



**Windstar Wins Best Small Ship Cruise Line
For the 2nd Year in a Row
In the 2019 *TravelAge West* WAVE Awards**



Leading small ship cruise operator recognized by travel industry experts with prestigious honor for second consecutive year.

Seattle, WA, June 18, 2019 — Windstar Cruises has been named the “Best Small Ship Line” in the 2019 *TravelAge West* WAVE Awards, winning this title two years in a row.

“The entire Windstar Team is dedicated to delivering the world’s best small ship cruise experience - from our culinary credentials, to our award-winning service, to our immersive and distinctive itineraries,” said Windstar President John Delaney. “We are honored and grateful that the editors and readers of *TravelAge West* have recognized our leadership position in the small ship category for a second year in a row.”

Windstar was also designated as a *TravelAge West* Editor’s Pick for “Best Onboard Dining” and “Best Cruise Line for Alaska Sailings.”

The recognition of the small ship line took place at the WAVE Awards Gala on June 13 at The Ritz-Carlton, Marina del Rey, Calif., where industry leaders from across the travel landscape were in attendance along with West Coast Travel Advisors.

Now in its fourteenth year, the goal of *TravelAge West*’s WAVE (Western Agents’ Vote of Excellence) Awards is to give travel advisors in the West the opportunity to recognize the outstanding qualities and services of their travel-supplier partners.

The Editor’s Picks were chosen by Editor-in-Chief Kenneth Shapiro and the entire editorial team of *TravelAge West*. Review methods included product analysis, on-site visits, a survey of a select group of travel advisors and online research.

“After months of research, the *TravelAge West* editorial team, with help from our travel agent advisory board and other industry sources, compiled a comprehensive list of the top hotels, cruise lines, tour operators and destinations,” said Shapiro. “We know that Western advisors need to work with the best in the industry in order to stay competitive and, as the number-one travel trade magazine in the West, we remain committed to honoring the companies that continue to lead the way.”

Windstar has been garnering numerous awards and honors, among them: being named to *Condé Nast Traveler’s* prestigious Gold List for 2019 and scoring a top spot as Best Small Ship in their Readers’ Choice Awards; ranked #1 in the Midsize-Ship Ocean Cruise Lines category of the 2018 *Travel + Leisure World’s* Best Awards; and voted 2018 Best Small Ship Cruise Line by *AFAR* readers.

Exploring the world by small ship allows guests aboard a Windstar cruise to go more places, see more things and connect more authentically with local people and rich cultures than possible on traditional cruise ships. The small ships of Windstar navigate smaller waterways and ports and enrich the sailing experience with award-winning programs such as *Signature Expeditions in Alaska*, the *James Beard Foundation Culinary Cruise Collection*, as well as treasured traditions such as the *Signature Sail Away*, *Signature Onboard Barbecue*, and *Signature Beach Party*. The Windstar team hand-curates shore excursions such as the *Concierge Collection* which allow guests to fully connect with local cultures on tours such as a visit to the famous Splendido Hotel in Portofino, on Italy’s Riviera for a tasting of local olive oils and a sumptuous, traditional lunch. Offering more late-night or overnight port calls, diverse itineraries, exceptional cuisine, shipboard spa and fitness amenities, and expert insight into the destinations visited, the Windstar experience offers the perfect way for cultural explorers to see the world.

Windstar’s recently announced its *\$250 Million Star Plus Initiative*, which features extensive, upcoming renovations to the line’s three Star Class ships, and will showcase the addition of 50 new suites, two new restaurants, an enhanced spa and fitness center, an elevated pool, new retail space, and additional upgrades. The major enhancements from the quarter-of-a-million-dollar *Star Plus Initiative* debut throughout 2020, first on *Star Breeze* in February; then *Star Legend* in July and *Star Pride* in November 2020. The newly enhanced small vessels will carry fewer than 350 guests.

To learn more about authentic small ship cruising, contact a travel advisor or Windstar Cruises by phone at 1-800-258-7245, or visit www.windstarcruises.com.

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Editor’s note: download images at: <https://windstarcruises.webdamdb.com/bp/#/assets>.

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About Windstar Cruises

Windstar Cruises operates a six-ship fleet of masted sailing ships and all-suite motor ships cruising throughout Europe, the Caribbean, Costa Rica and the Panama Canal, Asia, Alaska and British Columbia, Canada and New England, Tahiti and the South Pacific, Mexico and U.S. Coastal cruises. 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 more than 300 ports of call in 80 countries. The boutique line carries less than 350 guests on each sailing and takes travelers on cruises that are 180 degrees from ordinary. Windstar is known for immersive experiences and destination authenticity, port-intensive itineraries, exceptional award-winning service, and an innovative culinary program with culinary-themed cruise 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. Visit WindstarCruises.com.