

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

Orion Australian Gourmet Traveller Awards

28 May, 2009

[Orion's wins a record two Australian Gourmet Traveller Awards](#)

Last night, at Sydney's Opera House, Sarina Bratton proudly accepted TWO Awards for Orion Expedition Cruises - the Australian Gourmet Traveller Magazine's Annual Readers' Choice Awards for

- **Best Adventure Tourism**
- **Best Cruise Line**

Today, in a message of congratulations to the ship's crew (currently actively undertaking expeditions in the Kimberley) and members of the Sydney office, Sarina praised the contributions made by the team.

"To win once in the AGT Travel Awards is a triumph. To win two categories in the same year is amazing as this hasn't been achieved before."

Continuing, *"We won the Adventure Tourism award last year as well, however to win the Best Cruise Line ahead of the other finalists – Cunard, P&O, Princess and Silverseas is nothing short of outstanding."*

It's testament of how highly regarded we are by our guests and the industry alike. This cannot be achieved without the individual commitment to excellence that each and every one of you makes for our company. Thank you.

Combine this with yet another exceptional month of sales in what is regarded as a tough market and we have a lot to celebrate.

Feel proud of your personal contribution to our company's continuing success."

Ranked #2 expedition cruise ship in the world in the current Berlitz Cruise Guide, Orion is the world's youngest and Australia's only purpose-built luxury expedition cruise ship.

Featuring an unmatched range of onboard facilities, and 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.

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Additional information:

Reference: <http://gourmettraveller.com.au> web site

READERS' CHOICE AWARDS: BEST ADVENTURE TOURISM

Winner: Orion Expedition Cruises

Runners-up: Cradle Mountain Walk, Tas; Aurora Expeditions

To win once in the GT Travel Awards is a triumph. To win twice in the same year is a record. The pacesetter Orion has claimed the title by being named both Best Cruise Line and Best Adventure Tourism operator. Adventure tourism is the cornerstone of any visit to Australia and there are many remarkable companies selling home-grown excitement to international visitors. But when Orion Expedition Cruises debuted in 2004, it upped the ante with the opulence of its offering. This floating expedition ship explores some of the world's most inhospitable but fascinating environments in five-star comfort. A visit to any of its ports of call - the Antarctic, the Spice Islands, Papua New Guinea and Arnhem Land, among others - is a lesson in how to see the world in style.

READERS' CHOICE AWARDS: BEST CRUISE LINE

Winner: Orion Expedition Cruises

Runners-up: Princess Cruises; Cunard

Former Cunard executive Sarina Bratton really knew what she was doing when she launched Orion's brand of intrepid luxury onto the high seas in 2004. She created a uniquely Australian brand of cruising, where adventure is everything but a certain standard of lavish is also required. This is not cruising for wimps; the Orion's itineraries take it to the Trobriand Islands, West Timor, Antarctica and many other exotic ports. The ship carries an elite cargo of a maximum 106 guests in 53 ocean-view suites and state rooms, attended by 75 crew members. Wherever they are, guests can be assured of ample champers, fine dining by Serge Dansereau of The Bathers' Pavilion fame, and enough resident experts to answer your every burning question. Orion's got beauty and brains. How very Australian.

Further information on Orion Expedition Cruises 2009 – 2010 Calendar of Sailings 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@orioncruises.com.au

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