**DO YOU HAVE A CRUISE-A-TUDE???**

BY "CRUISE-A-TUDE" I'm referring to preconceived notions about what the cruise experience is like. Have you made up your mind without even trying a cruise? For example, are you convinced cruising is only for older folk? That there's nothing to do but gorge yourself at the buffet, play bingo and perhaps shuffleboard?

If you haven't cruised in a while or have never been before - BRACE YOURSELF FOR A SHOCK. In fact, polls show that cruise vacationers relate the satisfaction rate of any vacation type (as long as they were matched with the "right" cruise for individual taste and preferences by a professional cruise consultant). That says a lot!

While it's true there are plenty of options for the 'bingo players' - the newer and bigger ships have become floating resorts with so many activities for the adventurous that it's difficult to list them all...

For example, some of the offerings on the various ships include things like rock climbing, zip lining, laser tag, FlowRider (this is a state-of-the-art onboard surf simulator system), bumper cars, ice skating rinks, pools, slides, dueling three story water slides, dry slides and more slides (the Ultimate Abyss on Royal Caribbean's Symphony of the Seas plunges 10 stories and is not for the timid), Ripcord (a sky diving simulator – also on Symphony), dance classes with everything from salsa to ballroom and water parks. And, yes, I really did say ice skating and bumper cars (who would have thought we'd see those at sea?)

Then there is the onboard SPA and fitness centers -- equal to anything available at even the most upscale land Resorts, they offer a restful retreat and the utmost in pampering.

Clearly this is not a boring voyage – and we haven't even yet mentioned the fabulous world of destinations you have to choose from.

For children (ages 3 - 17) there are excellent (fun, educational, safe and secure) programs so mom and dad can enjoy some precious "alone" time -- and these programs are so fantastic the kids won't want to leave – and the cost is included in the very reasonable cruise fare.

Which is great because, come evening, after a full day of either onboard fun and perhaps a bit of pampering at the spa (or a full day of land activities) the kids can head off to their camp while the adults enjoy nighttime entertainment including "Broadway" shows, specialty dining, dancing and music with multiple venues from traditional to jazz or rock (to accommodate every taste) or some game time in the casino.

Without question, a cruise rates as the best vacation experience for multi-generations simply because there is something for everyone and it offers great value when compared to a 'land only' vacation.