

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





2011 GOLD LIST

THE WORLD'S BEST
PLACES TO STAY

504
**HOTELS,
RESORTS,
AND
CRUISE
LINES**

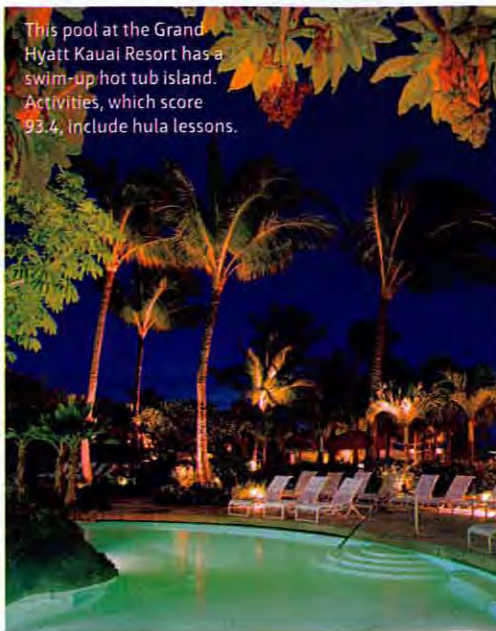
"NOTHING ENDURES BUT change." No, Heraclitus wasn't thinking about hotels, but the axiom applies. *Condé Nast Traveler's* compendium of the best hotels, resorts, and cruise lines in the world, drawn from our annual Readers' Choice Survey (see November 2010), is ever-evolving. Updated annually, it is a truly global tally of peerless travel experiences (and proves the mobility and discriminating tastes of our readers). Case in point: This

year's Gold List has 48 properties appearing for the first time, and we have duly accorded each a detailed review, with readers' quotes (for complete reviews of all 2011 Gold List properties, go to cntraveler.com/goldlist, or download our soon-to-be-released iPhone or iPad app, *Condé Nast Traveler's 2011 Gold List*). Here's to the newcomers, and to the other hotels, resorts, and cruise lines on these pages, which have withstood the toughest test of all—time.

UNITED STATES

What's truly American in the hottest new hotels? The great outdoors, from sea to shining sea

A MERICANS' LOVE OF nature is renowned, and it shows. Just look at 6 of the 14 new Gold List properties in our backyard: two resorts, one in Colorado and one in Montana, cupped by mountain ranges; one California property that looks out on the rolling Pacific and another that overlooks rolling vineyards; a ski retreat in the peaks of northern Vermont; and a stone castle in the forests of the Hudson River Valley. Traditional destinations are also benefiting from contemporary design, which explains why you'll encounter a modernist resort among the swaying palms of Palm Beach and a reinvented former prison in the historic Beacon Hill section of Boston.



This pool at the Grand Hyatt Kauai Resort has a swim-up hot tub island. Activities, which score 93.4, include hula lessons.

ARIZONA

Royal Palms Resort & Spa, Phoenix 89.7

☉91.8 ☈92.9 ☇91.9 ☉91.3 ☉92.3 ☈77.3

♀ **Four Seasons Scottsdale at Troon North, Scottsdale 89.1**

☉93.6 ☈92.1 ☇87.4 ☉82.4 ☉90.3 ☈88.8

♀ **The Phoenician (Luxury Collection), Scottsdale 89.2**

☉89.3 ☈89.6 ☇85.4 ☉90.2 ☉90.5 ☈90.2

Enchantment Resort, Sedona 92.3

☉91.5 ☈90.7 ☇88.3 ☉96.5 ☉95.2 ☈91.4

L'Auberge de Sedona, Sedona 89.7

☉90.3 ☈88.8 ☇88.0 ☉92.6 ☈89.0

CALIFORNIA

Beverly Wilshire (Four Seasons), Beverly Hills 90.9

☉90.7 ☈91.4 ☇89.2 ☉94.7 ☈88.6

The Peninsula, Beverly Hills 95.0

☉95.8 ☈96.7 ☇92.9 ☉95.7 ☈93.8

Post Ranch Inn, Big Sur 93.1

☉93.1 ☈91.8 ☇90.8 ☉96.2 ☈93.8

Ventana Inn & Spa, Big Sur 89.7

☉91.9 ☈89.3 ☇85.6 ☉92.5 ☈89.2

Hyatt Carmel Highlands, Carmel 88.3

☉88.5 ☈85.3 ☇86.1 ☉93.2 ☈88.4

L'Auberge Carmel, Carmel 88.2

☉89.9 ☈88.2 ☇88.5 ☉92.1 ☈82.0

2011 GOLD LIST

KEY TO SYMBOLS

- ☉ Rooms
- ☈ Service
- ☇ Food
- ☉ Location
- ☈ Design
- ☇ Activities

SCORES IN RED - OVERALL

NEW 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.)

♀ **Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel, Dana Point 93.2**

☉95.4 ☈96.4 ☇92.2 ☉95.5 ☉92.3 ☈87.4

♀ **St. Regis Monarch Beach, Dana Point 90.4**

☉95.8 ☈88.8 ☇87.2 ☉89.0 ☉91.7 ☈89.0

♀ **Ritz-Carlton, Half Moon Bay 89.3**

☉91.2 ☈89.7 ☇84.8 ☉91.2 ☉90.5 ☈88.2

Montage, Laguna Beach 91.3

☉92.7 ☈88.9 ☇91.7 ☉96.3 ☉91.7 ☈86.5

Beverly Hills Hotel, Los Angeles 92.3

☉92.4 ☈93.2 ☇88.4 ☉95.2 ☈92.4

Four Seasons Los Angeles at Beverly Hills, Los Angeles 88.3

☉89.1 ☈93.1 ☇86.7 ☉86.2 ☈86.1

Auberge du Soleil, Napa Valley 94.5

☉94.0 ☈94.1 ☇95.6 ☉92.6 ☈96.1

Resort at Pelican Hill, Newport Beach 96.0

☉97.4 ☈95.7 ☇93.1 ☉96.6 ☉96.6 ☈96.5

This 2008 "adaptation of Palladian architecture" has bronze and wood doors and windows, brickwork replicating that found in Siena's main square, and wrought iron Italian lanterns. "Incredible and comfortable" bungalows and villas with limestone fireplaces range in size and design and have wood-beam ceilings and terraces with Pacific views. The "especially good" food at Andrea is heavy on Tuscan influences, while two additional restaurants offer casual dining. "Staff are responsive and friendly."

Chateau du Sureau, Oakhurst 88.9

☉88.9 ☈96.3 ☇85.2 ☉88.9 ☈85.2

Langham Huntington Hotel & Spa, Pasadena 88.0

☉90.0 ☈89.2 ☇83.8 ☉85.5 ☈91.6

Casa Palmero, Pebble Beach 93.3

☉100 ☈100 ☇79.2 ☉92.0 ☈92.0 ☈96.0

♀ **Inn & Links at Spanish Bay, Pebble Beach 94.6**

☉95.6 ☈93.7 ☇92.9 ☉97.6 ☈93.6 ☈94.0

♀ **Lodge at Pebble Beach, Pebble Beach 92.2**

☉90.9 ☈91.1 ☇90.1 ☉99.1 ☉92.9 ☈89.1

Four Seasons, San Francisco 88.7

☉91.1 ☈90.3 ☇85.6 ☉89.1 ☈87.5

Mandarin Oriental, San Francisco 87.9

☉94.4 ☈93.2 ☇82.1 ☉84.0 ☈85.7

Ritz-Carlton, San Francisco 89.5

☉90.4 ☈92.5 ☇89.3 ☉87.5 ☈87.7

NEW CordeValle (Rosewood), San Martin 88.4

☉100 ☈93.9 ☇81.8 ☉72.7 ☈93.9 ☈87.9

This Craftsman-style resort by the Santa Cruz Mountains has perfect-scoring bungalows with a "modern yet rustic atmosphere." Frette linens, leather armchairs, and fireplaces. Guests appreciate the "secluded corners of the grounds" surrounded by tree-topped hills. New Italian cuisine at Il Vigneto emphasizes seasonal produce. Play a course with vineyard views, or sample treatments like a grapeseed and cherry bark scrub at Sense Spa.

Four Seasons The Biltmore, Santa Barbara 89.5

☉92.2 ☈91.0 ☇87.1 ☉91.6 ☈92.2 ☈82.7

San Ysidro Ranch (Rosewood), Santa Barbara 90.8

☉94.6 ☈89.2 ☇87.7 ☉90.5 ☈91.8

Gaige House, Sonoma County 88.3

☉92.3 ☈92.3 ☇79.2 ☉84.6 ☈92.3

Hotel Healdsburg, Sonoma County 87.9

☉84.9 ☈83.9 ☇87.9 ☉95.7 ☈87.0

Kenwood Inn and Spa, Sonoma County 94.7

☉98.6 ☈100 ☇91.3 ☉91.3 ☉95.7 ☈88.2

COLORADO

* **Little Nell, Aspen 89.1**

☈86.7 ☈87.7 ☇87.1 ☉97.7 ☈86.6 ☈88.5

♀ **Ritz-Carlton, Bachelor Gulch, Beaver Creek 89.8**

☉91.9 ☈89.4 ☇83.2 ☉91.0 ☈91.6 ☈91.5

NEW * **Westin Riverfront Resort & Spa, Beaver Creek 96.9**

☉98.5 ☈95.2 ☇94.7 ☉97.6 ☈97.9 ☈97.3

This two-year-old Silver LEED-certified resort has extensive stonework and glass, allowing "majestic views of the Rockies," which can also be seen from "the incredible infinity hot tubs off the pool deck." The Riverfront Express gondola, "steps from the lobby," transports guests to the base of Beaver Creek Mountain. The Avondale restaurant—kitted out in stone, wood, granite, and glass—promotes a West Coast-inspired seasonal menu, hence dishes like Summit Creek lamb chops. Spa Anjali's robes and towels are made from organic bamboo and muslin.

Pick your plunge at Montage, in Laguna Beach, California: the 90-foot mosaic pool (heated to 82 degrees) or the Pacific. This view might explain the 96.3 location score.



The bar under the 90-foot lobby rotunda, with preserved cells, is "extremely lively and filled with locals."

Mandarin Oriental, Boston 96.1

96.7 98.4 95.1 93.4 96.7

Wequassett Resort and Golf Club, Cape Cod 90.4

84.3 86.0 92.9 97.7 93.0 88.1

Blantyre, Lenox 93.0

93.0 97.7 88.4 95.3 90.7

Canyon Ranch, Lenox 87.7

81.3 87.5 87.5 89.1 89.1 92.1

NEW The Cottages & Lofts at the Boat Basin, Nantucket 90.8

88.0 92.0 81.0 100 92.0

With downtown Nantucket and the Boat Basin within walking distance, this property provides "the best of the island," reflected in the perfect location score. Harborfront-facing cottages—with full kitchens, polished pine floors, slate bathrooms, and dormer windows—overlook the docks: "hearing the water softly lapping around the pylons, seeing boats bobbing around, it just felt so appropriate." There is no restaurant on-site, but meals are available in town or at the White Elephant, its sister hotel.

The Wauwinet, Nantucket 93.6

93.6 87.9 97.0 92.4 93.8

MONTANA

NEW Triple Creek Ranch, Darby 88.8

84.4 90.3 87.5 90.3 90.3 90.0

At this newcomer looking onto the Bitterroot Mountains, rooms are in 23 log cabins that ooze rusticity with their exposed

log walls and slate bathrooms. "Our room had a view of the woods and a hot tub on the deck"—"it was very private and peaceful." The restaurant has cathedral ceilings and prepares "superb, world-class" cuisine ranging from traditional French to Southwestern, with signature dishes like venison carpaccio with marinated plums. "There were fresh cookies every day when we returned from activities" such as spotting mountain lions, moose, and eagles in the wilderness.

NEVADA

Bellagio, Las Vegas 91.0

92.1 83.8 91.1 95.3 92.8 86.8

Encore at Wynn, Las Vegas 90.5

95.7 88.1 90.4 85.3 92.9 91.4

Four Seasons, Las Vegas 90.8

92.9 95.7 91.7 83.5 90.0 91.4

The Palazzo, Las Vegas 89.7

94.6 83.0 88.0 90.9 91.7 89.8

Venetian Resort Hotel Casino, Las Vegas 89.2

93.1 83.5 87.7 92.0 89.9 87.9

Wynn, Las Vegas 91.3

95.9 88.7 91.6 87.7 93.8 90.0

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Wentworth by the Sea Hotel & Spa, New Castle 89.0

90.5 91.1 83.3 89.9 90.3

NEW MEXICO

Encantado, Santa Fe 87.6

93.1 89.7 82.8 82.8 89.7

El Monte Sagrado Living Resort and Spa, Taos 87.8

94.0 84.0 85.7 84.0 92.0 87.2

NEW YORK

NEW Mohonk Mountain House, New Paltz 90.5

79.3 90.4 88.0 96.4 94.0 95.1

Ninety miles north of New York City, this wood and Shawangunk-stone castle resort and National Historic Landmark in the Hudson Valley is "a huge building, but perfectly proportioned and integrated into the mountain landscape—it's a dream from the Victorian era of America's history." Rooms are uniquely decorated, and some have balconies and fireplaces. "The service is always top notch." The spa's outdoor mineral pool is heated; the property also offers 85 miles of hiking trails, a stable, and groomed cross-country skiing terrain.

The Carlyle (Rosewood), New York 89.0

87.3 91.2 89.0 90.2 87.4

Four Seasons, New York 93.1

93.0 94.0 90.3 95.0 92.9

The Lowell, New York 88.1

86.2 89.7 81.5 100 82.8

Mandarin Oriental, New York 90.7

92.6 85.6 86.9 95.3 93.0

Ritz-Carlton New York, Central Park, New York 92.3

92.5 93.4 89.6 95.7 90.4

St. Regis, New York 90.8

91.5 90.0 88.3 94.4 89.6

Trump International Hotel & Tower, New York 89.5

91.5 87.5 91.3 96.1 81.3

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