

MARCO MEN'S CLUB CELEBRATES ITS 42ND CRUISE

Submitted by Randle Grossman, November 9, 2018 Edition of Coastal Breeze News
Marco Men's Club Communications Director



Hiking up to the Belogradchik Fortress.

This past summer, 60 Marco Men's Club (MMC) members and spouses enjoyed the club's 42nd cruise. For 25 years the MMC has sailed the world on large cruise ships and river boats.

Bob Marks, a past president of the MMC and the Club's Cruise Chairman, opened up a "world of possibilities" to the club when he provided an opportunity for members to see the world and experience long lasting friendships with other fellow MMC travelers. The club has sailed to far-reaching places: Australia, the Caribbean, China, France, Germany, Portugal, Russia, Scandinavia, South America, Vietnam, and more.

This summer, the MMC traveled the Danube River from Romania, through Bulgaria, Croatia, Serbia, Hungary, and Austria. Members experienced the grandeur of major cities, including Bucharest, Budapest, and Vienna. No one will forget the wonderful food, libations, and entertainment that was experienced on the AmaWaterways ship, the AmaCerto.



Ed and Joann Vesley at Bran Castle.

This beautiful cruise along the Danube included sailing through the Iron Gates. Club members saw the narrowest part of the Iron Gates, a Roman plaque commemorating Emperor Trajan (117 AD), and a sculpture of Decebalus, a Romanian hero and enemy of Trajan.

Members enjoyed wine and champagne with the Royal Highnesses, Crown Prince Alexander and Crown Princess Katherine of Serbia at the Royal Palace, experienced a Strauss and Mozart concert in Vienna, and partook in a night cruise to see the lights of the beautiful city of Budapest. During the trip, members toured Dracula's castle in Romania, known as the Bran Castle; Bada Vida, regarded as the best-preserved medieval fortress in Bulgaria; and the magnificent rock fortress, Belogradchik Fortress. These were only a few of the highlights on this fascinating journey.



Crown Prince

Alexander and Princess Katherine of Serbia with MMC Members



Clint and Pat Bunke enjoy an evening onboard.



Dining in the Wine Room, from left: Silky Sullivan, Nancy Trube, Sam Krankkala, Cookie Bergen, Bob Bergen, Kathy Krankkala, John Trube, and Kathy Sullivan.



Enjoying lunch at a beer garden.



The MMC group with their guide.



Randle and Susanne Grossman, Bart Thompson, Russ Simmons and Betty Newman.



With the ship's crew, Hans Huemer, Phil Fowler, Clint Bunke, Susanne Grossman, Susan and John Shewchuk, and Karin Huemer.



From left: Gary and Beverly Schneider, Warren and Pat Dettinger, Don and Kim Mitchell, David Tobiasz, and Leesa Carls.



From left: Randle and Susanne Grossman, Clint and Pat Bunke, Ed and Joann Vesley, and Ken and Pam Molander.



Gary and Beverly Schneider with an AMA Officer.



From left: Betty Jane Curtis and her son John, Russ Simmons, Betty Newman, and Malina and Phil Fowler.



Budapest at night



The Iron Gates; In Romania, Decebalus is considered a national hero.

Where is the club's next destination? The Marco Men's Club will embark on a 16-day transatlantic cruise on Celebrity's new state-of-the-art luxury ship, The Edge, which will be launched in the Caribbean this fall. On April 28, 2019, 145 MMC members and spouses will sail to Bermuda, France, Spain, and England from Fort Lauderdale on the ship's first Atlantic crossing. Celebrity Cruises states, "Project Edge will deliver small-ship itineraries with large-ship amenities and will bring guests closer to the destination than ever before."
