

The Escape

Extraordinary Hotels and Resorts to Check into on Your Next Vacation





CORAZÓN CABO RESORT & SPA **CABO SAN LUCAS, B.C.S., MEXICO**

www.CorazonCabo.com

Nestled along the Sea of Cortez, this luxury resort has 187 superb guestrooms and 17 magnificent suites. Several, such as the Sunset Suite, Bayview Penthouse, and Medano Tower Penthouse, feature expansive balconies, hot tubs, full kitchens, multi-bedrooms, and picturesque ocean views. Guests can relax at one of the dual infinity pools and dine at Aleta, Draque Cocktail Lounge, Camaleon Café, the Corazon Beach Club, and Rooftop 360. The latter is the highest and most panoramic rooftop lounge in Cabo. Entertainment includes Cablectic, live music, and DJs. Visitors can get rejuvenated in a tranquil environment at Sparitual Spa. Exotic services include the Balinese Ritual for Couples, Yenekamu Massage, and Sweet Wrapping Body Mask.

—Leslie E. Royal



FOUR SEASONS WESTLAKE VILLAGE

WESTLAKE VILLAGE, CALIFORNIA, USA
www.FourSeasons.com/WestlakeVillage

This splendid, five-star, 12-acre resort is sited in the scenic Santa Monica Mountains. It features 230 elegant guest rooms, 39 stunning suites, a 40,000-square foot spa with 28 treatment rooms, and an outdoor tranquility pool with impressive Cabana Suites and Spa Suites.

This is the ideal locale to enjoy its signature four-day, three-night health retreat. Starting at \$3,900 per person, guests take part in an expert-curated wellness program. It is inclusive of morning meditations, meals and snacks, Wellness Kitchen cooking classes, guided hikes, a 60-minute spa treatment, one body composition analysis, daily group workshops and workouts, unlimited use of the state-of-the-art wellness facilities, and private consultations with renown experts in specialized fields.

— Leslie E. Royal



HOTEL HARTNESS

GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA, USA

www.HotelHartness.com

This amazing boutique hotel is as warm and welcoming as it is regal and stately. It is located on 482 acres with the Blue Ridge Mountains as its skyline. The lovely property with exceptional decor features 73 elegant, spacious guest rooms and suites. Visitors can stroll along 15 miles of outdoor trails. They can catch glimpses of the 180-acre nature preserve and onsite farm while riding bicycles that are complimentary during one's stay. Guests can dine on exceptional cuisine at The Captain Restaurant or Patterson Kitchen + Bar. Spa H is "must visit" as it has blissfully intoxicating services such as the Bourbon Bubble Body Polish, Reinvigorating CBD Facial, and Honey Magnolia Body Wrap.

– Leslie E. Royal





THE RIDING ACADEMY HOTEL

OCALA, FLORIDA, USA

www.RidingAcademyHotel.com

This magnificent hotel is located on the 400-acre site of the World Equestrian Center (WEC). Visitors can see Grand Prix events at no cost. On any given day, internationally renowned equestrians gallop by on award-winning horses. The pet-friendly property, which just made its debut April 1, 2024, boasts 392 luxury studios and suites with sub-zero refrigerators, pullout sofas, and separate sleeping and living areas. WEC amenities include dual fitness centers, outdoor pool, sundeck, seven restaurants, shops, boutiques, and more than 20 equestrian competition rings. Visitors can get revitalized at The Calluna Spa with experiences such as the Pure Body Bliss Massage, Steamed Lavender Milk Pedicure, and Ultimate Collagen 3D Facial.

— Leslie E. Royal



SANDALS DUNN'S RIVER
 OCHO RIOS, JAMAICA
www.Sandals.com

The all-inclusive resort near Dunn's River Falls features 260 guestrooms and suites, 11 gourmet restaurants, five swimming pools, and two river pools. Special amenities include nine bars which encompass a specialty rum bar, rooftop bar, champagne bar, and swim-up bar. For an elevated experience, reserve the Tufa Terrace Swim-up One Bedroom Butler Suite with Patio Tranquility Soaking Tub or Coyaba Sky Villa Swim-up Rondoval Butler Suite with Private Pool Sanctuary.

— Leslie E. Royal



RADISSON BLU ARUBA
 NOORD, ARUBA
www.BluAruba.com

The all-suites hotel offers one-bedroom, two-bedroom, and three-bedroom suites. Guests can dine at restaurants that include Sunset Bistro, The Clover, Senses Fine Dining, and Acqua Breeze Pool Bar. Visitors can also enjoy wellness activities like pool aerobics, and Vinyasa flow. Unique attractions and island excursions nearby are Arashi Beach, Bubali Bird Sanctuary, Arikok National Park, and Eagle Beach.

— Leslie E. Royal





PARADOR DE CUENCA

LA CASTILLA LA MANCHA CUENCA, SPAIN

www.paradores.es/en/parador-de-cuenca

Spanish Paradores! History, culture, and beauty come together with a uniquely Spanish way to relax, refresh, and recharge. Paradores are exceptional accommodations around Spain, where historic buildings and structures have been repurposed to accommodate travelers who need a rest or a meal. Generally located outside city centers, Paradores are perfectly situated to admire extraordinary views overlooking downtown. The Parador de Cuenca was once the monastery of San Pablo, built-in 1523. Located near the “must-see” Bridge of San Pablo and the fascinating hanging houses, this Parador places you in an unparalleled place to admire “The Enchanted City,” a UNESCO World Heritage Site. After a day of touring, enjoy the sophisticated design, modern services, comfort, and elegance around the Parador. Take a dip in the pool before dinner, next a leisurely walk across the bridge admiring the city lights. You end the day saying, “It is an enchanting city.”

—Annita Stokes Thomas



MOUNT ROYAL HOTEL

BANFF, CANADA

www.banffjaspercollection.com/hotels/mount-royal-hotel/

Mount Royal Hotel brings a new meaning to prime location. Surrounded by snow-capped mountains on the iconic Banff Avenue, you’re in the middle of all the action. There are only a few steps to restaurants with delicious cuisine, shopping for local crafts, and a vibrant nightlight. World-class natural attractions and outdoor adventure are a short drive in the Canadian Rockies for a day of adventure. It’s an easy excursion to hike around local rivers and mountain paths. Get ready to hit the majestic slopes for skiing or take a gondola up Sulphur Mountain for sweeping views of six mountain ranges, the Bow Valley, and the charming town of Banff. Return to this historic hotel for a night’s rest designed in classic Canadian style, relaxing in your signature plush bed. For dinner, head downstairs for cocktails in Cascade Lounge and a tasty meal at Brazen Restaurant. It’s a true Canadian adventure.

—Annita Stokes Thomas



GRAND VELAS RESORT

RIVERA MAYA, MEXICO

www.rivieramaya.grandvelas.com

It’s time for a getaway to find your Mexican retreat, where the Caribbean Sea and the Yucatan jungle create an oasis of tranquility and relaxation. You can choose views of the ocean or pristine tropical forest for your suite. The Grand Velas, Riviera Maya Luxury All-Inclusive concept, offers three unique experiences: Ambassador, a space designed for family enjoyment; Zen Grand, a sanctuary of relaxation surrounded by nature; and Grand Class, ideal for an intimate and romantic escape. Spend a day on your journey to wellness in SE Spa by Grand Velas, where eight unique water experiences guide you to healing and therapeutic rejuvenation. A culinary experience awaits your enjoyment with options in several restaurants on the property: Frida for a uniquely Mexican experience with live music or a romantic French dinner at Pifa; oceanfront Azul offers all-day casual dining; and Bistro’s buffet style is perfect for breakfast; lunch or dinner. The ideal place where time is all about luxury and relaxation for total wellness.

—Annita Stokes Thomas



ELLIOT PARK HOTEL
MINNEAPOLIS MINNESOTA

www.elliotparkhotel.com

An excellent place to stay when visiting the metropolis city is the Elliot Park Hotel, a charming boutique hotel centrally located in historic Elliot Park in downtown Minneapolis. Upon entering, your mood will be lifted by the friendly staff, the soft candlelight and the crackling wood-fired oven. The mellow amber, bright copper and rich wood tone colors and the stylish, modern Scandinavian decor help to set the warm and soothing tone of the hotel.

Sleep like royalty in one of the elegant spacious designed hotel rooms and suites each with a large separate bath. The Elliot Park Hotel boasts technological advancements, first-class amenities and even an onsite restaurant, the Tavola Italian Kitchen and Bar. Ranked as a top Italian eatery in downtown Minneapolis, here you can enjoy delectable farm-to-table specialties made with fresh local ingredients.

—Kitty Pope



HAMMOCK SUITES

ST. LUCIA

www.hammocksuites.com

Imagine staying at a place in St. Lucia where you can explore the lush rainforests and waterfalls or just relax on the pristine, sandy beaches. Get a firsthand experience of the exotic, beautiful island by staying at the Hammock Suites where the sleek modern, elegant aesthetic provides a haven of tranquility and comfort. Each room is adorned with sumptuous beddings, plush furnishings and exquisite solid mahogany built-ins where you can take in the breathtaking, stunning views by just stepping onto your own private balcony. Your stay here must include immersing with the locals to experience the markets and villages, and the rich history and culture of the island. Look no further than Hammock Suites to experience the best of St. Lucia.

—Kitty Pope