

# Press release

January 8, 2014

## **2013 an eventful year for Viking Line**

The number of passengers who travelled on Viking Line vessels during 2013 was 6,533,650 (2012: 6,349,903) or nearly 3 per cent more than the year before. The new M/S Viking Grace, which began service in mid-January 2013, accounted for the largest increase. Viking Line cargo volume continued to expand. The number of cargo units carried in 2013 was 119,704 or 2.4 per cent more than the previous year.



### **Route services – M/S Viking Grace surpassed expectations**

By placing the M/S Viking Grace in service on the Turku (Finland) – Åland Islands (Finland) – Stockholm (Sweden) route, Viking Line became the leading provider of service on this route with a market share of 57,3 per cent. The vessel generated heavy media attention and attracted many new passengers both from the Company's primary markets and from other regions. Passengers were especially pleased with the on-board service and entirely new concepts. In the media, the vessel's liquefied natural gas (LNG) fuelled operation and modern design drew the most attention. Passenger volume on the Turku – Åland – Stockholm route, served by the M/S Viking Grace along with the M/S Amorella, increased by nearly 2,092,897 passengers (1,747,874).

During 2013 the number of passengers on the Helsinki (Finland) – Tallinn (Estonia) route continued to increase, reaching 1,856,703. This was 23,554 (+1.3 per cent) more than the number who travelled on this route the year before. In addition to the M/S Viking XPRS, the M/S Viking Cinderella also provided service on the route for a couple of weeks in December.

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On the Helsinki – Mariehamn (Åland) – Stockholm route, where the M/S Mariella and the M/S Gabriella provide service, there were 1,068,537 or 4.4 per cent fewer passengers than in 2012. The reason for the decreased number was the M/S Gabriella's dry-docking from May 15 to June 7. During the period May 30 – June 7, the M/S Amorella provided service on the route as the Gabriella's replacement.

On the short route across the Sea of Åland between Mariehamn and Kapellskär (Sweden), passenger volume on the M/S Rosella decreased to 659,277 (728,056). This was partly due to a lengthy pause in service early in 2013 and a decreased number of departures.

Passenger volume on the M/S Viking Cinderella's cruises from Stockholm was 840,089 (909,000). During the period May 30 – June 7, the vessel provided service on the Turku – Åland – Stockholm route in place of the M/S Amorella (which in turn substituted for the M/S Gabriella on the Helsinki – Stockholm route). In addition, it made two cruises between Stockholm and Riga (Latvia) as well as two cruises between Stockholm, Riga and Visby (on the Swedish isle of Gotland). Starting on December 14 the M/S Viking Cinderella provided cruise service between Helsinki and Tallinn, and on December 30 it made the Company's first-ever cruise in the Russian market, in the form of a four-day chartered voyage originating in St. Petersburg.

In April, Viking Line sold the M/S Isabella. The sale was a planned step in the financing of the M/S Viking Grace.

The Viking Line Group's Year-end Report for the financial year 2013 will be published on February 13, 2014.

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