

# TRAVEL + LEISURE

2025

## WORLD'S BEST AWARDS

30TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION



*Five Oceans*



*Twenty-One Rivers*



*Seven Continents*







# THE WORLD'S BEST AWARDS

For the past 30 years, we've asked you, our devoted readers, to choose the destinations, operators, and hotels that have turned a trip into a lifelong memory. Your responses—hundreds of thousands of them—have helped define today's travel landscape. Some winners have consistently ranked in the awards for more than two decades; others are catching your attention for the first time. Here's to the journeys taken, and those to come.

EDITED BY JESS FELDMAN

NO. 1 RESORT IN  
GREATER MIAMI  
*Four Seasons Hotel  
at The Surf Club,  
Surfside, Florida.*

PHOTOGRAPH BY  
SOFI PERAZZO



# CRUISE LINES

Whether you're looking for a thrill-inducing expedition or world-class entertainment at sea, this year's winners—repeats and newcomers alike—have an itinerary for everyone.



- 6. Silversea ★ 88.68
- 7. Oceania Cruises ★ 87.08
- 8. Azamara 86.79
- 9. Holland America Line ★ 85.95
- 10. Celestyal Cruises 83.48

5 BEST  
SMALL-SHIP OCEAN  
CRUISE LINES

- 1. Viking ★ 97.13  
This perennial winner has a trip to satisfy almost any curiosity, with all the inclusions that fans of the brand have come to expect, like free shore excursions and 24/7 room service. In 2026, it will launch the world's first hydrogen-powered cruise ship.

- 2. Windstar Cruises ★ 91.93
- 3. The Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection 91.83
- 4. Seabourn ★ 90.66
- 5. Silversea ★ 88.72

10 BEST  
INTIMATE-SHIP  
OCEAN CRUISE  
LINES

- 1. Quasar Expeditions 98.41  
An eight-time winner, Quasar keeps impressing readers with its exemplary operations in the Galápagos Islands aboard its two ships. In addition to cruises, the company runs tours to mainland Ecuador, Peru, and Patagonia.
- 2. Aqua Expeditions 97.02
- 3. Overseas Adventure Travel 96.96

- 4. National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions 93.93
- 5. SeaDream Yacht Club 93.56
- 6. Windstar Cruises ★ 92.90
- 7. Ponant 91.82
- 8. Atlas Ocean Voyages 91.72
- 9. Variety Cruises 91.67
- 10. The Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection 90.70

10 BEST  
RIVER CRUISE  
LINES

- 1. The Oberoi Luxury Cruise Line 99.07  
Oberoi, the highly regarded Indian hotel operator, has two intimate ships that sail the Nile River between Aswan and Luxor, giving guests access to legendary sites such as the temples of Dendera and Hatshepsut. Two additional small ships will make their debut on the river later this year.
- 2. Grand Circle Cruise Line 97.37
- 3. Aqua Expeditions 96.93
- 4. Tauck ★ 96.00
- 5. AmaWaterways 94.74
- 6. Uniworld Boutique River Cruises ★ 93.50
- 7. Viking ★ 92.10
- 8. Scenic 88.95
- 9. American Cruise Lines 88.52
- 10. Avalon Waterways 88.09

FROM LEFT: COURTESY OF THE RITZ-CARLTON YACHT COLLECTION; EMA PETER/COURTESY OF PORT OF PORTLAND



5 BEST  
MEGA-SHIP OCEAN  
CRUISE LINES

- 1. Virgin Voyages 94.80  
When its latest ship, *Brilliant Lady*, debuts in September, this adults-only line will have four vessels known for immersive entertainment, top-notch food, chic design, and even on-board record shops and karaoke rooms.
- 2. Celebrity Cruises ★ 84.48
- 3. Costa Cruises 83.00
- 4. Princess Cruises ★ 80.89
- 5. Royal Caribbean International ★ 80.49

5 BEST  
LARGE-SHIP OCEAN  
CRUISE LINES

- 1. Disney Cruise Line ★ 88.33  
It's not just for kids: Disney delighted everyone with the sort of spectacular entertainment only it can deliver, like Broadway-style musicals and tea parties with key characters—as well as excellent dining options.
- 2. Cunard ★ 85.04
- 3. Holland America Line ★ 83.62
- 4. Celebrity Cruises ★ 82.60
- 5. MSC Cruises 80.71

10 BEST  
MIDSIZE-SHIP  
OCEAN CRUISE  
LINES

- 1. Crystal 94.85  
An iconic brand that continues to innovate: its two ships, *Crystal Serenity* and *Crystal Symphony*, are now outfitted with world-class casinos, extensive spa facilities, and Beefbar steak houses and Umi Uma sushi restaurants, from the chef behind Nobu.
- 2. Explora Journeys 92.98
- 3. Viking ★ 92.46
- 4. Regent Seven Seas Cruises ★ 90.14
- 5. Seabourn ★ 89.35





# WINNER'S CIRCLE

## Spotlight on the World's Best Awards

Each year, the World's Best Awards buzz with the excitement of honoring the best of the best in travel — as voted on by the readers of *Travel + Leisure*. In this celebratory capsule, get inspiration for your next trip as you discover the top picks from around the globe.

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### HOTEL WAILEA

Nestled on a secluded hillside dotted by palm trees, soothing waterfalls, and curving paths, Hotel Wailea has earned the recognition of *Travel + Leisure* readers as one of the Top 5 Resort Hotels in Hawaii for the World's Best Awards nine years in a row. With just 72 suites on 15 acres, the hotel offers a truly intimate escape—and is the sole adults-only resort on Maui and the only Relais & Châteaux escape in Hawaii. Unique experiences await for every travel personality, from snorkel tours and bike rentals to romantic beach picnics and wellness workshops—and the acclaimed dining collection includes three distinct restaurants as well as the most awarded wine program in the state.

- Book your stay at [hotelwailea.com](https://www.hotelwailea.com).

Hotel Wailea®  
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# THE METHODOLOGY

A look at how this year's World's Best Awards survey was conducted, and how the results were compiled.

A SURVEY DEVELOPED by the editors of *Travel + Leisure*, in association with research firm Proof Insights, was made available at [tlworldsbest.com](https://tlworldsbest.com) from October 21, 2024, through February 24, 2025. Readers were invited to participate through *Travel + Leisure* magazine, T+L tablet editions, newsletters, social media, and [travelandleisure.com](https://travelandleisure.com). Proof Insights maintained the survey, ensuring its security, and also collected and tabulated responses. To protect the integrity of the data, after the survey closed, *Travel + Leisure* and Proof Insights screened the responses to identify fraudulent votes, which were eliminated from the final tallies.

Respondents were asked to rate airlines, airports, car-rental companies, cities, cruise ships, destination spas, hotels, hotel brands, islands, luxury villa-rental companies, tour operators, trains, safari outfitters, and U.S. national parks on a number of characteristics (*see right*). For each characteristic, respondents could choose a rating of excellent, above average, average, below average, or poor. The final scores are averages of these responses. Scores shown have been rounded to the nearest hundredth of a point; in the event of a true tie, winners share the same ranking. In most categories, respondents could also rate optional characteristics; these ratings are not included in the overall scores.

Hotels were categorized as City, Resort, or Inn based on their locations, amenities, and number of rooms. For resorts, the U.S. was divided into 18 states and regions: Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Greater Miami Beach, Hawaii, Montana, New York, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Wyoming, the Mid-Atlantic (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania), the West (Alaska, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Washington), the Midwest (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin), New England (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont), and the South (Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia). Inns were categorized as having 40 rooms or less, and also have an intimate, historic feel, plus fewer amenities than a property listed as a Resort.

For the cruise category, respondents were asked to rate individual ships; the results were combined to generate scores for cruise lines in each of the six categories. They are: mega-ship ocean cruise lines (capacity of 1,400 cabins or more), large-ship ocean cruise lines (800 to 1,399 cabins), midsize-ship ocean cruise lines (300 to 799 cabins), small-ship ocean cruise lines (150 to 299 cabins), intimate-ship ocean cruise lines (150 or fewer cabins) and river cruise lines. Some cruise lines may appear in multiple categories depending on the makeup of their fleet.

A minimum number of responses was necessary for a candidate to be eligible for inclusion in the World's Best Awards. Some companies were eligible to be rated in multiple categories; they were scored independently for each category.



## CATEGORIES & CHARACTERISTICS

### AIRLINES

Cabin comfort, in-flight service, customer service, value.

### AIRPORTS

Access, check-in/ security, restaurants/ bars, shopping, design.

### CAR-RENTAL COMPANIES

Vehicle selection, vehicle availability, car-rental locations, service, value.

### CITIES

Sights/landmarks, culture, food, friendliness, shopping, value.

### CRUISE SHIPS

Cabins/facilities, food, service, itineraries/destinations, excursions/activities, value.

### DESTINATION SPAS

Accommodations/ facilities, treatments, service, food, value.

### HOTELS

Rooms/facilities, location, service, food, value.

### HOTEL BRANDS

Locations, rooms/facilities, food, service, value.

### ISLANDS

Natural attractions/ beaches, activities/ sights, restaurants/food, people/friendliness, value.

### LUXURY VILLA-RENTAL COMPANIES

Service, locations, amenities, range of properties, value.

### TOUR OPERATORS & SAFARI OUTFITTERS

Staff/guides, itineraries/ destinations, activities, accommodations, food, value.

### TRAINS

Accommodations, food, service, itineraries, destinations, value.

### U.S. NATIONAL PARKS

Natural attractions, activities, lodging, wildlife, accessibility.



## WANT MORE WORLD'S BEST AWARDS?

HEAD TO [TRAVELANDLEISURE.COM/WORLDS-BEST](https://travelandleisure.com/worlds-best) FOR EXPANDED LISTS AND MORE INFORMATION—AND FIND EVEN MORE CONTENT ON INSTAGRAM (@TRAVELANDLEISURE) AND TIKTOK (@TRAVELANDLEISUREMAG).