

TRAVEL TIPS 2011 + FREQUENT-FLIER SECRETS: MILEAGE UPGRADES

# TRAVEL + LEISURE

# 500 WORLD'S BEST HOTELS

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# T+L 500

## 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](http://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.

866/552-0001; oneandonlyresorts.com; doubles from \$795.

## BARBADOS

**Sandy Lane** (90.24) A Bentley airport transfer brings guests to this Palladian-style palace on a quiet bay. St. James; 866/444-4080; sandylane.com; doubles from \$3,200, including breakfast.

## BERMUDA

**Reefs Hotel & Club** (89.08) 57-room property along Bermuda's southern coast. Southampton; 800/742-2008; thereefs.com; doubles from \$650, including breakfast and dinner.

**NEW Tucker's Point Hotel & Spa** (90.59) British-colonial-style resort (mahogany beds, soaking tubs) or 200 pink-sand acres. Hamilton Parish; 866/604-3764; tuckerspoint.com; doubles from \$650.

## BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

### TORTOLA

**Peter Island Resort & Spa** (89.85) A private island getaway with a 2-to-1 staff-to-guest ratio. Peter Island; 800/346-4451; peterisland.com; doubles from \$740.

## CAYMAN ISLANDS

**Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman** (89.50) 365-room oceanfront haven offering nature tours by Jean-Michel Cousteau. Seven Mile Beach; 800/241-3333; ritz-carlton.com; doubles from \$459.

## JAMAICA

**Couples Negril** (88.41) 18-acre retreat on Bloody Bay Beach. Negril; 800/268-7537; couples.com; doubles from \$683, all-inclusive, 3-night minimum.

**Couples Sans Souci** (91.00) Adults-only resort and spa in a seaside cove. Ocho Rios; 800/268-7537; couples.com; doubles from \$735, all-inclusive, 3-night minimum.

**Couples Swept Away** (91.38) 27-acre all-suite hideaway with a fitness complex. Westmoreland; 800/268-7537; couples.com; doubles from \$761, all-inclusive, 3-night minimum.

**Couples Tower Isle** (92.47) 226-room resort—the first Couples resort—with an award-winning spa. Ocho Rios; 800/268-7537; couples.com; doubles from \$681, all-inclusive, 3-night minimum.

**Jamaica Inn** (93.50) 1950 colonial manor hotel favored by

Britain's upper crust. Balcony suites now have marble bathrooms. Ocho Rios; 800/837-4608; jamaicainn.com; doubles from \$599.

**Ritz-Carlton Rose Hall** (86.84) Over-opulent mansion set on 5,000 acres (there's golf, spa, shopping, and more). Montego Bay; 800/241-3333; ritz-carlton.com; doubles from \$329.

**Round Hill Hotel & Villas** (87.33) 119-room hideaway; legendary guests include John F. Kennedy and Liz Taylor. Montego Bay; 800/972-2159; roundhilljamaica.com; doubles from \$550.

**NEW Sandals Whitehouse European Village & Spa** (88.50) Three Euro-style villages (Italian-, French-, and Dutch-style) on a 2-mile beach. Westmoreland; 800/726-3257; sandals.com; doubles from \$1,052, including all meals.

## NEVIS

**NEW Nisbet Plantation Beach Club** (95.75) 15 yellow cottages and an 18th-century great house; the Caribbean's only historic plantation inn set on the beach. 800/742-6008; nisbetplantation.com; doubles from \$656.

## ST. BART'S

**Eden Rock** (87.57) 54-room hotel—a Hollywood favorite—on a rocky promontory. Baie de St. Jean; 877/563-7005; edenrockhotel.com; doubles from \$907, including breakfast.

**Hôtel Guanahani & Spa** (88.71) Creole muse and the island's only stand-alone spa; fresh off a \$6 million face-lift. Grand Cul de Sac; 800/216-3774; leguanahani.com; doubles from \$1,132, including breakfast.

**Hôtel Le Toiny** (89.18) 15 bungalows, each with a plunge pool. Anse de Toiny; 590-590/278-888; letoiny.com; doubles from \$2,417, including breakfast.

**Hôtel Saint-Barth Isle de France** (88.60) Beach club-style boutique hotel on the island's widest beach. Baie de Flamands; 800/810-4691; isle-de-france.com; doubles from \$945, including breakfast.

## ST. LUCIA

**Anse Chastanet Resort** (88.00) Hillside cottages set in a 600-acre forest on the volcanic south-western coast. Soufrière; 800/223-1103;

ansechastanet.com; doubles from \$495.

**Jade Mountain** (94.91) 28 open-air suites with other infinity pools or private Jacuzzis. Soufrière; 800/223-1108; jademountainstlucia.com; doubles from \$1,200.

**Ladera** (88.00) \$2 million seaside villas and suites open to the elements. Soufrière; 866/290-0978; ladera.com; doubles from \$615, including breakfast.

**Sandals Regency La Toc Golf Resort & Spa** (87.33) A 331-room mega-resort (7 restaurants; the island's largest swimming pool). Castries; 800/726-3257; sandals.com; doubles from \$1,108, all-inclusive.

## TURKS AND CAICOS

**Grace Bay Club** (86.40) Resort complex with an adults-only wing, family villas, and a new 5,157-square-foot gym and spa. Providenciales; 800/946-5757; gracebayresorts.com; doubles from \$1,250, including breakfast.

**Parrot Cay** (87.40) Feng shui-approved Asian accents along a mile of shoreline. Providenciales; 977/754-0726; parrotcay.com.bz; doubles from \$938, including breakfast.

**NEW Regent Palms** (89.19) These 72 suites have all the makings of a residence (in-room washer/dryers; full kitchens). Grace Bay Beach; 866/877-7256; therightgrandresort.com; doubles from \$900, including breakfast.

## Australia, New Zealand, and the South Pacific

### AUSTRALIA

**GREAT BARRIER REEF**  
**Hayman** (90.00) Luxurious private island hotel that just added 8 new suites. Hayman Island; 800/223-6800; hayman.com.au; doubles from \$575, including breakfast.

### MELBOURNE

**The Langham** (91.50) Langham's first outpost; now featuring marble bathrooms and Waterford crystal chandeliers—near the Royal Botanic Garden. 1 Southgate Ave; 800/

588-9141; langhamhotels.com; doubles from \$298.

**Park Hyatt** (87.06) Art Deco gem overlooking St. Patrick's Cathedral. 1 Parliament Square; 877/875-4658; park.hyatt.com; doubles from \$265.

### SYDNEY

**Park Hyatt** (87.68) It's all about location at this 155-room harborside hotel, which is a 5-minute stroll from downtown. 7 Hickson Rd.; 877/875-4658; park.hyatt.com; doubles from \$672.

**Shangri-La Hotel** (86.89) Set in the Rocks, a historic neighborhood, and offering Sydney's largest rooms. 176 Cumberland St.; 866/565-5050; shangri-la.com; doubles from \$279.

## FRENCH POLYNESIA

### BORA-BORA

**InterContinental Resort & Thalasso Spa** (89.87) The ultimate beachgoer's fantasy: 800 overwater villas above an azure lagoon. Motu Piti Aua; 800/327-0200; ic-hotelsgroup.com; doubles from \$1,287.

## NEW ZEALAND

### AUCKLAND

**NEW Hilton** (86.71) Light-filled showstopper (white-on-white rooms; floor-to-ceiling windows) on a pier near Queen Street. 147 Quay St.; 800/445-8667; hilton.com; doubles from \$534.

### Hyatt Regency

(86.20) 347-room high-rise hotel with views of Auckland Harbour, Corner of Princes St. and Waterloo Quadrant; 800/233-1234; hyatt.com; doubles from \$215.

### CHRISTCHURCH

**The George** (88.13) The region's leading boutique hotel, with a 1-to-1 staff-to-guest ratio. 50 Park Terrace; 800/525-4800; thegeorge.com; doubles from \$343.

### TAUPO

**Huka Lodge** (91.25) The sine qua non of North Island lodges, thanks to a roster of activities and an idyllic Lake Taupo setting. 271 Huka Falls Rd.; 800/223-6800; huka retreats.com; doubles from \$2,023, including breakfast and dinner +

**ROOM RATES** Hotel and resort prices in the T+L 500 represent the starting rack rate during high season and, where applicable, reflect exchange rates at press time. Lower rates are often available when you call the property directly or book through the hotel's website.