



PRESS RELEASE

THE INTEGRATION PROCESS BETWEEN MERIDIANA AND AIR ITALY HAS BEEN COMPLETED

Starting today airitaly.com is online, AIR ITALY is born with flight code IG

“Ciao Meridiana, welcome AIR ITALY” the [video](#)

Olbia, March 1st, 2018 - As anticipated during the press conference held in Milan on February 19th, and following the effectiveness of the sale of the *aviation* business unit of Air Italy to Meridiana fly, today the company has been renamed "AIR ITALY" SpA.

The integration of the two airlines operational activities, with the consequent unification of the personnel and of the respective organizational structures, is now completed, also thanks to ENAC (Italian Civil Aviation Authority) personnel, who fully supported AIR ITALY on technical and administration procedures.

The first long haul flight of the new AIR ITALY, IG3254, departed today at 02.00 (Italian local time) from Milan Malpensa airport to International Abeid Amani Karume airport of Zanzibar, while the first domestic flight IG1111 from Olbia to Rome Fiumicino left the Costa Smeralda airport at 07.00 am.

The integration of the operating structures of the two carriers in the new AIR ITALY S.p.A. will deliver a better and more efficient organization focused on two main bases, Olbia for short-haul flights and Milan Malpensa for international and intercontinental flights. The currently operating B737 and B767 aircraft will maintain the Meridiana livery until their phase out, while from next spring 3 Boeing 737 MAX 8 and 5 Airbus A330-200 will join the fleet with the new AIR ITALY livery.

Starting today the new website <https://www.airitaly.com/en-us/> is online.

The historical "IG" code remains; it distinguished the company's activity since its establishment in 1963, as Alisarda, transporting over 100 million passengers.

The start of the new AIR ITALY has coincided with the exit from the fleet of I-SMER, the last of the 18 MD80 aircraft of the same series, that over 30 years have been protagonists of the history of Alisarda / Meridiana and through out the journeys of its loyal passengers. Airport and staff employees have saluted the take-off from the Olbia Costa Smeralda Airport. The video of a clip entitled: [“Ciao Meridiana, welcome AIR ITALY”](#) may be seen on Air Italy social media profiles

For further information:

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About AIR ITALY:

AIR ITALY is an Italian airline fully owned by AQA Holding (51% Alisarda and 49% Qatar Airways), with its headquarters in Olbia. The company was established up with the name of Alisarda on 29 March 1963, with the aim of promoting tourism to Sardinia. In 1991 the name was changed to Meridiana. Following a merger with charter carrier Eurofly and the acquisition of the charter company AIR ITALY the airline became the most important Italian player in international leisure flights.

In December 2017 growth towards new domestic, medium-haul and long haul destinations from Milan Malpensa was announced reflecting a major strategic shift for the Company.

In February 2018 a new corporate identity was presented and the Company was rebranded as AIR ITALY.

Beginning from May 2018, AIR ITALY will add new domestic routes from Milan to Rome, Naples, Palermo, Catania, Lamezia Terme scheduled for connection to its newest long-range destinations including New York, Miami and Bangkok (starting in September 2018). Its network also includes direct international flights from Milan Malpensa to Accra, Cairo, Dakar, Havana, Lagos, Mombasa, Moscow, Zanzibar and, from its Olbia Costa Smeralda hub, year-round scheduled services to Rome, Milan Linate and seasonal ones to a wide range of domestic and regional destinations.

AIR ITALY's fleet, currently comprising 8 Boeing 737 NG and 3 Boeing 767-300, will be progressively renewed with 8 new aircraft 3 brand new Boeing 737 MAX 8 and 5 Airbus A330-200 joining during 2018 and with the full retirement of the B767-300 by the end of 2018.

As result of the industrial reorganization of the Holding AQA (51% Alisarda and 49% Qatar Airways), the new corporate structure is the following

