

# Condé Nast Traveler

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JANUARY 2012

## GOLD LIST

WORLD'S BEST

# 511

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CRUISE LINES

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You take the elevator to the beach  
at Il San Pietro di Positano, a Gold List  
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CHECK OUT OUR DIGITAL EDITION FOR A SLIDE SHOW OF PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE 214 PLATINUM CIRCLE HOTELS, RESORTS, AND CRUISE LINES (SEE BELOW), AS WELL AS FULL REVIEWS OF ALL 2012 GOLD LIST PROPERTIES.

# 2012 GOLD LIST

THE WORLD'S BEST PLACES TO STAY

511  
TOP HOTELS, RESORTS  
& CRUISE LINES

**HERE IS TRAVEL INTELLIGENCE IN**

its purest form: drawn from impartial personal experiences, sifted according to exacting standards, far-reaching in ambition, and, finally, tantalizing in what it delivers. The hotels, resorts, and cruise lines that made it onto this, our eighteenth annual Gold List, can't rest on their laurels. The contenders are tested afresh every year, in our Readers' Choice Survey, the collective result of some eight million votes cast by as savvy a group of travelers as you'll find on the planet. Many of those who do meet the gold standard hold their place year after year. But there is always somebody nipping at their heels. This year, for example, almost one-third of the list, a whopping 93 properties, is new. This reflects the acuity of our readers' radar—there are newcomers from the Czech Republic and Costa Rica, Saudi Arabia and South Korea, Tanzania and Turkey, and beyond. At this time of year, when thoughts turn to far horizons, here are more than 500 reasons to make your plans, find the dream.



INTRODUCING  
THE  
PLATINUM  
CIRCLE



What better way to mark 25 years of *Condé Nast Traveler* than by celebrating the superstars of the Gold List? Whenever you see the icon at left, it means that the hotel, resort, or cruise line has made the list every year for the past five years running. ¶ An impressive 214 Gold List properties and cruise lines can now call themselves Platinum Circle members, and the honor is a reminder of what we already know: that consistency, as much as excellence, is its own reward.

## QUEBEC

**Fairmont Le Château,**  
Montebello **89.9**

82.1 85.5 94.5 87.3 96.4 93.9

**Auberge du Vieux-Port,**  
Montreal **90.4**

94.4 88.9 79.4 97.2 91.7

**Hotel Nelligan, Montreal 93.8**

94.5 94.5 86.8 98.2 94.5

**Auberge Saint-Antoine,**  
Quebec City **94.6**

93.3 93.3 92.0 98.9 95.5

**Hotel Le-Germain-Dominion,**  
Quebec City **91.6**

91.2 94.1 83.3 94.1 94.1

## MEXICO

**Rancho La Puerta Fitness Resort & Spa,**  
Tecate, Baja California **96.7**

92.0 96.0 98.0 94.0 100 100

**NEW Capella Pedregal,**  
Cabo San Lucas **95.2**

95.9 93.9 95.9 91.8 95.9 97.9

From the moment they make their dramatic entrance through a 1,000-foot torch-lit tunnel, guests say that this property is "a real nirvana." "Magnificent rooms" have private terraces with Pacific views. At the cliffside El Farallón, fish is served alfresco. As for staff, "every dream is met."

**Esperanza,**  
Cabo San Lucas **92.5**

96.5 94.5 88.4 92.5 93.5 89.7

**NEW Grand Solmar Land's End Resort & Spa,**  
Cabo San Lucas **94.6**

97.1 97.1 91.2 97.1 94.1 91.2

Concealed on granite cliffs, this "unbelievable hacienda-style resort" opened in 2011. Stone, cast bronze, wood, and tin fill "rooms which are so close to the ocean that you feel like you're on a boat." At La Roca, expect savory seafood, authentic Baja cuisine, and "impeccable service."

**Pueblo Bonito Pacífica Resort & Spa,**  
Cabo San Lucas **93.2**

95.8 95.1 89.3 91.0 97.5 90.2

**Pueblo Bonito Sunset Beach Resort & Spa,**  
Cabo San Lucas **90.8**

95.7 92.0 88.1 87.9 92.0 88.9

**NEW Beach Palace,**  
Cancún **89.2**

91.3 92.9 82.6 90.0 92.9 85.7

At this "true all-inclusive" with a white and terra-cotta exterior, every room has a double whirlpool and either a water or garden view. "The food and drinks are top-shelf, served by the best bar staff around." Try La Terraza for Italian à la carte. Pools, hot tubs, and "the beautiful beach" keep guests entertained.

**Le Méridien Resort & Spa,**  
Cancún **89.2**

89.5 89.5 87.2 89.5 91.6 87.8

**Omni Puerto Aventuras Beach Resort,**  
Cancún **94.4**

95.8 95.8 87.5 95.8 95.8 95.8

**Ritz-Carlton,**  
Cancún **92.2**

93.3 94.5 90.9 93.3 90.9 90.5

**Secrets Maroma Beach Riviera,**  
Cancún **92.0**

96.9 92.3 85.9 93.8 96.9 86.2

**Las Mañanitas, Cuernavaca 93.8**

94.1 97.2 94.4 88.9 94.4



Photograph by Amelia Troubridge. Grooming by Pamela Cochrane