

Condé Nast Traveler

SEVEN WINNING
TRAVEL APPS

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

JANUARY 2011

20-PAGE
SPECIAL

GOLD LIST WORLD'S BEST 504 HOTELS, RESORTS, CRUISE LINES

PLUS

*EUROPE'S
RISING STAR*

*SOUTH
AMERICA'S
SECRET
PARADISE*

*INDIA'S
MAGIC CITY*





2011 GOLD LIST

THE WORLD'S BEST
PLACES TO STAY

504
HOTELS,
RESORTS,
AND
CRUISE
LINES

"NOTHING ENDURES BUT change." No, Heraclitus wasn't thinking about hotels, but the axiom applies. *Condé Nast Traveler's* compendium of the best hotels, resorts, and cruise lines in the world, drawn from our annual Readers' Choice Survey (see November 2010), is ever-evolving. Updated annually, it is a truly global tally of peerless travel experiences (and proves the mobility and discriminating tastes of our readers). Case in point: This

year's Gold List has 48 properties appearing for the first time, and we have duly accorded each a detailed review, with readers' quotes (for complete reviews of all 2011 Gold List properties, go to cntraveler.com/goldlist, or download our soon-to-be-released iPhone or iPad app, *Condé Nast Traveler's 2011 Gold List*). Here's to the newcomers, and to the other hotels, resorts, and cruise lines on these pages, which have withstood the toughest test of all—time.

THE AMERICAS

"Build it and they will come" is strikingly the case along Mexico's coasts, both historic and hedonistic

MEXICO HAS ITS CHALLENGES these days, but they have not deterred the visionary development of its shorelines—the Riviera Maya on the Atlantic, the Riviera Nayarit on the Pacific—which are undergoing huge building booms. The appeal is clear: beachfront locations, easy access from the United States (most of these resorts are within an hour's drive of the international airports of Cancún or Puerto Vallarta), and hotel brands that cater to the luxe market. Such growth has had a marked effect on our Gold List: Six resorts on the Yucatán Peninsula and the Riviera Nayarit debut this year.

The stucco buildings of Maroma, on the Riviera Maya, were crafted on a former coconut plantation. Its oceanfront location scores 98.6.



ATLANTIC AND CARIBBEAN ISLANDS

CuisinArt Resort & Spa, Anguilla 87.6
 92.1 83.2 84.0 94.1 90.1 82.0

Curtain Bluff, Antigua 91.0
 90.0 94.0 91.8 94.0 90.0 86.0

Jumby Bay (Rosewood), Antigua 89.7
 88.7 91.9 87.1 91.8 90.3 88.5

One&Only Ocean Club, Paradise Island, Bahamas 90.0
 90.5 89.1 84.1 93.8 93.7 88.9

NEW The Reef Atlantis, Paradise Island, Bahamas 90.3
 93.9 90.9 75.8 93.9 87.9 100

A stay at this tower within Atlantis is "like living in your own paradisiacal apartment" with a kitchen, living space, and ocean views. Marble floors, sleek sofas, and chandeliers fill public spaces. Atlantis's 40 restaurants include several focusing on seafood: Try ancho chile-rubbed salmon at Mesa, conch fritters at Bimini Road. Swimming with dolphins is one of the perfect-scoring activities.

Sandy Lane, Barbados 89.0
 91.0 86.6 86.6 94.0 86.6 89.2

The Reefs Hotel & Club, Bermuda 93.8
 90.6 94.7 95.1 96.1 95.1 91.1

NEW Tucker's Point Hotel & Spa, Bermuda 88.0
 94.3 77.1 80.0 91.4 94.3 91.2

2011 GOLD LIST

KEY TO SYMBOLS

- Rooms
- Service
- Food
- Location
- Design
- Activities

SCORES IN RED = OVERALL

NEW To Gold List

- Condé Nast Traveler 2010 Best Golf Resorts
- Condé Nast Traveler 2010 Best Ski Resorts

For full reviews of every hotel and resort on the 2011 Gold List, with reader quotes, go to cntraveler.com/goldlist. (Or download our soon-to-be-released iPhone or iPad app: Condé Nast Traveler's 2011 Gold List.)

This year-old "sparkling hotel" embodies colonial Bermuda. "Fabulous views of sky and sea appear at every turn." Rooms have balconies—some with "a huge daybed"—and whimsical touches like butterfly nets. The small spa has "a shower with 18 heads." "Staff, though well intentioned, are a bit disorganized." The Point has 80-foot-long murals and serves local swordfish.

Peninsula House, Las Terrenas, Dominican Republic 98.6
 100 100 96.6 96.6 100

Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman 94.1
 96.9 93.3 93.3 96.0 92.9 91.9

Spice Island Beach Resort, Grenada 89.0
 92.3 92.3 84.6 92.3 88.5 84.0

The Caves, Negril, Jamaica 93.1
 93.1 93.1 93.1 93.1 93.1

Couples Swept Away, Negril, Jamaica 89.7
 87.9 89.9 86.7 90.9 89.9 92.9

Jamaica Inn, Ocho Rios, Jamaica 89.9
 90.6 94.3 92.5 88.7 90.6 82.7

Sandals Royal Plantation, Ocho Rios, Jamaica 90.0
 95.6 93.3 86.7 86.7 88.6 88.9

Sandals Whitehouse European Village & Spa, Whitehouse, Jamaica 87.7
 86.8 86.8 91.2 79.4 91.2 91.0

Four Seasons, Nevis 88.5
 89.9 91.1 82.9 91.8 88.6 86.5

Nisbet Plantation Beach Club, Nevis 93.7
 95.3 97.2 96.3 95.3 93.4 84.5

Peter Island Resort & Spa, Peter Island 91.1
 84.7 86.3 90.4 97.3 95.8 91.8

NEW Las Casitas Resort, Las Croabas, Puerto Rico 87.6
 87.6 97.4 92.1 75.7 73.7 92.1

This 500-acre resort near El Yunque rain forest has "an upscale, chic atmosphere" and "beautiful exteriors." Due to the resort's size, "you need to have transportation or the luxury of time to walk." Staff embody "the hospitality of Puerto Rico." More than 20 bars and restaurants include Blossoms, serving pan-Asian specialties. Unwind on Palomino Island, the resort's private getaway just offshore.

Horned Dorset Primavera, Rincón, Puerto Rico 90.1
 94.1 94.1 91.4 85.7 85.3

Eden Rock, St. Barts 90.9
 91.2 89.7 88.6 95.6 89.6

Hotel Saint Barth Isle de France, St. Barts 91.2
 87.5 89.3 92.9 96.4 89.3

Anse Chastanet, St. Lucia 89.9
 91.7 89.6 85.4 85.4 95.8 91.5

NEW Jade Mountain, St. Lucia 93.8
 94.7 92.1 94.7 94.7 94.7 91.9

The sister property of Anse Chastanet has "a setting that is spectacular," looking onto the Piton Mountains. Airy and modern accommodations have an open wall facing the sea, 20 varieties of hardwood, and "infinity pools" with iridescent tiles. The club's dinner menu "changes with the seasons," but the emphasis is on seafood. End the night with "heavenly cocktails on the Celestial Terrace." Staff take the attitude that "nothing is too much trouble."

Ladera, St. Lucia 90.1
 89.8 86.4 89.7 94.9 89.7

Parrot Cay, Turks and Caicos 90.1
 81.7 94.4 85.9 94.4 94.4 90.0

Grace Bay Club, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos 88.9
 94.7 86.2 82.8 94.7 91.5 83.7

Biras Creek Resort, Virgin Gorda 89.4
 88.7 90.6 90.9 96.3 88.9 80.8

CANADA

ALBERTA

NEW Fairmont Banff Springs, Banff 87.9
 78.8 86.8 85.8 95.5 91.7 88.8

*** Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise, Lake Louise 89.4**
 85.5 88.5 86.6 96.4 91.0 88.4

Post Hotel & Spa, Lake Louise 90.7
 92.4 96.2 92.4 87.3 93.7 81.6

BRITISH COLUMBIA

King Pacific Lodge (Rosewood), Princess Royal Island 97.0
 96.8 96.8 96.8 100 95.2 96.8