

Shipyard De Hoop successfully delivered *River Splendor* & *River Venture*

***River Splendor* & *River Venture* – second and third new-generation ‘Vantage’ ship delivered**

River Splendor (NB445) is the second 135m, new-generation, cruise ship that Shipyard De Hoop has built for Vantage Deluxe World Travel. The third vessel, her little sister of 110m called *River Venture* (NB446), has also been delivered successfully, a year after the delivery of the first in the series of three, *River Discovery II* (NB444 - 135m). *River Splendor*'s naming ceremony took place in Antwerp, Belgium, on Thursday, the 14th of March 2013 and was performed by Miss Belgium, Noémie Happart. *River Splendor* will commence her inaugural voyage on March 17, while *River Venture* will start her maiden voyage on March 26, both departing from Amsterdam.

De Hoop & Vantage

With Vantage Deluxe World Travel, Shipyard De Hoop has established yet another successful longstanding and fruitful relationship with her client. It was twelve years ago, that Shipyard De Hoop built her first ship for Vantage. Longstanding associations, based on a customer-oriented ethic, have become a hallmark of De Hoop's business model. Personal attention to the clients' requirements, the ability to listening to their needs and understand their business model, coupled with open communication are fundamental to this process. To date Shipyard De Hoop has designed, built and delivered seven vessels for Vantage Travel.

***River Splendor* & *River Venture* - Features**

De Hoop staff is committed to a customer-oriented ethic in which quality, creativity, innovation and flexibility towards the client are paramount. The shipyards pride themselves on embracing the latest technology and this new-generation ‘Vantage’ series is a good example of this. Whilst the vessels have a classic retro look, under the skin they feature the very latest technologies. De Hoop designed this new series specifically for this customer and his market, at the same time optimising it to the maximum allowable length according to EU regulations.

The new-generation ‘Vantage’ ships, including *River Splendor* and *River Venture*, boast several innovative features. For instance its propulsion system, combined with the sophisticated hull shape, is very fuel-efficient. This results in reduced emission levels and allows the vessel a “green ship” designation. To further economise, energy-saving LED lighting has been adopted throughout the ship. Ceilings are composed from canvas, which is stretched over a framework, thus reducing weight and providing the vessel's interior with a modern look. The aft of the vessels also feature a unique hydraulic sliding roof for indoor/outdoor dining and the largest full-service kitchen of any European river cruising vessel. A state-of-the-art audio system has been installed in the public areas, whilst entertainment-on-demand (film, video and internet) and a GPS tracking system are available in the cabins. On top of all this, the high-quality interior is designed to be low-maintenance, resulting in crew being able to spend more time providing service to and entertaining guests.

Principal particulars of *River Splendor*

Length oa	135.00m	<u>Tank capacities:</u>	
Breadth mld	11.10m	Marine Diesel oil	120cu.m
Depth mld, main deck	3.25m	Fresh water	230cu.m
Draught, operational	1.40m	Ballast water	850cu.m
Draught, ballast	2.10m		
Speed, cruising	22km/h ≈ 12kn		

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Principal particulars of River Venture

Length oa	110.00m	<u>Tank capacities:</u>	
Breadth mld	11.10m	Marine Diesel oil	100cu.m
Depth mld, main deck	3.25m	Fresh water	185cu.m
Draught, operational	1.40m	Ballast water	670cu.m
Draught, ballast	2.10m		
Speed, cruising	22km/h ≈ 12kn		

ABOUT VANTAGE DELUXE WORLD TRAVEL

Celebrating its 30th Anniversary this year, Vantage Deluxe World Travel is a world-renowned tour operator, known for delivering the best value in deluxe travel. As Vantage themselves would say: “We have been creating and delivering Memorable Journeys — River Cruises, Small Ship Cruise Tours and Escorted Land Tours – since 1983”.

River cruises in Europe are among Vantage's most popular experiences for which the company own and operate a fleet of luxurious river cruise ships that sail the Rhine, Danube, Main, Moselle, Saône and Rhone rivers. Vantage's Memorable Journeys include upmarket escorted tours to a variety of destinations in North and South America, Africa, Europe, the Mediterranean, Asia and the South Pacific.

Vantage travel programs offer the most comprehensive sightseeing journeys. They are committed to making guests feel like locals instead of tourists and turning a vacation into a trip of a lifetime. Vantage provides quality travel experiences and services that exceed the expectations of customers.

For more information on current travel programs, please visit: www.vantagetravel.com.

ABOUT SHIPYARD DE HOOP

Shipyards De Hoop is a successful Dutch designer and builder of custom-built vessels. Each and every ship that is built is unique, that means no standard processes, but customisation. De Hoop has a positive approach to trends and developments in the industry, allowing them to quickly embrace change and even anticipate future developments.

De Hoop has two shipyards: De Hoop Lobith, in the east of the country, with 135 employees and De Hoop Foxhol, in the north, with 65 employees. The two shipyards together have an annual turnover of around 100 million euro. The yard offers slipway facilities for vessels up to 200 metres length.

Shipyards De Hoop has an impressive track record in designing and constructing custom-built ships. This includes both seagoing vessels and inland vessels. They have their own design and engineering department, together with all other disciplines to build a complete ship. The company is characterised by its flexibility and quality, whilst offering fast delivery dates at the same time.

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