

**NEW ORLEANS  
BAR CRAWL**

38 Secret Pleasures  
of the Big Easy

**HIGH ON  
SWITZERLAND**

16-Page All-Season  
Pullout Guide

**BIG SKY  
BONANZA**

10 Perfect Days in  
Wyoming and Montana

**WINTER IS  
A STEAL!**

Incredible Prices on  
Hotels, Cruises, Flights

# Condé Nast Traveler

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

NOVEMBER 2009

## BEST IN THE WORLD!

*HOTELS, ISLANDS, AIRLINES, CITIES, CRUISES*

# 1000 *Top*

***READERS' CHOICE AWARDS***

*Rated by the 25,000 most discerning travelers on earth*



2009

# READERS' CHOICE AWARDS

# BEST IN THE WORLD

*Cities, Islands, Hotels, Resorts, Cruises*

*The big news is that, undaunted by tough times, our readers are still way out in front, discovering the coolest experiences, electing the top performers for every kind of service—and reaffirming an enduring passion for travel. Look no further for the most stimulating global stimulus package you could hope for*

IT'S STILL UP, UP, AND AWAY FOR THE COMMUNITY of readers of *Condé Nast Traveler*. ♦ In a remarkable picture of how you spent your travel dollars in the past year—the toughest for the business in a long time—it's clear that you remain as adventurous, discerning, and devoted to the worldwide diversity of travel as ever. In fact, these 2009 Readers' Choice Awards emerge as a unique, reliable, and very timely leading economic indicator—there is no other resource to match them. ♦ Consider this, for a start: **The awards reflect the personal—and recent—travel experiences of 25,008 readers.**

They form, in effect, a global force of incognito inspectors with the power to rate every service crucial to travelers. To put that 25,008 in perspective, compare it to the 80 inspectors Michelin fields to produce the Red Guide to France—historically the most rigorous, feared, and, let it be said, idiosyncratic screening of the

Condé Nast Traveler readers  
who participated in the survey

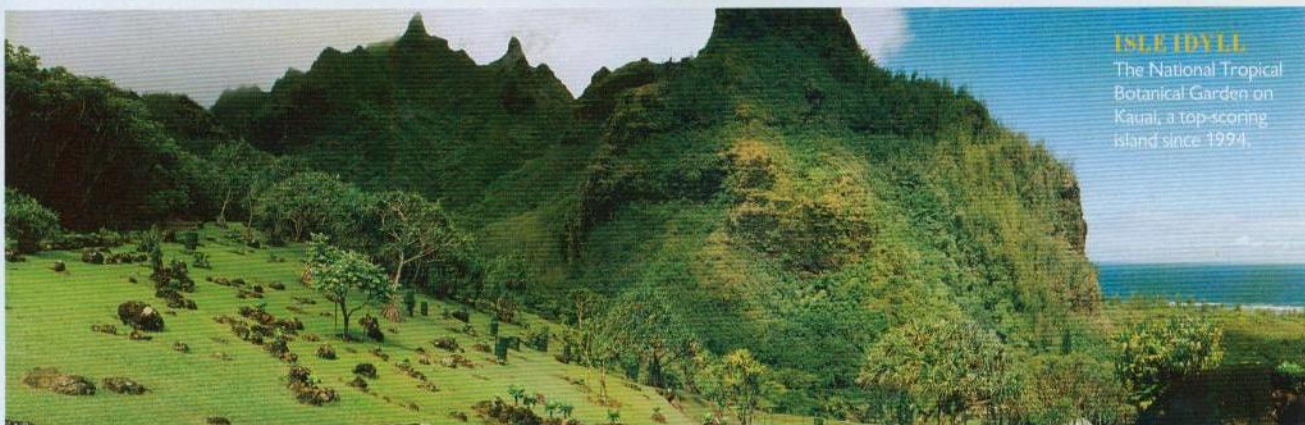
**25,008**

Michelin judges who contribute  
to the Red Guide to France

**80**

# Top ISLANDS

OCEANS OF PLEASURE AWAIT ON THESE 50 ISLANDS AND ARCHIPELAGOES



## ISLE IDYLL

The National Tropical Botanical Garden on Kauai, a top-scoring island since 1994.

# W

**HAT DO THE FIVE NUMBER ONE ISLANDS** have in common? Like so many destinations, they depend on tourism. So we are delighted, particularly during these times, to report that readers are giving a thumbs-up to islands from nearby **Nantucket** to faraway **Bora Bora**. ● The Pacific Ocean is the ratings powerhouse. Of only ten islands that score above 80, seven are in Oceania. Four are Hawaiian—led, as usual, by **Maui**. ● In Europe, **Mykonos** and the Cyclades along with **Bozcaada** and the Turkish Aegean Islands make that wine-dark sea your favorite piece of the Mediterranean.

TOP 10

## EUROPE

- 1 Mykonos and the Cyclades 77.3
- 2 Bozcaada and the Turkish Aegean Islands 75.1
- 3 Capri 72.9
- 4 Mallorca and the Balearics 72.7
- 5 Sicily 72.0
- 6 Hvar and the Dalmatians 71.5
- 7 Madeira 70.7
- 8 Crete 69.6
- 9 Sardinia 69.4
- 10 Rhodes and the Dodecanese 69.0

When it comes to islands, southern seas have the edge, especially the Aegean, with Greek and Turkish archipelagoes.

TOP 10

## ASIA/INDIAN OCEAN

Bigger than Texas, Borneo is the third-largest island on earth, and thanks to Mount Kinabalu, also the third highest.

- 1 Maldives 87.5
- 2 Bali 84.0
- 3 Phuket 79.9
- 4 Seychelles 76.7
- 5 Samui 75.3
- 6 Mauritius 74.1
- 7 Cebu 72.6
- 8 Langkawi 69.8
- 9 Borneo 65.4
- 10 Lamu 63.6

TOP 10

## PACIFIC

- 1 Maui 90.1
- 2 Kauai 87.8
- 3 Bora Bora 84.9
- 4 Great Barrier Reef 84.0
- 5 Moorea 83.4
- 6 Big Island 83.0
- 7 Oahu 81.7
- 8 Lanai 79.8
- 9 Galápagos 76.6
- 10 Tasmania 76.5

All but one of Hawaii's major islands are on the list. Only under-visited Molokai is missing.

TOP 10

## NORTH AMERICA

- 1 Kiawah 79.9
- 2 Vancouver Island 78.2
- 3 Nantucket 75.8
- 4 Amelia Island 75.6
- 5 Prince Edward Island 73.7
- 6 Gulf Islands, B.C. 73.6
- 7 Mount Desert Island 73.0
- 8 Hilton Head 72.7
- 9 Sanibel 72.4
- 10 Outer Banks 72.3

Always a bridesmaid... until now. South Carolina's beachy, golfy Kiawah becomes North America's number one island for the first time ever.

TOP 10

## CARIBBEAN/ATLANTIC

- 1 Bermuda 81.3
- 2 St. John 79.9
- 3 St. Barts 77.6
- 4 British Virgin Islands 76.2
- 5 Anguilla 75.2
- 6 St. Lucia 71.7
- 7 Nevis 70.6
- 8 St. Martin/Sint Maarten 69.1
- 9 Turks and Caicos 69.0
- 9 Vieques 69.0

One of only two islands on this page that is almost entirely maintained as a U.S. national park. The other: Maine's Mount Desert Island.

RATED ON

Activities • Atmosphere/Ambience • Beaches • Friendliness • Lodging • Restaurants • Scenery