

Next two Celebrity Cruises ships to have more cabins, new amenities

Is bigger better? That's the question [Celebrity Cruises](#) fans soon will be facing when deciding which one of the line's newest ships to book.

The fast-growing cruise operator announced it is tinkering with the design of the last two vessels under construction in its celebrated Solstice Class series -- the Celebrity Silhouette and Celebrity Reflection -- to allow for more cabins than were found on the first three ships in the series.

Scheduled to debut later this year, the Celebrity Silhouette is getting 17 additional cabins as compared to its earlier sisters (the [Celebrity Solstice](#), Celebrity Equinox and Celebrity Eclipse). The Celebrity Reflection, scheduled for delivery in 2012, will be getting 89 more cabins as it gains an entire new deck, according to the line.

The Reflection will hold 3,030 passengers at double occupancy, up more than 6% from the 2,850 passengers that the first three ships in the series hold at double occupancy.

In the case of the Celebrity Reflection, the new cabins will include the line's first AquaClass Suites, which will share the special amenities currently found in smaller AquaClass cabins on the earlier Solstice Class ships. Each of the suites will have interior space of 251 square feet and a spacious 57-square-foot balcony. The ship also will have eight new Sky Suites, 19 new ConciergeClass cabins and 11 additional inside cabins.

In addition to adding the additional deck, Celebrity says it is making the Reflection nearly a meter wider than its sisters. But while the ship's passenger capacity is rising by more than 6%, the available space on the vessel, as measured in gross registered tons, only will be growing by about 3%.

Celebrity CEO Dan Hanrahan told cruise writers today in a conference call that the increased passenger counts on the ships aren't a cause for concern. "We don't think there is a crowding issue on the ships," he said.

Hanrahan noted Reflection will have 245 more loungers than earlier Solstice Class ships on an expanded pool deck in order to accommodate the growth in passengers. The new design for Reflection also brings 45 additional seats to the Celebrity Theater, 118 additional seats to the Oceanview Café and additional seating in other dining venues.

Both the Celebrity Silhouette and Celebrity Reflection also will see major changes to their deck-top, grass-covered Lawn Club areas as compared to earlier Solstice Class ships. Notably, the line is adding a number of for-a-fee options to the Lawn Club areas. Gone will be the no-extra-charge Hot Glass show that has been a hallmark of the first three Solstice ships, replaced by what's billed as the industry's first outdoor, interactive grill venue.

Dubbed the Lawn Club Grill, the new venue will boast stainless steel grills and other appliances, custom pizza-making tables and large ovens that by day will be home to interactive cooking demonstrations and classes focused on pizza-making, grilling, marinating and more. By night, the venue will transform into an for-a-fee eatery where passengers can choose top-quality meats to either grill themselves, side-by-side with Celebrity's chefs, or have grilled to order.

The Lawn Club area also will be home to The Porch, billed as a chic, 48-seat retreat for casual breakfasts and lunches, and The Art Studio, where art fans can take part in classes in drawing, painting, beading and other activities.

The Art Studio also will offer for-a-fee dinners hosted by guest chefs participating in Celebrity's Savor Your Destination program.

Another addition to the Lawn Club areas on the ships will be The Alcoves -- private, for-a-fee cabana-style areas for two to four passengers. Adjacent to The Alcoves, passengers will find eight hammocks and two over-sized Adirondack chairs, the line says.

Hanrahan told cruise writers the Lawn Club is an area that is "a little bit under-utilized" on the first three Solstice Class ships, hence the additions.

Also getting a new look on Silhouette and Reflection as compared to earlier Solstice Class ships is the Michael's Club lounge, a mainstay of the line that is being transformed into an outlet for craft beers.

Also new on the two ships will be The Hideaway, described as a "upscale, avant-garde tree house, with cozy, intimate lounging nests."