

TRAVEL+ LEISURE

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The Top 15 Resort Hotels in the Continental U.S.

BY SARA CLEMENCE | JULY 08, 2020

This year's World's Best Awards survey closed on Mar. 2, just before widespread stay-at-home orders were implemented as a result of COVID-19. The results reflect our readers' experiences before the pandemic, but we hope that this year's honorees will inspire your trips to come – whenever they may be.

Travel + Leisure readers' picks for the best resort hotels in the continental U.S. reflect a desire for wide open spaces and properties that are packed with character. Whether it means heading to mountain towns or Western plains, [charming coastal towns](#) or [snowcapped mountains](#), our travelers are clearly drawn to resorts that shift their mindsets away from the day-to-day and give them an opportunity to truly, deeply unwind. There are no generic, you-could-be-anywhere resorts on this list, but rather strong characters that linger in the memories of anyone who has had the pleasure of staying there.

Every year for our [World's Best Awards](#) survey, T+L invites its readers to share their opinions on the top hotels, resorts, cities, islands, cruise ships, spas, airlines, and more. [Hotels were rated](#) on their facilities, location, service, food, and overall value. Properties were classified as city or resort based on their locations and amenities.

The 2020 winners showcase the breadth of American hospitality. They are spread across the country, from northern Vermont to southern California, from the heights of Colorado to the lower reaches of Florida. The Lodge at Blue Sky (No. 4) is brand new, while the No. 10 Chanler at Cliff Walk, in Newport, Rhode Island, dates back nearly 150 years.

In fact, two of this year's winning resort hotels are in that classic Ocean State resort town. The Chanler at Cliff Walk — once the “cottage” of a New York congressman — comprises 20 exquisite rooms, each decorated in a different style that's often inspired by a period in history. A large part of its appeal is no doubt its stunning location “perched on a hillside, looking directly down on the beach in one direction, and then off to sea along the shoreline of the Cliff Walk on the other,” as one T+L reader described. The Vanderbilt from Auberge Resorts Collection (No. 14) was built by Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt in 1909 and beautifully restored to evoke a similar Gilded Age appeal.

10. The Chanler at Cliff Walk, Newport, Rhode Island



PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE CHANLER AT CLIFF WALK

Score: 95.15

More information: thechanler.com

14. The Vanderbilt, Auberge Resorts Collection, Newport, Rhode Island



PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE VANDERBILT, AUBERGE RESORTS COLLECTION

Score: 94.86

More information: aubengeresorts.com