

RANCH & COAST

A close-up photograph of a giant panda sitting on a thick, dark brown tree branch. The panda is facing left, with its head tilted slightly down as it eats bamboo. Its black and white fur is clearly visible, along with its black-rimmed eyes and black patches around its ears. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting a natural habitat with bamboo.

Best Of San Diego 2011

I ♥ New York

Padres Ball Girls

Off-Road Racing In Morocco



Readers' Choice Best of 2011

Best Destination Hotel: Montage Laguna Beach

Though close enough for easy access, Montage Laguna Beach feels a world away. This luxury resort is set on a breathtaking oceanfront bluff, with Laguna's vibrant arts community nearby. (949/715-6000, www.montagelagunabeach.com)



Best Destination Spa: Rancho La Puerta

Some places just get better with time and "The Ranch" is one of them. With beginnings in the 1940s, this modern fitness resort was just voted "World's Best Destination Spa" in the 2010 *Travel + Leisure* readers' poll. (858/764-5500, www.rancholapuerta.com)

Favorite U.S. Destination: Hawaii

Readers love the slower pace, the amazing scenery, and being immersed in a totally different culture. Nonstop flights from San Diego, great waves, and tropical trade winds add to this destination's popularity. (www.gohawaii.com)



Destination On Your Bucket List: Australia & New Zealand

Take the plunge and head down under on your next vacation. Both countries offer myriad adventure opportunities, other-worldly scenery, and great wine — especially the Shiraz in Australia and the Sauvignon Blanc in New Zealand. (www.australia.com, www.newzealand.com)



Favorite Foreign Destination: Italy

Ranch & Coast readers made it very clear: They like to vacation *Under the Tuscan Sun* — or almost anywhere in Italy, for that matter. Rome's picturesque piazzas and historic landmarks are unparalleled, and Florence has gorgeous scenery and abundant art. (www.italiantourism.com)



Best Local Hotel: L'Auberge Del Mar

L'Auberge Del Mar is North County's classy clubhouse, where locals go to dine on regional produce and soak up the view. We love Spa L'Auberge and confidently lodge our out-of-town guests in the resort's beautiful rooms.

(858/259-1515, www.laubergedelmar.com)

