

TRAVEL TIPS 2011 + FREQUENT-FLIER SECRETS: MILEAGE UPGRADES

# TRAVEL + LEISURE

# 500 WORLD'S BEST HOTELS

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\$4.99



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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.

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**VIEWS FROM THE TOP** Clockwise from above left: The terrace at Trump International Hotel & Tower's Sixteen restaurant, in Chicago; inside Sixteen; the Four Seasons Resort Hualalai's Seashell pool.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: BETH GA. BARBANT (2); SUSAN BEUBERT

access to a legendary golf course. A bagpiper roams the grounds every evening. 888/732-4752; seaisland.com; doubles from \$395.

## HAWAII

### BIG ISLAND

**1 Four Seasons Resort Hualalai** (92.74) String of 2-story bungalows built upon ancient lava rock. The updated Hualalai Spa now has 10 outdoor treatment rooms. 800/332-3442; fourseasons.com; doubles from \$775.

**Mauna Kea Beach Hotel** (87.47) Golf-and-tennis resort on Kaunaoa Beach with updated interiors (crisp white bedding; rectangular soaking tubs) after a \$150 million renovation. 866/977-4589; princeresortshawaii.com; doubles from \$375.

**Mauna Lani Bay Hotel & Bungalows** (88.96) 343-room eco-friendly hotel and five bungalows constructed on a 16th-century lava flow, currently the nesting ground of 8 endangered sea turtles (thanks to the hotel's rehabilitation program). 800/367-2323; maunalani.com; doubles from \$395.

### KAUAI

**Grand Hyatt Kauai Resort & Spa** (88.41) 602-room resort with a network of pools and a cliff-top Robert Trent Jones Jr.-designed golf course. Parts of the property will be closed through March. 800/233-1234; hyatt.com; doubles from \$540.

### LANAI

**Four Seasons Resort Lanai at Manele Bay** (89.52) 236-room beach resort fronted by a marine preserve. Service is geared toward vacationing urbanites: at the pool, attendants give hand massages for texting-weary fingers. 800/332-3442; fourseasons.com; doubles from \$395.

**Four Seasons Resort Lanai, The Lodge at Koele** (91.39) Manele Bay's tiled sister property, complete with gardens and a horse stable. 800/332-3442; fourseasons.com; doubles from \$345.

### MAUI

**Fairmont Kea Lani** (87.69) Whitewashed all-suite retreat on Polo Beach maintains an air of tranquility despite its size. Every room was just spruced up with new furnishings. 800/441-1414; fairmont.com; doubles from \$399.

**Four Seasons Resort Maui at Wailea** (89.91) Modern 380-room retreat has a slew of free activities (twice-daily scuba lessons) and an infinity-edge pool with an underwater sound system. 800/332-3442; fourseasons.com; doubles from \$465.

**Hotel Hana-Maui & Honua Spa** (88.64) This collection of 47 cottages and 22 suites on a seaside bluff is a quiet alternative to the island's mega-resorts. 800/321-4262; hotelhanamaui.com; doubles from \$325.

**Hyatt Regency Maui Resort & Spa** (87.20) Upscale resort with Polynesian-inspired design, just-renovated rooms, and a new Asian-fusion restaurant, Japengo, on the northwest side of the island. 800/233-1234; hyatt.com; doubles from \$379.

**NEW Makena Beach & Golf Resort** (86.67) Low-key hotel on 1,800 acres abutting a crescent of white sand. New this year: the Makena Kai Day Spa and a seafood-focused restaurant. 800/321-6284; makenaresortmaui.com; doubles from \$259.

**Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua** (87.49) Former pineapple plantation known for its eco-education program. Updated guest rooms have dark-wood floors and watercolor paintings. 800/241-3333; ritzcarrlton.com; doubles from \$615.

### OAHU

**Halekulani** (92.43) Century-old, 5-acre Waikiki Beach gem with tech-savvy details and the new Table One restaurant—plus covetable views of Diamond Head. 800/367-2343; halekulani.com; doubles from \$425.

**Kahala Hotel & Resort** (91.53) 338-room Hawaiian classic with furniture by notable designers (Nicole Miller; Ralph Lauren) in refurbished suites. 800/367-2525; kahalaresort.com; doubles from \$515.

**Royal Hawaiian, a Luxury Collection Resort** (87.41) Recognizable pink façade and, after a monumental \$60 million renovation, 529 updated rooms and an intimate new pool. 800/325-3589; royal-hawaiian.com; doubles from \$590.

## ILLINOIS

### CHICAGO

**\$ The Drake** (86.67) A storied history and 535 rooms and suites with Regency-style furnishings. 140 E. Walton Place;

800/553-7253; thedrakehotel.com; doubles from \$229.

**Four Seasons Hotel** (91.77) Floors 30 through 46 of a skyscraper with a mix of 20th-century French design and Art Deco details. All 345 rooms overlook Lake Michigan. 120 E. Delaware Place; 800/332-3442; fourseasons.com; doubles from \$375.

**Park Hyatt** (87.80) A 198-room hotel on Water Tower Square with a modern art collection (including works by Isamu Noguchi) and views of the lake and the Museum of Contemporary Art. 800 N. Michigan Ave.; 877/875-4658; park.hyatt.com; doubles from \$315.

**Pensula Chicago** (93.09) Sleek 20-story tower and 2 of the city's hottest restaurants, Avenues and Shanghai Terrace, in the heart of the Magnificent Mile shopping district. 108 E. Superior St.; 866/382-8388; pensula.com; doubles from \$450.

**Ritz-Carlton (A Four Seasons Hotel)** (89.12) Lavish 21-floor Magnificent Mile high-rise hotel. The renovated lobby features a marble fountain and Art Nouveau-style reliefs. 160 E. Pearson St.; 800/332-3442; fourseasons.com; doubles from \$325.

**\$ Sofitel Water Tower** (88.38) Sofitel's North American flagship is a 32-floor light-filled glass prism, with a new Parisian-inspired restaurant. 20 E. Chestnut St.; 800/763-4835; sofitel.com; doubles from \$175.

**NEW Sutton Place Hotel** (92.27) 246-room contemporary tower on the Gold Coast, near luxe boutiques and top dining options. 21 E. Bellevue Place; 866/378-8866; suttonplace.com; doubles from \$259.

**\$ Swissôtel** (86.58) Swiss efficiency in downtown Chicago with services geared for business travelers (there's a new 38,000-square-foot event center). 323 E. Wacker Dr.; 888/737-9477; swissotelchicago.com; doubles from \$249.

**1 NEW Trump International Hotel & Tower** (94.32) Located in a minimalist, 92-story stainless-steel monolith next to the Chicago River, with a 23,000-square-foot spa. 401 N. Wabash Ave.; 877/458-7867; trumpchicago.com; doubles from \$425.

## T+L PICKS | U.S.

# Farm-to-Table Hotel Restaurants



Dry Creek Kitchen at the Hotel Healdsburg.

## New Orleans

**TRITZ-CARLTON** The new M Bistro takes an indigenous approach to Big Easy cuisine. Chef Matt Murphy uses organic and seasonal produce from Louisiana, Texas, and Mississippi. **ON THE MENU** New Orleans classics: crawfish pie and grits.

## Sonoma, California

**HOTEL HEALDSBURG** Chef Charlie Palmer's Dry Creek Kitchen draws crowds for heirloom vegetables, artisanal cheeses, and heritage meats. The hotel's new sister property H2Hotel serves cocktails infused with local herbs. **ON THE MENU** Roasted Alaskan halibut; the wine list showcases more than 600 Sonoma labels.

## San Antonio, Texas

**WESTIN LA CANTERA** Eighty percent of the new menu at Francesca's at Sunset relies on ingredients sourced from South Texas ranches and farms. Plus, the sommelier pairs dishes with bottles from eight Texas vintners. **ON THE MENU** Hill Country buffalo, quail, antelope; Akaushi beef; and Texas gulf crab.

## Washington, Virginia

**INN AT LITTLE WASHINGTON** Long synonymous with locavore dining, the Inn has expanded its vegetable garden and added sheep and chickens to the grounds. **ON THE MENU** Mustard-crust rack of lamb with minted vegetable *tagine*.