



SPECIAL EDITION



Andrew Harper  
READERS' CHOICE  
2009

# Andrew Harper's Hideaway Report<sup>®</sup>

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www.AndrewHarper.com

RESULTS FROM OUR 28TH ANNUAL SURVEY OF SOPHISTICATED TRAVELERS

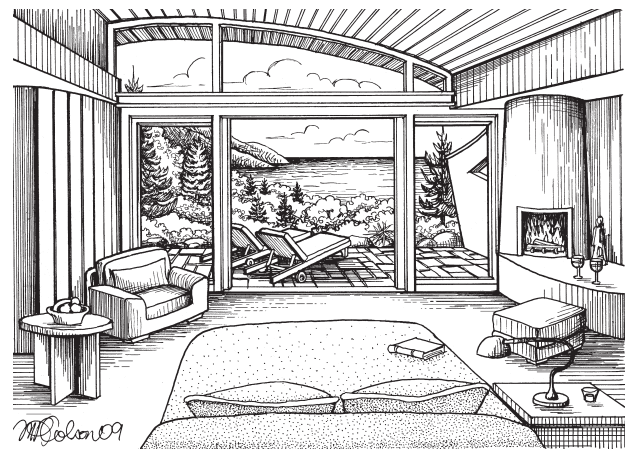
## Readers' Favorite Hideaways, Hotels and Resorts

OUR ANNUAL READER SURVEY IS BY FAR THE longest-running and most reliable poll of its kind among affluent and sophisticated travelers. The readership of *Hideaway Report* remains an exceptionally well-traveled group. This year's respondents vacation an average of 38 days a year, and 70 percent say they plan to travel the same amount or *more* in the coming 12 months.

This year, we altered and extended the format of our survey. We introduced five new categories: "Beach Resorts," "Food & Wine Resorts," "City Hotels," "Spas," "Golf Resorts" and "Family Resorts." This resulted in the inclusion of many less familiar names and the shedding of new light on established favorites. For example, The Cloister at Sea Island, Ga., is well-known for golf (#3), but its spa also wins high praise (#8).

For the third year in a row, The Peninsula Chicago sits atop the city hotels, even though we expanded this category to include city hotels worldwide. And California's Post Ranch Inn, a magical sanctuary in a glorious setting on the cliffs of Big Sur, again took first place in the contest for No. 1 U.S. Hideaway.

All of our new categories assess properties worldwide. As a result, Four Seasons Hualalai in Hawaii tops the beach resorts, followed by Esperanza (Cabo San Lucas, Mexico) and Cap Juluca (Anguilla). And for family stays, The Cloister in Georgia and The Greenbrier in West Virginia edged out Little Dix Bay (Virgin Gorda, BVI). Unsurprisingly, West Coast properties did well in the new spa category, though the victor's laurels went to Canyon Ranch in Tucson, Ariz. Curiously, the top two food and



No. 1 U.S. Hideaway 2009, Post Ranch Inn, Big Sur, California

wine properties, Meadowood and Auberge du Soleil, are located just five miles apart in the Napa Valley.

We were only slightly surprised to learn that our readers' favorite golf resort is The Sanctuary at Kiawah Island, S.C., but Bandon Dunes, Ore., placing at #4 ahead of Pinehurst, N.C., was unexpected. And we were frankly incredulous that no British or Irish golf resorts made it into the Top 20. The folk at St Andrews and Gleneagles may need to pour themselves a sustaining dram! The New Zealanders will be happy, however, as both The Lodge at Kauri Cliffs (#6) and The Farm at Cape Kidnappers (#14) easily made the cut.

We also asked readers to tell us about their favorite new discoveries and the most disappointing properties that they had recently visited. Alas, the results were too scattered to form meaningful lists. However, there was some consensus: Montage, Beverly Hills; The Resort at Pelican Hill, Newport Beach, Calif.; and the Al Maha Desert Resort & Spa, Dubai, all received flattering reviews and became candidates for an incognito Harper visit.



## Beach Resorts



- 1 **Four Seasons Hualalai**  
*Hawaii*

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- 2 **Esperanza**  
*Los Cabos, Mexico*

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- 3 **Cap Juluca**  
*Anguilla*

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- 4 **Little Dix Bay**  
*British Virgin Islands*

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- 5 **Las Ventanas al Paraíso**  
*Los Cabos, Mexico*

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- 6 **Four Seasons Punta Mita**  
*Mexico*

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- 7 **Montage Resort**  
*Laguna Beach, California*

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- 8 **Mauna Kea Beach Hotel**  
*Hawaii*

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- 9 **Maroma**  
*Riviera Maya, Mexico*

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- 10 **Las Alamandas**  
*Costalegre, Mexico*

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- 11 **Four Seasons Maui**  
*Hawaii*

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- 12 **Halekulani**  
*Honolulu, Hawaii*

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- 13 **Peter Island**  
*British Virgin Islands*

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- 14 **Petit St. Vincent**  
*St. Vincent and the Grenadines*

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- 15 **Carlisle Bay**  
*Antigua*

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- 16 **Amanpulo**  
*Philippines*

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- 17 **The Meridian Club**  
*Turks and Caicos*

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- 18 **Amankila**  
*Bali, Indonesia*

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- 19 **Caneel Bay**  
*U.S. Virgin Islands*

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- 20 **Jumby Bay**  
*Antigua*

## Food & Wine Resorts



- 1 **Meadowood**  
*St. Helena, California*

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- 2 **Auberge du Soleil**  
*Rutherford, California*

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- 3 **Blackberry Farm**  
*Walland, Tennessee*

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- 4 **The Inn at Little Washington**  
*Washington, Virginia*

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- 5 **Calistoga Ranch**  
*Calistoga, California*

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- 6 **Bernardus Lodge**  
*Carmel Valley, California*

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- 7 **Les Mars Hotel**  
*Healdsburg, California*

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- 8 **Poetry Inn**  
*Napa, California*

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- 9 **Twin Farms**  
*Barnard, Vermont*

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- 10 **The Carneros Inn**  
*Napa, California*

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- 11 **Otahuna Lodge**  
*Christchurch, New Zealand*

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- 12 **L'Andana**  
*Castiglione della Pescaia, Italy*

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- 13 **L'Albereta**  
*Erbusco, Italy*

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- 14 **The Wauwinet**  
*Nantucket, Massachusetts*

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- 15 **Château du Sureau**  
*Oakhurst, California*

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- 16 **The White Barn Inn**  
*Kennebunkport, Maine*

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- 17 **Villa d'Este**  
*Cernobbio, Lake Como, Italy*

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- 18 **Blantyre**  
*The Berkshires, Massachusetts*

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- 19 **Huka Lodge**  
*North Island, New Zealand*

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- 20 **Le Quartier Français**  
*Franschhoek, South Africa*



## City Hotels

- 1 **The Peninsula**  
*Chicago*

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- 2 **The St. Regis**  
*New York City*

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- 3 **Four Seasons George V**  
*Paris*

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- 4 **Four Seasons**  
*Chicago*

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- 5 **The Stafford**  
*London*

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- 6 **Four Seasons**  
*New York City*

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- 7 **The Peninsula**  
*Beverly Hills*

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- 8 **The Ritz-Carlton**  
*San Francisco*

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- 9 **The Lowell**  
*New York City*

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- 10 **The Peninsula**  
*Hong Kong*

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- 11 **The Oriental**  
*Bangkok*

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- 12 **Hotel Bel-Air**  
*Los Angeles*

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- 13 **Four Seasons**  
*San Francisco*

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- 14 **The Peninsula**  
*New York City*

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- 15 **The Carlyle**  
*New York City*

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- 16 **The Peninsula**  
*Tokyo*

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- 17 **Montage**  
*Beverly Hills*

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- 18 **Claridge's**  
*London*

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- 19 **Mandarin Oriental**  
*New York City*

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- 20 **Four Seasons**  
*Florence*



## Spas



- 1 **Canyon Ranch**  
Tucson, Arizona
- 2 **Montage Resort**  
Laguna Beach, California
- 3 **Esperanza**  
Los Cabos, Mexico
- 4 **Miraval**  
Tucson, Arizona
- 5 **Enchantment**  
Sedona, Arizona
- 6 **Four Seasons Hualalai**  
Hawaii
- 7 **Auberge du Soleil**  
Rutherford, California
- 8 **The Cloister**  
Sea Island, Georgia
- 9 **Golden Door**  
Escondido, California
- 10 **The Greenbrier**  
White Sulphur Springs, W. Virginia
- 11 **Rancho La Puerta**  
Baja California, Mexico
- 12 **The Oriental**  
Bangkok
- 13 **Cal-a-Vie**  
Vista, California
- 14 **The Peninsula**  
Chicago
- 15 **Mayflower Inn**  
Washington, Connecticut
- 16 **Chewton Glen**  
Hampshire, England
- 17 **Rancho Valencia**  
Rancho Santa Fe, California
- 18 **Little Dix Bay**  
British Virgin Islands
- 19 **Four Seasons George V**  
Paris
- 20 **Maroma**  
Riviera Maya, Mexico



## Golf Resorts

- 1 **The Sanctuary**  
Kiawah Island, South Carolina
- 2 **The Lodge at Pebble Beach**  
Pebble Beach, California
- 3 **The Cloister**  
Sea Island, Georgia
- 4 **Bandon Dunes**  
Bandon, Oregon
- 5 **Pinehurst**  
North Carolina
- 6 **The Lodge at Kauri Cliffs**  
North Island, New Zealand
- 7 **The Greenbrier**  
White Sulphur Springs, W. Virginia
- 8 **The Inn at Spanish Bay**  
Pebble Beach, California
- 9 **The Resort at Pelican Hill**  
Newport Beach, California
- 10 **The Inn at Palmetto Bluff**  
Bluffton, South Carolina
- 11 **Four Seasons Hualalai**  
Hawaii
- 12 **The Lodge at Torrey Pines**  
La Jolla, California
- 13 **The American Club**  
Kohler, Wisconsin
- 14 **The Farm at Cape Kidnappers**  
North Island, New Zealand
- 15 **Four Seasons Punta Mita**  
Mexico
- 16 **The Boulders**  
Carefree, Arizona
- 17 **Mauna Kea Beach Hotel**  
Hawaii
- 18 **Casa Palmero**  
Pebble Beach, California
- 19 **Ocean Club**  
Paradise Island, Bahamas
- 20 **Four Seasons Scottsdale**  
Arizona

## Family Resorts



- 1 **The Cloister**  
Sea Island, Georgia
- 2 **The Greenbrier**  
White Sulphur Springs, W. Virginia
- 3 **Little Dix Bay**  
British Virgin Islands
- 4 **Four Seasons Hualalai**  
Hawaii
- 5 **Four Seasons Maui**  
Hawaii
- 6 **Four Seasons Punta Mita**  
Mexico
- 7 **Four Seasons Nevis**  
St. Kitts and Nevis
- 8 **The Homestead**  
Hot Springs, Virginia
- 9 **The Broadmoor**  
Colorado Springs, Colorado
- 10 **The Resort at Paws Up**  
Greenough, Montana
- 11 **The Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman**  
Cayman Islands
- 12 **The Sanctuary**  
Kiawah Island, South Carolina
- 13 **Kona Village**  
Hawaii
- 14 **Esperanza**  
Los Cabos, Mexico
- 15 **Park Hyatt Beaver Creek**  
Avon, Colorado
- 16 **The Kahala**  
Honolulu, Hawaii
- 17 **Four Seasons Costa Rica**  
Guanacaste, Costa Rica
- 18 **Amanwana**  
Moyo Island, Indonesia
- 19 **The Resort at Pelican Hill**  
Newport Beach, California
- 20 **The Meridian Club**  
Turks and Caicos



## 2009 READERS' CHOICE TOP 20 HIDEAWAYS

View the **Hideaway Report Online** for a slide show of the top winners

### United States

- 1 Post Ranch Inn**  
*Big Sur, California*
- 2 Auberge du Soleil**  
*Rutherford, California*
- 3 Blackberry Farm**  
*Walland, Tennessee*
- 4 Twin Farms**  
*Barnard, Vermont*
- 5 Triple Creek Ranch**  
*Darby, Montana*
- 6 San Ysidro Ranch**  
*Montecito, California*
- 7 The Inn at Little Washington**  
*Washington, Virginia*
- 8 The Inn at Palmetto Bluff**  
*Bluffton, South Carolina*
- 9 Amangani**  
*Jackson Hole, Wyoming*
- 10 Rancho Valencia**  
*Rancho Santa Fe, California*
- 11 The Wauwinet**  
*Nantucket, Massachusetts*
- 12 The Point**  
*Upper Saranac Lake, New York*
- 13 Calistoga Ranch**  
*Calistoga, California*
- 14 Bernardus Lodge**  
*Carmel Valley, California*
- 15 Mayflower Inn**  
*Washington, Connecticut*
- 16 Blantyre**  
*The Berkshires, Massachusetts*
- 17 The White Barn Inn**  
*Kennebunkport, Maine*
- 18 Ventana Inn**  
*Big Sur, California*
- 19 Wheatleigh**  
*The Berkshires, Massachusetts*
- 20 Castle Hill Inn**  
*Newport, Rhode Island*

### International

- 1 Villa Feltrinelli**  
*Lake Garda, Italy*
- 2 Esperanza**  
*Los Cabos, Mexico*
- 3 Chewton Glen**  
*Hampshire, England*
- 4 Le Sirenuse**  
*Positano, Italy*
- 5 Amansara**  
*Siem Reap (Angkor Wat), Cambodia*
- 6 Buckland Manor**  
*The Cotswolds, England*
- 7 Singita Boulders**  
*Sabi Sand Game Reserve, South Africa*
- 8 Splendido Mare**  
*Portofino, Italy*
- 9 La Casa Que Canta**  
*Zihuatanejo, Mexico*
- 10 Maroma**  
*Riviera Maya, Mexico*
- 11 explora Patagonia**  
*Torres del Paine National Park, Chile*
- 12 Huka Lodge**  
*North Island, New Zealand*
- 13 Hotel Caruso**  
*Ravello, Italy*
- 14 The Wickaninnish Inn**  
*Tofino, British Columbia, Canada*
- 15 The Wakaya Club**  
*Fiji Islands*
- 16 Palazzo Sasso**  
*Ravello, Italy*
- 17 Otahuna Lodge**  
*Christchurch, New Zealand*
- 18 The Nam Hai**  
*Hoi An, Vietnam*
- 19 Las Alamandas**  
*Costalegre, Mexico*
- 20 Las Ventanas al Paraíso**  
*Los Cabos, Mexico*