



**PORT NOLA**  
THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS  
**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**  
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***American Duchess, American Queen***  
**Steamboat Company's Latest Riverboat to**  
**Launch Aug. 14 from New Orleans**  
***166-Guest All-Suite Vessel is Third Vessel in Company's Fleet***

**New Orleans**— The American Queen Steamboat Company, owner and operator of the *American Queen* and *American Empress*, will launch service on its new *American Duchess* when it sets sail from New Orleans on Aug. 14, 2017, following its christening here a day earlier.

The all-suite, 166-guest *American Duchess* will be the first purpose-built boutique paddle wheeler offering guests the largest suites on the Mississippi River. The *American Duchess* follows in the pedigree of the company's namesake *American Queen* and will offer overnight stays from New Orleans.

"The American Queen Steamboat Company has led the way in a rebirth of U.S. river cruising as thousands discover our heartland and the Pacific Northwest, served by an award-winning, All-American crew," said American Queen President and CEO, Ted Sykes. "Demand for more capacity on the Mississippi River has been overwhelming the past two seasons and we look forward to delivering a new boutique all-suite experience and the flexibility of two riverboats sailing between New Orleans and St. Paul, Minn."

Inland riverboat cruising has boomed for the Port of New Orleans in recent years, growing 40 percent in 2016 compared to 2015, as the Port welcomed 21,391 passengers on three homeported paddle wheelers sailing on the Lower Mississippi River.

"Inland river cruising is a growing segment of our cruise portfolio," said Brandy Christian, President and CEO of the Port of New Orleans and chair of the American Association of Port Authorities' Cruise Committee. "The history and charm of our historic city combines with the unique offerings of the Great River Road attractions to make cruising from New Orleans ideal for riverboat passengers."

Other Louisiana stops on the *American Duchess* itinerary include the Nottoway Antebellum Mansion in White Castle, the historic district in downtown St. Francisville, and museums and attractions in Baton Rouge.

**-More-**



The *American Duchess* features suites ranging from 250 square feet to 550 square-foot loft suites. Two dining venues offer open seating and regionally-inspired cuisine similar to that of the *American Queen*.

The Port of New Orleans ranks as the sixth-largest cruise port in the United States, with direct industry expenditures in Louisiana totaling \$406 million, supporting 8,102 jobs and providing \$324 million in personal income, according to research conducted by Cruise Lines International Association.

#### **About Port of New Orleans**

*The Port of New Orleans is a deep-draft multipurpose port at the center of the world's busiest port system — Louisiana's Lower Mississippi River. Connected to major inland markets and Canada via 14,500 miles of waterways, six class-1 railroads and the interstate highway system, the Port is the ideal gateway for steel, project cargo, containers, coffee, natural rubber, chemicals, forest products, manufactured goods and cruising. An extensive network of ocean carrier services, along with added-value services like transloading of bulk into containers, make the Port of New Orleans the superior logistics solution for many types of cargo. To stay ahead of market demand, the Port has invested more than \$100 million in capital-improvement projects since 2012 and has a Master Plan to expand the Napoleon Avenue Container Terminal to an annual capacity of 1.5 million TEUs.*

#### **American Queen Steamboat Company**

*The American Queen Steamboat Company (AQSC) is the owner and operator of the U.S. flagged American Queen, the largest, most opulent riverboat in the world. Longer than a football field, towering six decks in height and laced with fanciful gingerbread trim, she is a marvel of modern engineering. Her journeys through the heartland offer a unique perspective on America's history, culture and landscape with convenient departures from some of America's most iconic river port cities including Memphis, New Orleans, Cincinnati, Louisville, St. Louis and St. Paul. In April 2014, AQSC began serving the Pacific Northwest with opulence and grandeur on the American Empress and will add the American Duchess to the Mississippi River in June 2017. For additional information and reservations, contact the American Queen Steamboat Company at 888-749-5280, visit us online at [www.AmericanQueenSteamboatCompany.com](http://www.AmericanQueenSteamboatCompany.com) or call a professional travel agent.*

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