

FODOR'S CHOICE HOTELS 2004

The first annual Fodor's Choice Hotels list include hotels that offer an experience that can't be had in other places. Some are luxurious and some are at budget prices, but all have a style that sets them apart. Each is included in one of Fodor's all-new 2004 Gold Guides.

HOLDS ITS OWN AGAINST HOTELS DOUBLE THE PRICE

Alamo Square Inn, San Francisco, California The two large houses that form this extravagantly romantic, beautifully cared-for B&B offer a bit of Victoriana, including period antiques and elaborate wainscoting throughout the guest rooms.

Don Gaspar Inn, Santa Fe, New Mexico. A well-kept secret, this exquisitely landscaped and decorated compound offers three historic houses, each with a distinct architectural style. Handmade furnishings and Native American art enliven the sunny rooms.

Hôtel Langlois, Paris, France. An impressive Art Nouveau building with a vintage wrought-iron elevator houses impeccable rooms with elegant period furniture and original fixtures. Cinemascope views of Paris rooftops help make this one of the most atmospheric budget sleeps in the city.

Le Plein Soleil, Martinique. Charming gingerbread guest cottages clinging to the hillside combine with a captivating "great house" for chic, contemporary Creole at a pocket-pleasing price.

Pensione Accademia Villa Maravege, Venice, Italy. A lush secret garden with a view of the Grand Canal is just one of the pleasures of this enchanting villa. The warm hospitality and the inviting interior of Gothic-style paneling and Venetian chandeliers keep guests returning year after year.

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

Grand Hotel Europe, St. Petersburg, Russia. Centrally located, with a stunning baroque facade, stained-glass windows, and antique furniture, the hotel combines the elegance of pre-Revolutionary St. Petersburg with every modern amenity.

Inn at Irving Place, New York, New York. This grand pair of 1830s town houses near Gramercy Park evokes a gentler New York, as do the ornamental fireplaces, four-poster beds, and embroidered linens.

John Jeffries House, Boston, Massachusetts. Wake up to views of the Charles River at this elegant four-story inn with handsome guest rooms in a century-old building on the edge of Beacon Hill.

The Portobello, London, England. Funky and stylish, this eccentric Notting Hill hotel has antiques-filled rooms, including one with a round bed and a Victorian bathing machine.

Soniat House, French Quarter, New Orleans, Louisiana. Considered one of the city's finest by many locals, this small property of meticulously restored mansions is hidden in the quiet residential French Quarter and filled with fine fabrics from every continent.

THE TRUE LAND OF AHHS...

Ballynahinch Castle, Ballynahinch, County Galway, Ireland. This river's-edge hotel on 40 walkable wooded acres has long been favored by statesmen and stars. Perhaps it's the rooms with floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking the river or the inviting leather Chesterfield sofas in front of an open fire.

Mii Amo at Enchantment Resort, Sedona, Arizona. A spa destination within a first-class resort in the spectacular Red Rock Canyon, Mii Amo has 16 specially appointed casitas with Anasazi-inspired colors and design elements, hand-woven rugs, and cutting-edge spa treatments.

Montage Resort and Spa, Laguna Beach, California. Craftsman style meets sophisticated luxury at this oceanfront getaway and spa high upon a bluff overlooking the coves of the Pacific. Every room has an ocean view.

Sooke Harbour House, Sooke, Vancouver Island, Canada. This 1929 oceanfront clapboard inn is surrounded by nature's beauty. The proximity to fresh seafood and ingredients from the inn's gardens make its restaurant one of Canada's finest.

Wilderness Lodge Lake Moeraki, New Zealand. Become one with the environment in this gorgeous natural setting in a rainforest on the banks of a river. Join on-site naturalists on guided walks and excursions among seals and penguins.

THE KIDS WILL LOVE IT TOO

Buckhorn Inn, Gatlinburg, Tennessee. This small, unassuming country inn with spacious, beautifully decorated rooms, cottages, and guest houses is on 40 secluded acres. Its proximity to the Great Smokies makes it a great family getaway.

Corcovado Lodge Tent Camp, Carate, Costa Rica. Truly isolated from civilization, this affordable collection of luxurious tents facing the sea is just steps from the beach and rain forest. Don't miss the monkeys swinging in the surrounding mango trees.

LEAVE THE KIDS AT HOME

Kingsbrae Arms, St. Andrews by-the-Sea, New Brunswick, Canada. Eclectic antiques fill the rooms, and pampering touches, such as roses and Belgian chocolates, plush robes, and daily afternoon tea, are plentiful at this intimate, restored 1897 estate.

Lodge at Kō'ele, Lāna'i, Hawai'i. This grand mountain retreat in the cool highlands has gardens, a pond, and an orchid greenhouse. Beamed ceilings and stone fireplaces make the rooms cozy, romantic hideaways.

River Club, Livingstone, Zambia. An enticing blend of old-Colonial Africa and wild Africa. With the river as the backdrop, guests feel secluded in rooms set on stilts in the trees, partially open to the sky.

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