

THE AMERIGO VESPUCCI

DISCOVERING THE MOST
BEAUTIFUL SHIP IN THE WORLD

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VILLAGGIO
ITALIA



AMERIGO
VESPUCCI
WORLD
TOUR
2023-2025

“Not he who begins,
but he who perseveres.”

The current motto of the Amerigo Vespucci,
attributed to Leonardo da Vinci.



THE HISTORY

The **Amerigo Vespucci Training Ship** is the oldest vessel in the Italian Navy, built at the Royal Naval Shipyard of Castellammare di Stabia.

Construction of the hull began in 1930 and the Ship **was launched in 1931**. Delivered to the Royal Navy in the same year, the Amerigo Vespucci served alongside the **sister ship Cristoforo Colombo** in the Training Ships Division.

Since the day of its launch, on **22 February 1931**, the Vespucci has marked the history of Italy itself.

The Ship received the **Battle Flag in Genoa** upon returning from the first Training Cruise in 1931 and celebrated the **return of Trieste to Italy in 1954**. In **1960, the Amerigo Vespucci carried the Olympic flame** and has witnessed departures filled with emotion and long-awaited homecomings.

The Vespucci is also a symbol of the **extraordinary achievements** accomplished by its **commanding officers**.

In 1965, **Admiral Agostino Straulino** departed from the port of Taranto relying solely on the power of the wind, undertaking a challenge considered impossible.

Three years later, in 1968, **Captain Ugo Foschini** sailed up the River Thames under sail alone, leaving spectators in a state of amazement that soon became legend.

In 2020, during the height of the pandemic, **Captain Gianfranco Bacchi** sailed the Amerigo Vespucci through the swing bridge of Taranto into the Mar Piccolo, before an astonished crowd.

In 2024, **Captain Giuseppe Lai** led the Amerigo Vespucci beyond Cape Horn, overcoming one **of the most arduous and feared** passages in sailing.



Meeting with USS Independence, 1964.



Celebration of the reunification of Trieste with Italy, 1954.

THE ROLE



Since 1931, the Ship has carried out regular training activities. The Training Cruises are primarily intended for **Cadets of the Italian Naval Academy** in Livorno, with calls in the Mediterranean Sea, the Black

Sea, Northern Europe and North America. In addition, two Training Cruises have been undertaken as part of **global circumnavigations**: the first in 2002-2003 and the second in 2023-2025.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Cadets acquire **seamanship, logistical and technical** knowledge, including navigation using the sextant. Practical and theoretical

lessons are accompanied by assessments. Training also includes **life on board**, sail handling, voyage planning and operational activities.



REPRESENTATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

For over **30 years**, the Amerigo Vespucci has been committed to **environmental protection and conservation**, working alongside **UNICEF, WWF** and **Marevivo**.

The Ship also collaborates with the **University of Genoa**, the **National Institute for Nuclear Physics** and the **Italian National Institute of Health**.

On **1 July 2023**, the Amerigo Vespucci departed from **Genoa**

on the **World Tour 2023-2025**, carrying Italy around the globe and reaffirming its role as a true **travelling ambassador of Made in Italy and UNESCO values**.

A **20-month** voyage during which the Ship reached **5 continents, 30 countries** and **35 ports**, covering more than **46,000 nautical miles**. The Tour combined the training activities of Italian Navy Officer Cadets with an important diplomatic and cultural mission.





ARCHITECTURE

From a technical and construction standpoint, the Amerigo Vespucci is a **sailing ship equipped with an auxiliary engine**. The sail plan is ship-rigged, with **three vertical**

masts: foremast, mainmast and mizzenmast, all fitted with yards and square sails, in addition to the **bowsprit**, the inclined spar projecting from the **extreme bow**.

THE HULL

The hull features **three main decks** and two superstructures: the **forecastle at the bow and the quarterdeck at the stern**. The distinctive **black-and-white colour** scheme highlights a reference to the past: the white bands, positioned at the level of the battery and corridor decks,

recall the **two rows of cannons of the nineteenth-century** sailing ship whose design inspired the architect.

The vessel is **101 metres long** and **15.5 metres wide**. Maximum draught is **7.3 metres**.



PROPULSION SYSTEM AND AUXILIARIES

The Ship is equipped with an integrated **diesel-electric propulsion system** with a maximum power output of 2,840 kW. The propeller is four-bladed,

and the electrical system operates at multiple voltage levels. All **internal and external lighting is LED**. Each engine is named after a renowned Italian wine.



MASTS AND SAILS

The masts are supported and held in position by steel cables. The **height of the masts** above sea level is **52 metres** for the **foremast**, **56 metres** for the **mainmast** and **45 metres** for the **mizzenmast**; the **bowsprit 18 metres** forward.

The total sail area, comprising **24 sails**, amounts to approximately **2,635 square metres**. The sails are made of **olona canvas** (a hemp fabric) with a thickness ranging from 2 to 4 millimetres and are constructed by stitching together multiple strips (cloths).



ELEMENTS VISIBLE DURING THE VISIT

1. Barcarizzi

The **port forward barcarizzo** is reserved for **ratings and non-commissioned officers**; the **port aft barcarizzo** is for **officers**; and the **starboard aft barcarizzo** is reserved for the **Commanding Officer** and authorities. The Ship is usually berthed with the port side facing the quay.

2. Historic Bridge

The bridge is equipped with **four peg wheels** used to operate the **rudder**. Each full turn corresponds to one degree of rudder angle, with a preparation time of approximately ten minutes.

3. Hand Winches

The manual winches feature two reduction ratios and **are operated by inserting and rotating the removable handles** into the dedicated slots.

4. Whaleboat

Until 1980, the whaleboat belonged to the **Cristoforo Colombo** and is now preserved at the Naval Museum of Venice. The current boat is a replica based on the original drawings. **Traditionally reserved** for the Commanding Officer, the boat was **destroyed at the end of service**, and a **fragment bearing the coat of arms** was presented to the commander. This custom is the origin of the naval "Crest".

5. Fourth thwart

The "**quarters**" (11° 15') are **angular units of the nautical compass**, used for **handling the sails** and observing targets.

The fourth thwart on the starboard quarter is traditionally reserved for the commander.

6. Rack

The rack holds **ceremonial rifles and lanterns used during honours paid to authorities**.

7. Bells

• Fore Bell

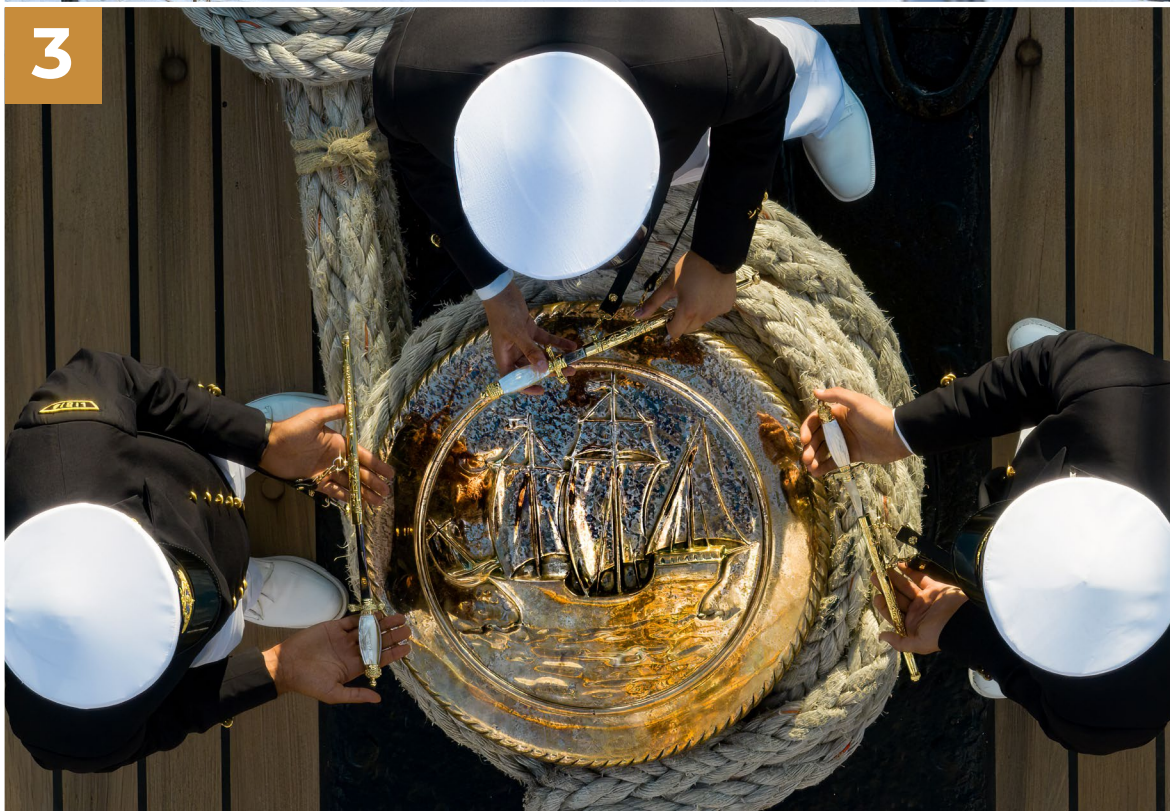
Known as the "**Signal Bell**", it is used to signal the presence of the ship to other vessels in the area during adverse weather conditions.

• Midships Bell

Known as the "**Watch Bell**", it was historically used to **mark watchkeeping periods**. In the golden age of sailing ships, its sound regulated the passage of time. The bell was struck twice every half hour; at the end of one watch and the beginning of the next (every four hours), it was struck eight times. These eight bells were rung at 4 a.m., 8 a.m., noon, 4 p.m., 8 p.m. and midnight.

• Aft Hatch Bell

Known as the "**Abandon Ship Bell**", **its use is strictly prohibited** except in the dramatic event of abandoning the ship. Its origin is unknown and it likely belonged to a wreck recovered in La Maddalena before the Second World War. The only visible details are a date (1868) and the outline of a saint. For superstitious reasons, a head of garlic is hung inside the bell.



ELEMENTS VISIBLE DURING THE VISIT

8. Motto

Throughout its history, the Vespucci **has had three mottos**. The current one, adopted in 1978, is attributed to Leonardo da Vinci: **“Not he who begins, but he who perseveres.”**

9. Shrouds

The shrouds provide lateral **support** to the masts and are used by sailors and cadets **to go aloft**. Climbing is carried out using safety harnesses fitted with double hooks to prevent falls.

10. Anchors

The Ship is equipped with **five main anchors**: two 3-tonne bower anchors, one spare anchor (sheet anchor), and two stream anchors weighing 1.7 tonnes each.

11. Figurehead

The figurehead is a **gilded wooden bust of Amerigo Vespucci**, featuring bull's horns on the reverse for superstitious protection.



AREAS RESTRICTED TO ON-BOARD PERSONNEL

1. Infirmary

The Ship's infirmary is equipped with **surgical and dental facilities, as well as a telemedicine system** enabling rapid medical assessments.

2. Hammocks

The hammocks (150 in total) are **used by cadets**. Historically, hammocks were adopted to help reduce seasickness and were inspired by practices observed among Indigenous peoples of the Americas during the voyages of Amerigo Vespucci.

3. Council Chamber

Finished in mahogany and rosewood, this is the **most prestigious area** on board and is reserved for the Commanding Officer.

Used for receiving authorities, it houses the **most distinguished gifts** received throughout the Ship's history.

4. Giardinetto

The Vespucci is the only sailing ship still in operation worldwide to retain this **refined stern balcony**. Historically, ships used the giardinetto to cultivate **medicinal plants** and vegetables to counter the risk of scurvy. Today, it continues to be **adorned with ornamental plants**.



A close-up, vertical photograph of a crew member on a ship's deck. The crew member is wearing a green uniform, a white cap, and glasses. He is pulling on a thick, white rope with yellow and black work gloves. The background shows the yellow structure of the ship's deck and other crew members in similar uniforms. The word "CREW" is overlaid in the center in a gold, serif font.

CREW

GUARDIANS OF MARITIME TRADITION AND EXCELLENCE

The crew is composed of **264 members**, including 15 officers, and is complemented by approximately 130 to 200 Cadets, depending on the academic year. The various services (Operations,

Seamanship, Ship Systems, Logistics, Administration and Medical) have specific responsibilities related to navigation, maintenance and on-board management.





CURIOSITIES

AMERIGO VESPUCCI: THE HISTORICAL FIGURE

Amerigo Vespucci, born **in Florence in 1454**, was an explorer whose name is associated with the “**New World**”. After early commercial experience and an appointment with the Medici family, he moved to Spain, where he **collaborated with Christopher Columbus**. Between 1497 and 1504, he undertook four voyages, exploring the **Gulf of Mexico, South America** as far as Patagonia, and the mouth of the **Amazon River**. His explorations were crucial in recognising that these newly discovered lands were not part of Asia, but an unknown continent. Thanks to the circulation of his accounts, the **geographer Martin Waldseemüller** proposed naming the new lands “**America**”.



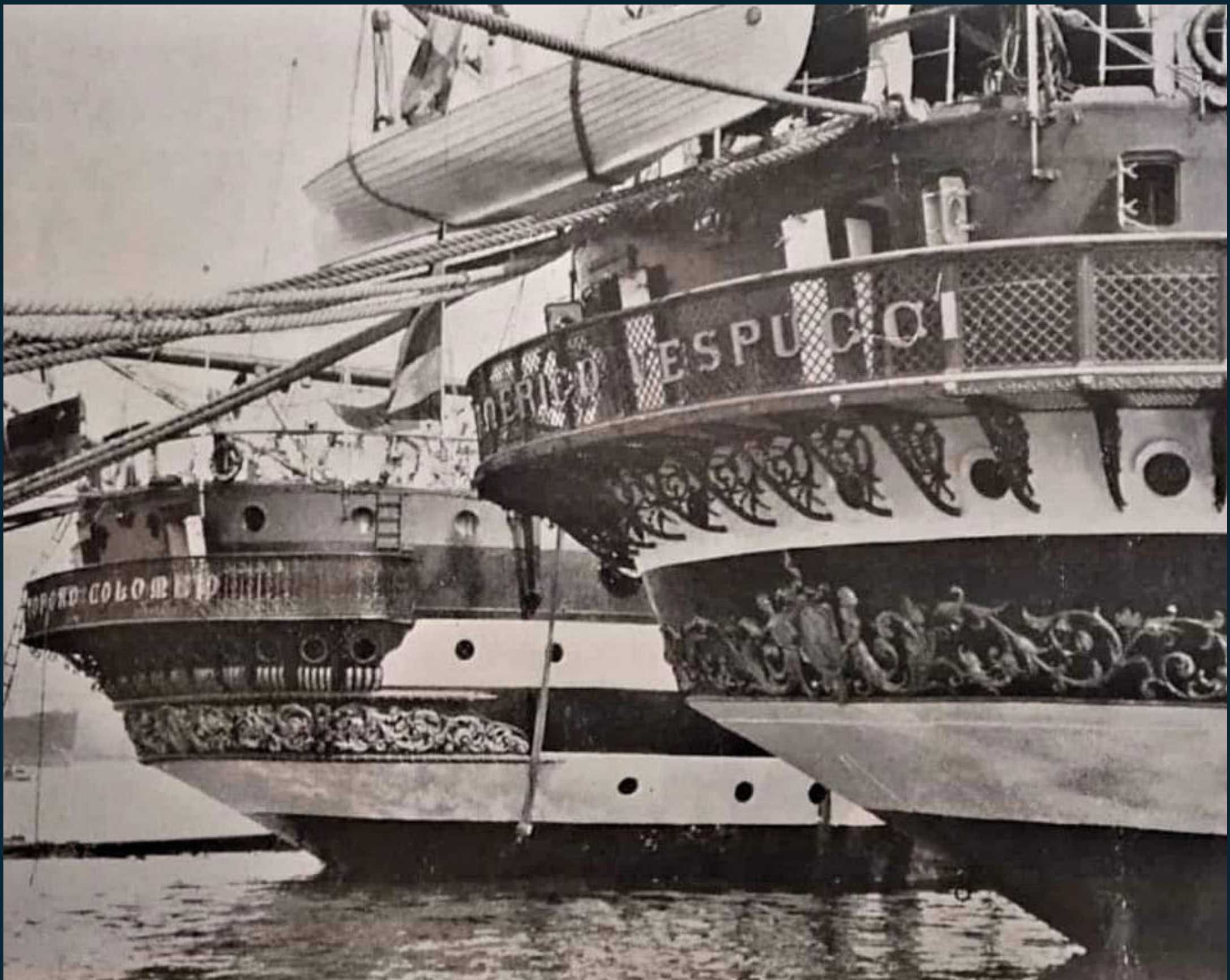
WHY IS IT CALLED THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SHIP IN THE WORLD?

It was the year **1962** when, in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea, the American aircraft carrier **USS Independence** (CVA-62, Forrestal class), while crossing the route of the Training Ship, requested identification by means of flashing light signals.

Upon receiving the reply “**Training Ship Amerigo Vespucci - Italian Navy**”, the other vessel responded with words destined to become legendary: “**You are the most beautiful ship in the world.**”

THE VESPUCCI'S SISTER SHIP: CRISTOFORO COLOMBO

Built in 1928, it was part of the Training Ships Division. Transferred to Russia in 1946, it was converted into a transport vessel and was **destroyed by fire in 1959**.



SHIP'S SPECIFICATIONS

TYPE OF VESSEL

Training Ship

LENGTH

101 m (overall)

CLASS

Three-masted sailing ship with bowsprit

BEAM

28 m

LAUNCHED

22 February 1931

MASTS

Bowsprit 18 m

Foremast 52 m

Mainmast 56 m

Mizzenmast 45 m

DESIGNER

Lt. Col. GN Francesco Rotundi

DRAUGHT

7.3 m

COMMANDING OFFICER

Capt. Nicasio Fallica (114th Commanding Officer)

DISPLACEMENT

4,300 tonnes

TOTAL CREW

264 military personnel

SAIL AREA

2,635 m²

MOST RECENT WORLD TOUR

2023-2025

BOATS

11 (2 motor launches,

2 motorboats, 2 motor cutters,

4 skiffs, 1 whaleboat)



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AMERIGO
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TOUR
MONDIALE
2023-2025