

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

Orion Expedition Cruises

Cruise Passenger magazine Awards

26th March, 2008

Orion voted most successful operator in Cruise Passenger Magazine Annual Awards

Australian Cruise Passenger Magazine, the Southern Hemisphere's highly regarded cruise publication, has just published the winners of their 2007 Readers Choice Awards.

Most successful of all cruise operators was Orion Expedition Cruises' *Orion* which for the second year in a row was awarded top billing in three categories followed by two second places.

- * **BEST SMALL SHIP** – Orion, 1st
- * **BEST CUISINE** – Orion, 1st
- * **BEST ADVENTURE CRUISE SHIP** – Orion, 1st

- * **BEST SHIP from Australia/New Zealand** - (Orion, Runner up)
- * **BEST SHIP'S CABIN** – (Orion, runner up)

"It's fantastic to see *Orion* up there for the third year running as winner of this category – a true testament to her consistency and appeal among Australasian cruisers," said Editor of *Cruise Passenger*, Kayte Nunn, referring to Orion's Best Small Ship Award.

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.

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.

Also pleased with the results was Serge Dansereau (The Bathers' Pavilion), who is responsible for *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.

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

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 kayaks.

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.

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. Email: info@orioncruises.com.au

For further media information please contact:

Michael Corbett
Public Relations Manager
Orion Expedition Cruises
Phone: (61-2) 4572 1855
Mobile: 0417 469 228
Email: mcorbett@orioncruises.com.au