

Crystal Ships Earn Top Honors From Conde Nast Traveler Readers

2008-02-11

The ships of the Crystal Cruises fleet have once again been voted by the travel-savvy readers of Conde Nast Traveler as the best medium-sized ships in the world. Ultra-luxury Crystal Serenity and Crystal Symphony were ranked #1 and #2, respectively, in the magazine's eighth annual Best Cruise Ships in the World issue.

Although the medium-sized category includes ships carrying between 500-1,500 passengers, Crystal Serenity's overall score of 94.6 ranked higher than every other ship with more than 120 passengers. Crystal Symphony ranked second, with an overall score of 93.8.

Crystal Serenity and Crystal Symphony, respectively, earned some of their highest ever scores for Food/Dining (96.4 and 96.3), Crew/Service (97.2 and 96.3), Facilities/Activities (96.0 and 93.7), Cabins (91.1 for both) and Design/Layout (97.1 and 95.4). Travelers also appreciated Crystal's increasing focus on special-interest, limited availability experiences ashore. Crystal's Shore Excursions (89.1 and 87.6) were voted several points ahead of most ships in the survey.

"To receive such high praise from the very people who have experienced vacations on our ships makes us very proud," says Crystal Cruises' president, Gregg L. Michel. "This honor acknowledges our staff's devotion to creating the best possible experiences for our guests, while always upholding the highest standard of excellence."

Conde Nast Traveler asked its subscribers to rate 258 ships on a 100-point scale. A total of 81 ships are reviewed in the February 2008 eighth annual "Best Ships" issue.

Crystal ships have long been celebrated for outstanding performance in all of these areas. A steadfast commitment to the Six-Star Crystal Basics -- the line's credo for ensuring that all guests' needs are fulfilled -- has made Crystal the category winner in Conde Nast Traveler's Readers' Choice poll more than any other resort, hotel or cruise line in history.

Attesting to the consistent quality of its onboard experience, the luxury line was voted "World's Best" in Travel + Leisure's most recent readers' survey. Crystal Cruises is the only cruise line, resort or hotel to have won the prestigious award each year since the awards' inception.

From seven- and 12- day vacations in Europe to epic 100+-day World Cruises, space, quality, service and choices are the cornerstone of the Crystal experience. Crystal is renowned for consistently advancing its sophisticated culinary programs, which this year includes the certification of all wine sommeliers by the Court of Master Sommeliers. In March, Crystal expands its partnership with Nobu Matsuhisa when he launches Silk Road and The Sushi Bar on Crystal Symphony.

This article comes from Hotel News Resource

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