

**9 PERFECT DAYS
IN TURKEY**

Step-by-Step Itinerary

**ECUADOR'S
LITTLE GEM**

A Town to Love

**EUROPE'S
BIG ADVENTURE**

Mont Blanc Highs

**HOW TO SAVE
A BUNDLE**

15 Magic Web Sites

Condé Nast Traveler

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

NOVEMBER 2010

BEST IN THE WORLD!

HOTELS, ISLANDS, AIRLINES, CITIES, CRUISES

100
Top

READERS' CHOICE AWARDS

*Voted by the 26,000 Most
Discerning Travelers on Earth*

2010
READERS' CHOICE AWARDS

BEST WORLD

IN THE

Perfection is rare in the world, but you found it. Our 23rd annual Readers' Choice Awards include 1,060 winners, elected by 25,916 readers whose passion is travel. The ratings are stratospheric: 281 places and properties achieve scores of 90.0 or above, from Art Nouveau palaces to South Pacific bungalows to one perfect jungle camp in Thailand

380
RESORTS
PAGE 148

50
CITIES
PAGE 146

50
ISLANDS
PAGE 154

50
AIR, SEA, ROAD
PAGE 156

530
HOTELS
PAGE 159

The friendliest city in the United States is Charleston, South Carolina (89.7).

Seven of the top 15 hotels in South America are in Argentina, 6 of them in Buenos Aires.

Vatican City has the world's highest culture/sites score—a whopping 97.5. The second highest? Rome, with a 97.2.

Hong Kong and Bangkok are this year's retail champs, earning the top two shopping scores among overseas cities.

Cape Town, South Africa, has the world's highest score for lodgings (87.0). So it's no surprise that the city is home to nine Readers' Choice Award winners.

Top RESORTS

SEASIDE VILLAS, RAIN FOREST GROTTOS, SKI MECCAS—YOU NAME IT, IT'S HERE



Turks and Caicos's Amanyara scores a 92.6 for overall design. With these poolside salas, it's easy to see why.

W

HAT MAKES A PERFECT RESORT? Is it enough to have the best location? Stunning rooms? Impeccable service? Yes—and no. To strike a chord with discriminating readers, a resort must excel in all six criteria (see “Methodology,” page 143), a feat accomplished to absolute perfection by only one property this year: Chiang Rai’s **Four Seasons Tented Camp Golden Triangle** (100). Of course excellence (let alone perfection) is fickle. Perhaps elephant trekking and tropical jungles aren’t your bag. Luckily, the 380 winners on these pages range from African safari camps (**Mombo and Little Mombo**) to Atlantic enclaves (**The Reefs**), from British baronial seats (**Ashford Castle**) to remote island outposts (**Lodge at Kauri Cliffs**). And there’s no shortage of delights near home: 210 of the top resorts are in North America and the Caribbean. British Columbia’s **King Pacific Lodge** is No. 1 in the hemisphere for the third year in a row, while Beaver Creek’s **Westin Riverfront Resort & Spa** leads in the United States—just a year after being honored on our Hot List of the world’s best new properties. Perfection may be hard to attain, but a world of possibilities is only a page turn away.

**TOP
50
RESORTS**

AFRICA

- 1 **Mombo and Little Mombo Camps**, Botswana 98.4
- 2 **Safari Lodges at Phinda Private Game Reserve**, South Africa 98.1
- 3 **Singita Sabi Sand**, South Africa 97.3
- 4 **Four Seasons Sharm El Sheikh**, Egypt 96.3
- 5 **Kirawira Luxury Tented Camp**, Tanzania 96.2
- 6 **Sabi Sabi Private Game Reserve**, South Africa 94.4
- 6 **Singita Lebombo and Sweni**, South Africa 94.4
- 8 **Jao Camp**, Botswana 94.3
- 9 **Madikwe Safari Lodge**, South Africa 93.8
- 10 **Sandibe Okavango Safari Lodge**, Botswana 93.6
- 11 **DumaTau Camp**, Botswana 93.3
- 12 **Londolofi**, South Africa 93.2
- 12 **MalaMala Game Reserve**, South Africa 93.2
- 14 **Khwai River Lodge**, Botswana 91.4
- 15 **Savuti Camp**, Botswana 91.2
- 16 **Camp Okavango**, Botswana 91.0
- 17 **Sanctuary Chief’s Camp**, Botswana 90.5
- 18 **Ngala Private Game Reserve**, South Africa 90.3
- 18 **Vumbura Plains**, Botswana 90.3
- 20 **Grande Roche Hotel**, South Africa 89.4
- 21 **Governors’ Camp**, Kenya 88.8
- 22 **Mara Intrepids Lodge**, Kenya 88.7
- 23 **Fairmont Mara Safari Club**, Kenya 88.5
- 24 **Lion Sands**, South Africa 88.4
- 25 **Sanctuary Olonana**, Kenya 87.7
- 25 **Safari Camps at Kichwa Tembo**, Kenya 87.7
- 27 **Bushmans Kloof Wilderness Reserve**, South Africa 87.6
- 28 **Amboseli Serena Safari Lodge**, Kenya 87.3
- 29 **Serena Mountain Lodge**, Kenya 87.2
- 30 **Palace of the Lost City**, South Africa 87.0
- 30 **Royal Livingstone**, Zambia 87.0
- 32 **Ngorongoro Crater Lodge**, Tanzania 86.7
- 33 **Fairmont Mount Kenya Safari Club** 86.4
- 33 **Mara Serena Safari Lodge**, Kenya 86.4
- 35 **Serengeti Serena Safari Lodge**, Tanzania 85.6
- 36 **Chobe Chilwero**, Botswana 85.0

- 37 **Jack’s Camp**, Botswana 83.3
- 37 **Sweetwaters Tented Camp**, Kenya 83.3
- 39 **Kulala Desert Lodge and Camps**, Namibia 83.2
- 39 **Lake Manyara Tree Lodge**, Tanzania 83.2
- 41 **Tarangire Safari Lodge**, Tanzania 82.8
- 42 **Shamwari Game Reserve**, South Africa 82.7
- 43 **Chobe Game Lodge**, Botswana 82.3
- 43 **Le Quartier Français**, South Africa 81.7
- 45 **Ongava**, Namibia 81.5
- 46 **Masai Mara Sopa Lodge**, Kenya 81.3
- 47 **Tongabezi Lodge**, Zambia 81.1
- 48 **Ngorongoro Serena Safari Lodge**, Tanzania 81.0
- 49 **Sun City Hotel**, South Africa 80.2
- 50 **Serengeti Sopa Lodge**, Tanzania 80.1

CENTRAL/ SOUTH AMERICA

**TOP
15
RESORTS**

- 1 **Four Seasons Resort Costa Rica at Peninsula Papagayo** 91.8
- 2 **Llao Llao Hotel & Resort**, Bariloche, Argentina 90.5
- 3 **Kanantik Reef & Jungle Resort**, Dangriga, Belize 90.4
- 4 **Xandari Resort & Spa**, Alajuela, Costa Rica 89.5
- 5 **Four Seasons Resort Carmelo**, Uruguay 88.8
- 6 **Hotel Salto Chico, Explora en Patagonia**, Chile 86.6
- 7 **Chaa Creek**, Cayo District, Belize 85.0
- 7 **Hotel Punta Islita**, Guanacaste, Costa Rica 85.0
- 9 **Paradisus Playa Conchal Resort**, Guanacaste, Costa Rica 83.0
- 10 **Tabacón Grand Spa Thermal Resort**, La Fortuna, Alajuela, Costa Rica 81.7
- 11 **Biancaneaux Lodge**, Cayo District, Belize 81.2
- 12 **Turtle Inn**, Placencia, Belize 81.1
- 13 **Los Suenos Marriott Ocean & Golf Resort**, Playa Herradura, Puntarenas, Costa Rica 80.7
- 14 **Arenas del Mar**, Manuel Antonio, Costa Rica 80.4
- 14 **JW Marriott Guanacaste Resort & Spa**, Costa Rica 80.4

**TOP
25
RESORTS**

HAWAII

- 1 **Four Seasons Resort Maui at Wailea** 95.0
- 2 **Hotel Hana-Maui and Honua Spa** 94.4
- 3 **Four Seasons Resort Hualalai**, Big Island 94.1
- 4 **Four Seasons Resort Lana’i at Manele Bay** 93.4
- 5 **Four Seasons Resort Lana’i, The Lodge at Koele** 91.7
- 6 **St. Regis Princeville Resort**, Kauai 90.8
- 7 **Grand Hyatt Kauai Resort & Spa** 90.7
- 8 **Halekulani**, Waikiki 90.3
- 9 **Fairmont Kea Lani**, Maui 89.3
- 10 **Fairmont Orchid**, Big Island 89.2
- 11 **Grand Wailea**, Maui 89.1
- 12 **JW Marriott Ihilani Resort and Spa**, Oahu 88.9
- 13 **Mauna Lani Bay Hotel & Bungalows**, Big Island 88.3
- 14 **Kahala Hotel & Resort**, Oahu 87.5
- 15 **Hyatt Regency Maui Resort & Spa** 87.1
- 15 **Ritz-Carlton Kapalua**, Maui 87.1
- 17 **Kona Village Resort**, Big Island 84.7
- 18 **Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel**, Big Island 84.4
- 19 **Moana Surfrider**, Waikiki Beach 82.8
- 20 **Kaua’i Marriott Resort & Beach Club** 82.7
- 20 **Westin Maui Resort & Spa** 82.7
- 22 **Hilton Waikoloa Village**, Big Island 82.4
- 23 **Mauna Kea Beach Hotel**, Big Island 82.1
- 24 **Kiahuna Plantation & The Beach Bungalows**, Kauai 81.5
- 25 **Sheraton Maui**, Ka’anapali 80.9

**TOP
10
RESORTS**

MIDDLE EAST

- 1 **Burj Al Arab**, Dubai 94.5
- 2 **Madinat Jumeirah**, Dubai 92.8
- 3 **Ritz-Carlton**, Dubai 86.0
- 4 **One&Only Royal Mirage**, Dubai 85.6
- 5 **Mövenpick Resort & Spa Dead Sea**, Jordan 85.1
- 6 **Emirates Palace**, Abu Dhabi 80.9
- 7 **Shangri-La’s Barr Al Jissah Resort and Spa**, Oman 79.7
- 8 **Dan Hotel Eilat** 79.2
- 9 **Mövenpick Resort & Residence Aqaba** 77.9
- 10 **Hyatt Regency Dubai** 76.0

RATED ON

Activities/Facilities ♦ Food/Dining ♦ Location ♦ Overall Design ♦ Rooms ♦ Service



RESORTS

- 15 Charlotte Inn, Martha's Vineyard 84.2
- 16 Lodge at Sea Island, St. Simons Island, Ga. 84.1
- 17 Jenny Lake Lodge, Grand Teton National Park 84.0
- 18 Mirbeau Inn & Spa, Skaneateles, N.Y. 83.5
- 19 Winvian, Litchfield Hills, Conn. 83.3
- 20 Rancho Mañana Resort & Spa, Cave Creek, Ariz. 83.0
- 21 Vail Mountain Lodge & Spa 81.3
- 22 Hermosa Inn, Paradise Valley, Ariz. 81.1
- 23 Greystone Inn, Lake Toxaway, N.C. 81.0
- 24 Westin Key West Resort & Marina 80.6
- 25 Fisher Island Hotel and Resort, Miami 80.5.

TOP 30 RESORTS

CARIBBEAN

- 1 Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman 94.1
- 2 Jade Mountain, St. Lucia 93.8
- 3 Nisbet Plantation Beach Club, Nevis 93.7
- 4 Peter Island Resort & Spa, B.V.I. 91.1
- 5 Curtain Bluff, Antigua 91.0
- 6 Sandals Royal Plantation, Jamaica 90.0
- 7 Anse Chastanet, St. Lucia 89.9
- 7 Jamaica Inn 89.9
- 9 Couples Swept Away, Jamaica 89.7
- 9 Jumby Bay (Rosewood), Antigua 89.7
- 11 Biras Creek Resort, Virgin Gorda, B.V.I. 89.4
- 12 Sandy Lane, Barbados 89.0
- 12 Spice Island Beach Resort, Grenada 89.0
- 14 Four Seasons, Nevis 88.5
- 15 Sandals Whitehouse European Village & Spa, Jamaica 87.7
- 15 CuisinArt Resort & Spa, Anguilla 87.6
- 16 Las Casitas Village & Golden Door Spa, Puerto Rico 87.6
- 18 Cap Juluca, Anguilla 87.4
- 19 Caneel Bay (Rosewood), St. John, U.S.V.I. 86.5
- 20 Jalousie Plantation, St. Lucia 86.4
- 21 Rosewood Little Dix Bay, Virgin Gorda, B.V.I. 86.1
- 22 Hôtel Guanahani & Spa, St. Barts 85.5

With 7 winners, Jamaica has the most top resorts in the Caribbean.

The Rosewood brand has 12 winners this year, including three in the Caribbean.

- 23 Bitter End Yacht Club, Virgin Gorda, B.V.I. 85.0
- 24 Hotel Riu Palace Aruba 84.2
- 25 Paradisus Palma Real, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic 84.1
- 26 Petit St. Vincent Resort, The Grenadines 83.9
- 26 Rockhouse, Jamaica 83.9
- 28 Couples Sans Souci, Jamaica 83.3
- 28 Fairmont Royal Pavilion, Barbados 83.3
- 28 Half Moon, Jamaica 83.3

TOP 20 RESORTS

OCEANIA

- 1 Lodge at Kauri Cliffs, Northland, New Zealand 98.4
- 2 Huka Lodge, Taupo, New Zealand 95.5
- 3 Le Taha'a Island Resort & Spa, Raiatea, French Polynesia 91.1
- 4 Voyages Longitude 131°, Ayers Rock 90.3
- 5 Le Méridien Bora Bora 88.6
- 5 Sofitel Bora Bora Marara Beach and Private Island 88.6
- 7 Te Tiare Beach Resort, Huahine, French Polynesia 88.2
- 8 Lizard Island, Great Barrier Reef 86.7
- 9 Bora Bora Pearl Beach Resort & Spa 86.4
- 10 Surfers Paradise Marriott Resort & Spa, Gold Coast, Queensland 85.9
- 11 Hilton Bora Bora Nui Resort and Spa 85.6
- 12 Fiji Beach Resort & Spa, Denarau 84.7
- 12 Sofitel Moorea la Ora Beach Resort 84.7
- 14 Palau Pacific Resort 84.2
- 15 Hilton Moorea Lagoon Resort & Spa 83.3
- 16 Silky Oaks Lodge & Spa, Daintree, North Queensland 82.9
- 17 Lillianfels Blue Mountains Resort & Spa, Katoomba, New South Wales 82.4
- 18 InterContinental Moorea Resort & Spa 82.3
- 19 Moorea Pearl Resort & Spa 81.8
- 20 Hayman, Great Barrier Reef 81.5

TOP 35 RESORTS

MEXICO

- 1 One&Only Palmilla, Los Cabos 94.5
- 2 Maroma Resort and Spa, Riviera Maya 93.1
- 3 Esperanza, Cabo San Lucas 93.0

- 4 Four Seasons, Punta Mita 91.8
- 4 Las Ventanas al Paraíso (Rosewood), Los Cabos 91.8
- 6 Le Méridien Cancún Resort & Spa 91.5
- 7 Excellence Playa Mujeres 90.7
- 7 Grand Velas All Suites & Spa Resort, Nuevo Vallarta 90.7
- 9 Secrets Maroma Beach Riviera Cancún 90.5
- 10 Pueblo Bonito Pacífica Resort & Spa, Cabo San Lucas 89.8
- 11 Excellence Riviera Cancún 89.7
- 11 Valentin Imperial Maya, Riviera Maya 89.7
- 13 Royal Hideaway Playacar, Playa del Carmen 89.5
- 14 Las Hadas, Manzanillo 89.4
- 14 Ritz-Carlton, Cancún 89.4
- 16 La Casa Que Canta, Zihuatanejo 89.1
- 17 Fairmont Mayakoba, Riviera Maya 87.8
- 17 Omni Puerto Aventuras Hotel Beach Resort 87.8
- 19 Pueblo Bonito Sunset Beach Resort & Spa, Cabo San Lucas 87.6
- 20 Fiesta Americana Grand Coral Beach, Cancún 87.3
- 21 JW Marriott Cancún Resort 87.2
- 21 Sun Palace, Cancún 87.2
- 23 The Tides, Zihuatanejo 87.0
- 24 Secrets Capri Riviera Cancún, Playa del Carmen 86.9
- 25 Pueblo Bonito Emerald Bay, Nuevo Mazatlán 85.9
- 26 Iberostar Quetzal, Riviera Maya 85.8
- 27 Marquis Los Cabos 85.5
- 28 Hilton Los Cabos Beach & Golf Resort 84.3
- 29 Iberostar Paraiso Beach, Riviera Maya 84.0
- 30 Cabo Azul Resort & Spa 83.7
- 31 Iberostar Grand Hotel Paraíso, Riviera Maya 83.6
- 31 Playa Grande Resort, Cabo San Lucas 83.6
- 33 ME by Meliá, Cancún 83.3
- 34 CasaMagna Marriott, Cancún 82.8
- 35 Iberostar Paraiso Maya, Riviera Maya 82.6

TOP 20 RESORTS

ASIA

- 1 Four Seasons Tented Camp Golden Triangle, Chiang Rai 100
- 2 Oberoi Vanyavilas, Ranthambhore National Park, Rajasthan 96.5
- 3 Four Seasons Bali at Sayan 95.3
- 3 Four Seasons, Chiang Mai 95.3
- 5 Amanpuri, Phuket 95.0

- 5 Four Seasons Resort Langkawi, Malaysia 95.0
- 7 Ayana Resort and Spa, Bali 91.1
- 8 Evason Ana Mandara & Six Senses Spa, Nha Trang, Vietnam 90.2
- 9 Life Heritage Resort, Hoi An, Vietnam 89.7
- 10 Sofitel Angkor Phokeethra Golf & Spa Resort, Siem Reap 89.6
- 11 Four Seasons Bali at Jimbaran Bay 89.2
- 12 JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa 88.7
- 13 Banyan Tree Phuket 84.5
- 14 Shangri-La's Mactan Resort & Spa, Cebu, Philippines 83.2
- 15 Plantation Bay Resort and Spa, Cebu, Philippines 82.6
- 15 Victoria Angkor Resort & Spa, Siem Reap 82.6
- 17 Nusa Dua Beach Hotel & Spa, Bali 82.4
- 18 Angkor Palace Resort & Spa, Siem Reap 82.3
- 18 InterContinental Bali Resort 82.3
- 20 Nam Hai, Hoi An, Vietnam 81.0

TOP 20 RESORTS

EUROPE

- 1 Ashford Castle, County Mayo 92.0
- 2 Villa d'Este, Lake Como 91.4
- 3 Hôtel du Cap-Eden-Roc, Côte d'Azur 91.0
- 4 Adare Manor Hotel & Golf Resort, County Limerick 90.9
- 5 Old Course Hotel, St. Andrews, Fife 90.2
- 6 Dromoland Castle, County Clare 89.5
- 7 Grand Hotel Zermatterhof, Zermatt 88.8
- 8 Mount Juliet Hotel, County Kilkenny 87.6
- 9 Four Seasons Resort Provence at Terre Blanche 87.5
- 10 Turnberry Resort (Luxury Collection), Ayrshire 87.3
- 11 Gleneagles Hotel, Perthshire, Scotland 86.9
- 12 Badrutt's Palace, St. Moritz 86.3
- 12 Hôtel du Palais, Biarritz 86.3
- 14 Sheen Falls Lodge, County Kerry 86.0
- 15 Mykonos Grand Hotel & Resort 85.9
- 15 Ritz-Carlton Powerscourt, County Wicklow 85.9
- 17 Elounda Mare Hotel, Crete 85.0
- 18 Hotel Quinta do Lago, Algarve, Portugal 83.0
- 19 Waterford Castle, County Waterford 82.1
- 20 Capri Tiberio Palace 81.6

One of Indonesia's top 5 resorts, a number matched only by Thailand.

Ireland's 6 resorts give it the most in Europe. The Ritz-Carlton has the top rooms score: 93.5.