

2007 WHERE TO GO + WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

# TRAVEL + LEISURE

JANUARY 2007

YOUR  
GUIDE  
TO  
THE  
WORLD'S  
BEST  
HOTELS

T+L

500

TRAVEL  
SMARTER  
MONEY-  
SAVING  
TIPS

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# T+L 500

~ YOUR GUIDE TO ~

## THE WORLD'S BEST HOTELS

**ONCE AGAIN, WE'VE CALLED ON** our team of editors and reporters around the globe to deliver the T+L 500—the definitive guide to the greatest hotels worldwide. Since we first introduced the T+L 500 five years ago, the list of properties has shifted and broadened according to our readers' selections in the annual *Travel + Leisure* World's Best Awards survey. The United States and Canada, which represented 55 percent of the list in 2003, now account for 43 percent. Asia's share, meanwhile, has grown by nearly 60 percent. But one constant remains: our commitment to giving you the most authoritative and comprehensive resource possible as you plan your next trip. We've included how each hotel rates against other properties on the list (see overall score), what distinguishes it from the competition, and how to make the most of your stay. So go ahead, turn (and return) to the T+L 500 throughout the year. It's the ultimate hotel guide.



**T+L ONLINE** The T+L 500 is also available online, with special features including direct hotel links, searchable destination guides, and satellite mapping from Google Earth. Visit [travelandleisure.com](http://travelandleisure.com) for more planning tools.

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DALLAS

■ **The Adolphus** (82.59) Opulent 1912 landmark, in the arts and financial district. **STATS** 422 rooms; 3 restaurants; 3 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Museum-quality collection of art and antiques, including rare Flemish tapestries, Louis XV chairs, and a Victorian Steinway. **ROOMS TO BOOK** One of the Junior Suites (No. 1125 has a terrace). **DON'T MISS** Chef Jason Weaver's jumbo crab cakes at the French Room. **COST** Doubles from \$199. **1321 Commerce St.; 800/221-9083 or 214/742-8200; www.hoteladolphus.com** ㉠㉡

DALLAS

■ **Hotel Crescent Court** (83.50) French-inspired hotel occupying a full city block, minutes from the business district. **STATS** 191 rooms; 3 restaurants; 3 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Located in compact Uptown, close to shops, restaurants, and nightlife. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Those facing north overlook a garden courtyard. **DON'T MISS** The miso-glazed black cod at the new Nobu. **COST** Doubles from \$495. **400 Crescent Court; 800/654-6541 or 214/871-3200; www.crescentcourt.com** ㉠㉡

DALLAS

■ **Hotel ZaZa** (82.74) Whimsical hotel with a Mediterranean look, near galleries and restaurants. **STATS** 154 rooms; 1 restaurant; 2 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** The city's hippest hotel, with eclectic interiors incorporating everything from African prints to mid-20th-century Modernist furniture. **ROOMS TO BOOK** For serenity, those facing the State-Thomas neighborhood. **DON'T MISS** A hydro-color therapy soak at ZaSpa. **COST** Doubles from \$295. **2332 Leonard St.; 800/597-8399 or 214/468-8399; www.hotelzaza.com** ㉠㉡

DALLAS

**NO. 1 IN TEXAS**  
 ■ **Mansion on Turtle Creek** (87.13) Glamorous hotel comprising a restored 1920's residence and modern tower, near downtown. **STATS** 143 rooms; 2 restaurants; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** All the amenities of a grand hotel, combined with a residential feel. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Odd-numbered rooms on the south side overlook the serene pool. Nos. 101, 103, and 105 open onto the deck. **DON'T MISS** Borrowing a Lexus from the hotel. **COST** Doubles from \$475. **2821 Turtle Creek Blvd.; 800/527-5432 or 214/559-2100; www.rosewoodhotels.com** ㉠㉡

HOUSTON

■ **Four Seasons Hotel** (81.87) Downtown 30-story brick tower, close to transportation and the theater district. **STATS** 404 rooms; 1 restaurant; 2 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** A business-oriented hotel that feels like a resort, thanks to an outdoor pool. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Corners ending in -02 or -25

have bay windows and huge bathrooms. **DON'T MISS** An Astros game at nearby Minute Maid Park. **COST** Doubles from \$295. **1300 Lamar St.; 800/332-3442 or 713/650-1300; www.fourseasons.com** ㉠㉡

HOUSTON

■ **The Lancaster** (86.66) Regal 12-story hotel in the business district; currently undergoing renovation. **STATS** 93 rooms; 1 restaurant; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Ideal for business travelers, with town-car service and a 24-hour concierge. **ROOMS TO BOOK** One of the -07 corner Kings—the same price as Standards, but larger and sunnier. **DON'T MISS** Catching a performance in the nearby theater district. **COST** Doubles from \$315, including breakfast. **701 Texas Ave.; 800/231-0336 or 713/228-9500; www.thelancasterhouston.com** ㉠㉡

SAN ANTONIO

■ **Hotel Valencia Riverwalk** (81.26) Contemporary hotel modeled after a Tuscan-style farmhouse, on the River Walk. **STATS** 213 rooms; 1 restaurant; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Refreshingly un-Western, with Dodd Mitchell-designed rooms (ebony-stained floors, leather club chairs). **ROOMS TO BOOK** Those with balconies facing the waterfalls in the quiet courtyard. **DON'T MISS** A martini on V Bar's terrace. **COST** Doubles from \$309. **150 East Houston St.; 866/842-0100 or 210/227-9700; www.hotelvalencia.com** ㉠㉡

SAN ANTONIO

■ **Watermark Hotel & Spa** (85.83) Contemporary hotel with Western influences, on the River Walk. **STATS** 99 rooms; 1 restaurant; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** A peaceful oasis in the heart of town, with a world-class 17,000-square-foot spa. **ROOMS TO BOOK** River Views with balconies, ideal for watching the water (and people) stream by. **DON'T MISS** A sunset dip in the heated rooftop pool. **COST** Doubles from \$299. **212 W. Crockett; 866/605-1212 or 210/396-5800; www.watermarkhotel.com** ㉠㉡

UTAH

PARK CITY

■ **Stein Eriksen Lodge** (85.64) Norwegian-style ski chalet at Deer Valley Resort, newly polished thanks to an \$8 million renovation that started last spring. **STATS** 175 rooms; 1 restaurant; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** A ski-in, ski-out setting and impeccable service (warm boots in the morning). **ROOMS TO BOOK** West Wings have the best views of the Rockies. **DON'T MISS** Pastry chef Raymond Lammers' handmade chocolates. **COST** Doubles from \$750. **800/453-1302 or 435/649-3700; www.steinlodge.com** ㉠㉡

SUNDANCE

■ **Sundance Resort** (81.14) Robert Redford's rustic-yet-luxurious mountain retreat, 38 miles from Park City. **STATS** 95 rooms; 10 houses; 2 restaurants; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Extensive activities (pottery classes, skiing, fly-fishing) in a peaceful setting. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Sundance Suites, with patios and views of Mount Timpanogos. **DON'T MISS** A moonlight chairlift ride. **COST** Doubles from \$271. **800/892-1600 or 801/225-4107; www.sundanceresort.com** ㉠㉡

VERMONT

SHELburnE

■ **The Inn at Shelburne Farms** (85.19) 19th-century Queen Anne-style estate on Lake Champlain near the Adirondacks. **STATS** 24 rooms; 2 cottages; 1 restaurant; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** A perfect rural escape, with miles of walking trails on a 1,400-acre farm. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Overlook, the bedroom of former owner Lila Vanderbilt Webb; or the South Room, her former dressing room. **DON'T MISS** A visit to the farm's artisanal cheese-making operation. **COST** Doubles from \$145. **802/985-8498; www.shelburnefarms.org** ㉠㉡

VIRGINIA

ALEXANDRIA

■ **Morrison House Hotel** (83.55) Federal-style brick hotel in historic Old Town. **STATS** 45 rooms; 1 restaurant; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Set in a fashionable boutique- and townhouse-lined neighborhood, across the Potomac from Washington, D.C. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Deluxe rooms on the upper floors, with four-poster beds. **DON'T MISS** A nightcap in the piano bar. **COST** Doubles from \$329. **116 South Alfred St.; 866/834-6628 or 703/838-8000; www.morrisonhouse.com** ㉠

TYSONS CORNER

■ **Ritz-Carlton** (81.71) Modern tower with European interiors, across the Potomac from D.C. **STATS** 398 rooms; 2 restaurants; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** A locale that's convenient to D.C. and attached to Tysons Galleria (excellent shopping). **ROOMS TO BOOK** Odd-numbered Junior suites, for D.C. views and lots of space. **DON'T MISS** Fabio Trabocchi's Italian-inspired cuisine at Maestro. **COST** Doubles from \$429. **1700 Tysons Blvd.; 800/241-3333 or 703/506-4300; www.ritzcarlton.com** ㉠㉡

WASHINGTON

■ **The Inn at Little Washington** (80.87) Romantic early-20th-century house—a theatrical riot of fabrics and wallpapers—with a 1-bedroom cottage down the road, near the Shenandoah Valley. **STATS** 16 rooms; 1 restaurant; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Chef Patrick O'Connell's legendary eclectic American cuisine. **ROOMS TO BOOK** No. 16, for a soaking tub, garden,

and country views. **DON'T MISS** A hike through the nearby White Oak Canyon. **COST** Doubles from \$500. **540/675-3800; www.theinnatlittlewashington.com** ㉠

WASHINGTON

BELLEVUE

■ **Bellevue Club Hotel** (85.20) Sophisticated property in central Bellevue. **STATS** 67 rooms; 3 restaurants; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** A pampered and personalized experience in a charming city. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Club rooms, which have 12-foot ceilings and private patios. **DON'T MISS** Swimming in the Olympic-size pool. **COST** Doubles from \$335. **11200 S.E. 6th St.; 800/579-1110 or 425/454-4424; www.bellevueclub.com** ㉠㉡

SEATTLE

■ **Alexis Hotel** (81.38) European-style hotel between Pioneer Square and Pike Place Market. **STATS** 109 rooms; 2 restaurants; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** A haven for culture buffs, thanks to its rotating exhibition of work by Northwest artists. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Fireplace Suites (with king-size beds and wood-burning fireplaces) or Spa Suites (smaller but with spacious bathrooms and Jacuzzis). **DON'T MISS** The nightly wine receptions. **COST** Doubles from \$349. **888/850-1155 or 206/624-4844; www.alexishotel.com** ㉠㉡

SEATTLE

■ **Fairmont Olympic Hotel** (82.19) 1924 Italian Renaissance-style grande dame, blocks from the Seattle Public Library and Pike Place Market. **STATS** 450 rooms; 2 restaurants; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Old-world luxury and great service in a central locale. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Corner suites ending in -42 and -44 are particularly large. **DON'T MISS** Afternoon tea at the Georgian, the hotel's French-Northwest restaurant. **COST** Doubles from \$349. **411 University St.; 800/821-8106 or 206/621-1700; www.fairmont.com** ㉠㉡

SEATTLE

■ **Inn at the Market** (85.77) 8-story brick building at the entrance to the Pike Place Market. **STATS** 70 rooms; 3 restaurants; 2 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** An intimate retreat in the city's most vibrant shopping area. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Southeast corner rooms on floors 6-8, for glittering city views; No. 70B, for views of Elliott Bay from your bed. **DON'T MISS** Sampling the fried haricots verts at Campagna's bar. **COST** Doubles from \$225. **86 Pine St.; 800/446-4484 or 206/443-3600; www.innatthemarket.com** ㉠

SNOQUALMIE

■ **Salish Lodge & Spa** (82.41) Contemporary chalet in the Cascade Mountains, east of Seattle. **STATS** 91 rooms; 3 restaurants; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Fantastic activities—rafting, hiking, eagle 》