

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**OBEROI VANYAVILAS, INDIA; TRIPLE CREEK RANCH,
MONTANA; AND FAIRMONT MARA SAFARI CLUB, KENYA
TOP LIST OF 2010 WORLD'S BEST HOTELS**

**NEW YORK IS #1 U.S. CITY; TRUMP INTERNATIONAL
HOTEL & TOWER, CHICAGO,
IS BEST LARGE CITY HOTEL IN AMERICA**

**New Orleans and Washington D.C. Make a Comeback:
Both Cities Return to Top Ten in U.S. and Canada in
Travel + Leisure's 15th Annual World's Best Awards Readers' Poll**

New York, NY (July 8, 2010) – **Bangkok**, Thailand; **Chiang Mai**, Thailand; **Florence**, Italy; **San Miguel de Allende**, Mexico; and **Rome**, Italy are the top five cities overall in *Travel + Leisure's* 2010 World's Best Awards readers' survey, announced today. The Best City Overall, **Bangkok**, returns to the No. 1 spot, having last held that ranking in 2008, and this year marks San Miguel de Allende's debut on the Top Ten Overall list. **New Orleans** and **Washington D.C.**, which have not ranked on T+L's list of Top Ten Cities in the U.S. and Canada since 2005 and 2001, rank No. 7 and No. 10 this year, respectively. With the increased popularity of river cruising, T+L has added a new 2010 category: World's Best River Cruises; **Abercrombie & Kent** takes the top spot in this category. The **Galápagos** regains its title as World's Best Islands from 2008 (Bali took the title in 2009). In the World's Best Hotels Overall category, there are 31 properties in the U.S. and Canada—up 11 percent from last year and more than any other region this year.

Two companies have held onto their No. 1 rankings every year since the poll began in 1996: **Crystal Cruises** (Best Large-Ship Cruise Line) and **Singapore Airlines** (Best International Airline). The 2010 results, including the **Top 100 Hotels Overall**, **Top 50 Resorts in the Continental U.S. and Canada**, **Top 10 Cities Overall**, 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 23.*

TRAVEL + LEISURE 2010 WORLD'S BEST AWARDS WINNERS OVERALL

WORLD'S BEST CITY	Bangkok
WORLD'S BEST HOTEL	Oberoi Vanyavilas Ranthambhore, India
WORLD'S BEST ISLANDS	Galápagos
WORLD'S BEST LARGE-SHIP CRUISE LINE	Crystal Cruises
WORLD'S BEST SMALL-SHIP CRUISE LINE	The Yachts of Seabourn
WORLD'S BEST RIVER CRUISE	Abercrombie & Kent
WORLD'S BEST INTERNATIONAL AIRLINE	Singapore Airlines
WORLD'S BEST DOMESTIC AIRLINE	Virgin America
WORLD'S BEST TOUR OPERATOR	Micato Safaris
WORLD'S BEST CAR-RENTAL AGENCY	Hertz Rent-A-Car

WORLD'S BEST DESTINATION SPA

Rancho La Puerta Tecate, Mexico

Nancy Novogrod, editor-in-chief of *Travel + Leisure*, said: "That the three highest-ranking hotels this year are Oberoi Vanyavilas, a jungle camp on the edge of India's Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve; Triple Creek Ranch, in Darby, Montana, a haven for comfort-seeking outdoor-adventure travelers; and Fairmont Mara Safari Club, in Kenya's Masai Mara, speaks volumes. These properties provide distinctive encounters with the natural world, which linger in memory; they are perceived as delivering great value, even when the price-per-day is high. The spirit of exploration also prevailed in the choice of the Galápagos as Best Islands in the World, and of Bangkok as Best City. It's worth noting that our survey took place before the political upheaval in Bangkok began in May, and that the U.S. travel warning has now been lifted."

TRAVEL + LEISURE 2010 WORLD'S BEST HOTEL WINNERS BY REGION

CONTINENTAL U.S. + CANADA

TOP RESORT

San Ysidro Ranch, A Rosewood Resort

Santa Barbara, CA

TOP LARGE CITY HOTEL

Trump International Hotel & Tower

Chicago

TOP SMALL CITY HOTEL

Hotel Bel-Air Los Angeles**

TOP INN

Triple Creek Ranch Darby, Montana

HAWAII

TOP RESORT

Four Seasons Resort Hualalai Big Island

CARIBBEAN

TOP RESORT

Nisbet Plantation Beach Club Nevis, West Indies

Indies

MEXICO

TOP RESORT

Esperanza, An Auberge Resort Cabo San Lucas

Lucas

TOP CITY HOTEL

Four Seasons Hotel México, D.F. Mexico City

CENTRAL + SOUTH AMERICA

TOP CITY HOTEL

Alvear Palace Hotel Buenos Aires, Argentina

TOP RESORT

Blancaneaux Lodge San Ignacio, Belize

EUROPE

TOP RESORT

Palazzo Sasso Ravello, Italy

TOP LARGE CITY HOTEL

Olissippo Lapa Palace Lisbon,

Portugal

TOP SMALL CITY HOTEL

The Lanesborough London

TOP INN/SMALL COUNTRY HOTEL

Domaine des Hauts de Loire Onzain, France

AFRICA/MIDDLE EAST

TOP LODGE/RESORT

Fairmont Mara Safari Club Masai Mara, Kenya

TOP CITY HOTEL

Four Seasons Hotel Cairo at the First Residence Egypt

ASIA

TOP RESORT

Oberoi Vanyavilas Ranthambhore, India

TOP CITY HOTEL

The Peninsula Bangkok

AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND SOUTH PACIFIC

TOP RESORT
TOP CITY HOTEL

Huka Lodge Taupo, New Zealand
The Langham Melbourne

TRAVEL + LEISURE 2010 WORLD'S BEST CITIES + ISLANDS BY REGION

<u>REGION</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>ISLAND</u>
CONTINENTAL U.S. + CANADA Maine	New York City	Mount Desert Island
EUROPE Santorini)***	Florence	Cyclades (except
ASIA	Bangkok	Bali
AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND/S. PACIFIC	Sydney	Bora-Bora
MEXICO/CENTRAL + SOUTH AMERICA	San Miguel de Allende	Galápagos
AFRICA/MIDDLE EAST	Jerusalem	
HAWAII		Kauai
CARIBBEAN/BERMUDA/BAHAMAS		Saba

TRAVEL + LEISURE 2010 WORLD'S BEST HOTEL SPAS BY REGION*

CONTINENTAL U.S. + CANADA	Inn at Palmetto Bluff Bluffton, SC
HAWAII	Four Seasons Resort Hualalai Big Island
MEXICO Lucas	Esperanza, An Auberge Resort Cabo San
EUROPE	Four Seasons Hotel George V Paris
ASIA	Four Seasons Resort Bali at Jimbaran Bay
AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND/SOUTH PACIFIC	Four Seasons Hotel Sydney
CARIBBEAN/BERMUDA/BAHAMAS	Couples Tower Isle Jamaica
CENTRAL + SOUTH AMERICA	Four Seasons Resort Carmelo Uruguay

The top winners in each category will be honored at an awards luncheon on July 21 at the new Trump SoHo New York in NYC. That evening, a gala event to celebrate the fifteenth annual World's Best Awards will be held at the new Andaz 5th Avenue in New York City. This will be the first party at the hotel which recently opened to guests on July 5.

As part of the 2010 World's Best Awards report, *Travel + Leisure* editors also create a 20 to Watch list that highlights standout new properties and companies that they expect will appear on World's Best Awards lists in years to come. On page 141 of the August issue, there will be a barcode that can be scanned with smart phones to send readers directly to travel deals from each of the 20 to Watch winners.

The image on the cover of *Travel + Leisure's* August 2010 issue is the Four Seasons Resort Hualalai, this year's Top Resort in Hawaii and Top Hotel Spa in Hawaii.

2010 World's Best Awards Survey Methodology

A questionnaire developed by the editors of *Travel + Leisure*, in association with ROI Research Inc., was made available to *Travel + Leisure* readers at TLWorldsBest.com from December 15, 2009, to March 31, 2010. Readers were invited to participate through *Travel + Leisure* magazine (January, February, and March issues), and online at TravelandLeisure.com. To protect the integrity of the data, after March 31, 2010, respondents were screened by *Travel + Leisure* and responses from any identified travel-industry professionals who completed the survey were eliminated from the final tally. The survey website, TLWorldsBest.com, was maintained, monitored, and kept secure by ROI Research Inc., 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, golf resorts, and rental-car agencies on five characteristics; cities, cruise lines, and tour operators and safari outfitters on six characteristics; and airlines and hotel spas on four characteristics (see below). In the hotel, cruise line, tour operator, airline, and golf resort 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 "5" means excellent and "1" means poor. 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 line and tour operator and safari outfitter categories, and some properties were rated in both the destination spa and hotel spa categories. In both cases, companies and properties have different scores for each category. These were the categories and characteristics:

- For hotels: rooms/facilities, location, service, restaurants/food, value.
- 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: cabins, food, service, itineraries/destinations, activities, value.
- For tour operators and safari outfitters: staff/guides, itineraries/destinations, activities, accommodations, food, value.
- For airlines: cabin comfort, in-flight service, customer service, value.
- For rental-car agencies: vehicle selection, vehicle availability, rental location, service, value.

*Spa winners will be featured in *Travel + Leisure's* October 2010 issue.

**Hotel Bel-Air is currently closed for renovations and is scheduled to reopen in 2011.

***Santorini is voted on as a separate destination.

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With an eye for the authentic, the innovative, and the irresistible, *Travel + Leisure* (www.travelandleisure.com) fuses expert reporting on culture, food, style, and design with stunning photography, transporting readers to the places—and the travel experiences—that matter now. T+L, the monthly title from American Express Publishing and the long-standing authority in its field, has the largest audience of any travel magazine and is an indispensable guide for global nomads. *Travel + Leisure* has a network of international editions, including *Travel + Leisure Mexico*, *Travel + Leisure Turkey*, *Travel + Leisure China*, *Travel + Leisure South Asia*, and *Travel + Leisure Southeast Asia*.