

**2011 READERS'  
CHOICE  
AWARDS\***

# Condé Nast Traveler

TRUTH IN TRAVEL // NOVEMBER 2011

**BEST IN THE WORLD!**  
HOTELS, ISLANDS, AIRLINES, CITIES, CRUISES

TOP **1000**

**PLUS**

**SOUTH SEAS  
PARADISE**

INSIDER'S GUIDE TO  
24 IDYLIC ISLES

**BHUTAN**

THE ULTIMATE  
HIMALAYAN HIGH

**6 DAZZLING  
DAYS IN BRAZIL**

A STEP-BY-STEP  
ITINERARY

**25**  
SECRETS TO  
SAVVY TRAVEL  
(SAVE BIG NOW!)

**SPECIAL REPORT**

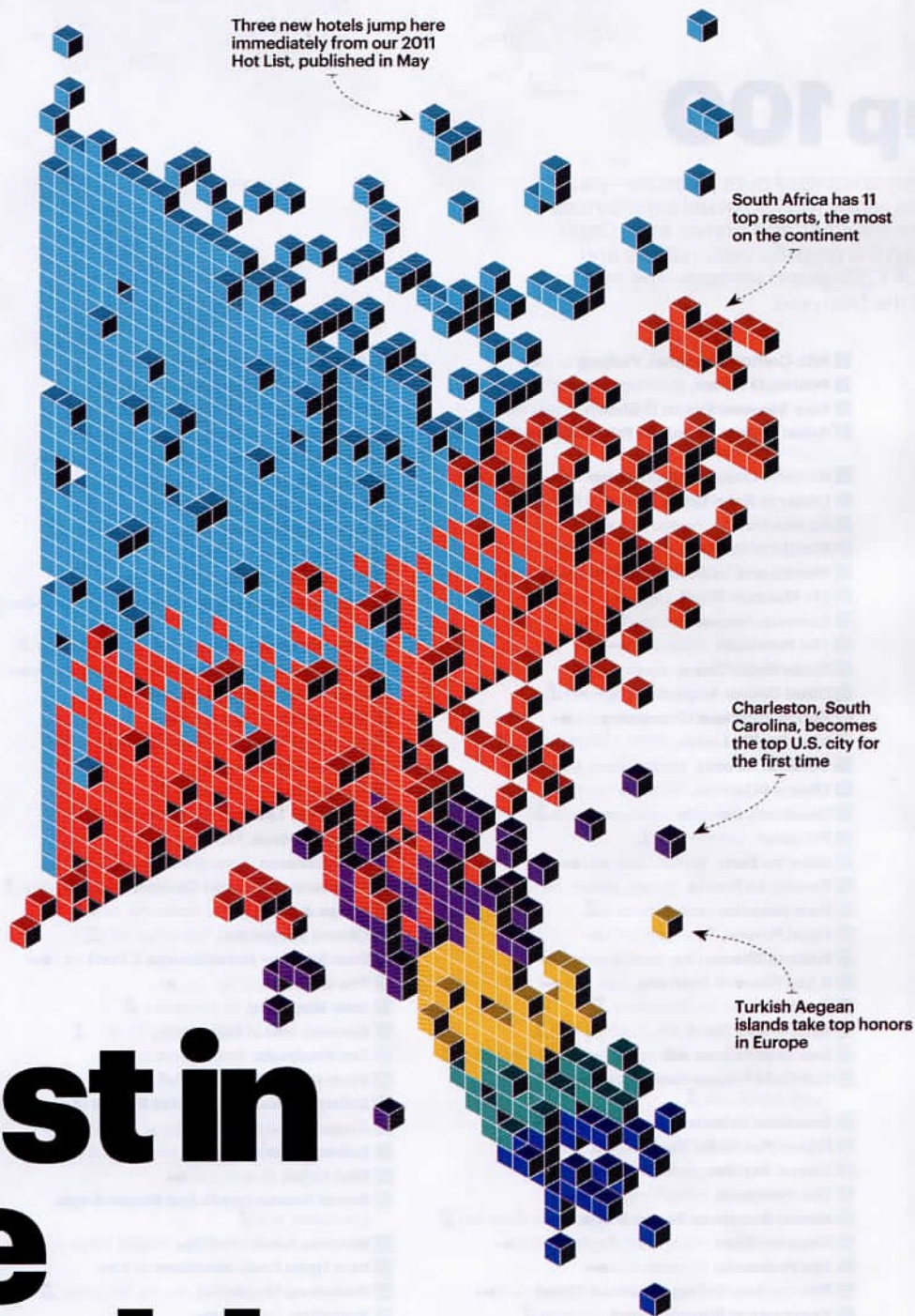
THE TRUTH  
ABOUT AIRPORT  
SECURITY

\* Rated by the  
28,876 most discriminating  
travelers on earth



# 2011 Readers' Choice Awards

- Hotels 665
- Resorts 455
- Cities 55
- Islands 55
- Airlines 30
- Cruise Lines 25



# Best in the World

## Cities, Islands, Hotels, Resorts, Cruises, Airlines

Here they are, the final winners sifted from more than 8 million votes cast in our annual Readers' Choice Awards survey, swept up together to form travel's apex of excellence. Each cube represents one of the 1,285 top scorers who arrived at their allotted place on the following pages (color coded by category).

These awards reflect the combined opinions of 28,876 *Condé Nast Traveler* readers rating the cities, islands, and hotels they visited in the past year, and the airlines and cruise ships they traveled with. For its range and depth, the Readers' Choice Awards are a unique and trusted source of advice globally, and that is thanks to America's most discerning and demanding travelers—you.



Download our digital edition, debuting this month (see page 22 for more) and you'll find a photo gallery of the Top 100 winners (see next page) as well as detailed pages on all 1,120 top hotels and resorts.

# Top 100

Welcome to a world of pure pleasure—your world. This year's Top 100 travel experiences touch six continents and islands from Capri to Bali. Turn the page for regional lists and maps of all 1,285 award winners—the most ever, and the best now



- 1 Ritz-Carlton Shanghai, Pudong 99.2
- 2 Peninsula House, Dominican Republic 98.6
- 3 Four Seasons Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt 98.6
- 3 Safari Lodges at Phinda Private Game Reserve, South Africa 98.6
- 5 Kirawira Luxury Tented Camp, Tanzania 98.5
- 6 Lodge at Kauri Cliffs, New Zealand 98.4
- 7 Elysian Hotel, Chicago 98.2
- 8 Mandarin Oriental, Bangkok 97.9
- 9 Mombo and Little Mombo Camps, Botswana 97.8
- 9 21c Museum Hotel, Louisville, Ky. 97.8
- 11 Culloden House, Scotland 97.7
- 11 The Peninsula, Tokyo 97.7
- 13 Kyoto Hotel Okura, Japan 97.2
- 14 Hotel Caesar Augustus, Capri 97.1
- 14 Sofitel Forebase Chongqing 97.1
- 16 King Pacific Lodge, British Columbia 97.0
- 17 Colonial Houses, Williamsburg, Va. 96.8
- 17 Oberoi Udaivilas, Rajasthan 96.8
- 17 One&Only Palmilla, Los Cabos 96.8
- 17 Perivolos, Greece 96.8
- 21 Hôtel de Paris, Monte Carlo 96.7
- 21 Rancho La Puerta, Tecate, Mexico 96.7
- 23 Four Seasons, Bora Bora 96.6
- 23 Hotel Fasano, São Paulo 96.6
- 25 Pudong Shangri-La, Shanghai 96.5
- 26 Il San Pietro di Positano, Italy 96.4
- 26 Londolozi, South Africa 96.4
- 26 Singita Sabi Sand, South Africa 96.4
- 26 Resort at Pelican Hill, Newport Coast, Calif. 96.3
- 26 Sabi Sabi Private Game Reserve, South Africa 96.3
- 31 Mandarin Oriental, Hong Kong 96.1
- 31 Nisbet Plantation Beach Club, Nevis 96.1
- 31 Oberoi Rajvillas, Jaipur 96.1
- 31 The Peninsula, Hong Kong 96.1
- 31 Westin Riverfront Resort & Spa, Avon, Colo. 96.1
- 36 Chewton Glen, Hampshire, England 96.0
- 37 The Peninsula, Chicago 95.9
- 37 Ritz-Carlton Beijing, Financial Street 95.9
- 37 Sanctuary at Kiawah Island, S.C. 95.9
- 37 The Tides, Riviera Maya 95.9
- 41 Palazzo Sasso, Ravello, Italy 95.8
- 42 Ayana Resort & Spa, Bali 95.7
- 42 Langdon Hall Country House Hotel & Spa, Cambridge, Ontario 95.7
- 42 Mandarin Oriental, Prague 95.7
- 42 Mandarin Oriental Dhara Dhevi, Chiang Mai 95.7
- 42 Steenberg Hotel, Cape Town 95.7
- 47 Château de la Chèvre d'Or, Côte d'Azur 95.6
- 47 Four Seasons Istanbul at Sultanahmet 95.6
- 48 Park Hyatt Dubai 95.5
- 50 Mandarin Oriental, Boston 95.3
- 51 Capella Pedregal, Cabo San Lucas 95.2
- 51 CordeValle (Rosewood), San Martin, Calif. 95.2

- 51 Park Hyatt Seoul 95.2
- 51 Ritz-Carlton, Charlotte, N.C. 95.2
- 51 Hotel Terra, Jackson Hole 95.2
- 56 Beau-Rivage Palace, Lausanne 95.1
- 56 Fairbanks House, Amelia Island, Fla. 95.1
- 56 Auberge du Soleil, Napa Valley 95.0
- 56 Lodge at Pebble Beach, Calif. 95.0
- 56 Park Hotel Kenmare, County Kerry 95.0
- 56 Regent Berlin 95.0
- 56 Swissôtel Ankara, Turkey 95.0
- 56 Travaasa Hotel Hana (formerly Hotel Hana-Mau) 95.0
- 64 Emerald Lake Lodge, British Columbia 94.9
- 64 Farrington House Inn, North Carolina 94.9
- 64 Four Seasons Bali at Sayan 94.9
- 64 The Halkin, London 94.9
- 64 Moorings Village, Islamorada, Fla. 94.9
- 64 Raffles Beijing 94.9
- 64 The Reefs, Bermuda 94.9
- 64 Swissôtel Tallinn, Estonia 94.9
- 72 Capella Ixtapa, Mexico 94.8
- 72 Four Seasons, Chiang Mai 94.8
- 72 Four Seasons Resort Carmelo, Uruguay 94.8
- 72 Lodge & Club, Ponte Vedra, Fla. 94.8
- 72 Oberoi Vanyavilas, Rajasthan 94.8
- 72 Four Seasons Hotel George V Paris 94.7
- 72 The Goring, London 94.7
- 72 Jade Mountain, St. Lucia 94.7
- 72 Keswick Hall at Monticello, Va. 94.7
- 72 The Peninsula, Beverly Hills 94.7
- 72 Vivanta by Taj-Hari Mahal Jodhpur 94.7
- 72 Zoëtry Paraiso de la Bonita Riviera Maya 94.7
- 84 Alvear Palace Hotel, Buenos Aires 94.6
- 84 Auberge Saint-Antoine, Quebec City 94.6
- 84 Eliot Hotel, Boston 94.6
- 84 Grand Solmar Land's End Resort & Spa, Los Cabos 94.6
- 84 Maroma Resort and Spa, Riviera Maya 94.6
- 84 Park Hyatt Paris-Vendôme 94.6
- 84 Rosewood Mayakobá, Riviera Maya 94.6
- 91 Amandari, Bali 94.5
- 91 The Swag, North Carolina 94.5
- 91 Anse Chastanet, St. Lucia 94.4
- 93 The Caves, Jamaica 94.4
- 93 Ciragan Palace Kempinski Istanbul 94.4
- 93 MalaMala Game Reserve, South Africa 94.4
- 93 Omni Puerto Aventuras Hotel Beach Resort, Cancún 94.4
- 93 Palacio Duhau-Park Hyatt, Buenos Aires 94.4
- 99 Le Franschhoek Hotel & Spa, South Africa 94.3
- 99 Rosewood Crescent Hotel, Dallas 94.3

**BAJA AND BEYOND** Capella Pedregal is one of 27 Mexican hotels and resorts with scores above 90.0 this year—20 of them on the Baja or Yucatán coasts.

KEY TO SYMBOLS ● Hotel I Resort

PHOTOGRAPH BY WILLIAMS & HIRAKAWA; HAIR AND MAKEUP BY ADAM REUCHAUD AT THE WALL GROUP; SWIMSUIT BY FREE; BOOTS (LEFT: HAMPSTON, NY; AND SANDALS) BY MICHAEL KORE (LEFT/MICHAEL KORE STORES)



## United States

### Hotels (Continued)



**SEE SHELLS** Marine life in the restaurant La Marea at the 45-suite Tides in Miami Beach.

- 168 InterContinental New York Times Square 84.1
- 171 Sofitel Washington DC Lafayette Square 84.0
- 172 Dana Hotel & Spa, Chicago 83.9
- 172 Davenport Hotel and Tower, Spokane 83.9
- 172 St. Regis, Houston 83.9
- 175 InterContinental Mark Hopkins San Francisco 83.8
- 175 London NYC 83.8
- 175 Renaissance Chicago Downtown Hotel 83.8
- 178 Lorient Hotel & Spa, Alexandria 83.7
- 178 Seagate Hotel & Spa, Delray Beach, Fla. 83.7
- 180 Vanderbilt Grace, Newport 83.6
- 181 Hotel deLuxe, Portland, Ore. 83.3
- 181 Hotel Palomar, Washington, D.C. 83.3
- 183 Bellasera Hotel, Naples, Fla. 83.1
- 183 The Jefferson, Richmond, Va. 83.1
- 183 JW Marriott Santa Monica Le Merigot 83.1
- 183 Vero Beach Hotel & Spa, Fla. 83.1
- 183 White Elephant, Nantucket 83.1
- 183 W Washington D.C. 83.1
- 189 Hotel Max, Seattle 83.0
- 189 Le Pavillon Hotel, New Orleans 83.0
- 189 THEhotel at Mandalay Bay, Las Vegas 83.0
- 189 Tides Inn, Irvington, Va. 83.0
- 193 The Curtis, Denver 82.9
- 193 Ritz-Carlton, Marina del Rey, Calif. 82.9
- 198 The Roosevelt New Orleans 82.8
- 196 Hotel Monaco, Portland, Ore. 82.7
- 197 Aria Resort and Casino, Las Vegas 82.6
- 197 La Posada Hotel & Gardens, Winslow, Ariz. 82.6
- 197 Westin Austin at The Domain 82.6
- 200 Conrad Indianapolis 82.5
- 200 Hotel ZaZa, Dallas 82.5

### TOP 50

#### SMALL HOTELS

- 1 Colonial Houses, Williamsburg, Va. 96.8
- 2 Fairbanks House, Amelia Island 95.1
- 3 **Fearrington House Inn, Pittsboro, N.C. 94.9**
- 3 Moorings Village, Islamorada, Fla. 94.9
- 5 The Swag, Great Smoky Mountains, N.C. 94.5
- 6 The Wauwinet, Nantucket 94.0
- 7 Post Ranch Inn, Big Sur 93.9
- 8 San Ysidro Ranch, Santa Barbara 93.2
- 9 Stephanie Inn, Cannon Beach, Ore. 93.0
- 10 Blantyre, Lenox, Mass. 92.8
- 11 Chebeague Island Inn, Maine 92.7
- 12 Chanler at Cliff Walk, Newport, R.I. 92.0
- 12 Tu Tu' Tun Lodge, Gold Beach, Ore. 92.0
- 14 Pillars Hotel, Fort Lauderdale 91.9
- 15 The Tides, Miami Beach 91.8
- 16 John Rutledge House Inn, Charleston, S.C. 91.6
- 17 Wentworth Mansion, Charleston, S.C. 91.3
- 18 White Barn Inn & Spa, Kennebunkport 89.9
- 19 Twin Farms, Barnard, Vt. 89.5
- 20 Pitcher Inn, Warren, Vt. 89.1
- 21 La Mer Hotel & Dewey House, Key West 88.8
- 22 Marquesa Hotel, Key West 88.4
- 23 Hyatt Carmel Highlands, Carmel 87.8
- 23 Sundy House, Delray Beach, Fla. 87.8
- 25 The Cottages, Nantucket 87.6
- 25 Mayflower Inn & Spa, Washington, Conn. 87.6
- 27 Hotel Iroquois on the Beach, Mackinac Island 87.2
- 28 L'Auberge Carmel 86.5
- 29 Milliken Creek Inn and Spa, Napa Valley 86.2
- 30 Greyfield Inn, Cumberland Island, Ga. 86.1
- 31 Castle Hill Inn, Newport, R.I. 86.0
- 32 Monmouth Plantation, Natchez, Miss. 85.7
- 33 Waters Edge Hotel, Marin County 85.6
- 34 Inn at Little Washington, Washington, Va. 85.4
- 34 Inn at Montchanin Village, Del. 85.4
- 36 Old Edwards Inn and Spa, Highlands, N.C. 85.1
- 37 Captain Lord Mansion, Inn & Spa, Kennebunkport 85.0
- 38 Lavender, Napa Valley 84.8
- 39 Adobe Grand Villas, Sedona 84.3
- 40 Green Gables Inn, Pacific Grove, Calif. 84.0
- 41 Gardens Hotel, Key West 83.8
- 42 Gage House, Sonoma Valley 83.7
- 43 Hotel Havana, San Antonio 83.3
- 44 Scripps Inn, La Jolla 83.2
- 45 El Portal Sedona 83.1
- 46 Simpson House Inn, Santa Barbara 82.6
- 47 The Willcox, Aiken, S.C. 82.4
- 48 Inns & Spa at Mill Falls, Meredith, N.H. 82.1
- 49 The Gastonian, Savannah 82.0
- 49 Inn on Mt. Ada, Catalina Island 82.0

## Cruise Lines

River cruises have never been so popular. Uniworld leads our first-ever list of the five top lines.

### TOP 25

#### SMALL-SHIP LINES

(Fewer than 600 passengers)

- 1 Seabourn 91.8
- 2 Silversea 88.5
- 3 Windstar 85.8
- 4 SeaDream Yacht Club 84.5
- 5 Lindblad Expeditions 78.0

#### MEDIUM-SHIP LINES

(600-2,500 passengers)

- 1 Crystal Cruises 93.0
- 2 Regent Seven Seas Cruises 91.6
- 3 Disney 89.8
- 4 Oceania Cruises 86.0
- 5 Azamara Club Cruises 84.7
- 6 Cunard 84.2
- 7 Holland America 81.5
- 8 Celebrity 79.9
- 9 Princess 79.8
- 10 Royal Caribbean 76.3

#### LARGE-SHIP LINES

(More than 2,500 passengers)

- 1 Celebrity 87.7
- 2 Princess 80.9
- 3 Royal Caribbean 78.9
- 4 Carnival 70.9
- 5 Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL) 64.3

#### RIVER CRUISES

- 1 Uniworld Boutique River Cruises 90.3
- 2 Grand Circle Travel 86.1
- 3 Viking River Cruises 84.8
- 4 Avalon Waterways 78.9
- 5 AmaWaterways 68.5



**DREAM STREAMS** The Viking Schumann sails the Elbe from Magdeburg in Germany to its confluence with the Vltava River at Mělník, an important Czech port.



Formerly the Vanderbilt Hall hotel, Newport's 33-room Vanderbilt Grace debuts on Readers' Choice this year, after opening in April as the first U.S. property from Grace Hotels.