

TRAVEL TIPS 2011 + FREQUENT-FLIER SECRETS: MILEAGE UPGRADES

TRAVEL + LEISURE

500 WORLD'S BEST HOTELS

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WORLD'S BEST HOTELS

Each year, *Travel + Leisure* asks readers to vote on their favorite hotels around the globe. What makes this, our ninth annual compendium of the top-ranked hotels from the World's Best Awards survey, stand out? Almost half of the winners are located in the U.S. and Canada, and another 20 percent are in Europe. Meanwhile, some of the most iconic destinations—California, Florida, Italy, France, and China—have 135 properties among them, and 62 hotels offer rates of less than \$250 a night. Also at your fingertips: our picks of the best farm-to-table restaurants, pools, tech amenities, and more. Plus, you'll find extended listings at TravelandLeisure.com, and—drumroll, please—the T+L 500 iPad edition, complete with interactive bonus features, will be on the App Store in January. So you can pinpoint your next hotel even if you're on the road.

United States

ALABAMA

POINT CLEAR

NEW **Grand Hotel Marriott Resort, Golf Club & Spa** (89.62) The look is old-guard traditional at the 405-room resort on 550 acres overlooking Mobile Bay; the new pool, tennis, and fitness center fronts a private lake. 800/228-9290; marriottgrand.com; doubles from \$229.

ALASKA

GIRDWOOD

Hotel Alyeska (86.93) 301-room hotel 40 miles south of Anchorage in a valley below a ski mountain, with, in 2012, a revamped high-speed lift. 800/880-3880; alyeskaresort.com; doubles from \$269.

ARIZONA

CAREFREE

Boulders Resort & Golden Door Spa (86.59) 221 casitas and villas, set in a 12-million-year-old rock outcropping, with a legendary spa. 866/397-6520; theboulders.com; doubles from \$249.

PHOENIX/SCOTTSDALE

Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale at Troon North (86.72) This 210-room pueblo-inspired property has hiking trails, a bi-level pool, and a high-powered Orion telescope for stargazing. 10600 E. Crescent Moon Dr., Scottsdale; 800/332-3442; fourseasons.com; doubles from \$325.



ARIZONA

NEW **InterContinental Montelucia Resort & Spa** (91.45) Andalusian style (arched entryways; Moroccan antiques), with a happening poolside scene. 4949 E. Lincoln Dr., Scottsdale; 800/327-0200; icmontelucia.com; doubles from \$429.

JW Marriott Camelback Inn Resort & Spa (86.78) 453 Pueblo-style casitas and 27 suites at this family-friendly resort—complete with slides, swings, and a putting green—on 125 acres at the base of Mummy Mountain. 5402 E. Lincoln Dr., Scottsdale; 800/228-9290; camelbackinn.com; doubles from \$500.

The Phoenixian, a Luxury Collection Resort (89.51) A classic resort on 250 acres. New restaurants include the Relish Burger Bistro. 6000 E. Camelback Rd., Scottsdale; 800/325-3589; thephoenixian.com; doubles from \$779.

Royal Palms Resort & Spa (89.58) One of the area's most intimate hotels: a 1929 Spanish colonial-style mansion on 9 leafy acres near Camelback Mountain. 5200 E. Camelback Rd., Phoenix; 800/672-6011; royalpalmsresort.com; doubles from \$499.

SEDONA

Enchantment Resort & Mii Amo Spa (88.08) 218 adobe rooms and casitas in a red-rock canyon, plus the award-winning spa. 800/826-4180; enchantmentresort.com; doubles from \$450.

L'Auberge de Sedona (89.73) Romantic creekside retreat fresh from a \$25 million expansion that added 31 cottages. 800/272-6777; lauberge.com; doubles from \$300.

TUCSON

Arizona Inn (87.09) 95-room estate (original Audubon prints; lush gardens) that evokes a bygone era. 800/933-1093; arizonainn.com; doubles from \$329.

CALIFORNIA

BIG SUR

Post Ranch Inn (93.13) 41 solar-powered rooms in freestanding cottages made from wood, glass, and slate overlooking the Pacific coast. 800/527-2200; postranchinn.com; doubles from \$550, including breakfast.

Ventana Inn & Spa (87.08) Adults-only retreat of 55 rooms and 3 cedar villas. 800/628-6500; ventanainn.com; doubles from \$600, including breakfast.

CARMEL

Bernardus Lodge (87.57) Fresh flowers and 3 bottles from neighboring Bernardus Winery are stocked in all 57 rooms at this Provençal-style hotel. 888/648-9463; bernardus.com; doubles from \$545.

Hyatt Carmel Highlands (87.58) Craftsman-style hotel with redesigned rooms and floor-to-ceiling windows, most of which overlook the coastline. 800/233-1234; hyatt.com; doubles from \$719.

L'Auberge Carmel (87.06) 20-room inn around a brick courtyard; the 12-table restaurant is known for its 4,500-bottle wine cellar. 831/624-8578; laubergecarmel.com; doubles from \$650, including breakfast.

DEL MAR

NEW **L'Auberge Del Mar** (88.86) 120 light-filled rooms with a newly renovated spa 1 block from the beach in upscale Del Mar. 800/245-9757; laubergedelmar.com; doubles from \$395.

HALF MOON BAY

Ritz-Carlton (88.72) Two golf courses and 261 rooms (some with patio fire pits). A butler is on hand to assist with s'mores. 800/241-3333; ritzcarlton.com; doubles from \$469.

LOS ANGELES AREA

Beverly Hills Hotel & Bungalows (87.77) 225-room Dorchester Collection pink palace, a hot spot since 1912, with 2 new bungalows opening in March. 9641 Sunset Blvd., Beverly Hills; 800/283-8885; beverlyhillshotel.com; doubles from \$635.

Beverly Wilshire, a Four Seasons Hotel (87.29) Reinvented 1928 legend at Rodeo Drive and Wilshire Boulevard. There's a Rolls-Royce for guest transportation. 9500 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills; 800/332-3442; fourseasons.com; doubles from \$445.

Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows (86.42) Bungalows and a 10-story tower, plus a spa, restaurant, and BMW cruiser bikes—just a 7-minute walk from the Pacific. 101 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica; 800/441-1414; fairmont.com; doubles from \$429.

Hotel Bel-Air (93.67) A Dorchester Collection cloistered retreat set to reopen this summer with 103 rooms (including 12 new canyon-view suites), a spa, and a pond inhabited by swans. 701 Stone Canyon Rd., Los Angeles; 800/648-4097; hotelbelair.com; doubles from \$565.

NEW **Montage Beverly Hills** (87.71) Built in 2008 yet exuding old-world glamour in the rooms and piano bar. Smart tech amenities are a plus for business travelers. 225 N. Canon Dr., Beverly Hills; 888/860-0788; montagebeverlyhills.com; doubles from \$525.

Peninsula Beverly Hills (91.92) 196-room oasis modeled after a French country estate. High-wattage guests congregate at the pool and bar. 9882 S. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills; 866/382-8388; peninsula.com; doubles from \$555.

NAPA/SONOMA

Auberge du Soleil (91.61) A string of 48 rooms and 2 cottages and a French restaurant that has some of the best sunset views in wine country. Rutherford; 800/348-5406; aubergedusoleil.com; doubles from \$800.

Calistoga Ranch (90.13) 48 comfortably rustic cabins, with open-air showers, set among oak trees. Calistoga; 800/942-4220; calistogaranch.com; doubles from \$735.

Carneros Inn (86.38) Country cottages (soaking tubs; heated bathroom floors), plus 3 pools, 3 restaurants, and a spa, in the Carneros wine region. Napa; 888/400-9000; thecarnerosinn.com; doubles from \$575.

Hotel Healdsburg (90.89) Charlie Palmer's minimalist haven, with a celebrated restaurant and wine room near some 60 vineyards. Healdsburg; 800/889-7188; hotelhealdsburg.com; doubles from \$315, including breakfast.

Meadowood Napa Valley (91.67) A grand country estate: rooms are tucked among fir trees; resort amenities include wine classes and croquet. St. Helena; 800/458-8080; meadowood.com; doubles from \$575.

Villagio Inn & Spa (89.00) Many of the 112 rooms overlook a blue-tiled waterway at this Italianate hotel, close to the French Laundry. A spa opened in 2008. Yountville; 800/351-1133; villagio.com; doubles from \$380, including breakfast.

ORANGE COUNTY

Montage Laguna Beach (92.15) Relaxed 250-room resort—now with a 3-bedroom beach house for rent—on a plateau above the Pacific. Laguna Beach; 866/271-6951; montagelagunabeach.com; doubles from \$895.

NEW **Pelican Hill Resort** (90.49) 324 bungalows and villas (the smallest is 847 square feet) reminiscent of seaside Tuscany. The enormous, circular coliseum pool is an attraction in its own right. Newport Coast; 800/820-6800; pelicanhill.com; doubles from \$695.

Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel (89.85) Four-story hideaway with a bevy of marine-oriented programs—from surf lessons to 15 eco-excursions—above a legendary wave break. Dana Point; 800/241-3333; ritzcarlton.com; doubles from \$425.

St. Regis Monarch Beach (86.80) 400 super-sleek rooms and white-glove butler service. There's also seaside golf and a private beach club. Dana Point; 877/787-3447; stregis.com; doubles from \$675.

PASADENA

Langham Huntington (86.67) Dignified 1907 property (380 rooms, a noteworthy spa, and a new French-inspired restaurant) at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains. 800/588-9141; langhamhotels.com; doubles from \$269.