

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

Orion Expedition Cruises

22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2006

PRO 067

Announcement of Orion / Virtuoso appointment

**Virtuoso announces its first International Preferred Specialty Operator - Orion**

In the USA, the prestigious luxury travel network Virtuoso has announced the appointment of Orion Expedition Cruises as the first travel company selected for inclusion in the group's new International & Specialty Operator category.

Orion was warmly welcomed to the Virtuoso family with the words "*not only do they go to out of the way places, they go out of their way to give you an exclusive, five-star experience*".

Sarina Bratton, Managing Director of Orion Expedition Cruises, commented in Sydney that this was an endorsement reflecting the 5 star reputation Orion is steadily gaining both domestically and internationally.

This appointment recognises the unique positioning of the Orion product in Australia – experiential expedition cruises to fascinating destinations in a purpose-built ship offering levels of appointments and unobtrusive service to match the needs of discerning guests.

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Virtuoso is an invitation-only luxury travel network specialising in connecting the world's best travellers with the world's best vacation destinations. Virtuoso comprises more than 6,000 elite travel consultants, associated with 301 agencies in 22 countries throughout North and South America, the Caribbean, Australia and New Zealand. The network's member agencies generate more than \$3 billion annually in travel sales, making the group the most powerful in the luxury travel segment

Orion Expedition Cruises is an Australian company operating Australia's only 5 star purpose-built expedition cruise ship. Her 106 guests enjoy 5 star levels of comfort and service and with 75 experienced crew the experience is more mega-yacht than traditional cruise ship. Depending on the time of year Orion offers a range of expeditions to remote destinations that include the Kimberley, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, Tasmania and the Antarctic.

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

*Orion offers a range of accommodation options across 53 staterooms and suites. All feature ocean views, the option of queen size or twin beds, fully-equipped marble bathrooms and modern amenities like flat screen TV, DVD/CD player, internet connectivity and mini-refrigerator.*

*Cruise fares include all meals in an unhurried single sitting in either the dining room or outdoor café, the service of 75 experienced crew members, guest speakers and/or expedition leaders and selected landings & activities ashore.*

Further information on Orion Expedition Cruises can be obtained by visiting the website [www.orioncruises.com.au](http://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](mailto:info@orioncruises.com.au)

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