

'River Venture'

A smaller sister vessel for Europe's river cruise industry

Dutch shipbuilder Shipyard De Hoop has recently delivered the river cruiser 'River Venture' for American cruise company Vantage Deluxe World Travel.

A smaller sister vessel to the 135 metre new-generation 'River Splendor' and 'River Discovery II', the 'River Venture' completes the three-ship order for Vantage.

Delivered simultaneously with the 'River Splendor', the two craft arrived a year after the delivery of the first vessel, the 135 metre 'River Discovery II'.

The vessel measures 110 metres in length, with a breadth of 11.1 metres and a variable draught of 1.45 to 2.10 metres. Two Caterpillar C32 engines power the ship; each rated for 745kW and driving Veth rudder propellers. Combined with a special low-drag hull form, this propulsion package allows the vessel to be classified with "green ship" status, conforming to Tier 2 low emissions standards.

"Vantage ships can reach the desired cruising speed of 12 knots using relatively little power, which saves a considerable amount of fuel," said Shipyard De Hoop. "Moreover, the low resistance and smart construction make for fewer vibrations and less noise, resulting in more comfort for passengers."

As well as lower emissions, the entire ship is equipped with LED lighting for further energy savings, with some 2,600 lights using 3W instead of 445W.

Featuring three cabin classes, including 11m² single and 15m² standard "Staterooms", 23m² "Deluxe Suites" and 30m² "Owners Suites", every cabin features individual climate control, private bathrooms and showers. Three quarters of all accommodation spaces have French balconies, and to save on weight, "stretch ceilings" have been installed throughout the cabins.

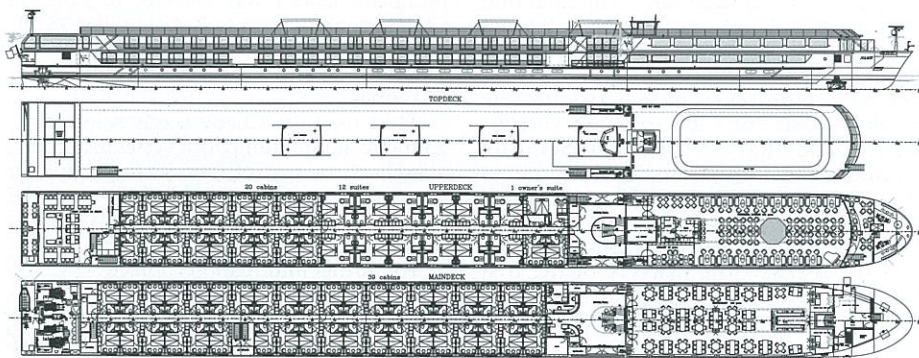
Composed from canvas and stretched over a framework, these ceilings imitate the look of plaster while significantly reducing weight and improving accessibility for repairs and maintenance. Additionally, entertainment-on-demand (film, video and internet) and a GPS tracking system are available in all cabins, and Wi-Fi is available throughout the entire vessel.

An elevator connects the Explorer and Navigator Decks, with a hydraulic chair lift to the open-air Solaris Deck. At the aft of the vessel, a hydraulic sliding roof can be fully opened and closed within three minutes. The ship therefore features plenty of outside space, including on routes where

passengers are not allowed on the 1,300m² top deck due to low bridges.

Boasting a "classic retro look", Shipyard De Hoop comments that the Vantage series of vessels feature the latest in passenger vessel advancements: "Under the skin these craft feature the very latest technologies. De Hoop designed this new series specifically for this customer and their market, at the same time optimising it to the maximum allowable length according to EU regulations," the company said in a statement. To date, Shipyard De Hoop has designed, built and delivered seven vessels for Vantage Travel.

For further information contact: Shipyard De Hoop, The Netherlands. Web: www.dehoop.net



'River Venture' SPECIFICATIONS

Type of vessel:	River cruise ship
In survey to:	Bureau Veritas
Owner:	Vantage Deluxe World Travel, United States
Builder:	Shipyard De Hoop, The Netherlands
Length overall:	110 metres
Breadth:	11.1 metres (moulded)
Depth to main deck:	3.25 metres (moulded)
Operational draught:	1.4 metres
Ballast draught:	2.1 metres
Cruising speed:	12 knots
Main engines:	2 x Caterpillar C32; each 746kW
Propellers:	2 x Veth propellers
Bowthruster:	1 x 350kW
Cruising speed:	12 knots
Fuel capacity:	100m ³
Freshwater capacity:	185m ³
Water ballast capacity:	670m ³
Passenger capacity:	134
Crew:	36