

Meridiana becomes Air Italy: strategy, flight lists and figures

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Meridiana is starting again in Malpensa, confirming the leading role of the airport in Milan, and is now **aiming to Air Italy**, the group's company that had been in the shadows for the last years and that will de facto "replace" Meridiana with its brand name.

In the presentation during a press conference (with Marco Rigotti, the chairman of Meridiana Francesco Violante and Akbar Al Baker, CEO of Qatar Airways and new majority shareholder), **the new course of action of the company** was presented, including the unveiling of the Air Italy livery (with a photo from **Aeroporti Lombardi**). According to the project, **fifty new planes will be available by 2020**, with a prospect of **10 millions of passengers, 8 of which starting their flight from Malpensa**. The company is aiming to "hire 1500 people", explained Akbar Al Baker.

The fleet will consist of, among the others, **twenty Boeing 737 Max 8** (with the new livery) and five **Airbus 330-220** for long-range destinations, **from Milan to New York and Miami**. Starting from September, a four-times-per-week flight to Bangkok will be available as well.

In May, on the **internal market** the flight to Rome will be available; other than this, there will be also **connections to Catania, Palermo, Naples and Lamezia Terme**, that will act as feeders for international flights.

A company "that provides high quality services, and that is an alternative for Italians and for all the international tourists that wish to visit Italy", summed up the CEO of Qatar.

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