

Making Waves



**NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE'S EPIC
NEW OCEAN LINER MAKES CRUISING COOL**



Cruising isn't a priority for most Miami residents; they're spoiled to a fault with amazing hotels, entertainment options galore and endless gourmet restaurants right here at home. Cruises couldn't hold a candle to a good staycation at a nice hotel in Miami — that is, until Norwegian's Epic ship came along.

In making this groundbreaking 17-deck, 4,000-passenger behemoth, Norwegian decided to do something most cruise lines don't: put a lot of effort into the rooms. Epic's staterooms have curved walls, rounded cabinetry, nice fabrics and most importantly, great contemporary design. Plus, there is variety, from their unique Studio concept featuring tiny-but-chic 100 square-foot rooms for single passengers to their Spa Suites, slightly larger rooms with in-room tubs and complimentary access to the largest spa at sea. Then there are the Villas, which are beautifully appointed, posh suites, some of which feature marble baths, walk-in closets and floor-to-ceiling water views from 17 stories over the water. The Villas boast their own private club and dining room, as well an exclusive pool deck and gym. That way, those who love cruising but hate the crowds can have a

more exclusive experience.

However, they'll still want to get out amongst 'em and take in shows like the Blue Man Group and Cirque Dreams, as well as campier fare like the Second City Comedy Troupe and Legends in Concert, where impersonators provide entertainment à la greats like Madonna and Tina Turner.

The restaurants offer another reason to leave the luxurious cocoon of the Villas. There are a whopping 13 different places to dine, including a churrascaria, a sushi bar, a Chinese noodle bar, a French restaurant, a classic supper club and a Japanese steakhouse with sizzling tables. But, a word to the wise: Even though there is no set dinner time in the main dining hall, it is imperative to make reservations ahead of time to get a table at most of the ship's restaurants.

The only things more numerous than dining spots are slot machines ... and bars. There are 20 places to find booze, from Maltings Whiskey Bar to the smokey Humidor Cigar Lounge to the trendy SVEDKA Ice Bar where revelers take shots of vodka amongst chilly ice sculptures, wearing bar-provided fur coats.

Perhaps the most transformative part



of a cruise comes from the endless hours when there is nothing to do besides relax and have fun. Whether that means trying out each one of the four water slides, climbing the rock wall, hitting the casinos or even the ping-pong tables, travelers rarely have as much free time as on a cruise — which, in itself, might be the most compelling argument for getting aboard.

Sailing from Miami

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