

Anonymous - positive evaluation  
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The paper analyzes an important topic for tourism economics: the cruise tourism. In recent years the cruise sector has been characterized by a strong development. After a brief review of the literature and after presenting some theoretical hints on the effects of cruise tourism on tourism destinations, the research focuses on an applied analysis based on questionnaires. The questionnaires are collected through direct interviews with Messina citizens. From an empirical point of view, the analysis is complete and the exposition is very clear. The conclusions are obvious, but not trivial ones. My evaluation is therefore positive.

Finally, I have two minor observations:

1- the Likert scale is calibrated on levels 0-4, as it would appear from equations (2), or on levels 1-5?

**ANSWER:** The Likert scale employed in the questionnaire is on the levels 1-5. The equation specification has been recalibrated to a 1-5 Likert-scale. Thank you.

2- a brief description of Messina Port as a cruise port would be appropriate (maritime links, types of ships, ship owners, companies types, etc.).

**ANSWER:** Thanks for this suggestion. Unfortunately, very few information of this kind is available to the authors. In section 4, we added a further Figure showing the number of cruise passenger trend in the past 16 years.

Thank you.