

TRAVEL + LEISURE

T+L

500

OUR LIST OF THE

WORLD'S
BEST
HOTELS

 **Trip
Planner**

**12 Essential Tips You'll
Use All Year Long**

TREND REPORT 2010

**WHERE TO GO
NEXT HOTELS
UNDER \$200
HOW TECHNOLOGY
IS CHANGING TRAVEL**

Display until January 22, 2010

\$4.95



TravelandLeisure.com

JANUARY 2010



One of the three pools at Rosewood Mayakoba, on Mexico's Riviera Maya.

PAUL COSTELLO

UNITED STATES **118** CANADA **126** EUROPE **128** ASIA **132** AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST **136** MEXICO AND CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA **139** THE CARIBBEAN, BERMUDA, AND THE BAHAMAS **140** AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, AND THE SOUTH PACIFIC **142**



500

WORLD'S BEST HOTELS

Because they are repositories of local culture and keys to a destination, because the one you choose can often make—or break—a travel experience, we take hotels seriously at T+L. And we're glad to say our readers do, too. Every year we ask hundreds of thousands of them to cast their votes so we can determine the top 500 properties in the world. On the following pages, you'll also find our picks of hotels with notable rooftop scenes, culinary excursions, and wildlife treks. It's the list you've been waiting for—with more information than ever before available at TravelandLeisure.com to help you book your next trip.



SEARCH T+L'S HOTEL DATABASE TO PLAN YOUR NEXT GETAWAY!
For in-depth information on these top properties, including rooms to book, amenities, spas, golf, restaurants, and much more, go to TravelandLeisure.com.



WORLD'S BEST HOTELS

JAMAICA

- **Couples Negril (92.19)** A 234-room resort with 5 restaurants on Bloody Bay Beach. **Negril; 800/268-7537 or 876/957-5960; couples.com; doubles from \$670, all-inclusive, 3-night minimum.**
- **Couples Sans Souci (88.27)** The award-winning spa has a mineral pool and a spring-fed grotto at this cliffside adults-only resort. **Ocho Rios; 800/268-7537 or 876/994-1206; couples.com; doubles from \$680, all-inclusive, 3-night minimum.**
- **Couples Swept Away (91.80)** Wellness-minded travelers love the open-air gym and 82-foot lap pool at this Caribbean hotel. **Negril; 800/268-7537 or 876/957-4061; couples.com; doubles from \$697, all-inclusive, 3-night minimum.**
- NEW Couples Tower Isle (formerly Ocho Rios) (86.98)** The first Couples resort, freshly renovated with 20 new rooms, a dive pool, and 10 spa treatment rooms. **Tower Isle; 800/268-7537 or 876/975-4271; couples.com; doubles from \$648, all-inclusive, 3-night minimum.**
- **Jamaica Inn (86.36)** Cove-front manor (recently updated) long favored by Britain's upper crust: Winston Churchill was a frequent guest in the 1950's. **Ocho Rios; 800/837-4608 or 876/974-2514; jamaicainn.com; doubles from \$590.**
- **Rockhouse Hotel (82.90)** A hip scene atop the cliffs of Pristine Cove: the 20 villas have terraces, thatched roofs, and outdoor showers. **Negril; 876/957-4373; rockhousehotel.com; doubles from \$160.**
- **Royal Plantation Ocho Rios (88.50)** Steps from the city center, with a Mediterranean feel and a host of classes open to guests, from drawing to cooking. **Ocho Rios; 888/487-6925 or 876/974-5601; royalplantation.com; doubles from \$1,276.**

NEVIS

- **Four Seasons Resort (86.55)** Plantation-style cottages—some of the island's best—in a palm grove on Pinney's Beach. **Charlestown; 800/332-3442 or 869/469-1111; fourseasons.com; doubles from \$595. The hotel is reopening in April after a renovation.**

PETER ISLAND

- **Peter Island Resort & Spa (85.14)** Collection of 2-story bungalows and a 10,000-square-foot spa on an 1,800-acre private island. **800/346-4451 or 284/495-2000; peterisland.com; doubles from \$680, all-inclusive.**

ST. BART'S

- **Eden Rock (89.76)** A Hollywood favorite, set on a rocky promontory jutting out into the Baie de St. Jean; the resort just unveiled a 16,000-square-foot villa with a private recording studio. **Baie de St. Jean; 877/563-7105 or 590-590/297-999; edenrockhotel.com; doubles from \$1,020.**

ST. LUCIA

- **Anse Chastanet (90.14)** Brightly decorated hillside cottages above a volcanic-sand beach. **Soufrière; 800/223-1108 or 758/459-7000; ansechastanet.com; doubles from \$450.**

No.1 **NEW Jade Mountain (97.50)**
CARIBBEAN, BERMUDEA, AND THE BAHAMAS
 The island's most exclusive new resort has 28 open-air suites with either infinity pools or private Jacuzzis. **Soufrière; 800/223-1108 or 758/459-7000; jademountain.com; doubles from \$1,150.**

- **Ladera (84.32)** 26 open-air suites and 6 villas on a forested ridge 1,100 feet above the Piton mountains. **Soufrière; 866/290-0978 or 758/459-6618; ladera.com; doubles from \$615.**

TURKS AND CAICOS

- **Grace Bay Club (85.77)** Mediterranean-style resort with family villas and an adults-only wing. **800/946-5757 or 649/946-5050; gracebayclub.com; doubles from \$950.**

VIRGIN GORDA

- **Rosewood Little Dix Bay (82.96)** Set on 500 beachy acres, with a slew of water activities (sailing lessons; snorkeling; kayaking) and a hilltop spa. **888/767-3966 or 284/495-5555; rosewoodhotels.com; doubles from \$650.**

AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, AND THE SOUTH PACIFIC

AUSTRALIA

- **Great Barrier Reef**
- **Hayman (86.80)** A private island resort with a PADI dive center, a 1-to-1 staff-to-guest ratio, and tours galore. **800/223-6800 or 61-7/4940-1234; hayman.com.au; doubles from \$545.**
- **Lizard Island Resort (83.75)** Beachfront accommodations on an island 50 minutes by motor-powered dive boat from the Great Barrier Reef. **800/225-9849 or 61-7/4043-1999; lizard-island.com.au; doubles from \$1,571, all-inclusive, 2-night minimum.**

KATOOMBA

- **Lilianfels Blue Mountains Resort & Spa (88.54)** Storybook country-house hideaway, best known for its roster of outdoor activities, including walking tours through the rain forest. **800/237-1236 or 61-2/4780-1200; lilianfels.com.au; doubles from \$332.**

MELBOURNE

- **Crown Towers (85.95)** A high-rise casino complex that's secluded enough to attract non-gamers. **8 Whittem St.; 61-3/9292-6868; crowntowers.com.au; doubles from \$307.**
- **The Langham (87.69)** On the Southbank Promenade, with charming British touches such as traditional afternoon tea and Waterford Wedgwood chandeliers. **1 Southgate Ave.; 61-3/8696-8888 or 800/588-9141; langhamhotels.com; doubles from \$290.**

SYDNEY

- **Four Seasons Hotel (83.27)** 34 floors of polished, updated rooms and public spaces, plus the city's largest outdoor pool. **199 George St.; 800/322-3442 or 61-2/9250-3100; fourseasons.com; doubles from \$295.**
- **InterContinental (83.27)** Centrally located tower atop the 1851 Treasury Building. **117 Macquarie St.; 800/327-0200 or 61-2/9253-9000; intercontinental.com; doubles from \$276.**
- **Observatory Hotel (84.16)** 100-room hotel reminiscent of a manor house (mahogany furniture and brocade tapestries). **89-113 Kent St.; 800/237-1236 or 61-2/9256-2222; observatoryhotel.com.au; doubles from \$285.**
- **Park Hyatt (83.87)** A prime location, directly across the harbor from the Opera House and a walkway's width from the water. **7 Hickson Rd.; 800/233-1234 or 61-2/9241-1234; park.hyatt.com; doubles from \$630.**
- **Shangri-La Hotel (85.80)** The city's largest rooms and a new Chi spa that opened in December. **176 Cumberland St.; 866/565-5050 or 61-2/9250-6000; shangri-la.com; doubles from \$315.**
- **Sydney Harbour Marriott Hotel at Circular Quay (82.86)** Glass-and-concrete skyscraper featuring a grand 3-floor lobby, along the harbor. **30 Pitt St.; 800/228-9290 or 61-2/9259-7000; marriott.com; doubles from \$548.**

YULARA

- **Voyages Longitude 131° (84.56)** Futuristic tented camp with adventurous daily itineraries

and dramatic views of Uluru. **800/225-9849 or 61-8/8957-7131; longitude131.com.au; doubles from \$1,831, all-inclusive, 2-night minimum.**

FRENCH POLYNESIA

BORA-BORA

- **InterContinental Resort & Thalasso Spa (86.56)** 80 overwater bungalows around an islet off Bora-Bora. **800/327-0200 or 011-689/607-600; intercontinental.com; doubles from \$1,339.**

NEW ZEALAND

AUCKLAND

- **Westin Auckland Lighter Quay (85.31)** 172-room hotel on Viaduct Harbour, within walking distance of lively Queen Street. **21 Viaduct Harbour Ave.; 800/228-3000 or 64-9/909-9000; westin.com; doubles from \$264.**

CHRISTCHURCH

- **The George (82.43)** Boutique hotel with minimalist lithographs by local artist Ralph Holere and 53 light-filled rooms, overlooking Hagley Park. **50 Park Terrace; 800/525-4800 or 64-3/379-4560; thegeorge.com; doubles from \$300.**

MATAURI BAY

- **Lodge at Kauri Cliffs (93.75)** Cliffside lodge and golf course on 6,500 acres with panoramic views of the South Pacific. **800/735-2478 or 64-9/407-0010; kauricliffs.com; doubles from \$1,400, including breakfast and dinner, 2-night minimum December-March.**

TAUPO

- **Huka Lodge (83.53)** An exclusive 25-room lodge beloved by boldface names for its elegant rooms and premier fishing, hiking, and golf along the banks of the Waikato River. **800/223-6800 or 64-7/378-5791; hukaretreats.com; doubles from \$2,072, including breakfast and dinner.**

TE AWANGA

- **Farm at Cape Kidnappers (93.33)** 26-room inn on a working sheep and cattle ranch 800 feet above the sea. **800/735-2478 or 64-6/875-1900; capekidnappers.com; doubles from \$1,308, including breakfast and dinner, 2-night minimum December-March. +**

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.

EDITED BY ALISON GORAN, SARAH KANTROWITZ, AND BREE SPOSTATO. REPORTED BY KEREN BALTZER, SARAH KHAN, KELLY LACK, JANE MARGOLIES, MEG LUKENS NOONAN, KATHRYN O'SHEA-EVANS, AND MEEGHAN TRUVELOVE.