

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Another inaugural visit by a cruise ship**

Star Breeze, the American owned Windstar Cruises luxury ship, became the eleventh inaugural call of the season when it sailed into Gibraltar yesterday.

With a gross tonnage of 9,975 and a length of 134 metres, Star Breeze has a small passenger capacity of 212.

As is customary on these occasions, Minister for Tourism, the Hon Samantha Sacramento MP was invited on board the vessel for a formal welcome ceremony with the captain and crew.

Ship agents MH Bland and Co were also present and there was the customary exchange of commemorative plaques with the ship's captain.

Representatives from the Gibraltar Port Authority, Deputy Captain of the Port Manuel Tirado and the Gibraltar Tourist Board were also in attendance.

Minister Sacramento expressed her delight at the arrival of yet another vessel making its inaugural call to Gibraltar's bustling port.

"We are thrilled at the great cruise ship activity that Gibraltar has seen this year. The number of inaugurals has substantially increased, and this highlights the hard work put in by both the Ministry for Tourism and the Gibraltar Tourist Board."

"We are reaping the success of our continuing efforts to prioritise and consolidate the Rock's position as leading cruise port of call for the global cruise industry in the Western Mediterranean."

"I would like to reiterate my satisfaction at this latest cruise visit which provides yet more evidence of the excellent state of health of the Gibraltar cruise industry."

"The present administration's untiring political commitment to tourism has generated many opportunities to further boost the sector. It has also secured economic benefits for Gibraltar's varied commercial interests, including the shipping, tourist, retail and leisure industries all of which make an important contribution to the Rock's development and sustained prosperity."

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