

TRAVEL TIPS 2011 + FREQUENT-FLIER SECRETS: MILEAGE UPGRADES

TRAVEL + LEISURE

500 WORLD'S BEST HOTELS

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T+L 500

WORLD'S BEST HOTELS

Each year, *Travel + Leisure* asks readers to vote on their favorite hotels around the globe. What makes this, our ninth annual compendium of the top-ranked hotels from the World's Best Awards survey, stand out? Almost half of the winners are located in the U.S. and Canada, and another 20 percent are in Europe. Meanwhile, some of the most iconic destinations—California, Florida, Italy, France, and China—have 135 properties among them, and 62 hotels offer rates of less than \$250 a night. Also at your fingertips: our picks of the best farm-to-table restaurants, pools, tech amenities, and more. Plus, you'll find extended listings at TravelandLeisure.com, and—drumroll, please—the T+L 500 iPad edition, complete with interactive bonus features, will be on the App Store in January. So you can pinpoint your next hotel even if you're on the road.

VIRGINIA

ARLINGTON

Ritz-Carlton, Pentagon City (88.52) 366 luxe rooms on the Potomac River, with in easy reach of all of D.C.'s major monuments. 1250 S. Hayes St.; 800/241-3333; ritzcarlton.com; doubles from \$349.

CHARLOTTESVILLE

Keswick Hall (87.81) Stately Tuscan-style structure dating from 1912, with one of Virginia's top restaurants. 701 Club Dr.; 800/274-5391; keswick.com; doubles from \$395.

HOT SPRINGS

The Homestead (86.87) 1766 grand brick property in Southern style. The hotel recently renovated 157 rooms and suites. 800/838-1766; thehomestead.com; doubles from \$250.

MCLEAN

Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner (88.93) Contemporary tower with traditional interiors, across the Potomac from D.C. 800/241-3333; ritzcarlton.com; doubles from \$419.

RICHMOND

Jefferson Hotel (87.38) An 1895 Beaux-Arts property complete with porticoes and a clock tower. 101 W. Franklin St.; 800/424-8014; jeffersonhotel.com; doubles from \$335.

WASHINGTON

Inn at Little Washington (88.25) Romantic early-20th-century manor—a theatrical riot of fabrics and wallpapers. 540/675-3800; theinnatlittlewashington.com; doubles from \$425.

WASHINGTON

SEATTLE

Alexis Hotel (87.33) Walls of this downtown boutique hotel display original art selected by a Seattle Art Museum curator. 1007 1st Ave.; 888/850-1155; alexishotel.com; doubles from \$389.

Fairmont Olympic Hotel (86.32) Over-the-top property exuding old-world glamour (robin's-egg-blue accents; Biedermeier furniture)—a rarity in Seattle. 411 University St.; 800/441-1414; fairmont.com; doubles from \$269.

NEW Four Seasons Hotel (88.24) Two-year-old, 21-story hotel with captivating views of Puget Sound. 99 Union St.; 800/332-3442; fourseasons.com; doubles from \$365.

Grand Hyatt (87.29)

Downtown tower, convenient to Pike Place Market. 721 Pine St.; 800/233-1234; hyatt.com; doubles from \$199.

Hotel Monaco (86.20) Playful 11-story property; rooms boast theatrical prints, the lobby has

an aquatic theme. 1101 4th Ave.; 800/715-6513; monaco-seattle.com; doubles from \$349.

Vintage Park (87.25) 1922 brick structure downtown, made to look like a European inn. 1100 5th Ave.; 800/853-3914; hotelvintagepark.com; doubles from \$299.

WHIDBEY ISLAND

Inn at Langley (87.56) Intimate retreat on a Puget Sound island, with a weekends-only (plus Thursdays in summer) restaurant that's justly famous. Langley; 360/221-3033; innatlangley.com; doubles from \$290, including breakfast.

WEST VIRGINIA

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS

The Greenbrier (88.48) Recently renovated 1913 resort in the Allegheny Mountains, renowned for its Dorothy Draper interiors. The new restaurant, and casino complex was designed by Carleton Varney. 300 W. Main St.; 800/453-4858; greenbrier.com; doubles from \$249.

WYOMING

JACKSON/GRAND TETON

Four Seasons Resort (93.43) A team of adventure concierges is at the ready at this ski-in, ski-out lodge. Teton Village; 800/332-3442; fourseasons.com; doubles from \$650.

Rusty Parrot Lodge & Spa (86.40) 31-room gabled lodgepole pine inn near Jackson's town square, with excellent service (house-made cookies await returning skiers). 800/739-1749; rustyparrot.com; doubles from \$260.

Canada

ALBERTA

BANFF

Fairmont Banff Springs (87.26) 19th-century Scottish castle amid the peaks of Banff National Park. 800/441-1414; fairmont.com; doubles from \$290.

LAKE LOUISE

Post Hotel & Spa (93.07) Chalet-style lodge with a 26,000-bottle wine cellar. 800/661-1586; posthotel.com; doubles from \$305.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

TOFINO

Wickaninnish Inn (93.14) Nature- and food-focused inn on a rocky promontory, with the Pacific Rim National Park as a backdrop. 800/333-4604; wickinn.com; doubles from \$286.



VANCOUVER

Pan Pacific (87.35) 503 waterfront rooms in downtown Vancouver. 300-999 Canada Place; 877/324-4856; panpacific.com; doubles from \$244.

VICTORIA

Fairmont Empress (87.69) Edwardian landmark overlooking Inner Harbour and known for its afternoon tea (served under a portrait of Queen Mary). 800/441-1414; fairmont.com; doubles from \$299.

WHISTLER

Fairmont Chateau Whistler

(86.32) Ski-in, ski-out resort in the upper village, with a Robert Trent Jones Jr.-designed golf course and GFS-equipped golf carts. 800/441-1414; fairmont.com; doubles from \$487.

Four Seasons Resort

(89.57) Stone-and-timber lodge with a new steak house, Sidecut, at the base of Blackcomb Mountain. 800/332-3442; fourseasons.com; doubles from \$393.

ONTARIO

TORONTO

Park Hyatt (87.33) In Yorkville—the epicenter of activity during the Toronto Film Festival—across from the Royal Ontario Museum. 4 Avenue Rd.; 877/875-4658; parkhyatt.com; doubles from \$277.

QUEBEC

QUEBEC CITY

Auberge Saint-Antoine (92.80) 95 rooms—some showcasing 300-year-old artifacts found on-site—on the St. Lawrence River. 8 Rue St.-Antoine; 888/692-2211; saint-antoine.com; doubles from \$350.

Fairmont Le Château

Frontenac (87.51) 1893 castle overlooking the St. Lawrence River in Old Quebec, with a just-opened Puyot spa. 1 Rue des Carrières; 800/441-1414; fairmont.com; doubles from \$174.

Europe

AUSTRIA

SALZBURG

Hotel Goldener Hirsch, a Luxury Collection Hotel (88.08) Atmospheric 70-room property dating to the 15th century near Mozart's former residence in Old Town. 37 Getreidegasse; 800/325-3589; goldenerhirschsalzburg.com; doubles from \$751.

Hotel Sacher Salzburg (89.82) 1866 hotel on the Salzach River.

Oversize windows look out onto postcard-worthy views of Old Town. 5-7 Schwarzerstrasse; 800/223-6800; sacher.com; doubles from \$541.

VIENNA

Hotel Imperial, a Luxury Collection Hotel (91.52) 1863 palace on the Ring, with traditional interiors—crystal chandeliers, brocade curtains—and a stellar concierge staff. 16 Kärntner Ring 800/325-3589; hotelimperialvienna.com; doubles from \$605.

Hotel Sacher Wien

(90.17) Belle Époque property opposite the opera house; Pierre-Yves Rochon is refurbishing the rooms. 4 Philharmonikerstrasse; 800/223-6800; sacher.com; doubles from \$657.

BELGIUM

BRUSSELS

Hotel Amigo (86.95) A former 16th-century brick prison near the Grand Place, now a light-filled hotel with surrealist art, including Magritte drawings. Rue de l'Amigo; 888/667-9477; hotelamigo.com; doubles from \$416.

CZECH REPUBLIC

PRAGUE

Four Seasons Hotel (90.33) Four architecturally distinct buildings on the east bank of the Vltava River. Renovations will be completed in June. 2A/1098 Voleslavínova; 800/332-3442; fourseasons.com; doubles from \$503.

NEW Mandarin Oriental

(92.94) Restored 14th-century monastery, plus a modern wing, in the heart of the historic Malá Strana district. 459/7 Neboušádká; 866/526-6566; mandarinoriental.com; doubles from \$344.

ENGLAND

BATH

Royal Crescent Hotel (90.90) Two 18th-century row houses and a holistic spa at the center of Bath's semicircle of Georgian-era residences. 16 Royal Crescent; 800/735-2478; royalcrescent.co.uk; doubles from \$545, including breakfast.

LONDON

Brown's Hotel (90.43) Eleven Georgian town houses in Mayfair combine history (Churchill and Kipling were guests) with contemporary interiors. Albemarle St.; 888/667-9477; roccoforte.com; doubles from \$585.

Claridge's (89.79) Landmark Mayfair property; steps from Bond Street boutiques, revered for its Art Deco elements and Gordon Ramsay restaurant. Diane von