

WORLD ON SALE! 25 SMART WAYS TO STRETCH YOUR TRAVEL DOLLAR IN 2009

Condé Nast Traveler

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

JANUARY 2009

ITALY

SENSATIONAL
NEW SICILY

AUSTRALIA'S
BIG ADVENTURE

JORDAN'S
ANCIENT WONDERS

SPECIAL
44
PAGE
SECTION

GOLD LIST

710 WORLD'S BEST PLACES TO STAY

TOP HOTELS, RESORTS, CRUISE LINES

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NEW HAMPSHIRE

Inn at Thorn Hill & Spa, Jackson

☎97.4 ☎95.0 ☎95.0 ☎95.0 ☎92.5 ☎84.2 **93.2**
The former residence with a wraparound deck has rooms with steam showers, gas fireplaces, and "stunning views of the White Mountains." The dining room serves New American cuisine with Mediterranean accents that is "anything but pedestrian" and has a wine list of 1,800 wines. Count on "relaxed, efficient staff" to arrange a sleigh ride with champagne.
\$\$\$; 25 rooms; pool, spa; 603-383-4242; innatthornhill.com.

Wentworth by the Sea Marriott Hotel & Spa, New Castle

☎88.4 ☎83.8 ☎84.7 ☎89.9 ☎85.3 **86.4**
\$\$\$; 161 rooms; golf, tennis, pool, spa; 603-422-7322; marriott.com.

NEW MEXICO

Hyatt Regency Tamaya Resort & Spa, Santa Ana Pueblo

☎91.0 ☎85.9 ☎83.3 ☎80.8 ☎90.4
☎85.1 **86.1**
\$\$\$; 350 rooms; golf, tennis, pool, spa; 505-867-1234; hyatt.com.

Rancho de San Juan Country Inn, Española

☎85.2 ☎87.5 ☎91.7 ☎73.9 ☎91.3
86.0
\$\$\$; 13 rooms; 505-753-6818; ranchodesanjuan.com.

Inn of the Anasazi, Santa Fe

☎82.2 ☎84.2 ☎81.4 ☎94.9 ☎85.4
85.6
\$\$\$; 58 rooms; 505-988-3030; rosewoodhotels.com.

Inn of the Five Graces, Santa Fe

☎87.0 ☎87.0 ☎79.2 ☎87.5 ☎87.5
85.6
\$\$\$; 23 suites; 505-992-0957; fivegraces.com.

✓ Casa de las Chimeneas, Taos

☎87.1 ☎87.1 ☎87.1 ☎86.7
☎87.1 **87.0**
This former private hacienda has interiors with skylights and hand-finished plaster. Southwestern rooms have beamed ceilings, beehive fireplaces, and "pretty blankets." Spend the day hiking—staff will pack you a picnic. More relaxing options include a hot river-rock massage. The "inviting and very pretty dining room" serves a full breakfast but only a light dinner of soups and salads.
\$\$; 8 rooms; spa; 877-758-4777; visittaos.com.

* El Monte Sagrado, Taos

☎92.3 ☎81.6 ☎78.4 ☎86.8 ☎94.7
☎90.0 **87.1**

"At one with nature," this resort among cottonwood trees recycles its water and has geothermal heating and cooling. The buildings are made of adobe, compressed earth block, and recycled-content concrete. Kiva-style fireplaces and stone tiles kit out Native American suites. De La Tierra serves "passable" seasonal, regional American dishes. The Living Spa offers a high-desert body polish.
\$\$\$; 84 rooms; pool, spa, skiing; 575-758-3502; kesslercollection.com.

NEW YORK

* Mirror Lake Inn Resort and Spa, Lake Placid

☎89.0 ☎89.0 ☎85.8 ☎94.2 ☎87.7 ☎83.2 **88.2**
The "balcony flower boxes dazzle as you drive up" to this Olympic Village inn where staff await with chocolate chip cookies. White clapboard buildings have rooms with "a ski lodge feel"—snowshoes on the walls, and terraces with views of the Adirondacks and Mirror Lake. The Cottage is a popular après-ski spot.
\$\$\$; 131 rooms; tennis, pool, spa, beach, water sports; 518-523-2544; mirrorlakeinn.com.

Four Seasons, New York

☎95.3 ☎92.9 ☎92.4 ☎95.7 ☎93.2 **93.9**
The 52-floor I. M. Pei tower comes with a 23-foot glass-and-stone entryway. L'Atelier de Joël Robuchon has French-influenced dishes served at a high counter surrounding an open kitchen. The service is "exceptional—every time a staff member saw our preschoolers, he handed them brand-new stuffed animals." Spacious rooms have English sycamore furniture.
\$\$\$; 368 rooms; spa; 212-758-5700; fourseasons.com.

Mandarin Oriental, New York

☎93.5 ☎89.5 ☎91.8 ☎95.9 ☎93.6 **92.8**
Guests at this property across from Central Park wake to "views of the park from floor-to-ceiling windows." Asiate represents "the paradigm in understated elegance," offering Asian-influenced fare with views of the city. While concierge staff "aren't warm," restaurant service is "extremely friendly and professional."



BIRDS OF NO FEATHERS



Four-foot-tall plastic red penguins, designed by the collective Cracking Art, circulate throughout 21c Museum Hotel, in Louisville, Kentucky.

The spa has color-therapy lighting and slate floors.
\$\$\$; 248 rooms; pool, spa; 212-805-8881; mandarinoriental.com.

Ritz-Carlton New York, Central Park, New York

☎94.4 ☎91.7 ☎89.4 ☎98.3 ☎91.0 **93.0**
The setting of this 33-story town house-style hotel on Central Park "could not be better." "Classical rooms" have plush upholstery, brocade drapes, and "huge closets." BLT Market presents a menu of seasonal fish, meat, and cheese from local producers; traditional afternoon tea is served at the Star Lounge. Doormen "make an effort to get to know you during your stay."
\$\$\$; 259 rooms; spa; 212-308-9100; ritzcarrton.com.

St. Regis, New York

☎91.6 ☎95.1 ☎88.2 ☎96.0 ☎91.6 **92.5**
At this "perfectly located" 18-story Beaux Arts landmark off Fifth Avenue, the "truly regal decor" includes crystal chandeliers, Louis XV furniture, and a library of 3,000 leather-bound books. Rooms, recently redesigned, are "so comfortable, you just want to stay in bed." King Cole Bar serves the Bloody Mary, created

at the hotel in the 1930s. Among the "extremely attentive and accommodating staff" are 24-hour butlers.
\$\$\$; 164 rooms; spa; 212-753-4500; starwood.com.

Hôtel Plaza Athénée, New York

☎84.6 ☎90.8 ☎82.5 ☎90.8 ☎81.5 **86.1**
\$\$\$; 149 rooms; 212-734-9100; plaza-athenee.com.

Ritz-Carlton New York, Battery Park, New York

☎94.2 ☎91.3 ☎84.6 ☎69.4 ☎87.2 **85.3**
\$\$\$; 298 rooms; spa; 212-344-0800; ritzcarrton.com.

The Carlyle, New York

☎78.0 ☎89.4 ☎87.6 ☎88.5 ☎84.8 **85.7**
\$\$\$; 187 rooms; spa; 212-744-1600; rosewoodhotels.com.

Trump International Hotel & Tower, New York

☎86.5 ☎81.6 ☎82.5 ☎92.3 ☎83.0 **85.2**
\$\$\$; 167 rooms; pool, spa; 212-299-1000; trumpintl.com.

NORTH CAROLINA

Inn on Biltmore Estate, Asheville

☎92.7 ☎93.8 ☎88.7 ☎94.3
☎91.9 **92.3**

This Appalachian inn shares an 8,000-acre estate with the Biltmore House, America's largest home, and has landscaped gardens created by Frederick Law Olmsted. Inside, encounter fresh-cut flowers, wrought iron accents, and "a massive fireplace." The Library and the Veranda are the setting for afternoon tea or cocktails overlooking the French Broad River. "Extremely friendly staff go out of their way to assist."
\$\$\$; 213 rooms; pool, water sports; 828-225-1600; biltmore.com.

Ferrington House Country Inn & Restaurant, Pittsboro

☎94.1 ☎90.9 ☎93.3 ☎69.3
☎90.9 **87.7**

This dairy-farm homestead south of Chapel Hill feels "somewhat isolated." Original farm buildings are incorporated into the design, complemented by "gardens and flowers everywhere." "Bright, modern rooms" with Southern artwork are clustered around a flagstone courtyard. At the restaurant, sample contemporary American cuisine. "Look out for the 'Oreo' cows and fainting goats."
\$\$\$; 35 rooms; tennis, pool; 919-542-2121; ferrington.com.

The Swag Country Inn, Smoky Mountains National Park

☎89.3 ☎96.3 ☎85.2 ☎92.6
☎96.2 **91.9**

Overlooking the Blue Ridge Mountains, this inn of logs, fieldstone, shake roofs, and natural rock porches has accommodations with Appalachian handmade furniture and wood-burning fireplaces; bathrooms offer "very large tubs with an incredible window." Seasonal comfort food is served with an emphasis on local provisions. Hiking is encouraged—"lovely staff" give each guest a personal walking stick.
\$\$\$; 15 rooms; 828-926-0430; theswag.com.

OHIO

Ritz-Carlton, Cleveland

☎86.4 ☎88.2 ☎81.7 ☎88.2 ☎85.5 **86.0**
\$\$\$; 206 rooms; pool; 216-623-1300; ritzcarrton.com.

OREGON

Stephanie Inn, Cannon Beach

☎95.3 ☎96.2 ☎90.6 ☎97.2 ☎94.2 **94.7**

On the coast near Haystack Rock, this New England-style inn has "a setting that's beautiful and rugged—like a mixture of Big Sur and Carmel." Warm palettes outfit "very cozy rooms" that have wicker furnishings, fireplaces of local stone, and whirlpool tubs. The dining room serves up a four-course dinner accompanied by Northwest wine. Afternoon wine and cheese, evening nightcaps, and car washing are complimentary.