

**Windstar Cruises Ranked #2 in
Condé Nast Traveler 2013 Readers' Choice Awards**

Leader in yacht style cruising earns top service score among small ship cruise lines



Seattle, October 17, 2013 – Windstar Cruises, a leader in yacht style cruising, was named one of the Top Small Ship Cruise Lines in the prestigious *Condé Nast Traveler* [2013 Readers' Choice Awards](#). The line was ranked #2 beating out four other small ship lines. Windstar also garnered #1 placement in the Small Ship Cruise Line Service, Itineraries, and Design categories

“We are proud to have our unique itineraries, personalized service, and private yacht style cruising recognized by our loyal cruisers,” said Hans Birkholz, Windstar Cruises’ chief executive officer. “Our teams both onboard and onshore continually strive to create the best small ship experience for our guests. It’s an honor for us to be acknowledged as #1 in Service by the people we serve every day.”

Cruise line rankings in the *Condé Nast Traveler* 2013 Readers’ Choice Awards are based on readers’ ratings of cruise ships on the following characteristics: itineraries, cabins, service, food, design, activities/facilities, and shore excursions. This year, *Condé Nast Traveler* had a record-breaking 79,268 readers participate in the survey, close to double the number of survey takers in 2012. These savvy travelers cast 1.3 million votes for more than 16,000 properties around the world.

Windstar Cruises has been on the move the last few years with fleet-wide renovations, the expansion of power yachts, and new global itineraries. These changes are being recognized among guests and the travel industry alike. This week Windstar was recognized by *Cruise Critic* as the Best Cruise Line for Honeymoons, as well as SAVEUR’s Culinary Travel Awards as an Outstanding Culinary Cruise Line. Last month Windstar Cruises won a Gold Award for Market Leadership in small ship cruising from *Travel Weekly’s* Magellan Awards. In July, Windstar was recognized as #3 Small Ship Cruise Line in *Travel + Leisure’s* World’s Best Awards.

“The past two years we have been creating the new Windstar; revising every single itinerary to find the perfect combination of hidden harbors and legendary ports as well as improving our onboard experience with stem-to-stern renovations and magical moments. We are thrilled to see our guests responding to so favorably to these enhancements,” said Birkholz.

To see a full list of awards, visit Windstar’s website.

For more information about Windstar Cruises and to book, contact a travel professional, call Windstar at 800-258-7245 or visit www.WindstarCruises.com.

About Windstar Cruises

Windstar Cruises operates a fleet of small luxury cruise ships known for their intimate yacht style experience and unique voyages to the world’s best small ports and hidden harbors. Its three recently renovated sailing yachts carry fewer than 300 guests and cruise to 50 nations, calling at 100 ports throughout Europe, the South Pacific, the Caribbean, and Central America. In February 2013, Windstar entered into an agreement to purchase three all-suite motorized yachts with a capacity of 212 passengers each. The expansion will double the size of Windstar’s fleet, making the company the market leader in small ship cruising with 300 or fewer passengers, with a total of 1,230 berths. For more information including rates and itineraries, contact a travel professional or call Windstar at 800-258-7245. Visit Windstar Cruises online at WindstarCruises.com or Blog.WindstarCruises.com. Windstar Cruises can also be followed on Windstar’s Facebook and Twitter fan pages.

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