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Ship Review

NCL MAJESTY

Mrs. Holmes and I sailed on the NCL MAJESTY on a back to back Caribbean cruise from San Juan in January and February of 2002. Cabin 945 on the NORWAY deck which is the top deck holding residential cabins. We had previously sailed on her when she was the ROYAL MAJESTY of Majesty cruise lines in the late 90's just before she was sold to NCL in 1997.



The Majesty is one of the smaller cruise ships plying the Caribbean waters holding only 1400 passengers and of 40,000 Gross Tons. We found her to be a most intriguing ship with much charm and opportunity for individual enjoyment. Our cruise was full on both week long legs and the ship and the crew was up to the task of keeping folks happy and entertained.

Our cabin was one of the better categories on the ship and yet was both small and at the same time comfortable. We have cruised in more sumptuous style but the folks tending to us and the general attitude of the ship was such as to negate the negatives and accentuate the positives. We did peek in to some cabins on the lower decks, especially the inside cabins and found them to be tight but clean quarters,

All the action was on the Sun Deck (where the pools were located) and on the Atlantic and Majesty Decks where the stores, Casino, lounges and restaurants were located. This ship was built in 1992 and shows signs of wear and tear but the crew was constantly in a maintenance mode with painting and carpet replacement going on daily in needed areas.

One of the very neat restaurants was the Royal Observatory which was by day a public room but at night a popular Pasta Restaurant. We ate here several times. The extra charge continental "Elegant" restaurant "Le Bistro" was not as elegant and high quality as we might have expected. The Café Royale buffet was well laid out and offered both indoor and outdoor eating venues, we ate here frequently and enjoyed both the food and the atmosphere. It was encouraging to see that the officers frequented this locale as well.

This was our first exposure to Freestyle Cruising and we did not like the shuffling around we got involved with in trying to eat in the main dining room. We expressed our displeasure to the maître'd and he did attempt to make things better for us especially since we were aboard for two weeks but we never did get a good feeling about the whole concept. We must admit that we come from a small town in Maine and don't take pleasure in standing in line to get a table to eat,

Entertainment was quite good and the daily program was vastly improved over our previous NCL trip. We sell many of the Honeymoon weeks on the MAJESTY in the summer when she sails to Bermuda from Boston and the response from those clients is always excellent-

Was it because it was a honeymoon or was it the ship and the destination?

We give the NCL MAJESTY an 80 on a scale of 1 to 100

ACH

NB- since this review was written the MAJESTY has been transferred to another cruise line and we understand she is sailing as the Louis MAJESTY. On March 3, 2010 she was hit by three rogue waves in the Med and two passengers were killed and several others and numerous crew members were injured. The ship returned to Barcelona under its own power for repairs.