

CRUISE NEWS
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**NEWEST, LARGEST CRUISE SHIP
NOW SAILS FROM GALVESTON**

Because of Hurricane Katrina, Carnival Cruise Line's 110,000-ton *Conquest* is now sailing from her new homeport in Galveston. The 2,974-passenger ship entered service December 1, 2002, launching 7-day western Caribbean cruises year round from New Orleans. *Conquest* will maintain her original itinerary to Montego Bay, Grand Cayman and Cozumel indefinitely beyond March 2006.

The FEMA charter ship shuffle sent Carnival's *Ecstasy* to New Orleans where she now houses relief workers. In her place, *Elation*, which previously offered a 7-day itinerary, now offers the 4 and 5-day Western Caribbean sailings from Galveston. After the FEMA charters are over, *Ecstasy* will undergo an extensive 35-day refurbishment and return to Galveston to resume the popular shorter trips on April 8, 2006. *Elation* will then be redeployed to Miami to operate a new four-port 7-day itinerary. *Elation* and *Ecstasy* are sister ships, both 70,000 tons and normal cruise capacity for 2,052 passengers.

Conquest is slightly larger than the 109,000-ton *Grand Princess* scheduled to return to Galveston in November. *Conquest* features a stunning 9-story atrium, 22 bars and lounges, 4 swimming pools, a 250-foot water slide, 7 whirlpools, a 13,300 square foot spa, health club and beauty salon. Guests can enjoy an unprecedented array of formal and casual dining options, everything from an award-winning reservations-only supper club to a pair of two-level main dining rooms, a patisserie and expansive two-deck high poolside restaurant with a 24-hour pizzeria. Complimentary 24-hour stateroom service is also available to *Conquest*'s 1,487 cabins.

This floating resort is also a feast for the eyes. Each Carnival ship has its own unique theme to unify interior spaces. For *Conquest*, the theme is based on the works of great Impressionist and post-Impressionist painters—from the bold brush strokes of Vincent Van Gogh to the gentle, muted tones of Claude Monet's "Water Lilies."

According to Joe Farcus, Carnival's ship architect, *Conquest* is the first "Fun Ship" whose interior design was directly tied to its intended homeport of New Orleans. "When I learned the ship was to sail from New Orleans, I was inspired to use the Impressionists as a jumping-off point for the interior design," said Farcus. "Edgar Degas actually lived in New Orleans for a time, so there is definitely a connection between the city, which is an artist's city with a definite French influence, and the Impressionist painters," he added.

For example, the Toulouse-Lautrec Show Lounge takes as its inspiration from the French painter's sketches and portraits of subjects he found in the cabarets, theater, circus and brothels of Paris. Colors of gold and red dominate while to the sides of the stage are the famous windmill signs of the Moulin Rouge cabaret, its vanes turning in an imaginary breeze and the windmill motif repeated in the carpet design.

On a calmer note, Farcus wanted something 'quiet and beautiful' for *Conquest*'s two two-level dining rooms so he chose Monet and Renoir. The forward Renoir Restaurant is

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inspired by “Lunch at the Restaurant Fournaise,” with tranquil scenes of boaters relaxing at a cafe overlooking the Seine. The aft Monet Restaurant features muted tones inspired by the classic painting “Water Lilies.”

To further enhance the ship’s striking interiors, Carnival commissioned talented international artists to create a multimillion dollar collection of artwork. Massive, multi-hued murals by Andrea Tana are located along *Conquest’s* stair landings. Signature hand-blown glass murals by Italian glass artist Luciano Vistosi can be found along the ship’s 600-foot long promenade, Impressionist Boulevard. The eight huge pieces each took several months to complete due to their complexity of design. Even the pool decks feature immense bronze pieces patterned after Gauguin’s Tahitian-themed works.

For a virtual tour of the ship, visit www.Carnival.com. *Carnival Conquest* sails every Sunday from the Port of Galveston.

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