

THE 2016

IRONMAN[®] 70.3[®]

ATHLETES' CHOICE AWARDS

The people have spoken! All the data from our annual athlete surveys is in, and we are happy to announce the top 10 scoring events in their respective categories. Now's the time to plan your 2017 triathlon season, whether you're looking for a pristine swim, a memorable post-race party, or anything in between. (Scroll to the bottom for some bonus categories.)





Strandräuber IRONMAN 70.3 Ruegen

OVERALL SATISFACTION

- 1. Strandräuber IRONMAN 70.3 Ruegen:** "All the goodies we received and the race talk got me really excited. Just the atmosphere in general was incredible."
- 2. IRONMAN 70.3 Vichy:** "The atmosphere was amazing, very organized and the course/ route was outstanding, plus the water hoses at stations during the run was perfect, just what I needed in that heat. This made my experience so much better. I will definitely return again."
- T3. Wonderful Indonesia IRONMAN 70.3 Bintan:** "The excitement and enthusiasm of the locals and staff around the event. It really made you feel like you were a part of something amazing and very welcome."
- T3. IRONMAN 70.3 Rio de Janeiro:** "This race is one of the best in the sport anywhere!"
- 5. SiS IRONMAN 70.3 Otepää presented by Ferroline Group:** "It attracted a big crowd and made it nice to compete with so many people. The choice of Otepää was sublime: lake was clean, beach nice, bike in beautiful rolling hills. Run course was fantastic. Finish area was very nicely organized with food and massage."
- 6. Sinox IRONMAN 70.3 Taiwan:** "Excellent race and support team."
- 7. SunSmart IRONMAN 70.3 Busselton:** "An overall positive vibe of everyone involved!"
- 8. IRONMAN 70.3 St. Polten:** "It was so beautiful! All of it was just breathtaking. The Austrian people were also so friendly, which was great."
- 9. IRONMAN 70.3 Korea-Gurye:** "I loved everything about this race, but especially the volunteers, they helped me get through a tough day."
- 10. Enea IRONMAN 70.3 Gdynia, presented by Herbalife Nutrition:** "I wish it could have lasted longer! I travel around the world for running events and it has been one of the best organized races so far! Awesome job guys!"



Subaru IRONMAN 70.3 Canada

BEST OVERALL SWIM

- 1. Subaru IRONMAN 70.3 Canada:** "The overall experience of the swim blew away my expectations. It was just superb and the perfect start to the event. Congratulations, don't change a thing!!"
- 2. Strandräuber IRONMAN 70.3 Ruedgen:** "I loved the rolling start."
- 3. IRONMAN 70.3 Dublin:** "Most civilized start I have ever done."
- 4. IRONMAN 70.3 UK Exmoor:** "The amount of buoys was perfect."
- 5. IRONMAN 70.3 Hawaii:** "The non-wetsuit swim is so tropical, it felt like a dream!"
- 6. IRONMAN 70.3 Coeur d'Alene:** "Swimming in a freshwater lake like this was fun and low-stress."
- 7. IRONMAN 70.3 Weymouth:** "It felt like we were swimming in the Med. Brilliant"
- 8. IRONMAN 70.3 Eagleman:** "Best swim course I've ever been on! You guys NAILED IT! And the wetsuit peelers at T1 was the best idea ever!"
- 9. SunSmart IRONMAN 70.3 Busselton:** "Really enjoyed the rolling start. I felt a lot safer."
- 10. IRONMAN 70.3 Augusta:** "You can't argue with a downstream swim. I've been bragging about my swim split for months!"



Strandräuber IRONMAN 70.3 Ruegen

BEST OVERALL BIKE

- 1. Strandräuber IRONMAN 70.3 Ruegen:** "Just a really enjoyable ride, and beautiful scenery."
- 2. Subaru IRONMAN 70.3 Canada:** "Fantastic, beautiful course and brand-new roads."
- T3. Sunbelt Bakery IRONMAN 70.3 Chattanooga presented by McKee A Family Bakery:** "This was definitely my favorite bike course of any half-distance race I've done. Stunning views, great road services, rolling terrain that kept it interesting but never grueling, just an awesome bike course. And thank you for putting mats over the railroad tracks!"
- T3. IRONMAN 70.3 Haugensund, Norway:** "The bike course was stunning with fantastic scenery. Newly re-surfaced roads meant that even in the rain I felt safe traveling as fast as I could. Feed stations were well stocked and very efficient."
- 5. IRONMAN 70.3 St. Polten:** "I loved the bike course - completely closed roads and getting to ride on a motorway. Also a very scenic course!"
- 6. IRONMAN 70.3 Muncie:** "That is a great bike course. I love being able to ride past my fans four times. It was fantastic that you were able to get the community to completely shut down those roads for the full event. I have done a lot of triathlons on two lane roads like this where they still allowed traffic. Great job Muncie team and the local community."
- T7. IRONMAN 70.3 Hawaii:** "A great opportunity to ride part of the Kona course."
- T7. IRONMAN 70.3 Dubai:** "The directions were clear, course was very well marked and perfectly secured from traffic control perspective."
- 9. IRONMAN 70.3 Coeur d'Alene:** "Some nice rolling hills, and alpine scenery, you couldn't ask for a better course."
- 10. Club La Santa IRONMAN 70.3 Lanzarote:** "A perfect spin around the north side of a beautiful island."



IRONMAN 70.3 Muncie

BEST OVERALL RUN

1. **IRONMAN 70.3 Muncie:** "Awesome volunteers and fully stocked aid stations. Perfect!"
2. **IRONMAN 70.3 Haugesund, Norway:** "Not a thing to fault. The smallest of details were taken care of. The crowd support is incredible and it truly is a wonderful run!"
3. **IRONMAN 70.3 Ohio presented by Ohio Health:** "Really liked the run course overall. Knew it was mostly downhill for the first three parts of the loop, so wasn't surprised that the last leg had some climbs, but all in all, interesting, relatively shaded and well supported."
- T4. **Sunbelt Bakery IRONMAN 70.3 Chattanooga presented by McKee A Family Bakery:** "Chattanooga, for two years straight, has had the best volunteers and support that I have experienced in ANY race that I have participated in. Aid station people were fantastic getting the items to us, encouraged us, kept the stations very clean, and did it all around a bunch of tired, cranky runners. Job very well done!"
- T4. **Subaru IRONMAN 70.3 Victoria presented by Jim Pattison Subaru Victoria:** "This was like a well-packed trail run, shaded and just a really enjoyable run around the lake."
6. **IRONMAN 70.3 Cairns:** "Super super support!"
- T7. **Subaru IRONMAN 70.3 Canada:** "The shaded trail was a real treat."
- T7. **IRONMAN 70.3 Santa Cruz:** "Amazing course, so beautiful. Loved the trail on the cliffs. Great aid stations, excellent volunteers, great food and drink at the aid stations, wonderful support. The finish line was awesome."
9. **IRONMAN 70.3 Bahrain:** "Really great nutrition support! Water every 2 km was brilliant and lots of support from volunteers too."
10. **Enea IRONMAN 70.3 Gdynia presented by Herbalife Nutrition:** "This was the best run in a triathlon ever!"



Sunbelt Bakery IRONMAN 70.3 Chattanooga presented by McKee A Family Bakery

BEST RACE VENUE EXPERIENCE

- 1. Sunbelt Bakery IRONMAN 70.3 Chattanooga presented by McKee A Family Bakery:** "My first IRONMAN race experience was here in 2015. I enjoyed it so much that I brought my wife to Chattanooga for her first one as well. We love the town, the people the venue, the course. You do a great job at this race and make it memorable."
- 2. IRONMAN 70.3 Palmas:** "Loved it. So well organized and spotless."
- 3. IRONMAN 70.3 St. George:** "I love St. George. It's a great town to return to year after year and is close to some of our country's most beautiful spaces."
- 4. IRONMAN 70.3 Rio de Janeiro:** "Everything was well organized and easy to navigate."
- 5. IRONMAN 70.3 Coeur d'Alene:** "This city knows how to roll out the welcome mat!"
- 6. IRONMAN 70.3 UK Exmoor:** "The unique challenge of Exmoor, the clean water, and brutal bike/run courses. The remoteness is an additional challenge, but somehow adds to that experience that we all expect. A fantastic day out and one to check off the bucket list!"
- 7. Strandräuber IRONMAN 70.3 Rügen:** "The crowd support and enthusiasm were wonderful!"
- 8. IRONMAN 70.3 Muncie:** "I thought it was a great challenge and very well organized considering the amount of people who were present. I thought the volunteers all had a great attitude and were very supportive. It was so well run. I didn't have to worry about anything. I could focus on my race rather than where to go or when."
- 9. Subaru IRONMAN 70.3 Canada:** "The venue is amazing. Whistler is what keeps me coming back to this race. It is the perfect race because it is challenging for the athlete and VERY spectator friendly. My wife enjoys it and that is a bonus. I like finding race venues that she enjoys. It is a destination location."
- 10. Club La Santa IRONMAN 70.3 Lanzarote:** "Great venue and team."



BEST HOST CITY EXPERIENCE

- 1. Sunbelt Bakery IRONMAN 70.3 Chattanooga presented by McKee A Family Bakery:** "This is by far the best venue and host city I've ever experienced. Chattanooga is a great city with the best infrastructure to support an event like IRONMAN. I understand why they are hosting the 2017 IRONMAN 70.3 World Championship."
- 2. IRONMAN 70.3 Coeur d'Alene:** "With so much experience with the full here, it's clear this town knows what it's doing. My wife and I loved the small town vibe and chill vacation."
- 3. Subaru IRONMAN 70.3 Canada:** "Great venue, beautiful location, easy to travel to, lots of lodging options (with kitchens was a plus!), lots of restaurants and grocery store options. Fun place for spectators and family members. As a IRONMAN 70.3 athlete, enjoyed having the full on the same day."
- 4. IRONMAN 70.3 Cairns:** "An enjoyable place to stay with my family for a week."
- 5. MetLife IRONMAN 70.3 Cozumel:** "As they say, location, location, location!"
- 6. IRONMAN 70.3 St. George:** "The people in St. George love this event and make visiting athletes like me feel welcome. This is one of my favorite races."
- 7. IRONMAN 70.3 Haugesund, Norway:** "The whole event was an amazing experience. My friend described Haugesund as an IRONMAN bubble, in a good way. Everything was geared towards the event, which was extremely well organized, with good communication, excellent support, amazing volunteers, and encouragement and support from the locals. The post-race massage was also great."
- 8. Subaru IRONMAN 70.3 Mont-Tremblant presented by Sportium:** "love Mont Tremblant. Best race for a family in my opinion. No travel involved once you are there and activities for children while the race is going on."
- 9. IRONMAN 70.3 Punta del Este:** "Superb. Loved the whole experience."
- 10. IRONMAN 70.3 Dubai:** "An awesome event that far exceeded my expectations."



IRONMAN 70.3 Geelong

BEST POST-RACE CELEBRATION

- 1. IRONMAN 70.3 Geelong:** "This one is a classic! The Aussies know how to party."
- 2. IRONMAN 70.3 Muncie:** "This is the best triathlon I have participated in. The local community support and the volunteers are the best I have seen. The people of Muncie are some of the friendliest people I have found. The course is great. The location is great. The aid stations are well stocked with everything you might need. This is my second year at Muncie and I plan to continue to return as much as I can."
- 3. IRONMAN 70.3 Haugesund, Norway:** "The best part was the feeling of being part of something big, and all the triathletes running through Haugesund with all the people and the glorious finish line."
- 4. Strandräuber IRONMAN 70.3 Rügen:** "Just fantastic."
- 5. SIS IRONMAN 70.3 Otepää presented by Ferroline Group:** "I was so happy at the finish line, what an experience!"
- 6. Standard Bank IRONMAN 70.3 South Africa:** "An after party at the edge of the world..."
- 7. IRONMAN 70.3 Dubai:** "Being in the finish area with all the other triathletes was my favorite moment."
- 8. IRONMAN 70.3 Vietnam, Powered by Number 1:** "A rockin' time! My favorite part was the finish line."
- 9. Sinox IRONMAN 70.3 Taiwan:** "I felt like I had met a great achievement."
- 10. IRONMAN 70.3 Buffalo Springs Lake:** "This event has a unique grassroots, small-town feel. The finish atmosphere is like a family."



Sinox IRONMAN 70.3 Taiwan

WILL ATTEND NEXT YEAR

- 1. Sinox IRONMAN 70.3 Taiwan:** "I will be back!"
- 2. IRONMAN 70.3 Ecuador:** "Amazing hospitality and organization."
- 3. IRONMAN 70.3 Pucon:** "I was so impressed by this race and exotic location."
- 4. IRONMAN 70.3 Korea Gurye:** "This is the smartest race for me to attend, so I will come back."
- 5. IRONMAN 70.3 Dubai:** "An overall wonderful experience."
- 6. IRONMAN 70.3 Palmas:** "Count me in! This race was unbelievable. Kudos to all involved!"
- 7. IRONMAN 70.3 Rio de Janeiro:** "I am already excited to go back!"
- 8. Xiamen Bank IRONMAN 70.3 Xiamen:** "Honestly, this event surprised me. I was sincerely impressed with the organization, the venue, the city, the support, absolutely everything!"
- 9. IRONMAN 70.3 Buenos Aires:** "Yes, yes, yes! I will be there with friends in tow."
- 10. Cobra Energy Drink IRONMAN 70.3 Philippines:** "This event was flawless from start to finish!"



IRONMAN 70.3 Palmas

WILL RECOMMEND TO A FRIEND

- 1. IRONMAN 70.3 Palmas:** "The perfect spot for a triathlon, period!!"
- 2. Standard Bank IRONMAN 70.3 South Africa:** "I can't recommend this race enough."
- 3. IRONMAN 70.3 Haugesund, Norway:** "The scenery was beautiful, running along the water, this was the best event I've done."
- 4. IRONMAN 70.3 Jönköping:** "Beautiful courses. Very good and smooth registration, check-in, support. Jönköping is a nice location for a race like this. Surprisingly big crowds."
- 5. Sunbelt Bakery IRONMAN 70.3 Chattanooga presented by McKee A Family Bakery:** "The whole experience was amazing and the energy around the event was awesome."
- 6. IRONMAN 70.3 Rio de Janeiro:** "I hope to bring a big crew next year."
- 7. SunSmart IRONMAN 70.3 Western Australia:** "I want to cross this finish line with all my triathlon friends."
- 8. IRONMAN 70.3 Ecuador:** "The courses were perfect for a triathlon race, water was beautiful and well signaled, the rolling hills and no curves on the bike made it perfect for the bike, the straight ahead on the run was also perfect for racing."
- 9. IRONMAN 70.3 Hawaii:** "The Big Island is the perfect spot for a race and I will be back."
- 10. SiS IRONMAN 70.3 Otepa presented by Ferroline Group:** "One of the smoothest arrangement of that type of event. Easy and logical placement and ease of access to relevant information."

Bonus Categories

Best Music: Subaru IRONMAN 70.3 Canada

Best Race Food Selection: IRONMAN 70.3 Dubai

Best Restaurants: Sunbelt Bakery IRONMAN 70.3 Chattanooga presented by McKee a Family Bakery

Host City Amenities: IRONMAN 70.3 Jonkoping