

MSC Cruises' MSC Poesia has announced its Baseball Greats, Big Band and Polka theme cruises for the 2009-10 Caribbean season of roundtrip sailings from Fort Lauderdale. Offerings include:

Baseball Greats. During the sailing, guests gain insight into the world of Major League Baseball as seen through the eyes of some of the greats of the game.

The Baseball Greats theme cruise includes free interactive guest/player activities, including a player-hosted trivia game in which guests can test their baseball knowledge, question-and-answer sessions with the players, a guest pitching contest and a lively story-telling session in which the players share some candid revelations about some of the "characters" of the game. Players will also host pitching, hitting, fielding and base-running clinics. Perhaps the most popular activity is the free autograph session at the end of the cruise.

The following itineraries will be Baseball Greats theme cruises:

- Nov. 20, 2009: 10-night Southern Caribbean featuring Panama, calling at Willemstad, Curacao; Oranjestad, Aruba; Cartagena, Colombia; Cristobal, Panama; and Playa del Carmen, Mexico
- Jan. 16, 2010: 7-night Western Caribbean, calling at Key West, Florida; Playa del Carmen, Mexico; Georgetown, Grand Cayman; Montego Bay, Jamaica; and Nassau, Bahamas.
- Feb. 6, 2010: 7-night Western Caribbean
- March 6, 2010: 7-night Eastern Caribbean, calling at San Juan, Puerto Rico; Philipsburg, St. Maarten; Road Town, Tortola; and Nassau, Bahamas
- April 3, 2010: 7-night Eastern Caribbean

Special guests on these itineraries will be announced at a later date.

Big Band. The 15-piece Les DeMerle Big Band, with vocalist Bonnie Eisele, will be featured on two MSC Poesia sailings. Dynamic drummer Les DeMerle has toured and recorded with the Harry James Big Band and Wayne Newton; the band has also accompanied many top singers, including Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr., The Manhattan Transfer, Mel Torme and Al Jarreau. In addition to their performances, the band will present a Big Band jazz concert and conduct a lecture on the Big Band era.

Written by Administrator

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The following itineraries will feature the Big Band theme:

- Dec. 10, 2009: 10-night Caribbean featuring Panama, calling at Georgetown, Grand Cayman; Cartagena, Colombia; Cristobal, Panama; Puerto Limon, Costa Rica; and Playa del Carmen, Mexico
- Feb. 27, 2010 – 7-night Western Caribbean

MSC Poesia will host a Polka Cruise on its Jan. 9, 2010, 7-night Eastern Caribbean sailing. It will feature two well-known polka bands: John Stevens Double Shot and Joe Stanky and the Cadets. (www.msccruisesusa.com)

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