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(9:25 a.m. EDT) -- It was a family occasion when the Schmitters, owners of CroisiEurope, christened their latest river cruise ship, Miguel Torga, on a sunny spring day in Porto today.

The three-deck 132-passenger ship is the company's fifth ship on the Douro, but the second to be have the line's more premium "five-anchor rating." The ship is the first in CroisiEurope's entire fleet to have a hydraulic pool, which will be lowered twice per cruise when Miguel Torga passes under low bridges. All cabins have exterior views and beds facing towards the windows. There is a lounge with large picture windows, a restaurant, and a sun deck with chaise lounges. Onboard Wi-Fi is free and drinks are included (except premium brands). Shore excursions are included for North Americans but cost extra for U.K. and European passengers, to provide more choice.

Beginning in April, Miguel Torga will offer eight-night round-trip cruises through the picturesque Douro Valley from Porto to the Spanish border, stopping in Regua, Vega de Terron, Ferradosa and Pinhao.

[CroisiEurope](#) stuck to the company's tradition of having both a godmother and a godfather.

Godmother is Isabel Ferreira de Castro, director of tourism in Porto and Northern Portugal. Godfather is Domingos Carvas, mayor of Sabrosa, the region where Miguel Torga, an acclaimed Portuguese writer and poet, was born.

Christian Schmitter, president of CroisiEurope, said inviting representatives from the region where a ship is going to operate to carry out the naming duties was the company's way of saying thank you. "We want to honor the people who help us open up destinations."

The ship was also blessed by Father Alfredo, a Portuguese priest, and Father Patrick Koehler, a good friend of CroisiEurope's founder, Gerard Schmitter, who is a familiar presence at CroisiEurope naming ceremonies.

The company was founded by Schmitter in 1976. In 1999, he handed over the business to his children and his grandchildren now work for the company.

Grandson Lucas Schmitter, e-commerce and sales director, said it was always an "honor and a proud moment" when they launched a new ship. "I was born and raised on these ships -- and probably conceived on one too!" he said.

The company has more than 50 ships, and will be adding more capacity on the Danube and the Mekong in 2017, as well as introducing a ship for the Chobe in Africa before the end of the year. [Expansion plans for 2018](#) have already been announced. The company's clientele is 50 percent French and 50 percent international.

Lucas Schmitter said CroisiEurope's Douro product would suit English-speaking passengers who wanted a good-value authentic destination experience with a French touch.

"We build, operate, promote and sell our voyages so we have complete control over all costs. This is why we provide the best prices in the market. Our service is very good, particularly our food, and we are truly international. You will not find a boat just filled with French people or Americans."

--By Katherine Lawrey, Cruise Critic contributor