

**From:** VacationsToGo.com <vtgmail@list.vacationstogo.com>  
**To:** Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov  
**Date:** 7/16/2015 3:12:47 AM  
**Subject:** Terrific Deals from Princess, Norwegian, Cunard & Windstar

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Dear Mr. Kester,

This week, I'll give you a brief overview of the various onboard dining options offered by cruise lines, covering such topics as traditional dining, open seating and alternative restaurants.

But first, I'm pleased to present the following **terrific cruise offers for our customers from Princess, Norwegian, Cunard and Windstar**.

**Princess** is offering Vacations To Go customers discounts of up to 77%. In addition, on most voyages departing from May through December 2016, pay a reduced deposit of just \$100 per person. Book a balcony cabin or higher and receive a free beverage package for two (including select alcoholic drinks). Suite guests also receive a free specialty dining credit for two. Past guests may see better rates on select sailings. [Click here](#) for dates and prices.

**Norwegian** is offering our customers big discounts -- save up to 81%. Plus, enjoy this bonus: Book nearly any 2015 voyage -- or an ocean-view cabin or higher on nearly any departure in 2016 and beyond -- and choose one of the following free amenities: 1) the Ultimate Beverage Package for two (valued at \$54 per person, per day), 2) the Ultimate Dining Package for two (includes unlimited dining at most specialty restaurants), 3) 250 minutes of Internet access or 4) a shore excursion credit of \$75 per cabin, per port (for a maximum of four ports, starting and ending ports not included). [Click here](#) for dates and prices.

**Cunard** is offering our customers exclusive shipboard credits of up to \$975 per cabin on a variety of sailings. Shipboard credits are as good as cash and can be used toward onboard purchases not covered in the cruise fare, like shore excursions and spa treatments. Past guests may see discounted rates on select sailings. **Book by July 20.** [Click here](#) for dates and prices.

**Windstar** is offering our customers exclusive rates, with savings of up to 80%. **Book by July 22.** This line's three masted sailing ships and three power yachts offer a casually elegant onboard experience. All Windstar voyages feature a complimentary onshore "Private Event" that provides a unique introduction to the destination. For example, in Tahiti, guests are treated to a private feast on the beach of a small, pristine islet called a motu, followed by a traditional Polynesian fire-dancing performance. [Click here](#) for dates and prices.

As always, these offers are for new bookings only and subject to availability. Restrictions may apply.

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Once upon a time, cruise passengers had few choices when it came to their evening meal -- one could go at a certain time to a certain table in the ship's main dining room, head to the casual buffet restaurant or order room service. These options still exist on most ships today, but cruise lines now give passengers much more flexibility in when and where they dine. Alternative restaurants -- those available beyond the formal main dining room and the buffet restaurant -- can be found on virtually every large ship and many smaller ones, while open-seating options have been introduced on numerous vessels. Here's a quick look at today's shipboard dining scene.

In the "traditional" dining scenario, passengers are informed of their seating assignments for dinner upon boarding. Dining times and table size are based on requests made at the time of booking, but on most ships they are not guaranteed, no matter how far in advance the booking is made.

Guests are assigned to a specific table in either the early (around 6 or 6:30 p.m.) or the late (around 8 or 8:30 p.m.) seating. Passengers dine with the same tablemates and are served by the same wait staff each night of the cruise.



Many passengers prefer traditional dining because it gives them an opportunity to get to know a few of their fellow passengers and their wait staff, and it allows the wait staff to learn preferences and anticipate requests after a night or two, leading to more personalized service. On the other hand, assigned seating forces passengers to plan activities around their dinner time, which can be inconvenient on days when the ship is in port.

Cruise lines offering traditional assigned seating in the main dining room during dinner include [Carnival](#), [Celebrity](#), [Costa](#), [Croisières de France](#), [Cruise & Maritime Voyages](#), [Crystal](#), [Disney](#), [Fred. Olsen](#), [Holland America](#), [MSC](#), [P&O](#), [Princess](#), [Pullmantur](#) and [Royal Caribbean](#). (On Disney ships, guests rotate through three themed main dining rooms during their sailing, and their wait staff goes with them.)

[Cunard](#) offers assigned seating to passengers booking certain accommodations. [Hurtigruten](#) offers assigned seating from 6:30 to 7 p.m.; busier periods may have two seatings. Table reservations for Hurtigruten's assigned seating are made on board.

Most small-ship cruise lines, plus several large-ship ones, offer open seating in their main dining rooms. Ships with open seating operate their main dining rooms much like shoreside restaurants -- the dining room is open for dinner during set hours, and guests may dine when and with whom they please during those hours.

This dining style allows passengers to choose their tablemates (or dine alone) and vary their schedules as desired. On the other hand, some feel they do not receive the same personalized service since their wait staff changes each night. And, as with busy restaurants on shore, guests on larger ships who choose this option may have to wait to be seated, and service may be a bit slower during the most popular dining times.

Cruise lines that offer open seating in the main dining room include [American Cruise Lines](#), [Azamara](#), [Blount Small Ship Adventures](#), [Carnival](#), [Celebrity](#), [Crystal](#), [Haimark Line](#), [Hebridean Island Cruises](#), [Holland America](#), [Lindblad Expeditions](#), [Norwegian](#), [Oceania](#), [Paul Gauguin Cruises](#), [Pearl Seas Cruises](#), [Ponant Yacht Cruises](#), [Princess](#), [Quark Expeditions](#), [Regent](#), [Royal Caribbean](#), [Seabourn](#), [SeaDream](#), [Silversea](#), [Star Clippers](#), [Swan Hellenic](#), [Viking Ocean Cruises](#), [Voyages of Discovery](#), [Voyages to Antiquity](#) and [Windstar](#).

Certain accommodations on Cunard ships allow passengers to dine when they wish, but they are assigned to a particular table throughout the course of the cruise.

Several cruise lines -- **Carnival, Celebrity, Crystal, Holland America, Princess** and **Royal Caribbean** -- are listed above as offering both traditional assigned seating and open seating. Several of these lines have at least two main dining rooms on **most** of their ships. At the time of booking, guests choose assigned (early or late) or open seating.

Note: The following ships offer assigned seating only -- Dawn Princess, Ocean Princess, Pacific Princess, Sea Princess and Sun Princess. Celebrity Xpedition offers only open seating.

Royal Caribbean introduced Dynamic Dining on its new Quantum-class ships (Quantum of the Seas, Anthem of the Seas and Ovation of the Seas, which debuts in 2016), where passengers choose from five complimentary, full-service restaurants. Guests can select either open seating in the venue of their choice each night, or sign up for traditional early or late seating and be rotated through a set lineup of main restaurants along with their wait staff.

The great majority of ships offer one or more "alternative" restaurants in addition to their main dining rooms, ranging from 24-hour buffets and poolside grills to celebrity chef venues and high-end gourmet restaurants. These alternative restaurants typically have open seating regardless of the main dining room's guidelines, though many require reservations (which are made on board the ship). There may be a per-person surcharge for specialty restaurants, usually ranging from about \$10 to \$50.

For detailed information about the dining venues on any cruise line, click any link above or [click here](#). Our cruise counselors also will be happy to verify dining options available for any cruise.

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Here are the best cruise deals in the next 90 days, organized by port of departure.

**Click below for best cruise deals departing US and Canada ports:**

Anchorage, AK (All ports serving...)  
Baltimore, MD  
Bayonne, NJ  
Boston, MA  
Charleston, SC  
Fort Lauderdale, FL  
Galveston, TX  
Honolulu, Oahu, HI  
Jacksonville, FL  
Los Angeles (Long Beach), CA  
Los Angeles (San Pedro), CA  
Miami, FL  
Montreal, QC, Canada  
New Orleans, LA  
New York City, NY (All ports serving...)  
Norfolk, VA  
Port Canaveral, FL  
Portland, ME  
Providence, RI  
Quebec City, QC, Canada  
San Diego, CA  
San Francisco, CA  
San Juan, Puerto Rico  
Seattle, WA  
Tampa, FL  
Vancouver, BC, Canada  
Warren, RI

**Click below for best cruise deals departing major ports worldwide:**

Amsterdam, Holland  
Aruba  
Athens (Piraeus), Greece  
Barbados  
Barcelona, Spain  
Beijing (Tianjin), China  
Bergen, Norway  
Berlin (Warnemunde), Germany  
Brisbane, Australia  
Cartagena, Colombia  
Colon, Panama  
Copenhagen, Denmark  
Curacao  
Dubai, United Arab Emirates  
Dubrovnik, Croatia  
Genoa, Italy  
Hamburg, Germany  
Hong Kong  
Istanbul, Turkey  
Kiel, Germany  
Kirkenes, Norway  
Lima (Callao), Peru  
Lisbon, Portugal  
Liverpool, England  
London, England (All ports serving...)  
Malaga, Spain



Malmö, Sweden  
Marseille, France  
Monte Carlo, Monaco  
Naples (Capri), Italy  
Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England  
Nice (Villefranche), France  
Palma de Mallorca, Spain  
Papeete, Tahiti, Society Islands  
Paris (Calais), France  
Perth (Fremantle), Australia  
Reykjavik, Iceland  
Rome (Civitavecchia), Italy  
Rotterdam, Holland  
Salerno, Italy  
Savona, Italy  
Shanghai, China  
Singapore  
Stockholm, Sweden  
Sydney, Australia  
Trieste, Italy  
Valencia, Spain  
Venice, Italy

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Here are today's **Top 10 Cruises**, brand-new specials from the world's best cruise lines. **Click the FastDeal # for details.**

- 1) **Caribbean**, 7 nights on Carnival, departs San Juan Aug 9, starting at \$469, save 72%, **FastDeal # 14480**
- 2) **Canada/New England**, 9 nights on Royal Caribbean, departs Bayonne Sep 24, starting at \$599, save 60%, **FastDeal # 22480**
- 3) **Caribbean**, 7 nights on Norwegian, departs Miami Aug 29, starting at \$519, save 65%, **FastDeal # 23444**
- 4) **Bermuda**, 7 nights on Celebrity, departs Bayonne Aug 30, starting at \$679, save 62%, **FastDeal # 14517**
- 5) **Transatlantic**, 14 nights on Princess, departs Barcelona Oct 3, starting at \$1,099, **FastDeal # 28146**  
(Princess does not provide brochure rates for this cruise, so we are unable to show a savings percentage.)
- 6) **Caribbean**, 7 nights on Royal Caribbean, departs Fort Lauderdale Aug 23, starting at \$693, save 67%, **FastDeal # 26397**
- 7) **Mediterranean**, 8 nights on Windstar, departs Venice Oct 21, oceanview starting at \$1,799, save 74%, **FastDeal # 19868** (Windstar will not allow this rate to be shown on the Internet -- please call us at the number below for information or reservations.)
- 8) **Alaska**, 7 nights on Silversea, departs Vancouver Aug 27, suite starting at \$3,850, **FastDeal # 22357**  
(Silversea does not provide brochure rates for this cruise, so we are unable to show a savings percentage.)
- 9) **Tahiti/French Polynesia**, 7 nights on Paul Gauguin Cruises, departs Papeete Aug 22, oceanview starting at \$2,995, save 72%, **FastDeal # 23894**
- 10) **Alaska**, 7 nights on Regent, departs Vancouver Jul 29, suite starting at \$4,949, save 63%, **FastDeal # 26466**

For the best last-minute cruise specials in the next 90 days, please visit our world-famous **90-Day Ticker**. To search for discounts of up to 82% on cruises departing more than 90 days from now, **click here**.

To save up to 40% with escorted and independent tours, **click here**.

For river cruises up to 50% off, [click here](#).

For discounts of up to 50% at hotels and all-inclusive resorts, [click here](#).

For the lowest rates on Africa safaris from budget to luxury in quality, [click here](#).

Once you've found a FASTDEAL, call us toll free at 800-338-4962 (US and Canada) and a cruise counselor will attend to your needs. International customers, please email or call us at +1-713-974-2121.

Please email me your comments, suggestions and questions at [alanfox@vacationstogo.com](mailto:alanfox@vacationstogo.com) and I will respond the same day.

If you enjoy our newsletter, please forward this email to family and friends.

Sincerely,

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