

Condé Nast Traveler

BEST FOR LESS
7 WORLD CITIES
ON \$250 A DAY

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

MAY 2005

A GLOBAL GUIDE

2005

HOT LIST

116

best new

*

hotels

in the world!

*including 28 under \$200

80

great new
restaurants
from Buenos Aires to Zurich

35 cool new
night
spots

from Anguilla to Shanghai





hotel to its excellent restaurant and IXL (read: I excel) Long Bar. **When to go:** December, for the finish of the annual Sydney-to-Hobart yacht race. **Which room to book:** Any facing the harbor (61-3-6210-7700; thehenryjones.com; doubles, \$210-\$390; ☎). 🍷 🍷 🍷

Moondance Lodge, Yallingup

🍷🍷 The nine-suite Moondance is hidden away from the gentle bustle of the Margaret River wine region, a three-hour drive from Perth, on 33 acres of bush. Nothing but birdsong will disturb you unless you initiate it. The lakefront main lodge, which contains a restaurant, a lounge, massage facilities, and a single suite, is a high-ceilinged Balinese-inflected affair. Two villas, with four suites each, have their own communal decks and lounges, along with power showers, roomy whirlpool baths, Internet access, and swiveling flat-screen TVs. Shortcomings—cramped kitchenettes and “private” decks overlooking one another—are outweighed by an attentive staff and the surrounding oasis of natural beauty. **When to go:** December through February. **Which room to book:** The Blue Dolphin Suite, for its gloriously tangled bush vista (61-8-9750-1777; moondancelodge.com; doubles, \$323; ☎).

Yallingup Luxury Retreat, Yallingup

🍷 This complex of five villas—each with two suites—is more a self-contained retreat than a full-service hotel. The larger suite in each villa has a dining area, a living room, and a well-equipped kitchen, while the smaller suite has a compact kitchenette and a generously proportioned whirlpool tub. The emphasis throughout is on comfort and luxury, as epitomized by the crazed profusion of cushions in the master bedroom, which sports an almost absurdly high four-poster bed. A chef can be booked in advance, and beauty treatments and picnic baskets are available upon request, but you are otherwise on your own. A large formal garden and beautiful eucalyptus meadow beckon beyond the glass lounge doors; come sundown, wildlife goes bouncing by. **When to go:** December through February. **Which room to book:** The Villa Moana, for its bush views (61-4-0097-5123; yallingupluxuryretreat.com.au; doubles, \$215-\$246; ☎).

CAMBODIA

Sokha Beach Hotel, Sihanoukville

🍷🍷 Sokha Beach is one of the world’s most beautiful—a mile-long stretch of powdery white sand edging an azure sea. Better still, it’s private: Access is granted

only to guests of its namesake hotel. All 160 rooms are commodious and comfortable, with teak floors, cable TV, baths with separate showers and tubs, and balconies overlooking an enormous pool and handsomely landscaped gardens; there are two tennis courts, and the food throughout is solidly good though not gourmet. Service by the earnest young staff is both heartbreakingly sweet and highly efficient. A spa is slated to open next month. **When to go:** Mid-December through early March. **Which room to book:** A second-floor ocean-view double (855-34-935-999; www.sokha-hotels.com; doubles, \$78-\$86). 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷

CANADA

Four Seasons Resort, Whistler, British Columbia

🍷🍷 Four Seasons opened its second North American ski resort at a quiet remove from the central chairlift and frat-party hubbub in Village Square. A ski concierge does everything but unfurl a magic carpet to get you to the slopes, but the property delivers more than downhill thrills. The butter-yellow chalet-style complex has 273 rooms, suites, and town houses, all of which have fireplaces and balconies that add yet more space to the rooms’ already Canada-sized dimensions (the smallest is 520 square feet). Even the corridors seem wide enough for migrations of local moose and elk. Chef Jason McLeod—who earned his stripes, if not a Purple Heart, under London celebrity chef and enfant terrible Marco Pierre White—has returned to his native British Columbia to helm the hotel’s Fifty-Two 80 Bistro, named for the Whistler Blackcomb Ski Resort’s mile-long vertical drop, the continent’s longest. The full-service spa occupies the entire ground floor of one wing. **When to go:** Fall, when autumnal beauty coincides with the year-round snow. **Which room to book:** Nos. 306 and 307—among the least expensive—have lovely east-facing balconies with views of Wedge Mountain and Mount Currie (604-935-3400; fourseasons.com/whistler; doubles, \$395-\$414; ☎). 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷

Hôtel Godin, Montreal, Quebec

🍷 Poised at the intersection of the tony rue Sherbrooke Ouest and the lively boulevard St-Laurent, the 136-room Godin strikes the right balance of hip, refined, and subdued. The lobby—with its gentle lighting, dark wood, cork walls, and welcoming sofas—offers an immediate sense of urban intimacy. One level down, the plush Bar Godin brings Montreal’s

lounge scene to a new level of sophistication, and a separate street entrance ensures peaceful relations with hotel guests. The bed and linens are first-rate, and Fresh-brand bathroom products are a welcome touch, as are soaking tubs and flat-screen TVs. **When to go:** New Year’s finds the city at its most festive. **Which room to book:** Opt for those in the nineteenth-century Godin Building, especially the handsome Suite Godin, with its semicircular terrace, white-leather daybed, and oversized tub (514-843-6000; hotelgodin.com; doubles, \$165-\$405; ☎). 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷

CARIBBEAN

Beach House, Barbuda

🍷🍷 A 15-minute flight from yacht-crazed Antigua, Barbuda boasts only a few thousand inhabitants, no paved roads, and dozens of miles of undeveloped shoreline. One of only two resorts on the entire island, the Beach House sits amid coastal wilderness at the end of an unmarked sandy track. The heart of the hotel is the eclectic Clubhouse, which functions as front desk and restaurant, library and Internet café, beach bar and billiard room. The 21 guest rooms are clustered along the edge of a small man-made lake, their whitewashed walls offset by navy drapes, red-tile floors, and black-and-white photography. Four-posters—replete with Fil d’Oro linens and goose-down pillows—afford views of the endless sapphire sea. **When to go:** The more arid months (Dec.–July). **Which room to book:** Any of the Beach Suites, with patios just steps from the water (268-725-4042; thebeachhousebarbuda.net; doubles, \$500-\$1,400, including round-trip airfare from Antigua). 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷

Casa Colonial, Dominican Republic

🍷 The country’s hottest address is hidden in plain sight, in the Playa Dorado Resort Complex, better known for its rollicking all-inclusives than for its high style. That’s where you’ll find the coolly elegant Casa Colonial, with its 50 spacious rooms, swell spa, and cordoned-off patch of beach. The look is an artful blend of Spanish colonial—graceful archways, wrought-iron grillwork—and contemporary touches, such as clean-lined furniture draped in monochrome fabrics and a rooftop pool deck made of glass and wood. Rooms face either the sea or the fragrant gardens and come with Frette linens on mahogany beds so high you may need a running start. Management is still working out kinks in the kitchen, but both dining rooms are so pretty you might not even notice. **When to go:** November through



Condé Nast Traveler

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

May 31, 2005

Grace Grillo
Beach House
31 N Maryland Ave.
Barbuda, Port Washington 11510
Caribbean

Dear Grace:

Congratulations on being named to the *Condé Nast Traveler* 2005 Hot List. You are among an elite group of 116 new hotels worldwide that our editors felt had that unique confluence of design, service, and style.

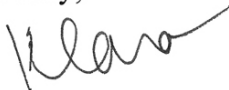
It's not easy to make it on the Hot List. The magazine's editorial staff sifted through hundreds of noteworthy new hotels and resorts that opened in the past year, and called upon a global network of correspondents to visit each property – incognito, of course. They poked pillows, dialed up room service, and quizzed the concierge. The result is the 2005 Hot List – the definitive guide to the hottest and hippest getaways around the globe, which will reach over 3 million of the most affluent, well-traveled, and discerning readers in the world of magazine publishing.

Enclosed is a certificate recognizing your accomplishment, a general press release providing background on the Hot List, and a copy of the May Hot List issue. In addition, a logo of the Hot List is available for you to download, upon agreeing to the contract, by visiting http://www.subscriberdirect.com/traveler/hot_list_logo_05.

Should you have any questions, please e-mail my colleague, Caroline Andoscia, in the Public Relations Department of the magazine at Caroline_Andoscia@cntraveler.com.

Again, congratulations.

Sincerely,



Klara Glowczewska
Editor-in-Chief

Condé Nast Traveler

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

Contact: Kara Burke, 212.286.2163 or kara_burke@condenast.com

THE MAY ISSUE OF *CONDÉ NAST TRAVELER* FEATURES:

116 HOT NEW HOTELS AROUND THE WORLD

80 HOT NEW RESTAURANTS FROM SÃO PAULO TO SYDNEY

35 HOT NEW NIGHTSPOTS WORLDWIDE

For the ninth consecutive year, *Condé Nast Traveler's* May Hot List issue is a reader's ticket to the hottest new hotels, restaurants and nightclubs around the globe. To compile this exclusive list of new hotels, the magazine's editors bedded down in every one of the world's most promising hotels—from Boston to Beijing—and did so incognito. Our editors stayed in over 400 properties on six continents and narrowed it down to the 116 properties with the highest readings on the thermometer – 28 of which are under \$200 a night. The United States once again leads all areas with 12 hotels. Below is a list of some of this year's Hot List Hotels:

United States

CA—Calistoga Ranch, Napa Valley; Parker Palm Springs; Estancia La Jolla Hotel & Spa, San Diego; **DC**—Mandarin Oriental; **IL**—Hard Rock Hotel, Chicago; **NY**—Hotel on Rivington, 70 Park Ave, NYC; **OR**—Jupiter Hotel, Portland; **SC**—Inn at Palmetto Bluff; Sanctuary at Kiawah Island; **TX**—Thunderbird Motel, Marfa; **WA**—Hotel Andra, Seattle.

The World

Buenos Aires, Argentina—Faena Hotel & Universe; **Whistler, Canada**—Four Seasons Resort; **St. Vincent and the Grenadines**—Raffles Resort Canouan Island; **Berlin, Germany**—Radisson SAS Hotel; **Budapest, Hungary**—Four Seasons Hotel Gresham Palace; **Milan, Italy**—Bulgari Hotel; **Mexico City**—Condesa df; **Seoul, South Korea**—W Seoul-Walkerhill; **Zurich, Switzerland**—Park Hyatt; **Chiang Mai, Thailand**—Mandarin Oriental, Dhara Dhevi

80 eateries make the list of Hot Tables in 2005; 23 of them stateside (the most ever). From Miami to Marrakech, *Condé Nast Traveler* editors feasted their way around the globe to bring readers a list of the most exciting new restaurants the world has to offer. Some of this year's Hot Tables include:

United States

CA—Geisha House, Meson G, Patina, Los Angeles; Bocado, Quince, San Francisco; **CO**—Manrico by Chef Massimo Masciaga, Aspen; **DC**—IndeBleu; **FL**—Johnny V, Ft. Lauderdale; **GA**—Two: Urban Licks, Atlanta; **IL**—Green Zebra, Chicago; **MD**—Blue Sea Grill, Baltimore; **MA**—Stanhope Grille, Boston; **NV**—Mesa Grill, Sensi, Las Vegas; **NY**—Café Gray, Cru, Kittichai, Megu, NYC; Blue Hill at Stone Barns, Pocantico Hills; **PA**—Barclay Prime, Washington Square, Philadelphia; **UT**—Shabu, Park City; **WA**—Lola, Seattle

When not eating, our editors sipped and socialized their way through dozens of cities in search of the hottest bars, lounges, and clubs in order to discover the newest, hippest scenes. 35 of them made this year's hot list of cool new night spots, with nine of them in the US. Some of this year's Hot Nights include:

United States

AZ—J Bar, Scottsdale; **CA**—Golden Gopher, Los Angeles; **FL**—Pawn Shop, Miami; **GA**—Compound, Atlanta; **IL**—Rockit Bar & Grill, Chicago; **NV**—Body English, Mix Lounge, Las Vegas; **NY**—Aer Lounge, NYC; **TX**—Mean-Eyed Cat, Austin

The May issue of *Condé Nast Traveler* goes on newsstands April 26th. Unlike many other travel publications, *Condé Nast Traveler* does not accept free travel and accommodations, and its correspondents, as far as possible, travel anonymously. The result is travel the way consumers experience it – good and bad, with reporting that is fair and honest. *Condé Nast Traveler* is a six-time National Magazine Award winner and is still the only travel publication to have won the highest honor in magazine publishing. *Condé Nast Traveler*, the 2004 Zagat Survey Best Travel Magazine, has a circulation of over 750,000 and is published by Condé Nast Publications, Inc.

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