



Senior Staff Officers Bring a Combined 80 Years of Service to Holland America Line's Newbuild *Nieuw Statendam*

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Captain, hotel director, staff captain, chief engineer and environmental officer revealed

Seattle, Wash., Sept. 25, 2018 — When Holland America Line's *Nieuw Statendam* sets sail in December 2018, the ship's senior staff officers will bring a combined 80 years of company loyalty and experience. The cruise line announced that Captain Sybe de Boer, Staff Captain Kevin Beirnaert, Hotel Director Don Habets, Chief Engineer Eric van Loenen, and Environmental Officer Dolf Kramer will lead *Nieuw Statendam*'s shipboard teams.

The 99,500-ton ship currently is under construction at Fincantieri's shipyard at Marghera, Italy. During its inaugural year, *Nieuw Statendam* will explore the Caribbean in winter and then move to northern Europe, Iceland and the Mediterranean in summer.

"A company like Holland America Line, with 145 years of history, has a tremendous breadth of experienced officers and staff to ensure a successful launch of a newbuild, and we're thrilled to have Captain de Boer, Don, Eric, Kevin and Dolf leading *Nieuw Statendam*'s shipboard teams," said Orlando Ashford, Holland America Line's president. "Not only have these skilled leaders been dedicated Holland America Line team members for decades, they have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to our guests, and I'm confident they will set the standards on *Nieuw Statendam* to deliver the service and quality we are renowned for."

Meet Captain Sybe de Boer

Captain Sybe de Boer will be in command when Holland America Line's *Nieuw Statendam* sets sail in December 2018. Having been with the company since 1994 when he joined the former *Nieuw Amsterdam*, de Boer rose through the ranks from second officer to captain. He has been master of *Statendam*, *Zaandam*, *Rotterdam*, *Amsterdam* and *Eurodam*, and served on *Maasdam*, *Ryndam*, *Noordam*, *Nieuw Amsterdam* and *Koningsdam*.

For the past three years he represented Holland America Line as a Fleet Captain at Maritime Quality Assurance, Carnival Corporation Plc. In this role he advanced the Bridge Resource Management policies and procedures across the Carnival Corporation brands.

Hailing from the Netherlands Captain de Boer resides in The Hague. He enjoys going to concerts, visiting museums, flying light aircraft (he holds a commercial pilot's license), sailing, photography and bicycling. He graduated from the Maritime Institute Willem Barentsz in Terschelling, the Netherlands, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Navigation.

Meet Hotel Director Don Habets

Since joining Holland America Line in 2002, Hotel Director Don Habets has sailed on all of the company's ships, including the former *Ryndam* and *Statendam*. His first ship was *Maasdam*, and most recently he served on board *Koningsdam*. Habets began as an assistant maître d' and worked his way up to hotel director through various hotel department positions.

A native of the Netherlands, Habets graduated from the Hoge Hotel School in Maastricht, the Netherlands, with a bachelor's degree in hospitality management. He enjoys life and everything it brings, as well as making Holland America Line guests and crew happy.

Meet Staff Captain Kevin Beirnaert

Nieuw Statendam's Staff Captain Kevin Beirnaert joined Holland America Line in 2006 and worked on *Rotterdam*, *Eurodam*, *Nieuw Amsterdam* and *Koningsdam*. He was also a member of the senior team to introduce *Koningsdam*.

Hailing from Gent, Belgium, Beirnaert studied at the Hogere Zeevaart school in Antwerp, Belgium, and worked for freight company Ecuadorian Line and on dredging ships in Dubai, U.A.E., on the Palm Jumeirah Project before joining Holland America Line. He resides in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Meet Chief Engineer Eric van Loenen

Chief Engineer Eric van Loenen joined Holland America Line in 2002 as a second engineer after working on container ships, cargo ships and chemical parcel tankers. He began his career with Holland America Line on *Amsterdam* and has served on several ships, including *Maasdam*, *Ryndam*, *Volendam*, *Zaandam*, *Oosterdam*, *Zaandam* and *Zuiderdam*.

Prior to being named to the *Nieuw Statendam* team he was chief engineer on *Koningsdam*.

Van Loenen graduated from the Maritime Institute Willem Barentsz in Terschelling. He and his wife live in Makkum, Friesland, in the Netherlands with their three children.

Meet Environmental Officer Dolf Kramer

Dutch native Dolf Kramer went to Nautical College in Den Helder, the Netherlands, and studied to be a shipboard engineer. Prior to joining Holland America Line in 2004 he worked on cargo ships and in a steel factory.

Kramer came to work for Holland America Line as an environmental officer, and he has worked on all classes of ships except Pinnacle Class. He has served on *Statendam*, *Ryndam*, *Maasdam*, *Rotterdam*, *Volendam*, *Zaandam*, *Amsterdam*, *Prinsendam*, *Zuiderdam*, *Oosterdam*, *Westerdam*, *Eurodam* and *Nieuw Amsterdam*. Launching *Nieuw Statendam* — the second Pinnacle Class ship — will round out his class experience.

When he's not on board, Kramer lives in Aruba with his wife where he spends time riding his Harley Davidson and working to restore his classic 1957 Chevrolet.

About *Nieuw Statendam*

Due for delivery Dec. 1, 2018, *Nieuw Statendam* currently is under construction at Fincantieri's Marghera shipyard in Italy. The 2,666-guest, 99,500-ton ship will reflect the ongoing evolution of Holland America Line. From familiar elements that reflect a rich heritage and classic style to state-of-the-art enhancements that chart a bold new course forward, guests on board *Nieuw Statendam* will delight in details that are artfully inspired and perfectly presented to create the ultimate cruise experience.

While much of the ship's design will be similar to *Koningsdam*, the first Pinnacle Class ship, *Nieuw Statendam* will have exclusive public spaces and its own style, created by leading hospitality designer Adam D. Tihany and designer and architect Bjørn Storbraaten. The ship will feature all of the hallmarks of Pinnacle-Class design: grand, light-filled spaces; visual drama; and sumptuous interiors inspired by the fluid curves of musical instruments.

Holland America Line's first ship to be called *Statendam* sailed in 1898, and this will be the sixth ship in the company's history to carry the name. In combining the Dutch word for "new" with the classic "Statendam," Holland America Line celebrates the company's past, present and future.

For more information, contact a travel professional, call 1-877-SAIL-HAL ([1-877-724-5425](tel:1-877-724-5425)) or visit hollandamerica.com.

Editor's Note: Photos are available here: <https://www.cruiseimagelibrary.com/c/tsl03nrb>.

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Find Holland America Line on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and the [Holland America Blog](#). Access all social media outlets via the home page at hollandamerica.com.

About Holland America Line [a division of Carnival Corporation and plc (NYSE: CCL and CUK)]

Holland America Line's fleet of 14 ships offers more than 500 cruises to more than 400 ports in 98 countries, territories or dependencies around the world. From shorter getaways to 113-day itineraries, the company's cruises visit all seven continents, with highlights including Antarctica explorations, South America circumnavigations, Cuba cruises and exotic Australia/New Zealand and Asia voyages; four annual Grand Voyages; and popular sailings to the Caribbean, Alaska, Mexico, Canada and New England, Europe and the Panama Canal. The line welcomed *Koningsdam* in 2016 and has a second Pinnacle-class ship, *Nieuw Statendam*, to be delivered in December 2018. A third Pinnacle-class ship will be delivered in 2021.

The company is undergoing \$300 million in brand enhancements to secure its position as the leader in premium cruising. Fleetwide, the ships feature innovative initiatives and a diverse range of enriching experiences focused on destination immersion and personalized travel. Guests can expand their knowledge through an exclusive partnership with O, The Oprah Magazine; during an America's Test Kitchen show; at Explorations Café presented by The New York Times; and by taking a Digital Workshop powered by Windows. Outstanding entertainment fills each evening at venues including Lincoln Center Stage, Billboard Onboard and B.B. King's Blues Club. The dining experience can be savored at a variety of restaurants with menus that feature selections from Holland America Line's esteemed Culinary Council, comprising world-famous chefs who design dishes exclusively for our guests.

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