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IN THE WORLD

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TravelandLeisure.com JANUARY 2012

T+L 500

WORLD'S BEST HOTELS

WITH THIS, OUR 10TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION OF THE T+L 500, we bring you the ultimate collection of the top hotels around the globe, as selected by readers in our annual World's Best Awards survey. ★ We spotlight the properties that ranked No. 1 in their region, highlight the 53 T+L 500 debuts, and, new this year, provide many hotel rates as a range—noting the lowest and highest price of a standard room—which means you'll know how much the price will vary from season to season. ★ Find enhanced digital extras (expanded online reviews; select booking links in the version for iPad) on your computer, tablet, or smart phone—or simply turn the page for your 500 favorite places this year.

UNITED STATES

ALABAMA

BIRMINGHAM

\$ Renaissance Birmingham Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa (88.00) 259-room resort southwest of the city, with a Robert Trent Jones golf course and the area's best spa. 4000 Grand Ave.; 800/593-6419; rossbridgeresort.com; doubles from \$169-\$289.

ARIZONA

PHOENIX/SCOTTSDALE

\$ Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale at Troon North (90.03) Pueblo-inspired property (plus a renovated pool and a soon-to-open gastropub) surrounded by the foothills of the McDowell Mountains. 10600 E. Crescent Moon Dr., Scottsdale; 800/332-3442; fourseasons.com; doubles from \$139-\$719.

\$ NEW Hermosa Inn (88.47) Under-the-radar 34-room 1930's hacienda; highlights include Sunday barbecue dinners and an artists-in-residence program. 5532 N. Palo Cristi Rd., Paradise Valley; 800/241-1210; hermosainn.com; doubles from \$189-\$319.

\$ Montelucia Resort & Spa (87.90) Scottsdale's newest spa resort is a Moorish-inspired spread brimming with Spanish and Moroccan antiques. 4949 E. Lincoln Dr., Scottsdale; 800/627-3010; montelucia.com; doubles from \$159-\$449.

\$ The Phoenician, a Luxury Collection Resort (88.30) Newly upgraded resort on 250 acres with a \$25 million art collection, 3 golf courses, and a Jean-Georges Vongerichten steak house. 6000 E. Camelback Rd., Scottsdale; 800/325-3589; thephoenician.com; doubles from \$199-\$800.

\$ Royal Palms Resort & Spa (89.33) 119 rooms, casitas, and villas (some individually designed) in a 1929 Spanish-inspired mansion on 9 leafy acres near Camelback Mountain. 5200 E. Camelback Rd., Phoenix; 800/672-6011; royalpalmshotel.com; doubles from \$219-\$499.



No. 1 ARIZONA

Sanctuary on Camelback Mountain Resort & Spa (90.27) Chic resort on the mountain; perks include a Watsu-pool-equipped spa and *Iron Chef America* winner Beau MacMillan in the kitchen at Elements restaurant. 5700 E. MacDonald Dr., Paradise Valley; 800/245-2051; sanctuaryoncamelback.com; doubles from \$259-\$499.

BEHIND THE SCENES Culinary programs—from a Saturday mixology class to a recently launched chef's table—helped boost this hotel's score above the competition's

SEDONA

Enchantment Resort (89.73) 218 rooms and suites just off an \$11 million refurbishment, plus the celebrated Mii amo Spa. 800/826-4180; enchantmentresort.com; doubles from \$275-\$495.

L'Auberge de Sedona (87.65) Romantic creek-side retreat with a renovated spa that includes a massage cabana set among the trees. 800/272-6777; lauberge.com; doubles from \$295-\$1,025.

TUCSON

\$ Arizona Inn (89.04) Historic, 95-room pink-tinged adobe-style estate, piano bar, and pristine gardens. 2200 E. Elm St.; 800/933-1093; arizonainn.com; doubles from \$169-\$329.

CALIFORNIA

BIG SUR

Post Ranch Inn (90.99) 41 solar-powered aeries made of wood, glass, and slate, cantilevered out from a cliff overlooking the ocean. 800/527-2200; postranchinn.com; doubles from \$595, including breakfast.

Ventana Inn & Spa (90.40) An adults-only hideaway; 57 rooms and 3 cedar villas, surrounded by 243 acres along the rugged coast.

800/628-6500; ventanainn.com; doubles from \$500-\$750, including breakfast.

CARMEL

Bernardus Lodge (87.56) Provençal-inspired winery hotel, a celebrated restaurant, and an organic garden. 888/648-9463; bernardus.com; doubles from \$305-\$555.

L'Auberge Carmel (89.00)

20-room inn that maintains a decidedly European feel, plus an exclusive restaurant, Aubergine (12 tables; 4,500 bottles of wine). 800/735-2478; laubergecarmel.com; doubles from \$340-\$425, including breakfast.

HALF MOON BAY

Ritz-Carlton (89.42) Statuesque resort—261 rooms, 2 golf courses, a spa, and a vintner series—set on a cliff that fronts the Pacific. 800/241-3333; ritzcarmel.com; doubles from \$435-\$625.

LOS ANGELES AREA

Beverly Hills Hotel & Bungalows (87.16) 210-room Dorchester Collection pink palace, now including 2 new Presidential Bungalows. 9641 Sunset Blvd., Beverly Hills; 800/650-1842; beverlyhillshotel.com; doubles from \$640-\$820.

Beverly Wilshire, a Four Seasons Hotel (88.27) Glamorous touches at this updated 1928 hotel include a Richard Meier-designed Cut steak house by Wolfgang Puck and a Rolls-Royce and driver for guest transportation. 9500 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills; 800/332-3442; fourseasons.com; doubles from \$395-\$625.

Four Seasons Hotel Los Angeles at Beverly Hills (87.79) 285 recently revamped rooms a mile from Rodeo Drive, with a 4th-floor pool scene. 300 S. Doheny Dr., Los Angeles; 800/332-3442; fourseasons.com; doubles from \$395-\$565.

Hotel Bel-Air (91.71) 103-room Dorchester Collection sanctuary reenvisioned by a hotel dream team: Alexandra Champalimaud, David Rockwell, and Wolfgang Puck (see page 84 for more). 701 Stone Canyon Rd., Los Angeles; 800/650-1842; hotelbelair.com; doubles from \$590-\$730.

L'Ermitage Beverly Hills (89.76) Averaging 650 square feet, the

rooms in this intimate hotel are some of the city's largest. 9291 Burton Way, Beverly Hills; 877/235-7582; lermitagebh.com; doubles from \$425-\$625.

Montage Beverly Hills (90.00) Old Hollywood glamour in a new (2008) building on a prime L.A. corner. 225 N. Canon Dr., Beverly Hills; 888/860-0788; montagebeverlyhills.com; doubles from \$495-\$775.

Peninsula Beverly Hills (89.96) To celebrate its 20th birthday in 2011, this posh oasis is adding updated technology, including smart-phone check-in. 9882 S. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills; 866/382-8388; peninsula.com; doubles from \$475-\$625.

Ritz-Carlton, Marina del Rey (87.20) Five miles from LAX, the 304-room hotel faces the harbor for expansive waterfront views and easy access to yachting. 4375 Admiralty Way, Marina del Rey; 800/241-3333; ritzcarmel.com; doubles from \$299-\$459.

Shutters on the Beach (91.27) 198-room resort that exudes a polished coastal look (wicker furniture; subtle blue-and-white-patterned fabrics) and opens onto a beachfront bicycle path. 1 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica; 800/334-9000; shuttersonthebeach.com; doubles from \$465-\$595.

NAPA/SEDONA

Auberge du Soleil (92.29) A favorite for nearly 30 years: the string of vine-covered *maisons* house 50 rooms; it also has 2 cottages. Rutherford; 800/348-5406; aubergedusoleil.com; doubles from \$600-\$1,175.

Calistoga Ranch, an Auberge Resort (88.73) 48 cedar-shingle lodges with open-air showers and a farm-to-table restaurant. Calistoga; 800/942-4220; calistogaranch.com; doubles from \$675-\$850.

Carneros Inn (87.71) Secluded country cottages (private patios; heated bathroom floors; soaking tubs) in the bucolic Carneros wine region. Napa; 888/400-9000; thecarnerosinn.com; doubles from \$395-\$690.

Hotel Healdsburg (89.30) Charlie Palmer's minimalist haven in Healdsburg's town square, home to the chef's Dry Creek Kitchen and a 500-bottle wine room.

ROOM RATES When offered as a range, hotel prices in the T+L 500 represent the starting rate during low season and the highest rate for the same room in high season; certain hotels have only one rack rate. In the case of a more complex pricing structure, T+L has asked each property for the most accurate range; lower rates may be available. International prices reflect exchange rates at press time.

METHODOLOGY T+L 500 hotels are the top-scoring properties as voted by readers in the annual World's Best Awards survey. Certain properties that scored highest in their state, country, or region are highlighted with images and extra content. For more information, go to TravelandLeisure.com/WorldsBest.

Healdsburg; 800/889-7188; hotelhealdsburg.com; doubles from \$310-\$410, including breakfast.

Meadowood Napa Valley (90.20) 250-acre estate with a country-club feel, plus a wine-education program and Restaurant at Meadowood, one of only 2 Michelin 3-starred restaurants in the western United States. St. Helena; 800/458-8080; meadowood.com; doubles from \$475-\$700.

Solage Calistoga (89.71) Family-friendly, hip, and modern: clean-lined cottages with cruiser bikes and a spa that specializes in mud therapies. Calistoga; 866/942-7442; solagecalistoga.com; doubles from \$325-\$625.

Villagio Inn & Spa (90.90) A cozy, 112-room escape close to French Laundry that offers digital wine guides and unlimited champagne at breakfast. Yountville; 800/351-1133; villagio.com; doubles from \$250-\$480, including breakfast.

ORANGE COUNTY

Hyatt Regency Huntington Beach Resort & Spa (87.56) Expansive Mediterranean-style resort with waterslides, surf instructors, and all 517 rooms redone in 2011. Huntington Beach; 800/233-1234; hyatt.com; doubles from \$179-\$499.

Montage Laguna Beach (90.20) Craftsman-style resort on 30 oceanfront acres; all 250 rooms have floor-to-ceiling windows. Laguna Beach; 866/271-6953; montagelagunabeach.com; doubles from \$375-\$895.

Resort at Pelican Hill (92.83) Built in 2008, this Palladian-style resort has huge rooms (starting at 847 square feet) and one of the largest circular pools in the world. Newport Beach; 800/820-6800; pelicanhill.com; doubles from \$395-\$695.

Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel (89.04) Relaxed resort with Jean-Michel Cousteau-approved marine programs, plus a new Pan-Latin restaurant, situated on a bluff above a legendary wave break. Dana Point; 800/241-3333; ritzcarlton.com; doubles from \$475-\$525.

St. Regis Monarch Beach (87.80) Sleek, 400-room golf-and-spa resort; the art collection includes works by Picasso and Chihuly.



The pool at San Ysidro Ranch, in Santa Barbara, California.

Dana Point; 877/787-3447; stregis.com; doubles from \$375-\$775.

Surf & Sand Resort (89.77) Relaxed oceanfront property, glowing from a 2011 renovation. Fun activities include beach yoga and stand-up paddleboarding. Laguna Beach; 800/524-8621; surfandsandresort.com; doubles from \$445-\$665.

PASADENA

Langham Huntington (87.40) Spectacular gardens, a spa, and the new Royce restaurant in a polished 1907 hotel a short drive from the San Gabriel Mountains. 1401 S. Oak Knoll Ave.; 800/591-7481; langhamhotels.com; doubles from \$189-\$575.

PEBBLE BEACH

Inn at Spanish Bay (92.23) 269 rooms and a bevy of patios and fire pits, set 1,000 feet from the ocean amid Monterey pines and overlooking the Links at Spanish

Bay. 800/654-9300; pebblebeach.com; doubles from \$615.

Lodge at Pebble Beach (91.14) One of the area's first hotels, dating to 1919; traditional rooms are warmed by fireplaces and have views of the 18th green of the Pebble Beach Golf Links. 800/654-9300; pebblebeach.com; doubles from \$715.

SAN FRANCISCO

Four Seasons Hotel (87.88) Glassy tower in the artsy Yerba Buena district, where you can take in skyline views from some of the city's largest guest rooms. 757 Market St.; 800/332-3442; fourseasons.com; doubles from \$515-\$535.

Mandarin Oriental (87.60) Celebrating 25 years in 2012, and set on the top 11 floors of San Francisco's third-tallest building. 222 Sansome St.; 800/526-6566; mandarinoriental.com; doubles from \$395-\$795.

St. Regis (88.83) Contemporary interior spaces, plus an indoor pool, in a high-rise adjacent to the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. 125 3rd St.; 877/787-3447; stregis.com; doubles from \$329-\$649.

Taj Campton Place (89.06) Streamlined rooms, Frette linens, and a Michelin-starred restaurant, 1 block north of Union Square. Campton Place, 340 Stockton St.; 866/969-1825; tajhotels.com; doubles from \$275-\$650.

SANTA BARBARA

Four Seasons Resort The Biltmore (91.79) Oceanfront grande dame frequented by celebrities. Tydes restaurant, at the beach club, recently launched an Italian-inspired menu. Montecito; 800/332-3442; fourseasons.com; doubles from \$395-\$895.

No. 1 CALIFORNIA

San Ysidro Ranch (93.86) 41 private cottages and suites renovated to the tune of \$100 million in 2009—set on 520 lavender-scented acres. Montecito; 800/368-6788; sanysidroranch.com; doubles from \$650.

ROOM TO BOOK The Kennedy Cottage—the suite where John and Jackie honeymooned in 1953—has private, vine-covered decks and panoramic ocean views.



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Renaissance Revival-style hotel with an opulent, revamped lobby, overlooking the Country Club Plaza shopping center. 325 Ward Pkwy.; 800/821-5343; raphaelkc.com; doubles from \$179-\$199.

MONTANA

DARBY

No. 1 UNITED STATES

Triple Creek Ranch (97.10) Adults-only mountain retreat on thousands of acres, with plush log cabins (wood-burning fireplaces; hot tubs), a 2,000-plus-bottle wine cellar, a chef's table, and a rotating collection of original art. 800/654-2943; triplecreekranch.com; doubles from \$750-\$950, including meals.

T+L TIP Don't miss a snowshoe excursion across the Chief Joseph Pass—first explored by Lewis and Clark in 1805—or the chocolate chip cookies served by cowboy-booted staffers on your return.

NEVADA

LAS VEGAS

Bellagio (88.92) A mid-Strip extravaganza: 14 restaurants, dancing fountains, and Hyde, a new lounge by Philippe Starck. 3600 Las Vegas Blvd. S.; 888/987-6667; bellagio.com; doubles from \$159-\$899.

Encore at Wynn (89.97) Steve Wynn's second Vegas resort is less glam and more desert oasis; the Encore Beach Club has 3 tiered pools and 40-foot palm trees; the casino has windows for natural light. 3121 Las Vegas Blvd. S.; 888/320-7123; wynnlasvegas.com; doubles from \$189.

Four Seasons Hotel (87.75) One of the more tranquil Vegas hotels, thanks to a hushed marble entrance, no casino, and a set-off location on the southern end of the Strip. 3960 Las Vegas Blvd. S.; 800/332-3442; fourseasons.com; doubles from \$229-\$449.

Mandarin Oriental (89.09) Asian-inspired interiors by Adam D. Tihany and the first U.S. restaurant by French chef Pierre Gagnaire in a non-gaming hotel in CityCenter. 3752 Las Vegas Blvd. S.; 800/526-6566; mandarinoriental.com; doubles from \$255.

The Palazzo (90.02) All-suite property with a Canyon Ranch SpaClub, Barneys New York, and 4 lounges including a champagne bar. 3325 Las Vegas Blvd. S.; 866/263-3001; palazzolasvegas.com; doubles from \$149-\$599.

NEW Trump International Hotel (88.00) 1,282-suite golden tower next to Fashion Show Mall. Family-friendly perks include spacious units with kitchenettes, board games, and children's books. 2000 Fashion Show Dr.; 855/878-6700; trumphotelcollection.com; doubles from \$129-\$209.

Venetian Resort Hotel (87.31) Inspired by its namesake city (canals; gondolas; even a piazza), with some of the largest rooms on the Strip and a new sports lounge. 3355 Las Vegas Blvd. S.; 866/659-9643; venetian.com; doubles from \$149-\$599.



No. 1 NEVADA

Wynn (90.12) The flagship property from developer Steve Wynn has 2,716 rooms, gardens, and 14 restaurants, including the new wine-focused La Cave. 3131 Las Vegas Blvd. S.; 888/320-7123; wynnlasvegas.com; doubles from \$169.

ROOM TO BOOK One of the rooms in the Tower Suites, where you'll get VIP check-in, exclusive concierge service, and access to a terrace with private pools.

NEW MEXICO

SANTA FE

NEW Encantado, an Auberge Resort (89.33) 57-acre spa resort and on-site art gallery, set against the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, 10 miles outside the city. 198 State Rd. 592; 877/262-4666; encantadoreresort.com; doubles from \$250-\$600.

Rosewood Inn of the Anasazi (89.17) 58-room boutique property with Native American style (wood-beamed ceilings; kiva fireplaces), steps from Santa Fe Plaza's museums. 113 Washington Ave.; 888/767-3966; rosewoodhotels.com; doubles from \$249.

NEW YORK

ADIRONDACKS

Lake Placid Lodge (91.56) 30 waterfront guest rooms, all done up in chic Adirondack Arts and Crafts style, and a new teaching kitchen for 4 different cooking classes. Lake Placid; 877/523-2700; lakeplacidlodge.com; doubles from \$675-\$775, including breakfast.

Sagamore Resort (89.75) 381-room resort, fresh from a \$20 million renovation that added a pool, on a private, 70-acre Lake George island. Bolton Landing; 866/385-6221; thesagamore.com; doubles from \$169-\$299.

Whiteface Lodge Resort & Spa (87.53) Rustic, all-suite lodge featuring Douglas fir beams and cast-iron fireplaces, plus a bowling alley, kayaks, and paddleboats. Lake Placid; 800/903-4045; thewhitefacelodge.com; doubles from \$340-\$390, including breakfast.

NEW YORK CITY

The Carlyle, A Rosewood Hotel (88.90) A 35-story Upper East Side icon close to Museum Mile with jazz performances at Bemelmans Bar and cabaret at Café Carlyle. 35 E. 76th St.; 888/767-3966; rosewoodhotels.com; doubles from \$550-\$1,400.

NEW Crosby Street Hotel (92.53) Quirky, contemporary interiors by Kit Kemp at a LEED Gold-certified property on a cobblestoned block in SoHo. 79 Crosby St.; 800/553-6674; crosbystreethotel.com; doubles from \$525.

Four Seasons Hotel (90.37) Monumental marble and onyx lobby, L'Atelier de Joël Robuchon restaurant, and rooms that average 600 square feet, in an I. M. Pei-designed tower. 57 E. 57th St.; 800/332-3442; fourseasons.com; doubles from \$995-\$1,150.

Hôtel Plaza Athénée (89.17) This 142-room retreat (now with a spa) set on a quiet, tree-lined street offers easy access to Madison Avenue's shopping scene. 37 E. 64th St.; 800/447-8800; plazaathenee.com; doubles from \$965.

NEW Loews Regency Hotel (88.23) A legendary business hotel convenient to midtown and Central Park. A major renovation is scheduled for mid 2012. 540 Park Ave.; 800/233-2356; loewshotels.com; doubles from \$389-\$509.

Mandarin Oriental (89.06) On the 35th through 54th floors of the Time Warner center, with Asian-inspired details and a spa tea

lounge. 80 Columbus Circle; 800/526-6566; mandarinoriental.com; doubles from \$795-\$995.

Peninsula New York (90.63) Classic Beaux-Arts façade, modern interiors, chauffeur-driven Mini Coopers, and a new sun terrace for yoga classes, all near midtown shopping. 700 5th Ave.; 866/382-8388; peninsula.com; doubles from \$975.

The Plaza (89.96) Landmark hotel at the corner of 5th Avenue and Central Park South with a food hall by Todd English and iPads in all 282 rooms for summoning your white-gloved butler. 5th Ave. at Central Park S.; 800/441-1414; fairmont.com; doubles from \$825.



No. 1 NEW YORK

Ritz-Carlton New York, Central Park (92.83) 22-story limestone tower a block from 5th Avenue, with 83 Central Park-facing rooms that are furnished with telescopes (and bird-watching guidebooks). 50 Central Park S.; 800/241-3333; ritzcarlton.com; doubles from \$745-\$1,195.

BEHIND THE SCENES This hotel took top scores for its location—in bustling midtown. To help navigate the area's traffic, a chauffeured house Bentley is at guests' beck and call (and if it's raining, the concierge will even lend out a Burberry trench coat.)

St. Regis (89.61) Luxurious details (such as Waterford crystal chandeliers), Alain Ducasse's Adour restaurant, and the refreshed King Cole Bar, in a 1904 Beaux-Arts icon on 5th Avenue. 2 E. 55th St.; 877/787-3447; stregis.com; doubles from \$1,095-\$1,345.

Trump International Hotel & Tower (89.04) The Donald's glass property on Central Park recently underwent a \$30 million renovation and has one of the city's top restaurants, Jean Georges. 1 Central Park W.; 855/878-6700; trumpinternationalcollection.com; doubles from \$595-\$950.



No.1
TENNESSEE

The Gambrel lounge at Blackberry Farm, in Tennessee's Great Smoky Mountains.

largest guest rooms. Public spaces display paintings by Mary Cassatt, while rooms have high-tech touches, including complimentary Wi-Fi. 210 W. Rittenhouse Square; 800/635-1042; rittenhousehotel.com; doubles from \$259-\$540.

RHODE ISLAND

NEWPORT

Castle Hill Inn (87.36) 19th-century Victorian mansion and recently redone beach house on a peninsula where the Atlantic meets Narragansett Bay. 888/466-1355; castlehillinn.com; doubles from \$309-\$459, including breakfast.

NEW Chanler at Cliff Walk (92.67) A 20-room hotel with rooms in plush Continental styles ranging from French Provincial to Regency, just 1 mile outside Newport, overlooking the Atlantic. 866/793-5664; thechanler.com; doubles from \$339-\$799.

WATCH HILL

NEW Ocean House (87.80) 1868 Victorian manor, primed from a 7-year, \$140 million renovation, on a private Atlantic Ocean beach. 888/552-2588; oceanhouseri.com; doubles from \$260-\$700.

SOUTH CAROLINA

BLUFFTON



No. 1 SOUTH CAROLINA

Inn at Palmetto Bluff, an Auberge Resort (92.80) Plantation-style resort on coastal marshland; 50 cottage rooms and suites, a spa, and outdoor activities (fly-fishing; holiday festivals). 866/706-6565; palmettobluffresort.com; doubles from \$425-\$925.

ROOM TO BOOK One of the 12 riverfront guest cottages, which have the best views of the May River. Lowcountry design touches include antique pine floors, fireplaces, and private porches.

CHARLESTON

Charleston Place (89.87) One of the city's largest hotels, with a 1-to-2 staff-to-guest

NEW Trump SoHo (89.33) 46-story tower suited for stylish SoHo thanks to touches by Trump's daughter Ivanka: muted interiors and a traditional hammam. 246 Spring St.; 855/878-6700; trumpotelcollection.com; doubles from \$449-\$895.

NORTH CAROLINA

ASHEVILLE

Inn on Biltmore Estate (90.97) A 210-room mansion set on George Vanderbilt's 8,000-acre Biltmore estate, surrounded by the Blue Ridge Mountains. 800/858-4130; biltmore.com; doubles from \$189-\$379.

CARY

Umstead Hotel & Spa (91.11) Tranquil 150-room food-focused property on 12 acres, minutes from the airport and downtown Raleigh. 866/877-4141; theumstead.com; doubles from \$279-\$449.

DUCK

Sanderling Resort & Spa (90.44) Cluster of cedar-shingled buildings along 13 Outer Banks acres, ideal for ocean views and easy access to hiking trails. 800/701-4111; thesanderling.com; doubles from \$110-\$250.

OREGON

CANNON BEACH

Stephanie Inn (93.14) Shingled hotel overlooking the famous Haystack Rock; the 41 rooms are equipped with fireplaces, private balconies, Tempur-Pedic beds, and Jacuzzis in the overhauled bathrooms. 800/633-3466; stephanieinn.com; doubles from \$359, including breakfast.

PENNSYLVANIA

BEDFORD SPRINGS

Omni Bedford Springs Resort (92.71) 2,200-acre

getaway (brick-and-white-column façade; 216 rooms; 2 pools), in a historic town centered around mineral springs that's convenient to Philadelphia and D.C. 2138 Business Rte. 220; 800/843-6664; omnihotels.com; doubles from \$249.

PHILADELPHIA

Four Seasons Hotel (88.69) Eight-story hotel on Logan Square—the city's cultural heart—plus a well-regarded spa. 1 Logan Square; 800/332-3442; fourseasons.com; doubles from \$295-\$395.

Hyatt at the Bellevue (88.67) Set in a 1904 historic building, this 188-room property (including 16 revamped suites) is located in Philly's burgeoning downtown. 200 S. Broad St.; 800/233-1234; hyatt.com; doubles from \$449.

Rittenhouse Hotel (91.50) Prestigious address on Rittenhouse Square with the city's



No. 1

AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Faru Faru Lodge at Singita Grumeti Reserves, in Tanzania.

annual wildebeest migration from one of the 25 Victorian-style tented camps on a hill in the western Serengeti. 255-28/2621-5182; serenahotels.com; doubles from \$660-\$970, including meals.

Serengeti Migration Camp (96.50) 20 tents with wraparound porches and attentive service along the Grumeti River, a popular gathering spot for hippos. 800/806-9565; elewana.com; doubles from \$1,460-\$1,560, all-inclusive.

Serengeti Serena Safari Lodge (88.55) Thatched-roof huts with local Makonde-style carvings among acacia trees in the Serengeti. 255-28/262-2612; serenahotels.com; doubles from \$370-\$625, including meals.

Serengeti Sopa Lodge (90.10) 79-suite secluded hotel with African interiors (traditional masks; handcrafted wood furnishings), overlooking the plains. 800/806-9565; sopalodges.com; doubles from \$225-\$480, including meals.

No. 1 AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Singita Grumeti Reserves (98.44) Africa's most luxurious mobile-safari experience is the latest addition to this 340,000-acre Serengeti concession with 4 separate camps. 27-21/683-6424; singita.com; doubles from \$1,700-\$2,300, all-inclusive.

BEHIND THE SCENES What does a perfect location score look like? A

manor house on a wide plateau; a tented camp with views of the Serengeti; 8 suites and 1 villa overlooking the rhino-filled Grumeti River; and a mobile safari that traverses it all.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

ABU DHABI

Emirates Palace (92.00) Reportedly the most expensive hotel ever built: 1,002 Swarovski chandeliers, 114 mosaic glass domes, and 394 rooms that feel like mini-palaces. W. Corniche Rd.; 971-2/690-9000; emiratespalace.ae; doubles from \$1,116.

DUBAI

Burj Al Arab (88.97) Sail-shaped icon on its own island off Jumeirah Beach. The 202 bi-level suites start at a massive 1,830 square feet. Jumeirah Beach Rd.; 877/854-8051; jumeirah.com; doubles from \$1,760.

Grand Hyatt (87.77) 674-room complex with 14 restaurants and an indoor rain forest where dhow boats are suspended from the ceiling. Sheikh Rashid Rd.; 800/233-1234; hyatt.com; doubles from \$327.

ZAMBIA

LIVINGSTONE

Royal Livingstone (88.29) 173 soon-to-be-updated colonial-style rooms in an estate-like setting

close enough to Victoria Falls to be sprinkled by mist. 800/727-9330; suninternational.com; doubles from \$960.

MEXICO AND CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

ARGENTINA

BARILOCHE

Llao Llao Hotel & Resort, Golf-Spa (88.25) 205-room lakeside lodge with alpine perks (private whirlpools; towel-warming racks) in the snowcapped Andes of Patagonia. 800/223-6800; llaollao.com.ar; doubles from \$353-\$569.

BUENOS AIRES

Alvear Palace Hotel (92.58) Classic French-inspired hotel (Hermès amenities; Louis XV design elements) celebrating its 80th year. A new sister property will open a mile away, in Plaza San Martín, this summer. 1891 Avda. Alvear; 800/223-6800; alvearpalace.com; doubles from \$460-\$800.

Four Seasons Hotel (90.50) 1920 mansion and tower connected by immaculately landscaped grounds and an herb garden, in exclusive La Recoleta. 1086/88 Calle Posadas;

800/332-3442; fourseasons.com; doubles from \$420-\$580.

Palacio Duhau - Park Hyatt (94.97) Two hotels in one—a Belle Époque mansion and a sleek 17-story addition—plus soaking tubs, an on-site art gallery, and a 3,500-label wine cellar. 1661 Avda. Alvear; 877/875-4658; park.hyatt.com; doubles from \$430-\$630.

Sofitel Buenos Aires Arroyo (87.25) Neoclassical French high-rise (the city's first skyscraper) with Art Deco interiors from Pierre-Yves Rochon and a refreshed Le Sud restaurant. 841 Calle Arroyo; 800/763-4835; sofitel.com; doubles from \$300-\$475.

MENDOZA

Park Hyatt (91.43) A 7-story whitewashed structure on Plaza Independencia, in a noted wine region nestled against the Andes. 877/875-4658; park.hyatt.com; doubles from \$264-\$455.

BELIZE

AMBERGRIS CAY

Victoria House (92.17) Relaxed island resort of 7 thatched-roof casitas (plus plantation rooms and suites) and 2 pools; the best jumping-off point for exploring the world's second-largest barrier reef. 800/247-5159; victoria-house.com; doubles from \$185-\$205.

CHAT WITH THE EDITOR OF THE T+L 500

For answers to your hotel-related questions, join digital projects editor Sarah Spagnolo on T+L's Facebook page (Facebook.com/TravelandLeisure) on Wednesday, January 4, at 2 p.m. EST.





No. 1

MEXICO AND CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

Inside a Raa suite at Posada de Mike Rapu / Explora Rapa Nui, on Chile's Easter Island.

CHILE

EASTER ISLAND

No. 1 MEXICO AND CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

NEW Posada de Mike Rapu / Explora Rapa Nui (95.47) 2007 local wood, stone, and glass LEED-certified lodge 2,300 miles off Chile's coast; excursions include guided visits to the *moai* stone quarries and treks to nearby volcanoes. 866/750-6699; exploracom; doubles from \$1,590, all-inclusive, 3-night minimum.

T+L TIP Unwind in the Posada's new Ancestral Sauna, a traditional Rapa Nui-style hothouse warmed by an aromatic open fire of eucalyptus branches (*treatments from \$50*).

SANTIAGO

Grand Hyatt (87.27) 310 stylish rooms and suites, a Thai restaurant, and a tri-level spa in the quiet residential district of Las Condes. 4601 Avda. Presidente Kennedy; 800/233-1234; hyatt.com; doubles from \$275.

Ritz-Carlton (88.11) 205-room property primarily for business travelers in the chic El Golf neighborhood, with a new tapas restaurant by Sergi Arola and a hot-spot bar frequented by locals. 15 Calle El Alcalde; 800/241-3333; ritzcarlton.com; doubles from \$498.

COLOMBIA

CARTAGENA

NEW Sofitel Cartagena Santa Clara (88.47) The Old City's preeminent luxury hotel, in a 17th-century former convent; the new French restaurant pours more than 250 standout bottles. 39-29 Calle del Torno; 800/763-4835; softel.com; doubles from \$310-\$530.

COSTA RICA

GUANACASTE

Four Seasons Resort Costa Rica at Peninsula Papagayo (89.68) Hillside resort with all the trimmings (2 beaches, 3 pools, verandas, and a spa) surrounded by a tropical dry forest. 800/332-3442; fourseasons.com; doubles from \$395-\$725.

NEW JW Marriott Guanacaste Resort & Spa (88.17) Three-year-old 310-room colonial beachfront property, a quick drive from the jungle for ziplining and mountain hikes. 800/228-9290; jwmarriott.com; doubles from \$299-\$455.

GUATEMALA

ANTIGUA

Hotel Museo Casa Santo Domingo (90.36) 16th-century convent turned hotel, colonial-art museum, and archaeological center; the renovated spa will reopen in July.

502/7820-1220; casasantodomingo.com.gt; doubles from \$155-\$205.

SOLOLÁ

NEW Hotel Atitlán (87.24) Former coffee plantation in the Guatemalan highlands with 140 lakeside rooms and volcano vistas. 502/7762-1441; hotelatitlan.com; doubles from \$135.

MEXICO

CANCÚN

Ritz-Carlton (90.80) The brand's only Mexican property; a 362-room retreat with a 1,200-foot strip of beachfront, plus tequila tastings and cooking lessons. 36 Retorno del Rey, Zona Hotelera; 800/241-3333; ritzcarlton.com; doubles from \$249-\$399.

NEW Royal Cancún (90.35) A Mediterranean-style, adults-only retreat; hammocks and showers for two lure honeymooners. Km 11.5, Kukulcan Blvd.; 800/760-0944; realresorts.com; doubles from \$588-\$848, all-inclusive.

LOS CABOS

NEW Casa Dorada Los Cabos Resort & Spa (88.21) Hip new suites-only spread on popular Médano Beach, a short walk from boutiques and restaurants. Cabo San Lucas; 866/448-0151; casadorada.com; doubles from \$219-\$300.

Esperanza, an Auberge Resort (92.21) 57 spacious casitas with verandas and infinity-edge hot tubs, overlooking 2 private coves (the place for sunrise yoga). Punta Ballena; 866/311-2226; esperanzaresort.com; doubles from \$695-\$1,150.

Las Ventanas al Paraíso, A Rosewood Resort (91.77) 71-suite beach hideaway and a just-reopened spa set beneath a canopy of 45 palms for an oasis-like feel. San José del Cabo; 888/767-3966; lasventanas.com; doubles from \$528-\$704.

One&Only Palmilla (93.22) 172-room resort with a boutique-hotel sensibility, 2 restaurants by Jean-Georges Vongerichten, and superb butler service, on a private beach dotted with shaded daybeds. San José del Cabo; 866/829-2977; oneandonlyresorts.com; doubles from \$585-\$740.

MEXICO CITY

Four Seasons Hotel Mexico, D.F. (92.00) Colonial-style urban retreat with 240 extra-large rooms on a promenade near Chapultepec Park. 500 Paseo de la Reforma;

800/332-3442; fourseasons.com; doubles from \$300-\$605.

PUNTA MITA

Four Seasons Resort (89.94) 173 rooms, 4 restaurants, and 2 golf courses on an isthmus near Puerto Vallarta. Kids and teens stay busy in the game room. 800/332-3442; fourseasons.com; doubles from \$250-\$535.

RIVIERA MAYA

NEW Excellence Riviera Cancún (90.67) Mediterranean-style 440-room resort suited for active types (jogging trails; tennis; Pilates) on the Riviera Maya. Km 324, Carr. Federal 307; 866/540-2585; excellence-resorts.com; doubles from \$360-\$500.

Maroma Resort & Spa (90.22) 65 rooms and suites, 1 villa, a stunning spa, and a new tequila and mezcal bar line a powder-white stretch of sand between Cancún and Playa del Carmen. Solidaridad; 866/454-9351; maromahotel.com; doubles from \$395-\$635, including breakfast.

Royal Hideaway Playacar (87.50) Traditional accents (Mexican art; lattice-wood headboards) at an adults-only all-inclusive beach resort 10 minutes from downtown Playa del Carmen. Playacar; 800/999-9182; royalhideaway.com; doubles from \$602-\$874, all-inclusive.

SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE

NEW Casa de Sierra Nevada (90.13) A jewel among San Miguel's growing collection of luxury hotels, with 37 colorful rooms (some with stone fireplaces) divided among 6 Spanish-colonial mansions. 800/701-1561; casadesierranevada.com; doubles from \$222.

ZIHUATANEJO

La Casa Que Canta (90.53) 25-suite adobe hideaway and an ocean-fed saltwater pool built into the rocks above Zihuatanejo Bay. 888/523-5050; lacasaquecanta.com; doubles from \$490.

PERU

CUZCO

Hotel Monasterio (91.78) 126 elegant, individually designed rooms around 3 landscaped courtyards in a converted 16th-century monastery. 136 Calle Palacio, Plazoleta Nazarenas; 800/237-1236; orient-express.com; doubles from \$700, including breakfast.

LIMA

JW Marriott Hotel (87.68) Eye-catching glass tower by