



This Month — World's Best Hotels,
New Hotel Openings

Andrew Harper's Hideaway Report®

A connoisseur's worldwide guide
to peaceful and unspoiled places

Our 27th Year

September 2005
Volume XXVII, Number 4

Rising Stars

Hotels showing most dramatic
rise in rankings since last year:

U.S. City Hotels

- Four Seasons (San Francisco)
No. 18 to No. 11
- The Peninsula (New York)
No. 20 to No. 13

International City Hotels

- Four Seasons (Istanbul)
No. 22 to No. 11
- Four Seasons (Prague)
No. 38 to No. 12
- The Ritz (London)
No. 26 to No. 13
- Alvear Palace (Buenos Aires)
No. 34 to No. 16

U.S. Resort Hotels

- Montage Resort (Laguna Beach)
No. 20 to No. 4
- The Sanctuary (Kiawah Island)
Unranked New Hotel to No. 15

International Resort Hotels

- Esperanza (Mexico)
No. 10 to No. 4
- Hotel Palmilla (Mexico)
No. 21 to No. 5
- Villa Feltrinelli (Italy)
No. 15 to No. 7
- Four Seasons (Nevis, West Indies)
No. 26 to No. 12
- Sandy Lane (Barbados)
No. 32 to No. 19

The World's Best Hotels, Resorts & Hideaways — Our 24th Annual Survey of Sophisticated Travelers

This is the 24th straight year we have surveyed our readers to determine the world's best hotels and resorts. This is by far the longest running and most reliable poll of its kind conducted among sophisticated frequent travelers. More than 85% of this year's respondents answer to the title of President/CEO/Owner/Partner, and 90% have traveled outside the U.S. for business and leisure during the past 12 months.

Unlike most travel magazines whose polling results often seem nonsensically erratic from year to year, the *Hideaway Report* survey serves as a steady and consistent gauge in accurately pinpointing the **current** hotel and destination preferences of upscale travelers. That's why we purposely make a point of tallying only the votes given to those hotels that have been visited by readers in the last two years.

In the U.S. city hotel category, Four Seasons Chicago took top honors for the sixth time in 10 years. The Peninsula Beverly Hills (last year's winner) was second, followed by The St. Regis New York. Overall, New York City ruled the Top 20 list with a record 8 properties.

The 30-room Post Ranch Inn (Big Sur, CA) was voted the best

U.S. resort, the smallest hotel to ever capture the gold medal in this category. Meanwhile, the chic 2½-year-old Montage Resort (Laguna Beach, CA) surged from No. 20 to No. 4. Another rising star to watch is The Sanctuary (Kiawah Island, SC) at No. 15, the highest ranking ever achieved by a one-year-old resort!

Internationally, Four Seasons George V Paris was the runaway No. 1 city hotel for the fifth successive year. On the flip side, the venerable Ritz in Paris failed to make the Top 20 for the first time since our reader survey began in 1982. London dominated the leaderboard with six hotels. Newcomers to the list include the Four Seasons in Istanbul (No. 11) and Prague (No. 12), plus Alvear Palace in Buenos Aires (No. 16).

Las Ventanas (Los Cabos, Mexico) was named the top international resort for the fourth time in 5 years. Esperanza and Hotel Palmilla (also in Los Cabos), ranked No. 4 and No. 5. Indeed, Mexico placed a record 5 resorts in the Top 20, tying Italy as the most favored foreign destination.

To view the websites of all Top 20 hotels and resorts, go to www.AndrewHarperTravel.com and click on HIDEAWAY REPORT and "Latest Issues."

Top 20 U.S. City Hotels

Number at right indicates last year's ranking

1	Four Seasons (Chicago)	2
	The No. 1 city hotel for 6 of the last 10 years	
2	The Peninsula (Beverly Hills)	1
	Always near the top; No. 1 in 2002 and 2004	
3	The St. Regis (New York)	4
	Voted NY's finest for 10 consecutive years	
4	The Peninsula (Chicago)	3
	A sleek newcomer vying for Chicago's top spot	
5	Four Seasons (New York)	8
	Has ranked no lower than No. 8 since 1994	
6	Hotel Bel-Air (Los Angeles)	6
	In Top 20 every year since first poll in 1982	
7	Mandarin Oriental (San Francisco)	7
	Ends Ritz-Carlton's 12-year reign as city's best	
8	The Lowell (New York)	11
	A splendid showing for just a 70-room hotel	
9	The Ritz-Carlton (San Francisco)	5
	The only Ritz-Carlton to make the Top 20	
10	Windsor Court (New Orleans)	13
	The Big Easy's No. 1 for 10 successive years	
11	Four Seasons (San Francisco)	18
	A rising star in the Yerba Buena Arts District	
12	Four Seasons (Boston)	19
	Five Four Seasons hotels made the Top 20	
13	The Peninsula (New York)	20
	Three Peninsula hotels made the Top 20	
14	Ritz-Carlton (Chicago)	14
	A Top 20 performer for more than 10 years	
15	The Mansion on Turtle Creek (Dallas)	9
	The pride of Texas in the Top 20 since 1984	
16	Plaza Athénée (New York)	10
	New York sets a record with 8 Top 20 hotels	
17	The Mark (New York)	15
	One of 4 Mandarin Orientals in the Top 20	
18	The Carlyle (New York)	12
	Another Rosewood victor; also see No. 15	
19	Mandarin Oriental (New York)	23
	Just 2 years old, but catching on with many	
20	Mandarin Oriental (Miami)	24
	Hip-hot Miami finally breaks into the elite 20	

Top 20 International City Hotels

Number at right indicates last year's ranking

1	Four Seasons George V (Paris)	1
	The runaway No. 1 for 5 consecutive years	
2	The Peninsula (Hong Kong)	6
	Always near the top; No. 1 from 1996-1998	
3	The Stafford (London)	2
	A Top 20 favorite for more than 20 years	
4	Hotel de Russie (Rome)	4
	The Eternal City's No. 1 for the last 2 years	
5	The Oriental (Bangkok)	5
	In Top 20 every year since first poll in 1982	
6	Four Seasons (Milan)	9
	Voted Milano's best for 11 straight years	
7	The Lanesborough (London)	3
	Has ranked no lower than No. 10 since 1996	
8	The Connaught (London)	10
	A Mayfair legend in Top 20 for 24 years	
9	Claridge's (London)	7
	Another Mayfair classic that's back in top form	
10	The Peninsula (Bangkok)	13
	A sleek upstart steadily moving up the ranks	
11	Four Seasons (Istanbul)	22
	A record 4 Four Seasons made the Top 20	
12	Four Seasons (Prague)	38
	Prague debuts in Top 20 with a big-time leap	
13	The Ritz (London)	26
	Readers obviously like the elegant renovations	
14	Hassler Villa Medici (Rome)	15
	Rome's perennial No. 1 until No. 4 came along	
15	Cape Grace (Cape Town)	23
	South Africa's world-class luxury hotel	
16	Alvear Palace (Buenos Aires)	21
	BA's Old World favorite for more than 10 years	
17	Park Hyatt (Sydney)	12
	The best of the best in this popular Aussie city	
18	Hotel Cipriani (Venice)	18
	A Venice landmark in Top 20 for 24 years	
19	The Dorchester (London)	8
	London placed 6 hotels in this year's Top 20	
20	Hôtel Le Bristol (Paris)	17
	Edges out the Ritz (No. 21) as Paris runner-up	

Top 20 U.S. Resort Hotels

Number at right indicates last year's ranking;
'X' means hotel was not among Top 50 last year

1	Post Ranch Inn (Big Sur, CA)	6
	Smallest hotel (30 rooms) to ever win No. 1	
2	Four Seasons Hualalai (Hawaii)	3
	Always a Big Island hit (along with No. 7)	
3	The Greenbrier (West Virginia)	1
	An enduring winner; No. 1 in 3 of last 5 years	
4	Montage Resort (Laguna Beach, CA)	20
	Is this rocketing new star destined for No. 1?	
5	Blackberry Farm (Walland, Tennessee)	5
	Has made Top 20 list every year since 1999	
6	Auberge du Soleil (Rutherford, CA)	4
	A Napa Valley icon in the Top 20 since 1985	
7	Mauna Kea Beach Hotel (Hawaii)	2
	Was voted Big Island's best in 2001 and 2004	
8	Twin Farms (Barnard, VT)	7
	This little gem has made Top 20 since 1994	
9	Bellagio (Las Vegas, NV)	11
	The best of Vegas for 5 consecutive years	
10	Four Seasons Maui (Hawaii)	7
	Named Maui's best for 4 straight years	
11	The Cloister (Sea Island, GA)	18
	A Southern classic in Top 20 for 24 years	
12	Rancho Valencia (Rancho Santa Fe, CA)	9
	Another fine finish for this casita-style resort	
13	The Boulders (Carefree, AZ)	10
	A former No. 1 that continues to trend south	
14	The Broadmoor (Colorado Springs, CO)	21
	The grande dame of the West returns to Top 20	
15	The Sanctuary (Kiawah Island, SC)	X
	Highest ranking ever for a one-year-old resort	
16	Amangani (Jackson Hole, WY)	15
	A stylish sanctuary with a powerful prefix	
17	The Inn at Little Washington (Virginia)	22
	The top foodie retreat since it first opened!	
18	Meadowood (St. Helena, CA)	23
	California posted a record 7 hotels in Top 20	
19	The Little Nell (Aspen, CO)	14
	Voted America's best ski lodging since 1994	
20	Four Seasons Resort (Santa Barbara, CA)	31
	Proof that big renovations can reap big results	

Top 20 International Resort Hotels

Number at right indicates last year's ranking

1	Las Ventanas (Los Cabos, Mexico)	1
	The No. 1 resort for 4 of the last 5 years	
2	Cap Juluca (Anguilla, West Indies)	3
	The best finish yet for this perennial favorite	
3	Villa d'Este (Lake Como, Italy)	4
	In Top 20 every year since first poll in 1982	
4	Esperanza (Los Cabos, Mexico)	10
	Looking to overtake No. 1 as Baja's best	
5	Hotel Palmilla (Los Cabos, Mexico)	21
	Another fast-rising Cabo contender	
6	Singita (Kruger Nat'l Park, South Africa)	5
	Named Africa's best safari lodge since 1998	
7	Villa Feltrinelli (Lake Garda, Italy)	15
	Three years old and already a world-class star	
8	Blanket Bay (Glenorchy, New Zealand)	7
	Voted best Kiwi hideaway for last 4 years	
9	Casa Que Canta (Zihuatanejo, Mexico)	11
	Continues to creep up the leaderboard	
10	Four Seasons (Chiang Mai, Thailand)	17
	Has made the Top 20 for 5 straight years	
11	Ocean Club (Paradise Island, Bahamas)	14
	A restored jewel that continues to make waves	
12	Four Seasons (Nevis, West Indies)	26
	Three Four Seasons resorts made the Top 20	
13	Le Sirenuse (Positano, Italy)	7
	Usually Positano's No. 2, but not this year	
14	Four Seasons Punta Mita (Mexico)	18
	A record 5 Mexican resorts made the Top 20	
15	Hotel San Pietro (Positano, Italy)	2
	Has made Top 20 list for more than 20 years	
16	Hotel Splendido (Portofino, Italy)	6
	Italy placed 5 hotels in the Top 20 this year	
17	Lizard Island (Great Barrier Reef, Australia)	13
	Voted favorite resort in Oz since 2001	
18	Huka Lodge (Taupo, New Zealand)	21
	A popular vote-getter that's often in Top 20	
19	Sandy Lane (Barbados)	32
	First time in Top 20 for this Caribbean classic	
20	Chewton Glen (New Milton, England)	9
	Voted Britain's finest resort the last 2 years	

Little Gems: Your favorite hideaway resorts with 50 or fewer rooms

Top 20 U.S. Resort Hideaways

- 1 Post Ranch Inn** (Big Sur, CA)
Tel. (800) 527-2200 or (831) 667-2200

- 2 Blackberry Farm** (Walland, TN)
Tel. (800) 648-2348 or (865) 984-8166

- 3 Twin Farms** (Barnard, VT)
Tel. (800) 894-6327 or (802) 234-9999

- 4 Rancho Valencia** (Rancho Santa Fe, CA)
Tel. (800) 548-3664 or (858) 756-1123

- 5 Amangani** (Jackson Hole, WY)
Tel. (877) 734-7333 or (307) 734-7333

- 6 Inn at Little Washington** (Washington, VA)
Tel. (540) 675-3800

- 7 The White Barn Inn** (Kennebunkport, ME)
Tel. (207) 967-2321

- 8 The Point** (Saranac Lake, NY)
Tel. (800) 255-3530 or (518) 891-5674

- 9 Triple Creek Ranch** (Darby, MT)
Tel. (800) 654-2943 or (406) 821-4600

- 10 The Big EZ Lodge** (Big Sky, MT)
Tel. (877) 244-3299 or (406) 995-7000

- 11 Wheatleigh** (Lenox, MA)
Tel. (413) 637-0610

- 12 Blantyre** (Lenox, MA)
Tel. (413) 637-3556

- 13 Mayflower Inn** (Washington, CT)
Tel. (860) 868-9466

- 14 Lodge at Sea Island Golf Club** (GA)
Tel. (800) 732-4752 or (912) 638-3611

- 15 Lake Placid Lodge** (Lake Placid, NY)
Tel. (877) 523-2700 or (518) 523-2700

- 16 The Wauwinet** (Nantucket, MA)
Tel. (800) 426-8718 or (508) 228-0145

- 17 Woodlands Resort & Inn** (Summerville, SC)
Tel. (800) 774-9999 or (843) 875-2600

- 18 Keswick Hall** (Charlottesville, VA)
Tel. (800) 274-5391 or (434) 979-3440

- 19 Little Palm Island** (Little Torch Key, FL)
Tel. (800) 343-8567 or (305) 872-2524

- 20 Tu Tu' Tun Lodge** (Gold Beach, OR)
Tel. (800) 864-6357 or (541) 247-6664

Top 20 International Resort Hideaways

- 1 Singita** (Kruger National Park, South Africa)
Tel. (27) 21-683-3424; Fax (27) 21-683-3502

- 2 Villa Feltrinelli** (Lake Garda, Italy)
Tel. (39) 0365-798000; Fax (39) 0365-798001

- 3 Blanket Bay** (Glenorchy, New Zealand)
Tel. (64) 3-442-9442; Fax (64) 3-442-9441

- 4 Casa Que Canta** (Zihuatanejo, Mexico)
Tel. (52) 755-555-7000; In U.S., (888) 523-5050

- 5 Lizard Island** (Great Barrier Reef, Australia)
Tel. (61) 2-9277-5050; In U.S., (800) 225-9849

- 6 Huka Lodge** (Taupo, New Zealand)
Tel. (64) 7-378-5791; Fax (64) 7-378-0427

- 7 The Wakaya Cub** (Fiji Islands)
Tel. (679) 3448-128; In U.S., (800) 828-3454

- 8 Palazzo Sasso** (Ravello, Italy)
Tel. (39) 089-818181; Fax (39) 089-858900

- 9 Buckland Manor** (Near Broadway, England)
Tel. (44) 1386-852626; Fax (44) 1386-853557

- 10 explora Patagonia** (Chile)
Tel. (56) 2-206-6060; Fax (56) 2-228-4655

- 11 La Réserve de Beaulieu** (Beaulieu, France)
Tel. (33) 4-9301-0001; Fax (33) 4-9301-2899

- 12 Jumby Bay Resort** (Antigua, West Indies)
Tel. (268) 462-6000; In U.S., (888) 767-3966

- 13 The Meridian Club** (Turks & Caicos, BWI)
In U.S., Tel. (866) 746-3229 or (770) 500-1134

- 14 Amandari** (Bali, Indonesia)
Tel. (62) 361-975333; Fax (62) 361-975335

- 15 Château "Les Crayeres"** (Reims, France)
Tel. (33) 3-2682-8080; Fax (33) 3-2682-6552

- 16 Gidleigh Park** (Chagford, England)
Tel. (44) 1647-432367; Fax (44) 1647-432574

- 17 Kinnaird** (Near Dunkeld, Scotland)
Tel. (44) 1796-482440; Fax (44) 1796-482289

- 18 Kauri Cliffs** (Near Kerikeri, New Zealand)
Tel. (64) 9-405-1905; Fax (64) 9-407-0061

- 19 Hastings House** (Salt Spring Island, Canada)
Tel. (250) 537-2362; In U.S., (800) 661-9255

- 20 Cliveden** (Taplow, England)
Tel. (44) 1628-668561; Fax (44) 1628-661837

Beyond the Top 20

A Sampler of Your Other Favorite International Resort Hideaways

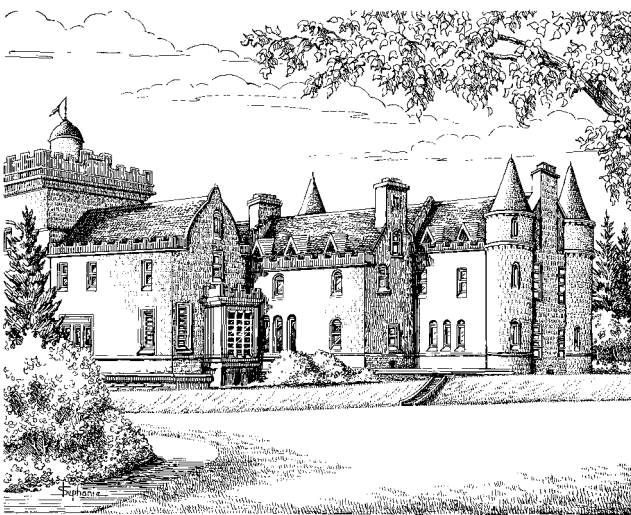
To view the websites of these international resort hideaways, go to www.AndrewHarperTravel.com and click on HIDEAWAY REPORT and "Latest Issues."

KING PACIFIC LODGE (Canada) – Stunningly scenic 17-room luxury wilderness haven secluded on a pristine inlet of Princess Royal Island in British Columbia. A wraparound porch skirts the heroic waterfront lodge, its stylish interior highlighted by a lofty Great Room and cedar-paneled dining hall accented with Native American art. Guided activities range from superb salmon fishing and backcountry hiking to wildlife cruises (sea lions and whales frolic in the waters) and kayaking explorations. Open May 20-Sep 30. Tel. (604) 987-5452 or Fax (604) 987-5472.

LAPA RIOS (Costa Rica) – Engaging and authentic 16-room wilderness refuge set on a dramatic coastal overlook, an hour by air south of San José. A striking open-air restaurant pavilion features a panoramic observation platform for viewing monkeys and a dazzling array of parrots and toucans residing in the embracing forest. Overseen by a knowledgeable staff, this first-rate ecological outpost offers noteworthy naturalist-guided jungle and shoreline safaris. Tel. (506) 7355-130 or Fax (506) 7355-179.

SHEEN FALLS LODGE (Ireland) – Renowned 70-room luxury manor commanding idyllic 300-acre woodland estate above Sheen Falls and Kenmare Bay, not far from the scenic Ring of Kerry. Public areas encompass a mahogany-paneled library, leather-trimmed bar, several deep-seated lounges and a splendid restaurant and bistro overlooking the falls. Health/fitness center with 50-foot indoor lap pool, tennis, salmon/trout fishing, forest walks and more. Tel. (353) 64-41600 or Fax (353) 64-41386.

GLENAPP CASTLE (Scotland) – Distinguished and gloriously restored 17-room Victorian manse



cloistered amid beautiful gardens and specimen woodlands on a sweeping hillside looking out over the isle-dotted Irish Sea, 30 minutes from the famed Turnberry golf links. Polished oak paneling, rich fabrics and original oils embellish the stylishly appointed lounges, fetching bar and opulent picture-window dining room. Marvelous parkland walks. Tel. (44) 1465-831212 or Fax (44) 1465-831000.

LA BASTIDE DE MOUSTIERS (France) – Charming and cosmopolitan country inn hewn from an old stone farmstead situated just outside the photogenic cliffside mountain village of Moustiers, 2 hours NE of Aix near the wondrous Grand Canyon du Verdun. Super-chef Alain Ducasse owns the nostalgic enclave, but don't expect high gastronomy, his choice here being simple and flavorful regional fare. Kilim-covered wood floors and stone fireplaces enhance the 12 rooms overlooking the bucolic Haute-Provence landscape and a beckoning pool. This is a sublime stop for those meandering between Avignon and the Côte d'Azur. Tel. (33) 4-9270-4747 or Fax (33) 4-9270-4748.

RELAIS BORG SAN FELICE (Italy) – Enchanting 45-room resort enclave incorporating an abandoned and creatively restored medieval hamlet fringed by olive groves and vineyards in the Chianti region of Tuscany, 30 minutes NE of Siena. Quaint walkways and tiny piazzas ribbon the mellow stone dwellings, the "village" being centerpieced by a handsome courtyard manor sheltering an excellent restaurant specializing in traditional Tuscan cuisine and award-winning area wines. Outdoor pool, health/fitness center, tennis and miles of peaceful rural walks. Tel. (39) 0577-3964 or Fax (39) 0577-359089.

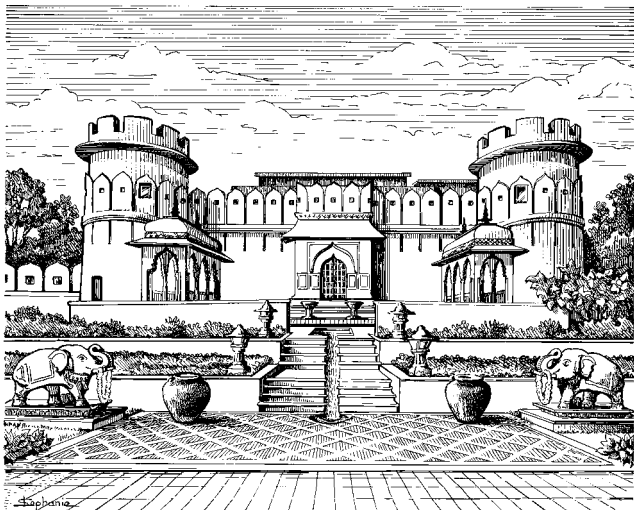
IL PELLICANO (Italy) – Casually sophisticated and romantic manor house-resort blending into a scenic hillside above the wild Mediterranean coastline of the Argentario Peninsula, 2 hours from Siena and Rome. Fifty lodgings (be sure to request a seaview unit) are spread between a vine-draped villa and cottages set among pine trees and gardens, the central manor trimmed by a picturesque flower-filled dining/cocktail patio and piano bar-lounge overlooking the sea. Cliff-top saltwater pool, health/fitness spa and more. Tel. (39) 0564-858111 or Fax (39) 0564-833418.

LA BOBADILLA (Spain) – Exclusive and uniquely designed 60-room luxury resort embraced by olive groves and woodlands in the verdant foothills of Andalusia, an hour from Malaga and Granada. The imaginative enclave resembles a diminutive Moorish village complete with splashing fountains, marble colonnades and vaulted passageways. Two restaurants offer admirable Spanish/Continental cuisine, while recreational diversions include a palm-skirted pool, riding stable and a fitness center with an indoor

pool, Turkish baths and massage facilities. Tel. (34) 958-321861 or Fax (34) 958-321810.

LE MIRADOR (Switzerland) - Sensationally sited 75-room luxury lakeview resort terraced into the panoramic slopes of Mont Pèlerin, 50 minutes east of Geneva in the Lavaux wine region of the Swiss Riviera. A conservatory-like gourmet restaurant and casual bistro are complemented by a glass-domed indoor/outdoor pool, sybaritic health/beauty spa, fitness center and enticing doorstep walking trails; a nearby funicular glides down to the engaging wine market town of Vevey. Expect astonishing vistas of Lake Geneva from this very special eagle's-nest gem. Tel. (41) 21-925-1111 or Fax (41) 21-925-1112.

RAJVILAS (India) - Captivating 70-room resort sanctuary encompassing an imaginatively recreated Rajasthani palace-fort laced with 32 acres of comely



gardens and pavilions, 20 minutes outside Jaipur. Inlaid marble floors, frescoes and objets d'art grace the sumptuous public areas, including a paneled library-bar and fine Indian/Asian restaurant. Lovely 75-foot outdoor pool, health/fitness spa and guided tours of city's renowned palaces and colorful bazaars. Tel. (91) 141-268-0101 or Fax (91) 141-268-0202.

AMANKILA (Bali, Indonesia) - Classy, distinctively designed 35-room resort descending a tropical hillside to a beachfront bluff, in an exotic corner of East Bali seen by few Western tourists. An evocative temple-like reception hall tiers down to a ravishing 135-foot tri-level infinity pool, stately bar and cliffside dining pavilions, looking down on a palm-dotted beach skirted by a 145-foot lap pool and luncheon café. Guided excursions are offered to numerous cultural attractions, temple ceremonies and ancient villages. Tel. (62) 363-41333 or Fax (62) 363-41555.

FOUR SEASONS SAYAN (Bali, Indonesia) - Stylish and visually dramatic 60-room highland resort refuge blending into a hillside of terraced rice paddies and

lush woodlands sloping down to the Ayung River, near the intriguing artists' village of Ubud. A treetop-level footbridge leads to the main building housing a spellbinding open-air lobby, the principal dining venue and a well-equipped fitness center/spa gazing over the enthralling valley. A riverside infinity pool adds to the pleasure of a stay, along with guided nature walks and visits to local artisan studios. Tel. (62) 361-977577 or Fax (62) 361-977588.

LONGITUDE 131 (Australia) - Unique and intimate 15-room luxury desert hideaway straddling an isolated red dune affording unobstructed views of Ayers Rock, 3 hours by air west of Sydney. Historic artifacts and photos of early pioneers trim the air-conditioned tented guest quarters, each featuring wood floors and a shower-bath outfitted with robes and a hairdryer. A spacious central tent fronts an outdoor pool and shelters a library, bar-lounge and dining facilities. Fascinating morning and afternoon guided eco-tours include sunrise/sunset excursions to the gargantuan Ayers monolith and many astounding nearby gorges. Tel. (61) 2-8296-8010 or Fax (61) 2-9229-2103.

GRASMERE LODGE (New Zealand) - Alluring 13-room ranch-oasis set amid awesome alpine scenery, 90 minutes west of Christchurch. The 13,000-acre working estate borders Arthur's Pass National Park and is grazed by Merino sheep, Angus cows and a thriving deer herd. Inviting timbered lounges and delightful indoor/outdoor dining venues enhance the tantalizing picture. Outdoor pool, small fitness center, National Park bush walks, 4WD ranch safaris, tennis, horseback riding, kayaking and river trout fishing. Tel. (64) 3-318-8407 or Fax (64) 3-318-8263.

ROYAL MALEWANE (South Africa) - Lavish and graciously serviced safari lodge secluded amid the Thornybush Game Reserve along the western fringe of Kruger National Park. Casually elegant open-air living/dining areas are adorned in English/Colonial-style furnishings, African tribal artifacts and Persian carpets arrayed under exquisitely timbered, vaulted thatched roofs. Each of the 8 cottage suites features a private plunge pool, fireplaced living area and plush bath. Expect close-up encounters with lions, leopards, elephants, rhinos and more in open-topped Land Rovers. Tel. (27) 15-793-0150 or Fax (27) 15-793-2879.

MOMBO CAMP (Botswana) - High-style safari camp nestled under trees facing a scenic savannah floodplain on extraordinarily game-rich Chief's Island in the unspoiled Okavango Delta. Elevated walkways connect the 12 smartly equipped cottage suites with private wildlife-viewing verandahs, while a series of charming thatched pavilions takes in the open-air dining/bar facilities, a relaxing lounge and well-stocked library. Lions, leopards, cheetahs and hyenas can often be seen in abundance, along with elephants, Cape buffalo, giraffe, hippo and fabulous birds. Tel. (27) 11-807-1800 or Fax (27) 11-807-2110.

More Survey Results

Top Hotels in Major World Cities

Amsterdam	Amstel
Atlanta	The Ritz-Carlton Buckhead
Athens	Hotel Grande Bretagne
Bangkok	The Oriental
Barcelona	Hotel Arts
Beijing	The Peninsula Palace
Berlin	Hotel Adlon
Boston	Four Seasons
Brussels	Hotel Amigo
Budapest	Four Seasons Gresham Palace
Buenos Aires	Alvear Palace
Cape Town	Cape Grace
Chicago	Four Seasons
Dallas	The Mansion on Turtle Creek
Dublin	The Merrion
Florence	Hotel Lungarno
Hong Kong	The Peninsula
Istanbul	Four Seasons
Lisbon	Lapa Palace
London	The Stafford
Los Angeles	The Peninsula Beverly Hills
Madrid	Hotel Ritz
Mexico City	Four Seasons
Miami	Mandarin Oriental
Milan	Four Seasons
Munich	Mandarin Oriental
New Orleans	Windsor Court
New York	The St. Regis
Paris	Four Seasons George V
Prague	Four Seasons
Philadelphia	Four Seasons
Rome	Hotel de Russie
San Francisco	The Ritz-Carlton
Seattle	Inn at the Market
Shanghai	Four Seasons
Singapore	Raffles
Sydney	Park Hyatt
Tokyo	Park Hyatt
Venice	Hotel Cipriani
Vienna	Hotel Imperial
Washington, DC	Four Seasons
Zurich	Baur au Lac

Intimate Urban Sanctuaries

Top 20 Worldwide City Hotels

(fewer than 100 rooms)

1 Hotel Bel-Air (Los Angeles), a captivating 90-room enclave secluded amid a tranquil garden estate in the foothills of Bel-Air. . **2 The Stafford (London)**, a charming 80-room hotel nestled behind Green Park in an historic St. James's cul-de-sac close to many fine shops and galleries. . **3 The Lowell (New York)**, a refined 70-room European-flavored hotel set along a tree-lined street on the Upper East Side between Madison and Park avenues. . **4 The Lanesborough (London)**, an elegant and graciously serviced 90-room Regency-style hotel on Hyde Park Corner across from Green Park and the grounds of Buckingham Palace. . **5 The Connaught (London)**, a venerable 90-room luxury hotel in a quiet Mayfair residential area near many fine antique/art galleries and specialty stores. . **6 Four Seasons (Istanbul)**, a sophisticated 65-room hotel cosseted in the heart of the old city, a short stroll from Topkapi Palace, Hagia Sophia and other famous must-see sights. . **7 Lancaster (Paris)**, an exclusive 60-room boutique hotel set in a splendid townhouse-mansion just off the Champs-Elysées near the chic Faubourg Saint-Honoré. . . **8 XV Beacon (Boston)**, a 60-room contemporary hotel occupying a 1903 Beaux Arts building, close to the business district and Government Center. . . **9 Inn at the Market (Seattle)**, a 70-room Northwest-inspired hotel overlooking the colorful Pike Place Market. . **10 Griffi Palace (Venice)**, a legendary 90-room hotel enviably situated in a landmark 16th-Century palazzo fronting the animated Grand Canal near St. Mark's Square. . **11 San Régis (Paris)**, a cozy, hospitable 45-room hotel tucked off the Champs-Elysées and Avenue Montaigne. . **12 Planters Inn (Charleston)**, a handsomely revitalized 62-room vintage hotel centerpiece by a garden courtyard in the very heart of the historic district. . **13 Lungarno (Florence)**, a fashionable 75-room hotel hugging the Arno River near the Ponte Vecchio. . **14 Mandarin Oriental (Munich)**, a classy 75-room hotel located in the historic zone near Marienplatz and the upscale shops of Maximilianstrasse. . **15 22 Jermyn Street (London)**, a graciously staffed 18-suite townhouse-hotel tucked off Piccadilly Circus in the prestigious St. James's/West End shopping district. . **16 Amstel (Amsterdam)**, a stunningly restored 80-room palace hotel set along the banks of the Amstel River. . . **17 Seiyo Ginza (Tokyo)**, a beautifully run 75-room hotel in the heart of the Ginza District. . **18 The Pelham (London)**, a smartly decorated 50-room townhouse-hotel in South Kensington near Harrods and many museums. . **19 Bauer II Palazzo (Venice)**, a gorgeously restored 75-room palace hotel facing the Grand Canal close to St. Mark's Square. . **20 The Rittenhouse (Philadelphia)**, a stylish 95-room luxury hotel flanking historic Rittenhouse Square.

Future Hotel & Resort Openings

The power of a brand name showed through clearly in this year's reader survey, with the hotels and resorts of six upscale chains dominating the principal Top 20 lists (see Pages 2 and 3). What are the expansion plans of these luxury brand companies in the near future? Read on. . .

FOUR SEASONS was by far the most favored brand of *Hideaway Report* readers, with the management company posting 15 hotels and resorts in the elite Top 20 lists this year. Expanding its current worldwide base of 66 properties in 29 countries, Four Seasons will debut in Hong Kong this fall, with a 400-room hotel set along Victoria Harbour in the central business district. In December, the doors to the Four Seasons Hotel des Bergues in Geneva open, the historic lakeside landmark now in the final stages of a major renovation and restoration that will complement the hotel's classic elegance with 21st-Century comforts. For further details on all Four Seasons hotels, Tel. (800) 819-5053.

PENINSULA HOTELS operates only seven worldwide hotels, yet its properties in Hong Kong, Bangkok, Beverly Hills, Chicago and New York all made the Top 20 lists! The next sleek Peninsula will be unveiled in the dynamic new Marunouchi business district of Tokyo in early 2007. For further details on all Peninsula hotels, Tel. (866) 382-8388.

MANDARIN ORIENTAL, with six Top 20 hotels, has an active upcoming expansion schedule. Inaugural openings in Hong Kong and Tokyo are slated for later this year, and in 2006 the 98-room Mandarin Oriental Prague welcomes guests in a luxuriously transformed 14th-Century monastery set in the heart of the historic district. Most anticipated of all is the Spring 2006 launch of Mandarin Oriental's first Latin American property, a chic 128-villa beachfront resort secluded along Mexico's Riviera Maya, 30 minutes south of Cancun. For further details on all Mandarin Oriental hotels, Tel. (866) 526-6567.

RITZ-CARLTON, the granddaddy of upscale hotel brands, also continues to grow at an active pace. This fall, the company will open a 365-room Caribbean mega-resort set along Seven Mile Beach in Grand Cayman, complete with a Greg Norman-designed golf course and two signature restaurants created by Chef Eric Ripert of New York's *Le Bernardin* fame. In addition, Moscow and Beijing will sport new Ritz-Carltons in 2006. For further details on all Ritz-Carlton hotels, Tel. (800) 241-3333.

ROSEWOOD HOTELS (Las Ventanas, The Mansion on Turtle Creek and The Carlyle all made the Top 20 lists) will also boast a trio of new resorts in the near future. First up early next year will be Acqualina, a Mediterranean-inspired oceanfront tower resort and spa situated in Sunny Isles between Miami and Fort

Lauderdale. Later in 2006, Rosewood's Laguna Kai joins the new Mandarin Oriental along Mexico's Riviera Maya south of Cancun, while its La Solana boutique property competes with firmly established Four Seasons in the prestigious master-planned Punta Mita resort community located north of Puerto Vallarta. For further details on all Rosewood hotels, Tel. (888) 767-3966.

AMANRESORTS, always a reader favorite, makes its second appearance in the Americas, this time in the Caribbean on the burgeoning resort island of Providenciales in the Turks & Caicos, a British Crown Colony situated less than 90 minutes by air from Miami. Spread over 100 acres, the exotic 40-suite seaside sanctuary is expected to officially open early next year. For further details on all Amanresorts, Tel. (800) 477-9180.

ORIENT-EXPRESS has just announced the opening of its 54-room Hotel Caruso, a grandly refurbished Amalfi Coast palazzo overlooking the Mediterranean from a picturesque cliffside perch in the celebrated eagle's-nest resort village of Ravello. Facilities include a panoramic infinity swimming pool, fitness center and sophisticated spa (opening in 2006). The hotel joins three other renowned Orient-Express properties in Italy that have dominated the Top 20 lists for many, many years: Hotel Cipriani (Venice), Splendido (Portofino) and Villa San Michele (Fiesole/Florence). For further details on all Orient-Express hotels, Tel. (800) 237-1236.

Finally, veteran hotelier Horst Schulze (the former President and COO of the Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company) has decided its time to create a competitive new luxury chain to vie with the Four Seasons, Ritz-Carltons, Mandarin Orientals and Rosewoods of the world. Managed by his closely held West Paces lodging company, **SOLIS HOTELS & RESORTS** will launch its first property in Chicago in late spring 2006. Hotels in Phoenix/Scottsdale, Orlando and San Antonio will follow. Stay tuned.

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