

Korean Air named world's best by Airline Ratings

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Singapore : Korean Air has been named Airline of the Year for 2025, beating out last year's winner Qatar Airways, in the Australia-based aviation safety and product rating agency's official list of the top 25 full-service airlines.

The South Korean flag carrier's commitment to "passenger comfort" was cited as one of the main reasons for its triumph-both Korean Air and Japan Airline provide the most spacious economy class seating of any global airline.

Korean Air was commended for maintaining its original seat configuration and prioritizing the needs of economy travelers.

"While many airlines have added a 10th seat per row on 777 aircraft and reduced seat pitch in economy to 31 to 32 inches (down from the previous 32 to 33 inches), Korean Air has chosen not to follow this

trend," said AirlineRatings.com CEO Sharon Petersen.

The airline's recent merger with Asiana Airlines-the largest consolidation in Asian aviation history-was also noted as a contributing factor to its place at the top.

Air New Zealand was third on the "carefully selected" list, while Cathay Pacific came in fourth place on the "carefully selected" list.

The top 25 airlines all meet a list of specific requirements, such as providing a comprehensive full-service experience, and having an economy seat pitch of a minimum of 31 inches.

Petersen claimed, "As airline experts, we conduct a meticulous assessment of each category to help travelers identify the best airlines for quality, value, and safety."

Meanwhile, AirAsia topped Airline Ratings.com's list of the best 20 Low Cost Airlines for 2025, beating out Jetstar and AirBaltic, which came in second and third place respectively.

This year, the product rating agency added a new category, Best Hybrid Airlines, in a move to celebrate hybrid airlines and their "significant positive impact on the travel industry".

Jetblue came in at number one, followed by Westjet in second place.

"These airlines deserve recognition for their excellence in hybrid operations and their innovative offerings," added Peterson.

Peterson said, these airlines delivered exceptional performances and were deserving.