

BOUTIQUE 'PURSUIT'

Azamara's newest ship expands the upper premium's reach across the globe.

AS THE THIRD SHIP in Azamara Club Cruises' fleet, the 702-passenger *Azamara Pursuit* has increased the line's capacity by 50 percent, but even more importantly, is allowing the upper premium brand to sail to new destinations. The line's three ships will sail to more than 400 ports of call and Azamara is adding country-intensive itineraries, themed cruises and land / sea packages that include African safaris (partnering with **Micato**) and journeys to South America's Machu Picchu and Iguazu Falls.

Azamara Pursuit first sailed as the former Renaissance Cruises' R-8 and later

sailed as Swan-Hellenic Cruises' *Minerva II*, Princess Cruises' *Royal Princess* and P&O Cruises' and Fathom's *Adonia*. After acquiring the ship earlier this year, Azamara updated and revitalized the 30,277-ship at the Harland and Wolff shipyard, Belfast, Northern Ireland. *Azamara Pursuit* began sailing in late August and **Travel Agent** was onboard for a christening / preview voyage.

FRESH LOOK, NEW SPACES: Overall, this boutique-style ship looks fresh and pleasing-to-the-eye. We like the contemporary — yet warm — interior décor created by outfitting specialist

MJM Group. The ship also has a similar look to that of sisters *Azamara Quest* and *Azamara Journey* plus has many of the brand's most popular signature spaces. That said, there are some changes.

Stressing that Azamara is always seeking ways to do more for guests, Larry Pimentel, Azamara's president and CEO, says the line added more accommodations to this ship. It also took 40 or so staterooms on several decks and turned them into Club Continent Suites and added other suites elsewhere too.



A Club World Owner's Suite has 560 square feet of space that encompasses a master bedroom; a large verandah and a living room with floor-to-ceiling sliding glass doors.

PHOTO BY SUSAN J. YOUNG