

January 20, 2016

TripAdvisor Recognizes the World's Best Hotels With 2016 Travelers' Choice Awards

Umaid Bhawan Palace in Jodhpur, India the Top Hotel in the World; New York City's Sherry Netherland is #1 in the U.S.

World's Largest Travel Site Names Top Accommodations Including Bargains, B&Bs and Inns, Luxury, Service and Small Hotels

NEEDHAM, Mass., Jan. 20, 2016 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- <u>TripAdvisor[®]</u>, the world's largest travel site*, today announced the winners of its Travelers' Choice[™] awards for Hotels. Travelers' Choice award winners were determined based on the millions of reviews and opinions collected in a single year from TripAdvisor travelers worldwide. Now in its 14th year, the Travelers' Choice awards have recognized more than 7,000 properties around the world, with lists covering 97 countries and eight regions worldwide. The hallmarks of Travelers' Choice winners are remarkable service, quality and value.

"We congratulate the properties around the world that have won Travelers' Choice Hotel awards," said Barbara Messing, chief marketing officer for TripAdvisor. "Travelers considering their next trip can book confidently selecting from these award-winners that have already delighted millions of members of the TripAdvisor community."

The average nightly rate of Travelers' Choice award-winning Top Hotels on TripAdvisor is \$325; Bargain is \$73; B&Bs and Inns is \$126; Luxury is \$452; Service is \$300 and Small Hotels is \$300.

Top 10 Travelers' Choice Hotels in the U.S.:

1. <u>The Sherry-Netherland Hotel</u> — New York City — Bookable on TripAdvisor for an average rate¹ of \$615 per night.

Most affordable month² to visit: February (\$571)

Located on Fifth Avenue, this enchanting boutique hotel from the 1920s will impress travelers with its unparalleled service and ornate fixtures including hand-loomed French carpets, marble mosaic floors and custom crystal chandeliers. A TripAdvisor reviewer commented, "The hotel is amazing and gives you the 'old New York' feel, in an updated and modern way. The room was large and nicely decorated and we had a fantastic view of the city. The location couldn't have been more perfect."

Three reasons to book³ The Sherry-Netherland Hotel: Comfortable bed, furnishings, turn-down service

2. <u>Bardessono</u> — Yountville, California — Bookable on TripAdvisor for an average rate of \$754 per night. Most affordable month to visit: January (\$601)

Powered by rooftop solar panels, this LEED certified hotel offers a peaceful setting for travelers to unwind. Each of the 62 guest rooms, described as "sanctuaries of timeless indulgence," are designed for private in-room spa services and also boast organic cotton bed linens, hand-crafted bath products and spectacular vistas. "Bardessono impresses at every angle. The sleek modern architecture is beautiful, the rooms are tastefully decorated and extremely comfortable, and the service is spotless," noted a TripAdvisor reviewer.

Three reasons to book the Bardessono: Hybrid Lexus vehicles, roof-top pool, outdoor showers

3. <u>The Nantucket Hotel & Resort</u> — Nantucket, Massachusetts — Bookable on TripAdvisor for an average rate of \$229 per night. Most affordable month to visit: January (\$229)

Originally built in 1891, this pristine hotel was restored in 2012 to provide travelers with modern luxury in each of its 30 guest rooms. Further to the property's convenient location, travelers can take advantage of the on-site wellness facility, two heated swimming pools and activities for children. A TripAdvisor reviewer commented, "Our recent stay was incredible. What really impressed us most was the staff. From the moment we stepped off the ferry, they were there to greet us with smiles and help with our luggage."

Three reasons to book The Nantucket Hotel & Resort: Health club, hot tub, recently renovated

night. Most affordable month to visit: January (\$344)

Travelers visiting Charleston are invited to experience old world charm at this boutique hotel located in the city's Historic District. Upon check-in guests will be greeted with champagne and will receive complimentary breakfast each day. One TripAdvisor reviewer noted, "What a wonderful experience! Everything from the beautiful room and comfortable bed, to the chocolates and turn-down service, was beyond our expectation."

Three reasons to book the French Quarter Inn: Champagne upon arrival, warm cookies and milk, spacious rooms

5. <u>The Oxford Hotel</u> — Bend, Oregon — Bookable on TripAdvisor for an average rate of \$339 per night. Most affordable month to visit: January (\$252)

After exploring the nearby Cascade Mountain Range, travelers are invited to rejuvenate in one of 59 luxurious rooms at the eco-friendly Oxford Hotel. On-site amenities include a Jacuzzi spa, sauna and steam room and state-of-the-art fitness facility. "From the moment the valet opens your car door, you are treated like the most important people in the world. The hotel itself is beautiful and very well-appointed, but it is the service that made our experience over the top," commented a TripAdvisor reviewer.

Three reasons to book The Oxford Hotel: Perfect location, spacious rooms, steam shower

6. <u>Ponte Vineyard Inn</u> — Temecula, California — Bookable on TripAdvisor for an average rate of \$311 per night. Most affordable month to visit: January (\$281)

Overlooking the rolling hills of California's wine region, this stunning property set on 300 acres serves as the perfect setting for a relaxing escape. The "Grand Suites" offer more than 1,300 square-feet of indoor and outdoor living space with two private patios boasting panoramic views of the vineyards. A TripAdvisor reviewer commented, "The setting is gorgeous, and the rooms are large, bright and comfortable. The service from the front desk to the wait staff could not have been more friendly or helpful. We loved eating breakfast outside, and the food was innovative and delicious."

Three reasons to book the Ponte Vineyard Inn: Beautiful grounds, L'Occitane toiletries, on-site Bouquet restaurant

7. <u>Icona Diamond Beach</u> — Wildwood Crest, New Jersey — Bookable on TripAdvisor for an average rate of \$221 per night. Most affordable month to visit: November (\$158)

This impressive seaside property was recently transformed by renowned interior designer Blanche Garcia, who carefully decorated each room with calming shades of blue. Further to the hotel's close proximity to the beach, guests have access to a collection of features including a galley kitchen, plush living room and ocean views. "Our suite was absolutely lovely with all the comforts of home including a well-stocked kitchenette. The location is perfect; the soft sand beach is absolutely beautiful and groomed every day," noted a TripAdvisor reviewer.

Three reasons to book the Icona Diamond Beach: Kid-friendly, on-site Blue restaurant, great view of the beach

8. <u>The Talbott Hotel</u> — Chicago, Illinois — Bookable on TripAdvisor for an average rate of \$255 per night. Most affordable month to visit: January (\$152)

Since the 1920s, the Talbott Hotel has welcomed travelers from around the world with its gracious hospitality. Guests will enjoy the property's central location, continental breakfast and luxurious rooms that offer free Wi-Fi and deluxe beds with Italian linens. A TripAdvisor reviewer added, "A fabulous hotel on Chicago's Gold Coast. Always warm and inviting; it has the feel of an old English Inn. The hotel is in a great location for shopping and walking along Lake Michigan, and the staff creates a wonderful personalized experience."

Three reasons to book The Talbott Hotel: Ideal location, queen beds, in-room Apple Mac mini

<u>9. Belamere Suites</u> — Perrysburg, Ohio — Bookable on TripAdvisor for an average rate of \$242 per night. Most affordable month to visit: January (\$242)

Located 10 miles south of Toledo, Belamere Suites is the perfect getaway for adults looking for rest and relaxation. Amenities include an in-room swimming pool, catered breakfast and a dedicated 24-hour concierge service. One TripAdvisor reviewer gushed, "Truly an amazing experience. The bed was by far the best I have ever slept in. Hospitality was second to none. Would definitely recommend to anyone looking to escape."

Three reasons to book the Belamere Suites: Jacuzzi, private garage, swimming pool

10. <u>Casablanca Hotel Times Square</u> — New York City — Bookable on TripAdvisor for an average rate of \$375 per night. Most affordable month to visit: January (\$301)

Travelers to the Big Apple can experience a European-style hotel in the heart of bustling Times Square. Guests are invited

to start the day with a complimentary breakfast and later indulge in hors d'oeuvres and fine wine served by the fireplace in "Rick's Café". A TripAdvisor reviewer commented, "If you like the feeling of being looked after as if you are a guest in someone's home, you will appreciate the Casablanca. The friendly, warm, helpful service is a hallmark here."

Three reasons to book the Casablanca Hotel Times Square: Complimentary coffee and breakfast, located near Times Square, complimentary bottle of wine

Top 10 Travelers' Choice Hotels in the World:

1. Umaid Bhawan Palace Jodhpur - Jodhpur, India

Bookable on TripAdvisor for an average rate of \$734 per night. Most affordable month to visit: July (\$390)

2. Shinta Mani Resort - Siem Reap, Cambodia

Bookable on TripAdvisor for an average rate of \$199 per night. Most affordable month to visit: May (\$171)

3. Bellevue Syrene - Sorrento, Italy

Bookable on TripAdvisor for an average rate of \$562 per night. Most affordable month to visit: November (\$364)

4. Hanoi La Siesta Hotel & Spa - Hanoi, Vietnam

Bookable on TripAdvisor for an average rate of \$109 per night. Most affordable month to visit: September (\$94)

5. Achtis Hotel — Afitos, Greece

Bookable on TripAdvisor for an average rate of \$100 per night. Most affordable month to visit: October (\$80)

6. Belmond Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons — Great Milton, United Kingdom

Bookable on TripAdvisor for an average rate of \$1,162 per night. Most affordable month to visit: September (\$974)

7. Mirihi Island Resort - Mirihi, Maldives

Bookable on TripAdvisor for an average rate of \$1,059 per night. Most affordable month to visit: June (\$767)

8. Bucuti & Tara Beach Resorts Aruba — Palm - Eagle Beach, Aruba

Bookable on TripAdvisor for an average rate of \$468 per night. Most affordable month to visit: October (\$333)

9. <u>Calabash Luxury Boutique Hotel & Spa</u> — Lance aux Epines, Grenada

Bookable on TripAdvisor for an average rate of \$806 per night. Most affordable month to visit: June (\$538)

10. <u>Hotel Ritta Höppner</u> — Gramado, Brazil

Bookable on TripAdvisor for an average rate of \$185 per night. Most affordable month to visit: April (\$160)

Additional select winners for 2016:

Top Luxury Hotel in the World: Navara Springs - La Fortuna de San Carlos, Costa Rica

Top Luxury Hotel in the U.S.: The Langham, Chicago - Chicago, Illinois

Best Bargain Hotel in the World: Sakli Konak - Uchisar, Turkey

Best Bargain Hotel in the U.S.: The Inn Above Oak Creek - Sedona, Arizona

Top Small Hotel in the World: Edgar House - Chester, England

Top Small Hotel in the U.S.: Keeter Center at College of the Ozarks - Point Lookout, Missouri

Best Hotel for Service in the World: Hotel Residence Agnes - Prague, Czech Republic

Best Hotel for Service in the U.S.: Desert Riviera Hotel - Palm Springs, California

Best B&B and Inn in the World: Casa Portagioia - Tuscany, Italy

Best B&B and Inn in the U.S.: A G Thomson House Bed and Breakfast - Duluth, Minnesota

To see all 7,028 unique winners of the 2016 TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice awards for hotels go to: <u>www.tripadvisor.com/TravelersChoice-Hotels</u>. Travelers can also follow the conversation on Twitter at #travelerschoice.

Notes to editors:

¹Average nightly rates of properties are based on TripAdvisor pricing data for January 1 through June 30, 2016, aggregated from booking partners including online travel agencies and direct hotel suppliers.

²Most affordable month to book each property is based on TripAdvisor pricing data for January 1 through December 31, 2016, aggregated from booking partners including online travel agencies and direct hotel suppliers.

³Top reasons to book were identified based on TripAdvisor data that revealed the top 20 most frequently used terms and phrases submitted by travelers worldwide.

About TripAdvisor

TripAdvisor[®] is the world's largest travel site*, enabling travelers to plan and book the perfect trip. TripAdvisor offers advice from millions of travelers and a wide variety of travel choices and planning features with seamless links to booking tools that check hundreds of websites to find the best hotel prices. TripAdvisor branded sites make up the largest travel community in the world, reaching 350 million unique monthly visitors**, and more than 290 million reviews and opinions covering 5.3 million accommodations, restaurants and attractions. The sites operate in 47 countries worldwide.

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*Source: comScore Media Metrix for TripAdvisor Sites, worldwide, July 2015

**Source: TripAdvisor log files, average monthly unique users, Q3 2015

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