

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

Cruise Passenger magazine Awards

9 December, 2009

Orion's triple success in the 2009 Cruise Passenger Readers' Choice Awards

Building on its reputation as the premier expedition cruise product in Australasia *Orion* has received three prestigious *Cruise Passenger* magazine Readers' Choice Awards, announced at a ceremony at the Observatory Hotel in Sydney.

Orion was awarded top billing as

- * **BEST SMALL SHIP**
- * **BEST CUISINE**
- * **BEST ADVENTURE CRUISE SHIP**

Commenting on the awards, Sarina Bratton, Founder and Managing Director of Orion Expedition Cruises, praised the enthusiasm, 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.

"The Best Small Ship award was up against other well known vessels under 500 passengers, so it was credit to us that we were successful (again) in this category.

*In my opinion, the award that showcases how highly our guests regard our onboard product is the Cuisine Award. We are competing with all of the big ships and whilst they have 10s of thousands of past guests voting for their favourite ship and specific product areas, clearly our guests feel passionate about their culinary experiences onboard *Orion* and vote accordingly.*

*Congratulations to everyone onboard *Orion* for your continuing commitment to excellence. And congratulations to all those ashore for providing service levels commensurate to that enjoyed onboard our wonderful little ship *Orion*.*

*It's fantastic to see *Orion* up there for the fifth year running as winner of the Best Small Ship and Best Adventure Cruise Ship categories – a true testament to our consistency and appeal among Australasian cruisers."*

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Sarina commented that the Awards results reflected consumer endorsement of niche (100 guest) expedition cruising in combination with true 5 star standards of service and luxury, citing strong forward bookings as evidence of the successful establishment of *Orion* in Australia and the impetus to commit to a second specialist expedition ship, *Orion II*, due to enter operation with Orion Expedition Cruises in April 2011.

Also pleased with the results was Serge Dansereau (The Bathers' Pavilion), who is responsible for the planning of *Orion's* dinner menus. Serge was happy to hear the news that once again *Orion's* cuisine had been rated so highly and pointed to the high standards maintained by Executive Chef Lothar Greiner and his team onboard.

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 of any ship based in Australian waters.

It is, however, *Orion's* luxurious accommodation and facilities that distinguish it 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, 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 well stocked library equipped with Internet access.

The dinner menu is 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 a well equipped fishing boat.

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.orionexpeditions.com

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. Email: info@orionexpeditions.com

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