

SEVEN WINNING
TRAVEL APPS

Condé Nast Traveler

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*



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THE AMERICAS

"Build it and they will come" is strikingly the case along Mexico's coasts, both historic and hedonistic

MEXICO HAS ITS CHALLENGES these days, but they have not deterred the visionary development of its shorelines—the Riviera Maya on the Atlantic, the Riviera Nayarit on the Pacific—which are undergoing huge building booms. The appeal is clear: beachfront locations, easy access from the United States (most of these resorts are within an hour's drive of the international airports of Cancún or Puerto Vallarta), and hotel brands that cater to the luxe market. Such growth has had a marked effect on our Gold List: Six resorts on the Yucatán Peninsula and the Riviera Nayarit debut this year.

The stucco buildings of Maroma, on the Riviera Maya, were crafted on a former coconut plantation. Its oceanfront location scores 98.6.



ATLANTIC AND CARIBBEAN ISLANDS

CuisinArt Resort & Spa, Anguilla 87.6
 89.2 91.1 83.2 84.0 94.1 90.1 82.0

Curtain Bluff, Antigua 91.0
 90.0 94.0 91.8 94.0 90.0 86.0

Jumby Bay (Rosewood), Antigua 89.7
 88.7 91.9 87.1 91.8 90.3 88.5

One&Only Ocean Club, Paradise Island, Bahamas 90.0
 90.5 89.1 84.1 93.8 93.7 88.9

The Reef Atlantis, Paradise Island, Bahamas 90.3

89.9 90.9 75.8 93.9 87.9 100
 A stay at this tower within Atlantis is "like living in your own paradisaical apartment" with a kitchen, living space, and ocean views. Marble floors, sleek sofas, and chandeliers fill public spaces. Atlantis's 40 restaurants include several focusing on seafood: Try ancho chile-rubbed salmon at Mesa, conch fritters at Birmini Road. Swimming with dolphins is one of the perfect-scoring activities.

Sandy Lane, Barbados 89.0
 91.0 86.6 86.6 94.0 86.6 89.2

The Reefs Hotel & Club, Bermuda 93.8
 90.6 94.7 95.1 96.1 95.1 91.1

Tucker's Point Hotel & Spa, Bermuda 88.0
 94.3 77.1 80.0 91.4 94.3 91.2

2011 GOLD LIST

KEY TO SYMBOLS

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

SCORES IN RED = OVERALL

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.)

This year-old "sparkling hotel" embodies colonial Bermuda. "Fabulous views of sky and sea appear at every turn." Rooms have balconies—some with "a huge daybed"—and whimsical touches like butterfly nets. The small spa has "a shower with 18 heads." "Staff, though well intentioned, are a bit disorganized." The Point has 80-foot-long murals and serves local swordfish.

Peninsula House, Las Terrenas, Dominican Republic 98.6
 100 100 96.6 96.6 100

Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman 94.1
 96.9 93.3 93.3 96.0 92.9 91.9

Spice Island Beach Resort, Grenada 89.0
 92.3 92.3 84.6 92.3 88.5 84.0

The Caves, Negri, Jamaica 93.1
 93.1 93.1 93.1 93.1 93.1

Couples Swept Away, Negri, Jamaica 89.7
 87.9 89.9 86.7 90.9 89.9 92.9

Jamaica Inn, Ocho Rios, Jamaica 89.9
 90.6 94.3 92.5 88.7 90.6 82.7

Sandals Royal Plantation, Ocho Rios, Jamaica 90.0
 95.6 93.3 86.7 86.7 88.6 88.9

Sandals Whitehouse European Village & Spa, Whitehouse, Jamaica 87.7
 86.8 86.8 91.2 79.4 91.2 91.0

Four Seasons, Nevis 88.5
 89.9 91.1 82.9 91.8 88.6 86.5

Nisbet Plantation Beach Club, Nevis 93.7
 95.3 97.2 96.3 95.3 93.4 84.5

Peter Island Resort & Spa, Peter Island 91.1
 84.7 86.3 90.4 97.3 95.8 91.8

Las Casitas Resort, Las Croabas, Puerto Rico 87.6

87.6 97.4 97.7 75.7 73.7 92.1
 This 500-acre resort near El Yunque rain forest has "an upscale, chic atmosphere" and "beautiful exteriors." Due to the resort's size, "you need to have transportation or the luxury of time to walk." Staff embody "the hospitality of Puerto Rico." More than 20 bars and restaurants include Blossoms, serving pan-Asian specialties. Unwind on Palomino Island, the resort's private getaway just offshore.

Horned Dorset Primavera, Rincón, Puerto Rico 90.1
 94.1 94.1 91.4 85.7 85.3

Eden Rock, St. Barts 90.9
 91.2 89.7 88.6 95.6 89.6

Hotel Saint Barth Isle de France, St. Barts 91.2
 87.5 89.3 92.9 96.4 89.3

Anse Chastanet, St. Lucia 89.9
 91.7 89.6 85.4 85.4 95.8 91.5

Jade Mountain, St. Lucia 93.8

94.7 92.1 94.7 94.7 94.7 91.9
 The sister property of Anse Chastanet has "a setting that is spectacular," looking out the Piton Mountains. Airy and modern accommodations have an open wall facing the sea, 20 varieties of hardwood, and "infinity pools" with iridescent tiles. The club's dinner menu "changes with the seasons," but the emphasis is on seafood. End the night with "heavenly cocktails on the Celestial Terrace." Staff take the attitude that "nothing is too much trouble."

Ladera, St. Lucia 90.1
 89.8 86.4 89.7 94.9 89.7

Parrot Cay, Turks and Caicos 90.1
 81.7 94.4 85.9 94.4 94.4 90.0

Grace Bay Club, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos 88.9
 94.7 86.2 82.8 94.7 91.5 83.7

Biras Creek Resort, Virgin Gorda 89.4
 88.7 90.6 90.9 96.3 88.9 80.8

CANADA

ALBERTA

Fairmont Banff Springs, Banff 87.9
 78.8 86.8 85.8 95.5 91.7 88.8

Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise, Lake Louise 89.4
 85.5 88.5 86.6 96.4 91.0 88.4

Post Hotel & Spa, Lake Louise 90.7
 92.4 96.2 92.4 87.3 93.7 81.6

BRITISH COLUMBIA

King Pacific Lodge (Rosewood), Princess Royal Island 97.0

96.8 96.8 96.8 100 95.2 96.8

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 92.7 92.5

Rosewood Mansion on Turtle Creek, Dallas 93.6
 93.0 97.3 97.3 87.7 92.4

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 décor have dark hardwood floors, black glass table lamps, upholstered headboards, and chaise sofas and ottomans in aubergine velvet. Dine on rainbow trout pecandine or pomegranate molasses-lacquered duck at Bistro Alex. Monnalla 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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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

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.



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