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Page 36

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JANUARY 2008

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GOLD LIST

721 WORLD'S BEST PLACES TO STAY

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INSIDER'S GUIDE



woodwork, and brass accents; rooms have Wi-Fi and radiant heating under marble bathroom floors. Wentworth Dining Room, overlooking Little Harbor and Sagamore Creek, specializes in modern New England cuisine—grilled East Coast halibut, for example. Alas, "staff are like those at any inexpensive airport hotel."

\$\$\$; 161 rooms; golf, pool, spa, water sports; 603-422-7322; marriott.com

NEW MEXICO

Hyatt Regency Tamaya Resort & Spa, Santa Ana Pueblo

92.1 81.1 83.3 86.7 87.8 87.6 86.4
The adobe-style buildings and open courtyards of the nearby 800-year-old village inspired the design of this resort on 500 acres of a Native American reservation. Signature dishes at the "incredible, intimate" Corn Maiden include slow-cooked, spit-fired meats, fowl, and fish. Rooms in shades of maize, pumpkin, and turquoise showcase traditional pueblo designs and natural materials like stone and wood; most have private balconies or patios.

\$\$\$; 350 rooms; golf, tennis, pool, spa; 505-867-1234; hyatt.com

Inn and Spa at Loretto, Santa Fe

83.6 78.7 82.0 95.1

83.3 84.5

\$\$\$; 134 rooms; pool, spa; 800-727-5531; innloretto.com

Inn of the Anasazi, Santa Fe

81.6 84.6 80.9 94.8

85.1 85.4

\$\$\$; 57 rooms; 505-988-3030; innoftheanasazi.com

El Monte Sagrado Living Resort & Spa, Taos

95.2 80.0 65.0 85.0 100 85.1

\$\$; 84 rooms; pool, spa; 800-828-8267; elmontesagrado.com

NEW YORK

Mirror Lake Inn, Lake Placid

88.9 89.7 86.0 95.4 88.8 83.3 88.7

Situated in a former Olympic Village, this 1883 inn and its complement of modern buildings promise "friendly staff" who proffer warm chocolate-chip cookies each afternoon. "Rustic rooms" have wood furniture made by local artisans. Aaichini bedcovers, and terraces with "views of Mirror Lake and the mountains." At The View, order "creative comfort food" and Adirondack flapjacks with hot maple syrup.

\$\$\$; 131 rooms; golf, tennis, pool, spa, skiing; 518-524-2544; mirrorlakeinn.com

Four Seasons, New York

95.8 92.9 92.2 95.8 94.6 94.3

The 52-story postmodern limestone landmark designed by I. M. Pei provides "a serene atmosphere," beginning with the 33-foot-high onyx ceiling of the Grand Lobby. Rooms in caramel or copper have custom English sycamore furniture, down-filled pillows, and Rivolta sheets. "The excellence of the staff sets it apart." Kobe beef and Maine lobster are options at 57 restaurant. Restorative spa treatments "make their stratospheric prices easy to swallow."

\$\$\$\$; 368 rooms; spa; 212-758-5700; fourseasons.com

Hôtel Plaza Athénée, New York

83.0 83.6 82.2 89.4 80.9 85.8

Set on a tree-lined residential street, this 1927 property is "proudly old-world New York." Rooms are furnished with carved cherrywood and Asian silk fabrics, and have green-and-silver or blue-and-copper palettes. The service stands out: "Everyone treated me like I was a regular." Amid red lacquer walls and leather floors, Bar Seine serves single malts and cocktails.

\$\$\$\$; 149 rooms; 212-734-9100; plaza-athenee.com

Mandarin Oriental, New York

94.5 91.3 92.3 95.7 94.6 93.7

"You definitely get what you pay for" at this Asian-style hotel across from Central Park. "Well-appointed and spacious rooms" have color schemes that vary

from black and pale gold to deep red and silver, and furniture that recalls the 1940s. At Asiate, request a booth and feast on an Asian-French fusion menu that includes roasted duck breast with five-spice miso glaze. "The service was terrific."

\$\$\$\$; 248 rooms; pool, spa; 212-503-8000; mandarinoriental.com

New York Palace, New York

82.0 83.6 76.8 96.9 88.1 85.5

Renovated in 2007, this Midtown property is split between the 1882 Villard Mansion and a 55-story skyscraper. Green marble Corinthian columns, crystal chandeliers, and a gold balustrade staircase give it "that old New York feeling I love." Rooms in the mansion, with gold and blue decor, marble baths, and views of St. Patrick's Cathedral, "seem dated." Gilt has a seven-course globally influenced New American tasting menu.

\$\$\$\$; 893 rooms; spa; 800-697-2522; nyc.nyorkpalace.com

Ritz-Carlton New York, Battery Park, New York

95.2 92.8 86.9 75.2 89.4 87.9

Set in a 2002 glass-and-brick tower, this hotel near the Financial District is "some distance from tourist attractions." Harborview rooms in sage, butter cream, and beige have telescopes that enhance "gorgeous views of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island." In 2007, the spa launched treatments using Prada and Pjot products. The restaurant 2 West bills itself as a French-American steak house; staff's "attention to detail is mind-blowing."

\$\$\$\$; 298 rooms; spa; 212-344-0800; ritzcarlton.com

Ritz-Carlton New York, Central Park, New York

94.9 91.9 89.8 99.0 92.9 93.7

The location overlooking Central Park is "as good as it gets!" Public spaces have a European sensibility, with French limestone walls and crystal chandeliers from Italy. Rooms with brocade draperies and patterned carpets are done in celadon, taupe, and pale rose. Seasonal fish, meat, and cheese are the stars of BLT Market's menu. Try a caviar facial at La Prairie spa.

\$\$\$\$; 259 rooms; spa; 212-308-9100; ritzcarlton.com

St. Regis, New York

92.2 97.1 89.1 97.1 92.8 93.7

This Beaux Arts landmark is "an oasis in Midtown." Rooms, where guests enjoy the attention of "outstanding 24-hour butlers," have palettes of blue and gray or cream and yellow; the hotel recently unveiled its Bottega Veneta Suite. A new restaurant by Alain Ducasse is slated to open in January 2008, and the mural in the King Cole Bar has emerged from a \$100,000 restoration.

\$\$\$\$; 164 rooms; spa; 212-753-4900; starwood.com

The Carlyle, New York

76.7 89.5 88.1 88.4 83.7 85.3

\$\$\$\$; 181 rooms; spa; 212-744-1400; neworlandhotels.com

The Lowell, New York

92.3 88.5 60.9 92.3 80.8 83.5

\$\$\$\$; 70 rooms; 212-838-1400; lowellhotel.com

The Peninsula, New York

83.3 84.2 82.3 92.6 83.0 85.1

\$\$\$\$; 239 rooms; pool, spa; 212-956-2888; peninsula.com

Sofitel, New York

83.5 83.5 77.8 89.7 81.0 83.1

\$\$\$\$; 398 rooms; 212-354-8844; sofitel.com

NORTH CAROLINA

Inn on Biltmore Estate, Asheville

90.2 94.4 86.1 94.9 91.2 91.3

This inn, on an 8,000-acre estate also occupied by the country's largest private home, is surrounded by the Blue Ridge Mountains. Nineteenth-century English and French manor houses are the inspiration for an interior that includes "a lobby full of gorgeous flowers." "Spacious, plush, and inviting digs" have round-the-clock in-room dining. "The concierge is incredibly

accommodating." At the Dining Room restaurant, sample beef and lamb raised on the estate.

\$\$\$\$; 213 rooms; pool; 828-225-1600; biltmore.com

Sanderling Resort & Spa, Duck

90.6 85.2 83.3 94.3 88.7 71.7 85.6

Low-rise cedar-shingled buildings sit "away from the more touristy areas of the Outer Banks." Designed with a beach theme, rooms have walk-in showers and waxed pine dressers with granite tops. The Lifesaving Station Restaurant, housed, naturally, in a restored 1899 U.S. lifesaving station and decorated with nautical artifacts and historic memorabilia, has "a fine wine list."

\$\$\$; 88 rooms; tennis, pool, spa, beach; 800-701-4111; thesanderling.com

Ferrington House, Pittsboro

96.2 94.5 94.6 67.9 92.9 89.1

This "charming English-country hotel" south of Chapel Hill was an eighteenth-century dairy farm (cows still graze the adjacent pastures). Rooms arranged around a courtyard have fireplaces, English antiques, and fringed bed pillows. The former Ferrington family home is now a French-accented restaurant with rocking chairs on the porch; Old Granary serves regional fare that includes "very good desserts."

\$\$\$; 32 rooms; tennis; 919-542-2121; ferrington.com

OHIO

Ritz-Carlton, Cleveland

88.3 88.3 84.2 84.4 88.3 86.7

This business-district property, which sits next to Jacobs Field, is "fairly convenient for museums and activities downtown." Rooms will unveil a new look in the middle of 2008 following a complete renovation. Muse restaurant, decorated in shades of brown, serves organic pork chops, as well as seafood from Alaska, Massachusetts, and Costa Rica.

\$\$\$; 206 rooms; pool; 216-623-1300; ritzcarlton.com

OREGON

Stephanie Inn, Cannon Beach

96.8 96.8 90.5 95.2 95.2 94.9

The country-style coastal inn within sight of Haystack Rock is "designed to complement the surrounding fir-filled mountains." "The service is exceptional—the emphasis is on fostering a comfortable and romantic interlude." Rustic interiors are built from recycled old-growth wood, and fireplaces use local stone; renovations have added European style with warm tones. Rooms on upper floors have "enormous balconies." Breakfast promises "an excellent buffet."

\$\$\$; 50 rooms; beach; 800-633-3466; stephanieinn.com

Tu Tu'Tun Lodge, Gold Beach

89.6 97.9 89.4 87.5 86.4 90.2

Named after the Native American term for "people by the river," this "first-class lodge with phenomenal service" is set amid evergreen trees on the Rogue River. The contemporary open design of slate-and-granite rooms with wall-to-wall windows allows guests "magnificent views of the calming river," especially from the outdoor deep Japanese tubs. Family-style potluck dinners feature local ingredients and some of the "world's best wild Chinook salmon."

\$\$; 18 rooms; pool, water sports; 800-864-6333; tututun.com

Hotel deLuxe, Portland

90.9 91.2 85.3 85.3 87.9 88.1

"Outstanding service and beautiful decor" are highlights of this 2006 property near Washington Park. Art Deco, Art Moderne, and classic Hollywood influence the design; "the lobby has a huge screen with changing photos from the golden era of film." Framed stills in rooms accompany mahogany nightstands, apple-green draperies, and Lucite lamps. Order a whiskey sour in the dimly lit Driftwood Room, where "you expect Cary Grant to walk in."

\$\$; 131 rooms; 503-219-2094; provenancelhotels.com

Hotel Lucia, Portland

87.3 87.3 86.9 95.2 92.1 87.8