

Top 40 Spas

In North America and the Caribbean

Resort Spas

Not sure what you're looking for in a spa? Here there's something for everyone—from spa-specific pursuits, such as rubdowns and body wraps, to activities like golf, tennis, and (why not?) lazy surfside sunbathing. The Four Seasons Resort Hualalai takes top honors for the third year in a row, with Baja's Las Ventanas a close second.

Resort Spa	Number of Rooms	Doubles	OVERALL SCORE	Location/Setting	Rooms	Diet/Cuisine	Staff/Service	Treatments	Program/Facilities	Other Activities	What Stands Out
Four Seasons Resort Hualalai, Big Island	243	\$\$\$	89.6	98.2	96.4	90.9	85.5	80.0	87.3	89.1	Ayurvedic foot massage with custom-blended oils.
Las Ventanas al Paraiso, Los Cabos, Mexico	61	\$\$\$	89.0	96.7	100	80.0	93.3	90.0	83.3	80.0	Hot- and cold-stone massage and a chakra-stone gift.
The Greenbrier, White Sulphur Springs, W.Va.	639	\$\$\$	87.0	93.4	84.6	87.9	95.6	81.3	79.1	86.8	Greenbrier Clinic offers diagnostic sessions.
Four Seasons Resort Maui at Wailea, Maui	380	\$\$\$	80.4	93.3	88.8	82.0	88.8	74.2	64.0	71.9	Aquacranial treatments realign your spine.
Four Seasons Resort Aviara, Carlsbad, Calif.	329	\$\$\$	80.1	87.8	94.6	83.8	89.2	66.2	68.9	70.3	Water shiatsu eases golfers' achy muscles.
Manele Bay Hotel, Lanai	250	\$\$\$	80.0	97.5	93.8	77.5	88.8	65.0	57.5	80.0	Remodeled spa has bamboo floor and dome ceiling.
Hyatt Regency Kauai Resort & Spa, Kauai	602	\$\$\$	79.1	96.6	76.5	75.6	79.8	71.4	74.8	79.0	Honey-and-ginger body masque hydrates skin.
Lodge at Pebble Beach, Calif.	172	\$\$\$	79.1	97.6	80.5	73.2	80.5	73.2	70.7	78.0	Oats, clay, and cypress oils aid exfoliation.
The Homestead, Hot Springs, Va.	506	\$\$\$	79.0	88.9	66.7	80.0	82.2	75.6	80.0	80.0	Indoor pool fed by natural hot springs.
Lodge at Koele, Lanai	102	\$\$	79.0	93.5	85.5	88.7	85.5	61.3	58.1	80.6	Workout area is poolside.
Centre for Well-Being at The Phoenician, Scottsdale	654	\$\$\$	78.3	89.5	78.9	72.8	82.5	78.1	78.9	67.5	Astrologer provides readings.
Grand Wailea Resort, Hotel & Spa, Maui	780	\$\$\$	77.9	93.5	73.2	70.7	77.2	71.5	75.6	83.7	Two therapists simultaneously perform acupressure.
Fairmont Chateau Whistler, Whistler, B.C.	556	\$\$	77.6	97.6	78.6	66.7	85.7	64.3	64.3	85.7	Thai massage releases body's natural energies.
Four Seasons Resort, Nevis	196	\$\$\$	77.4	100	82.9	82.9	78.0	56.1	61.0	80.5	Secluded beachside massage.
Nemacolin Woodlands Resort & Spa, Farmington, Pa.	275	\$	77.1	73.3	83.3	80.0	63.3	73.3	86.7	80.0	Italian spa peel uses pine oils to ease muscle tension.
The Broadmoor, Colorado Springs, Colo.	700	\$\$\$	77.0	95.4	72.4	70.1	81.6	66.7	71.3	81.6	Peaches-and-cream manicure/pedicure, with a smoothie.
Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua, Maui	548	\$\$	76.6	94.7	80.0	84.0	82.7	65.3	54.7	74.7	Lomilomi massage in an oceanside hut.
American Club, Kohler, Wis.	236	\$\$	76.4	82.7	88.5	76.9	80.8	71.2	71.2	63.5	Riverbath re-creates a waterfall and currents.
Canyon Ranch SpaClub at the Venetian, Las Vegas	3,036	\$\$	76.0	86.8	82.4	71.4	82.5	74.7	80.2	63.7	Rasul treatment offered in a tiled steam chamber.
Ritz-Carlton, Naples, Fla.	463	\$\$\$	75.7	92.2	85.7	74.0	84.4	63.6	70.1	59.7	Expansive: A 51,000-square-foot spa.
JW Marriott Ihilani Resort and Spa, Oahu	387	\$\$\$	75.5	85.7	85.7	73.5	79.6	67.3	67.3	69.4	Treatments employ local ingredients.
Four Seasons Resort, Palm Beach, Fla.	210	\$\$\$	74.8	86.7	83.3	83.3	86.7	70.0	63.3	50.0	Beauty Flash Facial is a quick pick-me-up.
Golden Door Spa at The Boulders, Carefree, Ariz.	210	\$\$	74.8	94.7	84.2	73.7	74.2	63.2	68.4	55.3	Turquoise wrap uses blue cornmeal.
Princeville Resort, Kauai	252	\$\$\$	74.8	94.8	80.4	78.4	79.4	55.7	55.7	79.4	Aveda products exclusively.
Bellagio, Las Vegas	3,005	\$\$	74.7	85.2	85.6	80.9	78.5	62.7	64.1	66.0	Rosacea facial evens out hypersensitive skin.

Key: \$= less than \$250 per day \$\$ = \$250-\$449 \$\$\$ = \$450 or more. Rates are for a double room during the month of April.



BORDA

10TH ANNIVERSARY

Top 100 Golf Resorts

IN NORTH AMERICA, THE CARIBBEAN, IRELAND, AND SCOTLAND

Searching for a scenic spot to swing your clubs? In our tenth annual golf resorts survey, lovers of the game turn in their scorecards on the best places to stay and play

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES A DECADE MAKE in the life of a sport? It's a mere blink of an eye in golf, which has been around since the 1400s. But for perspective on how much the game has been both shaken and stirred, consider this: Ten years ago, you couldn't wear your golf shoes in the clubhouse because steel spikes were the norm. And at the Masters, the PGA's most lauded tournament, a Stanford freshman named Tiger Woods was causing a buzz as the only amateur to make the cut.

For this, the tenth anniversary of the Top Golf Resorts poll, we once again asked our golfing subscribers to reveal their favorite golf resorts in the United States as well as Mexico, the Caribbean, Canada, Ireland, and Scotland. And we are pleased to report on these pages their well-traveled opinions and insights.

This year, as in the survey's first, Pacific breezes blow through the upper echelon of our winners' list. In our debut poll, Lanai's Lodge at Koele won first place and Hawaii accounted for four of the top ten resorts. This

readers'poll

Ranking	Resort	Location									Noteworthy Attributes
			Holes of Golf	OVERALL SCORE	Course Design	Speed of Play	Rooms	Service	Food/Dining	Other Facilities	
1.	Four Seasons Resort Hualalai	Big Island	18	93.4	94.1	89.4	91.8	97.6	96.5	92.9	Its oceanfront Jack Nicklaus-designed course is carved into lava beds.
★ 2.	Manele Bay Hotel	Lanai	36	91.2	96.3	89.8	88.8	93.5	89.7	84.1	The Challenge at Manele's 12th hole requires a 200-yard carry over the Pacific.
★ 3.	Lodge at Koele	Lanai	36	89.6	96.6	92.3	80.9	96.4	91.8	82.7	The upcountry Experience at Koele course rises to an altitude of 2,000 feet.
4.	Four Seasons Resort Maui at Wailea	Maui	54	88.9	90.9	84.8	85.5	94.7	93.4	86.8	The Club Floor Lounge, atop the South Tower, was revamped in 2004.
★ 5.	Ritz-Carlton Kapalua	Maui	54	88.6	97.3	80.2	86.4	90.9	85.5	78.2	A complete update of the spa was completed in December 2004.
★ 6.	American Club	Kahler, Wis.	72	88.4	98.3	81.0	84.6	87.2	88.0	78.6	The Straits course includes four par-5s and more than 1,000 bunkers.
7.	Four Seasons Resort Aviara	Carlsbad, Calif.	18	87.9	90.4	78.8	89.2	94.1	85.3	82.4	The 7,007-yard Arnold Palmer-designed course fronts a lagoon.
★ 8.	Mauna Lani Resort	Big Island	36	87.0	93.6	84.0	83.2	87.6	85.8	82.3	Solar-powered golf carts are used on the Francis H. I'i Brown courses.
★ 9.	Inn at Spanish Bay	Pebble Beach, Calif.	72	86.6	90.2	65.6	88.8	90.5	89.4	83.2	The Inn is next to the 18th hole of the Scottish-style Links at Spanish Bay.
10.	JW Marriott Las Vegas Resort, Spa & Golf	Summerlin, Nev.	18	86.0	89.2	75.7	88.9	86.1	77.8	86.1	Guests have playing privileges at TPC at The Canyons, west of Las Vegas.
11.	Fairmont Orchid	Big Island	36	85.9	89.2	83.8	89.2	86.5	81.1	73.0	All rooms were refurbished earlier this year.
★ 12.	Princeville Resort	Kauai	45	85.7	94.4	82.1	81.0	86.7	81.6	80.4	A 13-acre practice facility has three teeing spots, allowing variation for wind direction.
13.	Nemacolin Woodlands Resort & Spa	Farmington, Pa.	36	85.4	90.2	80.5	88.1	78.6	73.8	85.7	The Mystic Rock course increased its yardage and narrowed several fairways.
★ 14.	Hyatt Regency Kauai Resort & Spa	Kauai	18	85.2	95.7	79.3	80.5	82.3	80.5	81.4	Ocean and Deluxe suites were renovated in September 2004.
15.	Ritz-Carlton Lake Las Vegas	Henderson, Nev.	36	85.1	92.2	70.6	87.0	84.8	82.6	76.1	A new daily resort fee includes access to Reflection Bay Golf Club's driving range.
16.	Ritz-Carlton Half Moon Bay	Half Moon Bay, Calif.	36	85.0	90.6	71.7	87.4	85.3	84.2	74.7	Suites come with complimentary putters and balls for practicing.
17.	Four Seasons Resort at Troon North	Scottsdale, Ariz.	36	84.7	94.3	73.0	80.0	90.9	80.0	80.0	Free fitness classes include yoga, kickboxing, and Pilates.
★ 18.	The Homestead	Hot Springs, Va.	54	84.4	89.8	76.3	81.7	88.3	83.3	81.7	For nongolfing days, a new skeet shooting clubhouse opened last August.
★ 19.	Boulders Resort & Golden Door Spa	Carefree, Ariz.	36	84.3	92.6	66.9	85.2	84.5	83.9	74.8	The golf school has Virtual Vision, a closed-circuit camera system enabling a golfer to see his swing.
★ 20.	Loews Ventana Canyon Resort	Tucson, Ariz.	36	83.7	90.5	76.8	82.3	85.4	83.3	72.9	Rooms were refurbished this spring.
21.	Fairmont Kea Lani	Maui	54	83.6	89.7	58.6	86.1	83.3	83.3	83.3	Its 37 newly renovated villas come with a complimentary car rental.
22.	JW Marriott Ihilani Resort & Spa	Oahu	18	83.4	78.2	72.7	93.2	81.4	83.1	83.1	Roy's restaurant opened in the clubhouse in July 2004.
★ 23.	Four Seasons Resort and Club Dallas at Las Colinas	Irving, Tex.	18	83.3	81.3	68.8	88.1	88.1	84.7	83.1	A top-to-bottom remodeling of the spa was completed in spring 2004.
24.	Lodge at Sea Island	Sea Island, Ga.	54	83.1	89.7	79.5	75.0	87.5	87.5	82.5	Butlers are on call 24 hours a day.
★ 25.	The Broadmoor	Colorado Springs, Colo.	36	82.9	89.5	63.7	82.0	88.3	83.6	78.9	Reconstruction of the Mountain Course is expected to be completed by July 2006.
★ 26.	The Cloister	Sea Island, Ga.	54	82.7	88.6	78.5	81.4	81.4	80.2	76.7	The Cloister, being rebuilt on the island's west side, will be fully open by spring 2006.
★ 27.	The Greenbrier	White Sulphur Springs, W.Va.	54	82.6	88.7	72.2	76.5	84.7	85.7	87.8	An infinity pool and golf instruction by the Golf Digest Academy are recent additions.
★ 28.	Lodge at Pebble Beach	Pebble Beach, Calif.	72	82.3	98.5	52.3	79.5	85.9	81.6	69.7	The newly remodeled Terrace Lounge overlooks the 18th hole of the Pebble Beach course.
29.	Inn at Bay Harbor	Bay Harbor, Mich.	45	82.1	100	80.8	75.0	75.0	80.0	60.0	Crooked Tree Golf Club's course is lined with pines; the back nine overlook Lake Michigan.
★ 29.	Kapalua Bay Hotel	Maui	54	82.1	97.9	72.5	73.2	82.1	79.7	74.0	The Plantation Course is closed until August; the hotel is now a Renaissance Resort.
31.	Ritz-Carlton Lodge Reynolds Plantation	Greensboro, Ga.	81	81.6	88.9	86.1	81.6	76.3	73.7	68.4	The Dave Pelz Golf School offers short-game clinics.
★ 32.	The Phoenician	Scottsdale, Ariz.	27	81.1	72.3	66.7	87.3	92.5	89.0	84.4	Hot toddies are now available at the turnaround.

★ = Ten "Top Golf Resort" appearances in as many years.

time, the state claims six of the top ten, including the first five spots. Top lei goes to the Big Island's Four Seasons Resort Hualalai, which ranks highest in the Food/Dining and Service categories and earns accolades for Rooms and for Other Facilities, which readers always report are abundant in the Aloha State.

When it comes to Course Design, one of the most important criteria, poll respondents prove themselves to be an eclectic and well-traveled bunch who aren't afraid to think outside the tee box. This is the second year in a row that three properties have tied with perfect scores for Course Design, and none of the three—California's Lodge at Rancho Mirage, Maui's Prince Hotel, and Michigan's Inn at Bay Harbor—had previously received such a score. The

two runners-up for Course Design are themselves perfect-score veterans: California's Lodge at Pebble Beach, a perennial survey favorite, and the Westin Turnberry in Ayrshire, Scotland, which likely received its recent recognition from the maturing of its Kintyre course, opened in 2001.

In other international credits, first place in the Rooms category goes to Scotland's Gleneagles, followed by Mexico's Four Seasons Resort Punta Mita, which is the top-ranking property south of the border (and which hadn't even been built when we conducted our first survey).

Canada's top honors go to three Fairmont properties: British Columbia's Chateau Whistler—hailed for its mountain mojo—followed by two Alberta resorts, Banff Springs and Jas-

per Park Lodge, both of whose historic courses are Stanley Thompson designs. Across the pond, in the cradle of the sport, top scorers include four resorts in Scotland—Gleneagles, Westin Turnberry, Greywalls Hotel, and Marine Hotel—as well as Ireland's Adare Manor and Dromoland Castle.

Other good news if you're puddle-jumping for spectacular golf: You're likely to be rewarded with quick rounds. Greywalls earns accolades for Speed of Play, as does the Lodge at Koele. Funny, that; ten years ago, Lanai and Scotland were also among the speediest places to play a round.

So if you're planning a golf vacation and getting in 36 before sundown is a priority, book Lanai or Scotland. You read it here first.

—Nichole Bernier

SLICING THE BIG APPLE Open since 1895, New York City's Van Cortlandt Golf Course is the country's oldest public course.