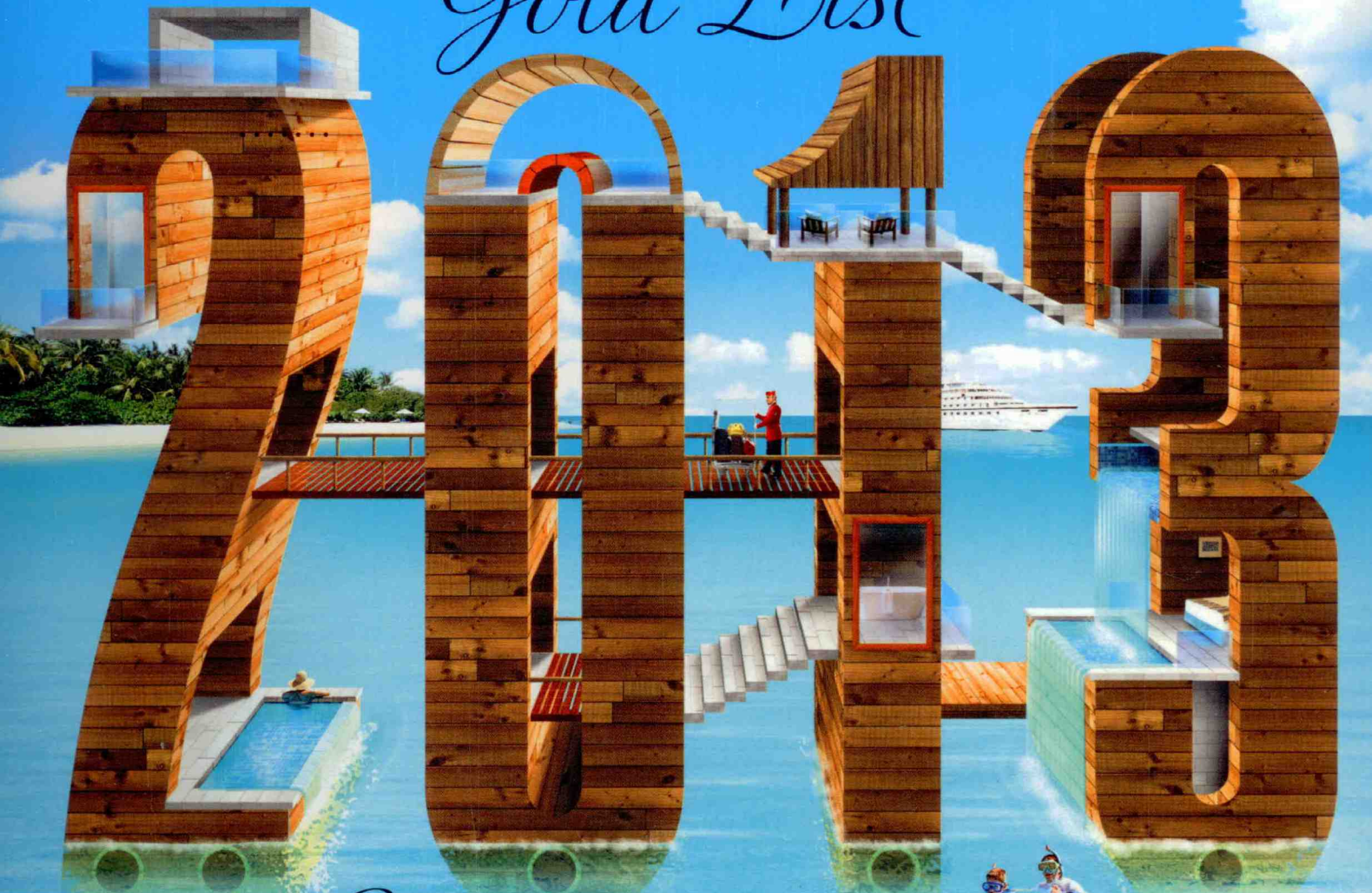


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# Travel

## Gold List



*And the winners are...*

**PLUS: NON-STOP SUMMER SUN AND  
THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO SKIING IN  
THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE**

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The  
**GOLD  
LIST**



**I**T'S THAT TIME OF YEAR again! The 2013 Gold List Awards were the biggest we've ever had with thousands of votes coming in. There have been big upsets this year in some of the most stable categories, which tells us that luxury travel is evolving and your preferences are changing. It was great to see so many new properties, destinations and experi-

This icon signifies that the award winner has made the Gold List every year for the past five years or more. They are our Hall of Fame members and deserve special recognition.

ences making the list in 2013. We added a new category this year, asking about the best food and wine experiences in Australia and the response was overwhelming – our readers certainly love to eat and drink. A special thanks must also go to the Virtuoso clients who voted alongside our readers. So read on and see who made the cut and who's been cut off. Welcome to the Gold List 2013.

## Best overseas resort

### 1 ● Likuliku Lagoon Resort, Fiji

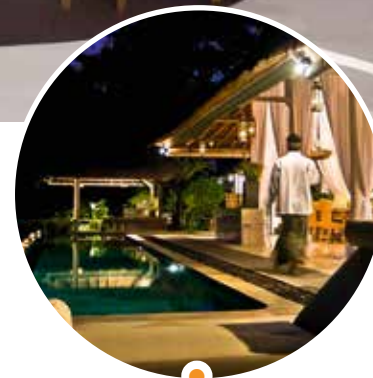
Likuliku takes out this category once again ahead of some stiff competition from Fiji's other luxury resorts. There are a few new entries amongst the old favourites this year with JapaMala on Malaysia's Tioman Island the highest debut.

- 2 Castaway Island Resort, Castaway Island, Fiji
- 3 Yasawa Island Resort & Spa, Fiji
- 4 Intercontinental Fiji Golf Resort & Spa, Fiji
- 5 Jean-Michel Cousteau Resort, Fiji
- 6 The Nam Hai, Hoi An, Vietnam
- 7 Lomani Island Resort, Fiji
- 8 Four Seasons Resort Hualalai at Historic Ka'upulehu, Hawaii, USA
- 9 JapaMala, Tioman Island, Malaysia
- 10 Alila Villas Uluwatu, Desa Pecatu, Bali
- 11 Amankila, Karangasem, Bali
- 12 Banyan Tree Phuket, Phuket, Thailand
- 13 The Bulgari Resort, Uluwatu, Bali
- 14 The Datai, Langkawi, Malaysia
- 15 Four Seasons Resort, Langkawi, Malaysia
- 16 JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa, Phuket Island, Thailand
- 17 Sofitel Fiji Resort and Spa, Fiji
- 18 Taj Exotica Resort and Spa, Maldives
- 19 Vomo Fiji Island Resort, Mamanuca Islands, Fiji
- 20 W Retreat & Spa, Maldives

**Above: World class views at Southern Ocean Lodge.**

**Right: Take a dip at Villa Sungai.**

**Below: The adults only Likuliku Lagoon Resort has the only overwater bungalows in Fiji.**



## Best Australian boutique property, villa or lodge

### 1 ● Southern Ocean Lodge, Kangaroo Island, SA

What a year for the luxury lodges! Southern Ocean Lodge is your favourite for the first time in 2013 with previous winners Lake House and Cape Lodge not far behind. This category always has a great mix of properties across Australia with six states represented.

- 2 Lake House, Daylesford, VIC
- 3 Capella Lodge, Lord Howe Island, NSW
- 4 Cape Lodge, Margaret River, WA
- 5 Spicers Peak Lodge, Maryvale, QLD
- 6 The Richardson Hotel & Spa, Perth, WA
- 7 Jonah's, Whale Beach, NSW
- 8 Saffire Freycinet, Coles Bay, TAS
- 9 Longitude 131°, Ayers Rock, NT
- 10 Makepeace Island, Noosa, QLD
- 11 Peppers Cradle Mountain Lodge, Cradle Mountain, TAS
- 12 Echoes Boutique Hotel & Restaurant, Blue Mountains, NSW
- 13 Emporium Hotel, Brisbane, QLD
- 14 Islington Hotel, Hobart, TAS
- 15 Lindenderry at Red Hill, Red Hill, VIC
- 16 Lindenwarrah at Milawa, Milawa, VIC
- 17 Reef House Boutique Resort & Spa, Palm Cove, QLD
- 18 Spicers Tamarind Retreat, Maleny, QLD
- 19 Tower Lodge, Hunter Valley, NSW
- 20 Wolgan Valley Resort & Spa, Wolgan Valley, NSW

## Best overseas boutique property, villa or lodge

### 1 ● Villa Sungai, Cepaka, Bali

Villa Sungai is back on top this year with 2009 winner Huka Lodge and 2012 winner Royal Davui rounding out the top three.

- 2 Huka Lodge, Taupo, New Zealand
- 3 Royal Davui Island Resort, Fiji
- 4 Kauri Cliffs, Matauri Bay, New Zealand
- 5 Blanket Bay, Glenorchy, New Zealand
- 6 The Havannah, Port Havannah, Vanuatu
- 7 Villa Samadhi, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 8 Cape Kidnappers, Hawke's Bay, New Zealand
- 9 Amangalla, Fort Galle, Sri Lanka
- 10 Amansara, Siem Reap, Cambodia
- 11 Azur Lodge, Queenstown, New Zealand
- 12 The Boatshed, Waiheke, New Zealand
- 13 Explora Lodge, Torres Del Paine, Chile
- 14 Ngorongoro Crater Lodge, Ngorongoro Crater, Tanzania
- 15 Otahuna Lodge, Christchurch, New Zealand
- 16 La Residence, Franschhoek, South Africa



## Best luxury eco tourism property

### 1 ● Sal Salis Ningaloo Reef, Exmouth, WA

It's great to see an Australian property take out this category and Sal Salis' eco-friendly tents, water management systems and proximity to the pristine Ningaloo Reef (and whale sharks!) make it your favourite.

- 2 Eco Beach, Broome, WA
- 3 Jean-Michel Cousteau Resort, Fiji
- 4 Wolgan Valley Resort & Spa, Wolgan Valley, NSW
- 5 Daintree Eco Lodge & Spa, Daintree, QLD
- 6 El Questro Wilderness Park, Kununurra, WA
- 7 Longitude 131°, Ayers Rock, NT
- 8 Silky Oaks Lodge, Port Douglas, QLD
- 9 Spicers Canopy, Maryvale, QLD
- 10 Paperbark Camp, Jervis Bay, NSW
- 11 Capella Lodge, Lord Howe Island, NSW
- 12 Wilson Island, Great Barrier Reef, QLD



## Best luxury tour operator

### 1 ● Scenic Tours

Scenic Tours has moved from fifth place to first, just ahead of last year's winner A&K. There are a few new entries this year offering luxury Australian tours for our readers who love to explore their own backyard.

- |                             |                                |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2 Abercrombie & Kent        | 7 Wilderness Safaris           |
| 3 The Captain's Choice Tour | 8 Outback Spirit               |
| 4 Tauck                     | 9 Trafalgar                    |
| 5 Insight Vacations         | 10 Exceptional Kangaroo Island |
| 6 APT                       | 11 Bill Peach Journeys         |

Above: Swim with whale sharks at Sal Salis Ningaloo Reef.

## Best luxury travel agency

### 1 ● Concierge Traveller

Mary Rossi is pipped at the post by Concierge Traveller this year in another close contest.

- 2 Mary Rossi
- 3 World Travel Professionals
- 4 Executive Edge Travel + Events
- 5 Spencer Travel
- 6 Gregor & Lewis
- 7 Goldman Travel
- 8 Bicton Travel
- 9 Clean Cruising
- 10 Travel Phase
- 11 Oasis Travel
- 12 Phil Hoffmann Travel

## Best Australian food & wine experiences

### Region

- 1 Margaret River, WA
- 2 Hunter Valley, NSW
- 3 Barossa Valley, SA
- 4 Yarra Valley, VIC
- 5 Mornington Peninsula, VIC

### Dining

- 1 Argus Dining Room at Peppers Mineral Springs, Hepburn Springs, VIC
- 2 Quay, Sydney, NSW
- 3 Tetsuya's, Sydney, NSW
- 4 Royal Mail Hotel, Dunkeld, VIC
- 5 Vue du Monde, Melbourne, VIC
- 6 Attica Restaurant, Ripponlea, VIC
- 7 The Press Club, Melbourne, VIC

### Property

- 1 Southern Ocean Lodge, Kangaroo Island, SA
- 2 Lake House, Daylesford, VIC
- 3 Cape Lodge, Margaret River, WA
- 4 The Louise, Barossa Valley, SA
- 5 Lizard Island Resort, Lizard Island, QLD
- 6 Saffire Freycinet, Coles Bay, TAS
- 7 Wolgan Valley Resort & Spa, Wolgan Valley, NSW