

At Sea – Day 48 Nov. 14:

It was a calm cool morning at sea as the Amsterdam made its way from Melbourne, Australia to Sydney. Barbara went to the “Good Morning Amsterdam” TV show that has become a regular in her “At Sea” agenda. This morning Cruise Director, Gene Young and Hostess Adele had Matt Orton, the Amsterdam’s Cellar Master, as the guest, as shown in the picture on the right. Besides being the Cellar Master, Matt may be better known around the ship as the tallest and thinnest person you will see. The interview covered his career highlights ending up on the Amsterdam. Matt said that during his vacations and spare time he likes to engage in projects to develop new and improved vine growing and wine processing techniques. He spends much of his vacation time in New Zealand.



About 11am there was a Tee Shirt Sale from the Amsterdam’s Signature Shop. This is a regular event on the ship that takes place every week or so. The sale took place on the



Lido Deck, as shown on the left.

Barbara checked out the inventory but didn’t find anything to her liking.

About noon time we checked the location of the Amsterdam on the TV screen near the Ocean Bar. The Amsterdam was making good progress on the route to Sydney, as shown below.



The big event of the day for us was the Cruise Specialists International (CSI) party, hosted by Lucia and Henk Barnhoorn. Henk and Lucia are the CSI on-board ambassadors for this entire cruise. They host a one hour "Chat Time" every day at sea to help fellow CSI passengers get acquainted and they are there for us in case trouble crops up in travel arrangements. The periodic parties they host are part of their effort to foster communication between fellow passengers and in general make the cruising experience as enjoyable as possible. We went to dinner and then to the party which took place in the Crow's Nest between the Early and Late Dinner Seating. During the party we circulated among the guests and took the occasional picture as the event unfolded. The following are some of the photos we got of new and old friends on the cruise.

L to R: Bob & Mariella, from Arizona; Tom, Orlin, Harriet, Barbara all from Tennessee



Cruise Critic and long time cruising friends, Pauline and Mike. Pauline has put together some awesome excursions for us on this Grand Voyage.



Amsterdam's Captain Fred Eversen also joined the party. We were complimented when he said that he is following our blog of the voyage when he has the time.

On the left: fellow Cruise Critic contributors Karen and Scott



Orlin and regular “Chat Time” participant Trisha, from Georgia.



On the left: Dolores and Bill from Orlin’s boyhood home town of Medford, Oregon.

On the right: Barbara with Tom, accomplished poker player and practical joker from Minnesota.





Dorothy, fellow Cruise Critic fan from Canada and Henk's brother Maart whom we met at Chat Time.

On the right: Judy and Alex, regular CSI Chat Time participants.



Finally, the hosts of the grand party, Lucia and Henk Barnhoorn. It has been a pleasure to meet and get to know Henk and Lucia during this voyage.



After the CSI party we went to the Soul Mystique show in the Queen's Lounge. The Soul Mystique show amazed and entertained us as the people on stage changed costumes in the blink of an eye while passing behind a small screen. In the grand finale act the lady changed from a gown to a brief costume in the instant it took for a cloud of glittering chaff to pass over her from head to foot. This was one of the best shows we had seen on the cruise.

We closed out the day with calm seas and warming temperatures. Tomorrow morning we arrive in Sydney, Australia. We are really looking forward to visiting one of our favorite places on the globe.