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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.



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.*

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

RAYMOND PATRICK

restaurant. **COST** Doubles from \$290. 800/701-1561 or 52-415/152-7040; casadesierranevada.com

ZIHUATANEJO

No.1 MEXICO ■ **La Casa Que Canta (91.28)** Cliff-hugging adobe hideaway above Zihuatanejo Bay. **STATS** 25 suites; 2 villas; 1 restaurant; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** One of Mexico's most romantic retreats. **ROOMS TO BOOK** No. 9 offers the best vistas; No.15 is the biggest of the standards. **DON'T MISS** The restaurant's red snapper with pineapple and fiery habanero chiles, baked in a banana leaf. **COST** Doubles from \$465. 888/523-5050 or 52-755/555-7000; lacasaquecanta.com

ZIHUATANEJO

■ **The Tides (86.42)** Adobe-inspired villas and thatched *palapas* (formerly known as the Villa del Sol) on a serene stretch of sand in Playa La Ropa. **STATS** 70 rooms; 2 restaurants; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** The area's only luxury property with a private beach. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Nos. 1 and 9 are closest to the beach—and the bar. **DON'T MISS** A heated lava-shell treatment at the newly expanded spa. **COST** Doubles from \$500. 866/905-9560 or 52-755/555-5500; tideszihuatanejo.com

PANAMA

PANAMA CITY

NEW ■ **Bristol Hotel (83.00)** Colonial hotel in the heart of the financial center. **STATS** 56 rooms; 1 restaurant; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Bend-over-backward service and one of the country's best restaurants. **ROOMS TO BOOK** King Deluxes on the 8th floor for high ceilings. **DON'T MISS** Regional dishes from chef Cuquita (considered the Martha Stewart of Panama) at Restaurant Las Barandas. **COST** Doubles from \$295. Avda. Aquilino de la Guardia at 50th St.; 011-507/265-7844; thebristol.com

PERU

CUZCO

■ **Hotel Monasterio (85.47)** Converted 1592 monastery with Baroque interiors, in the heart of Cuzco. **STATS** 126 rooms; 1 restaurant; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Cuzco's most luxurious property, a train ride from Machu Picchu. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Deluxes with oxygen-enrichment systems to ward off altitude sickness (No. 410 has an exquisite high ceiling). **DON'T MISS** A signature Andean massage using Kantu Incan flowers. **COST** Doubles from \$470. 136 Palacios; 800/237-1236 or 51-84/241-777; monasteriohotel.com

MACHU PICCHU

■ **Machu Picchu Sanctuary Lodge (83.29)** Eco-friendly Spanish-colonial lodge overlooking Machu Picchu, on the Inca Trail. **STATS** 31 rooms; 2 restaurants; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** The only hotel in the Incan citadel. **ROOMS TO BOOK** No. 21, for views of Haunya Picchu; Nos. 37-40 have terraces and partial mountain views. **DON'T MISS** An evening trip back to Machu Picchu when the crowds have dispersed. **COST** Doubles from \$715, including meals. 800/237-1236 or 51-1/610-8300; sanctuarylodge.net

URUGUAY

CARMELO

■ **Four Seasons Resort (84.29)** Balinese-inspired golf and spa retreat set in a eucalyptus-and-pine forest along the Rio de la Plata. **STATS** 44 rooms; 24 suites; 20 bungalows; 1 restaurant; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** An outdoor lover's dream, thanks to golf on one of South America's best courses and horseback riding on the banks of the Rio de la Plata. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Take in the most wide-open vistas from Riverfront Bungalows 24 and 25. **DON'T MISS** A lesson in preparing yerba maté, the national tea, taught by local gauchos. **COST** Doubles from \$405. 800/332-3442 or 598/542-9000; fourseasons.com



THE CARIBBEAN, BERMUDA, AND THE BAHAMAS

ANGUILLA

■ **Cap Juluca (87.88)** Eighteen whitewashed Moorish-style villas on 179 acres of secluded beachfront. **STATS** 98 rooms; 3 restaurants; 2 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** A romantic spot only 20 minutes by boat from busy Saint-Martin. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Those on the 1st floor, for direct beach access. **DON'T MISS** The chocolate-mint tea, brewed from herbs grown in the property's garden. **COST** Doubles from \$825, including breakfast and activities. 888/858-5822 or 264/497-6666; capjuluca.com

ANGUILLA

■ **CuisinArt Resort & Spa (87.02)** Mediterranean-style retreat on a stunning stretch of beach. **STATS** 93 rooms; 2 restaurants; 2 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** The on-site hydroponic farm, whose produce is used in the stellar restaurants. **ROOMS TO BOOK** We prefer 2nd-floor Beachfront Junior Suites, for their sea views and easy

shore access. **DON'T MISS** Come spring 2008, the new thalassotherapy pool at the Venus Spa. **COST** Doubles from \$705, including breakfast. 800/943-3210 or 264/498-2000; cuisinartresort.com

ANGUILLA

■ **Malliouhana Hotel & Spa (88.86)** Classic, white-washed beachfront resort in Meads Bay. **STATS** 55 rooms; 2 restaurants; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** A top spot and one of the island's most family-friendly resorts. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Corner Doubles in the main building, for their wraparound terraces. **DON'T MISS** Bringing kids to the supervised playground, with its 60-foot waterslide, paddling pools, and Ping-Pong tables. **COST** Doubles from \$770. 800/835-0796 or 264/497-6111; malliouhana.com

ANTIGUA

No.1 CARIBBEAN, BERMUDA, AND THE BAHAMAS ■ **Jumby Bay (92.24)** Colonial-and-Mediterranean style hideaway on a 300-acre private island. **STATS** 40 rooms; 11 villas; 2 restaurants; 3 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Reachable only by boat, it's so intimate that rooms don't have keys. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Rondavels with wraparound terraces and outdoor showers. **DON'T MISS** A visit to Pasture Bay Beach, a nesting site for endangered turtles—and a sunbather's paradise. **COST** Doubles from \$1,050, including meals. 888/767-3966 or 268/462-6000; rosewoodhotels.com

ARUBA

■ **Playa Linda Beach Resort (81.27)** Crowd-pleasing timeshare resort on Palm Beach. **STATS** 209 rooms; 6 restaurants; 2 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Perfect for families: units can hold 6 people and come with kitchenettes. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Ground-floor Lanais, steps from the ocean. **DON'T MISS** The new garden spa, with its open-air lounging pavilion. **COST** Doubles from \$295, including activities. 800/992-2015 or 011-297/586-1000; playalinda.com

BAHAMAS

■ **One & Only Ocean Club at Paradise Island (83.77)** Classic beachfront estate with a Versailles-inspired garden. **STATS** 105 rooms; 2 cottages; 3 villas; 4 restaurants; 2 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Jet-set sophistication, thanks to a Christian Liaigre-designed Jean-Georges restaurant. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Those in the Crescent Wing are newer and have endless ocean views. **DON'T MISS** A dip in the freshwater pool. **COST** Doubles from \$790. 800/321-3000 or 242/363-2501; oneandonlyresorts.com

BAHAMAS

■ **Pink Sands (81.67)** Series of cottages, recently redesigned by

Barbara Hulanicki, overlooking a pink-sand beach. **STATS** 25 cottages; 1 restaurant; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** An 18-acre haven that also doubles as a bird sanctuary. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Ocean View cottages, for private pathways to the beach. **DON'T MISS** Bahamian lobster salad at the Garden Terrace restaurant. **COST** Doubles from \$750. 800/407-4776 or 242/333-2030; pinksandresort.com

BARBADOS

■ **Sandy Lane (84.71)** Luxurious coral-stone property on a 1,000-foot stretch of white sand. **STATS** 112 rooms; 1 villa; 4 restaurants; 5 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Unrivaled recreation, with one of the Caribbean's largest spas and 2 Tom Fazio-designed golf courses. **ROOMS TO BOOK** From May through October, Ocean Rooms are only \$100 more. **DON'T MISS** A Memories of Barbados cocktail: rum, Falernum, crème de bananas, peach purée, cucumber and lime juices, and mint. **COST** Doubles from \$1,200. 866/444-4080 or 246/444-2000; sandylane.com

BERMUDA

■ **The Reefs (86.45)** Cliffside Bermudan-style property overlooking a pink-sand beach on the south shore of the island; scheduled to reopen in April 2008 after major renovations. **STATS** 65 rooms; 3 restaurants; 2 bars. 800/742-2008 or 441/238-0222; thereefs.com

CAYMAN ISLANDS

■ **Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman (85.45)** Sprawling 144-acre resort on a peninsula-like stretch of Seven Mile Beach. **STATS** 365 rooms; 5 restaurants; 2 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** A laundry list of name-brand amenities, from the Nick Bollettieri-designed tennis program to the Caribbean's only La Prairie spa. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Those in the Ocean Front Tower are closest to the shore. **DON'T MISS** Dinner at Blue, Eric Ripert's seafood restaurant. **COST** Doubles from \$549. 800/241-3333 or 011-345/943-9000; ritzcarlton.com

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

NEW ■ **Club Med Punta Cana (81.25)** Villa resort on 75 beachfront acres in the midst of a \$40 million renovation. **STATS** 519 rooms; 2 restaurants; 2 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** The island's most extensive kids' programs. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Those in the Ovando building, for families; couples will prefer rooms in the secluded Pizarro. **DON'T MISS** A dip in the new infinity pool. **COST** Doubles from \$340, all-inclusive. 800/258-2633 or 809/686-5500; clubmed.us