton on 20th November 2014.

Balmoral, which carries 1,350 guests, rounds off the planned dry dock works. The ship will arrive on 9th December 2014, and will leave the shipyard to start a two-night pre-Christmas L1418 'France Mini-Cruise' from Southampton on 19th December 2014.

The Blohm+Voss schedule for the three Fred. Olsen cruise ships comprises various engineering works, general refurbishment and interior and exterior painting.

During the dry dock, *Black Watch* will also see 27 cabins on Lido Deck 7 fitted with balcony terraces. These new Balcony Terrace cabins will extend out 1.2 metres from the ship's bulkhead, and will provide guests with an increased choice of cost-effective balcony cabins with access to the outside.

During their dry docks, *Balmoral* and *Braemar* will also follow on from *Boudicca* and *Black Watch* by having Fred. Olsen's popular 'Café Venus' installed on board, serving high-quality coffee and luxury chocolates. The new Café will be created on *Balmoral* on Lounge Deck 7, by reconfiguring the Library area, to create a more open, sociable public space.

On *Braemar*, Café Venus will be installed on Lounge Deck 5 by reconfiguring the Library area, and the Card Room will be moved and integrated with the Arts and Crafts Centre on Atlantic Deck 3.

Mike Rodwell, Managing Director of Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines, said:

"We experience extremely high demand for balcony cabins across our fleet, and in particular on board the smaller-sized *Black Watch*, and our new Balcony Terrace cabins are an innovative response to this. We are also looking forward to being able to give guests the experience of fine coffee and chocolates on board *Balmoral* and *Braemar*, as they have already been

enjoying on *Boudicca* and *Black Watch*.

“Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines is pleased to be returning to Blohm+Voss for this important work. *Balmoral* and *Braemar* are both well-known to the Hamburg shipyard, as they both underwent mid-section extensions in 2007 and 2008 respectively.”

In November 2007, *Balmoral* was extended by a section of 30.27 metres. *Braemar* followed in May 2008, being extended amidships by a section of 31.20 metres.

To see the incredible footage of *Balmoral* being extended at the Blohm+Voss shipyard in Hamburg in November 2007, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0ew1MkmY1s>

For further information on Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines, visit the website at www.fredolsencruises.com To find out more about Blohm+Voss, go to www.blohmvooss.com

Fred. Olsen Cruise Line operates in the UK with four intimately sized ships for a more personal cruising experience.

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