

**HOW SAFE IS
YOUR CABIN AIR?**
Better Than You Think

**ALPS, ANGUILLA,
AND SANTA FE**
Great Deals of Winter

**CALIFORNIA'S
SECRET EDENS**
By Bike, Kayak, Horse

**INDIA'S
MAGIC ISLES**
Exquisite Andamans

Condé Nast Traveler

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

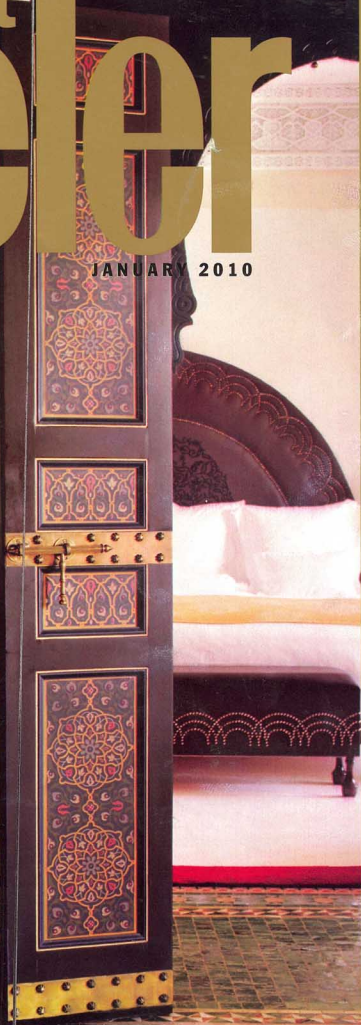
JANUARY 2010

GOLD LIST

SPECIAL
36
PAGE
SECTION

681 WORLD'S BEST PLACES TO STAY

TOP HOTELS,
RESORTS,
CRUISE LINES



CRUISE SPECIAL: 10 RULES FOR PERFECT PORTS OF CALL

um." Panache uses local produce in French-Canadian dishes such as Cap St-Igneace guinea hen—"though the portions are small for the price."
 \$\$\$; 90 rooms; 418-692-2211.

Hôtel Le Germain-Dominion, Quebec City

☎92.4 ☎92.4 ☎82.9 ☎89.9 ☎91.9 **89.8**
 Formerly the Hotel Dominion 1912, it is located in the Old Port and has an "old-world-meets-new-world" atmosphere, thanks to rooms with dark woods, frosted glass, and exposed-brick walls. Staff are attentive but not overbearing. "There is no on-site restaurant—"thankfully, excellent food is close at hand."
 \$\$\$; 60 rooms; 418-692-2224.

MEXICO

JW Marriott Resort & Spa, Cancún

☎95.1 ☎92.5 ☎82.8 ☎93.1 ☎90.7 ☎91.1 **90.5**
 This white tower has "a lovely pool" and a 35,000-square-foot spa. Rooms in white, green, and gold are "supremely comfortable with great views" from balconies—all face the ocean. Dine on Italian dishes at Gustino or "the delicious breakfast buffet" at Simply Seafod. "The service was very good."
 \$\$\$; 448 rooms; beach, pool, spa, water sports; 52-998-848-9000.

Le Méridien Resort & Spa, Cancún

☎91.5 ☎88.9 ☎85.5 ☎92.3
 ☎91.5 ☎88.5 **89.7**
 "A classy and private resort" near La Isla Shopping Mall, this beachfront property displays "attractive contemporary design with Mayan influences," with rooms in soft greens, blues, and whites. Anticipate Caribbean coastal dinners at St. Trop. "Staff are polite and friendly."
 \$\$\$; 213 rooms; beach, pool, spa, tennis, water sports; 52-998-881-2222.

Ritz-Carlton, Cancún

☎90.9 ☎94.7 ☎85.6 ☎92.2
 ☎90.0 ☎85.0 **89.7**

European style and Mexican accents characterize this resort replete with fountains, sculptures, and stained glass windows. Private balconies and Caribbean views are standard in rooms; suites have living rooms. Mediterranean entrées at Fantino include citrus crayfish risotto. "Staff remembered our names from the first day." A 17,000-square-foot beach club, designed as a Mayan fishing village, opened a year ago.
 \$\$\$; 365 rooms; beach, pool, spa, tennis; 52-998-881-0808.

Las Maniánitas, Cuernavaca

☎93.8 ☎92.3 ☎93.8 ☎86.2 ☎93.8 **92.0**
 "Exotic birds roam the immaculate grounds" of this colonial-style hotel-45 miles from Mexico City. Patio suites have fountains and living rooms that open onto gardens. At the open-air restaurant, amid Mexican artwork, try ant's eggs and "the best tortilla soup ever," part of an "impressive, authentic menu."
 \$\$\$; 25 rooms; golf, pool; 52-777-362-0000.

Esperanza, Los Cabos

☎95.7 ☎93.2 ☎90.3 ☎91.8 ☎92.8 ☎71.0 **89.9**
 The haciendas on bluffs above the Sea of Cortés "are heaven on earth—so private and romantic." "Expertly appointed rooms" showcase stone, polished plaster, and light woods that create "an openness that is very warm and comfortable." At El Restaurante, "amazing seafood dishes" include spicy Baja lobster with Indian curry and coconut sauce. "Staff are always smiling."
 \$\$\$; 57 rooms; beach, golf, pool, spa, tennis; 52-624-145-6400.

Las Ventanas al Paraíso (Rosewood), Los Cabos

☎90.2 ☎88.2 ☎86.9 ☎88.8 ☎91.5 ☎88.9 **89.1**
 "On a beautiful stretch of coast," this "romantic ho-

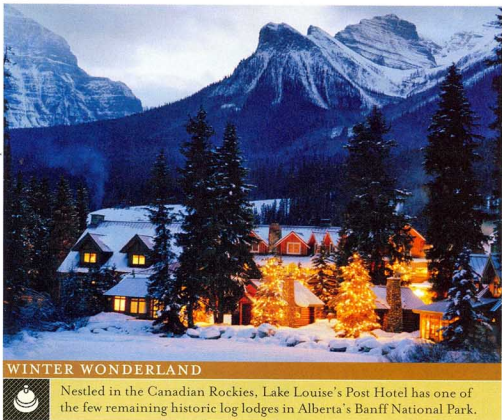
tel" has Mediterranean-Mexican design. "Architectural details and perfect decor" include suites with inlaid-stone headboards, floors of conchuela tiles, and "huge, opulent bathrooms." Baja-Mediterranean cuisine at the Restaurant is "expertly prepared."
 \$\$\$; 71 rooms; beach, golf, pool, spa, tennis; 52-624-144-2800.

One&Only Palmilla, Los Cabos

☎98.2 ☎96.4 ☎93.7 ☎94.6 ☎99.1 ☎96.3 **96.4**
 Golf, deep-sea fishing, and seasonal whale-watching are the lures at this "sprawling Pacific property": "You are pampered every step of the way." "Magnificent ocean-facing rooms" have hand-crafted Mexican touches, 24-hour butler service, and "gorgeous verandas." Market by Jean-Georges Vongerichten serves Eurasian cuisine with Mexican influences—"the food and service are excellent, but it's pricey."
 \$\$\$; 172 rooms; beach, golf, pool, spa, tennis, water sports; 52-624-146-7000.

Royal Hideaway Playacar, Playa del Carmen

☎91.5 ☎90.7 ☎87.6 ☎90.7 ☎93.0 ☎85.7 **90.2**
 This all-inclusive promises "stylish Mexican design, European elegance," and Spanish-colonial architecture.



WINTER WONDERLAND

Nestled in the Canadian Rockies, Lake Louise's Post Hotel has one of the few remaining historic log lodges in Alberta's Banff National Park.

ture in two- or three-story villas named for flowers. Zen rooms have dark woods, light floors, and Etruscan toiletries. Spices dishes up Mexican seafood overlooking the Caribbean; Las Ventanas has a chef's table and global cuisine. There are six pools on-site.
 \$\$\$; 200 rooms; beach, pool, spa, tennis, water sports; 52-984-873-4500.

Secrets Capri Riviera Cancún, Playa del Carmen

☎91.1 ☎95.0 ☎93.1 ☎86.1 ☎90.1 ☎84.2 **89.9**
 Designed like a Mexican hacienda with Mediterranean accents, the resort has "very luxurious, romantic rooms" with canopy beds, private patios or balconies, and Italian marble bathrooms with whirlpools. Of the five restaurants, "the food was the best at Himitsu," which serves pan-Asian and hibachi specialties. The 13,000-square-foot spa is set in the jungle.
 \$\$\$; 291 rooms; beach, golf, pool, spa, water sports; 52-984-873-4880.

Four Seasons, Punta Mita

☎91.2 ☎92.9 ☎87.6 ☎90.3 ☎92.0 ☎92.0 **91.0**
 On a 400-acre preserve north of Puerto Vallarta, "this scenic property is not convenient to local restaurants." Red-roof casitas in gardens are done in a red, green, and orange palette. Combining Latin and Asian flavors, Aramara's menu includes *huesillos rellenos* with tofu, mushrooms, and wasabi cream. A second Jack Nicklaus course opened in 2009. The swimming pool has "sweeping views of the Pacific."

\$\$\$; 173 rooms; beach, golf, pool, spa, tennis, water sports; 52-329-291-6000.

Ceiba del Mar Beach & Spa Resort, Riviera Maya

☎100.1 ☎100.7 ☎76.0 ☎88.0 ☎95.8 ☎72.0 **88.6**
 On a beach five minutes from the "charming little town of Puerto Morelos," the resort earns perfect scores for rooms and service. "Beautiful beachfront accommodations" have a balcony or terrace, local woods, and handcrafted furniture. Though "the restaurants are not of an extremely high quality," the Sushi Bar & Lounge lets you dine under the stars. The 8,600-square-foot spa stocks more than 50 essential oils. Perfect-scoring "staff were excellent overall."
 \$\$\$; 88 rooms; beach, pool, spa, tennis; 52-998-872-8060.

Maroma Resort and Spa, Riviera Maya

☎92.5 ☎92.5 ☎86.3 ☎97.5 ☎94.9 ☎88.8 **92.1**
 "You can truly relax" at this seafloor resort on a former coconut plantation. Feel like you're at a Mexican hacienda in the "extremely spacious suites," with works by a resident artist, terraces with hammocks, and "the deepest tubs" decorated with Mexican tiles. The new Coffee Room uses beans from local organic farmers in its brews. At the Kinan Spa, experience the Mayan ritual of the hot mud hut.
 \$\$\$; 65 rooms; beach, pool, spa, tennis, water sports; 52-998-872-8200.

The Tides, Riviera Maya

☎94.7 ☎94.7 ☎94.7 ☎92.1
 ☎97.4 ☎94.7 **94.7**

This "absolutely perfect property" between palm and guava trees has "awesome villas" with rich woods, natural rattan, and private plunge pools linked by paths that wind through the vegetation. La Mareia, near the lagoon pool, offers open-air Yucatecan dining. Guests dine in the Temazcal sweat lodge or via an herbal mud wrap at the spa.
 \$\$\$; 30 rooms; beach, pool, spa, water sports; 52-984-877-3000.

Casa Natalia, San José del Cabo

☎93.3 ☎96.8 ☎100.0 **80.6**
 ☎96.8 **93.5**

Surrounded by colonial buildings, this "small and beautiful property" is all about "friendly staff and excellent attention to detail." Contemporary Mexican rooms have terraces with hammocks as well as travertine marble bathrooms with organic toiletries. At the perfect-scoring Mi Cocina, the owner cooks Euro-Mexican cuisine in an "enchanting space"—brick walls and lava stone tables: "It's one of the top restaurants in all of Mexico."
 \$\$\$; 16 rooms; pool; 52-624-146-7100.

La Casa Que Canta, Zihuatanejo

☎93.7 ☎94.7 ☎83.2 ☎92.6 ☎90.4 ☎73.4 **88.0**
 From the resort's multi-tiered cliffside perch above Playa La Ropa, you get "great views of the bay." Terracotta walls and thatched-roof rooms have handcrafted furniture and folk art. "Gracious and helpful staff" provide turnaround service that includes "beautiful flower petal designs on the bed." The restaurant focuses on fresh-caught seafood.
 \$\$\$; 25 rooms; pool, spa, water sports; 52-755-555-7030.

The Tides, Zihuatanejo

☎90.5 ☎96.3 ☎91.5 ☎95.1 ☎96.3 ☎87.7 **92.9**
 Regional crafts and tiles "give a real Mexican flavor" to the open-air casita suites, steps from the coconut trees and the beach. Expect "impeccable, extremely friendly service" and "splendid meals" at La Villa, which has a Pacific-Mexican menu. The new beachfront yoga pavilion allows guests to practice their Virabhadrasana