



America's TOP 100 Hotel Restaurants

Tuesday, April 11, 2006

Rank	State	City	Restaurant	Hotel	Cost -1	From Zagat Survey
1	Texas	Dallas	French Room	The Adolphus Hotel	\$80	<p>"There aren't enough superlatives to describe" this "gorgeous" "grande dame" in Downtown's Hotel Adolphus that's ranked No. 1 among Dallas/Ft. Worth restaurants for Food, Decor and Service; "if you're looking for a romantic, old-world" venue in which "to celebrate an event, this is the place", with "spectacular", "expensive" French-American cuisine, an "impeccable but unpretentious" staff and "beautiful surroundings" ("including hand-painted ceilings" that remind swooning surveyors of "eating in a cathedral"), which adds up to a "wonderful experience" "to be savored"; N.B. jacket required.</p>
2	Pennsylvania	Philadelphia	Fountain Restaurant	Four Seasons Hotel	\$76	<p>Once again voted No. 1 for Food, Decor and Service in this <i>Survey</i>, the Four Seasons' "always-superb" culinary "mecca" continues to be Philadelphia's favorite venue for "impressing the date or closing the deal"; maestro Martin Hamann's "heavenly" New French-Continental cuisine seems "impervious to the trends du jour"; "experienced" staffers demonstrate "brilliant attention to minuscule details", and the "elegant" room "glistens"; in all, reviewers rhapsodize, "what a grand experience" – of course "you do pay for such excellence"; N.B. jacket required.</p>
3	Florida	Little Torch Key	Dining Room at Little Palm Island Resort	Little Palm Island Resort	\$66	<p>Get away from your getaway at this "romantic" French-Caribbean a boat ride away on a private island that's like "another world", where an "unparalleled" staff serves "exceptional" food (ranked No. 1) amid a "gorgeous", "magical" setting; it's "expensive", but "there's nothing else like it."</p>
4	Virginia	Washington	Inn at Little Washington	The Inn at Little Washington	\$129	<p>"It's all been said and it's still that good" – for over a quarter century, this "luxurious" Virginia inn has hosted a "gastronomic heaven" where Patrick O'Connell transforms the "freshest" ingredients into an "exceptional" New American prix fixe; "stunning" platings, "total pampering" and "rich", "romantic", "theatrical" decor – voted No. 1 in the <i>DC Survey</i> – add up to a "truly fantastical experience" "worth the journey" and "every penny" it costs; to fully realize the "dream of paradise", "stay overnight."</p>
5	Virginia	McLean	Maestro	Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner	\$98	<p>Take a "front-row seat" near "star" Fabio Trabocchi's open kitchen to watch "elegant precision" and "amazing" creativity in action; "interpretive" cuisine with a "depth of flavor" on a par with "Italy's best", matched by "fantastic sommelier" Vincent Feraud's "beyond-extensive" wine list, gives frontrunners like "Inn at Little Washington a run for their money" in the ratings, while the "impeccable" staff at this "luxurious" Ritz-Carlton "splurge" ranks Tops for Service in the <i>DC Survey</i>.</p>
6	Maryland	Baltimore	Hampton's	Harbor Court Hotel	\$68	<p>The "thoughtful service" is the "best on earth" – or at least in the <i>Baltimore Survey</i> – while a "beautiful room" with water views also rates Tops for Decor at "the ultimate place for the meal of a lifetime" in the "exquisite" Harbor Court Hotel; "beautifully presented by a master chef" and "arriving under silver domes", the seasonally changing Contemporary American fare is "sublime"; at this "extraordinary-in-all-respects" restaurant, "you'll never [again] feel so pampered while dressed in formalwear", especially "if someone else is paying."</p>
7	Massachusetts	Boston	Aujourd'hui	Four Seasons Hotel	\$72	<p>As "the gold standard" for "special occasions", this New French destination in the Back Bay's "outstanding Four Seasons" Hotel is itself "cause for celebration": voted No. 1 for Service in Boston, it features a staff that "takes attentive to a whole new level", making you "feel like royalty" as you dine on "superlative" cuisine "cooked to perfection" and proffered against a renovated backdrop of "elegance layered upon elegance" – so "book a window-side table, order some bubbly and let someone else pick up the tab."</p>
8	Hawaii	Honolulu	La Mer	Halekulani Hotel	\$78	<p>The "breathtaking" location overlooking "seductive" ocean waves and the royal service of this "landmark" in the Halekulani Hotel are so "unforgettable" that it earns the No. 1 spot for both Decor and</p>

Service in our *Survey*; “each bite” of chef Yves Garnier’s “delectable” New French “with an island touch” “is a taste of heaven”, so even if you need to wear a jacket and the “cost rivals that of NY’s” top spots, it’s the “ultimate special date” choice.

9	Georgia	Atlanta	Ritz-Carlton Buckhead Dining Room	Ritz-Carlton Buckhead	\$76	“Those who like pampering” call this “jacket-only” affair in the Ritz-Carlton, Buckhead, the “gold standard” for “world-class dining”, showcasing French/Med cuisine “perfectly paired” with selections from an “extensive wine list”; the service is “flawless” from a staff that “anticipates your every thought” in a “magical room” where “nothing is overlooked”, and though you need a “fat wallet”, it’s “well worth every penny”; N.B. the post- <i>Survey</i> arrival of chef Arnaud Berthelier is not reflected in the above Food score.
10	Nevada	Las Vegas	Picasso	Bellagio Hotel	\$102	Just like the “beautiful” namesake originals featured in this <i>Survey</i> ’s Top Decor, chef Julian Serrano’s “exquisite” Spanish-inflected New French dishes are “meticulously honed” “masterpieces” at Las Vegas’ Most Popular restaurant, a “MoMA-meets-Bacchus” “splurge” in the Bellagio; other enticements include “perfect wines”, “gorgeous flowers”, “a view of the dancing fountains” and a “gracious” staff that “treats you as an honored guest”, garnering the town’s Top Service rating; of course it’s “expensive”, but “it still costs less than 15 minutes at blackjack”, and it’s more “intoxicating.”
11	California	Big Sur	Sierra Mar	Post Ranch Inn	\$72	Perched 1,200 feet up “on the cliffs of Big Sur”, the “all-glass dining room” at the Post Ranch Inn provides a “God’s-eye view” of the Pacific Ocean that earns it the No. 1 ranking for Decor in this <i>Survey</i> ; aside from the “incomparable” seascape, admirers also adore this “secluded” aerie for its “irresistible”, internationally inflected Californian cuisine, a 4,000-label wine list allowing for “wonderful pairings” and service that’s “just right”, all of which add up to a “profoundly peaceful” and “unforgettable” experience.
12	Connecticut	Greenwich	Thomas Henkelmann	Homestead Inn	\$74	It’s a clean sweep for “chef extraordinaire Thomas Henkelmann” and his wife, Theresa, whose “transporting” New French in a “charming” Greenwich inn was voted Most Popular and No. 1 for Food, Decor and Service in the <i>CT Survey</i> ; sure, “the size of the bill will stun you”, but the “superb” cuisine, “lovely setting” with a view of “gorgeous gardens” and “enormously attentive service” set “the gold standard for fine dining in Fairfield County.”
13	Massachusetts	Edgartown	L’Étoile	Charlotte Inn	\$73	Arguably “one of the region’s best”, this New French “star” in Edgartown’s Charlotte Inn delivers “outstandingly elegant dining” experiences – otherwise known as “romance clinchers” – with “divine”, “expertly crafted” dishes brought to tables laid with hand-blown glass and real silver by servers who “make everyone feel like VIPs”; naturally, such “near-perfection” “doesn’t come cheap.”
14	Arizona	Scottsdale	Mary Elaine’s	The Phoenician	\$82	Setting the standard for a “special-occasion” experience, this “elegant”, “ultrafancy” room at The Phoenician is where the city views are “heavenly”, the wine list “extraordinary” and Bradford Thompson’s “exquisite” New French fare way up there with “the best in the country”; the “unparalleled” service (No. 1 in AZ) “anticipates every desire”, so even though you’ll need to bring “buckets of cash”, it’s “more than worth it”; N.B. jackets required, and summer hours are limited.
15	Louisiana	New Orleans	New Orleans Grill	Windsor Court Hotel	\$63	This “sumptuous” CBD hotel “oasis”, voted No. 1 for Decor and Service in the <i>New Orleans Survey</i> , is considered a “culinary gift to the city” by high-end foodies wowed by its “exquisite” Louisiana-influenced Contemporary American cuisine, presented by a “superb” staff; expect a “magical night”, surveyors say – “for that price it should be”; N.B. recent chef changes are not reflected in the above Food score.
16	Michigan	Birmingham	Rugby Grille	Townsend Hotel	\$60	“You may have to mortgage your house, but it’s worth it” for the “old-fashioned dining experience” at this “classy”, “clubby” Continental-American that’s rated No. 1 for Food in Detroit; “housed in the Townsend Hotel” (“where out-of-town celebs”, “stars and musicians stay”), it’s “reminiscent of the best intimate European restaurants”, and its “exceptional” fare and “elegant service” are “worth every penny” according to “everyone who’s anyone in Birmingham”; P.S. “you’ll want to be seated inside” “the tiny grille” “rather than the hallway outside.”
17	Arizona	Scottsdale	Marquesa	Fairmont Scottsdale Princess	\$59	“Absolutely beautiful”, this “top-notch” North Scottsdale Mediterranean is a “foodie’s delight”, “from the imaginative appetizers” to the “exotic” entrees to the “fabulous desserts”; the “flawless” service means that guests are “treated like royalty”, resulting in a “truly marvelous experience that makes any meal a special occasion”; of course, it comes with a “big price tag”, but otherwise, “what’s not to love?” here; P.S. its marketplace-style Sunday brunch, set outside in the courtyard, is “second to none.”

18	Texas	Dallas	Hôtel St. Germain	Hôtel St. Germain	\$83	Set within a “beautiful hotel” “in an old Victorian house” Uptown, this “romantic getaway” is a “perfect” “place to celebrate” any “special occasion” thanks to a “well-thought-out” prix fixe French-Continental menu of “fantastic food” served “off silver trays” by a host of “waiters in white gloves”; reserve “weeks in advance” and your reward will be an “elegant”, “formal dining experience” (jacket and tie required).
19	Pennsylvania	Philadelphia	Swann Lounge	Four Seasons Hotel	\$50	“If you want the Fountain without the formality” (or “the cost”), this “other restaurant in the Four Seasons” will “wow” you with “great dining” amid more “casual” yet nevertheless “lovely” surroundings; count on “delicious” New American–New French cuisine and “unpretentiously superb” service from your vantage point “overlooking the beautiful [Benjamin Franklin] Parkway”; P.S. “the Sunday brunch is a little slice of heaven.”
20	California	Beverly Hills	Belvedere, The	The Peninsula Beverly Hills	\$66	“An elegant setting for stargazing” over “power breakfasts and lunches” or “outstanding dinners”, this “prime spot” in the “beautiful” Peninsula Beverly Hills is a “true destination” that’s “pricey but worth every penny”; give in to the “gorgeous setting”, “magnificent service” from a “top-notch staff” and “exemplary” New American “cuisine fit for a king”; P.S. though every meal is a “near-perfect experience”, the “lovely Sunday brunch”, with its “endless champagne”, is an especially “wonderful” “winner.”