

CARIBBEAN'S
SECRET ISLANDS

AMSTERDAM'S
NEW BEAUTY

HONOLULU'S
CLASSIC CHIC

Condé Nast Traveler

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

JANUARY 2013

GOLD LIST WORLD'S BEST PLACES TO STAY

510

TOP HOTELS, RESORTS,
CRUISE LINES

(It doesn't get any better than this!)

SPECIAL REPORT

THE END
OF THE
RHINO?

ROMAN HOLIDAY The good life
on a terrace of the Villa Cupola suite
at the Westin Excelsior, Rome.



The Grandview Conference Center at the Big Cedar Lodge, in Ridgedale, Missouri, looks onto the wooded slopes of the Ozark Mountains. The resort earns a 92.7 for location.

Southern-style affair taken indoors or in the private garden. Dinner is not offered, but head to the parlor for early-evening complimentary wine and hors d'oeuvres served by "innkeepers who really want you to be satisfied with your stay."

☞ **The Cloister, Sea Island 95.6**
 ☞ 96.5 ☞ 96.2 ☞ 94.0 ☞ 95.7 ☞ 95.3 ☞ 96.1

HAWAII

☞ **Fairmont Orchid, Big Island 90.0**
 ☞ 86.5 ☞ 91.5 ☞ 86.0 ☞ 93.8 ☞ 91.1 ☞ 90.8

☞ **Four Seasons Hualalai, Big Island 95.2**
 ☞ 95.2 ☞ 97.1 ☞ 93.2 ☞ 95.7 ☞ 96.2 ☞ 94.1

☞ **Grand Hyatt Kauai Resort and Spa, Kauai 90.4**
 ☞ 88.4 ☞ 90.9 ☞ 84.8 ☞ 93.5 ☞ 91.8 ☞ 92.9

St. Regis Princeville Resort, Kauai 93.0
 ☞ 95.1 ☞ 94.1 ☞ 89.1 ☞ 95.2 ☞ 94.1 ☞ 90.4

☞ **Four Seasons Lana'i at Manele Bay, Lanai 94.7**
 ☞ 96.3 ☞ 96.3 ☞ 85.5 ☞ 95.6 ☞ 96.9 ☞ 97.5

☞ **Four Seasons Lana'i, The Lodge at Koele, Lanai 96.2**
 ☞ 96.1 ☞ 95.1 ☞ 92.1 ☞ 97.1 ☞ 99.0 ☞ 98.0

☞ **Fairmont Kea Lani, Maui 89.8**
 ☞ 90.6 ☞ 90.0 ☞ 81.9 ☞ 97.5 ☞ 89.4 ☞ 89.5

☞ **Four Seasons Maui at Wailea, Maui 93.9**
 ☞ 93.4 ☞ 95.7 ☞ 92.2 ☞ 97.0 ☞ 92.2 ☞ 92.7

☞ **Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua, Maui 89.5**
 ☞ 93.5 ☞ 90.4 ☞ 88.8 ☞ 87.2 ☞ 87.7

Wailea Beach Villas, Maui 93.7
 ☞ 96.2 ☞ 92.3 ☞ 86.4 ☞ 96.2 ☞ 96.2

This gated 11-acre residential property on Wailea Beach has private pedestrian access to Maui's luxury shopping mall The Shops at Wailea. "Top-of-the-range" accommodations, the two- and three-bedroom penthouse suites and villas range from 1,900 to 3,100 square feet and have open floor plans and balconies with garden or ocean views; some come with private pools. Guests can walk to "three or four of the best restaurants in Wailea."

☞ **Halekulani, Oahu 91.1**
 ☞ 91.5 ☞ 90.2 ☞ 90.7 ☞ 93.0 ☞ 90.2

Royal Hawaiian (Luxury Collection), Oahu 89.9
 ☞ 82.3 ☞ 90.3 ☞ 87.5 ☞ 98.3 ☞ 90.9

Trump International Hotel Waikiki Beach Walk, Oahu 93.6
 ☞ 96.9 ☞ 95.1 ☞ 88.1 ☞ 92.0 ☞ 95.7

ILLINOIS

☞ **Four Seasons, Chicago 91.7**
 ☞ 92.3 ☞ 93.6 ☞ 89.0 ☞ 96.3 ☞ 87.3

☞ **Park Hyatt, Chicago 93.3**
 ☞ 94.5 ☞ 92.1 ☞ 90.7 ☞ 97.0 ☞ 92.1

☞ **The Peninsula, Chicago 94.8**
 ☞ 93.9 ☞ 94.4 ☞ 93.3 ☞ 97.0 ☞ 95.3

☞ **Ritz-Carlton, Chicago 92.3**
 ☞ 93.9 ☞ 93.9 ☞ 90.8 ☞ 95.9 ☞ 86.7

Waldorf Astoria, Chicago 97.9
 ☞ 99.2 ☞ 97.7 ☞ 95.7 ☞ 97.4 ☞ 99.2

KENTUCKY

☞ **21c Museum Hotel, Louisville 96.8**
 ☞ 97.3 ☞ 97.3 ☞ 95.8 ☞ 95.8 ☞ 97.9

MAINE

Chebeague Island Inn, Casco Bay 93.0
 ☞ 95.5 ☞ 95.7 ☞ 91.3 ☞ 91.3 ☞ 91.3

☞ **White Barn Inn & Spa, Kennebunk Beach 91.3**
 ☞ 94.0 ☞ 93.2 ☞ 94.0 ☞ 89.0 ☞ 86.4

MARYLAND

Inn at Perry Cabin, St. Michaels 93.6
 ☞ 93.6 ☞ 92.4 ☞ 93.6 ☞ 94.9 ☞ 93.7

MASSACHUSETTS

☞ **Eliot Hotel, Boston 89.6**
 ☞ 92.4 ☞ 87.0 ☞ 89.5 ☞ 94.6 ☞ 84.8

Fifteen Beacon, Boston 95.4
 ☞ 95.9 ☞ 95.9 ☞ 94.5 ☞ 97.1 ☞ 93.5

Four Seasons, Boston 89.7
 ☞ 90.0 ☞ 90.9 ☞ 86.9 ☞ 91.8 ☞ 88.7

Mandarin Oriental, Boston 94.7
 ☞ 95.3 ☞ 94.3 ☞ 93.3 ☞ 96.3 ☞ 94.4

Chatham Bars Inn, Chatham, Cape Cod 89.4
 ☞ 89.4 ☞ 87.5 ☞ 87.4 ☞ 95.8 ☞ 90.3 ☞ 85.8

☞ **Wequassett Resort and Golf Club, Chatham, Cape Cod 89.8**
 ☞ 87.5 ☞ 86.4 ☞ 91.3 ☞ 91.4 ☞ 91.4 ☞ 91.1

☞ **Blantyre, Lenox 91.9**
 ☞ 90.6 ☞ 100 ☞ 84.4 ☞ 96.9 ☞ 87.5

Canyon Ranch, Lenox 90.6
 ☞ 85.3 ☞ 94.1 ☞ 91.2 ☞ 90.9 ☞ 91.2 ☞ 91.2

☞ **The Wauwinet, Nantucket 93.1**
 ☞ 83.7 ☞ 95.9 ☞ 100 ☞ 98.0 ☞ 87.8

White Elephant, Nantucket 92.1
 ☞ 92.4 ☞ 92.4 ☞ 89.4 ☞ 93.9 ☞ 92.4

MISSISSIPPI

Alluvian Hotel, Greenwood 89.3
 ☞ 93.3 ☞ 90.0 ☞ 96.7 ☞ 73.3 ☞ 93.3

MISSOURI

Big Cedar Lodge, Ridgedale 92.7
 ☞ 90.2 ☞ 92.7 ☞ 89.0 ☞ 92.7 ☞ 97.6 ☞ 93.8
 Tucked in the Ozarks, this lodge on 230 acres by Table Rock Lake "has the feel of a

wilderness retreat with the modern amenities and dining you usually get at a big-city hotel." Adirondack-style buildings made of rough stone and deep-grained wood house "cozy but elegant accommodations" ranging from private log cabins with stained-glass accents to rooms with vaulted ceilings in Tudor-style cottages. **Quetta catol** "all the specialty food items," like the ice cream served at Frosty's, in a vintage Airstream. "There's so much to do or nothing to do, depending on how you like it," including "great bass fishing in the lake." A cook lady visits every room before turndown.

NEVADA

☞ **Bellagio, Las Vegas 89.7**
 ☞ 89.3 ☞ 82.9 ☞ 90.2 ☞ 95.3 ☞ 90.8

Encore at Wynn, Las Vegas 90.7
 ☞ 96.1 ☞ 87.5 ☞ 91.9 ☞ 84.5 ☞ 93.3

☞ **Four Seasons, Las Vegas 91.2**
 ☞ 93.7 ☞ 96.0 ☞ 90.5 ☞ 86.2 ☞ 89.7

The Palazzo, Las Vegas 90.6
 ☞ 94.5 ☞ 84.1 ☞ 90.7 ☞ 92.1 ☞ 92.0 ☞ 89.8

☞ **The Venetian, Las Vegas 89.4**
 ☞ 92.5 ☞ 85.0 ☞ 87.6 ☞ 92.0 ☞ 89.7

☞ **Wynn, Las Vegas 91.8**
 ☞ 96.9 ☞ 89.9 ☞ 91.4 ☞ 87.4 ☞ 94.4 ☞ 91.0

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Wentworth by the Sea Hotel & Spa, New Castle 93.2
 ☞ 93.9 ☞ 94.5 ☞ 90.6 ☞ 95.0 ☞ 92.3

NEW JERSEY

Virginia Hotel, Cape May 91.9
 ☞ 90.9 ☞ 92.6 ☞ 92.5 ☞ 94.5 ☞ 89.1

At the oldest seashore resort in the country—"one of the prettiest beach towns"—find "top-drawer accommodations." The location in the core of the historic district impresses: "You can park your car and never use it again until you depart." The town house-like setup includes "beautiful rooms with high ceilings" and "super comfortable beds" outfitted with Italian and Belgian linens. The Ebbitt Room "has a buzz and great energy without being too formal" and an "impressively constructed" farm-to-table menu.

NEW MEXICO

Inn of the Five Graces, Santa Fe 94.2
 ☞ 95.2 ☞ 90.5 ☞ 94.7 ☞ 95.2 ☞ 95.2

This inn with 400-plus-year-old adobe buildings arranged around courtyards "is like Disneyland for all your senses." Kitted out with "unbelievable mosaic tilework," the rooms, in jewel tones, come with tapestries and candelabras, wood-burning fireplaces, and "bathrooms as large as the living room." 315 Restaurant serves contemporary French dinners, with desserts like squash-blossom beignets. The "excellent staff provide everything you could think of." The spa takes its inspiration from the therapies of India and Tibet. While the location near the Plaza is "great, we were so enamored of the room that we seldom left!"

Rosewood Inn of the Anasazi, Santa Fe 89.1
 ☞ 85.1 ☞ 90.4 ☞ 87.8 ☞ 94.7 ☞ 87.2

***El Monte Sagrado Living Resort and Spa, Taos 89.9**
 ☞ 91.1 ☞ 91.1 ☞ 83.9 ☞ 89.3 ☞ 94.6 ☞ 89.6

Inn and Spa at Loretto, Santa Fe 92.5
 ☞ 88.7 ☞ 90.3 ☞ 87.9 ☞ 99.2 ☞ 96.0

THE GOLD STANDARD

BEST SPOT TO BANISH WRITER'S BLOCK

Attention, all aspiring writers: Head straight to the Café Laurent, at the Hôtel d'Aubusson in Paris, where no less than Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, and Albert Camus were frequent visitors. May you be similarly inspired.

BEST ARGUMENT FOR GLOBALIZATION

Some hotels strive to emulate local design, but Hong Kong's Island Shangri-La embraces the world. Its interiors include Brazilian mahogany woodwork, Thai timber handrails, Portuguese and Spanish marble, and Austrian crystal chandeliers.