



Celebrity Cruise Line Bounty!

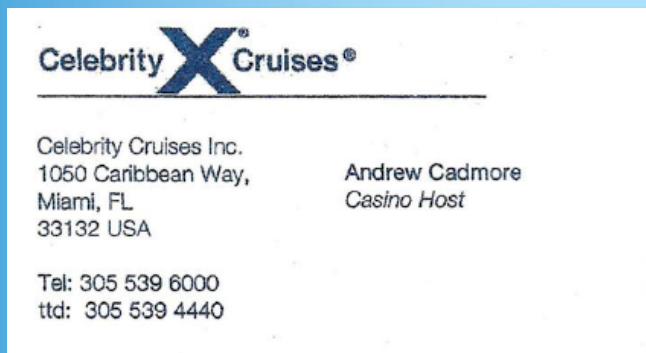
By John K. Kallman

Having successfully navigate my first ever cruise, I could not help but reflect upon the lack of clocks throughout the ship. From my cabin, with the time only showing on the phone and some of the onboard television changes, to of course the casino as well as most of the remainder of the ship, clocks were in most cases, nowhere to be seen. Save for the printed schedule of the day's activity delivered to your room, time for the most part seems to stand still as the endless ocean passes by the ever moving ship.

This notion of timelessness is reinforced by the fact that almost everything starts later than the time posted; from

the opening of the various restaurants to the docking and departure from the various ports of call. The later who I always endeavored to meet well before time so as not to miss the boat.

Of course, as a collector of casino items, one of my priorities while aboard, was to commandeer as many items as I could to add to my ever growing collection. And while no true collector is ever happy with whatever treasures that they come away with, I none the less came away with as many items as I could without running too afoul of either the gracious casino host or staff.



Pool side on deck 10 there was a display of casino related items, including a “free gift” token which was not to be found within the casino itself. After several inquiries; I finally had to lead the casino host there to show him what I was talking about, and which up until then, he was unaware off! The extra effort was not in vain!

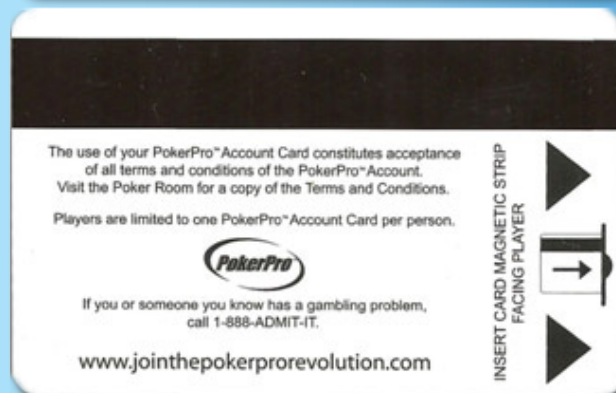


Absent among the items available were slot cards and Ticket In, Ticket Out (TITO's). Slot machine dispense either coins (quarters) for 1c, 5c and 25c machines or \$1 / \$5 tokens. All machines had bill adaptors.



Table games include two roulette (generic Chipco's – with one table having an anchor logo and the other a clover design – in the colors of white, brown, orange, blue, green,

yellow, purple and gray); 3 card poker, Texas Hold'em, and Black Jack, and Craps. There was also a Poker Pro machine which required the use of an associated card.



Dealer dealt table games used Chipco's, and in most cases where well worn and showed considerable usage.



A \$1,000 chip was also present (yellowish orange, with an art deco theme), but that was slightly beyond my budget allowance! Roulette tournaments used the table chips, while black jack tournaments used unicorn generic chips, mostly drilled.

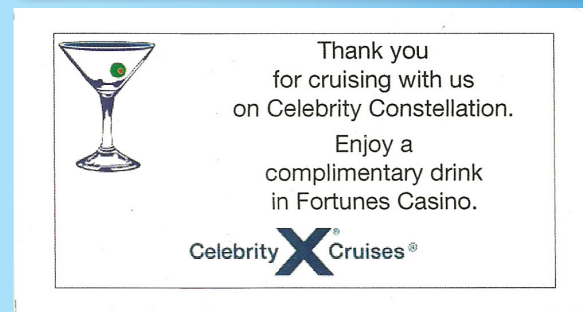
Poker tournaments were held at the poker pro machine mentioned above.



Match play coupons were available both from a shopping discount book which was being hawked (\$25) as a means to “save” money while shopping ashore. Additional discount coupons were available either in the daily printed bulletin (which I somehow failed to notice at the time) and were also dispensed to members of the “Captains Club” of which I was not (yet) a member. Coupons were also given out by the casino host:



Unlike many casinos where drinks are made available to players at no charge, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic; as with most other things on board; drinks in the casino were billed (usually overcharged, and to add insult to injury – a 15% gratuity was added to the bill for sometimes nothing more than opening the lid of the drink!). However, free drink coupons were available, in several different styles:



Of course, what would be a drink without the swizzle stick!



While the casino only occupied a very small space aboard the ship; it was very well located in that to get from the main dining area to the entertainment area, one had to

pass through the casino area. The daily bulletin showed the amount that the slot machines paid out – with nearly \$200,000 being the stated total after 13 days of operation. This of course means that much more was taken in then given out!

The casino was the only place where cash was actually accepted. However, credit was available via your ever present combination room key / credit card ‘Sea Pass’.

While many of the items shown are available at prices much lower than the cost of acquiring them in person; it was an experience which I attend to repeat if for no other reason to try and acquire additional items either from a different ship from this line or another line altogether. In summary, no doubt a cruise is not for everyone; none the least those of us who are preconditioned to the rhythms of life dictated by a pre-published itinerary and the dictates on a watch!

