

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Orion Expedition Cruises

Cruise Passenger magazine Awards

30th April, 2007

Orion Expedition Cruises most successful operator in Cruise Passenger Magazine awards

Cruise Passenger Magazine, the Southern Hemisphere's highly regarded cruise publication, has just announced the winners of its 2006 Readers Choice Awards.

Most successful of all cruise operators was Orion Expedition Cruises' *Orion* which was awarded top billing in three categories, followed by one second place.

- * **BEST SMALL SHIP** – Orion, 1st
- * **BEST CUISINE** – Orion, 1st
- * **BEST ADVENTURE SHIP** – Orion, 1st
- * **BEST Australia/New Zealand CRUISE SHIP** (Orion, Runner up)

Understandably delighted by the results, Sarina Bratton, Founder and Managing Director of Orion Expedition Cruises, praised the dedication, hard work and consistent attention to detail provided across all facets of the Orion operation, with particular attention to *Orion's* 75 onboard crew as being key factors in the success.

Sarina commented that the Awards results reflected consumer endorsement of her original concept to provide the Australian market with specialist expedition cruising in combination with true 5 star standards of service and luxury, citing strong forward bookings (with an above 30% repeat-passenger ratio) as evidence of the successful establishment of *Orion* in Australia in just two years of operation.

Also pleased with the results was Serge Dansereau (The Bathers' Pavilion), who is responsible for *Orion's* dinner menus. Recently returned from hosting a sell-out *Orion* Tasmanian food and wine voyage, Serge was happy to hear the news that *Orion's* cuisine had been rated so highly and pointed to the high standards maintained by Executive Chef Lothar Greiner and his team onboard.

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Orion is Australia's only 5 star purpose-built expedition cruise ship, featuring an unmatched range of onboard facilities. With 75 crew and a maximum of just 106 passengers Orion offers the highest staff to guest ratio and guest to public space ratio of any ship based in Australian waters.

It is, however, *Orion's* luxurious accommodation and facilities that distinguish it most from other expedition ships in Australian waters. All 53 staterooms and suites are exterior with ocean views and include a sitting area or living room, direct Internet access, flat screen TV, DVD and CD player, private marble bathroom and choice of twin beds or queen-size bed.

The Five-star amenities include a spa, sauna, masseuse, hairdresser, boutique, several lounges and a library equipped with Internet access.

The dinner menu was created by Sydney's renowned chef Serge Dansereau (of The Bathers' Pavilion fame). The extensive wine list includes well known and boutique Australian and New Zealand wines.

Purpose built for the adventurous. As elegant and comfortable as *Orion* is, it never loses sight of its purpose as an expedition ship. There are ten, heavy-duty, Zodiac inflatable motorized boats for shore landings and expeditions and a well equipped fishing boat. The stern platform area is purpose-designed to provide access to the Zodiacs and a further ten 2-seater kayak.

The permanent onboard Expedition Team is supplemented by specialist guest lecturers and presenters selected for their areas of expertise according to the various itineraries and destinations.

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Further information on Orion Expedition Cruises can be obtained by visiting the website www.orioncruises.com.au

For reservations or to obtain a brochure call Orion Expedition Cruises: 61-2 9033 8777 (Sydney callers) 1300 361 012 (regional and interstate) or your travel agent.

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