

FLORENCE
Hot Chefs,
Shops, Museums

HAWAII
The Big Island's
Big Adventure

BERLIN
24 Hours in the
Capital of Cool

**2012
READERS'
CHOICE
AWARDS**

Condé Nast Traveler

TRUTH IN TRAVEL // NOVEMBER 2012

CONDENASTTRAVELER.COM
YOUR DAILY TRAVEL INTELLIGENCE

**T
O
P**

1000

BEST IN THE WORLD!
HOTELS • ISLANDS • CITIES • CRUISES • AIRLINES

(Rated by 47,000 of the most discerning travelers on earth)

PIG HEAVEN
22 KNOCKOUT
MEALS IN
THE SOUTH
(Pork, grits, the works)

p. 182

IRELAND
5 PERFECT DAYS
IN DUBLIN
AND BEYOND
(A step-by-step guide)

p. 95



SERENITY NOW!
9 GLORIOUS PLACES
WHERE YOU
CAN'T BE REACHED
(No Wi-Fi, no e-mail, no nothing)

p. 67

2012 Readers' Choice Awards

46,476 readers
elect 1,306
properties and
places

BEST IN THE WORLD

Cities, Islands, Hotels, Resorts, Cruises, Airlines

It's your world, and it keeps surprising us. Who but *Condé Nast Traveler* readers would have heard of, let alone traveled to, Bozcaada or Knysna?* They're winners this year, and that is only part of what makes these Readers' Choice Awards so exceptional. Not just the numbers—although a record 46,476 readers participated. Not just the effect—always raising the bar, with 370 hotels, resorts, and cruise lines, incredibly, rating above 90. But also the vigorous curiosity to go where so few follow. Ever the pathfinders, you even, occasionally, locate sheer perfection—this year in Australia, granting a perfect score of 100 to Qualia resort on the Great Barrier Reef.

In this, the **twenty-fifth annual survey**, you elected a grand total of 1,306 winners. In fact, so many that we have made them easier to locate by region: Consider Italy, now meriting its own list, with seventeen hotels rated above 90.0, and the United States, which has sixteen 90.0-plus properties in the South alone (one reason could be the amazing food; see "Grits Gone Wild," page 182).

*As for that asterisk, Bozcaada is a Turkish island, Knysna a South African city.



OUR WEB SITE FEATURES PHOTOS OF THIS YEAR'S WINNING HOTELS AND RESORTS, SUPPLEMENTED BY MINI GUIDES TO MANY TOP-RATED CITIES. FIND ALL THAT—AND MORE—AT CONDENASTTRAVELER.COM/RCA.



MEXICO'S TROUBLES DON'T DIM ITS DELIGHTS. THIS YEAR'S RECORD 65 WINNERS INCLUDE 30 RESORTS ON THE RIVIERA MAYA. ENHANCE YOUR VISIT WITH "BEST OF MEXICO" AT CONDENASTTRAVELER.COM/APPS.

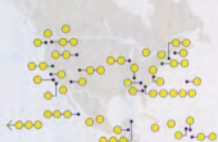
PG. 125

NOVEMBER
2012

CONDÉ NAST
TRAVELER

TOP 100

When the results of our first readers' poll were published in 1988, the high score was 87.0—a score that still impresses, though it would not even qualify for this year's Top 100. This list reaches the heights of luxury, but to grasp the global depth of choices, turn the page. . . .



- 1 **Qualia**, Hamilton Island, Great Barrier Reef 100
- 2 **Taj Exotica Resort and Spa**, Maldives 99.6
- 3 **Lodge at Kauri Cliffs**, New Zealand 99.2
- 4 **Hotel Caesar Augustus**, Capri 98.6
- 5 **Palazzo Sasso**, Ravello 98.5
- 6 **Sabi Sabi Private Game Reserve**, South Africa 98.3
- 7 **La Villa Gallici**, Aix-en-Provence 98.2
- 7 **Peninsula House**, Las Terrenas, Dominican Republic 98.2
- 9 **Four Seasons Resort**, Bora Bora 98.1
- 9 **Perivolos**, Santorini 98.1
- 11 **Hotel Splendido & Splendido Mare**, Portofino 98.0
- 12 **Ritz-Carlton Shanghai**, Pudong 97.9
- 12 **Waldorf Astoria**, Chicago 97.9
- 14 **Singita Kruger National Park**, South Africa 97.8
- 15 **Langdon Hall Country House Hotel & Spa**, Ontario 97.4
- 15 **Oberoi Udaivilas**, Udaipur, Rajasthan 97.4
- 17 **Inn at Palmetto Bluff**, South Carolina 97.2
- 18 **Auberge du Soleil**, Napa 97.1
- 18 **Rosewood San Miguel de Allende**
- 20 **Hotel Santa Caterina**, Amalfi 97.0
- 21 **King Pacific Lodge**, British Columbia 96.9
- 22 **Capella Ixtapa** 96.8
- 22 **21c Museum Hotel**, Louisville 96.8
- 24 **Fearrington House Inn**, North Carolina 96.7
- 25 **Colonial Houses**, Williamsburg 96.6
- 25 **Four Seasons Istanbul at Sultanahmet** 96.6
- 25 **French Quarter Inn**, Charleston 96.6
- 28 **Jumby Bay**, Antigua 96.5
- 29 **CordeValle**, California 96.3
- 29 **Four Seasons Hotel George V Paris** 96.3
- 29 **One&Only Palmilla**, Los Cabos 96.3
- 32 **Ciragan Palace Kempinski Istanbul** 96.2
- 32 **Four Seasons Resort Lana'i, The Lodge at Koele** 96.2
- 32 **Le Meurice**, Paris 96.2
- 32 **Singita Sabi Sand**, South Africa 96.2
- 36 **Resort at Pelican Hill**, California 96.1
- 37 **Capella Pedregal**, Cabo San Lucas 96.0
- 37 **41**, London 96.0
- 37 **Lion Sands**, South Africa 96.0
- 37 **Londolozi**, South Africa 96.0
- 41 **Mandarin Oriental**, Bangkok 95.9
- 42 **Mandarin Oriental**, Hong Kong 95.8
- 42 **Nisbet Plantation Beach Club**, Nevis 95.8
- 42 **The Peninsula**, Tokyo 95.8
- 42 **Sanctuary Hotel at Kiawah Island Golf Resort**, South Carolina 95.8
- 42 **Westin Riverfront Resort & Spa**, Colorado 95.8
- 47 **Twelve Apostles Hotel and Spa**, Cape Town 95.7
- 48 **The Cloister**, Georgia 95.6
- 48 **Il San Pietro di Positano** 95.6
- 50 **HarbourView Inn**, Charleston 95.5
- 50 **Milestone Hotel**, London 95.5
- 52 **Anse Chastanet**, St. Lucia 95.4
- 52 **Fifteen Beacon**, Boston 95.4
- 52 **Four Seasons Resort**, Jackson Hole 95.4
- 52 **Oberoi Rajvillas**, Jaipur, Rajasthan 95.4
- 52 **The Peninsula**, New York 95.4
- 57 **Post Ranch Inn**, Big Sur 95.3
- 58 **Beau-Rivage Palace**, Lausanne 95.2
- 58 **Four Seasons Resort Hualalai**, Big Island 95.2
- 58 **Le Blanc Spa Resort**, Cancun 95.2
- 58 **Oberoi Vanyavilas**, Ranthambhore National Park 95.2
- 62 **Ashford Castle**, County Mayo 95.1
- 62 **Conrad Hong Kong** 95.1
- 62 **Four Seasons Resort**, Whistler 95.1
- 62 **Jade Mountain**, St. Lucia 95.1
- 62 **Palacio Duhau-Park Hyatt**, Buenos Aires 95.1
- 62 **The Reefs**, Bermuda 95.1
- 68 **Park Hyatt Seoul** 95.0
- 68 **St. Regis**, Florence 95.0
- 70 **Alderbrook Resort & Spa**, Washington 94.9
- 70 **Fairmont Heritage Place Franz Klammer Lodge**, Telluride 94.9
- 70 **Hotel Terra**, Jackson Hole 94.9
- 70 **MalaMala Game Reserve**, South Africa 94.9
- 70 **Maroma Resort & Spa**, Riviera Maya 94.9
- 70 **Trump International Hotel & Tower**, New York 94.9
- 76 **Amandari**, Bali 94.8
- 76 **Four Seasons Hotel Ritz Lisbon** 94.8
- 76 **The Peninsula**, Chicago 94.8
- 79 **The Caves**, Negril 94.7
- 79 **Four Seasons Resort Lana'i at Manele Bay** 94.7
- 79 **Grand Hotel Villa Serbelloni**, Lake Como 94.7
- 79 **Grand Solmar Land's End Resort & Spa**, Los Cabos 94.7
- 79 **Mandarin Oriental**, Boston 94.7
- 79 **Mombo and Little Mombo Camps**, Botswana 94.7
- 79 **Rosewood Mayakoba**, Riviera Maya 94.7
- 86 **Kirawira Luxury Tented Camp**, Tanzania 94.6
- 86 **Le Sirenuse**, Positano 94.6
- 88 **Heathman Hotel**, Washington 94.5
- 88 **John Rutledge House Inn**, Charleston 94.5
- 88 **Lorien Hotel & Spa**, Virginia 94.5
- 88 **The Peninsula**, Bangkok 94.5
- 88 **Solage Calistoga**, California 94.5
- 88 **St. Regis**, Bangkok 94.5
- 94 **Four Seasons Hotel Firenze**, Florence 94.4
- 94 **Hotel 1000**, Seattle 94.4
- 94 **Kanantik Reef & Jungle Resort**, Belize 94.4
- 94 **Park Hyatt Dubai** 94.4
- 94 **Park Hyatt Paris-Vendôme** 94.4
- 94 **Raffles Beijing** 94.4
- 94 **Steenberg Hotel**, South Africa 94.4

FLAWLESS Reflecting the secluded, immersed-in-nature vibe of Australia's Great Barrier Reef, **Qualia** receives only the fourth perfect 100 in our poll's 25 years. Here, Pavilion 6's private pool.

UNITED STATES

Chicago's **Waldorf Astoria** earns the highest score in America again this year, while South Carolina seems to be getting hotter by the month. **Kiawah Island** rings up its best-ever score (88.0), and **Charleston** is now not only your favorite U.S. city but your favorite anywhere, with an impressive eight hotels scoring above 90.0. Only **New York**, with ten, has more.



Hotels

MIDWEST

TOP 25

- 1 **Waldorf Astoria Chicago** 97.9
- 2 **The Peninsula, Chicago** 94.8
- 3 **Park Hyatt Chicago** 93.3
- 4 **Ritz-Carlton (Four Seasons), Chicago** 92.3
- 5 **Four Seasons, Chicago** 91.7
- 6 **Omni Majestic Hotel, St. Louis** 88.9
- 6 **Renaissance Blackstone Chicago Hotel** 88.9
- 8 **Graves 601 Hotel, Minneapolis** 88.3
- 9 **Saint Paul Hotel, St. Paul** 87.9
- 9 **Sofitel Chicago Water Tower** 87.9
- 11 **Iron Horse Hotel, Milwaukee** 86.2
- 12 **The Raphael, Kansas City** 86.1
- 13 **Ritz-Carlton, Cleveland** 85.9
- 14 **Dana Hotel and Spa, Chicago** 85.5
- 15 **Hotel Burnham, Chicago** 85.2
- 16 **Hotel Monaco Chicago** 84.5
- 17 **The Drake, Chicago** 83.8
- 17 **The Henry, Dearborn** 83.8
- 19 **Pfister Hotel, Milwaukee** 83.4
- 20 **Swissôtel Chicago** 82.7
- 20 **Townsend Hotel, Birmingham** 82.7
- 22 **The Wit, Chicago** 82.6
- 23 **Conrad Indianapolis** 82.5
- 24 **Hotel Iroquois, Mackinac Island** 82.4
- 25 **Conrad Chicago** 82.2

LAS VEGAS

TOP 10

- 1 **Four Seasons** 91.2
- 2 **Bellagio** 89.7
- 3 **The Venetian** 89.4
- 4 **Mandarin Oriental** 88.1
- 5 **Aria Resort** 87.0
- 6 **Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas** 86.9
- 7 **Trump International Hotel** 86.0
- 8 **THEhotel at Mandalay Bay** 82.4
- 9 **Wyndham Grand Desert** 79.6
- 10 **The Mirage** 77.8

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

TOP 35

- 1 **Auberge du Soleil, Napa** 97.1
- 2 **Post Ranch Inn, Big Sur** 95.3
- 3 **Hotel Valencia Santana Row, San Jose** 92.7
- 4 **St. Regis, San Francisco** 91.5
- 5 **Carneros Inn, Napa** 91.4
- 6 **Lavender, Yountville** 90.1
- 7 **Bardessono, Napa** 89.9
- 8 **Bernardus Lodge, Carmel Valley** 89.8
- 9 **Hotel Healdsburg, Sonoma County** 89.0
- 10 **Ventana Inn & Spa, Big Sur** 88.1
- 11 **Orchard Hotel, San Francisco** 87.9
- 12 **Cavallo Point, Sausalito** 87.7

TOP 10 CITIES

- 1 **Charleston, S.C.** 86.7
- 2 **San Francisco** 83.8
- 3 **Chicago** 83.6
- 4 **Santa Fe** 82.0
- 5 **New York City** 81.6
- 6 **Honolulu** 80.4
- 7 **Napa** 79.1
- 8 **New Orleans** 78.4
- 9 **Seattle** 78.2
- 10 **Boston** 77.6
- 10 **Carmel, Calif.** 77.6
- 10 **Savannah** 77.6

TOP 10 ISLANDS

- 1 **Maui** 92.1
- 2 **Kauai** 89.3
- 3 **Kiawah, S.C.** 88.0
- 4 **Oahu** 87.0
- 5 **St. Simons, Ga.** 85.7
- 6 **Big Island** 85.1
(see "Treasure Island," page 164)
- 6 **Lanai** 85.1
- 8 **Hilton Head, S.C.** 82.4
- 9 **Nantucket** 81.8
- 10 **Amelia Island, Fla.** 80.1

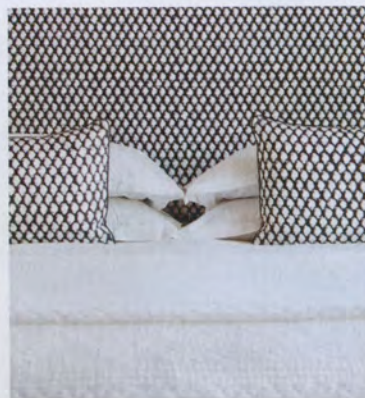
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

TOP 25

- 1 **The Peninsula, Beverly Hills** 93.1
- 2 **San Ysidro Ranch, Santa Barbara** 92.9
- 3 **Scripps Inn, La Jolla** 91.4
- 4 **Montage Beverly Hills** 90.1
- 5 **Beverly Hills Hotel and Bungalows** 89.3
- 6 **Shutters on the Beach, Santa Monica** 88.8
- 7 **Beverly Wilshire (Four Seasons), Beverly Hills** 88.2
- 8 **Sunset Marquis, West Hollywood** 88.0
- 9 **L'Ermitage Beverly Hills** 87.9
- 10 **Hotel Bel-Air, Los Angeles** 87.6
- 11 **Four Seasons Los Angeles at Beverly Hills** 87.5
- 12 **Langham Huntington, Pasadena** 86.0
- 13 **Hotel Indigo San Diego Gaslamp Quarter** 85.6
- 14 **Canary Hotel, Santa Barbara** 85.5
- 15 **Blue Lantern Inn, Dana Point** 85.3
- 15 **Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows, Santa Monica** 85.3
- 17 **Omni San Diego Hotel** 84.5
- 18 **La Valencia Hotel, La Jolla** 84.2
- 19 **Tower 23, San Diego** 84.0
- 20 **Shorebreak Hotel, Huntington Beach** 83.9
- 21 **London West Hollywood** 83.6
- 22 **Mr. C Beverly Hills** 83.0
- 23 **JW Marriott Santa Monica Le Merigot** 82.6
- 24 **Oceana Beach Club Hotel, Santa Monica** 82.0
- 25 **Hotel Solamar, San Diego** 81.9

- 13 **Four Seasons, San Francisco** 87.6
- 14 **Hotel Vitale, San Francisco** 87.2
- 14 **Ritz-Carlton, San Francisco** 87.2
- 16 **Gaige House, Sonoma County** 86.6
- 16 **Healdsburg Inn on the Plaza, Sonoma County** 86.6
- 18 **Cottages at Little River Cove, Little River** 86.4
- 19 **Stanford Inn by the Sea, Mendocino** 86.2
- 20 **Hotel Yountville** 86.0
- 21 **Inn Above Tide, Sausalito** 85.8
- 22 **Rosewood Sand Hill, Menlo Park** 85.3
- 23 **InterContinental Mark Hopkins San Francisco** 85.2
- 24 **Orchard Garden Hotel, San Francisco** 85.0
- 25 **Mandarin Oriental, San Francisco** 84.9
- 26 **Andaz Napa** 84.7
- 27 **Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa** 84.6
- 28 **Vintners Inn, Sonoma County** 84.4
- 29 **L'Auberge Carmel** 84.2
- 30 **Carter House Inns, Eureka** 84.0
- 31 **MacArthur Place, Sonoma** 83.6
- 32 **Fairmont San Francisco** 83.5
- 33 **Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa** 83.3
- 34 **Green Gables Inn, Pacific Grove** 82.6
- 35 **InterContinental the Clement Monterey** 82.2

DOWNTOWN STYLE Kit Kemp is the whimsical designer behind the playful fabrics at New York's Crosby Street Hotel.



FLORIDA

TOP 20

- 1 **Pillars Hotel, Fort Lauderdale** 93.9
- 2 **Marquesa Hotel, Key West** 93.2
- 3 **Ritz-Carlton, Naples** 92.8
- 4 **Waldorf Astoria Orlando** 91.9
- 5 **Brazilian Court Hotel & Beach Club, Palm Beach** 91.6
- 6 **King & Grove Tides South Beach, Miami Beach** 91.5
- 7 **Z Ocean Hotel, Miami Beach** 90.5
- 8 **Il Lugano Suite Hotel, Fort Lauderdale** 89.8
- 9 **Mandarin Oriental, Miami** 89.7
- 10 **La Mer Hotel & Dewey House, Key West** 89.2

11

Hotels don't get more masculine than the Iron Horse, or more vroomy, with premier parking for Harleys and 10- to 12-foot ceilings in the bedrooms

10

Vegas earns its own list this year, with a roster of class acts, one of which is about to change: THEhotel at Mandalay Bay will become the all-suite Delano Las Vegas in 2013.



MILITARY TIME California's Cavallo Point hotel includes renovated officers' housing at the converted army base in Marin County.

- 11 Moorings Village & Spa, Islamorada 88.5
- 12 Epic Hotel, Miami 87.5
- 13 Four Seasons, Miami 87.3
- 14 Gardens Hotel, Key West 86.2
- 15 W South Beach Hotel & Residences, Miami Beach 85.3
- 16 Ritz-Carlton, Miami Beach 84.9
- 17 The Setai, Miami Beach 84.8
- 18 Casa Monica Hotel, St. Augustine 83.0
- 19 Seagate Hotel & Spa, Delray Beach 83.0
- 18 Viceroy Miami 83.0

HAWAII

TOP 5

- 1 Trump International Hotel Waikiki Beach Walk 93.0
- 2 Halekulani, Waikiki 91.1
- 3 Royal Hawaiian (Luxury Collection), Waikiki 89.9
- 4 Kilauea Lodge & Restaurant, Big Island 84.3
- 5 Kiahuna Plantation & the Beach Bungalows, Kauai 84.1

NEW YORK CITY

TOP 25

- 1 The Peninsula 95.4
- 2 Trump International Hotel & Tower 94.9
- 3 Four Seasons 92.9
- 4 The Carlyle (Rosewood) 92.0
- 4 Trump SoHo 92.0
- 6 St. Regis 91.7
- 7 The Plaza 91.3
- 8 Setai Fifth Avenue 91.0
- 9 Ritz-Carlton New York, Central Park 90.6
- 10 Sherry-Netherland 90.4
- 11 Andaz 5th Avenue 89.9
- 12 The Pierre (Taj) 89.3
- 13 Crosby Street Hotel 89.0
- 13 The Kimberly 89.0
- 15 Andaz Wall Street 88.9
- 16 The James 88.7
- 17 Mandarin Oriental 88.5
- 18 The Lowell 88.1
- 19 The Mercer 87.3
- 20 Ritz-Carlton New York, Battery Park 85.3
- 21 The Mark 85.1
- 21 New York Palace 85.1

- 23 The Surrey 84.4
- 24 InterContinental New York Times Square 84.1
- 25 Greenwich Hotel 83.6
- 25 Hôtel Plaza Athénée 83.6

NORTHEAST

TOP 45

- 1 Fifteen Beacon, Boston 95.4
- 2 Mandarin Oriental, Boston 94.7
- 3 Inn at Perry Cabin, St. Michaels, Md. 93.6
- 4 Wentworth by the Sea, New Castle, N.H. 93.2
- 5 The Wauwinet, Nantucket 93.1
- 6 Chebeague Island Inn, Me. 93.0
- 6 Rittenhouse Hotel, Philadelphia 93.0
- 8 Mayflower Inn & Spa, Washington, Conn. 92.7
- 9 White Elephant, Nantucket 92.1
- 10 Blantyre, Lenox, Mass. 91.9
- 10 Virginia Hotel and Cottages, Cape May, N.J. 91.9
- 12 Chanler at Cliff Walk, Newport 91.3
- 12 White Barn Inn & Spa, Kennebunkport 91.3
- 14 Four Seasons, Boston 89.7
- 15 Eliot Hotel, Boston 89.6
- 15 Pitcher Inn, Warren, Vt. 89.6
- 17 The Hay-Adams, Washington, D.C. 89.3
- 17 Willard InterContinental, Washington, D.C. 89.3
- 19 The Jefferson, Washington, D.C. 88.9
- 20 Four Seasons, Baltimore 87.7
- 21 St. Regis, Washington, D.C. 87.2
- 22 Four Seasons, Philadelphia 87.0
- 23 Four Seasons, Washington, D.C. 86.9
- 24 InterContinental Boston 86.8
- 25 Renaissance Pittsburgh 86.6
- 25 Ritz-Carlton Boston Common 86.6
- 25 Ritz-Carlton Georgetown, Washington, D.C. 86.6
- 28 Boston Harbor Hotel 86.5
- 28 Inn at Montchanin Village and Spa, Brandywine Valley 86.5
- 30 Castle Hill Inn, Newport 86.3
- 30 Harraseeket Inn, Freeport 86.3
- 30 Hotel Commonwealth, Boston 86.3
- 33 Congress Hall, Cape May, N.J. 86.0

- 34 Millennium Bostonian Hotel 85.8
- 35 Nine Zero Hotel, Boston 85.6
- 36 Vanderbilt Grace Hotel, Newport 85.4
- 37 Captain Lord Mansion, Kennebunkport 85.0
- 38 Hotel Palomar Philadelphia 84.8
- 39 Ritz-Carlton, Washington, D.C. 84.7
- 40 Bar Harbor Grand Hotel 84.6
- 40 Liberty Hotel (Luxury Collection), Boston 84.6
- 42 Inns & Spa at Mills Falls, Meredith, N.H. 84.3
- 43 Park Hyatt Washington 84.2
- 44 Fairmont Battery Wharf, Boston 84.1
- 44 Hotel Palomar Washington DC 84.1

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

TOP 20

- 1 Heathman Hotel, Kirkland, Wash. 94.5
- 2 Hotel 1000, Seattle 94.4
- 3 Allison Inn & Spa, Willamette Valley 93.1
- 4 Tu Tu' Tun Lodge, Gold Beach, Ore. 92.9
- 5 Stephanie Inn, Cannon Beach, Ore. 92.6
- 6 Inn at the Market, Seattle 90.6
- 7 Salish Lodge & Spa, Snoqualmie, Wash. 90.2
- 8 Heathman Hotel, Portland 89.5
- 9 Four Seasons, Seattle 88.1
- 9 The Nines (Luxury Collection), Portland 88.1
- 11 Hotel Bellevue, Wash. 87.1
- 12 The Edgewater, Seattle 86.6
- 13 Hotel Andra, Seattle 86.4
- 13 Hotel Monaco Seattle 86.4
- 15 Fairmont Olympic Hotel, Seattle 86.3
- 16 Grand Hyatt Seattle 85.8
- 16 Hotel Modera, Portland 85.8
- 18 Davenport Hotel and Tower, Spokane 84.6
- 19 Seattle Marriott Waterfront 82.8
- 20 Alexis Hotel, Seattle 82.5

SOUTH

TOP 50

- 1 21c Museum Hotel, Louisville 96.8
- 2 Farrington House, Pittsboro, N.C. 96.7
- 3 French Quarter Inn, Charleston 96.6
- 4 HarbourView Inn, Charleston 95.5
- 5 John Rutledge House, Charleston 94.5
- 5 Lorien Hotel & Spa, Alexandria 94.5
- 7 The Swag, Waynesville, N.C. 94.0
- 8 Planters Inn, Charleston 93.2
- 9 Foley House Inn, Savannah 92.5
- 9 Market Pavilion Hotel, Charleston 92.5
- 11 Restoration on King, Charleston 92.4
- 12 Blackberry Farm, Great Smoky Mountains, Tenn. 92.3
- 13 Inn on Biltmore Estate, Asheville 91.7
- 14 Charleston Place 91.6
- 15 St. Regis, Atlanta 90.6
- 16 Elliott House Inn, Charleston 90.1
- 16 Old Edwards Inn and Spa, Highlands, N.C. 90.1
- 18 Umstead Hotel and Spa, Raleigh 89.8
- 19 Alluvian Hotel, Greenwood 89.3
- 20 Ritz-Carlton, Charlotte 89.1
- 21 Morrison House, Alexandria 88.4
- 22 Grand Bohemian Hotel Asheville 88.3
- 22 The Willcox, Aiken, S.C. 88.3
- 24 Madison Hotel, Memphis 88.2
- 25 Bohemian Hotel Savannah Riverfront 88.0

40

The inmates are long gone from the Charles Street Jail, now the Liberty Hotel, one of Boston's 12 top-scoring hotels, making the city second only to New York in the Northeast.

3

The French Quarter Inn earns Charleston's highest rating for dining, 92.2. Read "Grits Gone Wild" (page 182) for an epicurean tour of the fabulous new kitchens of the South.

United States

Hotels (Continued)

- 25 Inn at Little Washington, Washington, Va. 88.0
- 27 InterContinental Buckhead, Atlanta 87.6
- 27 Omni Royal Orleans, New Orleans 87.6
- 29 Ritz-Carlton, Buckhead, Atlanta 87.4
- 30 Roosevelt New Orleans 86.8
- 31 Andaz Savannah 86.2
- 31 Loews Atlanta 86.2
- 31 Mansion on Forsyth Park, Savannah 86.2
- 31 Ritz-Carlton, New Orleans 86.2
- 32 Hotel Monaco Alexandria 86.1
- 32 Hermitage Hotel, Nashville 85.7
- 32 Ritz-Carlton, Atlanta 85.6
- 32 Soniat House, New Orleans 85.6
- 32 Mills House Hotel, Charleston 85.4
- 32 Windsor Court Hotel, New Orleans 85.4
- 41 Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner, McLean, Va. 84.5
- 42 Four Seasons, Atlanta 83.9
- 42 Tides Inn, Irvington, Va. 83.7
- 44 Battle House Renaissance Mobile Hotel & Spa 83.6
- 44 Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club, Durham 83.6
- 46 Capital Hotel, Little Rock 83.2
- 46 Hotel Monteleone, New Orleans 83.2
- 46 Marina Inn at Grande Dunes, Myrtle Beach 83.0
- 48 Royal Sonesta Hotel, New Orleans 81.4
- 50 Inn at Carnall Hall, Fayetteville, Ark. 81.3

SOUTHWEST

TOP 25

- 1 Inn of the Five Graces, Santa Fe 94.2
- 2 Rosewood Crescent Hotel, Dallas 93.8
- 3 Hotel Sorella CityCentre, Houston 93.5
- 4 Mokara Hotel & Spa, San Antonio 92.9
- 5 Inn and Spa at Loretto, Santa Fe 92.5
- 6 Hotel Valencia Riverwalk, San Antonio 92.2

- 7 Rosewood Mansion on Turtle Creek, Dallas 92.1
- 8 Ritz-Carlton, Dallas 91.9
- 9 L'Auberge de Sedona, Sedona 91.4
- 10 Rosewood Inn of the Anasazi, Santa Fe 89.1
- 11 Inn on the Alameda, Santa Fe 88.5
- 12 Hotel Andaluz, Albuquerque 87.9
- 13 Hotel Contessa, San Antonio 87.5
- 14 The Saguaro, Scottsdale 86.7
- 15 The Driskill, Austin 86.5
- 16 Four Seasons, Austin 85.8
- 17 Adobe Grand Villas, Sedona 85.3
- 18 St. Regis, Houston 84.9
- 19 Hotel Havana, San Antonio 84.8
- 20 Hotel St. Francis, Santa Fe 84.1
- 21 La Fonda on the Plaza, Santa Fe 83.3
- 22 Houstonian Hotel, Club & Spa 83.1
- 23 Hotel Palomar Dallas 82.6
- 23 The Joule (Luxury Collection), Dallas 82.6
- 25 Omni Corpus Christi Marina Tower 82.0

WEST

TOP 10

- 1 Oxford Hotel, Denver 92.9
- 2 Beaumont Hotel & Spa, Ouray, Colo. 92.2
- 3 St Julien Hotel & Spa, Boulder 89.2
- 4 Hotel Teatro, Denver 87.2
- 5 Brown Palace Hotel and Spa, Denver 85.1
- 6 Four Seasons, Denver 85.0
- 7 Ritz-Carlton, Denver 84.8
- 8 Grand America Hotel, Salt Lake City 84.2
- 9 JW Marriott Denver Cherry Creek 83.9
- 10 The Curtis, Denver 82.3

GARDEN VARIETY With more than 4,000 acres, San Diego's Grand Del Mar resort sculpts scenes such as this pool topiary.



RESORTS

FLORIDA

TOP 40

- 1 Little Palm Island Resort & Spa, Little Torch Key 94.3
- 2 WaterColor Inn & Resort, Santa Rosa Beach 93.3
- 3 Elizabeth Pointe Lodge, Amelia Island 93.0
- 4 LaPlaya Beach & Golf Resort, Naples 92.3
- 5 The Breakers Palm Beach 91.6
- 6 Ocean Key Resort & Spa, Key West 91.5
- 7 Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort, Naples 91.2
- 8 Sandpearl Resort, Clearwater Beach 90.6
- 9 Marco Island Marriott Beach Resort, Golf Club & Spa 90.3
- 10 Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island 90.1
- 11 Disney's Boardwalk Inn Resort, Lake Buena Vista 88.8
- 12 Lodge & Club, Ponte Vedra 88.5
- 12 Ritz-Carlton, Palm Beach 88.5
- 14 Santa Maria Suites Resort, Key West 88.3
- 15 Sunset Key Guest Cottages (Westin), Key West 88.2
- 16 Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge, Buena Vista 87.8
- 17 Ritz-Carlton Orlando, Grande Lakes 87.6
- 18 Cheeca Lodge & Spa, Islamorada 87.3
- 19 Four Seasons Resort, Palm Beach 87.2
- 19 Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, Ponte Vedra Beach 87.2
- 21 Disney's Vero Beach Resort 87.0
- 22 Disney's Grand Floridian Resort & Spa, Lake Buena Vista 86.9
- 23 Ritz-Carlton, Sarasota 86.8
- 24 Gasparilla Inn & Club, Boca Grande 86.6
- 24 Loews Portofino Bay Hotel, Orlando 86.6
- 26 Hammock Beach Resort, Palm Coast 86.5
- 27 Disney's Beach Club Resort, Lake Buena Vista 86.4
- 28 Ritz-Carlton, Fort Lauderdale 86.3
- 29 Vinoy Resort & Golf Club, St. Petersburg 86.2
- 30 Disney's Wilderness Lodge, Lake Buena Vista 85.8
- 31 Naples Bay Resort 85.3
- 31 Ritz-Carlton Key Biscayne 85.3
- 33 Disney's Yacht Club Resort, Lake Buena Vista 84.9
- 34 Loews Royal Pacific Resort at Universal Orlando 84.1
- 35 Hawks Cay Resort, Duck Key 83.8
- 36 Biltmore Hotel, Coral Gables 83.6
- 37 Hard Rock Hotel at Universal Orlando Resort 83.4
- 38 One Ocean Resort & Spa, Jacksonville 83.3
- 39 Jupiter Beach Resort & Spa 83.1
- 40 Costa d'Este Beach Resort, Vero Beach 83.0

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

TOP 15

- 1 CordeValle (Rosewood), San Martin 96.3
- 2 Solage Calistoga 94.5
- 3 Lodge at Pebble Beach 93.1
- 3 Vintage Inn, Yountville 93.1
- 5 Ritz-Carlton, Lake Tahoe 91.0

30

Seven years after Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans is again one of your favorite cities. Seven Big Easy hotels are among the South's finest, including The Roosevelt, a Waldorf Astoria.

44

Alabama's only winner, the 1908 Battle House was the last building still standing on its block in 1980. It is now a restored historic gem in revitalized downtown Mobile.