

The Historic RMS Queen Elizabeth 2 Will Soon Sail Into Retirement in Dubai

The Queen Elizabeth 2, for many years thought to be the last great ocean liner that would be built, has been sold and will be retired next year to Dubai, where she will serve as a floating hotel. The company buying the ship, private equity firm Istithmar, has said it will recreate the ship's original 1968 interior décor.

The company will build a pier from one of the three island, Palm Jumeirah, being build by the Dubai government off the coast of the nation.

Istithmar is not new to owning ships. It owns the P&O shipping company. The company said it will create an onboard museum of the ship's history.

Queen's Grill Bowls

If first class still exists on passenger ships, it's the Grill Accommodations on Cunard's Queens. These lovely and elegant Wedgwood bowls were used in the Queen Elizabeth 2's grills. The large soup bowl measures $8\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter and the smaller bowl is $4\frac{5}{8}$ inches in diameter and 2 inches deep. They are decorated with a wide dark blue rim accented by gold bands. The smaller bowl carries the Lion and World Cunard logo and the larger bowl has the lion under a crown and surrounded by leaves. Both are in excellent condition.

Large bowl **\$115.00.**

Small bowl **\$82.50.**



Queen Elizabeth 2 Crescent Dish

This crescent dish, used as a side dish, is by Royal Doulton and matches the dinner plate and bowls shown above, with the simple but elegant twin gold rim pattern and Cunard logo. It measures 7 inches across the width and $4\frac{1}{16}$ inches from top to bottom. It is in good condition. **\$136.50.**

The importance of the Queen Elizabeth 2 in ocean liner history would be hard to overstate. From the time of her first sailing in 1968 until the advent of the Queen Mary 2 in 2005, the QE2 was thought to be the last ocean liner that would be built. While there is today hope that the world may see ocean liners (as opposed to cruise ships) for some time to come, it wasn't always so and the QE2 tenaciously proved through nearly 40 years of sailing that there remained a market for point-to-point luxury ferry service across the Atlantic.

Her world cruises, too, were legendary, even when they seemed like a cute anachronism. But it was another tradition that she both revived and kept alive and which today many other passenger shipping companies copy.

QE2 was built as a replacement for both the Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth, the Cunard ships that provided weekly transatlantic service from 1947 until 1967. The Queen Mary was retired and sold to Long Beach, CA as a floating museum, hotel, and attraction in 1967. The Queen Elizabeth was kept on in service for something more than a year following Queen Mary's retirement and sale. By that time transatlantic ocean liner service had been largely replaced by jet air service, which could transport people between the U.S. and Europe in six hours, as opposed to the several days a ship took.

Queen Elizabeth 2 Cup and Saucer

Again the elegant simplicity of Royal Doulton is apparent in this beautifully restrained design used on the QE2. The cup measures $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches tall and is 3 inches in diameter and $2\frac{1}{4}$ high. The saucer is 6 inches in diameter. Both are in excellent condition. **\$136.50.**



Queen Elizabeth 2 Plates and Bowls

This elegant Royal Doulton china was used on board the QE2, Cunard's longtime flagship. It is simple white china with a double gold rim and the Cunard Lion and World logo at the top of each in gold. The plate measures $10\frac{9}{16}$ inches in diameter, the small fruit bowl measures $6\frac{3}{16}$ inches in diameter, and the larger soup bowl is $8\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter. The plate is in very good condition. The bowls are in good condition, showing signs of daily use.

Plate **\$125.00.**

Soup bowl **\$145.00.**

Fruit bowl **\$62.50.**





Queen Elizabeth 2 Royal Doulton Teapot, Creamer, and Sugar

These pieces are so elegant in their simplicity that you can picture the rich, famous, and beautiful people (people just like you, of course) taking tea from them. The tea pot is 6^{1/4} inches tall with its lid and 6 inches from the end of its spout to the end of its handle. It is white and oval shaped, 2^{1/4} inches wide with a broad and a narrow gold band and the Cunard Lion and World emblem. The creamer, also oval shaped is 3^{1/2} inches tall and 4^{1/4} from the tip of its spout to the end of its handle. The sugar bowl is 3 inches high (including its lid), 3 inches wide and 2^{1/4} inches deep.

Teapot **\$320.00.**

Creamer and sugar **\$285.00.**

But Cunard took the risk to continue on in the ocean liner business with the new 70,000 ton QE2, much smaller than her predecessor Queen liners. Even so, QE2 was designed to be equally attractive as a cruise ship as an ocean liner and in the long term this configuration may have paid off for the ship, as she was kept near capacity throughout the year, both as a transatlantic liner and on a variety of cruises throughout the world.

In fact, as the years went by, her cruising would become more frequent at the expense of the number of crossings she would undertake. Still, QE2 did maintain a respectable number of crossings throughout the year—with some even during the turbulent winter months—and maintained the company tradition across the Atlantic.

She also may have been the last big troop ship, renewing the history of her namesake ship, the Queen Elizabeth, when QE2 transported troops to the south Atlantic Ocean during the 1982 Falklands War between Great Britain and Argentina.

There has been some controversy—or at least uncertainty—over the name of the ship and whether it is properly designated as QE2 or QEII. In fact, it is reported, the Queen Elizabeth 2—the ship—was named after her predecessor ship, the RMS Queen Elizabeth. And, therefore, she is properly named QE2. The current monarch of Great Britain is Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Although she has many honors, having a Cunard passenger ship named after her is not one of them. The original Queen Elizabeth, which served during World War II as a troop ship and began commercial service in 1947, was actually named after the current Queen's mother, also named Elizabeth. Thus, the QE2 is named after the ship that was named for the mother of the current Queen.