



Sep 11, 2018 22:49 BST

## Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines reunites fleet for historic 'Captains in Cádiz' celebration

Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines celebrated an historic coming together of its fleet of four ocean ships – *Balmoral*, *Braemar*, *Boudicca* and *Black Watch* – in Cádiz, Spain on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018. Entitled '**Captains in Cádiz**', this was only the second time ever that the fleet has converged in one place, anywhere in the world.

Fred. Olsen's four ships sailed into Cádiz harbour at just before 8am, carrying 4,000 eager guests, who were welcomed by the 'Los Sones de Cádiz' band and a port bedecked with 'Captains in Cádiz' fiesta-style bunting and banners.

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

“We have named this year’s event ‘Captains in Cádiz’, as our Captains – and their dedicated crews – help to make the cruise experience across our fleet such an enjoyable and memorable one.

“This year marks the 170<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Fred. Olsen’s start as a shipping company and we are delighted to be celebrating today in the stunning city of Cádiz. Our cruise ships have been calling here since 1987, and the excellent port facilities mean that we can berth all four ships in close proximity to each other.

“‘Captains in Cadiz’ has been two years in the planning, and follows on from the tremendous success of our ‘Four Ships in Bergen’ event in July 2015, when we brought our four ocean ships together for the very first time in Bergen, Norway. We would like to thank the Port and city of Cádiz for their very warm welcome, and we look forward to giving our guests another unforgettable Fred. Olsen experience here today with ‘Captains in Cádiz!’”

A key part of the ‘Captains in Cádiz’ celebrations was the bringing together of the eight ships’ Masters from across the Fred. Olsen fleet: Captains Victor Stoica and Rommel Pineda from *Balmoral*, Captains Jozo Glavic and Jens Erik Gulowsen from *Braemar*, Captains Juha Sartela and Mikael Degerlund from *Boudicca*, and Captains Henrik Mattsson and Valentin Giuglea from *Black Watch*.

Also attending the event was Chairman of Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines, Fred. Olsen Junior, who watched the fleet come together again with pride.

Captain Mikael Degerlund, Master of *Boudicca*, said:

“‘Captains in Cádiz’ really was another tremendous success for Fred Olsen Cruise Lines. The event was wonderful, not only for all of us eight Captains, but also for all the staff and crew, who had a great opportunity to meet and mingle with guests from across the fleet, together with the Chairman, Directors and Managers from both of our offices in Ipswich and Oslo. Wherever you walked and turned, there was always a familiar face.

“On a personal level, it makes me very proud to be part of Fred. Olsen, whose

cruise ships – for me and many of our guests – are our 'home away from home'."

Working closely with Cádiz Port Authority and the various Cádiz and Andalusian tourism partners involved, Fred. Olsen laid on a fun-packed programme of festivities and activities during the day, along the quayside and throughout the city.

Guests could take part in a 'Siege of Cádiz' themed Treasure Hunt, enjoy live bands and Flamenco shows along the route, try delicious local produce, cheer on the crew in a hotly-contested inter-ship Tug of War competition, and sample local Sherry – poured in the traditional way.

One of the highlights of the event was a ceremonial Plaque Exchange on stage, attended by all eight Captains, Fred. Olsen Junior, Mike Rodwell, the Mayor of Cádiz, President of Cádiz Port Authority and other local dignitaries, at which ships' plaques were presented by the Captains and commemorative gifts received from the city of Cádiz, followed by a VIP Reception on board *Balmoral*.

Guests also had the rare opportunity to visit all of the Fred. Olsen ships during the day, and many took advantage of the chance to meet up with each other – or their favourite crew members – and get to experience the rest of the fleet for themselves.

At 5pm, all four ships made a dramatic departure from Cádiz in convoy, serenaded by a local jazz band. Led out of the harbour by a fire tug boat spraying its water cannons, the Fred. Olsen fleet passed under the imposing The Constitution of 1812 Bridge in formation, before setting sail for their next destinations: *Braemar* was returning to Southampton, UK; both *Balmoral* and *BlackWatch* continued to Lisbon, Portugal; and *Boudicca* headed to Ibiza, Spain.

Fred. Olsen has already started planning its next fleet reunion – the third such event – in the stunning city of Funchal, on the 'Garden Island' of Madeira, on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2020. Named 'Four Fred.s in Funchal', this exciting event is already proving popular with guests, many of whom have chosen to book their place following their enjoyment of 'Captains in Cádiz!

Find out more at <https://www.fredolsencruises.com/four-freds-in-funchal>

**Photo caption**

Pictured, left to right: Captain Jens Erik Gulowsen – Master of *Braemar*, Captain Juha Sartela – Master of *Boudicca*, Captain Mikael Degerlund – Master of *Boudicca*, Captain Henrik Mattsson – Master of *Black Watch*, Fred. Olsen Junior – Chairman of Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines, Mike Rodwell – Managing Director of Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines, Captain Valentin Giuglea – Master of *Black Watch*, Captain Victor Stoica – Master of *Balmoral*, Captain Rommel Pineda – Master of *Balmoral*, and Captain Jozo Glavic – Master of *Braemar*, celebrate 'Captains in Cadiz' in Cádiz, Spain on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

Click on '[Captains in Cadiz](#)' to view Fred. Olsen's special commemorative video.

For further information on Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines, visit the website at [www.fredolsencruises.com](http://www.fredolsencruises.com)

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

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