

Press release, November 11, 2015

## Booking season for Christmas cruises kicks off Viking Line's Christmas buffet composed by star Swedish chef

**Cruises are among the most popular travel options year after year. Passengers on the Company's red-and-white-painted vessels are drawn in particular to the relaxed atmosphere, the extensive range of services available and a gourmet Christmas buffet.**

Viking Line's vessels are again offering a bountiful Christmas buffet planned by the noted Michelin-star chef Leif Mannerström from Sweden. Passengers will be able to enjoy traditional Christmas dishes and Swedish specialities on all Viking Line vessels during the period November 18–December 26. Last year more than 170,000 passengers took the opportunity to feast on the popular chef's Christmas delicacies.

"The Christmas buffet is full of traditional and familiar flavours. We also usually offer new taste experiences, which this year we will be bringing in from neighbouring Sweden. We are really pleased that our collaboration with Leif Mannerström continues and that he has also composed this year's Christmas buffet menu with classics, new dishes and specialities," says Bodil Ståhl, Viking Line's Restaurant Manager.

### Christmas Day in Stockholm

This year Viking Line is offering two Christmas cruises from Finland – on the M/S Viking Grace from Turku on December 24–25, and on the M/S Mariella from Helsinki on December 24–26. Along with Christmas delicacies, the cruise menu offers a wide-ranging programme, Christmas bargains and a relaxed atmosphere. Because of this diverse offering, a Christmas cruise is an excellent alternative for people who want a Christmas atmosphere as well as for people who are not really inspired by Christmas traditions. Santa Claus will also be on board, and there is something on the entertainment programme for people of all ages.

"Many passengers will no doubt be pleased that they can also book a guided tour of Stockholm on Christmas Day in conjunction with their Christmas cruise on the M/S Mariella. Once they arrive, they can for instance visit the popular ABBA museum or attend Christmas service at the Finnish church in the Old Town," says Lauri Orpana, Helsinki–Stockholm Route Manager at Viking Line.

If anyone is considering a Christmas cruise, they should act quickly. Demand has been strong year after year, and most cruises are booked in November. At Christmas, people often set more value on passenger comfort, which is especially apparent in the booking situation for the better categories of cabins. All meals on the Christmas cruises, including Leif Mannerström's bountiful Christmas buffet plus mulled wine, are part of the package price for the cruise.

#### Additional information:

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