

Master of Panorama



Captain Carlo Queirolo

Captain Carlo Queirolo might have been a surprise to his family, as he knew he'd work in something marine related. Not following in the family footsteps, his father worked in public transit, and his brothers were an electrician and gardener, respectively. Queirolo broke tradition and went to sea.

"I always loved the sea. At the beginning, I wanted to be a naval architect," he said, in an exclusive interview with *Cruise Industry News*.

In 1977, after completing nautical school, he served for two years in the Italian Navy before spending three years on cargo ships. Not particularly liking that work, which he found mostly unrewarding.

He had returned to university to study business when Carnival called.

Beginning as a deck cadet in 1985, he worked his way up through the ranks, being named staff captain in 1991, and captain of the *Ecstasy* in 1996.

He's worked on nearly all of Carnival's 26 current ships and the *Panorama* will be the fifth inaugural team he's been a part of.

Social Time

Queirolo's favorite part of his job is the social aspect. "I really enjoy meeting people. And I really like to go out when we are in port, when I have time, like in Cozumel and Puerto Vallarta. If we're not at anchor, I take my free time off of the ship. I have my bicycle which I love to ride; it keeps me in good shape."

He enjoys sailing out of Long Beach, where the *Panorama* will be based, now taking advantage of Carnival's newly renovated terminal for its West Coast program.

He finds itineraries which call on New York, Baltimore, Canada, and Bermuda the most difficult due to weather.

"The captain has to make the decision to cancel a port or change the itinerary because of the weather. This is the most challenging thing for any captain and it's out of my control," he explained.

A New Ship

Carnival is scheduled to take delivery of its newest ship, the *Panorama*, currently being built by Fincantieri, at the end of October, and Queirolo has been chosen to lead the inaugural team.

He's excited both about the ship and the West Coast itinerary. He's also thrilled that the first revenue cruise, scheduled for December 11, 2019, from Long Beach to Ensenada, will also celebrate his birthday.

Taking out a new ship brings back memories of previous ships Queirolo has worked on and highlights the changes to ships and the industry.

"When I started I was on the *Festive*. She was one of the biggest cruise ships at the time and she was running with 1,500 passengers onboard."

Another obvious difference is the technology.

"How we sail the ship and all of the instrumentation. The training for us, and for the engineers, never stops. After each contract, we go to CSMART to improve our skills and knowledge."

Family Life

Born in Rapallo, Italy, Queirolo enjoys returning home to his wife, Paola, in the Italian town of Zoagli.

He and Paola met in 1985 and, after dating for a couple of years, she came to work onboard in the casino in 1987. They married in 1988 and she returned to land when Aline, their daughter, was born. Aline is 25 years old and works as a geologist. Their son, Niccolò, is studying naval architecture, bringing the captain's story full circle.

When not onboard a Carnival ship, Queirolo still enjoys being on the water and has a 40-foot sailboat.

"I'm still learning more because I don't know anything about sailboats," he said. "But it's fascinating to me, but I still need to take some training classes."

— Carole Rosenblat