

# Condé Nast Traveler

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**THE 2014 READERS' CHOICE AWARDS**





*The Best in the World*

# 2014 READERS' CHOICE AWARDS

Even after 27 years of asking you to share your discoveries, we were awed by what the 76,659 of you who took our annual survey taught us about travel today. We learned so much, in fact, that we decided to entirely rethink the way we present the findings. The 27th Readers' Choice Awards—your list of favorites—is the largest of its kind, with 11 categories, from Best City to Best Family-Friendly Resort. But it's more than that. Over these 20 pages, we take a closer look, analyzing the data to decipher what your choices really say about how a sophisticated traveler experiences the world. We were delighted to see that you are as likely to book a hotel for its authentic connection to a village and its people as for its impeccable service, and that classic properties which have been getting it right since time immemorial, like Venice's Belmond Hotel Cipriani, are still among your favorites. But we also took note of your fearless embrace of the new: from the unsung but unbeatable properties you fell in love with to the way you've expanded your must lists to include the Middle East and river cruises in Burma. We encourage you to dig deeper into the list online at [cntraveler.com/rca](http://cntraveler.com/rca) (the point system only tells part of the story), and to keep the conversation going all year long.

Numbers following each city, island, hotel, resort, and cruise line refer to that listing's overall rating out of 100. For this year's full methodology, see page 177.

Illustrations by Riccardo Vecchio



*The best hotels in the U.S. are in . . .  
(hint: They're not where you might think).*



## New England . . .

Its fall foliage, roadside farm stands, and lost-in-time country lanes and seashores earn New England many fans. But this year it's the hotels you loved the most—like Boston's intimate Beaux Arts-era XV Beacon (ranked No. 1 in the U.S.), the verdant Vermont idylls of the Pitcher Inn (No. 6) and Twin Farms (No. 7), and the beachy refinement of Nantucket's Wauwinet (No. 8).





## ... and the Midwest

Chicago is having a moment, thanks to a recent explosion of buzzy restaurants and a thriving art and design scene (the city will hold its first architectural biennial next year). The influx of visitors (a six percent increase from just three years ago) are well served by the newest kids on the hotel block: The Langham (No. 3) and the Thompson (No. 10, and home to Nico Osteria, one of the city's best new restaurants) both opened last year. A few hundred miles southeast in Cincinnati, the two-year-old 21C (No. 2) continues to draw visitors to its 1924 landmark building; the hotel doubles as a contemporary gallery and is adjacent to the cafés and shops of the quickly gentrifying Over-the-Rhine neighborhood.

### ONLINE ONLY

**You Won't Take Manhattan** ... or Los Angeles, for that matter. Only two hotels in New York City (the Trump International Hotel & Tower and the Langham Place, Fifth Avenue) and one in L.A. (the Peninsula Beverly Hills) squeaked onto the list of Top 50 U.S. Hotels.

## TOP 25 HOTELS IN THE U.S.

- 1 **XV Beacon** / Boston / 95.537
- 2 **21C Museum Hotel** / Cincinnati / 95.204
- 3 **The Langham** / Chicago / 95.177
- 4 **Old Edwards Inn and Spa** / Highlands, N.C. / 94.417
- 5 **Waldorf Astoria** / Chicago / 94.289
- 6 **Pitcher Inn** / Warren, Vt. / 93.948
- 7 **Twin Farms** / Barnard, Vt. / 93.750
- 8 **The Wauwinet** / Nantucket, Mass. / 93.681
- 9 **Hotel Sorella CityCentre** / Houston / 93.150
- 10 **Thompson** / Chicago / 92.778
- 11 **Château du Sureau** / Oakhurst, Calif. / 92.669
- 12 **River Inn of Harbor Town** / Memphis / 92.607
- 13 **The Willcox** / Aiken, S.C. / 92.342
- 14 **Hotel Vermont** / Burlington, Vt. / 92.127
- 15 **Mokara Hotel & Spa** / San Antonio, Tex. / 92.024
- 16 **Tu Tu' Tun Lodge** / Gold Beach, Ore. / 91.964
- 17 **Post Ranch Inn** / Big Sur, Calif. / 91.803
- 18 **Brewery Gulch Inn** / Mendocino, Calif. / 91.747
- 19 **Greyfield Inn** / Cumberland Island, Ga. / 91.518
- 20 **The Jefferson** / Washington, D.C. / 91.487
- 21 **Chanler at Cliff Walk** / Newport, R.I. / 91.406
- 22 **Allison Inn & Spa** / Newberg, Ore. / 91.234
- 23 **Hotel Granduca** / Houston / 91.214
- 24 **Virginia Hotel** / Cape May, N.J. / 90.976
- 25 **Wentworth Mansion** / Charleston, S.C. / 90.762



For this year's complete Readers' Choice Awards list, check out [cntraveler.com/rca](http://cntraveler.com/rca).



## What really made the trip?

The places, people, moments, and memories that you (and now we) will never forget.

☺☺ Obviously with Siem Reap you go to see Angkor Wat, but I also highly recommend getting a bike and doing the temple route. You can see it at your own pace for a day (or three), and the food along the way is great. ☺☺

-JAMIE SHAWVER

☺☺ Bruges is utterly perfect. It gets very crowded with day-trippers, but at night it's heavenly. ☺☺ -DOUG NABHAN

☺☺ In Rome, we loved a small family restaurant near the Colosseum called I Clementini. Adriana manages the restaurant, and her son cooks. They made us feel like we were eating with family—and the cannelloni was the best pasta dish we had in our two weeks in Italy. ☺☺

-SHARON AND DAVID WARD

☺☺ Room 31 at the Capella Ixtapa in Mexico is wonderful. The plunge pool is on a terrace, and you get the best sun—plus chips and salsa with homemade guacamole and two beers delivered to your room every day at 5 P.M. as a complimentary snack. ☺☺

-RENEE CUTAIA

☺☺ The Four Seasons Istanbul at Sultanahmet is so gorgeous, I can't believe it used to be a prison. Could I please get a life sentence? ☺☺ -AMBER GIBSON

☺☺ The Wauwinet in Nantucket is quintessential New England. I'm still searching for a lobster roll as good as the one we had at Topper's. ☺☺

-ELENA DEBARTOLO

☺☺ The service at The Restaurant at The Willcox in Aiken, South Carolina, was fantastic. When our infant son got fussy at dinner, we left early and returned to our room. Our waiter delivered our leftovers to us, along with a delicious dessert. ☺☺ -KYLE MOSES

☺☺ Claridge's in London is the place I would spend my last night on earth. ☺☺

-HELEN MAGNANI

☺☺ We arrived at the Chanler at Cliff Walk in Newport, Rhode Island, very late due to our flight, but the night attendant waited up for us until two in the morning and was just as welcoming as if it were two in the afternoon. ☺☺

-SHIRLONDA ALLISON

☺☺ Suite 1616 at the InterContinental Hong Kong has two massive picture windows that meet at an angle, providing a spectacular view of the harbor and Hong Kong Island. ☺☺ -STEVE THOMAS

☺☺ Taking a shower in Emirates' first-class suite before arrival was fantastic. ☺☺ -TONY EGINTON