

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Liz Marsh/212 382 5684/elizabeth.c.marsh@aexp.com

UDAIPUR, INDIA; CAPE TOWN; AND BANGKOK TOP LIST OF WORLD'S BEST CITIES

NEW YORK CITY RATED #1 IN U.S. + CANADA

Bushmans Kloof, South Africa; Inn at Palmetto Bluff, South Carolina; and Jade Mountain, St. Lucia Among Top Hotels in *Travel + Leisure's* 2009 World's Best Awards Readers' Survey

New York, NY (July 10, 2009) – For the first time, **Udaipur, India** is named World's Best City, displacing last year's winner Bangkok, in *Travel + Leisure's* fourteenth annual World's Best Awards readers' survey announced today. Other newcomers to the top spots in their respective categories include: **Bushmans Kloof**, Cedar Mountains, South Africa (Best Hotel Overall); **Sixt** (Best Car-Rental Agency); and **Austin-Lehman Adventures** (Best Tour Operator), among others. **Bali** regains its title from 2007 as World's Best Island (the Galápagos took the top spot in 2008). **Inn at Manitou**, Canada is the Best Inn in the U.S. and Canada; **Inn at Palmetto Bluff**, South Carolina is the highest-rated resort in America. New this year: hotels are listed according to select categories within their regions such as Top Large City Hotels, Top Small City Hotels, Top Resorts, and Top Inns.*

Only two companies have retained their number one ranking every year since the survey began in 1996: **Crystal Cruises** (Best Large-Ship Cruise Line) and **Singapore Airlines** (Best International Airline). The 2009 results, including the **Top 100 Hotels Worldwide**, **Top 10 Cities Worldwide**, and **Top 10 Domestic Airlines**, among other lists, are featured on www.travelandleisure.com/worldsbest now and in *Travel + Leisure's* August issue, available on newsstands July 24.**

TRAVEL + LEISURE 2009 WORLD'S BEST AWARDS WINNERS OVERALL

WORLD'S BEST CITY	Udaipur
WORLD'S BEST HOTEL	Bushmans Kloof Cedar Mountains, South Africa
WORLD'S BEST ISLAND	Bali
WORLD'S BEST LARGE-SHIP CRUISE LINE	Crystal Cruises
WORLD'S BEST SMALL-SHIP CRUISE LINE	The Yachts of Seabourn
WORLD'S BEST INTERNATIONAL AIRLINE	Singapore Airlines
WORLD'S BEST DOMESTIC AIRLINE	Virgin America
WORLD'S BEST TOUR OPERATOR	Austin-Lehman Adventures
WORLD'S BEST CAR-RENTAL AGENCY	Sixt
WORLD'S BEST DESTINATION SPA	Mii amo, A Destination Spa at Enchantment , Sedona

Nancy Novogrod, editor-in-chief of *Travel + Leisure*, said: "This year's results reflect our readers' travel interests in this challenging economic reality—value, intimacy, service, and discovery are top priorities. As for that so-last-August-sounding word, luxury, it's all about enclaves that shelter stealth wealth, from **Amankora Paro** in Bhutan to **San Ysidro Ranch** in California, where casual and laid-back are the names of the game. Dramatically sited outposts like **Jade Mountain**, in St. Lucia, rank high, and an adventurous spirit also prevails at places such as **Bushmans Kloof**, in the Cedar Mountains of South Africa. For a number of top-ranked cities—**Udaipur**, **Cape Town**, **Bangkok**, **Buenos Aires**, **Chiang Mai**, and **Luang Prabang**—value ratings were sky-high. And while so many far-flung metropolises made a strong showing, they did not entirely steal the show; old favorites, like T+L's hometown, **New York City**, as well as **Florence**, **Rome**, and **San Francisco** remain in the top 10 overall."

TRAVEL + LEISURE 2009 WORLD'S BEST HOTEL WINNERS BY REGION

CONTINENTAL U.S. + CANADA

TOP LARGE CITY HOTEL	London West Hollywood CA
TOP SMALL CITY HOTEL	Eliot Hotel Boston, MA
TOP RESORT	Inn at Palmetto Bluff Bluffton, SC
TOP INN	Inn at Manitou McKellar, Ontario

HAWAII

TOP RESORT	Halekulani Oahu
------------	------------------------

CARIBBEAN

TOP RESORT	Jade Mountain St. Lucia
------------	--------------------------------

MEXICO

TOP CITY HOTEL	Four Seasons Hotel Mexico, D.F. Mexico City
TOP RESORT	Rosewood Mayakobá Riviera Maya

CENTRAL + SOUTH AMERICA (excluding Mexico)

TOP CITY HOTEL	Palacio Duhau – Park Hyatt Buenos Aires
TOP RESORT	Blancaneaux Lodge San Ignacio, Belize

EUROPE

TOP LARGE CITY HOTEL	Grand Hotel Baglioni Bologna
TOP SMALL CITY HOTEL	Sofitel Berlin Gendarmenmarkt Berlin
TOP RESORT	Il San Pietro Positano, Italy
TOP INN	Domaine des Hauts de Loire France

AFRICA/MIDDLE EAST

TOP CITY HOTEL	Twelve Apostles Hotel & Spa Cape Town, South Africa
TOP LODGE/RESORT	Bushmans Kloof Cedar Mountains, South Africa

ASIA

TOP CITY HOTEL	Mandarin Oriental Bangkok, Thailand
TOP RESORT	Oberoi Vanyavilas Ranthambhore, India

AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND SOUTH PACIFIC

TOP CITY HOTEL	The Langham Melbourne
TOP RESORT	The Lodge at Kauri Cliffs North Island, New Zealand

TRAVEL + LEISURE 2009 WORLD'S BEST CITIES + ISLANDS BY REGION

<u>REGION</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>ISLAND</u>
CONTINENTAL U.S. + CANADA	New York	Cape Breton Island
EUROPE	Florence	Aeolian Islands
ASIA	Udaipur	Bali
AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND/S. PACIFIC	Sydney	Tasmania
MEXICO/CENTRAL + SOUTH AMERICA	Buenos Aires	Galápagos Islands
AFRICA/MIDDLE EAST	Cape Town	
HAWAII		Kauai
CARIBBEAN/BERMUDA/BAHAMAS		British Virgin Islands

TRAVEL + LEISURE 2009 WORLD'S BEST HOTEL SPAS BY REGION

CONTINENTAL U.S. + CANADA	Hawks Cay Resort Ducks Key, Florida
HAWAII	Four Seasons Resort Hualalai
MEXICO	Esperanza Resort Los Cabos
EUROPE	Four Seasons Hotel George V Paris
AFRICA + THE MIDDLE EAST	Twelve Apostles Hotel & Spa Cape Town
ASIA	Anantara Resort Koh Samui, Thailand
AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND/SOUTH PACIFIC	The Langham Melbourne

The winners will be honored at an awards ceremony on July 21 at the Cooper Square Hotel in New York City.

Extended World's Best Awards lists in select categories, as well as the list of 20 Hotels to Watch, will be featured on www.travelandleisure.com.

For the first time, ratings from readers of *Travel + Leisure's* international editions—*Travel + Leisure Mexico*, *Travel + Leisure Australia/New Zealand*, *Travel + Leisure Turkey*, *Travel + Leisure China*, *Travel + Leisure South Asia*, and *Travel + Leisure Southeast Asia*—were counted in the results.

*The number of categories differs from region to region; there are anywhere from one to four categories in a given region. The Continental U.S. and Canada region and the Europe region list hotels in four categories: Large City Hotels, Small City Hotels, Resorts, and Inns. In certain regions, there is a Top City Hotels category, rather than both a Top Small City Hotels category and a Top Large City Hotels category. In Africa/Middle East, the Top Resorts category is expanded to include Lodges. In Europe, the Inns category includes Small Country Hotels. Small City Hotels are defined as those with fewer than 100 rooms. Large City Hotels are defined as those with 100 or more rooms.

**Spa winners will be featured in *Travel + Leisure's* October 2009 issue.

2009 World's Best Awards Survey Methodology:

A questionnaire developed by the editors of *Travel + Leisure*, in association with Harris Interactive, an independent research firm, was made available to *Travel + Leisure* readers at tlworldsbest.com from January 15, 2009, to March 29, 2009. In the February and March 2009 issues of *Travel + Leisure*, readers were invited to participate. A select group of readers also received invitations via e-mail. Respondents were permitted to complete the survey only once. To protect the integrity of the data, after March 29, 2009, respondents were screened by *Travel + Leisure* and responses from any identified travel-industry professionals who completed the survey were eliminated from the final tally by Harris Interactive. Only candidates that received a required minimum number of responses were eligible for inclusion. [Tlworldsbest.com](http://tlworldsbest.com) was maintained, monitored, and kept secure by *Travel + Leisure*, while the survey website, where respondents were redirected, was maintained by Harris Interactive, which collected and tabulated the responses and kept them confidential. The scores are indexed averages of responses concerning applicable characteristics. Respondents were asked to rate hotels, islands, destination spas, and car rental agencies on five characteristics; cities, cruise lines, and tour operators/safari outfitters on six characteristics; and hotel spas and airlines on four characteristics (see below). In the hotel, cruise line/cruise ship, and airline categories, respondents could also rate additional optional characteristics; these ratings were not included in the final score. For each characteristic, respondents were asked to rate a candidate on a scale of 1 to 5, where "1" means poor and "5" means excellent. Required component ratings were then averaged, creating an overall score. A minimum number of responses was necessary for a candidate to be eligible for inclusion in the World's Best Awards listings. Some companies were rated in both the cruise lines and tour operators/safari outfitters categories; in these cases, they have different scores for each category. These were the categories and characteristics:

- For hotels: rooms/facilities, location, service, restaurants/food, value. Optional: for business, for families.
- Hotel types were determined using the number of rooms and suites. Inns have fewer than 40 rooms; Resorts have 40 rooms or more. Small City Hotels have fewer than 100 rooms; Large City Hotels have 100 rooms or more. In some regions, inns and resorts and large and small city hotels were grouped together.
- For destination spas: accommodations/ambience, treatments, service, food, value.
- For hotel spas: ambience, treatments, service, value.
- For cities: sights, culture/arts, restaurants/food, people, shopping, value.
- For islands: natural attractions, activities/sights, restaurants/food, people, value.
- For cruise lines/cruise ships: cabins, food, service, itineraries/destinations, activities, value. Optional: for families. Small-ship cruise lines carry 600 passengers or fewer.
- For tour operators and safari outfitters: staff/guides, itineraries/destinations, activities, accommodations, food, value.
- For airlines: cabin comfort, in-flight service, customer service, value. Optional: food.
- For car rental agencies: vehicle selection, vehicle availability, car-rental location, service, value.

###

Travel + Leisure and its website www.travelandleisure.com propel readers to travel now, travel smarter, and travel often. With an eye for the authentic, the innovative, and the irresistible, T+L fuses expert reporting on style, culture, food, and design with stunning photography to transport its readers to the places—and the experiences—that matter most. The long-standing authority in its field, *Travel + Leisure* has the largest, most affluent audience of any travel magazine and is an indispensable read for today's global citizen. *Travel + Leisure* has a network of international editions, including *Travel + Leisure Mexico*, *Travel + Leisure Australia/New Zealand*, *Travel + Leisure Turkey*, *Travel + Leisure China*, *Travel + Leisure South Asia*, and *Travel + Leisure Southeast Asia*.