



PRESS RELEASE

27th March 2008

SeaFrance Molière, a new ferry on the Calais/Dover route

Eudes Riblier, Chairman of the SeaFrance Board, announced this morning that the new French ferry on the Calais/Dover route would be known as the “*SeaFrance Molière*”.

“After Manet, Renoir, Cézanne, Rodin and Berlioz, the French company has decided to pay homage to literature. Our British clients, colleagues and friends confirmed that they were very much in favour of this reference to our language. Throughout Europe, Molière is seen as an expression of French talent, creativity and way of thinking.”

The *SeaFrance Molière* will be delivered at the beginning of April.

Alterations will increase the ferry’s capacity to 1,200 passengers and adapt it to the sailing conditions specific to short Channel crossings, with twenty manoeuvres a day and two-storey berths.

The *SeaFrance Molière* is expected to arrive in Calais and Dover at the end of June.

The *SeaFrance Molière* is 203 metres long and 25 metres wide. She was built by HDW in Kiel, Germany in 2002.

She can carry 660 cars or approximately one hundred trucks.

Eudes Riblier recalled the development strategy for the SeaFrance fleet, “The *SeaFrance Molière* will replace our two smallest ships, the *SeaFrance Manet* and *SeaFrance Renoir*. This ferry, which is more modern, more efficient and larger, will operate at below-maximum speed, enabling SeaFrance to continue to improve its ecological results.”

Biography

Jean-Baptiste Poquelin (1622-1673) alias Molière was the most popular of all French dramatists. He wrote some forty plays including “The Affected Young Ladies”, “The Impostor”, “Dom Juan”, “The Middle-Class Gentleman” and “The Imaginary Invalid” in which he was playing the leading role on the day he died.

In 1661, Louis XIV placed the Palais-Royal theatre at his disposal and it was there that Molière performed until the last day of his life. Renamed the “Comédie Française”, it is nicknamed “Molière’s House”.

www.toutmoliere.net

www.site-moliere.com

www.comedie-francaise.fr