

Son of *Sea Cloud*



The sailing ship *Sea Cloud*, built in the 1930s as a wedding gift to Marjorie Merriweather Post from her husband, E. F. Hutton, is a popular cruising vessel. So popular in fact, that its owners built a larger sister ship, *Sea Cloud II*, in 2000. The newer ship matches its predecessor in sophistication and elegance but far surpasses it in modern amenities and comfort. All of its 48 staterooms are outside cabins; most have marble fireplaces, dressing tables, mahogany bars with refrigerators, damask upholstered couches and more closet space than most studio apartments.

The ship's library has computer access, the fitness area is equipped with treadmills and there is ample deck space with canvas coverings for the sun-averse. Everything is immaculate down to the teak decks and brass winches that raise 27 sails on three masts. With the exception of a few lunches and one dinner on deck, meals are served in a huge dining room surrounded by large windows. Every meal offers several choices. Guests can arrange to have vegetarian meals or almost any type of special diet. The cuisine is continental with lots of fresh fruit, vegetables, salads, and Viennese-style cream desserts.

The 384-foot vessel, with its jibs, topsails, staysails, mizzens and gaff-rigged sail (technically a square-rigged barque), attracts crowds whenever it appears. With its home port in Hamburg, Germany, it sails European waters in spring and summer; winter is spent in the Caribbean. Our cruise embarked from London, crossed the Irish Sea and circumnavigated Ireland with several land excursions for escorted visits to stately houses, gardens and monuments. The quality of the onboard lectures, demonstrations and explanations was superb—every bit as important to our enjoyment of the cruise as the accommodations and food. Prices start at about \$6,000 per person, including land excursions. There is a handicapped cabin, but the steps to the launch for day trips will present problems. Note that *Sea Cloud II* is frequently booked for tour packages for special interest tours, including cruises for golfers, wine experts and art patrons.

Tel: 888-732-2568. www.seacloud.com