TRAVEL+ LEISURE

Best Resorts in the Continental U.S.

Whether you're craving California's sunset-soaked Pacific or a snow-dusted mountain retreat, the continental U.S. has no shortage of elite resorts. The best properties are expansive, design-driven, and contain everything you need to stay entertained during your holiday without stepping foot beyond the grounds: gourmet restaurants serving regional fare, rooms so comfortable you'll feel homesick upon departure, and unique programming to help you connect with the locale.

To help you narrow down your dream destinations, we asked *T+L* readers to handpick their favorites, based on service, restaurants and food, location, rooms and facilities, and value.

There was a great display of loyalty this year to old favorites such as Little Nell in Aspen and California's Post Ranch Inn. Both have impressive scores that have sustained their perch on the World's Best List for ten years in a row.

Of course, new properties are always appearing in our country's most coveted resort towns and spacious stretches of wilderness. Florida, with two debut properties (the St. Regis Bal Harbour Resort and the Pier House Resort Spa) swept 5 out of 25 spots this year. Meanwhile, California trumps with six properties.

With 40 rooms or more, all of these fan-favorite properties are capacious, often secluded estates, and are virtually self-sufficient. After all, with amenities like planetariums and zero-entry pools, why would you leave?

From coast to coast, these are the best resorts in the continental U.S.

No. 25 The Pier House Resort & Caribbean Spa Key West

Score: 81.394

There are two things no stay at The Pier House Resort would be complete without. One: a Sun Undone wrap, to nourish dry skin with organic algae, aloe vera gel, green tea extracts, and a sea mineral-soaked cool compress. Two: a classic cocktail at the famous Chart Room bar, where no sign of neon tropical sludge has ever appeared. Book your stay in the new Harbourfront building, where every room has an ocean view.