



Condé Nast Traveler

WIN
A LUXURY
HOLIDAY ON
ST LUCIA

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

JANUARY 2012 US \$8.95 CAN \$9.95
INTERNATIONAL £4.10

THE GOLD LIST

THE BEST HOTELS IN THE WORLD

from Somerset to Shanghai



**WINTER
SUN**

The discreet charm
of the Bahamas

**WHERE TO
GO IN 2012**

Our guide to this
year's hotspots

**STYLISH
SPAIN**

Why Seville is the
new capital of cool

THE GOLD LIST 2012

Our definitive guide to the

WORLD'S BEST HOTELS

IN THIS, THE EIGHTH OF OUR ANNUAL LISTS, THE HOTELS CHOSEN BY THE MAGAZINE'S TEAM OF EDITORS, WRITERS AND EXPERTS ARE THE BEST FOR SERVICE, LOCATION, FOOD, ROOMS, LEISURE FACILITIES AND AMBIENCE & DESIGN

KEY TO SYMBOLS



CLASSIC

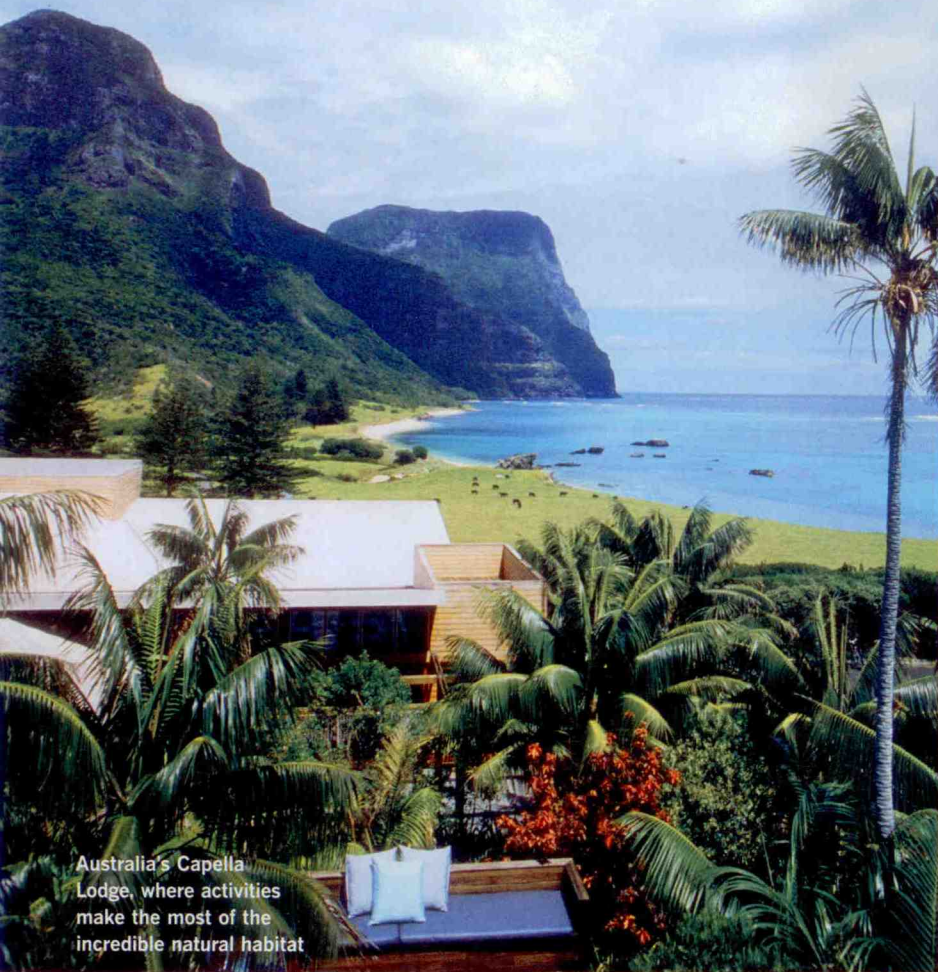
Has appeared in the **GOLD LIST** five or more times



NEW
ENTRY

New entry this year

★ LEISURE FACILITIES



Australia's Capella Lodge, where activities make the most of the incredible natural habitat



AUSTRALASIA & SOUTH PACIFIC

★ Capella Lodge, New South Wales

At the southern end of Lord Howe Island, 600km off the Australian mainland, the nine-suite Capella Lodge provides luxury in a remote setting. It has an upmarket beach-house feel, with rattan lamps and polished wooden floors; big windows provide views of the mountains, beach and sea. There's an infinity pool, a spa, and guided walks around this UNESCO World Heritage Site. At the Capella Restaurant, Ben Thompson creates Modern Pacific dishes from freshly caught seafood.

X-factor 'Australia's answer to the Galápagos, this is an idyllic island where you can swim with turtles before breakfast,' says Gold List contributor Mike Dolan.

Lagoon Road, Lord Howe Island, New South Wales, Australia (00 61 2 9918 4355; www.capellalodge.com.au). Doubles from A\$1,300 (about £845)

★ Qualia, Great Barrier Reef

This 60-pavilion resort is set in 12 acres of grounds on the northern tip of Hamilton Island in the Great Barrier Reef. There's a spa with LI'TYA and Sodashi treatments and a large infinity pool; each of the Windward Pavilions has a private plunge pool. Guests head to the Long Pavilion for sophisticated Modern Australian cuisine by Jane-Therese Mulry. There is a comprehensive range of activities, including diving and sailing, and a spectacular golf course on neighbouring Dent Island.

X-factor 'Qualia is your front-row seat to the Whitsunday Islands, the jewel of the Great Barrier Reef,' says Gold List contributor Mark Chipperfield.

Hamilton Island, Queensland, Australia (00 61 2 9433 3349; www.qualia.com.au). Doubles from A\$950 (about £620)

Continued on page 162

★ BEST HOTELS FOR LEISURE FACILITIES

AUSTRALASIA & SOUTH PACIFIC

Capella Lodge, New South Wales *this page*

Kauri Cliffs, New Zealand p162

Qualia, Great Barrier Reef *this page*



EUROPE

InterContinental

Aphrodite Hills Resort Hotel, Cyprus p162

The Romanos, Greece p162

Schloss Fuschl, Austria p162



UK

Coworth Park, Berkshire p162

Gleneagles, Perthshire p162

Lime Wood, Hampshire p164



THE AMERICAS & CARIBBEAN

Bellagio Resort & Casino, Las Vegas p164

Four Seasons Resort Vail, Colorado p164

Wickaninnish Inn, Canada p164



AFRICA, MIDDLE EAST & INDIAN OCEAN

Banyan Tree Seychelles p164

Le Touessrok, Mauritius p164

One&Only Reethi Rah, Maldives p164



ASIA

Banyan Tree Lijiang, China p164

Oberoi Lombok, Indonesia p164

Six Senses Yao Noi Beyond Phuket, Thailand p164