

# Condé Nast Traveler

GREAT NEW WAY  
TO CHANGE  
MONEY

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

November 1990 \$2.50

## THE TOP 100

- ◆ BEST HOTELS
- ◆ BEST AIRLINES
- ◆ BEST RESORTS
- ◆ BEST CRUISE LINES
- ◆ BEST SPAS

### EMPIRE OF THE SUN

We pick the top  
33 Club Meds  
around the world

### INSIDE MEXICO

Three exciting  
journeys  
to the interior



ROBERT REDFORD ON OUR PARKS ◆ DAVID MAMET ON CHELSEA

- ★ **BEST CITY**  
Paris
- ★ **BEST U.S. CITY**  
San Francisco
- ★ **BEST HOTEL**  
Oriental, Bangkok
- ★ **BEST U.S. HOTEL**  
Crescent Court, Dallas
- ★ **BEST SPA**  
Canyon Ranch, Tucson

**The 100 highest  
scorers across all 10  
categories, as judged  
by a poll of  
Condé Nast Traveler  
readers. They form an  
elite: The best names  
in travel**

- ★ **BEST MAINLAND RESORT**  
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
- ★ **BEST TROPICAL RESORT**  
Halekulani, Oahu
- ★ **BEST CRUISE LINE**  
Holland America
- ★ **BEST AIRLINE**  
Singapore Airlines
- ★ **BEST U.S. AIRLINE**  
Alaska Airlines

## THE TOP 100

<b>52. MANDARIN ORIENTAL</b> <i>(hotel) San Francisco</i>	<b>77.6%</b>	<b>= WILLIAMSBURG HILTON</b> <i>(resort) Williamsburg, Va.</i>	<b>75.9%</b>	<b>84. KIAWAH ISLAND</b> <i>(resort) Kiawah Island, S.C.</i>	<b>73.9%</b>
<b>= LE RICHEMOND</b> <i>(hotel) Geneva</i>	<b>77.6%</b>	<b>69. MAUNA KEA BEACH [21]</b> <i>(resort) Big Island, Hawaii</i>	<b>75.8%</b>	<b>85. SALISHAN LODGE</b> <i>(resort) Gleneden Beach, Ore.</i>	<b>73.8%</b>
<b>54. RITZ</b> <i>(hotel) Paris</i>	<b>77.3%</b>	<b>= WESTCOURT IN THE BUTTES</b> <i>(resort) Tempe, Ariz.</i>	<b>75.8%</b>	<b>= STOUFFER WAIOHAHAI</b> <i>(resort) Kauai, Hawaii</i>	<b>73.8%</b>
<b>55. MARRIOTT'S DESERT SPRINGS</b> <i>(resort) Palm Desert, Calif.</i>	<b>77.2%</b>	<b>71. LAS HADAS</b> <i>(resort) Manzanillo, Mexico</i>	<b>75.5%</b>	<b>87. PRINCESS [49]</b> <i>(cruise line)</i>	<b>73.6%</b>
<b>56. FOUR SEASONS</b> <i>(hotel) Las Colinas (Dallas), Tex.</i>	<b>77.1%</b>	<b>72. EDINBURGH</b>	<b>75.4%</b>	<b>88. NORWEGIAN [50]</b> <i>(cruise line)</i>	<b>73.5%</b>
<b>57. BEL-AIR [1]</b> <i>(hotel) Los Angeles</i>	<b>76.7%</b>	<b>73. SHERATON MIRAGE PRINCEVILLE</b> <i>(resort) Kauai, Hawaii</i>	<b>74.9%</b>	<b>= QANTAS [68]</b> <i>(airline)</i>	<b>73.5%</b>
<b>= KAPALUA BAY [30]</b> <i>(resort) Maui, Hawaii</i>	<b>76.7%</b>	<b>74. LE MERIDIEN [36]</b> <i>(hotel) New Orleans</i>	<b>74.7%</b>	<b>90. INN ON THE PARK [48]</b> <i>(hotel) London</i>	<b>73.4%</b>
<b>= SHANGRI-LA</b> <i>(hotel) Bangkok</i>	<b>76.7%</b>	<b>75. ALEXANDER</b> <i>(hotel) Miami Beach</i>	<b>74.5%</b>	<b>91. CAMINO REAL</b> <i>(resort) Ixtapa, Mexico</i>	<b>73.3%</b>
<b>60. DANIELI [62]</b> <i>(hotel) Venice</i>	<b>76.6%</b>	<b>= BOSTON [34]</b>	<b>74.5%</b>	<b>= CIPRIANI</b> <i>(hotel) Venice</i>	<b>73.3%</b>
<b>61. GRITTI PALACE [27]</b> <i>(hotel) Venice</i>	<b>76.5%</b>	<b>= HYATT REGENCY MAUI [17]</b> <i>(resort) Maui, Hawaii</i>	<b>74.5%</b>	<b>= HYATT GRAND CHAMPIONS</b> <i>(resort) Indian Wells, Calif.</i>	<b>73.3%</b>
<b>= TIDES INN</b> <i>(resort) Irvington, Va.</i>	<b>76.5%</b>	<b>78. HANA-MAUI</b> <i>(resort) Maui, Hawaii</i>	<b>74.4%</b>	<b>= REGENCY</b> <i>(hotel) Florence</i>	<b>73.3%</b>
<b>= WESTIN</b> <i>(hotels) Singapore</i>	<b>76.5%</b>	<b>79. DORAL SATURNIA</b> <i>(spa) Miami</i>	<b>74.2%</b>	<b>95. LUFTHANSA [88]</b> <i>(airline)</i>	<b>73.2%</b>
<b>64. FOUR SEASONS [86]</b> <i>(hotel) Washington, D.C.</i>	<b>76.2%</b>	<b>80. ARIZONA BILTMORE</b> <i>(resort) Phoenix</i>	<b>74%</b>	<b>96. NEW ORLEANS [77]</b>	<b>73.1%</b>
<b>= GEORGE V [79]</b> <i>(hotel) Paris</i>	<b>76.2%</b>	<b>= GRAND HYATT</b> <i>(hotel) Hong Kong</i>	<b>74%</b>	<b>= PLAZA ATHENE</b> <i>(hotel) Paris</i>	<b>73.1%</b>
<b>66. BUENA VISTA PALACE</b> <i>(resort) Lake Buena Vista, Fla.</i>	<b>76%</b>	<b>= SHERATON TUCSON EL CONQUISTADOR</b> <i>(resort) Tucson, Ariz.</i>	<b>74%</b>	<b>98. BRISTOL KEMPINSKI</b> <i>(hotel) Berlin</i>	<b>73%</b>
<b>67. MANDARIN</b> <i>(hotel) Singapore</i>	<b>75.9%</b>	<b>= SYDNEY [59]</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>99. MONTREAL [50]</b>	<b>72.9%</b>
				<b>100. HYATT REGENCY</b> <i>(resort) Hilton Head Island, S.C.</i>	<b>72.8%</b>

# Best airlines

**Singapore is top in all but one category ★ Swissair scores best for punctuality**

**P**OSTAGE-SIZE SINGAPORE, ALL 225 SQUARE miles of it, has no domestic route system. Thrust out into the South China Sea, with no natural resources to speak of, it long ago staked its claim as a staging point for those trying to get somewhere else. In its battle for recognition and landing rights, Singapore Airlines pushed service; as a result, it is soaring. For the third consecutive year, it ranks as the world's best airline in the *Condé Nast Traveler* readers' poll.

Intent on maintaining its lofty spot, the airline recently



## TOP 10 AIRLINES

1. Singapore
2. Swissair
3. Qantas
4. Lufthansa
5. Thai Airways
6. Cathay Pacific
7. Japan Airlines
8. Air New Zealand
9. KLM
10. SAS

## TOP 10 U.S. AIRLINES

1. Alaska
2. Midway
3. American
4. Delta
5. Southwest
6. America West
7. United
8. Piedmont\*
9. TWA
10. USAir

augmented its forty-plane fleet with six new state-of-the-art Boeing 747-400s. These 410-seat jets have added youth to what is already one of the world's youngest jet fleets.

Singapore's international orientation contributes a unique quality to the airline's highly regarded and heavily promoted flight attendants. Reflecting the country's diverse Chinese, Malay, Indian, and Pakistani heritage, the "Singapore Girls"—a source of comfort to generations of (typically male) frequent fliers and of some unease to feminists—are often trilingual and understand the cultural differences among their passengers.

—Aaron Sugarman

# Best cities

**Paris's strength in all categories makes it top worldwide ★ San Francisco U.S. choice**

**T**WO THINGS, and the wonderful harmony that exists between them, explain the splendor of Paris. One is ambition. The other needs a noble name but doesn't seem to have one; all I can lamely call it is enlightened hedonism.

Ambition gives Paris its image and its energy. Rome has its melancholy ruins to remind you where the paths of glory ultimately lead, but in Paris the vigor of ambition lives on. It dominates the city with its optimism—from the Louvre to the Arc de Triomphe du Carrousel, to the Etoile, and on to the new Grande Arche de la Défense. Vast totems of ambition form the very architectural spine of the city, defining the aspirations and surviving achievements of the Bourbon dynasty, two emperors, and the ultimately triumphant middle class.

Germany has several real capitals. Rome has had to face down Milan the way Madrid has had a rival in Barcelona. Moscow has Leningrad to contend with. And when it became an intellectual question, London, though ranked highest by readers for cultural enrichment, has often been humbled by Oxford. Paris stands out as an absolute capital, drawing France's best and brightest and others like them from all over.

—G. Y. Dryansky



## TOP 10 DESTINATIONS

1. Paris
2. Rome
3. San Francisco
4. Florence
5. Vienna
6. Lucerne
7. London
8. Seattle
9. San Diego
10. Venice

## TOP 10 U.S. DESTINATIONS

1. San Francisco
2. Seattle
3. San Diego
4. Boston
5. New Orleans
6. Washington, D.C.
7. New York
8. Oahu
9. Chicago
10. Orlando