

## Where R You ?

On the Azamara Quest a regular topic of conversation between guests was the origin of the vessel and because I heard so many different versions of the story I decided to get the facts.

Renaissance Cruise Lines, who named their identical ships R1 – R8, built the Quest. Renaissance was, by all reports, an excellent cruise line which beggars the question *Why did they go bankrupt ?*

The subsequent fire-sale of the ships saw them scattered around the cruising world before the current ownership settled.

Current Name	Date Built	Tonnage	Operator	Former Names
Columbus 2	1998	30,277	Hapag-Lloyd	R One, Insignia
Regatta	1998	30,277	Oceania Cruises	R Two
Pacific Princess	1999	30,277	Princess Cruises	R Three
Ocean Princess	1999	30,277	Princess Cruises	R Four, Tahitian Princess
Nautica	2000	30,277	Oceania Cruises	R Five, Blue Dream
Celebrity Journey	2000	30,277	Celebrity Cruises	R Six, R6 Blue Dream, R6 Blue Star
Celebrity Quest	2000	30,277	Celebrity Cruises	R Seven, Blue Moon, Delphin Renaissance
P&O Adonia	2001	30,277	P&O UK	R Eight, Minerva II, Royal Princess

The ships are universally marketed as up-market cruising experiences and are considered unsuitable for children. <http://www.renaissancecruises.com/r-ships.cfm>

- Oceania was started by former Renaissance executives and have since set the standard for Country Club casual.
- Azamara is the latest RCCL brand, fast making ground on Oceania, offering butler service to all staterooms.
- Princess offer a boutique version of their wider cruise experience for the 'mature' traveller.

So here's the thing .. if these smaller ships are so valued and simply so wonderful .. ***Why do they only build big ships nowadays ?***

Maybe you do have to buy it cheap before you can make money with a small ship ?

**And that's my 'slant on life'..**