

Day 64 – At Sea–Canaletto Restaurant– Indonesian Crew Show – 28 Nov. 09: The day started with a cloudy sky, rough sea and temperatures in the mid 70s. So far we have not suffered sea sickness. We worked on the blog for Hilo and started thinking about packing our stuff for the trip back home.

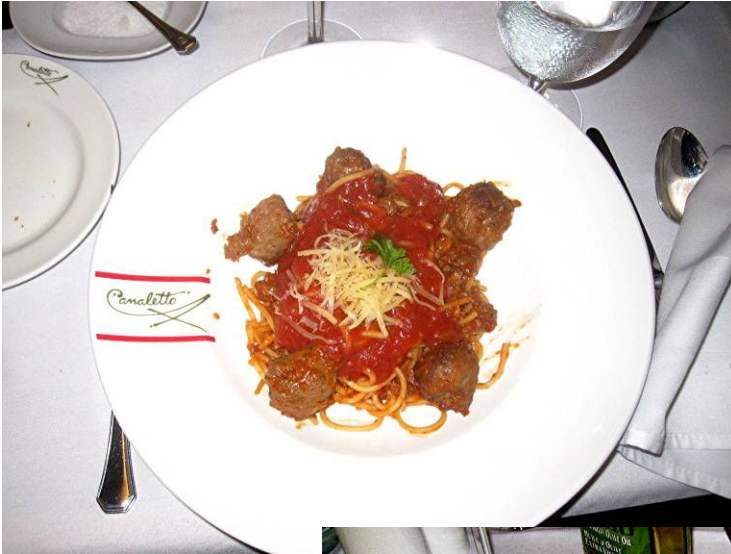
Our big event of the day was dinner at Canaletto's which is an Italian restaurant up on the Lido Deck. Canaletto's is part of the Lido Restaurant but instead of being a buffet restaurant you order your meal from a menu and waiters serve you at the table. It is not as elegant as the Pinnacle Restaurant on Deck 3 but, unlike the Pinnacle Restaurant, there is no additional charge for food in Canaletto's. Many people whom we know on the cruise have eaten in Canaletto's over the last two months and all reports were positive so we were looking forward to it. We had reservations for 7:30pm and were joining our cruising friends, Dick and Ann for the meal.

We met Dick and Ann in the Casino and went directly from there to Canaletto's. The smartly dressed manager met us at the entrance to the restaurant, as shown on the right. A steward quickly showed us to our table which was a window seat with an ocean view. The waiters in Canaletto's are the same stewards who take care of the passengers in the Lido Buffet at breakfast and lunch. They simply report to Canaletto's in the evening rather than go to the Lido Buffet Restaurant.



For example, Gede, whom we talk to in the Lido Buffet every breakfast and lunch set up our table tonight and served the meal. Shown on the left is Gede setting up our table while Ann looks on.

We had wonderful Italian meals of Chicken Marcello and the classic Spaghetti and Meatballs. For our foodie friends the plates of food are shown below.



Barbara had the Spaghetti and Meatballs.

Orlin had the Chicken Marsala.





Gede was assisted by, Pas, another steward friend from the Lido Buffet as shown on the left.

It was a great meal and we enjoyed talking with Dick and Ann about our mutual interests in travel. We have cruised with them on the Amsterdam in each of the last three years so we had a lot to talk about.

Near the end of the meal we had Gede take a picture of us to commemorate the occasion. Shown on the right are the cruising friends in the Canaletto Restaurant.



After dinner we went to a special Indonesian Crew Show put on in the Queen's Lounge. The entire Indonesian crew selects some of their companions with special talent and they put on a show to entertain the passengers. This is a tradition that Holland America has promoted on all the long cruises we have been on. The stewards in the dinning rooms talk to us about the show as they rehearse for a few days before the show. The crew

really seems to like the chance to entertain. Tonight at the show we sat near the stage so that our little camera might have a chance to take useable pictures.

The show emphasizes Indonesian cultural traditions of dance, drama and music but other cultures and popular US music may also be played. Tonight the lead act was a beautiful



young lady who did a traditional Balinese Dance with full costume. She performed the intricate moves well as we have ever seen in that type of dance and was very entertaining. A picture of her doing the dance is shown on the left.

Another act we liked was called the Salmon Dance. This is a traditional Indonesian group event where 7 or 8 people perform complicated synchronized moves with their hands and arms. The moves that each person makes have to be coordinated with the adjacent partner or chaos would reign. These guys performing the Salmon Dance for us, as shown

below, had obviously rehearsed their act to perfection and it was a pleasure to watch them go through their moves.



There were many other acts that kept the audience clapping and cheering after each segment of the show. Finally, after an hour of energetic dancing and singing it came to an end about midnight. They got a standing ovation from the excited audience. One thing we always have to keep reminding ourselves about is that the stewards and other workers on the ship have full time demanding jobs and the time for rehearsals and putting on the show comes out of their free time. Tonight the show could not start until 11pm because many of the Indonesian stewards in the show were busy serving passengers and cleaning up the kitchen after dinner. We really appreciate the enthusiasm and dedication of the crew of the Amsterdam.

The Indonesian Crew Show was a grand way to end our day. We didn't have much trouble falling asleep in our cabin with the gentle rocking motion as we continue on the course to Los Angeles.