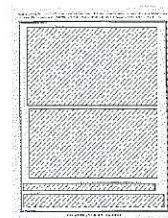


T+L 500

~ YOUR GUIDE TO ~

THE WORLD'S BEST HOTELS

ONCE AGAIN, WE'VE CALLED ON our team of editors and reporters around the globe to deliver the T+L 500—the definitive guide to the greatest hotels worldwide. Since we first introduced the T+L 500 five years ago, the list of properties has shifted and broadened according to our readers' selections in the annual *Travel + Leisure* World's Best Awards survey. The United States and Canada, which represented 55 percent of the list in 2003, now account for 43 percent. Asia's share, meanwhile, has grown by nearly 60 percent. But one constant remains: our commitment to giving you the most authoritative and comprehensive resource possible as you plan your next trip. We've included how each hotel rates against other properties on the list (see overall score), what distinguishes it from the competition, and how to make the most of your stay. So go ahead, turn (and return) to the T+L 500 throughout the year. It's the ultimate hotel guide.



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139,140,141,142...
Malliouhana Hotel & Spa

\$233, including breakfast.
300 Calle 5 de Mayo; 800/722-6466
or 52-951/501 6100; www.
caminoreal.com ☞

PUNTA MITA

■ **Four Seasons Resort (84.14)**
Tiled-roof casitas on a pristine isthmus outside Puerto Vallarta. **STATS** 150 rooms; 8 villas; 4 restaurants; 6 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Luxury and serenity—it's the only resort in sight. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Casita Beachfronts, just steps from the sand. **DON'T MISS** The ultimate private dinner, arranged by the hotel. **COST** Doubles from \$545. 800/332-3442 or 52-329/291-6000; www.fourseasons.com ☞

SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE

■ **Casa de Sierra Nevada (82.02)**
Spanish-colonial estate of 16th- to 18th-century mansions. **STATS** 33 rooms; 2 restaurants; 2 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Old-world charm in one of Mexico's most historic towns. **ROOMS TO BOOK** No. 3 In the Parque House, for its serene garden and patio. **DON'T MISS** Sipping hot Oaxacan dark chocolate spiked with mescal and cinnamon in front of your fireplace. **COST** Doubles from \$290. 35 Hospicio; 800/701-1561 or 52-415/152-7040; www.casadesierranevada.com ☞

ZIHUATANEJO NO. 1 IN MEXICO

★ **La Casa Que Canta (90.20)**
Cliff-hugging adobe hideaway above Zihuatanejo Bay; new spa added in early 2006. **STATS** 25 suites; 2 villas; 1 restaurant; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Charming and romantic hideaway, with great service. **ROOMS TO BOOK** No. 9, for spectacular ocean views, or No. 15, the biggest Standard, at 869 square feet. **DON'T MISS** The restaurant's decadent banana cheesecake topped with mango and pineapple sauce. **COST** Doubles from \$415. 888/523-5050 or 52-755/555-7030; www.lacasaquecanta.com ☞

PERU

CUZCO

■ **Hotel Monasterio (88.81)**
Converted 16th-century monastery with Baroque interiors; 32 more rooms and a spa opening mid-year. **STATS** 127 rooms; 2 restaurants; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** The most luxurious hotel in Cuzco, a short train ride from Machu Picchu. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Deluxes, with an oxygen-enrichment system that keeps altitude sickness at bay. **DON'T MISS** A coca sour, a twist on Peru's classic cocktail. **COST** Doubles from \$470, including breakfast. 136 Calle Palacios; 800/237-1236 or 51-84/241-777; www.monasteriohotel.com ☞

LIMA

■ **JW Marriott Hotel (81.75)** 25-story tower with striking ocean views in the upscale Miraflores district. **STATS** 300 rooms; 2 restaurants; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** A business hotel with a panoramic ocean backdrop. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Those ending in -05 to -12 face the ocean and have an additional 53 square feet. **DON'T MISS** Ceviche Mixto at La Vista. **COST** Doubles from \$221. 615 Malecón de la Reserva; 800/228-9290 or 51-1/217-7000; www.marriott.com ☞

MACHU PICCHU

■ **Machu Picchu Sanctuary Lodge (82.64)** Eco-friendly Spanish-colonial lodge on the Inca Trail, steps from Machu Picchu. **STATS** 31 rooms; 2 restaurants; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Prime location: it's the only hotel within the Incan citadel. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Nos. 37-40 have terraces and lovely views, but our top pick is No. 21, with Huayna Picchu looming outside its window. **DON'T MISS** A post-hike Masotherapy massage. **COST** Doubles from \$715, including meals. 800/237-1236 or 51-84/211-039; www.orient-express.com ☞

URUGUAY

CARMELO

■ **Four Seasons Resort (90.25)**
Golf and spa retreat set in a pine-and-eucalyptus forest along the River Plate. **STATS** 44 suites; 2 restaurants; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Four Seasons luxury at a fraction of the usual cost. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Riverfront Bungalows with hand-carved beds and private gardens. **DON'T MISS** A horseback ride led by a Uruguayan gaucho. **COST** Doubles from \$290. 800/332-3442 or 598/542-9000; www.fourseasons.com ☞

THE CARIBBEAN, BERMUDA, AND THE BAHAMAS

ANGUILLA

■ **Cap Juluca (86.82)** Whitewashed Mediterranean-style resort with an emphasis on privacy and luxury. **STATS** 98 rooms; 3 restaurants; 2 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Every room has a prime spot on the mile-long crescent of alabaster sand. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Junior Suites with indoor-outdoor showers and secluded solariums. **DON'T MISS** The garden, featuring 38 endangered plants. **COST** Doubles from \$825, including

breakfast. 888/858-5822 or 264/497-6666; www.capjuluca.com ☞

ANGUILLA

■ **Malliouhana Hotel & Spa (86.67)**
Family-friendly beachfront resort partially atop a rocky promontory jutting out into Meads Bay. **STATS** 55 rooms; 2 restaurants; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** One of the only luxury resorts on the island, with, at 15,000 square feet, the biggest spa. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Corner rooms with wraparound balconies. **DON'T MISS** Michel Rostang's innovative French cuisine. **COST** Doubles from \$720. 800/835-0796 or 264/497-6111; www.malliouhana.com ☞

ANTIGUA

■ **Curtain Bluff Resort (86.67)** Eco-friendly resort set between 2 beaches. **STATS** 72 rooms; 2 restaurants; 2 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** A grown-up take on all-inclusive: everything from yoga to scuba to a personalized mini-bar. **ROOMS TO BOOK** The Morris and Grace Bay Suites, for their modern décor. **DON'T MISS** A cooking lesson with chef Christophe Blatz. **COST** Doubles from \$950, all-inclusive. 888/289-9898 or 268/462-8400; www.curtainbluff.com ☞

ANTIGUA

■ **Jumby Bay (83.75)** Secluded colonial-style property on a 300-acre island accessible only by boat. **STATS** 40 suites; 11 villas; 2 restaurants; 3 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** So exclusive and intimate that the rooms don't have keys and every staff member knows your name. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Rondavels, with wraparound terraces and outdoor showers. **DON'T MISS** An in-room Chinese facial with legendary masseuse Su Hua. **COST** Doubles from \$1,350, all-inclusive. 888/767-3966 or 268/462-6000; www.rosewoodhotels.com ☞

BAHAMAS

■ **Four Seasons Resort Great Exuma at Emerald Bay (83.18)**
225-acre resort on a quiet island, rimmed with perfect white-sand beaches. **STATS** 183 rooms; 3 restaurants; 2 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** The oceanside Greg Norman golf course—one of the region's most challenging (and rewarding). **ROOMS TO BOOK** For privacy, reserve a Beachfront at either end of the resort. **DON'T MISS** Going on a bonefishing excursion with some of the Bahamas' best anglers. **COST** Doubles from \$495. 800/332-3442 or 242/336-6800; www.fourseasons.com ☞

BAHAMAS



One & Only Ocean Club at Paradise Island (84.63) 1939

Huntington beachside estate with a genteel feel. **STATS** 101 rooms; 3 villas; 2 cottages; 4 restaurants; 2 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Polished amenities (a Jean Georges restaurant, designed by Christian Liaigre), with access to a range of activities (water parks and casinos) at nearby Atlantis. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Those in the Crescent Wing are newer. **DON'T MISS** A yoga class on the beach. **COST** Doubles from \$750. **800/321-3000 or 242/363-2501; www.oneandonlyresorts.com** ㄹㄻㄷㄹㄻㄷ

BAHAMAS

Pink Sands (81.73) Chris Blackwell's Moroccan-, Indian-, and Balinese-inspired village on a 3-mile beach. **STATS** 25 cottages; 1 restaurant; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Lush, tropical grounds that double as a bird sanctuary. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Oceanview Cottages overlook the Atlantic and have private paths to the water. **DON'T MISS** A long—and we mean long—walk on the beach. **COST** Doubles from \$750, including breakfast and dinner. **800/688-7678 or 242/333-2030; www.islandoutpost.com** ㄹㄻㄷㄹㄻㄷ

BARBADOS

Sandy Lane (83.82) Exclusive (yet family-friendly) Palladian-style beachfront resort, with one of the largest spas in the Caribbean. **STATS** 112 rooms; 1 villa; 4 restaurants; 5 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Over-the-top glamour combined with high-tech rooms. **ROOMS TO BOOK** From May through October, Ocean Rooms are \$100 more and worth the splurge. **DON'T MISS** Hitting the Tom Fazio-designed Green Monkey golf course. **COST** Doubles from \$1,200. **866/444-4080 or 246/444-2000; www.sandylane.com** ㄹㄻㄷㄹㄻㄷ

BERMUDA

NO. 1 IN THE CARIBBEAN, BERMUDA, AND THE BAHAMAS

Waterloo House (91.45) Harbor-front manor house in downtown Hamilton, near shopping and dining. **STATS** 30 rooms; 1 restaurant. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** A relaxed but business-friendly retreat in the center of town. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Those with terraces overlooking the harbor. **DON'T MISS** Afternoon tea in one of the hotel's 5 gardens. **COST** Doubles from \$400, including breakfast. **800/468-4100 or 441/295-4480; www.waterloohouse.com** ㄹㄻㄷㄹㄻㄷ

JAMAICA

Couples Sans Souci (81.21) 35-acre resort set on a hillside above 2 beaches. **STATS** 148 rooms; 5 restaurants; 5 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** The smallest of the Couples

resorts: the benefits of an all-inclusive on a more intimate scale. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Halfway up the hill, the D-block suites are centrally located, large, and quiet. **DON'T MISS** A dip in the mineral pool. **COST** Doubles from \$620, all-inclusive. **800/268-7537 or 876/994-1206; www.couples.com** ㄹㄻㄷㄹㄻㄷ

JAMAICA

Couples Swept Away (83.79) Recently expanded all-suite property on Negril's pristine Seven Mile Beach. **STATS** 312 rooms; 6 restaurants; 7 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Extensive fitness facilities; open-air gym; 82-foot lap pool; jogging track. **ROOMS TO BOOK** The older ones, for their large balconies with hammocks. **DON'T MISS** A Reggae sage (massage given to the rhythms of reggae music) at the spa. **COST** Doubles from \$620, all-inclusive. **800/268-7537 or 876/957-4061; www.couples.com** ㄹㄻㄷㄹㄻㄷ

JAMAICA

Jamaica Inn Hotel (82.22) Genteel low-rise retreat with simple interiors on one of the island's best beaches. **STATS** 47 suites; 4 cottages; 1 restaurant; 2 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** One of Jamaica's most romantic spots. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Those in the Beach Wing, right on the sand. **DON'T MISS** Taking a scenic bike tour through the Blue Mountains. **COST** Doubles from \$500. **800/837-4608 or 876/974-2514; www.jamaicainn.com** ㄹㄻㄷㄹㄻㄷ

NEVIS

Four Seasons Resort (86.77) Colonial-style resort along pretty Pinney's Beach; added a waterfront restaurant and pool last year. **STATS** 196 rooms; 4 restaurants; 4 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Terrific golf and spa for adults, coupled with family-friendly activities, make this an unusually well-rounded resort. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Affordable Mountain Views have lovely vistas. **DON'T MISS** Sipping an aged rum in the gentlemanly Library Bar. **COST** Doubles from \$655. **800/332-3442 or 869/469-1111; www.fourseasons.com** ㄹㄻㄷㄹㄻㄷ

PETER ISLAND

Peter Island Resort (81.52) Collection of 2-story bungalows on a 1,300-acre private island, with 5 beaches, miles of hiking and biking trails, and prime diving sites. **STATS** 52 rooms; 3 villas; 2 restaurants; 2 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** The exclusivity of staying on an island accessible only by helicopter or boat. **ROOMS TO BOOK** One of the renovated beachfront Junior Suites with knockout views. **DON'T MISS** The Thermal Sand Bundle Massage in the spa. **COST** Doubles from \$900. **800/346-4451 or 284/495-2000;**

www.peterisland.com ㄹㄻㄷㄹㄻㄷ

ST. BART'S

Eden Rock Hotel (82.92) Historic house-hotel (undergoing expansion) on a rocky promontory surrounded by Baie de St.-Jean. **STATS** 28 rooms; 2 restaurants; 2 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** The place to see and be seen—with the island's liveliest beach. **ROOMS TO BOOK** The Harbour House and De Haenen, for panoramic views. **DON'T MISS** A painting lesson at Jane's Gallery. **COST** Doubles from \$830, including breakfast. **877/563-7105 or 590-590/297-999; www.edenrockhotel.com** ㄹㄻㄷㄹㄻㄷ

ST. BART'S

Hôtel Saint-Barth Isle de France (84.00) French plantation-style resort with an Asian twist, on the Baie des Flamands. **STATS** 33 rooms; 1 restaurant; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** A familial atmosphere, thanks to gracious staff and return guests. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Those on the 2nd floor of the main building, for ocean views. **DON'T MISS** A Thai massage in the Molton Brown spa pavilion. **COST** Doubles from \$920, including breakfast. **800/810-4691 or 590-590/275-666; www.isle-de-france.com** ㄹㄻㄷㄹㄻㄷ

ST. LUCIA

Anse Chastanet Resort (81.79) Cluster of colorful villas scattered in the foothills of the Piton mountains and along a small beach. **STATS** 49 rooms; 2 restaurants; 2 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Fewer than 50 rooms on 600 acres ensures maximum privacy. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Premium Hillside, with an open fourth wall for great views. **DON'T MISS** Zipping through jungle trails on one of the resort's Cannondale mountain bikes. **COST** Doubles from \$405. **800/223-1108 or 758/459-7000; www.ansechastanet.com** ㄹㄻㄷㄹㄻㄷ

ST. LUCIA

Ladera (90.24) Stylish eco-lodge surrounded by rain forest; beaches are a shuttle ride away. **STATS** 21 suites; 6 villas; 1 restaurant; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Every activity under the sun—astrology sessions, fashion shows, garden walks, mixology classes. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Gros Piton Suites have a plunge pool, waterfall, and spectacular views. **DON'T MISS** Tagging along with chef Orlando Satchell on a trip to the market. **COST** Doubles from \$605, including breakfast. **866/290-0978 or 758/459-7323; www.ladera.com** ㄹㄻㄷㄹㄻㄷ

ST. MARTIN

La Samanna (82.32) Whitewashed Moorish-inspired resort on 55 acres overlooking Baie

