



CONDÉ NAST TRAVELER, JANUARY 2007

Rise has an outdoor terrace and a cocktails menu. \$\$\$; 298 rooms; spa; 917-790-2401; ritzcarlton.com.

Ritz-Carlton New York, Central Park, New York

91.5 87.9 89.6 95.7 89.7 90.9
At this hotel on Central Park South, "request a room on the twentieth floor or higher to clear the treetops." Step outside and "everything from Broadway to Carnegie Hall is accessible on foot." Public areas pair French limestone walls with inlaid-onyx flooring. Rooms have rose, celadon, and taupe carpets and come with four different types of pillow. BLT Market, opening in early 2007, will serve seasonal dishes. La Prairie spa offers four kinds of facial. \$\$\$; 261 rooms; spa; 212-308-9100; ritzcarlton.com.

St. Regis, New York

93.2 98.3 93.0 97.4 96.5 95.7
The service is "beyond impressive" at this 1902 Beaux Arts fixture on Fifth Avenue: A butler, on call 24 hours a day, "caters to your every whim—even those you didn't know you had." Stay in bright rooms with floor-to-ceiling windows, silk-draped canopy beds, and fresh fruit and flowers. The Astor Court serves country French cuisine, and the King Cole Bar was the birthplace of the Bloody Mary. \$\$\$; 256 rooms; spa; 800-759-7550; starwood.com.

Chambers Hotel, New York

72.7 77.3 90.9 95.5 85.7 84.4
\$\$\$; 77 rooms; 866-204-5656; chambersnyc.com.

Loews Regency Hotel, New York

83.3 85.1 77.6 91.0 80.6 83.5
\$\$\$; 351 rooms; 212-759-4100; loewshotels.com.

Sofitel, New York

83.5 83.5 76.2 87.9 81.1 82.6
\$\$\$; 398 rooms; 212-354-8844; sofitel.com.

Trump International Hotel & Tower, New York

87.0 81.5 80.8 85.2 75.9 82.1
\$\$\$; 167 rooms; pool, spa; 888-448-7867; trumpintl.com.

NORTH CAROLINA

Inn on Biltmore Estate, Asheville

89.2 88.5 82.7 91.1 91.6 88.6
"Designed to make you feel like an honored guest of George Vanderbilt," this stone castle sits atop a hill on the 8,000-acre Biltmore estate. Floor-to-ceiling windows in the European manor-style rooms afford views that extend "all the way to Tennessee." Breakfast in the main dining room includes "a fine hickory-smoked maple bacon." \$\$\$; 213 rooms; pool; 828-225-1600; biltmore.com.

Richmond Hill Inn, Asheville

94.1 91.2 91.2 85.3 88.2 90.0
A Victorian mountaintop mansion surrounded by "beautifully landscaped gardens," it began life as the home of North Carolina congressman Richmond Pearson. Three styles of accommodations, "carefully spread out" between the original mansion and two outlying properties, have warm colors and rustic furnishings reflecting the environs. Gabrielle's draws locals with its "thoughtfully prepared European dishes featuring excellent fresh produce." \$\$\$; 37 rooms; 800-345-9238; richmondhillinn.com.

Sanderling Resort & Spa, Duck

87.9 87.7 84.5 96.5 94.7 80.4 88.6
The setting "couldn't be more picturesque" at this coastal resort comprising low-rise cedar-shingled buildings decorated with wildlife art and sculptures. Rooms echo the surroundings with shades of sea blue, gray, and taupe, and baths have antique bronze fixtures. The French-inspired Left Bank restaurant is "a little pretentious, but the service is outstanding." \$\$\$; 96 rooms; tennis, pool, spa, beach; 800-701-4111; the-sanderling.com.

Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club, Durham

80.9 87.2 83.0 89.4 83.0 74.5 83.0
\$\$\$; 271 rooms; golf, tennis, pool; 919-490-0999; washingtondukeinn.com.

Greystone Inn, Lake Toxaway

90.9 95.5 95.5 95.5 90.0 93.5

wood interiors and Douglas fir hearths. \$\$\$; 20 rooms; pool, water sports; 800-864-6357; tututum.com.

Hotel Lucia, Portland

94.9 96.0 89.1 98.0 99.0 95.5
With ubiquitous sculptures, paintings, and photography, this 1928 brick-and-terra-cotta Neoclassic Revival building "feels more like a gallery." The "terrific location" puts guests close to the MAX light-rail and the Pearl District. Rooms with mahogany and bold colors have bathrooms with stainless steel basins. Press the room's cat it now button and "staff appear immediately." Typhoon restaurant serves modern Thai. \$\$\$; 127 rooms; 503-225-1717; hotelucia.com.

Fifth Avenue Suites Hotel, Portland

88.5 86.9 70.2 90.2 79.3 83.2
\$\$\$; 221 rooms; spa; 503-222-0001; kemptonhotels.com.

RiverPlace, Portland

83.9 80.6 74.2 87.1 86.2 82.4
\$\$\$; 84 rooms; 503-228-3233; larkspurhotels.com.

PENNSYLVANIA

Nemacolin Woodlands Resort, Farmington

92.0 89.3 83.0 59.5 79.5 88.4 82.0
\$\$\$; 335 rooms; golf, tennis, pool, spa, skiing; 724-329-8555; nemacolin.com.

Four Seasons, Philadelphia

87.9 95.4 90.8 86.9 88.5 89.9
"Exceptional service and great attention to detail" are hallmarks of this gray granite hotel in the Museum District. Recent renovations updated the Federal-style rooms, with their satinwood veneers and tile drapes, adding yellow and chocolate color schemes. Chef Martin Hamann's Fountain Res-



SCALING NEW HEIGHTS

The Grand Lobby at the Four Seasons, New York, has a 33-foot-high onyx-and-alabaster ceiling, and French limestone columns frame the concierge desk.

At this 1915 rural Swiss mansion in the mountains, rooms are appointed with early-nineteenth-century antiques, and some have porches, fireplaces, and lake views. Order the "simply outstanding" roast tenderloin of wild boar with truffle whipped potatoes at the Lakeside Dining Room. Spa treatments include an herb exfoliation followed by a shea-butter massage. Canoe on the lake out front. \$\$\$; 33 rooms; golf, tennis, pool, spa, water sports; 828-966-4700; greystoneinn.com.

OREGON

Stephanie Inn, Cannon Beach

93.3 91.1 90.7 95.6 91.1 92.4
Steps away from Haystack Rock, this low-rise inn has a location that "makes you want to curl up and watch a Pacific storm come in off the ocean." Rooms have wicker furnishings, stone fireplaces, whirlpools, and "the most comfortable beds ever." Staff are "laid-back and without that big-city arrogance." Candlelit meals in the dining room begin with an amuse-bouche such as Gorgonzola-stuffed mushrooms. \$\$\$; 50 rooms; beach; 800-833-3466; stephanie-inn.com.

Tu Tu Tun Lodge, Gold Beach

87.5 91.7 100 100 91.7 94.1
This Northwest Mission lodge's perfect Food score derives in part from "the absolutely incredible grilled and smoked salmon family-style barbecue that was the best part of the whole stay." "The wilderness setting is stunning"—bald eagles and deer sometimes visit—earning the lodge a perfect Location score. Rooms open to the Rogue River and have state and

taurine dishes—such as veal chop with osso buco raguot—that are "to die for." \$\$\$; 364 rooms; pool, spa; 866-516-1100; fourseasons.com.

Rittenhouse Hotel, Philadelphia

86.6 86.6 85.1 92.5 87.9 87.7
"In the immediate vicinity of Philly's best sights," such as the Museum of Art, this hotel in a condominium complex has a cobblestoned courtyard, a fountain, a garden, and rooms styled in blue and gold with mahogany furniture. Lacroix's French fare includes sautéed young rabbit with violet mustard. The spa recently added treatment rooms. \$\$\$; 98 rooms; pool, spa; 800-635-1042; rittenhousehotel.com.

Ritz-Carlton, Philadelphia

84.9 82.6 80.0 89.7 86.0 84.7
\$\$\$; 303 rooms; spa; 215-523-8000; ritzcarlton.com.

RHODE ISLAND

Castle Hill Inn & Resort, Newport

92.9 90.5 92.9 92.9 90.0 91.8
Built on a 40-acre peninsula off Ocean Drive, this former summerhouse of a Swiss scientist "looks like a Victorian mansion." In addition to the main house and a suite set in a turret are beach houses with kitchens and new cottages near the water. Decor includes gas fireplaces, distressed-leather sofas, and William Morris wallpaper. "The service is excellent. I told the chef how much I liked a truffle dish, and the next day he gave me some truffles in a box."