

Condé Nast Traveler

2011 READERS'
CHOICE
AWARDS*

TRUTH IN TRAVEL // NOVEMBER 2011

BEST IN THE WORLD!
HOTELS, ISLANDS, AIRLINES, CITIES, CRUISES

TOP **100**

PLUS

**SOUTH SEAS
PARADISE**

INSIDER'S GUIDE TO
24 IDYLIC ISLES

BHUTAN

THE ULTIMATE
HIMALAYAN HIGH

**6 DAZZLING
DAYS IN BRAZIL**

A STEP-BY-STEP
ITINERARY

25

SECRETS TO
SAVVY TRAVEL
(SAVE BIG NOW!)







SPECIAL REPORT

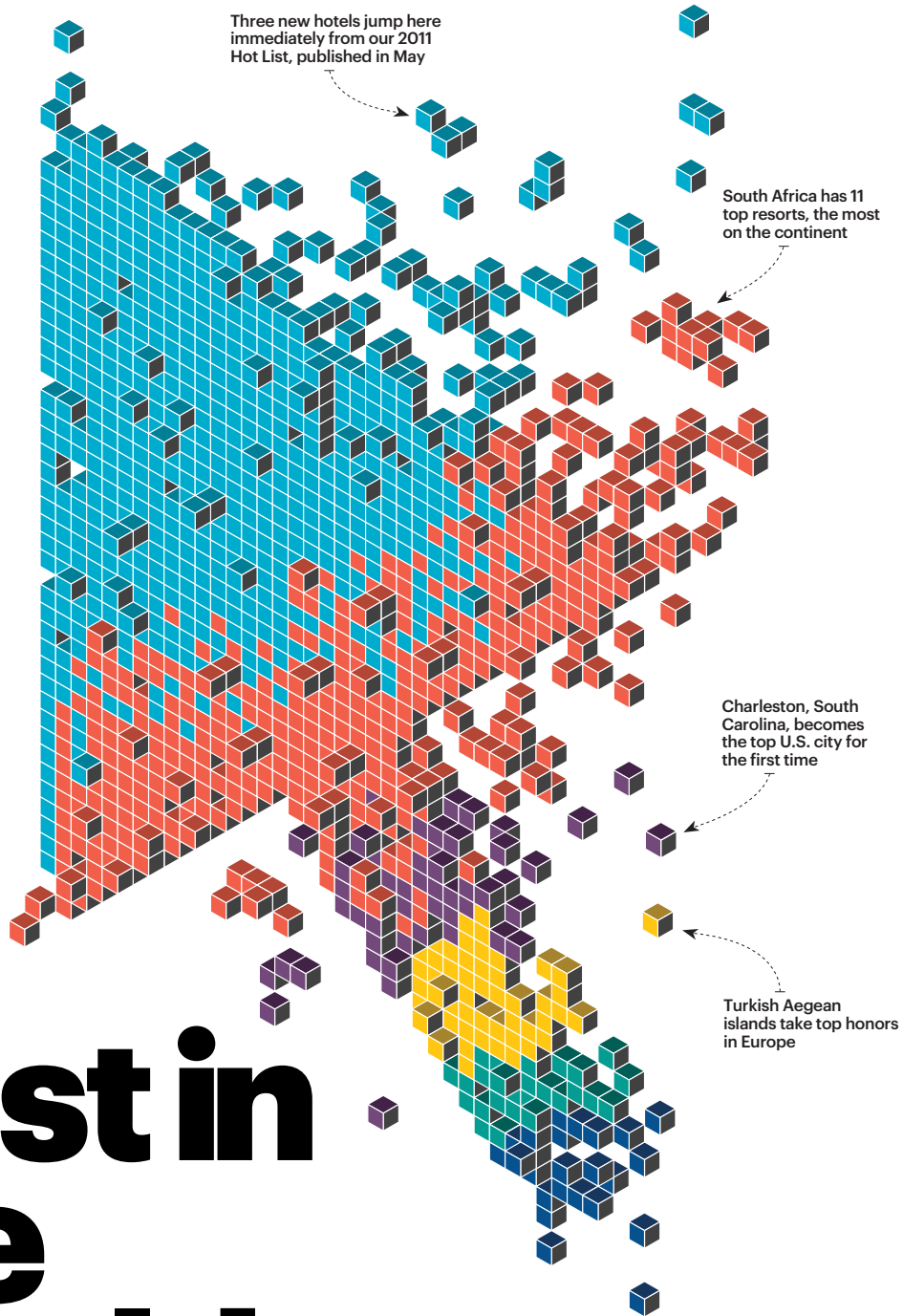
THE TRUTH
ABOUT AIRPORT
SECURITY

* Rated by the
28,876 most discriminating
travelers on earth



2011 Readers' Choice Awards

-  Hotels 665
-  Resorts 455
-  Cities 55
-  Islands 55
-  Airlines 30
-  Cruise Lines 25



Best in the World

Cities, Islands, Hotels, Resorts, Cruises, Airlines

Here they are, the final winners sifted from more than 8 million votes cast in our annual Readers' Choice Awards survey, swept up together to form travel's apex of excellence. Each cube represents one of the 1,285 top scorers who arrived at their allotted place on the following pages (color coded by category).

These awards reflect the combined opinions of 28,876 *Condé Nast Traveler* readers rating the cities, islands, and hotels they visited in the past year, and the airlines and cruise ships they traveled with. For its range and depth, the Readers' Choice Awards are a unique and trusted source of advice globally, and that is thanks to America's most discerning and demanding travelers—you.



Download our digital edition, debuting this month (see page 22 for more) and you'll find a photo gallery of the Top 100 winners (see next page) as well as detailed pages on all 1,120 top hotels and resorts.

United States

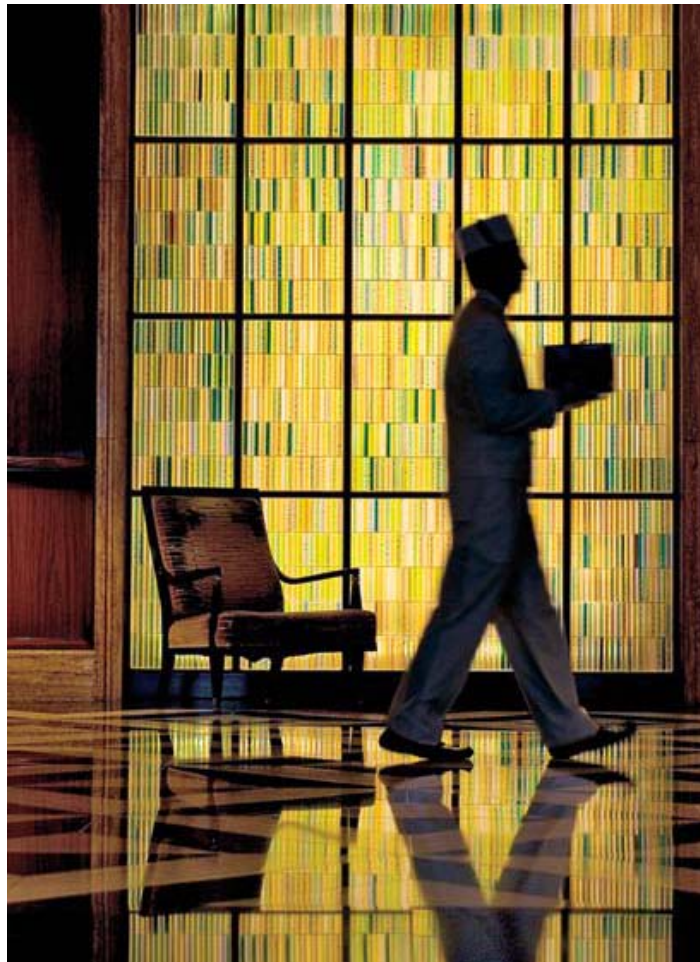
Hotels

TOP 200

- 1 Elysian Hotel, Chicago 98.2
- 2 21c Museum Hotel, Louisville 97.8
- 3 The Peninsula, Chicago 95.9
- 4 Mandarin Oriental, Boston 95.3
- 5 Ritz-Carlton, Charlotte, N.C. 95.2
- 6 Auberge du Soleil, Napa Valley 95.0
- 7 The Peninsula, Beverly Hills 94.7
- 8 Eliot Hotel, Boston 94.6
- 9 Rosewood Crescent Hotel, Dallas 94.3
- 10 Iron Horse Hotel, Milwaukee 94.2
- 11 Park Hyatt Chicago 93.4
- 12 Hotel Sorella CityCentre, Houston 93.2
- 13 Rosewood Mansion on Turtle Creek, Dallas 93.1
- 14 Hotel 1000, Seattle 92.7
- 15 French Quarter Inn, Charleston, S.C. 92.6
- 15 Hotel Burnham, Chicago 92.6
- 17 Bardessono Hotel, Restaurant & Spa, Napa Valley 92.3
- 17 The Carlyle (Rosewood), New York 92.3
- 17 Hotel Murano, Tacoma 92.3
- 17 Inn on Biltmore Estate, Asheville, N.C. 92.3
- 17 Waldorf Astoria Orlando 92.3
- 22 Ritz-Carlton New York, Central Park 92.1
- 23 Blackberry Farm, Great Smoky Mountains, Tenn. 92.0
- 23 Mokara Hotel & Spa, San Antonio 92.0
- 25 Four Seasons, New York 91.9
- 25 Wentworth by the Sea Hotel and Spa, New Castle, N.H. 91.9
- 27 Inn and Spa at Loretto, Santa Fe 91.4
- 27 The Peninsula, New York 91.4
- 27 Renaissance Pittsburgh Hotel 91.4
- 30 Charleston Place, S.C. 91.3
- 30 Four Seasons, Chicago 91.3
- 32 The Setai, Miami Beach 91.1
- 32 Trump International Hotel & Tower, New York 91.1
- 34 Beverly Hills Hotel & Bungalows 91.0
- 34 Four Seasons, Las Vegas 91.0
- 36 Halekulani Hotel, Honolulu 90.9
- 36 Renaissance Blackstone Chicago Hotel 90.9
- 38 Mandarin Oriental, New York 90.7
- 38 St. Regis, New York 90.7
- 40 Inn at the Market, Seattle 90.4
- 41 Inn at Perry Cabin, St. Michaels, Md. 90.2
- 41 Umstead Hotel and Spa, Raleigh-Durham 90.2
- 43 Omni La Mansión del Rio, San Antonio 90.1
- 43 St. Regis, Washington, D.C. 90.1
- 45 Encore Hotel, Las Vegas 90.0
- 45 The Nines (Luxury Collection), Portland, Ore. 90.0
- 47 Oxford Hotel, Denver 89.9
- 47 Ritz-Carlton (Four Seasons), Chicago 89.9
- 47 Ritz-Carlton Georgetown, Washington, D.C. 89.9
- 50 Epic Hotel, Miami 89.8
- 50 Hotel Bel-Air, Los Angeles 89.8
- 52 Planters Inn, Charleston, S.C. 89.7
- 52 Ventana Inn & Spa, Big Sur 89.7
- 54 Beverly Wilshire, Beverly Hills 89.6
- 54 Hotel Valencia Riverwalk, San Antonio 89.6
- 56 Allison Inn & Spa, Willamette Valley, Ore. 89.5
- 56 Andaz Wall Street, New York 89.5
- 56 Bellagio, Las Vegas 89.5
- 56 Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas 89.5
- 60 Hotel Contessa, San Antonio 89.4
- 60 The Plaza, New York 89.4
- 62 Fairmont Olympic Hotel, Seattle 89.2
- 62 Market Pavilion Hotel, Charleston, S.C. 89.2
- 62 Ritz-Carlton, San Francisco 89.2
- 62 Rosewood Sand Hill, Menlo Park, Calif. 89.2
- 66 Four Seasons, Philadelphia 89.1
- 66 Ritz-Carlton, Buckhead, Atlanta 89.1
- 66 The Venetian, Las Vegas 89.1
- 66 Willard InterContinental, Washington, D.C. 89.1
- 70 St. Regis, San Francisco 89.0
- 71 L'Auberge de Sedona, Sedona 88.9
- 72 Hotel Modera, Portland, Ore. 88.8
- 72 Sofitel Chicago Water Tower 88.8
- 74 Four Seasons, Boston 88.6
- 75 Mandarin Oriental, Miami 88.4
- 75 Salish Lodge & Spa, Snoqualmie, Wash. 88.4
- 77 Langham Huntington, Pasadena 88.3
- 77 Liberty Hotel (Luxury Collection), Boston 88.3
- 77 Mandarin Oriental, Las Vegas 88.3
- 80 Cavallo Point, Sausalito 88.2
- 80 Hotel Vitale, San Francisco 88.2
- 80 Inn at the Ballpark, Houston 88.2
- 80 Mansion on Peachtree (Rosewood), Atlanta 88.2
- 80 Windsor Court Hotel, New Orleans 88.2
- 85 Trump International Hotel & Tower, Chicago 88.0
- 86 Bernardus Lodge and Winery, Carmel Valley 87.8
- 87 Grand Bohemian Hotel Asheville 87.8
- 87 Omni Royal Orleans, New Orleans 87.8
- 89 Four Seasons, Washington, D.C. 87.7

The Elysian, Chicago's 60-story Gold Coast skyscraper, emerges at No. 1 just two years after opening. The 188 guest rooms are joined by 52 private residences.

Custom fabrics, hardwood floors, Audubon prints—classic decor helps The Carlyle earn a 93.6 for rooms and the highest overall score, 92.3, in New York's competitive market.



AFTERGLOW
Paul Housberg's multicolored stained glass installation in the lobby of The Peninsula Chicago greets hotel guests.

United States

Hotels (Continued)

- 89 Hotel Palomar, Philadelphia 87.7
- 91 Alluvian Hotel, Greenwood, Miss. 87.6
- 91 Avia Savannah 87.6
- 91 Four Seasons Hotel Los Angeles at Beverly Hills 87.6
- 91 Four Seasons, San Francisco 87.6
- 91 Hyatt at Olive 8, Seattle 87.6
- 91 Mandarin Oriental, San Francisco 87.6
- 91 The Rittenhouse, Philadelphia 87.6
- 98 Battle House Renaissance Mobile Hotel & Spa, Ala. 87.5
- 98 Hotel Healdsburg, Sonoma County 87.5
- 100 Sunset Marquis, West Hollywood 87.4
- 101 Bohemian Hotel Savannah Riverfront 87.2
- 101 Graves 601 Hotel, Minneapolis 87.2
- 103 Encantado, Santa Fe 87.1
- 103 The Hay-Adams, Washington, D.C. 87.1
- 105 MacArthur Place, Sonoma 87.0
- 106 Four Seasons, Miami 86.9
- 106 Montage Beverly Hills 86.9
- 106 Saint Paul Hotel 86.9
- 106 Shutters on the Beach, Santa Monica 86.9
- 110 Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner, Va. 86.8
- 110 Trump SoHo, New York 86.8
- 112 La Bellasera Hotel & Suites, Paso Robles, Calif. 86.7
- 112 Omni Chicago Hotel 86.7
- 112 Ritz-Carlton, New Orleans 86.7
- 112 St Julien Hotel & Spa, Boulder 86.7
- 116 Four Seasons, Seattle 86.5
- 116 InterContinental Boston 86.5
- 116 Ritz-Carlton, Philadelphia 86.5
- 119 Carneros Inn, Napa Valley 86.4
- 119 Royal Hawaiian (Luxury Collection), Honolulu 86.4
- 121 Driskill Hotel, Austin 86.2
- 121 Mansion on Forsyth Park, Savannah 86.2
- 121 Nine Zero Hotel, Boston 86.2
- 121 Ritz-Carlton, Boston Common 86.2
- 125 Four Seasons, Austin 86.1
- 125 JW Marriott Denver Cherry Creek 86.1
- 127 Hotel Commonwealth, Boston 86.0
- 127 Sherry-Netherland, New York 86.0
- 129 InterContinental Buckhead, Atlanta 85.9
- 129 L'Ermitage Beverly Hills Hotel 85.9
- 129 Ritz-Carlton, Washington, D.C. 85.9
- 132 The Jefferson, Washington, D.C. 85.8
- 132 The Mark, New York 85.8
- 132 The Pierre (Taj), New York 85.8
- 135 Rosewood Inn of the Anasazi, Santa Fe 85.7
- 136 Hermitage Hotel, Nashville 85.5
- 136 Renaissance Atlanta Midtown Hotel 85.5
- 138 Casa Monica Hotel, St. Augustine 85.4
- 138 Ritz-Carlton, Atlanta 85.4
- 138 Ritz-Carlton New York, Battery Park 85.4
- 141 Bohemian Hotel Celebration, Celebration, Fla. 85.3
- 141 La Valencia Hotel, La Jolla, Calif. 85.3
- 141 Omni San Diego Hotel 85.3
- 141 St. Regis, Atlanta 85.3
- 141 The Blackwell, Columbus, Ohio 85.3
- 146 Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows, Santa Monica 85.2
- 146 Four Seasons, Atlanta 85.2
- 146 The Lowell, New York 85.2
- 146 New York Palace 85.2
- 150 Grand America Hotel, Salt Lake City 85.0
- 150 Loews Atlanta Hotel 85.0
- 150 Orchard Hotel, San Francisco 85.0
- 153 Eventi Hotel, New York 84.9
- 153 London West Hollywood 84.9
- 155 Avia Napa 84.8
- 155 Fairmont San Francisco 84.8
- 155 Harraseeket Inn, Freeport, Me. 84.8
- 158 Omni Corpus Christi Hotel Marina Tower 84.7
- 159 Omni Fort Worth Hotel 84.6
- 160 Boston Harbor Hotel 84.5
- 161 The Joule (Luxury Collection), Dallas 84.4
- 161 W Fort Lauderdale 84.4
- 163 Hotel Monaco Baltimore 84.3
- 163 Ritz-Carlton, Dallas 84.3
- 165 Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa 84.2
- 165 Ritz-Carlton, Cleveland 84.2
- 165 Ritz-Carlton, Miami Beach 84.2
- 168 Heathman Hotel, Portland, Ore. 84.1
- 168 Inn on the Alameda, Santa Fe 84.1



One of the oldest hotels on the United States list, and located in our oldest city, Casa Monica first opened its doors in 1888, and reopened them in 1999 after an epic renovation.



Romanian-born architect and designer Adam Tihany is the man behind the rooms at Dallas's Joule, which debuts on the U.S. list with a lofty rooms score of 91.1.

BED & BANQUET

The Alice Waters suite at Virginia's Inn at Little Washington is an homage to the founder of the Edible Schoolyard.



United States

Hotels (Continued)



SEE SHELLS Marine life in the restaurant La Marea at the 45-suite Tides in Miami Beach.

- 168 **InterContinental New York Times Square** 84.1
- 171 **Sofitel Washington DC Lafayette Square** 84.0
- 172 **Dana Hotel & Spa**, Chicago 83.9
- 172 **Davenport Hotel and Tower**, Spokane 83.9
- 172 **St. Regis**, Houston 83.9
- 175 **InterContinental Mark Hopkins San Francisco** 83.8
- 175 **London NYC** 83.8
- 175 **Renaissance Chicago Downtown Hotel** 83.8
- 178 **Lorien Hotel & Spa**, Alexandria 83.7
- 178 **Seagate Hotel & Spa**, Delray Beach, Fla. 83.7
- 180 **Vanderbilt Grace**, Newport 83.6
- 181 **Hotel deLuxe**, Portland, Ore. 83.3
- 181 **Hotel Palomar**, Washington, D.C. 83.3
- 183 **Bellasera Hotel**, Naples, Fla. 83.1
- 183 **The Jefferson**, Richmond, Va. 83.1
- 183 **JW Marriott Santa Monica Le Merigot** 83.1
- 183 **Vero Beach Hotel & Spa**, Fla. 83.1
- 183 **White Elephant**, Nantucket 83.1
- 183 **W Washington D.C.** 83.1
- 189 **Hotel Max**, Seattle 83.0
- 189 **Le Pavillon Hotel**, New Orleans 83.0
- 189 **THEhotel at Mandalay Bay**, Las Vegas 83.0
- 189 **Tides Inn**, Irvington, Va. 83.0
- 193 **The Curtis**, Denver 82.9
- 193 **Ritz-Carlton, Marina del Rey**, Calif. 82.9
- 195 **The Roosevelt New Orleans** 82.8
- 196 **Hotel Monaco**, Portland, Ore. 82.7
- 197 **Aria Resort and Casino**, Las Vegas 82.6
- 197 **La Posada Hotel & Gardens**, Winslow, Ariz. 82.6
- 197 **Westin Austin at The Domain** 82.6
- 200 **Conrad Indianapolis** 82.5
- 200 **Hotel ZaZa**, Dallas 82.5

TOP 50

SMALL HOTELS

- 1 **Colonial Houses**, Williamsburg, Va. 96.8
- 2 **Fairbanks House**, Amelia Island 95.1
- 3 **Ferrington House Inn**, Pittsboro, N.C. 94.9
- 3 **Moorings Village**, Islamorada, Fla. 94.9
- 5 **The Swag**, Great Smoky Mountains, N.C. 94.5
- 6 **The Wauwinet**, Nantucket 94.0
- 7 **Post Ranch Inn**, Big Sur 93.9
- 8 **San Ysidro Ranch**, Santa Barbara 93.2
- 9 **Stephanie Inn**, Cannon Beach, Ore. 93.0
- 10 **Blantyre**, Lenox, Mass. 92.8
- 11 **Chebeague Island Inn**, Maine 92.7
- 12 **Chanler at Cliff Walk**, Newport, R.I. 92.0
- 12 **Tu Tu' Tun Lodge**, Gold Beach, Ore. 92.0
- 14 **Pillars Hotel**, Fort Lauderdale 91.9
- 15 **The Tides**, Miami Beach 91.8
- 16 **John Rutledge House Inn**, Charleston, S.C. 91.6
- 17 **Wentworth Mansion**, Charleston, S.C. 91.3
- 18 **White Barn Inn & Spa**, Kennebunkport 89.9
- 19 **Twin Farms**, Barnard, Vt. 89.5
- 20 **Pitcher Inn**, Warren, Vt. 89.1
- 21 **La Mer Hotel & Dewey House**, Key West 88.8
- 22 **Marquesa Hotel**, Key West 88.4
- 23 **Hyatt Carmel Highlands**, Carmel 87.8
- 23 **Sundy House**, Delray Beach, Fla. 87.8
- 25 **The Cottages**, Nantucket 87.6
- 25 **Mayflower Inn & Spa**, Washington, Conn. 87.6
- 27 **Hotel Iroquois on the Beach**, Mackinac Island 87.2
- 28 **L'Auberge Carmel** 86.5
- 29 **Milliken Creek Inn and Spa**, Napa Valley 86.2
- 30 **Greyfield Inn**, Cumberland Island, Ga. 86.1
- 31 **Castle Hill Inn**, Newport, R.I. 86.0
- 32 **Monmouth Plantation**, Natchez, Miss. 85.7
- 33 **Waters Edge Hotel**, Marin County 85.6
- 34 **Inn at Little Washington**, Washington, Va. 85.4
- 34 **Inn at Montchanin Village**, Del. 85.4
- 36 **Old Edwards Inn and Spa**, Highlands, N.C. 85.1
- 37 **Captain Lord Mansion, Inn & Spa**, Kennebunkport 85.0
- 38 **Lavender**, Napa Valley 84.8
- 39 **Adobe Grand Villas**, Sedona 84.3
- 40 **Green Gables Inn**, Pacific Grove, Calif. 84.0
- 41 **Gardens Hotel**, Key West 83.8
- 42 **Gaige House**, Sonoma Valley 83.7
- 43 **Hotel Havana**, San Antonio 83.3
- 44 **Scripps Inn**, La Jolla 83.2
- 45 **El Portal Sedona** 83.1
- 46 **Simpson House Inn**, Santa Barbara 82.6
- 47 **The Willcox**, Aiken, S.C. 82.4
- 48 **Inns & Spa at Mill Falls**, Meredith, N.H. 82.1
- 49 **The Gastonian**, Savannah 82.0
- 49 **Inn on Mt. Ada**, Catalina Island 82.0

Cruise Lines

River cruises have never been so popular. Uniworld leads our first-ever list of the five top lines.

TOP 25

SMALL-SHIP LINES

(Fewer than 600 passengers)

- 1 **Seabourn** 91.8
- 2 **Silversea** 88.5
- 3 **Windstar** 85.8
- 4 **SeaDream Yacht Club** 84.5
- 5 **Lindblad Expeditions** 78.0

MEDIUM-SHIP LINES

(600–2,500 passengers)

- 1 **Crystal Cruises** 93.0
- 2 **Regent Seven Seas Cruises** 91.6
- 3 **Disney** 89.8
- 4 **Oceania Cruises** 86.0
- 5 **Azamara Club Cruises** 84.7
- 6 **Cunard** 84.2
- 7 **Holland America** 81.5
- 8 **Celebrity** 79.9
- 9 **Princess** 79.8
- 10 **Royal Caribbean** 76.3

LARGE-SHIP LINES

(More than 2,500 passengers)

- 1 **Celebrity** 87.7
- 2 **Princess** 80.9
- 3 **Royal Caribbean** 78.9
- 4 **Carnival** 70.9
- 5 **Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL)** 64.3

RIVER CRUISES

- 1 **Uniworld Boutique River Cruises** 90.3
- 2 **Grand Circle Travel** 86.1
- 3 **Viking River Cruises** 84.8
- 4 **Avalon Waterways** 78.9
- 5 **AmaWaterways** 68.5



DREAM STREAMS The *Viking Schumann* sails the Elbe from Magdeburg in Germany to its confluence with the Vltava River at Mělník, an important Czech port.



Formerly the Vanderbilt Hall hotel, Newport's 33-room Vanderbilt Grace debuts on Readers' Choice this year, after opening in April as the first U.S. property from Grace Hotels.