



Andrew Harper



# Readers' Choice Awards 2015

## TOP 20

HIDEAWAYS CITY HOTELS SAFARI LODGES  
BEACH RESORTS SPA RESORTS GOLF RESORTS  
FOOD & WINE RESORTS FAMILY RESORTS

PLUS TOP 10 CRUISE LINES





Otahuna Lodge, New Zealand, voted No. 1 international hideaway

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## Your Favorite Hideaways, Hotels and Resorts

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**COVER** Acqualina in Miami Beach, Florida, winner in three categories: beach resorts, spa resorts and family resorts

I am always fascinated by the results of our annual reader survey. It is especially gratifying when recent recommendations turn up in the latest listings. But it is also a pleasure to see old friends continuing to appear. For example, after a change of ownership and a refurbishment program, Petit St. Vincent was this year ranked No. 2 among international hideaways. This tiny private island in the Grenadines is, in many ways, the very definition of a hideaway, and it has been a personal favorite for more than 30 years. I was also delighted to see another distinctive property, Las Alamandas, at No. 3 in the rankings, despite the negative publicity that parts of Mexico continue to attract.

Every survey includes at least one major surprise. In 2015, this has been provided by Acqualina, located four miles north of Bal Harbor, which came in first in no fewer than *three* categories: beach, spa and family. Several respondents noted that Acqualina's remarkable ability to satisfy the diverse requirements

of both adults and children is what makes it so exceptional.

This year, I was particularly pleased by the detailed feedback I received, and I have duly noted the places that you would most like to see covered. (Your favorite countries remain Italy, France, England, Australia and New Zealand.) Many respondents asked me to concentrate on properties that display a high degree of "authenticity" and expressed a preference for "remote" or "unusual" destinations, while urging me to provide "a more unique take than mainstream travel publications." I will certainly do my best to fulfill these expectations.

Overall, I was especially heartened to discover that during a period of international uncertainty, 39 percent of subscribers still expect to travel more in the next 12 months than they have this year.

*Andrew Harper*

Thank you for downloading the 2015 Readers' Choice Awards results.  
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## Hideaways (hotels and resorts with fewer than 50 rooms)

### UNITED STATES

- 1 **Post Ranch Inn**  
Big Sur, California
- 2 **Calistoga Ranch**  
Calistoga, California
- 3 **Château du Sureau**  
Oakhurst, California
- 4 **Auberge du Soleil**  
Rutherford, California
- 5 **Little Palm Island**  
Little Torch Key, Florida
- 6 **Twin Farms**  
Barnard, Vermont
- 7 **Amangiri**  
Canyon Point, Utah
- 8 **Triple Creek Ranch**  
Darby, Montana
- 9 **San Ysidro Ranch**  
Santa Barbara, California
- 10 **The Inn at Little Washington**  
Washington, Virginia
- 11 **Rancho Valencia**  
Rancho Santa Fe, California
- 12 **Ocean House**  
Watch Hill, Rhode Island
- 13 **Blantyre**  
Lenox, Massachusetts
- 14 **Amangani**  
Jackson, Wyoming
- 15 **The Lodge at Sea Island Golf Club**  
St. Simons Island, Georgia
- 16 **Hidden Pond**  
Kennebunkport, Maine
- 17 **Rosewood CordeValle**  
San Martin, California
- 18 **Poetry Inn**  
Napa, California
- 19 **The Wauwinet**  
Nantucket, Massachusetts
- 20 **Lake Austin Spa Resort**  
Austin, Texas

### INTERNATIONAL

- 1 **Otahuna Lodge**  
Christchurch, New Zealand
- 2 **Petit St. Vincent**  
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- 3 **Las Alamandas**  
Costalegre, Mexico
- 4 **Ballyfin**  
County Laois, Ireland
- 5 **Mombo Camp and Little Mombo Camp**  
Okavango Delta, Botswana
- 6 **Singita Boulders Lodge**  
Sabi Sand Game Reserve, South Africa
- 7 **45 Park Lane**  
London, England
- 8 **Jumby Bay**  
Antigua
- 9 **Les Sources de Caudalie**  
Bordeaux-Martillac, France
- 10 **Four Seasons Tented Camp Golden Triangle**  
Chiang Rai, Thailand
- 11 **La Casa Que Canta**  
Zihuatanejo, Mexico
- 12 **Fogo Island Inn**  
Newfoundland, Canada
- 13 **Amansara**  
Siem Reap, Cambodia
- 14 **Castello Banfi - Il Borgo**  
Montalcino, Italy
- 15 **Hôtel San Régis**  
Paris, France
- 16 **Castello del Nero**  
Tavarnelle Val di Pesa, Italy
- 17 **Il Pellicano**  
Porto Ercole, Italy
- 18 **The Lodge at Kauri Cliffs**  
Matauri Bay, New Zealand
- 19 **Amandari**  
Bali, Indonesia
- 20 **Grand Hotel à Villa Feltrinelli**  
Gargnano, Italy

## City Hotels

- 1 **The Lowell**  
New York City, New York
- 2 **Four Seasons George V**  
Paris, France
- 3 **The Goring**  
London, England
- 4 **The Peninsula**  
Hong Kong, China
- 5 **The Peninsula**  
Chicago, Illinois
- 6 **Four Seasons The Biltmore**  
Santa Barbara, California
- 7 **Le Bristol**  
Paris, France
- 8 **Alvear Palace Hotel**  
Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 9 **The St. Regis**  
San Francisco, California
- 10 **The Stafford**  
London, England
- 11 **Claridge's**  
London, England
- 12 **Beverly Wilshire**  
Beverly Hills, California
- 13 **Mandarin Oriental**  
New York City, New York
- 14 **Four Seasons**  
New York City, New York
- 15 **Four Seasons**  
Boston, Massachusetts
- 16 **The Langham**  
Chicago, Illinois
- 17 **The Greenwich Hotel**  
New York City, New York
- 18 **Four Seasons**  
Florence, Italy
- 19 **The Connaught**  
London, England
- 20 **The St. Regis**  
New York City, New York



The Lowell

## Safari Lodges and Camps



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- 1 **Four Seasons Tented Camp Golden Triangle** Chiang Rai, Thailand
- 2 **Singita Boulders Lodge** Sabi Sand Game Reserve, South Africa
- 3 **Mombo Camp and Little Mombo Camp** Okavango Delta, Botswana
- 4 **Londolozi** Sabi Sand Game Reserve, South Africa
- 5 **&Beyond Ngorongoro Crater Lodge** Tanzania
- 6 **Galapagos Safari Camp** Santa Cruz Island, Ecuador
- 7 **Abu Camp** Okavango Delta, Botswana

- 8 **Azura Benguerra Island** Mozambique
- 9 **Tswalu Kalahari** Kalahari Desert, South Africa
- 10 **Singita Sasakwa Lodge** Grumeti Reserves, Tanzania
- 11 **Singita Ebony Lodge** Sabi Sand Game Reserve, South Africa
- 12 **Elsa's Kopje** Meru National Park, Kenya
- 13 **The Oberoi Vanyavilas** Ranthambore National Park, India
- 14 **Singita Lebombo Lodge** Kruger National Park, South Africa
- 15 **Aman-i-Khás** Ranthambore National Park, India
- 16 **Mateya Safari Lodge** Madikwe Game Reserve, South Africa
- 17 **Singita Mara River Tented Camp** Serengeti National Park, Tanzania
- 18 **Gorah Elephant Camp** Addo National Park, South Africa
- 19 **Wolwedans** NamibRand Nature Reserve, Namibia
- 20 **Sirikoi Lodge** Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, Kenya

## Golf Resorts



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- 1 **The Lodge at Pebble Beach** Pebble Beach, California
- 2 **The Resort at Pelican Hill** Newport Coast, California
- 3 **Four Seasons Hualalai** Kailua-Kona, Hawaii
- 4 **The Sanctuary Hotel** Kiawah Island, South Carolina
- 5 **Ashford Castle** County Mayo, Ireland
- 6 **The Broadmoor** Colorado Springs, Colorado
- 7 **One&Only Ocean Club** Paradise Island, Bahamas

- 8 **The Inn at Palmetto Bluff** Bluffton, South Carolina
- 9 **Keswick Hall** Charlottesville, Virginia
- 10 **Four Seasons at Wailea** Maui, Hawaii
- 11 **Mauna Kea Beach Hotel** Kohala Coast, Hawaii
- 12 **Esperanza** Cabo San Lucas, Mexico
- 13 **The Lodge at Sea Island Golf Club** St. Simons Island, Georgia
- 14 **The Breakers** Palm Beach, Florida
- 15 **The Cloister** Sea Island, Georgia
- 16 **The Lodge at Kauri Cliffs** Matauri Bay, New Zealand
- 17 **The Lodge at Torrey Pines** La Jolla, California
- 18 **Blantyre** Lenox, Massachusetts
- 19 **Rancho Valencia** Rancho Santa Fe, California
- 20 **The Gleneagles Hotel** Perthshire, Scotland

## Family Resorts

- 1 **Acqualina** Miami Beach, Florida
- 2 **The Resort at Pelican Hill** Newport Coast, California
- 3 **Four Seasons Hualalai** Kailua-Kona, Hawaii
- 4 **Four Seasons at Wailea** Maui, Hawaii
- 5 **Mauna Kea Beach Hotel** Kohala Coast, Hawaii
- 6 **Blackberry Farm** Walland, Tennessee
- 7 **Caneel Bay** St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands
- 8 **The Cloister** Sea Island, Georgia
- 9 **Four Seasons The Biltmore** Santa Barbara, California
- 10 **Arizona Inn** Tucson, Arizona
- 11 **Four Seasons Punta Mita** Nayarit, Mexico
- 12 **One&Only Ocean Club** Paradise Island, Bahamas
- 13 **Four Seasons at Peninsula Papagayo** Guanacaste, Costa Rica
- 14 **Le Bristol** Paris, France
- 15 **Cap Juluca** Maundays Bay, Anguilla
- 16 **Eden Rock** St. Jean Bay, St. Barths
- 17 **Rancho Valencia** Rancho Santa Fe, California
- 18 **Ashford Castle** County Mayo, Ireland
- 19 **The Inn at Palmetto Bluff** Bluffton, South Carolina
- 20 **1811 House** Manchester Village, Vermont



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## Beach Resorts



Acqualina

- 1 **Acqualina**  
Miami Beach, Florida
- 2 **Mauna Kea Beach Hotel**  
Kohala Coast, Hawaii
- 3 **Four Seasons Hualalai**  
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii
- 4 **Esperanza**  
Cabo San Lucas, Mexico
- 5 **Four Seasons The Biltmore**  
Santa Barbara, California
- 6 **Caneel Bay**  
St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands
- 7 **Four Seasons at Wailea**  
Maui, Hawaii
- 8 **Four Seasons Punta Mita**  
Mexico
- 9 **Peter Island Resort & Spa**  
British Virgin Islands
- 10 **Halekulani**  
Honolulu, Hawaii
- 11 **Rosewood Little Dix Bay**  
Virgin Gorda, British Virgin Islands
- 12 **Petit St. Vincent**  
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- 13 **Eden Rock**  
St. Jean Bay, St. Barths
- 14 **One&Only Palmilla**  
San José del Cabo, Mexico
- 15 **The Sanctuary Hotel**  
Kiawah Island, South Carolina
- 16 **Four Seasons at Peninsula Papagayo**  
Guanacaste, Costa Rica
- 17 **Amanpuri**  
Phuket, Thailand
- 18 **Lizard Island**  
Queensland, Australia
- 19 **Las Alamandas**  
Costalegre, Mexico
- 20 **Cap Juluca**  
Maundays Bay, Anguilla

## Food and Wine Resorts



Auberge du Soleil

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- 1 **Auberge du Soleil**  
Rutherford, California
- 2 **Blackberry Farm**  
Walland, Tennessee
- 3 **Calistoga Ranch**  
Calistoga, California
- 4 **Meadowood**  
St. Helena, California
- 5 **Post Ranch Inn**  
Big Sur, California
- 6 **Château du Sureau**  
Oakhurst, California
- 7 **The Inn at Little Washington**  
Washington, Virginia
- 8 **San Ysidro Ranch**  
Santa Barbara, California
- 9 **Villa d'Este**  
Lake Como, Italy
- 10 **Twin Farms**  
Barnard, Vermont
- 11 **Bernardus Lodge & Spa**  
Carmel Valley, California
- 12 **Grand-Hôtel du Cap-Ferrat**  
Saint-Jean Cap-Ferrat, France
- 13 **Ballyfin**  
County Laois, Ireland
- 14 **Otahuna Lodge**  
Christchurch, New Zealand
- 15 **Shutters on the Beach**  
Santa Monica, California
- 16 **Trump International Hotel**  
Chicago, Illinois
- 17 **Belmond Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons**  
Oxfordshire, England
- 18 **Triple Creek Ranch**  
Darby, Montana
- 19 **Farmhouse Inn**  
Forestville, California
- 20 **Domaine Les Crayères**  
Reims, France

## Spa Resorts

- 1 **Acqualina**  
Miami Beach, Florida
- 2 **Calistoga Ranch**  
Calistoga, California
- 3 **Canyon Ranch**  
Tucson, Arizona
- 4 **Auberge du Soleil**  
Rutherford, California
- 5 **The Resort at Pelican Hill**  
Newport Coast, California
- 6 **Blackberry Farm**  
Walland, Tennessee
- 7 **Meadowood**  
St. Helena, California
- 8 **Rancho Valencia**  
Rancho Santa Fe, California
- 9 **Miraval**  
Tucson, Arizona
- 10 **Grand Hotel Tremezzo**  
Lake Como, Italy
- 11 **Amangiri**  
Canyon Point, Utah
- 12 **Four Seasons The Biltmore**  
Santa Barbara, California
- 13 **Sanctuary Camelback Mountain**  
Paradise Valley, Arizona
- 14 **Les Sources de Caudalie**  
Bordeaux-Martillac, France
- 15 **Enchantment Resort**  
Sedona, Arizona
- 16 **Amangani**  
Jackson, Wyoming
- 17 **Post Ranch Inn**  
Big Sur, California
- 18 **Rosewood Little Dix Bay**  
Virgin Gorda, British Virgin Islands
- 19 **Esperanza**  
Cabo San Lucas, Mexico
- 20 **Amandari**  
Bali, Indonesia



Calistoga Ranch



- |   |  |    |   |
|---|--|----|---|
| 1 | Seabourn Cruise Line                       | 6  | SeaDream Yacht Club                       |
| 2 | Silversea Cruises                          | 7  | Sea Cloud Cruises                         |
| 3 | Crystal Cruises                            | 8  | Aqua Expeditions                          |
| 4 | Lindblad Expeditions – National Geographic | 9  | Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection |
| 5 | Paul Gauguin Cruises                       | 10 | Un-Cruise Adventures                      |

For information on recommended hotels and cruise lines, and to view photos of all of the winners, visit [AndrewHarper.com/reader-survey](http://AndrewHarper.com/reader-survey)



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