

Condé Nast Traveler

SEVEN WINNING
TRAVEL APPS

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

JANUARY 2011

20-PAGE
SPECIAL

GOLD LIST WORLD'S BEST

504

HOTELS,
RESORTS,
CRUISE LINES

PLUS

EUROPE'S
RISING STAR

SOUTH
AMERICA'S
SECRET
PARADISE

INDIA'S
MAGIC CITY





2011 GOLD LIST

THE WORLD'S BEST
PLACES TO STAY

504
HOTELS,
RESORTS,
AND
CRUISE
LINES

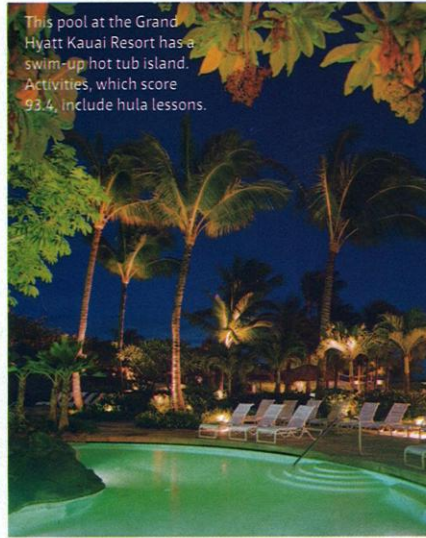
"NOTHING ENDURES BUT change." No, Heraclitus wasn't thinking about hotels, but the axiom applies. *Condé Nast Traveler's* compendium of the best hotels, resorts, and cruise lines in the world, drawn from our annual Readers' Choice Survey (see November 2010), is ever-evolving. Updated annually, it is a truly global tally of peerless travel experiences (and proves the mobility and discriminating tastes of our readers). Case in point: This

year's Gold List has 48 properties appearing for the first time, and we have duly accorded each a detailed review, with readers' quotes (for complete reviews of all 2011 Gold List properties, go to cntraveler.com/goldlist, or download our soon-to-be-released iPhone or iPad app, *Condé Nast Traveler's 2011 Gold List*). Here's to the newcomers, and to the other hotels, resorts, and cruise lines on these pages, which have withstood the toughest test of all—time.

UNITED STATES

What's truly American in the hottest new hotels? The great outdoors, from sea to shining sea

AMERICANS' LOVE OF nature is renowned, and it shows. Just look at 6 of the 14 new Gold List properties in our backyard: two resorts, one in Colorado and one in Montana, cupped by mountain ranges; one California property that looks out on the rolling Pacific and another that overlooks rolling vineyards; a ski retreat in the peaks of northern Vermont; and a stone castle in the forests of the Hudson River Valley. Traditional destinations are also benefiting from contemporary design, which explains why you'll encounter a modernist resort among the swaying palms of Palm Beach and a reinvented former prison in the historic Beacon Hill section of Boston.



This pool at the Grand Hyatt Kauai Resort has a swim-up hot tub island. Activities, which score 93.4, include hula lessons.

ARIZONA

Royal Palms Resort & Spa, Phoenix 89.7

91.8 92.9 91.9 91.3 92.3 77.3

Four Seasons Scottsdale at Troon North, Scottsdale 89.1

93.6 92.1 87.4 82.4 90.3 88.8

The Phoenician (Luxury Collection), Scottsdale 89.2

89.3 89.6 85.4 90.2 90.5 90.2

Enchantment Resort, Sedona 92.3

91.5 90.7 88.3 96.5 95.2 91.4

L'Auberge de Sedona, Sedona 89.7

90.3 88.8 88.0 92.6 89.0

CALIFORNIA

Beverly Wilshire (Four Seasons), Beverly Hills 90.9

90.7 91.4 89.2 94.7 88.6

The Peninsula, Beverly Hills 95.0

95.8 96.7 92.9 95.7 93.8

Post Ranch Inn, Big Sur 93.1

93.1 91.8 90.8 96.2 93.8

Ventana Inn & Spa, Big Sur 89.7

91.9 89.3 85.6 92.5 89.2

Hyatt Carmel Highlands, Carmel 88.3

88.5 85.3 86.1 93.2 88.4

L'Auberge Carmel, Carmel 88.2

89.9 88.2 88.5 92.1 82.0

2011 GOLD LIST

KEY TO SYMBOLS

- Rooms
- Service
- Food
- Location
- Design
- Activities

SCORES IN RED = OVERALL

NEW New to Gold List

- Condé Nast Traveler 2010 Best Golf Resorts
- Condé Nast Traveler 2010 Best Ski Resorts

For full reviews of every hotel and resort on the 2011 Gold List, with reader quotes, go to cntraveler.com/goldlist. (Or download our soon-to-be-released iPhone or iPad app; Condé Nast Traveler's 2011 Gold List.)

Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel, Dana Point 93.2

95.4 96.4 92.2 95.5 92.3 87.4

St. Regis Monarch Beach, Dana Point 90.4

95.8 88.8 87.2 89.0 92.7 89.0

Ritz-Carlton, Half Moon Bay 89.3

91.2 89.7 84.8 91.2 90.5 88.2

Montage, Laguna Beach 91.3

92.7 88.9 91.7 96.3 91.7 86.5

Beverly Hills Hotel, Los Angeles 92.3

92.4 93.2 88.4 95.2 92.4

Four Seasons Los Angeles at Beverly Hills, Los Angeles 88.3

89.1 93.1 86.7 86.2 86.1

Auberge du Soleil, Napa Valley 94.5

94.0 94.1 95.6 92.6 96.1

Resort at Pelican Hill, Newport Beach 96.0

97.4 95.7 93.1 96.6 96.6 96.5

This 2008 "adaptation of Palladian architecture" has bronze and wood doors and windows, brickwork replicating that found in Siena's main square, and wrought iron Italian lanterns. "Incredible and comfortable" bungalows and villas with limestone fireplaces range in size and design and have wood-beam ceilings and terraces with Pacific views. The "especially good" food at Andrea is heavy on Tuscan influences, while two additional restaurants offer casual dining. "Staff are responsive and friendly."

Chateau du Sureau, Oakhurst 88.9

88.9 96.3 85.2 88.9 85.2

Langham Huntington Hotel & Spa, Pasadena 88.0

90.0 89.2 83.8 85.5 91.6

Casa Palmero, Pebble Beach 93.3

100 100 79.2 92.0 92.0 96.0

Inn & Links at Spanish Bay, Pebble Beach 94.6

95.6 93.7 92.9 97.6 93.6 94.0

Lodge at Pebble Beach, Pebble Beach 92.2

90.9 91.1 90.1 99.1 92.9 89.1

Four Seasons, San Francisco 88.7

91.1 90.3 85.6 89.1 87.5

Mandarin Oriental, San Francisco 87.9

94.4 93.2 82.1 84.0 85.7

Ritz-Carlton, San Francisco 89.5

90.4 92.5 89.3 87.5 87.7

CORDEVALLE (Rosewood), San Martin 88.4

100 93.9 81.8 72.7 93.9 87.9

This Craftsman-style resort by the Santa Cruz Mountains has perfect-scoring bungalows with a "modern yet rustic atmosphere," Frette linens, leather armchairs, and fireplaces. Guests appreciate the "secluded corners of the grounds" surrounded by tree-topped hills. New Italian cuisine at Il Vigneto emphasizes seasonal produce. Play a course with vineyard views, or sample treatments like a grapeseed and cherry bark scrub at Sense Spa.

Four Seasons The Biltmore, Santa Barbara 89.5

92.2 91.0 87.1 91.6 92.2 82.7

San Ysidro Ranch (Rosewood), Santa Barbara 90.8

94.6 89.2 87.7 90.5 91.8

Gaige House, Sonoma County 88.3

92.3 92.3 79.2 84.6 92.3

Hotel Healdsburg, Sonoma County 87.9

84.9 83.9 87.9 95.7 87.0

Kenwood Inn and Spa, Sonoma County 94.7

98.6 100 91.3 94.3 95.7 88.2

COLORADO

*** Little Nell, Aspen 89.1**

86.7 87.7 87.1 97.7 86.6 88.5

*** Ritz-Carlton, Bachelor Gulch, Beaver Creek 89.8**

91.9 89.4 83.2 91.0 91.6 91.5

*** Westin Riverfront Resort & Spa, Beaver Creek 96.9**

98.5 95.2 94.7 97.6 97.9 97.3

This two-year-old Silver LEED-certified resort has extensive stonework and glass, allowing "majestic views of the Rockies," which can also be seen from "the incredible infinity hot tubs off the pool deck." The Riverfront Express gondola, "steps from the lobby," transports guests to the base of Beaver Creek Mountain. The Avondale restaurant—kitted out in stone, wood, granite, and glass—promotes a West Coast-inspired seasonal menu, hence dishes like Summit Creek lamb chops. Spa Anjali's robes and towels are made from organic bamboo and muslin.

NORTH CAROLINA

- Inn on Biltmore Estate, Asheville 92.7**
94.2 93.6 89.1 93.7 93.0
- Sanderling Resort & Spa, Duck 88.2**
90.2 92.0 82.4 90.2 88.2 86.0
- Ferrington House Country Inn & Restaurant, Pittsboro 94.4**
100 94.4 96.3 87.0 94.4

OREGON

- Stephanie Inn, Cannon Beach 94.4**
94.3 95.0 92.0 99.3 91.3
- Tu Tu' Tun Lodge, Gold Beach 91.8**
90.5 88.1 89.7 95.2 95.2

PENNSYLVANIA

- Four Seasons, Philadelphia 89.4**
91.2 91.2 89.1 87.1 88.3

RHODE ISLAND

- Castle Hill Inn, Newport 87.7**
86.4 85.9 86.7 91.9 87.4
- The Chanler at Cliff Walk, Newport 94.5**
92.6 94.4 92.7 98.2 94.4

SOUTH CAROLINA

- Inn at Palmetto Bluff, Bluffton 88.5**
95.0 88.0 79.6 85.8 93.0 89.4
- Charleston Place, Charleston 92.2**
88.6 92.2 91.2 97.2 91.6
- French Quarter Inn, Charleston 88.7**
87.4 89.0 82.9 92.9 91.2
- Planters Inn, Charleston 88.7**
85.4 88.9 89.0 93.9 86.1
- Sanctuary at Kiawah Island Golf Resort, Kiawah Island 95.6**
98.0 95.7 92.3 96.2 96.2 95.6

TENNESSEE

- Blackberry Farm, Walland 92.1**
92.5 92.6 93.8 91.4 90.1

TEXAS

- Lake Austin Spa Resort, Austin 90.8**
88.2 91.0 95.5 88.1 89.4 92.5
- Rosewood Crescent Hotel, Dallas 94.2**
93.8 95.0 96.2 93.7 92.5
- Rosewood Mansion on Turtle Creek, Dallas 93.6**
93.0 97.3 97.3 87.7 92.4

- NEW Hotel Sorella Citycentre, Houston 93.1**
96.2 93.3 92.0 86.8 97.2

In the mixed-use Citycentre development, this "modern and borderline-hip hotel" opened a little over a year ago. "Very comfortable rooms" with European decor have dark hardwood floors, black glass table lamps, upholstered headboards, and chaise sofas and ottomans in aubergine velvet. Dine on rainbow trout peccandine or pomegranate molasses-lacquered duck at Bistro Alex. Monalisa Bar has a central fireplace and a starlit ceiling. The rooftop infinity pool comes with loungers, custom lanterns, and draped cabanas. "Staff are definitely helpful and friendly."

- Mokara Hotel & Spa (formerly Watermark Hotel & Spa), San Antonio 91.8**
92.5 89.5 89.9 95.5 91.7

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Dine en plein air at Rutherford, California's Auberge du Soleil. Luckily, the food, which scores 95.6, lives up to the Napa Valley vistas.

UTAH

- * Stein Eriksen Lodge, Park City 90.0**
88.5 90.8 90.8 93.8 88.5 87.4

VERMONT

- NEW Stowe Mountain Lodge, Stowe 93.4**
94.7 91.2 90.2 94.7 93.0 96.4
- The alpine ski lodge has "a really beautiful facade" of woven timber and shingles, with a stone veneer from local quarries, and there are fire pits scattered throughout the grounds. Bamboo bed linens, goose down duvets, and views of Mount Mansfield and Spruce Peak through picture windows enhance the rooms in whites and browns. Solstice's menu leans toward regional fare: Maine lobster, Vermont lamb. After a day schussing, get "a revitalizing sports massage" at the spa.
- * Pitcher Inn, Warren 89.2**
93.8 88.2 87.9 88.2 88.2

VIRGINIA

- Keswick Hall, Charlottesville 95.6**
91.3 95.7 97.8 95.7 100 93.3
- Inn at Little Washington, Washington 88.5**
93.2 93.3 94.7 68.4 93.3

WASHINGTON

- Fairmont Olympic Hotel, Seattle 89.5**
87.3 90.1 84.4 95.9 89.8
- Four Seasons, Seattle 87.9**
86.7 89.8 83.5 89.8 89.8

- NEW Hotel 1000, Seattle 92.1**
93.7 92.0 87.6 93.7 93.7
- "Cosmopolitan and hip," this newcomer is two blocks from the Seattle Art Museum and Pioneer Square. The lobby's frosted glass staircase and steel sculptures are softened by natural materials and organic

dyed textiles. Rooms are done in deep cherrywood and brushed silver; peer out over the city from the pedestal tub, which fills from the ceiling. "Seattle folks hanging out at the bar give it a lively vibe," while Boka serves whimsical, and mostly organic, Pacific Northwest fare like sweet-and-sour lamb "lollipops."

- Inn at the Market, Seattle 89.4**
86.8 87.8 83.6 98.4 89.8

- Salish Lodge & Spa, Snoqualmie 88.2**
87.2 87.9 86.8 91.1 87.8

- Hotel Murano, Tacoma 93.8**
98.0 91.7 85.1 95.8 97.9

- NEW Tulalip Resort Casino, Tulalip 88.1**
100 97.0 81.3 78.8 87.9 83.3

This former bingo hall established by the Tulalip Tribes in the 1980s is today a casino resort 45 minutes north of Seattle, replete with Tulalip carvings, weaving, and artwork. Perfect-scoring rooms—decorated in chocolate brown, sage green, and red—are "contemporary with tribal touches, very open and relaxing," and have "to-die-for showers with jets you can adjust to aim at all parts of your body." Blackfish Wild Salmon Grill & Bar serves dishes prepared using traditional Native American cooking methods, hence the salmon on a stick.

WEST VIRGINIA

- The Greenbrier, White Sulphur Springs 87.8**
86.8 90.6 87.7 82.2 89.4 90.4

WYOMING

- * Amangani, Jackson Hole 93.6**
96.6 93.1 86.2 93.1 100 92.9
- * Four Seasons, Jackson Hole 90.7**
95.2 91.9 85.4 91.1 89.5 91.0