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Ship Review

CELEBRITY SOLSTICE

Mrs. Holmes and I sailed on the Celebrity SOLSTICE in January of 2010. We had an Aqua Class Cabin on the Penthouse deck amidships. Aqua class is unique to celebrity and to the Solstice class ships, The class occupies an entire deck and rooms have sole access to a special spa facility and to the specialty restaurant BLU. I must confess that BLU scared me as I am a traditional food aficionado but my wife wanted to try it so there we were. The restaurant was beautiful , the food very special and of healthy origin but we were also able to order treasured items from other restaurants aboard so my fears and trepidations were ground to a halt by a fabulous waiter and some truly caring Head Waiters. My shrimp cocktail every night soon became double sized and the anchovies on the Caesar salad exceeded even my capacity.



We expected a large suite like cabin from the literature about solstice. The cabin was designed by a group of women cruisers engaged to design a “wife friendly” facility. The bed was great, the balcony adequate but the space was very cramped, much smaller than a standard balcony cabin on a sister cruise line. The storage space was limited and the closet almost totally inaccessible. The bathroom was of adequate size but storage space was limited and hard to utilize. One very special feature was that a low level light remained on in the bathroom all night which allowed one partner to find the bathroom without pushing the main switch and awakening the other. As always we enjoyed the in room Wi-Fi which allows us to manage the business of WWCH while at sea.

The corridors are wide, well lit and easy to maneuver. The atrium area small but extremely well designed and each successive floor had something different to offer. Plants and artwork were well placed and the feeling of welcome and confidence abounded wherever we went. The ship was the largest ever built in Germany and at 128,000 GT she is Celebrity’s largest with 3 sister ships on order and all due to be sailing by 2012.

No review of this ship can start anywhere but at the very top. The first full real grass green lawn at sea allows a number of unique activities to be featured. We played golf on real grass, watched bocce ball games and lawn bowling but the real deal was the Glass Blowing studio that demanded my rapt attention throughout a most clever demonstration of those unique skills.

The pools were nice but could have been made larger instead of a large decorative lighted water spray area. The theater was magnificent and featured a facility for many flying acts where actors were active and suspended above and around the audience. Many folks commented that the final show of the week was by far the best show they have ever seen at sea.

We mentioned the Aqua Class restaurant BLU, but friends who were also aboard had high praise for the décor, comfort, and quality of the Main restaurant as well as the specialty Asian restaurant, Murano the Italian offering, and particularly the Tuscan Grille which occupied a space at the stern with magnificent panoramic views. These many options made dining a real adventure aboard SOLSTICE,

The shopping arcade and the casino were well placed and gave the feeling of far more room than they actually required. Many small activities were offered in some of these tucked away spaces which rendered them exciting instead of also-rans.

Art work is spectacular and the feeling generated in the elevator areas and other meeting places is one of comfort and style. We found the Sky Lounge to be a beautiful venue with broad vistas of the sea, a combination of large and small gathering areas separated by careful furniture placement and transparent curtains.

We found the crew to be friendly and well trained and the daily programs to be some of the most extensive at sea and all well done.

The SOLSTICE is a remarkable ship and deserves its 97 rating on a scale of 1 - 100!

ACH