



THE READERS' CHOICE AWARDS 2024

YOUR PICK OF THE BEST
HOTELS, COUNTRIES, ISLANDS,
SPAS, RESORTS, AIRLINES,
CITIES, TOUR OPERATORS,
TRAINS AND MORE

PALÁCIO PRÍNCIPE REAL,
LISBON, JOINT TOP-SCORING
HOTEL IN EUROPE

HOTELS

A detailed photograph of the Fontaine de la Seine in Paris. The fountain features several bronze statues of figures holding golden fish, with water spraying from their hands. The base is ornate with green and gold details. In the background, the grand facade of the Hôtel de Crillon is visible under a clear blue sky.

Hôtel de Crillon, your favourite
Paris hotel. *Opposite:*
the London winner, Claridge's

Welcome to The Readers' Choice Awards 2024. This is the 27th edition of our globetrotting annual event, and for this iteration we have done things a little differently.

After five years of co-curating the awards with our sister title in the US, we have consciously uncoupled, meaning that the responses here are based purely on votes from the UK. We will, however, be introducing a new international Your Year in Travel showcase online, revealing the holiday habits and motivations of our readers across India, the Middle East, Spain, the USA and the UK. So, in this Olympics year, how does the travel medal table look? Well, Japan – voted your favourite country – is on everyone's lips, as are other long-haul destinations such as New Zealand, Australia and Thailand. The Greek islands, particularly their villas, continue to shine, and the healthy interest in wellness escapes, authentic experiences and transformational travel continues to grow. But beyond all the trends (coolcationing and astro-tourism, anyone?) is the simple desire to explore, relax and escape – to that palm-fringed island beach or wilderness safari camp; that urban hotel with a rooftop bar that does a mean dirty martini. Together, the names here form a special gazetteer of the places pinned to your travel dreams – the hotels, spas and resorts, the countries, cities and islands you return to again and again, and the tour operators, villa experts and airlines that take you there. More results, including your top ski resorts and beaches, can be found online at cntraveller.com/readers-choice-awards



A SNAPSHOT OF THE RANKINGS

Every year we ask you to rate hotels according to a checklist of criteria, from food and location to design, rooms and service, plus sustainability and, where appropriate, community investment. In London, some of the city's oldest, including **Brown's** (born in 1837 and a higher scorer for its vividly wallpapered rooms) and **The Connaught** (1897, tipped for its service), brushed shoulders with some of its youngest. The eco-minded **1 Hotel Mayfair**, opened last year, was liked for its location near Green Park; talk-of-the-town **Raffles London at The Owo**, also launched in 2023, saluted for its stately design. The overall winner is **Claridge's** (1856, but rejuvenated recently), which had a clean sweep across all criteria. Outside the capital, the Cotswolds are an evergreen favourite, with five hotels on the list including **Cowley Manor Experimental** (admired for its Wonderland design). Newly reopened **Langdale Chase** rated highly for its Windermere location, Cornwall's **Hotel Tresanton** was head girl for activities and **Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons'** cuisine was lauded. Across the Channel, **Hôtel de Crillon's** location on Place de la Concorde helped it win gold, as did the mid-century design of **Les Roches Rouges** on the Côte d'Azur. And in Ireland, the assured service and concierge of Dublin's rococo **Merrion** sent it to the top.

EUROPE

LONDON

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 CLARIDGE'S 98.39 | 11 The Bloomsbury 97.33 |
| 2 Brown's Hotel, a Rocco Forte Hotel 98.29 | 12 Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park, London 97.22 |
| 3 Ham Yard Hotel 97.95 | 13 The London Edition 97.14 |
| 4 Four Seasons Hotel London at Ten Trinity Square 97.80 | 14 The Berkeley 97.06 |
| 5 The Dorchester 97.76 | 15 Nobu Hotel London Portman Square 97.00 |
| 6 The Cadogan, a Belmond Hotel, London 97.66 | 16 Rosewood London 96.67 |
| 7 Hotel Café Royal 97.61 | 17 Shangri-La The Shard, London 96.60 |
| 8 The Langham, London 97.51 | 18 Four Seasons Hotel London at Park Lane 96.52 |
| 9 InterContinental London Park Lane 97.50 | 19 The Ritz London 96.50 |
| 10 The Standard, London 97.37 | 20 The Londoner 96.47 |
| | 21 The Savoy 96.42 |
| | 22 The Zetter Clerkenwell 96.38 |

- | | |
|--|--|
| 23 1 Hotel Mayfair 96.32 | 35 The Lanesborough 93.71 |
| 24 The Connaught 96.27 | 36 Raffles London at The Owo 93.56 |
| 25 The Stafford London 96.25 | 37 Hotel 41 93.33 |
| 26 The Laslett 96.17 | 38 Treehouse Hotel London 93.29 |
| 27 The Landmark London 96.05 | 39 Corinthia London 93.23 |
| 28 Flemings Mayfair 96.00 | 40 Hyatt Regency London – The Churchill 93.18 |
| 29 The Hoxton, Holborn 95.82 | |
| 30 L'Oscar London 95.77 | |
| 31 The Rubens at the Palace 95.29 | |
| 32 Hilton London Bankside 94.65 | |
| 33 Kimpton Fitzroy London 93.85 | |
| 34 The Goring 93.81 | |

REST OF THE UK

- | |
|---|
| 1 THE FIFE ARMS, ABERDEENSHIRE 99.08 |
| 2 Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons, a Belmond Hotel, Oxfordshire 99.00 |
| 3 Grantley Hall, Yorkshire 98.67 |

- 4 **The Pig**, Hampshire 98.40
- 5 **University Arms Hotel, Autograph Collection**, Cambridge 98.39
- 6 **Cliveden House**, Berkshire 98.35
- 7 **Gleneagles Townhouse**, Edinburgh 98.29
- 8 **The Grove**, Hertfordshire 98.10
- 9 **Lucknam Park Hotel & Spa**, Wiltshire 98.05
- 10 **The Newt in Somerset** 98.00
- 11 **Langdale Chase**, Cumbria 97.90
- 12 **Hotel Tresanton**, Cornwall 97.89
- 13 **Lime Wood**, Hampshire 97.73
- 14 **Cowley Manor Experimental**, Gloucestershire 97.24
- 15 **Old Parsonage Hotel**, Oxford 97.18
- 16 **The Fish Hotel**, Worcestershire 97.13
- 17 **The Harper**, Norfolk 97.02
- 18 **Palé Hall**, Gwynedd 97.01
- 19 **The Witchery by the Castle**, Edinburgh 97.00
- 20 **No 1 by GuestHouse Hotels**, York 96.98
- 21 **Beaverbrook**, Surrey 96.92
- 22 **Gilpin Hotel & Lake House**, Cumbria 96.73
- 23 **Heckfield Place**, Hampshire 96.60
- 24 **The Mitre, Hampton Court**, Surrey 96.58
- 25 **Fowey Hall**, Cornwall 96.52
- 26 **Harbour Hotel Salcombe**, Devon 96.51
- 27 **Glenapp Castle**, South Ayrshire 96.50
- 28 **Old Bank Hotel**, Oxford 96.37
- 29 **Penmaenuchaf**, Gwynedd 96.24
- 30 **Ellenborough Park**, Gloucestershire 96.16
- 31 **Dormy House Hotel & Spa**, Worcestershire 96.15
- 32 **The Lygon Arms**, Worcestershire 96.09
- 33 **The Swan at Streatley**, Berkshire 96.03
- 34 **Kimpton Blythswood Square Hotel & Spa**, Glasgow 96.00
- 35 **The Old Government House Hotel & Spa**, Guernsey 95.94



Your best hotel in France outside Paris, Les Roches Rouges in Saint-Raphaël. Opposite: Yazz Collective, runner-up in Turkey

PARIS

- 1 **HÔTEL DE CRILLON, A ROSEWOOD HOTEL** 99.68
- 2 **Le Bristol Paris** 98.83
- 3 **Saint James Paris** 98.80
- 4 **La Fantaisie** 98.77
- 5 **Four Seasons Hotel George V**, Paris 98.67
- 6 **Prince de Galles, a Luxury Collection Hotel**, Paris 98.00
- 7 **Shangri-La Paris** 97.46
- 8 **Grands Boulevards Experimental** 97.00
- 9 **JK Place**, Paris 96.75
- 10 **Cheval Blanc Paris** 96.40
- 11 **Hôtel Plaza Athénée** 96.18
- 12 **Airelles Château de Versailles, Le Grand Contrôle** 96.05
- 13 **Hôtel Costes** 96.00
- 14 **Nolinski Paris** 95.95
- 15 **Le Meurice** 95.90
- 16 **Mandarin Oriental**, Paris 95.67
- 17 **Grand Hôtel du Palais Royal** 95.21
- 18 **Brach** 95.20
- 19 **Le Grand Mazarin** 95.00
- 20 **Grand Powers** 94.85
- 21 **Hôtel Bienvenue** 94.40
- 22 **Hôtel Rochechouart** 93.46
- 23 **Ritz Paris** 92.23
- 24 **Grand Pigalle Experimental** 92.11
- 25 **Cour des Vosges** 90.57

REST OF FRANCE & MONACO

- 1 **LES ROCHES ROUGES, A BEAUMIER HOTEL, SAINT-RAPHAËL** 99.64
- 2 **Hôtel Crillon le Brave** 98.89
- 3 **Villa Clarisse & Spa**, Ile de Ré 98.46
- 4 **Domaine des Etangs, Auberge Resorts Collection**, Massignac 98.00
- 5 **Hotel du Cap-Eden-Roc**, Antibes 97.95
- 6 **Zannier Hotels Le Chalet**, Megève 97.93
- 7 **Hôtel La Pérouse**, Nice 97.92
- 8 **Les Sources de Caudalie**, Bordeaux 97.76
- 9 **Hôtel Métropole Monte-Carlo** 97.61
- 10 **Capelongue, a Beaumier hotel**, Bonnieux 97.46
- 11 **Villa Gallici**, Aix-en-Provence 97.38
- 12 **Regina Experimental Biarritz** 97.33
- 13 **Anantara Plaza Nice Hotel** 97.14

- 14 **La Nauve Hôtel & Jardin**, Cognac 96.73
- 15 **Le Fitz Roy, a Beaumier hotel**, Val Thorens 96.67
- 16 **Le Moulin de Lourmarin, a Beaumier hotel** 96.48
- 17 **Cœur de Megève** 96.44
- 18 **Hôtel Barrière Le Majestic Cannes** 96.33
- 19 **Hôtel Royal**, Évian-les-Bains 96.00
- 20 **Cheval Blanc St-Tropez** 95.78

GREECE

- 1 **THE DOLLI AT ACROPOLIS, ATHENS** 99.25
- 2 **Eliamos Villas Hotel & Spa**, Kefalonia 99.00
- 3 **Mandarin Oriental, Costa Navarino**, Pilos 98.98
- 4 **Cali Mykonos** 98.78
- 5 **Hotel Grande Bretagne, a Luxury Collection Hotel**, Athens 98.73
- 6 **Four Seasons Astir Palace Hotel Athens** 98.59
- 7 **The Rou Estate**, Corfu 98.49
- 8 **Perivolos Lifestyle Houses**, Santorini 98.42
- 9 **Bill & Co Suites and Lounge**, Mykonos 98.13
- 10 **Corfu Palace Hotel** 97.94

IRELAND

- 1 **THE MERRION, DUBLIN** 99.73
- 2 **Cashel Palace Hotel**, Co Tipperary 98.39
- 3 **The Westbury**, Dublin 98.29
- 4 **The Shelbourne, Autograph Collection**, Dublin 97.00
- 5 **Ballyfin Demesne**, Co Laois 96.80
- 6 **Anantara The Marker Dublin Hotel** 96.67
- 7 **Lough Eske Castle**, Co Donegal 96.44
- 8 **The Killarney Park**, Co Kerry 95.40
- 9 **Glenlo Abbey Hotel & Estate**, Co Galway 95.29
- 10 **Kilkea Castle**, Co Kildare 94.88

METHODOLOGY

The Condé Nast Traveller Readers' Choice Awards survey was made available through a secure website at cntraveller.com/vote. This year's tabulation of results from thousands of respondents who submitted ratings during the period of 1 April to 30 June 2024 was done by Condé Nast and Market Management. The questionnaire contained lists of candidates in various categories (hotels, resorts, airlines, cities, islands, etc). Candidates must have received a required minimum number of responses and a minimum overall rating to be eligible for a Readers' Choice Award. Candidates are judged on a set of criteria relevant to their category, based on a standard five-point scale converted to a percentage: excellent, very good, good, fair and poor. The average of these ratings determined their final score based on four decimal points, with two decimal points being published. For example, a score of 98.25 for JK Place, Roma in Italy represents the average ratings it received from respondents for all criteria relevant: rooms, service, food, design, location and activities/experiences – as well as cleanliness, community investment, sustainability, concierge and facilities. EDITED BY RICK JORDAN

There was a lot of love for Venice this year, with recent arrival **Nolinski** serenaded for its rooms (maybe it's the powder pink sofa in each one) and Biennale hangout **Ca' di Dio** for its location by the Arsenale. Italy's best-scoring hotel, though, was Rome's recently restored **Hotel Eden**, a favourite with Fellini and now part of the Dorchester Collection.

Como Castello del Nero, set in a 12th-century Tuscan castle, received high marks for location and its urbane design. The joint top-ranking hotel in Europe was Lisbon's **Palácio Príncipe Real**, partly for its design, but surely also for its secret garden in the heart of the city. Elsewhere, amid Norwegian wilderness lodges, Berlin suites and Swiss mountain lairs, we saw appearances from **The Agora**, a new boutique hotel in Cyprus, Turkey's beach-clubby **Yazz Collective** and **Coco**, a solar-powered, farm-to-table stay in Copenhagen.

FLORENCE

- 1 **VILLA CORA** 99.00
- 2 Sina Villa Medici, Autograph Collection 98.84
- 3 Four Seasons Hotel Firenze 98.38
- 4 Villa San Michele, a Belmond Hotel, Florence 98.00
- 5 Il Tornabuoni Hotel – The Unbound Collection by Hyatt 97.20
- 6 La Gemma Hotel 96.00
- 7 Hotel Savoy, a Rocco Forte Hotel 93.59
- 8 Starhotels Michelangelo Firenze 92.00
- 9 Palazzo Vecchietti 87.60
- 10 Villa La Massa 85.46

ROME

- 1 **HOTEL EDEN** 99.82
- 2 Hotel d'Inghilterra Roma – Starhotels Collezione 99.50
- 3 The First Musica 98.80
- 4 Palazzo Ripetta 98.36
- 5 Six Senses Rome 98.31
- 6 JK Place, Roma 98.25
- 7 Hassler Roma 98.08
- 8 Rome Cavalieri, a Waldorf Astoria Hotel 97.66
- 9 The First Dolce 97.57
- 10 Hotel de Russie, a Rocco Forte Hotel 97.33

VENICE

- 1 **THE ST REGIS VENICE** 97.60
- 2 The Gritti Palace, a Luxury Collection Hotel, Venice 97.23
- 3 Ca' di Dio 96.14
- 4 Hotel Cipriani, a Belmond Hotel, Venice 96.00
- 5 Nolinski Venezia 95.41
- 6 Aman Venice 94.83
- 7 JW Marriott Venice Resort & Spa 93.64
- 8 Sina Centurion Palace 92.87
- 9 Palazzo Venart Luxury Hotel 92.79
- 10 Il Palazzo Experimental 92.00

REST OF ITALY

- 1 **COMO CASTELLO DEL NERO, TUSCANY** 99.68
- 2 Villa d'Este, Lake Como 99.67
- 3 Mandarin Oriental, Milan 99.62
- 4 Caruso, a Belmond Hotel, Amalfi Coast 99.20
- 5 Borgo Santo Pietro, Siena 99.14
- 6 Park Hyatt Milan 98.83
- 7 Mandarin Oriental, Lago di Como 98.63
- 8 Grand Hotel Continental Siena – Starhotels Collezione 98.20
- 9 Borgo Santandrea, Amalfi Coast 98.05
- 10 Hotel Il Pellicano, Porto Ercole 98.00
- 11 Lupaia, Tuscany 97.95
- 12 Il Sereno, Lake Como 97.85
- 13 Villa Sant'Andrea, a Belmond Hotel, Taormina Mare 97.67
- 14 Grand Hotel Timeo, a Belmond Hotel, Taormina 97.60
- 15 Splendido, a Belmond Hotel, Portofino 97.24
- 16 Monastero Santa Rosa Hotel & Spa, Amalfi Coast 97.14
- 17 Grand Hotel Savoia, Cortina d'Ampezzo 97.02
- 18 Passalacqua, Lake Como 96.78
- 19 Armani Hotel Milano 96.67
- 20 Il San Pietro di Positano 96.17

PORTUGAL

- 1 **PALÁCIO PRÍNCIPE REAL, LISBON** 99.98
- 2 Savoy Palace, Madeira 98.29
- 3 The Yeatman Hotel, Porto 98.10
- 4 Torel Palace Porto 97.95

- 5 Octant Vila Monte, Algarve 97.37
- 6 The Ivens, Autograph Collection, Lisbon 96.56
- 7 Vila Joya, Algarve 96.50
- 8 Hotel Vermelho Melides 92.84
- 9 AlmaLusa Comporta 92.00
- 10 São Lourenço do Barrocal, Alentejo 91.73

SPAIN

- 1 **FINCA CORTESIN, CASARES** 99.98
- 2 Tótem Madrid 99.50
- 3 Mandarin Oriental, Barcelona 99.33
- 4 Menorca Experimental 99.26
- 5 Petunia, a Beaumier hotel, Ibiza 98.86
- 6 Urso Hotel & Spa, Madrid 98.67
- 7 Grand Hotel Son Net, Mallorca 98.66
- 8 W Barcelona 98.63
- 9 Hotel Espléndido, Mallorca 98.48
- 10 El Llorenç Parc de la Mar, Mallorca 98.33

TURKEY

- 1 **THE RITZ-CARLTON, ISTANBUL** 98.19
- 2 Yazz Collective, Fethiye 97.80
- 3 Four Seasons Hotel Istanbul at Sultanahmet 96.50
- 4 Soho House Istanbul 96.00
- 5 Raffles Istanbul 95.41
- 6 Mandarin Oriental Bosphorus, Istanbul 94.73
- 7 Çırağan Palace Kempinski Istanbul 94.24
- 8 10 Karaköy, Istanbul 91.33
- 9 Museum Hotel, Istanbul 90.12
- 10 Shangri-La Bosphorus, Istanbul 90.00

REST OF EUROPE

- 1 **BADRUTT'S PALACE, ST MORITZ, SWITZERLAND** 99.60
- 2 Grand Hôtel, Stockholm, Sweden 99.50
- 3 The Reykjavík Edition, Iceland 99.33
- 4 Mandarin Oriental Palace, Luzern, Switzerland 99.19



- 5 **Hotel Amigo, a Rocco Forte Hotel**, Brussels, Belgium 99.06
- 6 **Kruisherenhotel Maastricht**, Netherlands 99.02
- 7 **Hotel d'Angleterre**, Geneva, Switzerland 98.88
- 8 **Pulitzer Amsterdam**, Netherlands 98.80
- 9 **The Agora Hotel**, Cyprus 98.68
- 10 **Coco Hotel**, Copenhagen, Denmark 98.67
- 11 **Hotel de Rome, a Rocco Forte Hotel**, Berlin, Germany 98.62
- 12 **The Alpina Gstaad**, Switzerland 98.59
- 13 **The Charles Hotel, a Rocco Forte Hotel**, Munich, Germany 98.57
- 14 **Fairmont Le Montreux Palace**, Switzerland 98.35
- 15 **Sir Albert**, Amsterdam, Netherlands 98.26
- 16 **The Phoenicia Malta**, Floriana, Malta 98.21
- 17 **1898 The Post**, Ghent, Belgium 98.07
- 18 **Union Øye**, Norangsfjorden, Norway 98.00
- 19 **The Fontenay Hamburg**, Germany 97.95
- 20 **Grand Park Hotel Rovinj**, Croatia 97.90
- 21 **Hotel Kong Arthur**, Copenhagen, Denmark 97.88
- 22 **Hotel am Steinplatz, Autograph Collection**, Berlin, Germany 97.85
- 23 **The Woodward**, Geneva, Switzerland 97.83
- 24 **Suvretta House**, St Moritz, Switzerland 97.80
- 25 **Storffjord Hotel**, Skodje, Norway 97.51
- 26 **Experimental Chalet Verbier**, Switzerland 97.44
- 27 **Château St Gerlach**, Maastricht, Netherlands 97.42
- 28 **Ruby Marie**, Vienna, Austria 97.33
- 29 **Hilton Amsterdam**, Netherlands 97.30
- 30 **Hotel Bristol, a Luxury Collection Hotel**, Warsaw, Poland 97.26

Location is always a consideration wherever you stay, but it seems more of a dealmaker when it comes to the big skies of Australia and New Zealand. You gave high marks for this criterion to **Halcyon House**, the stylishly upcycled motel on one of New South Wales's best surf beaches; **Blanket Bay**, wrapped up in the scenery of Lake Wakatipu on the South Island; and **Osborn House**, set in the Southern Highlands outside Sydney. The latter also impressed for its look, courtesy of former Soho House design head Linda Boronkay, as did the eclectic interiors of Morocco's **El Fenn**. Elsewhere in Africa, recent Marrakech hit **Riad Botanica** was praised for its rooms and Cape wineland favourite **Le Quartier Français** for its food. And in the Middle East, perennial award winner **The Chedi Muscat** scored highly across the board.

AUSTRALASIA

- 1 **THE FULLERTON HOTEL SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA** 98.00
- 2 **Park Hyatt Sydney**, Australia 97.96
- 3 **Halcyon House**, Cabarita Beach, Australia 97.25
- 4 **The Calile Hotel**, Brisbane, Australia 97.05
- 5 **Silky Oaks Lodge**, Daintree, Australia 97.02
- 6 **Blanket Bay**, Glenorchy, New Zealand 96.94
- 7 **Como The Treasury**, Perth, Australia 96.87
- 8 **Ace Hotel Sydney**, Australia 96.64
- 9 **Osborn House**, Bundanoon, Australia 96.58
- 10 **The Langham**, Melbourne, Australia 95.83

AFRICA

NORTHERN

- 1 **LA MAMOUNIA MARRAKECH, MOROCCO** 99.21
- 2 **The Oberoi**, Marrakech, Morocco 99.06
- 3 **Sofitel Legend Old Cataract Aswan**, Egypt 98.98
- 4 **El Fenn**, Marrakech, Morocco 98.79
- 5 **Villa des Orangers**, Marrakech, Morocco 97.92
- 6 **Kasbah Tamadot**, Asni, Morocco 96.77
- 7 **Es Saadi Marrakech Resort**, Morocco 96.51
- 8 **Riad Botanica**, Marrakech, Morocco 96.41
- 9 **Royal Mansour Marrakech**, Morocco 96.22
- 10 **Fairmont Royal Palm Marrakech**, Morocco 95.76

EASTERN & SOUTHERN

- 1 **ELLERMAN HOUSE, CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA** 99.85
- 2 **Babylonstoren**, Simondium, South Africa 99.50
- 3 **Gibb's Farm**, Karatu, Tanzania 99.41
- 4 **Leeu House**, Franschhoek, South Africa 98.94
- 5 **The Twelve Apostles Hotel and Spa**, Cape Town, South Africa 98.80
- 6 **Le Quartier Français**, Franschhoek, South Africa 98.75
- 7 **The Royal Livingstone Victoria Falls Zambia Hotel by Anantara** 98.67
- 8 **Giraffe Manor**, Nairobi, Kenya 98.25
- 9 **Steenberg Hotel & Spa**, Cape Town, South Africa 98.00
- 10 **One&Only Cape Town**, South Africa 97.50
- 11 **The Oyster Box**, Umhlanga, South Africa 97.17
- 12 **Mount Nelson, a Belmond Hotel, Cape Town**, South Africa 96.90
- 13 **Pod Camps Bay**, Cape Town, South Africa 96.29
- 14 **Hemingways Nairobi**, Kenya 96.15
- 15 **Gorgeous George**, Cape Town, South Africa 96.00

THE MIDDLE EAST

- 1 **THE CHEDI MUSCAT, OMAN** 99.35
- 2 **Waldorf Astoria Dubai Palm Jumeirah**, UAE 98.67
- 3 **Al Bustan Palace, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel**, Muscat, Oman 98.04
- 4 **Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay** 97.85
- 5 **W Doha**, Qatar 97.70
- 6 **Our Habitas AIUla**, Saudi Arabia 97.51
- 7 **The Ritz-Carlton Abu Dhabi, Grand Canal**, UAE 97.17
- 8 **Jumeirah Burj Al Arab**, Dubai, UAE 96.86
- 9 **The St Regis Doha**, Qatar 96.55
- 10 **Anantara Downtown Dubai Hotel**, UAE 96.25
- 11 **The Chedi Al Bait**, Sharjah, UAE 96.04
- 12 **Jumeirah Al Naseem**, Dubai, UAE 96.00
- 13 **Kempinski Hotel Muscat**, Oman 95.92
- 14 **Atlantis, The Palm**, Dubai, UAE 95.33
- 15 **Waldorf Astoria Kuwait** 94.71





BEST FOR SHOPPING

MILAN

ITS GRANDEST SHOPPING CENTRE SUMS UP THE ITALIAN CITY'S APPEAL

We tend to think of the shopping mall as an American phenomenon, rising out of Minnesota in the 1950s and spreading around the world in a post-war tsunami of consumerism – its bubble-gum-popping cultural significance explored in everything from *Clueless* to *Stranger Things*. But its roots lie closer to home. While Trajan's Market in Rome – open in about AD 100 – can be said to be the first example of a shopping mall in history, the form's pinnacle came in 1867, with the glazed arcades of Milan's Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II. This iron-and-glass-clad wonder is sandwiched between the Piazza del Duomo (*pictured*) and the Teatro alla Scala, making it quite the most splendid “exit through the gift shop” in the world, with labels such as Prada and Louis Vuitton, Libreria Bocca for books and Marchesi 1824 for patisserie. But there's no need to buy anything: with its statues and frescoes, and a dome to rival that of St Peter's, it has a beauty that Michelangelo would have appreciated. To describe it as a shopping mall would be like comparing a Fabergé egg to a Kinder Surprise. RICK JORDAN

HOTELS

Like a sliver of high-grade tuna paired with sushi rice, Asia is on a roll right now. Talking of food, you served up high scores for Tom Aikens's East-meets-West menu at **The Tokyo Edition, Toranomon**, the dumplings at Bangkok's **Sukhothai** and the Rajasthani banquet at Jaipur's **Samode Haveli**. The **Six Senses Fort Barwara** in Rajasthan, which took almost a decade to transform into a hotel, was popular for its design, as was **Desa Potato Head** on Bali, which used upcycled materials in its construction. When it came to community investment, you reckoned **Shangri-La Singapore** was worthy of recognition, as were **The Oberoi Rajvillas** and **Mihir Garh**, which also rated well for their rooms. The **PuLi's** central Shanghai location helped pin it to the list for China, and the service at Hong Kong's **Landmark Mandarin Oriental** was memorably sharp. In Sri Lanka, boutique pioneer **Aditya's** loyal following gave it high marks for its rooms.

ASIA

INDIA

- 1 **THE OBEROI RAJVILAS, JAIPUR** 99.33
- 2 **Umaid Bhawan Palace, Jodhpur** 99.00
- 3 **The Oberoi Udaivilas, Udaipur** 98.56
- 4 **The Leela Palace Udaipur** 97.67
- 5 **The Oberoi Amarvilas, Agra** 97.30
- 6 **Samode Haveli, Jaipur** 96.57
- 7 **The Leela Palace Chennai** 96.30
- 8 **Six Senses Fort Barwara, Rajasthan** 96.04
- 9 **The Oberoi, New Delhi** 95.65
- 10 **The Oberoi, Mumbai** 94.78
- 11 **Taj Lake Palace, Udaipur** 94.60
- 12 **Mihir Garh, Rajasthan** 94.34
- 13 **The Johri, Jaipur** 94.00
- 14 **The Leela Palace Jaipur** 93.70
- 15 **Rambagh Palace, Jaipur** 92.67

- 16 **The Oberoi, Bengaluru** 92.19
- 17 **The Oberoi Grand, Kolkata** 92.14
- 18 **The Leela Ashtamudi, Kerala** 92.08
- 19 **28 Kothi, Jaipur** 92.05
- 20 **Radisson Hotel Jass Shimla** 91.89

CHINA

- 1 **THE SUKHOTHAI SHANGHAI** 99.89
- 2 **The Temple House, Chengdu** 98.22
- 3 **The Langham, Shanghai, Xintiandi** 98.00
- 4 **Waldorf Astoria Shanghai on the Bund** 97.50
- 5 **The PuLi Hotel and Spa, Shanghai** 95.00
- 6 **The Middle House, Shanghai** 93.75
- 7 **Grand Kempinski Hotel Shanghai** 92.99

- 8 **Mandarin Oriental Pudong, Shanghai** 92.84
- 9 **Hotel Éclat Beijing** 92.82
- 10 **The Peninsula Beijing** 92.26

HONG KONG

- 1 **THE LANDMARK MANDARIN ORIENTAL, HONG KONG** 99.09
- 2 **Four Seasons Hotel Hong Kong** 98.83
- 3 **Island Shangri-La, Hong Kong** 96.36
- 4 **JW Marriott Hotel Hong Kong** 96.06
- 5 **Cordis, Hong Kong** 95.91
- 6 **The Langham, Hong Kong** 95.77
- 7 **The Peninsula Hong Kong** 94.94
- 8 **The Upper House** 93.92
- 9 **Mandarin Oriental, Hong Kong** 93.89
- 10 **Rosewood Hong Kong** 93.58

JAPAN

- 1 **PARK HYATT KYOTO** 99.84
- 2 **Four Seasons Hotel Tokyo at Otemachi** 99.62
- 3 **The Okura Tokyo** 99.43
- 4 **Park Hyatt Tokyo** 98.64
- 5 **The Tokyo Edition, Toranomon** 97.36
- 6 **Palace Hotel Tokyo** 96.75
- 7 **Suiran, a Luxury Collection Hotel, Kyoto** 96.34
- 8 **The Tokyo Edition, Ginza** 96.00
- 9 **Hoshinoya Tokyo** 95.74
- 10 **Mandarin Oriental, Tokyo** 94.53

SINGAPORE

- 1 **SHANGRI-LA SINGAPORE** 99.03
- 2 **The Fullerton Hotel Singapore** 98.74
- 3 **The Ritz-Carlton, Millenia Singapore** 98.01
- 4 **Conrad Centennial Singapore** 96.27
- 5 **Raffles Singapore** 95.89
- 6 **Conrad Singapore Orchard** 95.71
- 7 **ParkRoyal Collection Pickering, Singapore** 95.20
- 8 **Four Seasons Hotel Singapore** 94.21
- 9 **InterContinental Singapore** 93.21
- 10 **Mandarin Oriental, Singapore** 93.13

SOUTHEAST ASIA

- 1 **THE SUKHOTHAI BANGKOK, THAILAND** 99.40
- 2 **Hotel Tugu Lombok, Indonesia** 99.28
- 3 **Mandarin Oriental, Bangkok, Thailand** 99.07
- 4 **Desa Potato Head, Bali, Indonesia** 99.01
- 5 **InterContinental Bangkok, Thailand** 89.96
- 6 **La Résidence Phou Vao, a Belmond Hotel, Luang Prabang, Laos** 89.57
- 7 **The Langham, Jakarta, Indonesia** 89.42
- 8 **Siam Kempinski Hotel Bangkok, Thailand** 89.21
- 9 **The Athenee Hotel, a Luxury Collection Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand** 89.10
- 10 **Conrad Bangkok, Thailand** 88.95

REST OF ASIA

- 1 **GALLE FACE HOTEL, COLOMBO, SRI LANKA** 99.33
- 2 **Aditya, Galle, Sri Lanka** 98.00
- 3 **Amangalla, Galle, Sri Lanka** 95.33
- 4 **Heritance Tea Factory, Kandapola, Sri Lanka** 92.00
- 5 **Fort Bazaar, Galle, Sri Lanka** 88.00
- 6 **The Dwarika's Hotel, Kathmandu, Nepal** 87.25

The best hotels are all about the personal touch. Take **The Sandpiper** in our new Caribbean category. Opened in 1970, it's still going strong, with design handled by the family who run it and rum cocktails served by Harold Shepherd, now in his 35th year of working there. On the soft sands of Tulum, **Papaya Playa Project** launched in 2011 as a pop-up but never popped down. It scooped top marks for food and activities, while beachside **Fasano Rio** was liked for its Philippe Starck design. In the USA, **The Whitby** in New York scored skyscraping points across most criteria, Santa Monica's **Shutters on the Beach** was rewarded for its scene-stealing location, and high design ratings were presented to **Freehand** in LA, **The Verb** in Boston and **The Dean** in Providence, Rhode Island.

THE AMERICAS

MEXICO

- 1 **PAPAYA PLAYA PROJECT, TULUM** 99.40
- 2 **Casa Chablé**, Riviera Maya 99.00
- 3 **Waldorf Astoria Los Cabos Pedregal**, Cabo San Lucas 98.00
- 4 **Verana**, Yelapa 97.80
- 5 **Banyan Tree Mayakoba**, Playa del Carmen 96.64
- 6 **Hacienda de San Antonio**, Colima 96.00
- 7 **Hotel San Fernando**, Mexico City 95.60
- 8 **Hotel San Cristóbal**, Todos Santos 95.00
- 9 **La Valise Mexico City** 94.73
- 10 **Hotel Bardo**, Tulum 94.00

SOUTH AMERICA

- 1 **FASANO RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL** 99.71
- 2 **Hotel das Cataratas, a Belmond Hotel**, Iguassu Falls, Brazil 99.00
- 3 **Copacabana Palace, a Belmond Hotel**, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 98.15
- 4 **Country Club Lima Hotel**, Peru 98.14
- 5 **Monasterio, a Belmond Hotel**, Cusco, Peru 98.00
- 6 **Casa Gangotena**, Quito, Ecuador 97.33
- 7 **Fasano São Paulo**, Brazil 96.67
- 8 **Sanctuary Lodge, a Belmond Hotel**, Machu Picchu, Peru 96.65
- 9 **Blue Apple Beach**, Bolívar, Colombia 96.64
- 10 **Palacio Duhau – Park Hyatt**, Buenos Aires, Argentina 96.34
- 11 **The Click Clack Hotel**, Medellín, Colombia 95.04
- 12 **Botanique Hotel Experience**, Campos do Jordão, Brazil 93.81
- 13 **Noi Casa Atacama**, Chile 92.00

- 14 **JW Marriott Panama**, Panama City, Panama 90.75
- 15 **Rio Sagrado, a Belmond Hotel**, Sacred Valley, Peru 90.45
- 16 **Fasano Boa Vista**, Porto Feliz, Brazil 90.00
- 17 **L'Hotel PortoBay São Paulo**, Brazil 88.00
- 18 **Fasano Angra dos Reis**, Brazil 87.00
- 19 **Hotel Pulitzer Buenos Aires**, Argentina 86.67
- 20 **Palácio Tangará**, São Paulo, Brazil 80.00

THE CARIBBEAN

- 1 **THE RITZ-CARLTON, TURKS & CAICOS, GRACE BAY, TURKS AND CAICOS** 99.33
- 2 **The Sandpiper**, St James, Barbados 99.00
- 3 **Coco Reef Resort & Spa**, Tobago, Trinidad and Tobago 98.38
- 4 **Calabash Hotel**, St George's, Grenada 98.00
- 5 **Coral Reef Club**, St James, Barbados 97.66

NEW YORK CITY

- 1 **THE WHITBY HOTEL** 99.68
- 2 **The Ritz-Carlton New York, NoMad** 99.33
- 3 **The Carlyle, a Rosewood Hotel** 99.00
- 4 **The Mark** 97.00
- 5 **Crosby Street Hotel** 96.93
- 6 **The Lowell** 96.81
- 7 **The Rockaway Hotel + Spa** 96.75
- 8 **The Plaza, a Fairmont Managed Hotel** 96.11
- 9 **1 Hotel Brooklyn Bridge** 96.00
- 10 **The Langham, New York, Fifth Avenue** 95.51
- 11 **Warwick New York** 94.60
- 12 **The Luxury Collection Hotel Manhattan Midtown** 94.00
- 13 **Ace Hotel Brooklyn** 93.33
- 14 **Andaz 5th Avenue** 91.00
- 15 **The Greenwich Hotel** 90.00
- 16 **The Algonquin Hotel Times Square, Autograph Collection** 86.91
- 17 **The Pierre, a Taj Hotel**, New York 86.00
- 18 **1 Hotel Central Park** 85.23
- 19 **Hotel Chelsea** 84.40
- 20 **Virgin Hotels New York City** 84.00

REST OF THE USA

- 1 **LONDONHOUSE CHICAGO, CURIO COLLECTION BY HILTON, ILLINOIS** 99.89
- 2 **1 Hotel West Hollywood**, Los Angeles, California 99.75
- 3 **Four Seasons Hotel Chicago**, Illinois 99.52

- 4 **The Verb Hotel**, Boston, Massachusetts 99.33
- 5 **The London West Hollywood at Beverly Hills**, Los Angeles, California 99.28
- 6 **Shutters on the Beach**, Santa Monica, California 99.13
- 7 **Freehand Los Angeles**, California 99.00
- 8 **El Encanto, a Belmond Hotel**, Santa Barbara, California 98.67
- 9 **Limelight Aspen**, Colorado 98.50
- 10 **The Langham, Boston**, Massachusetts 98.35
- 11 **Hotel Peter & Paul**, New Orleans, Louisiana 98.00
- 12 **The Siren**, Detroit, Michigan 97.57
- 13 **1 Hotel Nashville**, Tennessee 97.38
- 14 **The Langham, Chicago**, Illinois 97.15
- 15 **The Dean**, Providence, Rhode Island 97.08
- 16 **Post Ranch Inn**, Big Sur, California 97.00
- 17 **1 Hotel South Beach**, Miami Beach, Florida 96.73
- 18 **Caldera House**, Teton Village, Wyoming 96.57
- 19 **Hotel Bel-Air**, Los Angeles, California 96.42
- 20 **InterContinental The Willard Washington DC** 96.35

CANADA

- 1 **1 HOTEL TORONTO, ONTARIO** 99.13
- 2 **The Hazelton Hotel**, Toronto, Ontario 99.00
- 3 **Fairmont Royal York**, Toronto, Ontario 98.80
- 4 **The Royal Hotel**, Picton, Ontario 98.57
- 5 **Oak Bay Beach Hotel**, Victoria, British Columbia 96.41
- 6 **Auberge Saint-Antoine**, Quebec City, Quebec 96.23
- 7 **The Westin Bayshore**, Vancouver, British Columbia 96.11
- 8 **Shangri-La Toronto**, Ontario 96.04
- 9 **Fairmont Pacific Rim**, Vancouver, British Columbia 95.98
- 10 **JW Marriott Parq Vancouver**, British Columbia 94.00



On top in NYC,
The Whitby Hotel.
Opposite: The Oberoi
Rajvilas, Jaipur, your
standout Indian hotel

RESORTS

Maybe the poolside one-upmanship was just too much: when it came to Hawaiian resorts, it was the **Four Seasons Resort Hualalai** (rated for facilities and community investment) rather than its sister hotel in Maui, with its *White Lotus* setting, that landed on the list this year. The scene-stealing locations of **Tierra Patagonia**, Canada's **Wickaninnish Inn** and **El Silencio Lodge** in Costa Rica deserve their own series, while the on-point service of the Dominican Republic's **Eden Roc Cap Cana** helped carry it to a number one spot. In Europe you rated the facilities of **Six Senses Ibiza**, including its spa's shamanic smoke cleansing, and the design of **Ikos Dassia** on Corfu. In the resort metaverse of the Indian Ocean, **One&Only Reethi Rah** and **Soneva Fushi** had crystal-clear scores for most criteria, sending them snorkelling to the top.



Hawaii's Four Seasons Resort Hualalai, one of your favourite resorts in the USA and Canada.

Opposite: Your winner in the Indian Ocean category, Soneva Fushi in the Maldives

THE AMERICAS

MEXICO

- 1 **MAROMA, A BELMOND HOTEL, RIVIERA MAYA, QUINTANA ROO** 98.01
- 2 **Chablé Maroma**, Punta Maroma, Quintana Roo 97.50
- 3 **Chablé Yucatán**, Chocholá, Yucatán 97.20
- 4 **Atelier Playa Mujeres**, Cancún, Quintana Roo 97.10
- 5 **One&Only Palmilla**, San José del Cabo, Baja California Sur 96.67
- 6 **Las Alamandas**, Costalegre, Jalisco 96.32
- 7 **One&Only Mandarin**, Riviera Nayarit, Nayarit 96.25
- 8 **Mahekal Beach Resort**, Playa del Carmen, Quintana Roo 95.92
- 9 **Hacienda Encantada Resort & Residences**, Cabo San Lucas, Baja California Sur 95.54
- 10 **Garza Blanca Cancún**, Quintana Roo 95.24



CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA

- 1 **TIERRA ATACAMA, CHILE** 96.85
- 2 **EcoCamp Patagonia**, Chile 96.68
- 3 **Hotel Boutique Lagarta Lodge**, Guanacaste, Costa Rica 96.61
- 4 **Tierra Patagonia**, Chile 96.37
- 5 **Estancia Vik José Ignacio**, Uruguay 94.64
- 6 **Explora Valle Sagrado**, Peru 93.88
- 7 **Explora Torres del Paine**, Patagonia, Chile 92.66
- 8 **Finch Bay Galapagos Hotel**, Ecuador 92.54
- 9 **AndBeyond Vira Vira**, Pucón, Chile 92.48
- 10 **Awasi Patagonia**, Chile 92.31
- 11 **El Silencio Lodge & Spa**, Bajos del Toro, Costa Rica 91.89
- 12 **Tabacón Thermal Resort & Spa**, Arenal, Costa Rica 91.76
- 13 **Estancia Cristina**, El Calafate, Argentina 91.57
- 14 **Las Casitas, a Belmond Hotel**, Colca Canyon, Peru 90.76
- 15 **Alaia Belize, Autograph Collection**, San Pedro, Belize 90.32

USA & CANADA

- 1 **WICKANINNISH INN, TOFINO, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA** 99.17
- 2 **Four Seasons Resort Hualalai**, Big Island, Hawaii, USA 99.00
- 3 **Mauna Lani, Auberge Resorts Collection**, Big Island, Hawaii, USA 98.32
- 4 **The Ritz-Carlton Bacara**, Santa Barbara, California, USA 97.50
- 5 **Cabot Cape Breton**, Inverness, Nova Scotia, Canada 97.39
- 6 **Lone Mountain Ranch**, Big Sky, Montana, USA 97.24
- 7 **Willows Lodge**, Woodinville, Washington, USA 96.79
- 8 **The Moorings Village**, Islamorada, Florida, USA 96.72
- 9 **Trapp Family Lodge**, Stowe, Vermont, USA 96.67
- 10 **Rancho Bernardo Inn**, San Diego, California, USA 96.55

THE CARIBBEAN & THE ATLANTIC

- 1 **EDEN ROC CAP CANA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC** 99.65
- 2 **Sandy Lane Hotel**, Barbados 99.15
- 3 **Cap Juluca, a Belmond Hotel**, Anguilla 99.12
- 4 **Anse Chastanet Resort**, St Lucia 99.06
- 5 **Casa de Campo Resort & Villas**, Dominican Republic 98.50
- 6 **Cap Maison**, St Lucia 98.13
- 7 **Long Bay Beach Resort**, British Virgin Islands 97.97
- 8 **Eden Rock – St Barths** 97.68
- 9 **Le Barthélemy Hotel & Spa**, St Barts 97.50
- 10 **Montpelier Plantation & Beach**, St Kitts and Nevis 97.11
- 11 **Jumby Bay Island**, Antigua and Barbuda 96.79
- 12 **Half Moon**, Jamaica 96.76
- 13 **Jade Mountain**, St Lucia 96.63
- 14 **StolenTime by Rendezvous**, St Lucia, 96.61
- 15 **The Landings Resort and Spa**, St Lucia 96.50

THE INDIAN OCEAN

- 1 **SONEVA FUSHI, MALDIVES** 99.58
- 2 **Waldorf Astoria Maldives Ithaafushi** 99.50
- 3 **Lux Belle Mare**, Mauritius 99.47
- 4 **One&Only Reethi Rah**, Maldives 99.38
- 5 **Lux South Ari Atoll**, Maldives 99.29
- 6 **Constance Belle Mare Plage**, Mauritius 99.17
- 7 **Baros Maldives** 98.90
- 8 **Kuda Villingili Resort**, Maldives 98.75
- 9 **Heritage Le Telfair Golf & Wellness Resort**, Mauritius 98.75
- 10 **Tamassa Bel Ombre**, Mauritius 98.66
- 11 **Huvafen Fushi**, Maldives 98.29
- 12 **Four Seasons Resort Seychelles at Desroches Island** 97.11
- 13 **One&Only Le Saint Géran**, Mauritius 95.75
- 14 **North Island, a Luxury Collection Resort**, Seychelles 95.26
- 15 **So Maldives** 94.97
- 16 **Six Senses Laamu**, Maldives 94.89

- 17 Niyama Private Islands
Maldives 94.87
- 18 Fushifaru Maldives 94.61
- 19 Como Maalifushi, Maldives
93.75
- 20 Heritance Aarah, Maldives
92.93

EUROPE

GREECE

- 1 **SANI RESORT, HALKIDIKI**
99.58
- 2 Ikos Dassia, Corfu 99.06
- 3 Porto Zante Villas & Spa,
Zakynthos 98.75
- 4 Minos Palace Hotel &
Suites, Crete 98.55
- 5 The Westin Resort, Costa
Navarino, Messinia 98.17
- 6 Elounda Beach Hotel &
Villas, Crete 97.83
- 7 Domes Miramare, a Luxury
Collection Resort, Corfu 97.50
- 8 The Romanos, a Luxury
Collection Resort, Costa
Navarino, Messinia 95.78
- 9 W Costa Navarino 94.77
- 10 One&Only Aesthesis,
Athens 94.58

REST OF EUROPE

- 1 **SIX SENSES IBIZA, SPAIN**
99.92
- 2 Sheen Falls Lodge, Co Kerry,
Ireland 99.23
- 3 Gleneagles, Perthshire, UK
99.20
- 4 Ikos Porto Petro, Mallorca,
Spain 97.89
- 5 Schloss Roxburghe –
Destination by Hyatt,
Scottish Borders, UK 97.31
- 6 Mett Hotel & Beach Resort
Marbella, Spain 97.27
- 7 Argentario Golf & Wellness
Resort, Autograph
Collection, Tuscany, Italy
96.73
- 8 Vila Vita Parc, Algarve,
Portugal 96.20
- 9 Hyatt Regency Kotor Bay
Resort, Montenegro 96.13
- 10 Adare Manor, Co Limerick,
Ireland 95.75
- 11 Hillside Beach Club, Fethiye,
Turkey 94.46
- 12 Castelfalfi, Tuscany, Italy 94.43
- 13 Airelles Gordes, La Bastide,
Provence, France 94.07
- 14 7Pines Resort Sardinia –
Destination by Hyatt, Italy
93.05
- 15 Anassa, Cyprus 93.04
- 16 Cameron House on Loch
Lomond, West
Dunbartonshire, UK 93.02
- 17 Amara, Cyprus 92.84
- 18 Voyage Belek Golf & Spa,
Antalya, Turkey 92.83
- 19 Terre Blanche Hotel Golf &
Spa Resort, Provence, France
91.49
- 20 Ashford Castle, Co Mayo,
Ireland 91.47
- 21 Bahía del Duque, Tenerife,
Spain 89.81
- 22 Slieve Donard, Co Down,
UK 88.98
- 23 Parklane, a Luxury
Collection Resort & Spa,
Limassol, Cyprus 88.93
- 24 Bijal, Antalya, Turkey 86.22
- 25 Maxx Royal Belek Golf
Resort, Antalya, Turkey 84.58

By all means lie by the pool all week ordering spritzes, but surely the whole point of a resort is the sheer variety of options it gives you. Activities and facilities are two key criteria in this category, for which you gave high scores to South Africa's **Makanyi Private Game Lodge**, whose stargazing almost competes with its photographic safaris; **Wilderness Jao** in Botswana, which can arrange boat rides on the delta; and **Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar Resort**, where making smoked rose-water with small family enterprises is on the cards. At **Bedarra Island** in Australia, it's all delving into the rainforest and Great Barrier Reef. Back in Africa, you rewarded **Xigera Safari Lodge** for its community investment (helping to conserve the Okavango Delta) and game-changing design, and Belmond's **Eagle Island Lodge** for its rooms (just 12 of them). In Asia, Thailand's **Rayavadee** was popular for its mangrove-fringed Andaman Sea location, and **Zannier Hotels Băi San Hô** for its authentic Vietnamese cuisine (and three restaurants), while **Ceylon Tea Trails** led the way for its teak-lined, colonial-era tea-planter bungalows (croquet after afternoon tea, anybody?).

Makanyi Private Game Lodge in the Timbavati Private Nature Reserve, your top South African resort. Opposite: One of your go-to resorts in Asia, Bhutan's Six Senses Thimphu

THE MIDDLE EAST

- 1 **ONE&ONLY THE PALM, DUBAI, UAE** 99.38
- 2 Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar Resort, Nizwa, Oman 98.25
- 3 The Oberoi Beach Resort, Sahl Hasheesh, Egypt 97.55
- 4 The St Regis Red Sea Resort, Saudi Arabia 97.50
- 5 Six Senses Zighy Bay, Oman 96.77
- 6 Anantara Mina Al Arab Ras Al Khaimah Resort, UAE 96.67
- 7 Anantara Sir Bani Yas Island Resorts, Abu Dhabi, UAE 95.28
- 8 The Oberoi Beach Resort, Al Zorah, UAE 95.09
- 9 One&Only Royal Mirage, Dubai, UAE 95.00
- 10 Al Maha, a Luxury Collection Desert Resort & Spa, Dubai, UAE 94.88

AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

- 1 **MAKANYI PRIVATE GAME LODGE, TIMBAVATI PRIVATE NATURE RESERVE** 97.75
- 2 **Londolozi Game Reserve,** Sabi Sands 96.67
- 3 **Lion Sands Game Reserve,** Sabi Sands 96.66
- 4 **Tswalu Kalahari Reserve** 96.65
- 5 **Kapama Karula, Kapama Private Game Reserve** 96.31
- 6 **Samara Karoo Reserve** 96.12
- 7 **Ulusaba Private Game Reserve,** Sabi Sands 94.21
- 8 **Bushmans Kloof Wilderness Reserve & Wellness Retreat** 93.44
- 9 **AndBeyond Ngala Tented Camp,** Ngala Private Game Reserve 93.29
- 10 **Singita Boulders Lodge,** Sabi Sands 92.64

REST OF AFRICA

- 1 **EAGLE ISLAND LODGE, A BELMOND SAFARI, BOTSWANA, OKAVANGO DELTA, BOTSWANA** 99.76
- 2 **Wilderness Serra Cafema,** Hartmann Valley, Namibia 99.69
- 3 **Wilderness Jao, Okavango Delta, Botswana** 99.00
- 4 **One&Only Gorilla's Nest,** Ruhengeri, Rwanda 98.93
- 5 **Kapamba, The Bushcamp Company,** South Luangwa National Park, Zambia 98.75
- 6 **Wilderness Mombo and Little Mombo, Moremi Game Reserve, Botswana** 98.57
- 7 **Chamilandu, The Bushcamp Company,** South Luangwa National Park, Zambia 98.50
- 8 **Chindeni, The Bushcamp Company,** South Luangwa National Park, Zambia 98.33
- 9 **Xigera Safari Lodge,** Okavango Delta, Botswana 98.28
- 10 **Wilderness Little Makalolo,** Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe 98.22
- 11 **Angama Mara, Great Rift Valley, Kenya** 97.83
- 12 **Sasaab, Samburu, Kenya** 97.51
- 13 **KuKaya, The Bushcamp Company,** South Luangwa National Park, Zambia 97.49



- 14 **Wilderness Hoanib Skeleton Coast Camp, Palmwag Concession, Namibia** 97.44
- 15 **Wilderness Vumbura Plains,** Okavango Delta, Botswana 97.34
- 16 **Wilderness DumaTau Camp, Linyanti, Botswana** 97.27
- 17 **Tarangire Sopa Lodge,** Tarangire National Park, Tanzania 97.17
- 18 **Anantara Bazaruto Island Resort, Mozambique** 97.14
- 19 **Masai Mara Sopa Lodge,** Kenya 96.94
- 20 **Cottar's 1920s Camp,** Masai Mara, Kenya 96.79
- 21 **Wilderness Bisate,** Volcanoes National Park, Rwanda 96.77
- 22 **Lux Marijani, Pwani Mchangani, Zanzibar** 96.36
- 23 **Fairmont Mount Kenya Safari Club, Nanyuki, Kenya** 96.00
- 24 **Savute Elephant Lodge, a Belmond Safari, Botswana,** Chobe National Park, Botswana 95.91
- 25 **Sirikoi Lodge, Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, Kenya** 95.71

ASIA

INDONESIA

- 1 **THE OBEROI BEACH RESORT, BALI** 98.04
- 2 **Capella Ubud, Bali** 97.78
- 3 **The Oberoi Beach Resort,** Lombok 97.59
- 4 **Grand Hyatt Bali** 96.04
- 5 **Viceroy Bali** 95.51
- 6 **Bawah Reserve, Riau Islands** 94.88
- 7 **Alila Villas Uluwatu, Bali** 94.27
- 8 **Six Senses Uluwatu, Bali** 93.61
- 9 **Nirjhara, Bali** 93.22
- 10 **The Apurva Kempinski Bali** 91.86

THAILAND

- 1 **BANYAN TREE PHUKET** 99.18
- 2 **Four Seasons Resort Chiang Mai** 98.75
- 3 **Pimalai Resort & Spa,** Koh Lanta 98.57
- 4 **Anantara Golden Triangle Elephant Camp & Resort,** Chiang Rai 98.43
- 5 **Soneva Kiri, Trat** 98.39
- 6 **Rayavadee, Krabi** 98.33
- 7 **The Sarojin, Khao Lak** 97.81
- 8 **Anantara Koh Yao Yai Resort & Villas** 97.25
- 9 **Anantara Lawana Koh Samui Resort** 96.25
- 10 **Rosewood Phuket** 95.00
- 11 **Avani+ Khao Lak Resort** 93.33
- 12 **Anantara Chiang Mai Resort** 93.04
- 13 **Santiburi Koh Samui** 92.95

- 14 **Como Point Yamu, Phuket** 92.88
- 15 **Napasai, a Belmond Hotel, Koh Samui** 92.73

REST OF ASIA

- 1 **CEYLON TEA TRAILS, SRI LANKA** 98.02
- 2 **Six Senses Thimphu, Bhutan** 97.69
- 3 **Wa Ale, Myanmar** 96.96
- 4 **Anantara Quy Nhon Villas, Vietnam** 96.88
- 5 **Suján Sher Bagh, Ranthambhore, India** 96.40
- 6 **The Datai Langkawi, Malaysia** 95.91
- 7 **The Oberoi Vanyavilas Wildlife Resort, Ranthambhore, India** 95.28
- 8 **Zannier Hotels Bãi San Hô, Phú Yên, Vietnam** 95.25
- 9 **One&Only Desaru Coast, Malaysia** 95.19
- 10 **Heritage Ahungalla, Sri Lanka** 94.20
- 11 **The Oberoi Sukhvilas Spa Resort, New Chandigarh, India** 93.68
- 12 **Wildflower Hall, Shimla in the Himalayas – An Oberoi Resort, India** 93.30
- 13 **Anopura, Jaipur, India** 91.61
- 14 **Salinda Resort Phu Quoc Island, Vietnam** 90.88
- 15 **InterContinental Danang Sun Peninsula Resort, Vietnam** 87.57

AUSTRALASIA & THE SOUTH PACIFIC

- 1 **BEDARRA ISLAND RESORT, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA** 97.14
- 2 **Saffire Freycinet, Tasmania, Australia** 96.25
- 3 **Royal Davui Island Resort, Fiji** 96.21
- 4 **Longitude 131°, Northern Territory, Australia** 95.38
- 5 **InterContinental Hayman Island Resort, Queensland, Australia** 94.01
- 6 **Southern Ocean Lodge, South Australia** 92.61
- 7 **Lizard Island, Queensland, Australia** 92.50
- 8 **Qualia, Queensland, Australia** 91.54
- 9 **Yasawa Island Resort & Spa, Fiji** 90.34
- 10 **Likuliku Lagoon Resort, Fiji** 88.13

TOUR OPERATORS

Anyone for a family sabbatical? That's one of the growing trends reported by **Red Savannah**, with popular hubs such as Southeast Asia and South America hosting philanthropic projects and wilderness experiences. The UK tour operator, which received high scores for variety of destination and reliability, observed a boom in ultra-long-haul travel to New Zealand – also noted by **Turquoise** (liked for its trip planning and round-the-clock support), which saw strong demand for the South Pacific and remote locations including Stewart Island. In the specialist category, safari expert **AndBeyond** had planning down to a tee and **Scott Dunn** was trusted for its first-hand knowledge – as was **Black Tomato**, which, like everyone, has seen off-the-chart demand for Japan, in particular the Blue Zone beach hit of Okinawa.

GENERAL

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1 THE TURQUOISE HOLIDAY COMPANY 99.28 | 9 Abercrombie & Kent 94.99 |
| 2 Red Savannah 98.00 | 10 Audley Travel 94.25 |
| 3 Elegant Resorts 97.81 | 11 Kuoni 93.69 |
| 4 Mr & Mrs Smith 97.48 | 12 Cazenove+Loyd 91.22 |
| 5 Original Travel 96.10 | 13 Kensington Tours 90.35 |
| 6 True Travel 95.48 | 14 Cox & Kings 90.00 |
| 7 Simpson Travel 95.46 | 15 Carrier 85.88 |
| 8 Jules Verne 95.19 | |

SPECIALIST

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1 SCOTT DUNN 99.13 | 8 Bramble Ski 96.72 |
| 2 Healing Holidays 98.95 | 9 AndBeyond 96.67 |
| 3 Black Tomato 98.16 | 10 Wild Frontiers 96.34 |
| 4 Oxford Ski Company 98.14 | 11 Steppes Travel 96.20 |
| 5 Intrepid Travel 97.94 | 12 Journey Latin America 95.50 |
| 6 InsideJapan Tours 97.60 | 13 Amperand Travel 95.45 |
| 7 Exodus Adventure Travels 97.24 | 14 Kirker Holidays 94.10 |
| | 15 Pelorus 93.92 |

Botswana, offered by AndBeyond, The Turquoise Holiday Company and others. *Opposite:* Phú Quốc, Vietnam, voted best for food



BEST FOR FOOD

PHÚ QUỐC, VIETNAM

IN PRAISE OF THE BOUNTIFUL VIETNAMESE ISLAND BELOVED FOR ITS ICONIC FISH SAUCE

A pub quiz question, best taken over a bottle or two of cold Bia Hanoi: what do Finland's sauna culture, Swiss watchmaking and Vietnam's Phú Quốc fish sauce have in common? They're all national examples of intangible cultural heritage, with the latter expected to seek Unesco recognition soon. The small island of Phú Quốc – closer to Cambodia than the Vietnamese mainland – is known for its pearl farms, beaches, the peppercorns seen everywhere laid out to dry... and its seafood. Fishing boats return with squid, red snapper and barracuda for local specialities such as bún quây, a rice-noodle soup with fishcake, squid and shrimp, and the signature herring salad made with onions, dry coconut and coriander. But it's the island's fish sauce that has become a household name. Made here for the past two centuries, it's concocted using fresh anchovies salted on the boat and then fermented in barrels for up to 15 months. The salty-sweet condiment is used to season almost every dish in restaurants and homes around the country, making it the true flavour of Vietnam. Pass the Phú Quốc. RJ

SPAS

The Grove, Hertfordshire,
runner-up in the
best UK spas category

UK

- 1 **LUCKNAM PARK HOTEL & SPA, WILTSHIRE** 95.74
- 2 **The Grove, Hertfordshire** 94.96
- 3 **Chewton Glen Hotel & Spa, Hampshire** 94.81
- 4 **Gleneagles, Perthshire** 94.30
- 5 **Cowley Manor Experimental, Gloucestershire** 93.32
- 6 **Lime Wood, Hampshire** 92.91
- 7 **Beaverbrook, Surrey** 92.73
- 8 **Ragdale Hall Spa, Leicestershire** 92.26
- 9 **Heckfield Place, Hampshire** 91.88
- 10 **The Gainsborough Bath Spa** 90.67
- 11 **Claridge's, London** 88.52
- 12 **Gilpin Hotel & Lake House, Cumbria** 86.67
- 13 **The Pig in the Cotswolds, Gloucestershire** 83.63
- 14 **Coworth Park, Berkshire** 81.94
- 15 **Ensana Buxton Crescent, Derbyshire** 81.47

REST OF EUROPE

- 1 **PARK IGLS MEDICAL SPA RESORT, INNSBRUCK, AUSTRIA** 96.98
- 2 **Lanserhof Lans, Innsbruck, Austria** 95.72
- 3 **Chenot Palace Weggis, Switzerland** 95.23
- 4 **Schloss Elmau, Krün, Germany** 94.81
- 5 **Euphoria Retreat, Mystras, Greece** 94.76
- 6 **Grand Resort Bad Ragaz, Switzerland** 93.33
- 7 **Terme di Saturnia Natural Destination, Tuscany, Italy** 92.67
- 8 **Lefay Resort & Spa Dolomiti, Italy** 92.27
- 9 **Marbella Club, Spain** 91.85
- 10 **Original Mayr Medical Resort, Maria Wörth, Austria** 91.32
- 11 **Buchinger Wilhelmi Marbella, Spain** 90.00
- 12 **Sha Wellness Clinic, Alicante, Spain** 89.91
- 13 **Lefay Resort & Spa Lago di Garda, Italy** 89.16
- 14 **Lily of the Valley, Saint-Tropez, France** 89.07

- 15 **Six Senses Kaplankaya, Turkey** 87.78
- 16 **Les Sources de Caudalie, Bordeaux, France** 87.62
- 17 **Kurhotel Skodsborg, Denmark** 86.97
- 18 **Buchinger Wilhelmi Lake Constance, Germany** 86.81
- 19 **Palazzo Fuggi, Italy** 85.19
- 20 **The Retreat at Blue Lagoon, Grindavik, Iceland** 82.22

REST OF THE WORLD

- 1 **ANANDA IN THE HIMALAYAS, NARENDRA NAGAR, INDIA** 98.18
- 2 **Palmaia, The House of Aia, Playa del Carmen, Mexico** 96.11
- 3 **Barberyn Beach Ayurveda Resort, Weligama, Sri Lanka** 95.56
- 4 **Kamalaya Wellness Sanctuary & Holistic Spa, Koh Samui, Thailand** 93.72
- 5 **BodyHoliday Saint Lucia** 93.15
- 6 **Chiva-Som Hua Hin, Thailand** 92.66
- 7 **Rakxa Integrative Wellness Retreat, Bangkok, Thailand** 92.59
- 8 **Zulal Wellness Resort by Chiva-Som, Al Ruwais, Qatar** 92.32
- 9 **Absolute Sanctuary, Koh Samui, Thailand** 91.85
- 10 **The Ranch Malibu, California, USA** 91.31
- 11 **Miraval Arizona, USA** 90.85
- 12 **Santani Wellness Kandy, Sri Lanka** 90.13
- 13 **Mii Amo, Arizona, USA** 89.69
- 14 **The Datai Langkawi, Malaysia** 88.15
- 15 **Cal-a-Vie Health Spa, California, USA** 86.83
- 16 **One&Only Portonovi, Montenegro** 86.67
- 17 **Joali Being, Maldives** 86.12
- 18 **Soukya, Bengaluru, India** 80.00
- 19 **Como Shambhala Estate, Bali, Indonesia** 77.04
- 20 **Six Senses Vana, Dehradun, India** 76.91

When it comes to restorative travel – to places that iron out your stress lines rather than your cocktail dress – where do you head? According to spa expert Healing Holidays, destinations such as Austria, Switzerland and Germany are benefiting from the extreme heat conditions further south – which is good news for **Park Igls** (a high scorer for its nutrition concept and therapists), **Original Mayr Medical Resort** (a longtime favourite for its gut-instinct treatments) and **Lanserhof Lans** (trusted for its medi-based treatments). Demand is also high for retreats that offer emotional support such as **Kamalaya** (one of the best wellness concepts), and **Six Senses Vana** and **Euphoria** (both liked for their therapists). In the UK it was high marks for rooms and facilities that helped make **Lucknam Park** your favourite this year.

ISLANDS

When it comes to playing castaway, **Bali**, **Maldives** and **Fiji** were the obvious candidates for beach escapes, and in Europe you gave the sands of **Sardinia** – the golden sweep of Costa Smeralda, yes, but also the wild reaches of its eastern coast – the highest score. **Hvar**, surprisingly, was the only one of Croatia's 79 islands to make the grade this year, but several Greek spots were clear favourites – with **Paros**, **Rhodes** and **Corfu** top for scenery. That, as its unblinking moai statues can appreciate, was a category that **Easter Island** also excelled in. **Mallorca** had a chef's kiss for food, thanks to its sobrasadas and paellas de marisco, as did **Jersey**. And the wild-at-heart **Isles of Scilly** flew the flag for sustainability.

UK

- 1 **JERSEY** 95.29
- 2 **Isles of Scilly** 93.77
- 3 **Isle of Wight** 91.24
- 4 **Orkney** 90.95
- 5 **Hebrides** 88.33
- 6 **Shetland** 85.71
- 7 **Guernsey** 81.90
- 8 **Isle of Man** 74.29
- 9 **Lindisfarne** 73.52
- 10 **Isle of Arran** 72.80

REST OF EUROPE

- 1 **MADEIRA, PORTUGAL** 90.31
- 2 **Sardinia, Italy** 89.29
- 3 **Paros, Greece** 88.57
- 4 **Crete, Greece** 88.55
- 5 **Skiathos, Greece** 88.11
- 6 **Menorca, Spain** 88.05
- 7 **Rhodes, Greece** 87.62
- 8 **Corsica, France** 87.14
- 9 **Cyprus** 86.94
- 10 **Ischia, Italy** 86.72

- 11 **Sicily, Italy** 86.67
- 12 **Zakynthos, Greece** 86.62
- 13 **Azores, Portugal** 86.61
- 14 **Hvar, Croatia** 86.49
- 15 **Mallorca, Spain** 86.35
- 16 **Ibiza, Spain** 86.25
- 17 **Corfu, Greece** 86.23
- 18 **Santorini, Greece** 85.71
- 19 **Canary Islands, Spain** 85.43
- 20 **Capri, Italy** 85.00

AFRICA & THE INDIAN OCEAN

- 1 **MALDIVES** 99.29
- 2 **Seychelles** 98.10
- 3 **Zanzibar, Tanzania** 91.06
- 4 **Mauritius** 89.97
- 5 **Réunion, France** 89.71

ASIA

- 1 **BALI, INDONESIA** 95.71
- 2 **Phú Quốc, Vietnam** 95.36
- 3 **Koh Samui, Thailand** 94.29
- 4 **Langkawi, Malaysia** 94.21
- 5 **Penang, Malaysia** 91.34
- 6 **Phuket, Thailand** 90.83
- 7 **Koh Lanta, Thailand** 90.71
- 8 **Andaman Islands, India** 90.48
- 9 **Sri Lanka** 90.34
- 10 **Lombok, Indonesia** 90.21

AUSTRALASIA & THE SOUTH PACIFIC

- 1 **FIJI** 96.51
- 2 **Cook Islands** 94.29
- 3 **Bora Bora, French Polynesia** 93.65
- 4 **Tasmania, Australia** 93.47
- 5 **Moorea, French Polynesia** 92.57

THE CARIBBEAN & THE ATLANTIC

- 1 **BAHAMAS** 99.51
- 2 **Dominican Republic** 92.57
- 3 **Bermuda** 90.20
- 4 **Jamaica** 89.02
- 5 **Grenada** 88.71
- 6 **St Lucia** 87.65
- 7 **Barbados** 87.19
- 8 **St Barts** 84.86
- 9 **Antigua** 84.78
- 10 **Cuba** 84.32

CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA

- 1 **FERNANDO DE NORONHA, BRAZIL** 95.24
- 2 **Ambergris Caye, Belize** 86.43
- 3 **Islas Secas, Panama** 85.71
- 4 **Galápagos Islands, Ecuador** 82.34
- 5 **Easter Island, Chile** 82.29

NORTH AMERICA

- 1 **HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA, USA** 98.10
- 2 **Maui, Hawaii, USA** 95.71
- 3 **Big Island, Hawaii, USA** 92.48
- 4 **Isla Holbox, Quintana Roo, Mexico** 92.21
- 5 **Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada** 91.43
- 6 **Kauai, Hawaii, USA** 90.30
- 7 **Aquidneck Island, Rhode Island, USA** 89.56
- 8 **Oahu, Hawaii, USA** 87.29
- 9 **Anna Maria Island, Florida, USA** 87.12
- 10 **Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, Canada** 86.87

Bali, your favourite island in Asia

COUNTRIES

It's official: you can't get enough of **Japan**. This is the second year in a row that it has taken first place, thanks to a Shibuya Scramble-style, post-pandemic stampede to reach this fascinating country. It scored reassuringly high marks for safety (as did **Switzerland**, though be careful with that army knife) but, far more importantly, it was your favourite for things to do and see, and culture – which covers everything from cherry blossom season to the newly opened Ghibli Park and the coastal Fukui prefecture, now easily accessible by bullet train from Tokyo. It was culture, too, that drew you to **Vietnam**, **Thailand** and **Costa Rica** (and, closer to home, **Ireland**), while **Mexico**'s chilli-spiked tamales and tacos gave it high marks for food, which **Italy** and **Thailand** also earned.

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 JAPAN 95.32 | 11 Greece 89.45 |
| 2 Switzerland 94.62 | 12 Croatia 89.43 |
| 3 Thailand 92.29 | 13 Spain 89.34 |
| 4 France 91.03 | 14 Costa Rica 89.23 |
| 5 New Zealand 90.49 | 15 Vietnam 89.11 |
| 6 Maldives 90.43 | 16 Australia 88.48 |
| 7 Italy 90.21 | 17 Malta 88.34 |
| 8 Portugal 90.19 | 18 Ireland 88.27 |
| 9 Canada 89.76 | 19 Mexico 88.26 |
| 10 Sri Lanka 89.75 | 20 Seychelles 88.24 |



CITIES

As Samuel Pepys, who traversed London by foot for miles every day, knew, a city easily navigated à pied is so much more appealing than one that stops you in your tracks. Walkability was one criterion on which you judged your urban hits, and **Glasgow** and **Valencia** came out top – though the well-connected Mediterranean city also scored highly with those who prefer to hop on a tram. Elsewhere, the fashion labels of **Milan's** Via Manzoni put it in the front row for shopping, **Las Vegas** hit the jackpot for its all-singing, all-dancing hotels, and **Paris** and **Vienna** are your go-to cultural icons – while it was **Sydney's** outdoor activities that helped it to first place on the podium this year.

UK

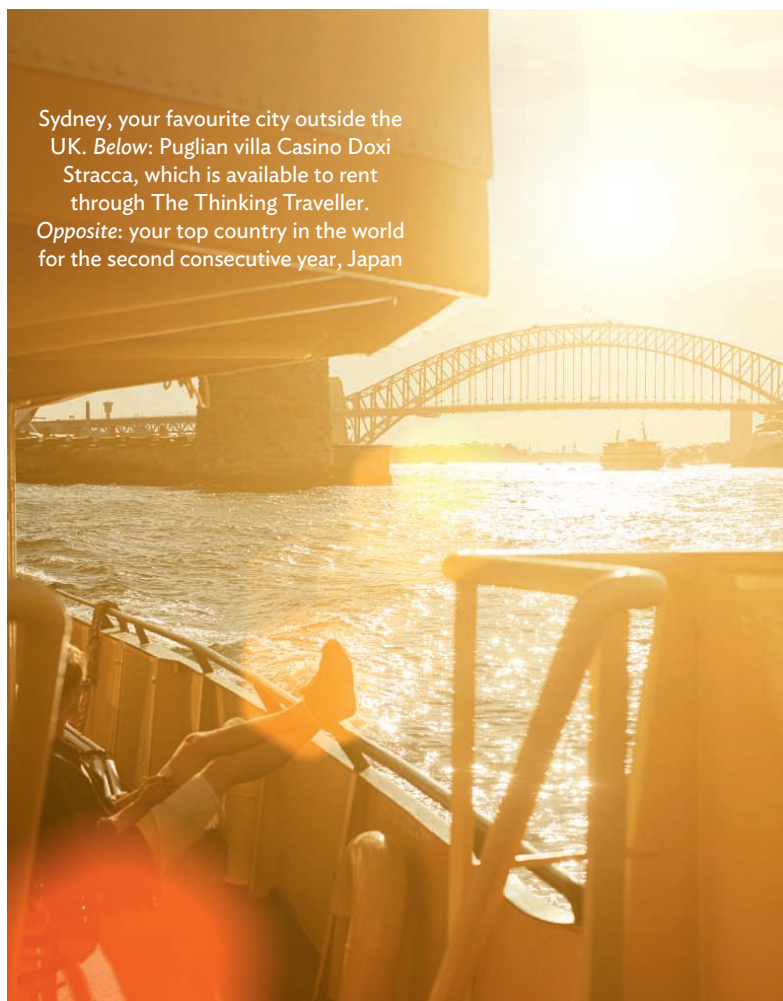
- 1 **LONDON** 93.02
- 2 **Edinburgh** 91.19
- 3 **Oxford** 90.91
- 4 **Belfast** 89.35
- 5 **Liverpool** 89.33
- 6 **Bath** 86.54
- 7 **York** 85.98
- 8 **Manchester** 85.93
- 9 **Glasgow** 85.33
- 10 **Aberdeen** 85.11

REST OF THE WORLD

- 1 **SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA** 92.96
- 2 **Valencia, Spain** 92.78
- 3 **Singapore** 92.47
- 4 **Hong Kong** 91.72
- 5 **Stockholm, Sweden** 91.11
- 6 **Tokyo, Japan** 91.06
- 7 **Vienna, Austria** 90.93
- 8 **Berlin, Germany** 90.29
- 9 **Milan, Italy** 90.13
- 10 **Budapest, Hungary** 89.86
- 11 **Madrid, Spain** 89.61
- 12 **Paris, France** 89.38
- 13 **Cape Town, South Africa** 89.37
- 14 **Chicago, USA** 89.35
- 15 **Istanbul, Turkey** 89.26
- 16 **Palma, Spain** 89.21
- 17 **Las Vegas, USA** 89.19
- 18 **Seville, Spain** 88.76
- 19 **Marrakech, Morocco** 88.63
- 20 **New York, USA** 88.02

Sydney, your favourite city outside the UK. Below: Puglian villa Casino Doxi Stracca, which is available to rent through The Thinking Traveller.

Opposite: your top country in the world for the second consecutive year, Japan



VILLAS & HOUSES



Spending a couple of weeks with friends in a crumbling Dordogne château was the inspiration for Oliver Bell and Ravi Sabharwal to set up **Oliver's Travels** back in 2003.

This year's overall winner, up from second place in 2023, it received house-proud scores for its customer service, website and portfolio – which, as well as French châteaux, now includes villas in Sri Lanka, Slovenia and Mexico. **Onefinestay**, whose Paris properties were understandably busy this summer, received high marks for variety, and **The Thinking Traveller** – a perennial favourite of yours since it was founded in 2002, inspired by a voyage around the Mediterranean – picked up plaudits in its guestbook for customer service, taking it to second place.

- 1 **OLIVER'S TRAVELS** 97.72
- 2 **The Thinking Traveller** 96.24
- 3 **Onefinestay** 95.47
- 4 **Le Collectionist** 95.41
- 5 **Essential Italy** 95.30
- 6 **CV Villas** 94.48
- 7 **Simpson Travel** 94.10
- 8 **Scott Williams** 94.04
- 9 **To Tuscany** 93.44
- 10 **Vintage Travel** 93.42
- 11 **Tuscany Now & More** 93.17
- 12 **Five Star Greece** 92.94
- 13 **Welcome Beyond** 92.90
- 14 **ThirdHome** 92.75
- 15 **Abercrombie & Kent Villas** 92.44
- 16 **SJ Villas** 92.14
- 17 **Home in Italy** 92.07
- 18 **Exceptional Villas** 92.02
- 19 **Luxury Cottages** 91.62
- 20 **Plum Guide** 91.43

TRAINS

No delays or cancellations on these railway lines: you rated the majority of this year's winners highly for punctuality, with Belmond's **British Pullman** chugging ahead across most criteria – including cabin comfort and design – and Canada's **Rocky Mountaineer** gaining votes for its Gold Rush-era itinerary. All of these journeys are scenic, but Belmond's **Eastern & Oriental Express** (back after a four-year hiatus) scored top for its Malaysian panoramas. And a welcome to Switzerland's 94-year-old **Glacier Express**, making its debut in the awards. With an average speed of 24mph, it's the slowest train here – in a good way. No one wants to whizz over the magnificent Landwasser Viaduct in a hurry, do they?

1 BRITISH PULLMAN, A BELMOND TRAIN, ENGLAND 99.49

2 Rocky Mountaineer, North America 98.13

3 Eastern & Oriental Express, a Belmond Train, Southeast Asia 97.92

4 Andean Explorer, a Belmond Train, Peru 96.19

5 Glacier Express, Switzerland 95.07

6 Hiram Bingham, a Belmond Train, Machu Picchu, Peru 94.31

7 Golden Eagle Danube Express, Europe 93.83

8 Venice Simplon-Orient-Express, a Belmond Train, Europe 93.51

9 Northern Belle, Europe 93.40

10 Royal Scotsman, a Belmond Train, Scotland 93.33

11 Golden Eagle, Central Asia 92.94

12 Rovos Rail, Africa 92.00

13 The Canadian, Canada 91.07

14 Bernina Express, European Alps 88.30

15 Maharajas' Express, India 87.92

This year's winner, *British Pullman*, a Belmond Train

AIRLINES & AIRPORTS

In the heady days of the jet set, you could fly with Pan Am and order boeuf bourgeois by Maxim's of Paris. Sky-high dining took a nosedive later, but now it's back on schedule, with a Michelin-star restaurant devising dishes for **KLM**, and **Air New Zealand's** regional menu – seared snapper, smoked kahawai rilette – earning it top marks for food. Elsewhere, you found **Qatar Airways** had the comfiest seats and **Emirates** the best entertainment. As for airports, you liked Rome's **Fiumicino** for its restaurants and shopping, Doha's **Hamad** for its design and **Barcelona** for its lounges. In the UK, **Heathrow** scored highly across the board, though **London City** was best for queues.

AIRLINES

- 1 **AIR NEW ZEALAND** 89.08
- 2 Singapore Airlines 88.47
- 3 Qatar Airways 87.11
- 4 Emirates, UAE 86.92
- 5 British Airways 86.49
- 6 Etihad Airways, UAE 85.18
- 7 Virgin Atlantic, UK 85.17
- 8 Delta Air Lines, USA 84.17
- 9 Swiss International Air Lines 83.00
- 10 Malaysia Airlines 82.86
- 11 KLM Royal Dutch Airlines 82.59
- 12 Air India 80.73

AIRPORTS

UK

- 1 **LONDON HEATHROW (LHR)** 85.38
- 2 London City (LCY) 77.71
- 3 London Gatwick (LGW) 76.41
- 4 London Stansted (STN) 72.95
- 5 Edinburgh (EDI) 72.55

REST OF THE WORLD

- 1 **SINGAPORE CHANGI (SIN)** 93.61
- 2 Hamad International (DOH), Qatar 91.90
- 3 Zürich (ZRH), Switzerland 91.51
- 4 Hong Kong International (HKG) 91.25
- 5 IGA Istanbul (IST), Turkey 90.63
- 6 Dubai International (DXB) UAE 90.53
- 7 Rome Fiumicino (FCO), Italy 89.71
- 8 Josep Tarradellas Barcelona-El Prat (BCN), Spain 87.43
- 9 Athens International (ATH), Greece 86.58
- 10 Amsterdam Schiphol (AMS), Netherlands 84.62

CRUISE LINES

Explorer Fridtjof Nansen had a novel way of traversing the Arctic: he simply stranded his ship on the ice and let it drift for three years. The **HX** ship named after him is, thankfully, a little more nimble on its voyages – you gave the Norwegian cruise line top marks for crew and service. Other expedition high scorers include **Ponant** for its itineraries, **Seabourn** for its cabins and **Silversea** for its onboard experts. When it came to large ships, you rated **Cunard** for entertainment; and small ships, you applauded **Regent's** food and excursions, and **SeaDream Yacht Club's** all-hands-on-deck service. In the river category, the elegantly minimal cabins of **Oberoi's** Nile-sailing fleet helped propel it into the top five.



MEGA

(More than 4,000 passengers)

- 1 **MSC CRUISES** 90.00
- 2 Norwegian Cruise Line 85.80
- 3 Carnival Cruise Line 83.40
- 4 Royal Caribbean International 78.80

LARGE

(2,500 to 4,000 passengers)

- 1 **VIRGIN VOYAGES** 94.55
- 2 Cunard 90.14
- 3 Disney Cruise Line 88.79
- 4 Holland America Line 88.36
- 5 Celebrity Cruises 87.23
- 6 Princess Cruises 85.94
- 7 MSC Cruises 85.80
- 8 Royal Caribbean International 83.68

MEDIUM

(500 to 2,499 passengers)

- 1 **CRYSTAL CRUISES** 94.34
- 2 Seabourn 92.95
- 3 Hurtigruten 92.21
- 4 Explora Journeys 91.53
- 5 Silversea 88.08
- 6 Regent Seven Seas Cruises 87.76
- 7 Viking 86.49

- 8 Oceania Cruises 86.00

- 9 Disney Cruise Line 85.94

- 10 Holland America Line 85.61

SMALL

(Fewer than 500 passengers)

- 1 **SEABOURN** 95.15
- 2 Ponant 94.55
- 3 Silversea 91.21
- 4 Regent Seven Seas Cruises 90.18
- 5 SeaDream Yacht Club 90.07
- 6 Windstar Cruises 89.09

RIVER

- 1 **UNIWORLD BOUTIQUE RIVER CRUISES** 97.34

- 2 Tauck 97.21
- 3 Oberoi Hotels & Resorts 95.78
- 4 Pandaw 93.75
- 5 Viking 92.99

EXPEDITION

- 1 **SEABOURN** 99.09
- 2 HX (Hurtigruten Expeditions) 97.88
- 3 Silversea 96.73
- 4 Viking 95.98
- 5 Ponant 92.66

