

TRAVEL + LEISURE

THE BEST

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IN THE WORLD ARE...



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THE WORLD'S BEST AWARDS

THE TOP CITIES, HOTELS, CRUISE LINES,
DESTINATION SPAS, AIRLINES, TOUR COMPANIES,
AND MORE, AS DETERMINED
BY OUR VERY DISCERNING READERS.



► Who's to judge? You are.

Every year T+L asks readers to dish on their travel experiences—to share their opinions on everything from Southern cities to Asian islands, all-inclusive beach resorts to hilltop palazzos. Those assessments collectively define excellence in travel today, forming the basis of the World's Best Awards.

This year's edition marks the biggest World's Best Awards ever. We counted a record number of votes—more than 200,000 respondents submitted ratings—added dozens of new categories, and saw a heap of new players make the lists. (For more details on how the awards work, turn to page 81.) Kudos to all the winners, and thanks to you.

Edited by Sara Clemence

► Open the gatefold for our map of
the No. 1 hotels in 86 cities



Top 100 Hotels

BIGGER ISN'T NECESSARILY BETTER—SMALL PROPERTIES, MANY OF THEM INDEPENDENT, DOMINATE THE RANKINGS.

- 1 Nihiwatu Sumba, Indonesia** 98.35
- 2 Spectator Hotel** Charleston, South Carolina 97.78
- 3 Huka Lodge** Taupo, New Zealand 97.65
- 4 Montage Kapalua Bay** Maui, Hawaii 97.39
- 4 Southern Ocean Lodge** Kangaroo Island, Australia 97.39
- 6 Lodge at Glendorn** Bradford, Pennsylvania 97.38
- 7 The Willcox** Aiken, South Carolina 97.25
- 8 Casa Gangotena** Quito, Ecuador 97.20
- 9 Twin Farms** Barnard, Vermont 97.19
- 10 Singular** Patagonia Puerto Bories, Chile 97.14
- 11 Singita Grumeti** Serengeti National Park Area, Tanzania 97.11
- 12 Farmhouse Inn** Forestville, California 97.07
- 13 Londolozi Sabi Sand Game Reserve**, South Africa 97.06
- 14 The Peninsula** Shanghai 97.01
- 15 Hotel Castello di Casole—A Timbers Resort** Casole d'Elsa, Italy 97.01
- 16 Gateway Canyons Resort & Spa** Gateway, Colorado 97.00
- 17 Cavas Wine Lodge** Mendoza, Argentina 96.99
- 18 Singita Sabi Sand** Sabi Sand Game Reserve, South Africa 96.95
- 19 Manoir Hovey** North Hatley, Quebec 96.93
- 20 The Brando** Tetiaroa, French Polynesia 96.80
- 21 Château du Sureau** Oakhurst, California 96.77
- 22 Oberoi Udaivilas** Udaipur, India 96.76
- 22 Opposite House** Beijing 96.76
- 22 Triple Creek Ranch** Darby, Montana 96.76
- 25 Wequassett Resort & Golf Club** Chatham, Massachusetts 96.68
- 26 Old Edwards Inn & Spa** Highlands, North Carolina 96.67
- 27 Weekapaug Inn** Westerly, Rhode Island 96.67
- 28 Oberoi Vanyavilas** Ranthambhore, India 96.63
- 29 Mombo Camp and Little Mombo Camp** Moremi Game Reserve, Botswana 96.50
- 30 Rosewood** Mayakoba Playa del Carmen, Mexico 96.39
- 31 Soly Luna Sacred Valley**, Peru 96.36
- 32 Nayara Springs** Arenal Volcano National Park, Costa Rica 96.36
- 33 Kamalame Cay** Andros, Bahamas 96.30
- 34 XV Beacon** Boston 96.27
- 35 St. Regis Bali** Resort Indonesia 96.22
- 36 Tongabezi Lodge** Livingstone, Zambia 96.20
- 37 Alpina Gstaad** Gstaad, Switzerland 96.00
- 37 Beau-Rivage** Palace Lausanne, Switzerland 96.00
- 37 Brenners Park-Hotel & Spa** Baden-Baden, Germany 96.00
- 37 137 Pillars House** Chiang Mai, Thailand 96.00
- 37 Rosewood Sand Hill** Menlo Park, California 96.00
- 42 Katikies Hotel** Santorini, Greece 95.95
- 43 41 London** 95.94
- 44 Nayara Hotel, Spa & Gardens** Arenal Volcano National Park, Costa Rica 95.91
- 45 Lodgeat Sealsland** Georgia 95.90
- 46 Lodge & Cottages at Primland** Meadows of Dan, Virginia 95.87
- 47 Ashford Castle** County Mayo, Ireland 95.84
- 48 Las Ventanas al Paraiso, A Rosewood Resort** San José del Cabo, Mexico 95.81
- 49 Gasparilla Inn & Club** Boca Grande, Florida 95.76
- 50 Rancho Valencia Resort & Spa** Rancho Santa Fe, California 95.69
- 51 Nam Hai Hoi An**, Vietnam 95.63
- 52 Fogo Island Inn** Newfoundland 95.60
- 53 Brewery Gulch Inn** Mendocino, California 95.59
- 54 Hotel Santa Caterina** Amalfi, Italy 95.57
- 55 Acqualina**, Miami Sunny Isles Beach, Florida 95.53
- 56 Chanler at Cliff Walk** Newport, Rhode Island 95.51
- 57 Zamas Hotel** Tulum, Mexico 95.49
- 58 J.K. Place** Capri, Italy 95.46
- 59 Oberoi Rajvillas** Jaipur, India 95.45
- 60 Lion Sands Game Reserve** Sabi Sand Game Reserve, South Africa 95.42
- 61 Winvian Farm** Morris, Connecticut 95.41





No. 1 hotel Niihwa was born in 2000 as a rustic surf retreat.

WINNER'S CIRCLE

NIIHWATU
By Yves Béhar

It's not a place you go because you want a luxurious retreat from the real world. I've been visiting for six years, and for me it's like, *Where can I take my family where we're going to be outdoors the entire time?* There is no sort of indoor space per se, besides your bedroom. You feel very connected to the beach and the ocean.

But what makes it really special is the local culture. The island is populated by animists who live in small villages. Life there hasn't changed much for half a millennium. Ninety percent of the staff are local. We see them every year: we've visited their houses, they've taught me how to battle with a sword. That just doesn't happen when you have Swiss-trained butlers and hotel operators. This is a place that gives you the opportunity to enter somebody else's reality, somebody else's tradition, somebody else's culture.

Yves Béhar is a designer, entrepreneur, and sustainability advocate.



- 62 Inn at Hastings Park** Lexington, Massachusetts 95.40
- 63 Curtain Bluff** Antigua 95.40
- 64 The Surrey New York City** 95.37
- 65 Farm at Cape Kidnappers** Hawke's Bay, New Zealand 95.33
- 66 Four Seasons Resort Chiang Mai, Thailand** 95.33
- 67 Biltmore Hotel Coral Gables, Florida** 95.32
- 68 Milestone Hotel** London 95.32
- 69 La Réserve Paris Hotel, Spa & Apartments** Paris 95.29
- 70 La Residence** Franschhoek, South Africa 95.27
- 71 The Goring** London 95.19
- 72 Four Seasons Tented Camp Golden Triangle** Chiang Rai, Thailand 95.17
- 73 Cloister at Sea** Island Georgia 95.16
- 74 Tambo del Inka, a Luxury Collection Resort & Spa** Sacred Valley, Peru 95.11
- 75 Saxon Hotel, Villas & Spa** Johannesburg, South Africa 95.09
- 76 Gleneagles Hotel** Perthshire, Scotland 95.08
- 77 Tu Tu'tun Lodge** Gold Beach, Oregon 95.06
- 78 Leela Palace** New Delhi 95.06
- 79 Le Bristol** Paris 95.06
- 80 Sonnenalp Hotel** Vail, Colorado 95.04
- 81 Villa Cora** Florence 95.04
- 82 Ocean House** Watch Hill, Rhode Island 95.03
- 83 Inn by the Sea** Cape Elizabeth, Maine 94.97
- 84 La Casa Que Canta** Zihuatanejo, Mexico 94.96
- 84 Madikwe Safari Lodge** Madikwe Game Reserve, South Africa 94.96
- 86 Inn at Harbour Town** Hilton Head Island, South Carolina 94.95
- 87 Qualia** Hamilton Island, Australia 94.89
- 88 The Lanesborough** London 94.87
- 89 Egerton House Hotel** London 94.86
- 90 Jade Mountain** St. Lucia 94.85
- 91 Greenwich Hotel** New York City 94.76
- 92 The Knickerbocker** New York City 94.75
- 93 River Inn of Harbor Town** Memphis, Tennessee 94.71

(Continued on page 38)



Hawaii

TOP 5

Islands

- 1 Maui 88.55
- 2 Kauai 88.33
- 3 Big Island 86.17
- 4 Oahu 84.84
- 5 Lanai 81.06

TOP 15

Resort
Hotels

- 1 Montage Kapalua Bay Maui 97.39
- 2 Halekulani Honolulu 93.86
- 3 Four Seasons Resort Hualalai Big Island 93.26
- 4 Ko'a Kea Hotel & Resort Kauai 92.44
- 5 Four Seasons Resort Maui at Wailea 92.05
- 6 Fairmont Kea Lani Maui 91.67
- 7 Turtle Bay Resort Oahu 91.65
- 8 Four Seasons Resort Lanai 91.52
- 9 Hotel Wailea Maui 91.30
- 10 Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua Maui 90.83
- 11 Grand Hyatt Kauai Resort & Spa 90.59
- 12 Fairmont Orchid Big Island 89.85
- 13 Kahala Hotel & Resort Honolulu 89.72
- 14 Royal Hawaiian, a Luxury Collection Resort Honolulu 88.85
- 15 Andaz Maui at Wailea Resort 88.71

The Sunset Pool at Montage Kapalua Bay cascades down three levels to the Pacific.

TOP 5

Resort
Hotels
South

- 1 The Willcox Aiken, South Carolina 97.25
- 2 Old Edwards Inn & Spa Highlands, North Carolina 96.67
- 3 Lodge at Sea Island Georgia 95.90
- 4 Lodge & Cottages at Primland Meadows of Dan, Virginia 95.87
- 5 Cloister at Sea Island Georgia 95.16

TOP 5

Resort
Hotels
Florida

- 1 Gasparilla Inn & Club Boca Grande 95.76
- 2 Acqualina, Miami Sunny Isles Beach 95.53
- 3 Biltmore Hotel Coral Gables 95.32
- 4 Metropolitan by Como Miami Beach 94.36
- 5 Sandpearl Resort Clearwater Beach 93.86

TOP 5

Resort
Hotels
West

- 1 Gateway Canyons Resort & Spa Gateway, Colorado 97.00
- 2 Triple Creek Ranch Darby, Montana 96.76
- 3 Tu Tu'tun Lodge Gold Beach, Oregon 95.06
- 4 Sonnenalp Hotel Vail, Colorado 95.04
- 5 Amangani Jackson, Wyoming 94.43

TOP 5

Resort
Hotels
California

- 1 Farmhouse Inn Forestville 97.07
- 2 Château du Sureau Oakhurst 96.77
- 3 Rosewood Sand Hill Menlo Park 96.00
- 4 Rancho Valencia Resort & Spa Rancho Santa Fe 95.69
- 5 Brewery Gulch Inn Mendocino 95.59



READERS SAY...

"We've visited Maui on seven of our last 10 trips to the islands. It has everything we want: fabulous beaches, breathtaking waterfalls hikes, and great roads for cycling."