

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

19

READERS' CHOICE AWARDS

90

THE TOP 100

1. COEUR D'ALENE (resort) Coeur d'Alene, Ida.	93.3%	19. BAUR AU LAC (hotel) Zurich	82.4%	35. CAMPTON PLACE (hotel) San Francisco	80%
2. RITZ-CARLTON (resort) Naples, Fla.	91.8%	20. REGENT (hotel) Bangkok	82.1%	= REGISTRY (resort) Naples, Fla.	80%
3. PARIS [7]	88.7%	21. WESTIN LA PALOMA (resort) Tucson, Ariz.	82%	= ROYAL VIKING [3] (cruise line)	80%
4. ORIENTAL [9] (hotel) Bangkok	88.3%	22. AMERICAN CLUB (resort) Kohler, Wis.	81.9%	38. MAUNA LANI BAY (resort) Big Island, Hawaii	79.6%
5. HALEKULANI [14] (resort) Oahu, Hawaii	88.2%	23. MANSION ON TURTLE CREEK [20] (hotel) Dallas	81.8%	39. MANDARIN [4] (hotel) Hong Kong	79.5%
6. PHOENICIAN (resort) Scottsdale, Ariz.	87.5%	= REGENT [6] (hotel) Hong Kong	81.8%	40. ROYAL CRUISE LINE (cruise line)	79.3%
7. BOULDERS (resort) Carefree, Ariz.	85.8%	25. LOEWS VENTANA CANYON (resort) Tucson, Ariz.	81.7%	= SEATTLE [44]	79.3%
= CRESCENT COURT (hotel) Dallas	85.8%	= LUCERNE	81.7%	42. SAN DIEGO	78.9%
9. ROME [13]	85.5%	27. LONDON [18]	81.6%	43. GRAND TRAVERSE (resort) Acme, Mich.	78.8%
10. SAN FRANCISCO [12]	85%	= SINGAPORE [23] (airline)	81.6%	= KAHALA HILTON [10] (resort) Oahu, Hawaii	78.8%
11. FLORENCE [5]	84.8%	29. FOUR SEASONS BILTMORE (resort) Santa Barbara, Calif.	81.3%	45. FOUR SEASONS [37] (hotel) Toronto	78.6%
12. ROYAL ORCHID SHERATON (hotel) Bangkok	84.5%	30. CANYON RANCH (spa) Tucson, Ariz.	81.2%	46. GREENBRIER (resort) White Sulphur Springs, W.Va.	78.2%
13. DOLDER GRAND [45] (hotel) Zurich	83.9%	= PENINSULA [2] (hotel) Hong Kong	81.2%	47. VENICE [23]	78.1%
14. VIER JAHRESZEITEN (hotel) Hamburg	83.8%	32. LE MERIDIEN SAN DIEGO (resort) Coronado, Calif.	81%	48. FOUR SEASONS CLIFT [31] (hotel) San Francisco	77.9%
15. VIENNA [7]	83.7%	33. CLOISTER (resort) Sea Island, Ga.	80.9%	49. GRAND BAY (hotel) Miami	77.8%
16. HOLLAND AMERICA [65] (cruise line)	83.4%	34. LODGE (resort) Pebble Beach, Calif.	80.4%	= HYATT REGENCY GRAND CYPRESS (resort) Orlando, Fla.	77.8%
17. RITZ-CARLTON (resort) Laguna Niguel, Calif.	83.1%			51. SWISSAIR [31] (airline)	77.7%
18. ROYAL CARIBBEAN [19] (cruise line)	82.5%				

KEY: Bracketed numbers refer to the position, if any, in last year's poll. Percentages are derived from the number of "excellent" and "very good" votes in all categories. See also Editorial, page 185.

★ **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

0%	52. MANDARIN ORIENTAL 77.6%	= WILLIAMSBURG HILTON 75.9%	84. KIAWAH ISLAND 73.9%
	(hotel) San Francisco	(resort) Williamsburg, Va.	(resort) Kiawah Island, S.C.
0%	= LE RICHEMOND 77.6%	69. MAUNA KEA BEACH [21] 75.8%	85. SALISHAN LODGE 73.8%
	(hotel) Geneva	(resort) Big Island, Hawaii	(resort) Gleneden Beach, Ore.
0%	54. RITZ 77.3%	= WESTCOURT 75.8%	= STOUFFER WAIHAI 73.8%
	(hotel) Paris	IN THE BUTTES	(resort) Kauai, Hawaii
1.6%	55. MARRIOTT'S 77.2%	(resort) Tempe, Ariz.	87. PRINCESS [49] 73.6%
	DESERT SPRINGS	71. LAS HADAS 75.5%	(cruise line)
	(resort) Palm Desert, Calif.	(resort) Manzanillo, Mexico	88. NORWEGIAN [50] 73.5%
1.5%	56. FOUR SEASONS 77.1%	72. EDINBURGH 75.4%	(cruise line)
	(hotel) Las Colinas (Dallas), Tex.	73. SHERATON 74.9%	= QANTAS [68] 73.5%
1.3%	57. BEL-AIR [1] 76.7%	MIRAGE PRINCEVILLE	(airline)
	(hotel) Los Angeles	(resort) Kauai, Hawaii	90. INN ON THE PARK [48] 73.4%
3%	= KAPALUA BAY [30] 76.7%	74. LE MERIDIEN [36] 74.7%	(hotel) London
	(resort) Maui, Hawaii	(hotel) New Orleans	91. CAMINO REAL 73.3%
8%	= SHANGRI-LA 76.7%	75. ALEXANDER 74.5%	(resort) Ixtapa, Mexico
	(hotel) Bangkok	(hotel) Miami Beach	= CIPRIANI 73.3%
3%	60. DANIELI [62] 76.6%	= BOSTON [34] 74.5%	(hotel) Venice
	(hotel) Venice	= HYATT REGENCY 74.5%	= HYATT GRAND 73.3%
1%	61. GRITTI PALACE [27] 76.5%	MAUI [17]	(resort) Indian Wells, Calif.
	(hotel) Venice	(resort) Maui, Hawaii	= REGENCY 73.3%
1%	= TIDES INN 76.5%	78. HANA-MAUI 74.4%	(hotel) Florence
	(resort) Irvington, Va.	(resort) Maui, Hawaii	95. LUFTHANSA [88] 73.2%
1%	= WESTIN 76.5%	79. DORAL SATURNIA 74.2%	(airline)
	(hotels) Singapore	(spa) Miami	96. NEW ORLEANS [77] 73.1%
1%	64. FOUR SEASONS [86] 76.2%	80. ARIZONA BILTMORE 74%	= PLAZA ATHENE 73.1%
	(hotel) Washington, D.C.	(resort) Phoenix	(hotel) Paris
1%	= GEORGE V [79] 76.2%	= GRAND HYATT 74%	98. BRISTOL KEMPINSKI 73%
	(hotel) Paris	(hotel) Hong Kong	(hotel) Berlin
1%	66. BUENA VISTA PALACE 76%	= SHERATON TUCSON 74%	99. MONTREAL [50] 72.9%
	(resort) Lake Buena Vista, Fla.	EL CONQUISTADOR	(resort) Hilton Head Island, S.C.
1%	67. MANDARIN 75.9%	(resort) Tucson, Ariz.	100. HYATT REGENCY 72.8%
	(hotel) Singapore	= SYDNEY [59] 74%	

Best airlines

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

POSTAGE-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

TWO 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