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## 'Fred. Olsen's 'Brabant' commences inaugural 'European River Cruising' programme'

Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines' new 156-guest river ship, *Brabant*, has today [Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2018] commenced its inaugural cruise season from Amsterdam, on a five-night '**Springtime Dutch Discovery**' itinerary, calling at Amsterdam, Hoorn, Kampen, Deventer, Arnhem and Nijmegen in the Netherlands, and ending in Düsseldorf, Germany.

Peter Deer, Commercial Director for Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines, said:

"Today, our new river vessel, *Brabant*, sets sails from Amsterdam for the first time under a Fred. Olsen flag. These are exciting times, as *Brabant* will be visiting the wonderful rivers of Europe – the Rhine, Danube, Moselle and Main – as well as pretty towns and 'big name' cities, such as Vienna and Strasbourg, for shopping, music and culture.

"Guests can rest assured that Fred. Olsen's new river cruises will be underpinned by all the usual high standards, award-winning customer service and understated elegance that they have come to expect of our ocean-going offer.

"*Brabant* may be small, but we are proud to have developed a great product for our first year, helping to create new memories for our guests across the spectacular waterways of Europe."

Fred. Olsen is operating its inaugural 'European River Cruising' programme between 5<sup>th</sup> April and 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2018. Guests can choose from a total of 30 departures on *Brabant* in 2018, on durations ranging from five to 25 nights, complemented by a selection of high-quality chargeable shore

excursions, designed to enhance guests' experience of the destination.

Fred. Olsen's river cruise itineraries on board *Brabant* for 2018 include: Düsseldorf, Germany to Amsterdam, The Netherlands; Düsseldorf to Nuremberg, Germany; Nuremberg to Budapest, Hungary; Budapest to Hirsova (Bucharest), Romania; Düsseldorf to Basel, Switzerland; and Hirsova (Bucharest) to Düsseldorf.

Importantly, Fred. Olsen has also incorporated a large amount of scenic cruising in daylight hours into its new river cruise itineraries, so that guests can make the most of the spectacular scenery on offer at the best time of the day.

Fred. Olsen guests – who are predominantly British – will also feel at home on board *Brabant*, with English spoken throughout and all transactions conducted in Pounds Sterling. The British taste will also be reflected in the cuisine, customer service and shore tours on offer.

Built in 2006, 110-metre-long *Brabant* is a stylish and comfortable river cruise boat, and has everything that guests will need to make their holiday a memorable one: from bright and spacious public areas, to well-equipped bedrooms and ample deck space, from which to enjoy the superb views. With just four decks – Haydn Deck 1, Strauss Deck 2, Mozart Deck 3 and Sun Deck 4 – and fewer than 80 rooms and suites, staffed by 40 crew members, *Brabant* has the intimate and friendly feel that Fred. Olsen's guests know and love.

*Brabant's* classic design is smaller than many river boats, so guests will enjoy the usual hallmarks of Fred. Olsen's 'closer' approach to cruising. In keeping with Fred. Olsen's ocean-going fleet, this smaller-scaled vessel has the style, atmosphere and elegance of a country house hotel. Cherry wood interiors and contemporary colours combine to make guests feel relaxed from the moment that they step on board. Juliette balconies with panoramic windows are a feature of many of the rooms, so that guests can enjoy expansive views of Europe's most impressive waterways.

Fred. Olsen will be building upon the success of *Brabant's* first river cruise season with an expanded programme of 33 departures in 2019, from April to November, with durations between five and 25 nights. Once again, guests can discover the attractions of the Danube, Rhine, Main and Moselle rivers with

Fred. Olsen's warm, welcoming style of cruising, taking in charming cities, small towns and sumptuous landscapes.

**For further information on Fred. Olsen's 'European River Cruising' programme, visit the website at [www.fredolsencruises.com/river-cruises](http://www.fredolsencruises.com/river-cruises) Book online, call Reservations on 0800 0355 242 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 8pm; Saturday, 9am to 5pm; Sunday, 10am to 4pm), or visit an ABTA travel agent.**

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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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