

The Best Hotels in the U.S.

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by Katrina Brown Hunt November 30, 2015

A great hotel can make you feel you've traveled back in time—and even help you dress the part.

That's why Sharon Cantor loves [The Chanler](#), a sprawling, former summer home in Newport, R.I. "It's a journey back to the Golden Age of mansions—architectural beauty, timeless elegance, and impeccable service," says the Miami resident. During one recent stay, Cantor and her husband Steve were invited to a 1930s-themed gala, and Chanler staffers helped them hunt down last-minute costumes. "We have stayed at many five-star hotels," says the Cantor, "but none of them compares to the personal attention and genuine warmth shown to us by the staff of the Chanler."

Travel + Leisure readers felt the same way, ranking the Rhode Island manse among the top 10 of all U.S. hotels. As part of the magazine's annual World's Best survey, readers ranked airlines, spas, hotels, and even islands around the globe. Within the hotel category, readers ranked properties for such features as their service, dining, family-friendliness, spas, and location. Indeed, some of the top 20 hotel winners could get away with being ho-hum on the inside, given their fabulous settings—like, along Newport's Cliff Walk, in the shade of the Golden Gate Bridge, or on a private island overlooking Key West.

That tiny-island locale is one reason Beth Blair loves [Sunset Key Cottages](#), another top 10 contender. Its air of exclusivity is “magical, and I could go on and on about the top-notch service and views,” says the Minnesota [travel blogger](#). But something else won her heart: “The pastry baskets that arrive every morning at the front door are a wow factor,” she says. “There's nothing more relaxing than sitting on a beach-facing patio, sipping hot coffee and nibbling on freshly baked muffins.”



No. 19: Inn Above Tide, Sausalito, California

A literal reading of [this hotel's](#) name explains how it ranked at No. 3 in the location category: it sits right over the water in Sausalito, giving you deck or picture-window views of San Francisco Bay, Marin, and Alcatraz. Considering the prime real estate, readers also gave the 31-room, shingled hotel high marks for value (it's also evidence of the affection travelers have for a free continental breakfast and an evening wine-and-cheese reception). You also get niceties like in-room binoculars, Bulgari toiletries, and complimentary bicycles, so you can pedal around Sausalito or nearby Mill Valley and Tiburon.