

THE 2016

IRONMAN®

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.)





Kellogg's Nutri-Grain IRONMAN New Zealand

OVERALL SATISFACTION

- 1. Kellogg's Nutri-Grain IRONMAN New Zealand:** "This race is simply epic—a classic, time-honored IRONMAN tradition."
- 2. IRONMAN France:** "Swimming in the Mediterranean, cycling in the Alps, running along the seafront. It was an incredible, unforgettable day."
- 3. Subaru IRONMAN Canada:** "I love IRONMAN Canada. It's a family event: The kids do IRONKIDS and my husband and I do the IRONMAN race. Whistler is the perfect location for this event—we will be back next year!"
- 4. Standard Bank IRONMAN African Championship, South Africa:** "This race made me fall in love with IRONMAN racing and the awe inspiring country of South Africa. It was truly memorable."
- 5. IRONMAN Lake Placid:** "Whether you are a professional, elite, or newbie, everyone is made to feel valued and feel like they are important at this event. It's hard to explain to someone just what you go through during an IRONMAN, and it's great to revel in one's success at a course like this with its amazing community and volunteers. The town really gets behind this event and that is so unique."
- 6. Little Debbie IRONMAN Chattanooga presented by McKee A Family Bakery:** "It was my third IRONMAN and I found the volunteer support absolutely top notch!"
- 7. IRONMAN Vichy:** "This was truly a spotless, premier event."
- 8. IRONMAN Louisville presented by Norton Sports Health:** "One of the coolest finish lines I've ever crossed."
- 9. IRONMAN Wisconsin:** "I can't say enough about this race. I return year after year and it never disappoints."
- 10. IRONMAN Coeur d'Alene:** "This race is simply a classic."



BEST OVERALL SWIM

- 1. IRONMAN Australia:** "Swimming in the Hastings River was a wonderful experience, and the rolling start eased my mind."
- 2. IRONMAN Wales:** "Perfect, zero stress and wonderful volunteers."
- 3. IRONMAN Coeur D'Alene:** "The best swim start ever! Zero washing machine effects with the rolling start. Absolutely awesome!! Every race should be like this."
- 4. Little Debbie IRONMAN Chattanooga presented by McKee A Family Bakery:** "Not as chaotic as other races I've done. Really loved the rolling start off the dock and the exit up the stairs. Good layout and thought process."
- 5. SunSmart IRONMAN Western Australia:** "Pristine."
- T6. Kellogg's Nutri-Grain IRONMAN New Zealand:** "The swim was magnificent. The lake is absolutely stunning and I would do it over again in a second."
- T6. Subaru IRONMAN Canada:** "Please don't change a thing! This was my first triathlon and expected to have an anxious first competitive, open water swim. But, I didn't. It was a steady, enjoyable swim. I attribute much of that to the swim course design and support. Flawless."
- 8. IRONMAN Barcelona:** "Great swim experience, best out of all my previous events. I was very impressed with the level of organization. Put me at ease and felt very relaxed and safe."
- 9. IRONMAN Louisville presented by Norton Sports Health:** "Talk about a low stress swim. I loved it!"
- 10. IRONMAN Boulder:** "This was the best swim I have ever had (comfort, ease of sighting, quickest time!) and was so blown away by all of the volunteers helping in the water. I felt so much safer than in any other race and felt that they helped keep us all on course. Thank you."



BEST OVERALL BIKE

- 1. IRONMAN Lake Placid:** "The bike course was challenging and interesting. I appreciated the varied terrain, which kept it from being boring. The hills were challenging and the downhill fun. I liked that there were two lanes available for racers on the Keene decent. The bike course aid stations were appropriately spaced and the volunteers were fantastic throughout."
- 2. IRONMAN Wales:** "I loved this course, it had a little bit of everything and the aid stations were well stocked with food and volunteers that went above and beyond."
- 3. IRONMAN France:** "A truly beautiful and demanding course. One of the prime reasons for participating in IRONMAN France."
- 4. Subaru IRONMAN Canada:** "I've never been happier on my bike. The bike course is amahhhhzing! I'm from the area and trained on the course so it was an absolute treat not to have to share the course with vehicles."
- 5. IRONMAN Austria:** "An amazing bike course. Simply beautiful!"
- T6. Kellogg's Nutri-Grain IRONMAN New Zealand:** "The bike has a bit of everything. Don't mess with it!"
- T6. IRONMAN Louisville presented by Norton Sports Health:** "Rolling, beautiful, colorful, and fun!"
- T8. Subaru IRONMAN Mont-Tremblant:** "Fantastic support on a windy, rainy day. This is one of the best bike courses I have ever ridden. The traffic control is phenomenal."
- T8. IRONMAN Arizona:** "Outstanding bike course."
- T10. IRONMAN UK:** "Excellent support and signage for directions all the way through."
- T10. IRONMAN Florida:** "You can't argue with fast!"



Standard Bank IRONMAN African Championship, South Africa

BEST OVERALL RUN

- T1. Standard Bank IRONMAN African Championship, South Africa:** "The urban run at this race is awesome. Everything was top notch throughout, but especially the finish line!"
- T1. Subaru IRONMAN Mont-Tremblant presented by Sportium:** "I love this run course. It offers a good deal of shade (not that we needed it this year) and the scenery is very relaxing."
- T1. IRONMAN Wisconsin:** "My run experience was awesome! I love how there were spectators everywhere, best run course I have ever done because of the spectators and volunteers."
- 4. Kellogg's Nutri-Grain IRONMAN New Zealand:** "Amazing scenery and I loved that it goes through town where there are naturally a lot of spectators. It gives you the motivational boost you need."
- 5. IRONMAN Louisville presented by Norton Sports Health:** "Exceptional run course. This was my fifth IRONMAN, and this run course was great, and the finish line was the coolest I've been through personally. I loved that it was a two-loop instead of three or four loops. Volunteers were awesome, road conditions were great, and it wasn't too hard to see the road when it started to get a bit dark."
- 6. IRONMAN Lake Placid:** "The on-course nutrition and run course support were both excellent, and I love the design of this course. It offers so many spots for spectators to cheer you on."
- 7. IRONMAN Florida:** "One of the best runs around."
- 8. Subaru IRONMAN Canada:** "A beautiful course with the right number of aid stations and a great party at each one. And you can't beat the shade and scenery!"
- 9. IRONMAN Vichy:** "This run was one of the best in my IRONMAN racing experience ever!"
- 10. IRONMAN Wales:** "I enjoyed every step—rare for an IRONMAN! The community and support helped me get through my toughest leg."



Subaru IRONMAN Mont-Tremblant presented by Sportium

BEST RACE VENUE EXPERIENCE

- 1. Subaru IRONMAN Mont-Tremblant presented by Sportium:** "I just love the Tremblant experience. We stayed right in the village and I love that everything was so easily accessible. But the thing I love the most is the last half mile of the run. I LOVE running into the village and then into the chute. Think I love the chute more than the actual finish!"
- 2. Standard Bank IRONMAN African Championship, South Africa:** "The whole set up of this race is perfect, everything is close by, and easy to navigate."
- 3. IRONMAN Lake Placid:** "Amazing scenery and the best volunteers ever!"
- 4. Little Debbie IRONMAN Chattanooga presented by McKee A Family Bakery:** "The city was awesome. every where I went, I felt like a rockstar. the community was well-informed of the event and they were all very kind EVERYWHERE I went."
- 5. IRONMAN Wales:** "Impeccably organized and well laid out."
- 6. IRONMAN Coeur D'Alene:** "Coeur d'Alene is a wonderful community to host an IRONMAN. What I enjoyed most was the course design which allowed me to see my family and friends numerous time during the event."
- 7. IRONMAN Australia:** "This venue has it dialed, I loved the support, the logistics were clear, and there was plenty to do in the area. The local support and race-day support that this event always delivers were my favorite elements of this event."
- 8. IRONMAN France:** "The finish line, the camaraderie, the venue, the bike course... mind blowing! Glad my friends and family could somewhat attend as well. That was very important to me they don't struggle to see me on the run."
- 9. IRONMAN Arizona:** "This was my first IRONMAN, and it was an amazing experience. Everything was easy to get to in the transition and bag areas, and the location of the event was truly amazing. Everything just made sense on how to get around the town, lots of restaurant participated in the Voucher deal. Just a great setup for a race! LOVED the rolling swim start."
- 10. IRONMAN Wisconsin:** "Everything was close by and it was very easy to get around, which makes for a much less stressful race week!"



IRONMAN Australia

BEST HOST CITY EXPERIENCE

- 1. IRONMAN Australia:** "Port Macquarie is a wonderful place to spend a week and there's plenty to do."
- 2. IRONMAN Wisconsin:** "Madison is a hidden gem. You won't be disappointed."
- 3. IRONMAN Wales:** "The town was so welcoming."
- 4. SunSmart IRONMAN Western Australia:** "This town is everything you'd expect from a coastal Australian town."
- 5. IRONMAN Coeur D'Alene:** "We loved how inclusive the community is, and how the excitement builds over the days leading up to the event."
- 6. Kellogg's Nutri-Grain IRONMAN New Zealand:** "You can't beat this for an IRONMAN town...so much beauty and energy everywhere."
- 7. Little Debbie IRONMAN Chattanooga presented by McKee A Family Bakery:** "IRONMAN events run like clockwork and everyone working and volunteering is so welcoming and clearly really dedicated to providing a seamless and enjoyable experience. The city and citizens of Chattanooga were also incredibly welcoming: the billboards, signs on every business, the Y letting athletes use facilities for free, and restaurant owners going out of their way to please were incredible. Not every city lays out the red carpet like that."
- 8. IRONMAN Lake Placid:** "Lake Placid is such an amazing area of natural beauty with a neat Olympic legacy. The people and volunteers are amazing."
- 9. Subaru IRONMAN Mont-Tremblant presented by Sportium:** "Mont-Tremblant puts on a seamless event. It was my second time there and 9th IRONMAN and is second best to the World Championship. The entire weekend was an event, not just race day. Well done."
- T10. Subaru IRONMAN Canada:** "Whistler is beautiful and there was lots for the family to do. We found the local community so helpful as well."
- T10. IRONMAN Arizona:** "Tempe has everything a triathlete could need and is a cool city to visit."



Kellogg's Nutri-Grain IRONMAN New Zealand

BEST POST-RACE CELEBRATION

- 1. Kellogg's Nutri-Grain IRONMAN New Zealand:** "Thanks for the cookies...my favorite!"
- 2. Little Debbie IRONMAN Chattanooga presented by McKee A Family Bakery:** "I felt like a rockstar."
- 3. Standard Bank IRONMAN African Championship, South Africa:** "The run finish is lined with BBQ's and cheers like you've never experienced."
- 4. IRONMAN Australia:** "I loved the food in recovery this year, it was the best out of all six IRONMAN events I've raced."
- 5. Subaru IRONMAN Mont-Tremblant presented by Sportium:** "I was able to have my family join me for the first time at an IRONMAN. Hugging my kids after finishing was the best."
- 6. IRONMAN Maastricht:** "So much joy and energy everywhere."
- 7. IRONMAN Sweden:** "I was floored, the finish line was so memorable for me and my family."
- 8. IRONMAN Malaysia:** "Heart-pumping, amazing time."
- 9. IRONMAN Wisconsin:** "The best party in triathlon."
- 10. IRONMAN Wales:** "I couldn't believe how the town, spectators, and volunteers came together to celebrate the athletes."



Standard Bank IRONMAN African Championship, South Africa

WILL ATTEND NEXT YEAR

- 1. Standard Bank IRONMAN African Championship, South Africa:** "It was an unforgettable, life changing experience. I enjoyed every second!"
- 2. IRONMAN Malaysia:** "I will be back!"
- 3. IRONMAN Taiwan:** "This was my first IRONMAN and it was such a positive experience on every level!"
- 4. IRONMAN South American Championship, Brazil:** "This is the only IRONMAN I ever want to do."
- 5. IRONMAN Australia:** "The family friendly atmosphere was next-level at this race. The finish chute is just so special at Port, I loved seeing the family and friends and thanking them before crossing the line."
- 6. Kellogg's Nutri-Grain IRONMAN New Zealand:** "As a first-time IRONMAN athlete and first-time New Zealand visitor I was blown away by the town and community. Everyone was so friendly, and I was fortunate enough to experience perfect race conditions and the setting was just stunning. I would do it again in a heartbeat."
- 7. IRONMAN Wales:** "Can't recommend it enough."
- 8. Club La Santa IRONMAN Lanzarote:** "A phenomenal race and place."
- 9. IRONMAN Cozumel:** "Was this a vacation or an IRONMAN? Both! Truly spectacular and relaxing."
- 10. SunSmart IRONMAN Western Australia:** "I have competed here three years in a row. I'll be back for sure."



WILL RECOMMEND TO A FRIEND

- 1. IRONMAN Wales:** "Don't change a thing!"
- 2. IRONMAN Sweden:** "There's something special about this one. Trust me!"
- 3. Standard Bank IRONMAN African Championship, South Africa:** "IRONMAN events are always exciting and very well organized and managed. Thank you and well done!! can't stop raving about the non-cluttered swim start, and the finish is always spectacular."
- 4. IRONMAN Lake Placid:** "Simply a great event, well executed, great course, and smooth operations. The volunteers at the finish line made my day and I would recommend it to anyone interested in doing an IRONMAN race."
- 5. IRONMAN Austria:** "Everything was brilliant, especially the volunteers. A special mention to them, from cheering first thing in the morning as you enter transition before the race to helping out and being there. Fantastic."
- 6. IRONMAN Mont-Tremblant presented by Sportium:** "The venue is our family's very favorite. We make a 10-day vacation out of it every year we have attended. We always stay in the Village by the finish line, the area is very family friendly. We feel comfortable letting our kids walk around. The locals make this such a fun vacation. Everyone is so friendly and welcoming."
- 7. IRONMAN Arizona:** "This is a great first IRONMAN experience."
- 8. IRONMAN Wisconsin:** "I can't recommend this event enough."
- 9. Kellogg's Nutri-Grain IRONMAN New Zealand:** "I just can't say enough positive words about the race and the volunteers—particularly those in the transition. I'm sure I'll never have a race experience that good again."
- 10. KMD IRONMAN Copenhagen:** "I can't say enough about this race. Unique, beautiful, accommodating. It has it all!"

Bonus Categories

Best Music: IRONMAN Mont-Tremblant presented by Sportium

Best Race Food Selection: Cairns Airport IRONMAN Asia-Pacific Championship, Cairns

Best Restaurants: Subaru IRONMAN Canada

Host City Amenities: IRONMAN Wisconsin