TRAVEL + LEISURE

THE BEST

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IN

THE

WORLD

ARE...
THE WORLD’S BEST AWARDS

THE TOP CITIES, HOTELS, CRUISE LINES, DESTINATION SPAS, AIRLINES, TOUR COMPANIES, AND MORE, AS DETERMINED BY OUR VERY DISCERNING READERS.

Who’s to judge? You are.

Every year T+L asks readers to dish on their travel experiences—to share their opinions on everything from Southern cities to Asian islands, all-inclusive beach resorts to hilltop palazzos. Those assessments collectively define excellence in travel today, forming the basis of the World’s Best Awards.

This year’s edition marks the biggest World’s Best Awards ever. We counted a record number of votes—more than 200,000 respondents submitted ratings—added dozens of new categories, and saw a heap of new players make the lists. (For more details on how the awards work, turn to page 81.)

Kudos to all the winners, and thanks to you.

Edited by Sara Clemence
Cities & Islands

Charleston is the first U.S. destination in 16 years to top our list of the most lauded cities, and Palawan returns as readers' favorite island.

Palawan, known for its dramatic cliffs, also crowns the islands list in 2013.

WANT MORE WORLD’S BEST AWARDS?

Head to travelandleisure.com for photos of every winner, videos, extended lists, and more.

HALL OF FAME

On the list for the past 20 years.

Scores have been rounded to the nearest hundredth of a point; in the event of a tie, winners share the same ranking.

From private island resorts to urban palaces, you'll find spots to inspire you with gorgeous photographs of winners around the globe.

Charleston, Inclina, Chiang Mai, and beyond—get an intimate look at the top destinations with our exclusive video tours.

Don't see one of your favorites in the rankings? It only takes a few seconds to nominate them to appear on T+L's annual reader survey.
Top 100 Hotels
BIGGER ISN'T NECESSARILY BETTER—SMALL PROPERTIES, MANY OF THEM INDEPENDENT, DOMINATE THE RANKINGS.

1. Nihivatu Surnibo, Indonesia 95.35
2. Spectator Hotel Charleston, South Carolina 97.79
3. Huka Lodge Taupo, New Zealand 97.63
4. Mantqah Kapalua Bay Maui, Hawaii 97.39
5. Southern Ocean Lodge Kangaroo Island, Australia 97.39
7. The Wilcox Asheville, South Carolina 97.25
8. Casa Gangotena Quito, Ecuador 97.50
9. Twin Ferns Barnard, Vermont 97.19
10. Singular Patagonia Puerto Natales, Chile 97.4
11. Singita Game Reserve Serengeti, Tanzania 97.11
12. Farmhouse Inn Forestville, California 97.07
13. Londolozi Sabi Sand Game Reserve, South Africa 97.06
14. The Peninsula Shanghai 97.31

29. Mombo Camp & Little Mombo Camp Moremi Game Reserve, Botswana 95.60
30. Rosewood Mayakoba Playa del Carmen, Mexico 95.59
31. Col Y Lanu Sacred Valley, Peru 95.38
32. Nayarit Springs Arenal Volcano National Park, Costa Rica 95.36
33. Kamalame Cay Andros, Bahamas 95.90
34. XV Beacon Boston 95.27
35. St. Regis Bali Resort, Indonesia 95.22
36. Tangara Lodge Livingston, Zambia 95.20
37. Alpina Gstaad Gstaad, Switzerland 95.00
38. Beau Rivage Palace Lausanne, Switzerland 95.09
39. Brenner Park Hotel & Spa Bieden, Baden, Germany 95.00
40. J. Pillars House Phang Nga, Thailand 95.00
41. Rosewood Sand Hill Menlo Park, California 95.00
42. Kat Ikies Hotel Santorini, Greece 95.05
43. London 95.94
44. Nayarit Hotel & Spa Arenal Volcano National Park, Costa Rica 95.91
45. Lodge at Isla Contadora, Panama 95.65
46. Rosewood Mayakoba Playa del Carmen, Mexico 95.61
47. Casa Gangotena Quito, Ecuador 95.60
48. Rosewood Mayakoba Playa del Carmen, Mexico 95.61
49. Londolozi Sabi Sand Game Reserve, South Africa 95.60
50. Londolozi Sabi Sand Game Reserve, South Africa 95.60

88. Brewery Gulch Inn Mendocino, California 95.59
89. Hotel Santa Caterina Amalfi, Italy 95.57
88. Acqualina, Miami Sunny Isles Beach, Florida 95.62
89. Chandelier Hotel Walk Newport, Rhode Island 95.51
97. Zamas Latin Tulum, Mexico 95.49
98. J. K. Place Capri, Italy 95.40
99. Oberoi Rajvilas Jaipur, India 95.40
99. Jiva Sands Game Reserve Sabi Sand Game Reserve, South Africa 95.42
99. Wimblin Farm Morris, Connecticut 95.41

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NIHHIWATU
By Yves Behar

It's not a place you go because you want a luxurious retreat from the real world. I've been visiting for six years, and for me it's like, Where can I take my family where we're going to be outdoors the entire time? There is no sort of indoor space per se, besides your bedroom. You feel very connected to the beach and the ocean. But what makes it really special is the local culture. The island is populated by animists who live in small villages. Life there hasn't changed much for half a millennium. Ninety percent of the staff are local. We see them every year that we've visited their houses. They've taught me how to bake with a sword. That just doesn't happen when you have Swiss-trained butlers and hotel operators. This is a place that gives you the opportunity to enter somebody else's reality, somebody else's tradition, somebody else's culture.

Yves Behar is a designer, entrepreneur, and sustainability advocate.
Continental United States

HOTELS WITH DISTINCTIVE PERSONALITIES TAKE THE SPOTLIGHT—AND A NEWCOMER DEBUTS AS THE TOP CITY PROPERTY.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top 10 Cities</th>
<th>Top 10 Islands</th>
<th>Top 13 City Hotels</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Charleston, South Carolina 91.55</td>
<td>1. Hilton Head, South Carolina 88.35</td>
<td>1. Spectator Hotel, Charleston, South Carolina 90.73</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. New Orleans 89.75</td>
<td>2. Kiawah Island, South Carolina 88.00</td>
<td>2. XV Beacon, Boston 90.27</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Savannah, Georgia 89.57</td>
<td>3. Mount Desert Island, Maine 86.48</td>
<td>3. The Surrey, New York City 95.37</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Santa Fe, New Mexico 87.27</td>
<td>4. Nantucket, Massachusetts 84.80</td>
<td>4. Greenwich Hotel, New York City 94.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Nashville, Tennessee 85.09</td>
<td>5. San Juan Islands, Washington 84.33</td>
<td>5. The Knickerbocker, New York City 94.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Florida Keys 83.44</td>
<td>7. Cumberland Island, Georgia 83.33</td>
<td>7. Old No. 77 Hotel &amp; Chandlery, New Orleans 94.26</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Mackinac Island, Michigan 82.86</td>
<td>8. Martha’s Vineyard, Massachusetts 81.19</td>
<td>8. The Langham, Chicago 94.21</td>
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Readers say...

"Hollywood and New York design meets Lowcountry charm at the Spectator. The bar is the best in Charleston right now, and the bellhops are wish-granting genies—without coming out of a bottle."
Top 10 Resort Hotels

1. Lodge at Glendorn Bradford, Pennsylvania 87.36
2. The Willcox Aiken, South Carolina 91.25
3. Twin Farms Barnard, Vermont 97.19
4. Farmhouse Inn Porgsville, California 97.07
5. Gateway Canyons Resort & Spa Gateway, Colorado 97.00
6. Chateauu Sureau Oakhurst, California 98.77
7. Triple Creek Ranch Darby, Montana 98.75
8. Wequassett Resort & Golf Club Chatham, Massachusetts 98.68
9. Old Edwards Inn & Spa Highlands, North Carolina 98.67
10. Weekapaug Inn Westerly, Rhode Island 98.57

Top 10 Hotels New York City

1. The Surrey 95.37
2. Greenwich Hotel 94.76
3. The Mark 94.75
4. Trump International Hotel & Tower 92.78
5. Loews Hotel 92.46
6. WestHouse 92.25
7. St. Regis 92.16
8. The James 92.00
9. The Lowell 92.00
10. The Chatwal, a Luxury Collection Hotel 91.84

Top 5 Hotels Greater Los Angeles

1. The Redbury Hollywood 83.34
2. L'Ermitage West Hollywood 92.03
3. The Biltmore Hotel Beverly Hills 92.43
4. The Peninsula Beverly Hills 90.92
5. Montage Beverly Hills 90.67

Top 5 Hotel Northeast

1. Lodge at Glendorn Bradford, Pennsylvania 87.38
2. Twin Farms Barnard, Vermont 97.19
3. Wequassett Resort & Golf Club Chatham, Massachusetts 96.68
4. Weekapaug Inn Westerly, Rhode Island 96.57
5. Chanler at Cliff Walk Newport, Rhode Island 95.31

Top 5 Hotels Chicago

1. The Langham 84.21
2. Trump International Hotel & Tower 94.03
3. Waldorf Astoria 92.96
4. The Peninsula 92.61
5. Godfrey Hotel 92.31

Top 5 Hotels Midwest

1. Big Cedar Lodge Ridgedale, Missouri 83.59
2. Sundara Inn & Spa Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin 92.28
3. American Club at Destination Kohler, Wisconsin 91.05
4. Grand Hotel Mackinac Island, Michigan 88.78
5. West Baden Springs Hotel West Baden Springs, Indiana 88.42

Words from a Winner

No. 1 New York hotel the Surrey is known for its focus on art. We asked Netusch Schlesinger, art expert in residence, to share her favorite art spots in the city.

Fresh Takes “The Park Avenue Armory has made an effort to be edgier and more engaging, while still respecting the building's grandeur. They're bringing in artists who are known by connoisseurs but not necessarily by the general public, such as Martin Creed, who has an immersive piece on view through early August.”

Downtown Digs “The Whitney Museum's new building is breathtaking with its open spaces and high ceilings. The portrait exhibition taking place includes artists like Andy Warhol and Chuck Close, and feels so relevant—it's about the self in today's world of social media.”

High Society “The roof at the Metropolitan Museum of Art has the most fantastical installations, and there's a bar that serves cocktails. Right now you can see a spooky part-time house that British artist Cornelia Parker created, inspired by Hitchcock.”
CHARLESTON

BE CHARMED

A GUIDE TO THE CITY’S BEST

At once gracious and hip, historic and fresh, Charleston is having its moment. Open the door to this stylish Southern belle of a city, and come see why so many of its boutique lodgings have been voted No. 1 Best Small Hotel by Travel + Leisure readers in the World’s Best Awards of 2016 and recent years. We map it all out here—from the hippest places to lay your head, to hot spots in the city’s booming culinary and shopping scenes, and much more.

Look inside for a peek at our top city highlights and stellar hotel picks.
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA
Experience the very best of a T+L World’s Best City—from boutique hotels as beautiful as jewel boxes, to restaurants and cocktails on the culinary cutting edge. Real Southern hospitality is alive and well in Charleston; these days, it’s served up with a fresh, vibrant spirit and a generous helping of contemporary style.

STAY
1. Revel in Art Deco-inspired design and modern-luxe amenities at The Spectator Hotel, a boutique keepsake. 67 State Street
2. Feel like a baron at Westworth Mansion and enjoy rare views from the rooftop cupola. 149 Wentworth Street
3. Sleep in a plush four-poster bed at Planters Inn, a Historic District treasure. 112 North Market Street
4. Sip champagne at check-in and choose from a menu of seven pillows, at The French Quarter Inn. 166 Church Street
5. Luxuriate in exceptional art and design at The Vendue, a reimaged 18th-century warehouse. 19 Vendue Range
6. Come home to elegance at Belmont Charleston Place, with its chandeliered lobby and rooftop pools. 205 Meeting Street

DO
1. Dig into elevated comfort food that’s seasonally inspired at FIG, an upscale bistro. 237 Meeting Street
2. Relish a farm-to-table menu with deep Southern roots at The Macintosh. 479 King Street
3. Head upstairs to The Cocktail Club for a mixology rover on the rooftop terrace. 479 King Street
4. Enjoy a mouthwatering steak with locally inspired sides at Halls Chophouse, or come for the lively Sunday gospel brunch. 434 King Street
5. Keep the spirits flowing at Proof, or choose from the extensive wine-by-the-glass list. 437 King Street
6. Pair a classic cocktail with a delicious homemade snack at The Gin Joint. 182 East Bay Street

SHOP
1. Browse everything from party dresses to chic denim at Hampden Clothing. 314 King Street
2. Make your heirloom jewelry dreams come true at Croghan’s Jewel Box. 308 King Street
3. Pop into Le Creuset Boutique, the cookware maker’s signature shop. 112 North Market Street
4. Sign up for a candle-making class, or browse the unique gifts at Candlefish. 71 Wentworth Street
5. Shop for home and garden furnishings that capture the city’s spirit at the Historic Charleston Foundation Shop inside the City Market’s Great Hall. 188 Meeting Street

EAT + DRINK
1. At Cypress, savor Lowcountry ingredients transformed into American haute cuisine. 167 East Bay Street
3. Rediscover Southern locavore fare at Husk, with a menu by James Beard Award winner Chef Sean Brock. 76 Queen Street

Charleston Overview
Round out your trip with a visit to the city’s surrounding islands, and discover two standout resorts: The Sanctuary at Kiawah Island, with the feel of a seaside mansion, and Wild Dunes, set on a beautiful beach on the Isle of Palms.
SMALL WONDERS: CHARLESTON’S BOUTIQUE HOTEL GEMS

Discover four dreamboat hotels that are redefining Southern hospitality with glamour, style, and grace.

Voted #1 Best U.S. Small City Hotel in the T+L World’s Best Awards 2016, The Spectator Hotel enchants guests with 1920s-style chic and personalized butlers.

Named #1 Best U.S. Small City Hotel in 2015, Wentworth Mansion glitters with Tiffany stained glass windows, palatial guest rooms, and a serene spa.

Poised at the entrance to the historic city market, Planters Inn—Charleston’s only Relais & Châteaux hotel—earned #1 Best U.S. Small City Hotel in 2014.

With spectacular skyline and harbor views from the rooftop bar and pool, Market Pavilion Hotel topped the list as #1 Best U.S. Small City Hotel in 2013.