

**FLORENCE**  
Hot Chefs,  
Shops, Museums

**HAWAII**  
The Big Island's  
Big Adventure

**BERLIN**  
24 Hours in the  
Capital of Cool

**2012  
READERS'  
CHOICE  
AWARDS**

# Condé Nast Traveler

TRUTH IN TRAVEL // NOVEMBER 2012

CONDENASTTRAVELER.COM  
YOUR DAILY TRAVEL INTELLIGENCE

TOP

# 1000

## BEST IN THE WORLD!

HOTELS • ISLANDS • CITIES • CRUISES • AIRLINES

(Rated by 47,000 of the most discerning travelers on earth)

### **PIG HEAVEN**

22 KNOCKOUT  
MEALS IN  
THE SOUTH  
(Pork, grits, the works)

p. 182

### **IRELAND**

5 PERFECT DAYS  
IN DUBLIN  
AND BEYOND  
(A step-by-step guide)

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### **SERENITY NOW!**

9 GLORIOUS PLACES  
WHERE YOU  
CAN'T BE REACHED  
(No Wi-Fi, no e-mail, no nothing)

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# BEST IN THE WORLD

## 2012 Readers' Choice Awards

46,476 readers  
elect 1,306  
properties and  
places

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

It's your world, and it keeps surprising us. Who but *Condé Nast Traveler* readers would have heard of, let alone traveled to, Bozcaada or Knysna?\* They're winners this year, and that is only part of what makes these Readers' Choice Awards so exceptional. Not just the numbers—although a record 46,476 readers participated. Not just the effect—always raising the bar, with 370 hotels, resorts, and cruise lines, incredibly, rating above 90. But also the vigorous curiosity to go where so few follow. Ever the pathfinders, you even, occasionally, locate sheer perfection—this year in Australia, granting a perfect score of 100 to Qualia resort on the Great Barrier Reef.

In this, the **twenty-fifth annual survey**, you elected a grand total of 1,306 winners. In fact, so many that we have made them easier to locate by region: Consider Italy, now meriting its own list, with seventeen hotels rated above 90.0, and the United States, which has sixteen 90.0-plus properties in the South alone (one reason could be the amazing food; see "Grits Gone Wild," page 182).

\*As for that asterisk, Bozcaada is a Turkish island, Knysna a South African city.



OUR WEB SITE FEATURES PHOTOS OF THIS YEAR'S WINNING HOTELS AND RESORTS, SUPPLEMENTED BY MINI GUIDES TO MANY TOP-RATED CITIES. FIND ALL THAT—AND MORE—AT [CONDENASTTRAVELER.COM/RCA](http://CONDENASTTRAVELER.COM/RCA).



MEXICO'S TROUBLES DON'T DIM ITS DELIGHTS. THIS YEAR'S RECORD 65 WINNERS INCLUDE 30 RESORTS ON THE RIVIERA MAYA. ENHANCE YOUR VISIT WITH "BEST OF MEXICO" AT [CONDENASTTRAVELER.COM/APPS](http://CONDENASTTRAVELER.COM/APPS).

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NOVEMBER  
2012

CONDÉ NAST  
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## United States

### Resorts (Continued)

- 8 Calistoga Ranch, Napa 90.8
- 9 Inn at Spanish Bay, Pebble Beach 90.8
- 10 Ritz-Carlton, Half Moon Bay 90.8
- 11 Villagio Inn & Spa, Yountville 89.5
- 12 Resort at Squaw Creek, Lake Tahoe 87.7
- 13 Meadowood Napa Valley, St. Helena 87.4
- 14 Kenwood Inn and Spa, Sonoma County 86.0
- 15 Casa Madrona Hotel & Spa, Sausalito 84.0
- 16 Sanctuary Beach Resort, Monterey Bay 83.6
- 17 Ahwahnee Hotel, Yosemite 83.5

### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

#### TOP 20

- 1 Resort at Pelican Hill, Newport Beach 96.1
- 2 Montage Laguna Beach 93.0
- 3 Terranea Resort, Rancho Palos Verdes 91.9
- 4 Four Seasons Resort The Biltmore Santa Barbara 91.5
- 5 Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel, Dana Point 90.2
- 6 St. Regis Monarch Beach, Dana Point 88.4
- 7 Rancho Valencia, Rancho Santa Fe 88.2
- 8 Ojai Valley Inn & Spa 87.2
- 9 L'Auberge Del Mar 86.9
- 10 Lodge at Torrey Pines, La Jolla 86.4
- 11 Surf & Sand Resort, Laguna Beach 86.1
- 12 Rancho Bernardo Inn Golf Resort & Spa, San Diego 85.7
- 13 Hyatt Regency Huntington Beach Resort & Spa 85.4
- 14 Grand Del Mar, San Diego 84.8
- 15 Bacara Resort & Spa, Santa Barbara 84.7
- 16 Hotel del Coronado, San Diego 84.6
- 17 Park Hyatt Aviara Resort, Carlsbad 84.5
- 18 JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa, Palm Desert 83.6
- 19 Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa, Anaheim 82.2
- 20 Laguna Cliffs Marriott Resort & Spa, Dana Point 81.0

### NORTHEAST

#### TOP 20

- 1 Mirror Lake Inn Resort and Spa, Lake Placid 94.0
- 2 Lake Placid Lodge 93.2
- 3 Stowe Mountain Lodge, Vt. 93.2
- 4 Mohonk Mountain House, New Paltz, N.Y. 91.9
- 5 Whiteface Lodge, Lake Placid 91.9
- 6 Lodge at Woodloch, Hawley, Pa. 90.6
- 7 Ocean House, Watch Hill, R.I. 90.0
- 8 Wequassett Resort and Golf Club, Cape Cod 89.8
- 9 Omni Bedford Springs Resort, Pa. 89.7
- 10 Chatham Bars Inn, Cape Cod 89.4
- 11 The Sagamore, Lake George, N.Y. 87.0



**HIGH LIFE IN THE LOWCOUNTRY** Fifty vernacular cottages stand in the forested waterways at the Inn at Palmetto Bluff, the No. 1 resort in the American South.

- 12 Otesaga Resort Hotel, Cooperstown 86.7
- 13 Nemaacolin Woodlands Resort, Farmington, Pa. 86.1
- 14 Samoset Resort, Rockport, Me. 84.6
- 15 Equinox Golf Resort & Spa (Luxury Collection), Manchester, Vt. 83.9
- 16 Trapp Family Lodge, Stowe, Vt. 83.5
- 17 Woodstock Inn & Resort, Vt. 83.5
- 18 Stoweflake Mountain Resort & Spa, Stowe, Vt. 83.2
- 19 Cliff House Resort & Spa, Ogunquit, Me. 83.1
- 20 Inn at Thorn Hill & Spa, Jackson, N.H. 83.0

### SOUTH

#### TOP 20

- 1 Inn at Palmetto Bluff, Bluffton, S.C. 97.2
- 2 Colonial Houses, Williamsburg, Va. 96.6
- 3 Sanctuary Hotel at Kiawah Island Golf Resort, S.C. 95.8
- 4 The Cloister, Sea Island, Ga. 95.6
- 5 Keswick Hall at Monticello, Va. 92.8
- 6 Big Cedar Lodge, Ridgedale, Mo. 92.7
- 7 Little St. Simons Island, Ga. 91.3
- 8 The Greenbrier, White Sulphur Springs, W.Va. 91.2
- 9 Williamsburg Lodge, Va. 90.7
- 10 Williamsburg Inn, Va. 89.0
- 11 Sea Pines Resort Inn at Harbour Town, Hilton Head 89.6
- 12 The Homestead, Hot Springs, Va. 87.5
- 13 Sanderling Resort & Spa, Duck, N.C. 87.2
- 14 Barnsley Gardens Resort, Adairsville, Ga. 87.0
- 15 Grand Hotel Marriott Resort, Golf Club & Spa, Point Clear, Ala. 85.9
- 16 Grove Park Inn, Asheville, N.C. 85.9
- 17 Disney's Hilton Head Island Resort 85.6
- 18 Pinehurst Resort, N.C. 84.9
- 19 Wild Dunes Resort, Isle of Palms, S.C. 84.6
- 20 Ritz-Carlton Lodge, Reynolds Plantation, Greensboro, Ga. 84.2

### MIDWEST

#### TOP 5

- 1 Osthoff Resort, Elkhart Lake, Wis. 88.7
- 2 Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island, Mich. 87.5
- 3 American Club, Kohler, Wis. 86.9
- 4 Grand View Lodge, Nisswa, Minn. 86.4
- 5 West Baden Springs Hotel, Ind. 83.4

### HAWAII

#### TOP 25

- 1 Four Seasons Resort Lana'i, The Lodge at Koele 96.2
- 2 Four Seasons Resort Hualalai, Big Island 95.2
- 3 Four Seasons Resort Lana'i at Manele Bay 94.7
- 4 Four Seasons Resort Maui at Wailea 93.9
- 5 Wailea Beach Villas, Maui 93.7
- 6 St. Regis Princeville Resort, Kauai 93.0
- 7 Grand Hyatt Kauai Resort & Spa 90.4
- 8 Fairmont Orchid, Big Island 90.0
- 9 Fairmont Kea Lani, Maui 89.8
- 10 Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua, Maui 89.3
- 11 Aulani Disney Resort & Spa, Oahu 87.5
- 12 Honua Kai Resort & Spa, Maui 87.5
- 13 Mauna Kea Beach Hotel, Big Island 87.5
- 14 Mauna Lani Bay Hotel & Bungalows, Big Island 87.5
- 15 Hyatt Regency Maui Resort & Spa 87.1
- 16 Travaasa Hana, Maui 86.5
- 17 Grand Wailea, Maui 86.4
- 18 Kahala Hotel & Resort, Oahu 85.6
- 19 Koa Kea Hotel and Resort, Kauai 85.6
- 20 Kua'i Marriott Resort 84.6
- 21 JW Marriott Ihilani Ko Olina Resort & Spa, Oahu 84.5
- 22 Hilton Waikoloa Village, Big Island 82.3
- 23 Westin Maui Resort & Spa 82.1
- 24 Sheraton Maui Resort & Spa, Ka'anapali 82.0
- 25 Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel, Big Island 81.8

### LAS VEGAS

#### TOP 5

- 1 Wynn and Encore Wynn 91.4
- 2 Palazzo Resort Hotel Casino 90.6
- 3 JW Marriott Las Vegas 85.2
- 4 Caesars Palace 80.2
- 5 Green Valley Ranch 79.2

### PACIFIC NORTHWEST

#### TOP 10

- 1 Alderbrook Resort & Spa, Union, Wash. 94.9
- 2 Willows Lodge, Woodinville, Wash. 89.2
- 3 Tulalip Resort Casino, Wash. 88.0
- 4 Woodmark Hotel, Yacht Club & Spa, Kirkland, Wash. 86.9
- 5 Inn at Langley, Whidbey Island, Wash. 86.8
- 6 Cave B Inn & Spa, Quincy, Wash. 84.4
- 7 Alyeska Resort, Girdwood, Alaska 83.6
- 8 Suncadia Resort, Cle Elum, Wash. 82.9
- 9 Sunriver Resort, Ore. 82.9
- 10 Salishan Spa & Golf Resort, Gleneden Beach, Ore. 79.3

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Napa Valley has five of northern California's Top 15 Resorts, and note: The lowest score is Meadowood's impressive 87.4.

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San Diego County shows its luxury muscle with seven of Southern California's top resorts, including the legendary 124-year-old seaside Hotel del Coronado.