

**NEW ORLEANS
BAR CRAWL**

38 Secret Pleasures
of the Big Easy

**HIGH ON
SWITZERLAND**

16-Page All-Season
Pullout Guide

**BIG SKY
BONANZA**

10 Perfect Days in
Wyoming and Montana

**WINTER IS
A STEAL!**

Incredible Prices on
Hotels, Cruises, Flights

Condé Nast Traveler

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

NOVEMBER 2009

BEST IN THE WORLD!

HOTELS, ISLANDS, AIRLINES, CITIES, CRUISES

100 *Top*

READERS' CHOICE AWARDS

Rated by the 25,000 most discerning travelers on earth



2009

READERS' CHOICE AWARDS

BEST IN THE WORLD.

Cities, Islands, Hotels, Resorts, Cruises

The big news is that, undaunted by tough times, our readers are still way out in front, discovering the coolest experiences, electing the top performers for every kind of service—and reaffirming an enduring passion for travel. Look no further for the most stimulating global stimulus package you could hope for

IT'S STILL UP, UP, AND AWAY FOR THE COMMUNITY of readers of *Condé Nast Traveler*. ♦ In a remarkable picture of how you spent your travel dollars in the past year—the toughest for the business in a long time—it's clear that you remain as adventurous, discerning, and devoted to the worldwide diversity of travel as ever. In fact, these 2009 Readers' Choice Awards emerge as a unique, reliable, and very timely leading economic indicator—there is no other resource to match them. ♦ Consider this, for a start: **The awards reflect the personal—and recent—travel experiences of 25,008 readers.**

They form, in effect, a global force of incognito inspectors with the power to rate every service crucial to travelers. To put that 25,008 in perspective, compare it to the 80 inspectors Michelin fields to produce the Red Guide to France—historically the most rigorous, feared, and, let it be said, idiosyncratic screening of the

Condé Nast Traveler readers
who participated in the survey

25,008

Michelin judges who contribute
to the Red Guide to France

80

Top HOTELS

FROM FRENCH CHÂTEAUX TO HONG KONG HIGH-RISES, 585 HOTELS SCORE BIG



SO HOT SOHO

London's 91-room Soho Hotel was on the *Condé Nast Traveler* Hot List of new hotels in 2005, impressing so many readers that it quickly emerged as one of Britain's best.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SIMON BROWN

**BEST
IN THE
WORLD**
2000

SOME PLACES ARE MORE generously gifted with great hotels than others, and this year six destinations stand out. All have more than 20 hotels on these lists, and together they account for about half of the top-scoring properties in the world. England and France each claim 22 hotels; Canada has 30; China, 36; Italy, 46; and—to no one's surprise—the United States, a lion's share of 135. ● But that doesn't tell the whole story. The top-scoring hotel in the world is on an island with only one property on our list: The **Peninsula House** in the Dominican Republic (98.6); see "Château of the Caribbean" (page 198). Other hotels in the rarefied air of the high 90s include **Blanket Bay** in New Zealand (98.3). **La Scalinatella** on Capri (97.8), and a three-way 97.2 tie: **Oberoio Udaivilas** in Rajasthan, **La Colombe d'Or** in Provence, and—here comes the U.S.A.—**21c Museum Hotel** in Louisville. ● So many of those hotels have fewer than 50 rooms—particularly in Europe and the United States—that this year we debut the subcategory of small hotels for both regions. Take note especially of California, where Northern California claims nearly one-third of that list.

TOP 100
**SOUTHERN
EUROPE**
HOTELS

- 1 **Il San Pietro di Positano** 97.0
- 2 **Il Pellicano**, Porto Ercole, Tuscany 96.1
- 3 **Four Seasons Hotel George V**, Paris 95.5
- 4 **Grand-Hôtel du Cap-Ferrat**, Côte d'Azur 95.2
- 5 **Four Seasons Hotel Istanbul at Sultanahmet** 94.8
- 6 **Le Sirenuse**, Positano 94.5
- 7 **Four Seasons Hotel Firenze**, Florence 94.4
- 8 **Hôtel Ritz Paris** 94.4
- 9 **Hôtel de Paris**, Monte Carlo 94.0
- 10 **Hotel Urban**, Madrid 92.2
- 11 **Four Seasons Hotel Milano** 92.0
- 12 **Hotel Alfonso XIII** (Luxury Collection), Seville 91.9
- 13 **Ciragan Palace Kempinski**, Istanbul 91.7
- 14 **Grand Hotel Excelsior Vittoria**, Sorrento 91.6
- 15 **Bauer II Palazzo**, Venice 91.3
- 16 **Four Seasons Hotel Ritz Lisbon** 91.1
- 17 **Bauer Hotel**, Venice 90.9
- 18 **Le Meurice**, Paris 90.9
- 19 **Hotel Hassler**, Rome 90.7
- 20 **Hotel Santa Caterina**, Amalfi 90.7
- 21 **Bairro Alto Hotel**, Lisbon 90.5
- 22 **Olissippo Lapa Palace**, Lisbon 90.5
- 23 **Hôtel Le Bristol**, Paris 90.0
- 24 **Londra Palace**, Venice 90.0
- 25 **Swissôtel The Bosphorus**, Istanbul 89.6
- 26 **Four Seasons Hotel Istanbul at the Bosphorus** 89.3
- 27 **Hotel Arts**, Barcelona 89.1
- 28 **Hôtel Plaza Athénée**, Paris 89.1
- 29 **Parador Hostal dos Reis Católicos**, Santiago de Compostela 89.0
- 30 **Grand Hotel Quisisana**, Capri 88.9
- 31 **Hôtel de la Cité**, Carcassonne 88.9
- 32 **Westin Excelsior**, Florence 88.9
- 33 **Hotel Maria Cristina** (Luxury Collection), San Sebastián 88.5
- 34 **Grand Hotel Villa Serbelloni**, Lake Como 88.3
- 35 **Royal Riviera**, Côte d'Azur 88.1
- 36 **Hotel Splendido & Splendido Mare**, Portofino 88.0
- 37 **Westin Palace**, Madrid 88.0
- 38 **Grand Hotel Miramare**, Portofino 87.9
- 39 **Parador de Ronda**, Andalusia 87.9
- 40 **Hôtel Métropole Monte Carlo** 87.7
- 41 **InterContinental Carlton Cannes** 87.5
- 42 **Park Hyatt Paris-Vendôme** 87.5
- 43 **Hôtel Lancaster**, Paris 87.3
- 44 **Hotel Savoy**, Florence 87.2
- 45 **Hotel Ritz Madrid** 87.0
- 46 **Regent Esplanade Zagreb** 87.0
- 47 **Hotel Grande Bretagne** (Luxury Collection), Athens 86.8
- 48 **Hotel Brufani Palace**, Perugia 86.5
- 49 **St. Regis Grand Hotel**, Rome 86.4
- 50 **Hotel Cipriani**, Venice 86.3
- 51 **Park Hyatt Milan** 86.2
- 52 **Hotel Jazz**, Barcelona 86.1
- 53 **Hotel Gritti Palace** (Luxury Collection), Venice 85.9
- 54 **Hotel Lungarno**, Florence 85.8
- 55 **Hotel Omm**, Barcelona 85.8
- 56 **Luna Hotel Baglioni**, Venice 85.8
- 57 **Rome Cavalieri** 85.8
- 58 **Westin Europa & Regina**, Venice 85.8
- 59 **Hôtel Hermitage**, Monte Carlo 85.5
- 60 **Gallery Art Hotel**, Florence 85.3
- 61 **Hôtel Costes**, Paris 85.2
- 62 **Pestana Palace**, Lisbon 85.2
- 63 **Rome Marriott Grand Hotel Flora** 85.2
- 64 **Pavillon de la Reine**, Paris 85.0
- 65 **Grand Hotel Baglioni**, Bologna 84.8
- 66 **Hotel de Russie**, Rome 84.7
- 67 **Ritz-Carlton**, Istanbul 84.5
- 68 **San Clemente Palace**, Venice 84.5
- 69 **Paris Marriott Hotel Champs-Élysées** 84.3
- 70 **Plaza Hotel Lucchesi**, Florence 84.1
- 71 **Excelsior Palace Hotel**, Portofino 84.0
- 72 **Gran Hotel La Florida**, Barcelona 83.8
- 73 **Hotel Monaco & Grand Canal**, Venice 83.6
- 74 **Grand Hotel de la Minerve**, Rome 83.4
- 75 **InterContinental Paris-Le Grand** 83.4
- 76 **Hotel Normandy Barrière**, Deauville 83.1
- 77 **Hotel Scribe**, Paris 83.1
- 78 **JW Marriott Bucharest Grand Hotel** 83.1
- 79 **Relais Christine**, Paris 83.1
- 80 **Sofitel Rome Villa Borghese** 83.1
- 81 **Westin Excelsior**, Rome 83.1
- 82 **Hotel Eden**, Rome 82.7
- 83 **Le Méridien Barcelona** 82.7
- 84 **Hotel des Bains**, Venice 82.5
- 85 **Caesar Augustus**, Capri 82.4
- 86 **Hilton Imperial Dubrovnik** 82.2
- 87 **Hotel Palais de la Méditerranée**, Nice 82.2
- 88 **Regina Hotel Baglioni**, Rome 82.2
- 89 **ME Madrid Reina Victoria** 82.0
- 90 **Hotel Danieli** (Luxury Collection), Venice 82.0
- 91 **Hotel Villa Real**, Madrid 82.0
- 92 **ME Madrid Reina Victoria** 82.0
- 93 **Le Méridien Beach Plaza**, Monte Carlo 81.9
- 94 **Hilton Molino Stucky**, Venice 81.8
- 95 **Capri Palace Hotel & Spa** 81.7
- 96 **Hôtel de Crillon**, Paris 81.5
- 97 **Hotel Helvetia & Bristol**, Florence 81.4
- 98 **Fairmont Hotel**, Monte Carlo 81.3
- 99 **Hotel Bernini Palace**, Florence 80.8
- 100 **Grand Hotel Parco dei Principi**, Rome 80.5
- 101 **Grand Hotel Vesuvio**, Naples 80.5

RATED ON

Food/Dining • Location • Overall Design • Rooms • Service