



Windstar Fleet Dominates “Best Small Ships” Cruise Travel Honors Earning 20 Awards & Placing First for Service, Public Rooms, Cabins & Fitness



Annual Cruise Critic Cruisers' Choice Awards Draws from Reviews of Experienced Cruise Travelers Who Recently Sailed Aboard Windstar's Six Small Ships

Seattle, WA, February 28, 2018 — Windstar Cruises sails into 2018 on a high note with a host of 20 travel awards in the 2018 *Cruise Critic Cruisers' Choice Awards*, including first place in the following categories that focused exclusively on small ship cruising — **Best Service: *Wind Star*; Best Public Rooms: *Star Legend*; Best Cabins: *Star Pride*; and Best for Fitness: *Wind Spirit*.**

“In addition to four first place wins, our ships took three of the top five spots in five of nine categories. Coming from the experienced cruisers of *Cruise Critic*, that speaks volumes and we are very proud of our wonderful staff and crew who enrich the lives of our guests every day,” commented President John Delaney. “We invite travelers to discover what makes Windstar 180 degrees from any other travel experience.”

Windstar dominated the *Best Small Ship Dining* category taking three of the top five spots with *Star Legend*, *Star Breeze* and *Wind Surf* named second, third and fifth respectively. Windstar's ongoing partnership as the *Official Cruise Line of the James Beard Foundation* presents travelers with the perfect pairing for dining at sea, with six new culinary themed cruises just announced for 2018, and exclusive dishes from James Beard-recognized chefs served every evening on every sailing.

Cruise Critic* cruisers also ranked three of Windstar's ships in the top five for *Best Service on a Small Ship, adding *Star Legend* and *Wind Spirit* to *Wind Star*'s first place. With fewer than 310 passengers per ship, and a staff-to-guest ratio of 1-to-1.5 Windstar's intimate ships and attentive crew provide personalized service with a smile, and they know guests' names, beverage, food and other preferences from day one of each cruise.

Cruise Critic Reviewer A.S. noted on a recent ship review, “From the time we boarded *Wind Spirit* until we disembarked 7 days later, we thoroughly enjoyed everything about this experience. The islands, the sky and the ocean, of course, are beautiful. But the ship, our cabin, the food, all of the service and most importantly the crew, were outstanding.”

Windstar's unique Watersports Platform that opens from the aft of each Windstar ship to provide hours of water play on stand-up paddleboards, water skis, water trampolines and more is just one of the reasons that *Wind Spirit* and *Wind Surf* ranked at the top for *Best Small Ship Fitness*. In addition, in the *Best Overall and Best Value for*

Small Ships categories *Wind Surf*, *Wind Spirit*, and *Star Legend* all placed in the top five. When it comes to accommodations, *Star Pride*, *Star Legend*, *Star Breeze* and *Wind Star* all were recognized as having *Best Cabins and Best Public Rooms*, while four ships were awarded *Best for Small Ship Embarkation and Entertainment* including *Star Legend*, *Wind Surf*, *Wind Sprit*, and *Wind Star*.

The 2018 *Cruisers' Choice Awards* are based solely on thousands of reviews from actual cruisers, are not chosen by *Cruise Critic* staff, and don't have a voting component. People who submit a cruise review on *Cruise Critic* include ratings based on their experience, and these ratings determine the rankings in the *Cruisers' Choice* awards.

To learn more about authentic small ship cruising with Windstar, contact a travel professional or Windstar Cruises by phone at 800-258-7245, email info@windstarcruises.com or visit www.windstarcruises.com.

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Editor's note: Imagery available for download here: <https://windstarcruises.webdamdb.com/bp/#/assets>

Windstar Cruises operates a six-ship fleet of small sailing and all-suite ships visiting approximately 270 ports in 2018 sailing throughout Europe, the Caribbean, Costa Rica and the Panama Canal, Asia, Alaska, Canada and New England, and cruising year-round in Tahiti. *Windstar's* fleet is the market leader in small ship cruising with a total of 1,242 passenger berths calling on off-the-beaten-path and popular ports in over 60 countries. The boutique cruise line carries fewer than 310 passengers on its small ships and takes travelers on cruises that are 180 degrees from ordinary. They are known for their immersive and authentic experiences, unique, port-intensive itineraries, exceptional award-winning service, and innovative culinary program as the Official Cruise Line of the James Beard Foundation. *Windstar Cruises* is a part of Xanterra Travel Collection, an award-winning, globally diversified travel company offering once in a lifetime experiences in some of the most beautiful and iconic places on earth.

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