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YOUR GUIDE TO

THE WORLD'S BEST HOTELS

IF YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION IS THE SAME AS OURS—travel more!—you'll soon be faced with the question of where to stay. Choosing the right hotel is not always easy, but it's one decision that can make (or break) your trip. That's why we've done all the legwork. Here, in our sixth annual T+L 500, *Travel + Leisure's* global team of reporters and editors has culled the 500 highest-rated hotels from our World's Best survey, identified what differentiates them from their competitors, sussed out the best rooms to book—and determined what services, amenities, and perks not to miss. It's this year's definitive hotel guide, and it's just for you.

France's Château les Crayères, on its own 17-acre private park in Reims.



TRIP-PLANNING TOOLS *The T+L 500 is also available at travelandleisure.com, with special features including direct hotel links, searchable destination guides, and satellite mapping from Google Earth.*

coastline from almost every room. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Ocean View Kings, for their wood-burning fireplaces. **DON'T MISS** Dinner at the standout Pacific's Edge Restaurant. **COST** Doubles from \$715. **800/233-1234 or 831/620-1234; hyatt.com**

CARMEL

■ **L'Auberge Carmel (84.87)** European-style inn built around a landscaped courtyard, in the center of town. **STATS** 20 rooms; 1 restaurant; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Ideal location near art galleries and shops, just 4 blocks from the beach. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Those on the upper floors, for a peck of Carmel Bay. **DON'T MISS** Chef Tim Mosblech's tasting menu at the 12-table restaurant. **COST** Doubles from \$295, including breakfast. No guests under 12. **831/624-8578; laubergecarmel.com**

HALF MOON BAY

■ **Ritz-Carlton (85.01)** Golf-and-spa resort on a dramatic oceanfront cliff 30 miles south of San Francisco. **STATS** 261 rooms; 2 restaurants; 2 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Outdoor activities galore, like championship golf and beachside biking. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Terrace Fire Pit Rooms, with furnished patios and outdoor fireplaces. **DON'T MISS** Making s'mores in the outdoor public fire pit. **COST** Doubles from \$399. **800/241-3333 or 650/712-7000; ritzcarlton.com**

LOS ANGELES AREA

■ **Beverly Hills Hotel & Bungalows (85.09)** Mission-style 1912 hotel on 12 acres of tropical gardens, minutes from Rodeo Drive. **STATS** 182 rooms; 22 bungalows; 3 restaurants; 2 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** An Old Hollywood atmosphere coupled with an ourant buzz. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Superiors, with balconies or gas fireplaces. **DON'T MISS** Lunch in the clubby Polo Lounge, a celebrity favorite. **COST** Doubles from \$450. **9641 Sunset Blvd., Beverly Hills; 800/283-8885 or 310/276-2251; beverlyhillshotel.com**

LOS ANGELES AREA

■ **Beverly Wilshire, A Four Seasons Hotel (82.75)** Beverly Hills legend dating from 1928 (currently owned by Four Seasons), at the famed intersection of Rodeo Drive and Wilshire Boulevard. **STATS** 395 rooms; 3 restaurants; 3 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** A shopper's dream, just steps away from Rodeo's tony boutiques. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Those ending in 77 in the Beverly Wing, for views of the pool. **DON'T MISS** The ice cream sundae bar, at Blvd restaurant. **COST** Doubles from \$525. **9500 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills; 800/332-3442 or 310/275-5200; fourseasons.com**

LOS ANGELES AREA

■ **Four Seasons Hotel Los Angeles at Beverly Hills (84.96)** Contemporary 16-story tower with

traditional interiors, a short walk from Rodeo Drive. **STATS** 285 rooms; 2 restaurants; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Perfectly balanced service and a high-wattage scene. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Premier corner rooms, with wraparound balconies. **DON'T MISS** A facial created by famed L.A. dermatologists Rand Rusher and Norman Leaf. **COST** Doubles from \$425. **300 S. Doheny Dr., Los Angeles; 800/332-3442 or 310/786-2227; fourseasons.com**

LOS ANGELES AREA

■ **Hotel Bel-Air (84.79)** Spanish mission-style hideaway on 12 lush acres in a residential community. An 11,000-square-foot spa and gym will open in November. **STATS** 91 rooms; 1 restaurant; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** A serene setting with a swan lake, just minutes from Beverly Hills. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Grand Deluxes with outdoor patios and wood-burning fireplaces. **DON'T MISS** A house-made ginger or mango popsicle while lounging by the pool. **COST** Doubles from \$395. **701 Stone Canyon Rd., Los Angeles; 800/648-4097 or 310/472-1211; hotelbelair.com**

LOS ANGELES AREA

■ **Hotel Casa del Mar (81.51)** Newly renovated historic brick-and-sandstone hotel on Santa Monica Beach, near the Pier. **STATS** 129 rooms; 2 restaurants; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** The area's freshest rooms, thanks to updates completed this month. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Ocean Views (\$250 more) are strongly recommended. **DON'T MISS** Sushi by the sea at Catch Restaurant. **COST** Doubles from \$520. **1910 Ocean Way, Santa Monica; 800/898-6999 or 310/581-5533; hotelcasadelmar.com**

LOS ANGELES AREA

No.1 **Peninsula Beverly Hills (89.99)** Urbane hotel in the style of an 18th-century French country estate, 5 blocks from Rodeo Drive. **STATS** 194 rooms; 16 villas; 2 restaurants; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** High-tech glamour (electronic bedside panels summon valets) meets tranquil luxury (gorgeous gardens; serene spa). **ROOMS TO BOOK** Those in the rear, overlooking the gardens. **DON'T MISS** A Shiffa Precious Gem massage at the newly renovated spa. **COST** Doubles from \$495. **9882 S. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills; 800/462-7899 or 310/551-2888; peninsula.com**

LOS ANGELES AREA

■ **Raffles L'Ermitage Beverly Hills (83.35)** Modern, Asian-inspired hotel on a tree-lined street in Beverly Hills. **STATS** 119 rooms; 1 restaurant; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** An ultra-private atmosphere and discreet service. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Top-floor Junior Suites, which average more than 700 square feet. **DON'T MISS** The poolside cabanas, with flat-screen TV's, Wi-Fi, and mini-fridges. **COST** Doubles from \$655. **9291 Burton**

Way, Beverly Hills; 800/800-2113 or 310/278-3344; beverlyhills.raffles.com

LOS ANGELES AREA

■ **Shutters on the Beach (83.40)** Nantucket-style shingled hotel with a casual vibe, near the historic Santa Monica Pier. **STATS** 198 rooms; 2 restaurants; 2 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Laid-back New England feel—plus an ideal location on Santa Monica Beach. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Those with ocean views; the higher up, the quieter. **DON'T MISS** A facial designed by aesthetician-to-the-stars Ole Henriksen, at the spa. **COST** Doubles from \$575. **1 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica; 800/334-9000 or 310/458-0030; shuttersonthebeach.com**

NAPA/SONOMA

■ **Auberge du Soleil (87.91)** Mediterranean-style inn with a newly renovated pool, on 33 acres of olive groves, 5 minutes from wineries. **STATS** 50 rooms; 2 cottages; 1 restaurant; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Private and pampering, from the plush robes and linens to the suites with secluded gardens. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Lower Valley Maison-Suites, with sweeping vineyard vistas. **DON'T MISS** Borrowing the hotel's complimentary easel and paints to practice your plein-air painting. **COST** Doubles from \$650. No guests under 16. **Rutherford; 800/348-5406 or 707/963-1211; aubergedusoleil.com**

NAPA/SONOMA

■ **Calistoga Ranch (83.00)** Modern cedar-shingled cottages tucked into a canyon overlooking the Mayacama Mountains. **STATS** 46 cottages; 1 restaurant; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Design in harmony with nature, thanks to floor-to-ceiling windows, outdoor fireplaces, and open-air showers. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Oak Creek Lodges for unparalleled privacy; No. 127 has a tree growing through its deck. **DON'T MISS** Participating in the wine-making process at the mountaintop cave. **COST** Doubles from \$720. **Calistoga; 800/942-4220 or 707/254-2800; calistogoranch.com**

NAPA/SONOMA

■ **Carneros Inn (82.43)** Sophisticated cottages on 27 acres of vineyards in Napa's rural Carneros wine region. **STATS** 86 cottages; 3 restaurants; 3 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Stylish hotel with a family-friendly vibe, thanks to a new kids' pool. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Garden Cottages with alfresco showers, heated slate floors, and private decks. **DON'T MISS** A warm goat-butter massage in the revamped 7,000-square-foot spa. **COST** Doubles from \$480. **Napa; 888/400-9000 or 707/299-4900; thecarnerosinn.com**

NAPA/SONOMA

■ **Hotel Healdsburg (83.77)** Stylish country inn co-owned by chef Charlie Palmer, on Healdsburg's historic plaza,

a short drive from more than 60 wineries. **STATS** 55 rooms; 1 restaurant; 2 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Central location near shops, galleries, and restaurants. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Nos. 316 and 317, which overlook the plaza. **DON'T MISS** Trying one of the bar's inventive cocktails, like mulled wine with pomegranate. **COST** Doubles from \$407, including breakfast. **Healdsburg; 800/889-7188 or 707/431-2800; hotelhealdsburg.com**

NAPA/SONOMA

No.1 **Madrone Manor (89.09)** Victorian mansion and estate in Dry Creek Valley, a mile from the historic center of Healdsburg. **STATS** 22 rooms; 1 restaurant; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Romantic and atmospheric—a welcome contrast to the area's more contemporary offerings. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Nos. 203 and 204, for their balconies, fireplaces, and period furnishings. **DON'T MISS** Chef Jesse Mallgren's seafood tasting menu. **COST** Doubles from \$350, including breakfast. No guests under 12. **Healdsburg; 800/258-4003 or 707/433-4231; madronamanor.com**

OJAI

■ **Ojai Valley Inn & Spa (81.82)** Spanish colonial-style golf-and-spa resort on 220 rolling acres. **STATS** 308 rooms; 4 restaurants; 2 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** A dramatic valley setting—plus one of the region's best spas. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Nos. 711-719, for golf course views and proximity to the spa. **DON'T MISS** Making your own lotion from herbs and oils at the on-site apothecary. **COST** Doubles from \$400. **800/422-6524 or 805/646-1111; ojaioresort.com**

ORANGE COUNTY

NEW **Balboa Bay Club & Resort (82.35)** Mediterranean-style resort on the bay in the heart of Newport Beach. **STATS** 160 rooms; 2 restaurants; 2 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Ideal for boaters (the resort's dock allows pickup and drop-off from yachts) and shoppers (it's a short drive from the swanky Fashion Island and South Coast Plaza). **ROOMS TO BOOK** Those with views of the marina. **DON'T MISS** Live music and dancing at Duke's Place, named for former club member John Wayne. **COST** Doubles from \$370. **888/445-7153 or 949/645-5000; balboabayclub.com**

ORANGE COUNTY

■ **Montage Laguna Beach (85.09)** Craftsman-style oceanfront hotel on 30 acres in the community of Laguna Beach. **STATS** 250 rooms; 3 restaurants; 4 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** A new classic in a serene setting that is a magnet for Hollywood's elite. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Those on the southern side are quietest and face the water. **DON'T MISS** The Thalassic Beach Walk—a complimentary, spa-therapist-guided stroll that focuses on the

mind-body benefits of ocean air. **COST** Doubles from \$795. **888/715-6700** or **949/715-6000**; **montage** lagunabeach.com

ORANGE COUNTY

■ **Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel (86.22)** Elegant yet family-friendly resort on a cliff 150 feet above the Pacific. **STATS** 393 rooms; 2 restaurants; 2 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Classic Ritz luxury and tons of activities, from waterfront fitness classes to sailing at Dana Point. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Ocean Views are pricier, but worth the upgrade. **DON'T MISS** Watching the sunset with a glass of champagne from the hotel's Adirondack chairs. **COST** Doubles from \$475. **Dana Point; 800/241-3333** or **949/240-2000**; ritzcarlton.com

ORANGE COUNTY

■ **St. Regis Resort, Monarch Beach (83.52)** Grand, Tuscan-inspired resort on a coastal bluff, 7 miles from Laguna Beach. **STATS** 400 rooms; 6 restaurants; 6 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** A refined escape with kid-friendly amenities and a championship 18-hole golf course. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Spend the \$50 extra for one with an ocean-view balcony. **DON'T MISS** The decadent brunch at Motif restaurant. **COST** Doubles from \$645. **Dana Point; 888/625-5144** or **949/234-3200**; stregismonarchbeach.com

ORANGE COUNTY

■ **Surf & Sand Resort (81.28)** Mediterranean-style beach resort fresh from a \$6 million touch-up, within walking distance of downtown Laguna Beach. **STATS** 165 rooms; 1 restaurant; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Easy access to the secluded 500-yard-long Bluebird Beach. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Those in the Towers Building are the largest. **DON'T MISS** A dolphin-spotting tour, held year-round. **COST** Doubles from \$545. **800/267-4378** or **949/497-4477**; surfandsandresort.com

PASADENA

■ **Ritz-Carlton, Huntington Hotel & Spa (82.32)** Landmark 1907 Spanish-Mediterranean property at the base of the San Gabriel foothills. **STATS** 380 rooms; 2 restaurants; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Period details and a restaurant that's alone worth the trip. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Corner rooms have more space and panoramic views of the grounds. **DON'T MISS** Freshly baked tarts at the Afternoon Tea in the Lobby Lounge. **COST** Doubles from \$409. **1401 S. Oak Knoll Ave., 800/241-3333** or **626/568-3900**; ritzcarlton.com

PEBBLE BEACH

■ **Inn at Spanish Bay (89.63)** Contemporary hacienda-style golf resort on the Monterey Peninsula. **STATS** 270 rooms; 3 restaurants; 4

bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** The best of both worlds: access to the Pebble Beach course by day, and a lively nighttime atmosphere, thanks to the new outdoor bar with fire pits. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Those on the 2nd level in the G or H wing, for the best ocean views. **DON'T MISS** Listening to the bagpiper close the course. **COST** Doubles from \$565. **800/654-9300** or **831/647-7500**; pebblebeach.com

PEBBLE BEACH

■ **Lodge at Pebble Beach (85.16)** 1919 Georgian-style buildings overlooking Carmel Bay. **STATS** 161 rooms; 3 restaurants; 3 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Traditional and gentlemanly golf resort with an enviable location on the famous Pebble Beach Golf Links. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Ocean Views along the 18th fairway, for gorgeous panoramas. **DON'T MISS** A hotel-arranged kayak tour with a naturalist in Stillwater Cove. **COST** Doubles from \$645. **800/654-9300** or **831/647-7500**; pebblebeach.com

SAN DIEGO

■ **The Westgate (82.92)** Classic antiques-filled hotel in the heart of downtown, near the historic Gaslamp Quarter. **STATS** 223 rooms; 2 restaurants; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** European-style accommodations in a convenient location. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Go for one with an ocean view; Nos. 93 and 94, on the 16th floor, are the best. **DON'T MISS** Daily afternoon tea in the atmospheric lobby. **COST** Doubles from \$340. **1055 Second Ave.; 800/221-3802** or **619/238-1818**; westgatehotel.com

SAN DIEGO AREA

■ **Four Seasons Resort Aviara (84.80)** Spanish colonial-style resort set on 200 acres overlooking the Batiquitos Lagoon, 30 minutes north of San Diego. **STATS** 329 rooms; 4 restaurants; 2 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Home to the area's only Arnold Palmer-designed championship golf course. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Those in the South Wing, for serene lagoon views. **DON'T MISS** A surfing lesson from Hawaiian expert Kele Gaughen, on nearby Ponto Beach. **COST** Doubles from \$395. **Carlsbad; 800/332-3442** or **760/603-6800**; fourseasons.com

SAN DIEGO AREA

■ **Lodge at Torrey Pines (84.76)** California Craftsman-style resort next to the Torrey Pines State Reserve and Golf Course, 5 minutes south of La Jolla. **STATS** 170 rooms; 2 restaurants; 2 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Stunning architectural details in a tucked-away setting. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Palisades, with fireplaces and views of the golf course and the Pacific. **DON'T MISS** An early-morning guided hike through the reserve. **COST** Doubles from \$400. **La Jolla; 800/656-0087** or **858/453-4420**; lodgetorreypines.com

SAN FRANCISCO

No. 1 **Campton Place (87.00)** Business-friendly hotel with a cozy ambiance, steps from Union Square. **STATS** 110 rooms; 1 restaurant; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** A quiet sanctuary in the heart of downtown, thanks to its soothing design and soundproof windows. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Corner Deluxes with views of Union Square. **DON'T MISS** Cocktails at the hotel's Campton Place Bar. **COST** Doubles from \$575. **340 Stockton St.; 866/332-1670** or **415/781-5555**; camptonplace.com

SAN FRANCISCO

■ **Four Seasons Hotel (85.43)** Polished tower in the Yerba Buena Arts District, 2 blocks from Union Square. **STATS** 277 rooms; 1 restaurant; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Home to some of the city's best contemporary art, and surrounded by museums. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Deluxe Views, which guarantee an optimal vista of the cityscape. **DON'T MISS** Taking a new, complimentary podcast tour of the on-site art collection. **COST** Doubles from \$480. **757 Market St.; 800/332-3442** or **415/633-3000**; fourseasons.com

SAN FRANCISCO

■ **Mandarin Oriental (84.07)** Glitzy hotel occupying the top 11 floors of a Financial District high-rise, the third-tallest building in the city. **STATS** 158 rooms; 1 restaurant; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Sophisticated rooms with Asian accents and bird's-eye views. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Bridge to Bridge rooms have 180-degree views of the Golden Gate Bridge, the Bay Bridge, and Alcatraz. **DON'T MISS** Lunch at the elegant Silks restaurant—try the prawn dumplings with sweet tomato-chili jam. **COST** Doubles from \$495. **222 Sansome St.; 800/526-6566** or **415/276-9888**; mandarinoriental.com

SAN FRANCISCO

■ **Ritz-Carlton (85.67)** Neoclassical 1909 hotel in Nob Hill, close to Union Square. **STATS** 336 rooms; 2 restaurants; 3 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** A location that's blocks from mainstay landmarks, and great on-site restaurants (try the sushi in the Lobby Lounge). **ROOMS TO BOOK** Those facing the courtyard are the quietest. **DON'T MISS** Riding the cable car from the front doorstep to Fisherman's Wharf. **COST** Doubles from \$545. **600 Stockton St.; 800/241-3333** or **415/296-7465**; ritzcarlton.com

SANTA BARBARA

■ **Four Seasons Resort, The Biltmore (83.21)** 1927 Spanish colonial-style estate and freshly renovated beach club, in the Montecito neighborhood. **STATS** 207 rooms; 1 restaurant; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE**

Beachfront luxury and an exclusive address. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Even-numbered ground-floor rooms in the 300 range, for pool access; or No. 521, which overlooks the Mariposa Garden. **DON'T MISS** Bicycling along the scenic Channel Drive (bikes available at the spa). **COST** Doubles from \$550. **800/332-3442** or **805/969-2261**; fourseasons.com

SANTA BARBARA

■ **San Ysidro Ranch (86.30)** Former citrus ranch set on 500 acres at the foothills of Santa Ynez mountains; fresh from a \$150 million overhaul. **STATS** 27 rooms; 14 cottages; 2 restaurants; 2 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Attention to detail—from hand-selected olive trees to private outdoor rain showers and sunken hot tubs in most rooms. **ROOMS TO BOOK** For added privacy, ask for the creekside Honeyuckle or Willow. **DON'T MISS** Hiking the San Ysidro Trail to the waterfalls. **COST** Doubles from \$795. **800/368-6788** or **805/565-1700**; rosewood.com

COLORADO

ASPEN

No. 1 **Little Nell (86.99)** Modern ski chalet full of luxe touches, at the base of Aspen Mountain. **STATS** 92 rooms; 2 restaurants; 2 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** The town's only ski-in, ski-out resort, and the undisputed hub of Aspen's glamorous après-ski scene. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Premium Mountain Sides, for their balconies overlooking the slopes. **DON'T MISS** The Colorado elk-join goulash and brandied-cherry panna cotta at the Montagna restaurant. **COST** Doubles from \$750. **888/843-6355** or **970/920-4600**; thelittlenell.com

ASPEN

■ **St. Regis Resort (86.78)** Sprawling red-brick compound on 5 acres, only 2 blocks from the main gondola. **STATS** 179 rooms; 1 restaurant; 2 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Fabulous facilities, including a Todd English restaurant, Olives, with the biggest martini selection in town. **ROOMS TO BOOK** We prefer Deluxes in the new wing, for their romantic fireplaces. **DON'T MISS** A body wrap followed by chilled champagne and Jacques Torres truffles in the Remède Spa. **COST** Doubles from \$900. **888/454-9005** or **970/920-3300**; stregis.com

BEAVER CREEK

■ **Park Hyatt Resort & Spa (81.91)** Contemporary Rockies lodge near the Centennial Express high-speed quad in the village, 8 miles west of Vail. **STATS** 190 rooms; 3 restaurants; 2 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** The area's freshest interiors, thanks to a recent \$20 million face-lift. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Quiet Mountain View rooms on the 3rd and 4th floors. **DON'T MISS** A soak in the new spa's Roman-inspired thermal pools. **COST** Doubles from