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<http://www.luxurytravelu.com/home.asp?cID=394>

## World's Top Hotels



[Hotel Caruso in Ravello, Italy \(Genivs Loci\)](#)

Miles of hiking trails in Big Sky Country? Check. Outdoor spa treatments? Check! [Montana](#) may be the Wild West, but it stakes a claim to one of the world's finest hotels. At Triple Creek Ranch, the log cabins are rustic-chic, the cellar stores 2,000 wine bottles, and [soaking in a hot tub](#) is the perfect antidote to a day out snowshoeing.

Every year T+L readers vote on thousands of hotels based on rooms, location, service, food, and value. In 2012, the winners are a mix of remote escapes and city hotels.

[Florida](#) is a perennial favorite and one romantic escape outranked all the other Sunshine State properties: Little Palm Island Resort & Spa, a secluded private island retreat on [Little Torch Key](#). It wins over guests with special touches like picnics on nearby deserted islands. Read on for more of the top hotels in the U.S. and beyond.

Hotel Caruso, [Ravello, Italy](#)

11th-century palace with an infinity pool, terraced gardens, and classic-celebrity cachet (Jackie Kennedy; Humphrey Bogart). *Doubles from \$850–\$1,073.*

Behind the Scenes: The property is perched 1,000 feet above the Mediterranean; to tour the nearby harbors, hop aboard the hotel's 52-foot boat *Ercole* (trips from \$615).

## Singita Grumeti Reserves, Serengeti National



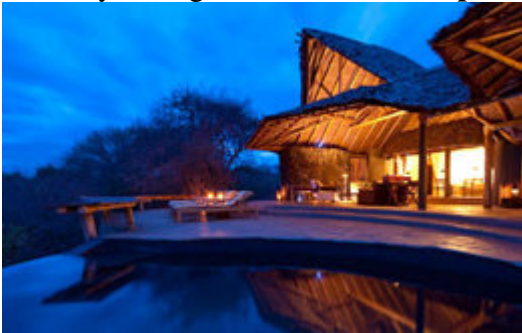
### [Singita Grumeti Reserves, Tanzania \(Courtesy of Singita Game Reserves\)](#)

#### Park, [Tanzania](#)

Africa's most luxurious mobile-safari experience is the latest addition to this 340,000-acre Serengeti concession with 4 separate camps. *Doubles from \$1,700–\$2,300, all-inclusive.*

Behind the Scenes: What does a perfect location look like? A manor house on a wide plateau; a tented camp with views of the Serengeti; 8 suites and 1 villa overlooking the rhino-filled Grumeti River; and a mobile safari that traverses it all.

#### Ol Donyo Lodge, **Mbirikani Group Ranch,**



### [Ol Donyo Lodge, Kenya \(Courtesy of Ol Donyo Lodge\)](#)

#### [Kenya](#)

Ten suites with savanna-side infinity pools, outdoor showers, and rooftop sleeping areas for nighttime views of Mount Kilimanjaro. *Doubles from \$840, all-inclusive.*

#### Oberoi Udaivilas, [Udaipur, India](#)



### [Oberoi Udaivilas, India \(Courtesy of Oberoi Hotels & Resorts\)](#)

A 30-acre Mewari-style palace on the banks of Lake Pichola, complete with private motorboats, a traditional Kashmiri gondola, and sprawling courtyards rimmed by reflecting pools. *Doubles from \$700–\$870.*

Room to Book: All 19 Premiere Lake rooms have private pools and terraces, but the 9 that face the nature conservatory offer wildlife spotting (peacocks; deer; wild boar) as well as views of the marble palaces of mainland Udaipur.

### Triple Creek Ranch, [Darby, MT](#)



### [Triple Creek Ranch, Montana \(Courtesy of Triple Creek Ranch\)](#)

Adults-only mountain retreat on thousands of acres, with plush log cabins (wood-burning fireplaces; hot tubs), a 2,000-plus-bottle wine cellar, a chef's table, and a rotating collection of original art. *Doubles from \$750–\$950, including meals.*

T+L Tip: Don't miss a snowshoe excursion across the Chief Joseph Pass—first explored by Lewis and Clark in 1805—or the [chocolate chip cookies](#) served by cowboy-booted staffers on your return.

### Lodge at **Kauri Cliffs**, [Matauri Bay, New Zealand](#)



### [Lodge at Kauri Cliffs, New Zealand \(Courtesy of Kauri Cliffs\)](#)

North Island cliffside lodge, golf course, and top spa on 6,000 acres with waterfalls and private beaches. *Doubles from \$1,140–\$1,485, including breakfast and dinner.*

T+L Tip: Ask the Kauri Cliffs team to pack a picnic (soba noodles; smoked-salmon sandwiches) before heading to Pink Beach, one of Kauri Cliffs' private coves; in summer, barbecue dinners are served on the sand.

Posada de Mike Rapu / Explora Rapa Nui,



[Posada de Mike Rapu / Explora Rapa Nui, Chile \(Courtesy of Explora\)](#)

### [Easter Island, Chile](#)

2007 local wood, stone, and glass LEED-certified lodge 2,300 miles off [Chile](#)'s coast; excursions include guided visits to the moai stone quarries and treks to nearby volcanoes. *Doubles from \$1,590, all-inclusive, 3-night minimum.*

T+L Tip: Unwind in the Posada's new Ancestral Sauna, a traditional Rapa Nui-style hothouse warmed by an aromatic open fire of eucalyptus branches (*treatments from \$50*).

La Résidence Phou Vao, [Luang Prabang, Laos](#)



[La Résidence Phou Vao, Laos \(Courtesy of La Residence Phou Vao\)](#)

French-colonial, all-suite wellness retreat on a frangipani-dotted hill above Luang Prabang; the first Laotian property to use only local ingredients for traditional spa treatments. *Doubles from \$500.*

Little Palm Island Resort & Spa,



[Little Palm Island Resort & Spa, Florida \(Courtesy of Little Palm Island Resort & Spa\)](#)

### [Little Torch Key, FL](#)

Florida's most secluded and romantic retreat: a West Indies-style idyll set along a white-sand beach on a 6-acre island accessible only by boat or seaplane, which will also take you to a smaller island for a picnic. *Suites from \$790–\$1,590.*

T+L Tip: Arrive when the resort is hosting one of its Sandbar Session concerts, which bring well-known musicians to the hotel's beach. Previous headliners? Stephen Marley and the [Indigo Girls](#).

Blackberry Farm, [Walland, TN](#)



[Blackberry Farm, Tennessee \(Beall and Thomas Photography\)](#)

The ne plus ultra of rural luxury, with renowned cuisine, set on a farm in the Great Smoky Mountains. *Doubles from \$795–\$1,095, including meals.*

Behind the Scenes: On-site experts—master gardener John Coykendall; visiting chefs Thomas Keller and David Chang—translated to high scores for service; guests leave armed with tips for creating Southern dishes at home.