

## FLORENCE NAMED WORLD'S BEST CITY

### **JetBlue Airways, The Aerie, Bali, and New York City are Among Readers' Favorites in *Travel + Leisure* Magazine's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual World's Best Awards**

New York, NY (July 10, 2006) – *Travel + Leisure* announced today that **Florence** is ranked the number one city in the world, taking the place Sydney held for the past four years, according to the magazine's 2006 World's Best Awards readers' survey. **New York City** is named best city in America for the sixth consecutive year. **JetBlue Airways** ranks number one among domestic airlines for the first time in survey history. **Singita Private Game Reserve** in South Africa is a return World's Best Hotel winner having won the accolade in 2004.

The 2006 World's Best Awards uncovers readers' favorite cities, islands, hotels, cruise lines, airlines, tour companies, spas, and car-rental agencies. The survey results, including the **Top 100 Hotels Worldwide**, are featured in the August issue of *Travel + Leisure*, the world's leading travel magazine, and online at [www.travelandleisure.com/worldsbest](http://www.travelandleisure.com/worldsbest).\*

*Travel + Leisure* Editor-in-Chief **Nancy Novogrod** says, "A powerful gauge of the interests and tastes of sophisticated travelers, the 2006 World's Best Awards reveal a preference for places farther away, smaller, and more unique than ever before—a lodge in South Africa, a castle in Scotland, and three hotels in India are among the top ten hotels worldwide. This year, more Asian properties were selected than in past years, and a lesser-known island, Saba, makes its debut as the best island in the Caribbean, Bermuda, and the Bahamas."

#### **TRAVEL + LEISURE 2006 WORLD'S BEST AWARDS READERS' SURVEY WINNERS**

WORLD'S BEST HOTEL	<b>Singita Private Game Reserve, S. Africa</b>
WORLD'S BEST CITY	<b>Florence</b>
WORLD'S BEST ISLAND	<b>Bali</b>
WORLD'S BEST LARGE-SHIP CRUISE LINE	<b>Crystal Cruises</b>
WORLD'S BEST SMALL-SHIP CRUISE LINE	<b>Yachts of Seabourn</b>
WORLD'S BEST TOUR OPERATOR/SAFARI OUTFITTER	<b>Micato Safaris</b>
WORLD'S BEST DOMESTIC AIRLINE	<b>JetBlue Airways</b>
WORLD'S BEST INTERNATIONAL AIRLINE	<b>Singapore Airlines</b>
WORLD'S BEST CAR-RENTAL AGENCY	<b>Hertz</b>
WORLD'S BEST HOTEL FOR \$250 OR LESS	<b>Inn at Montchanin Village, Delaware</b>
WORLD'S BEST DESTINATION SPA	<b>Chiva-Som International Health Resorts, Thailand</b>

#### **TRAVEL + LEISURE 2006 WORLD'S BEST HOTELS BY REGION**

BEST HOTEL, CONTINENTAL U.S + CANADA	<b>The Aerie, Vancouver Island</b>
BEST HOTEL, HAWAII	<b>Four Seasons Resort Hualalai</b>
BEST HOTEL, CARIBBEAN/BERMUDA/BAHAMAS	<b>Waterloo House, Bermuda</b>
BEST HOTEL, EUROPE	<b>Inverlochy Castle, Scotland</b>
BEST HOTEL, ASIA	<b>Four Seasons Resort Bali at Sayan</b>
BEST HOTEL, AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND /S. PACIFIC	<b>Huka Lodge, New Zealand</b>
BEST HOTEL, AFRICA/MIDDLE EAST	<b>Singita Private Game Reserve</b>
BEST HOTEL, MEXICO/CENTRAL + SOUTH AMERICA	<b>Ritz-Carlton, Santiago</b>

## **TRAVEL + LEISURE 2006 WORLD'S BEST CITIES + ISLANDS BY REGION**

<b><u>REGION</u></b>	<b><u>CITY</u></b>	<b><u>ISLAND</u></b>
CONTINENTAL U.S. + CANADA	<b>New York</b>	<b>Cape Breton Island</b>
EUROPE	<b>Florence</b>	<b>Santorini</b>
ASIA	<b>Bangkok</b>	<b>Bali</b>
AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND/S. PACIFIC	<b>Sydney</b>	<b>Tasmania</b>
AFRICA/MIDDLE EAST	<b>Cape Town</b>	<b>Seychelles</b>
MEXICO/CENTRAL + SOUTH AMERICA	<b>Buenos Aires</b>	<b>Galápagos Islands</b>
HAWAII		<b>Kauai</b>
CARIBBEAN/BERMUDA/BAHAMAS		<b>Saba</b>

## **TRAVEL + LEISURE 2006 WORLD'S BEST HOTEL SPAS BY REGION**

U.S. + CANADA	<b>Ritz-Carlton Orlando Grande Lakes</b>
EUROPE	<b>Villa d'Este, Italy</b>
CARIBBEAN	<b>Parrot Cay and Shambala Retreat, Turks and Caicos</b>
ASIA/PACIFIC/AFRICA/MIDDLE EAST	<b>Four Seasons Resort Chiang Mai</b>
MEXICO/CENTRAL/SOUTH AMERICA	<b>Four Seasons Resort Costa Rica at Peninsula Papagayo</b>

Interactive lists of all the World's Best Winners will be available on the Web site at [www.travelandleisure.com/worldsbest](http://www.travelandleisure.com/worldsbest) along with contact information for all of the hotels and comparisons with last year's winners. Travelandleisure.com has created geographically related listings, including a hotel slide show and guides to many of the award-winning cities. Plus, users can easily find past *Travel + Leisure* articles on World's Best Award winning properties via travelandleisure.com's hotel guide.

The *Travel + Leisure* World's Best Awards 2006 winners will be honored at an awards ceremony at Top of the Rock, Rockefeller Center in New York City on July 20.

*Travel + Leisure* magazine editors are available for interviews—please contact Liz Marsh at 212 382 5684.

WBA 2006 Survey Methodology: A questionnaire developed by the editors of *Travel + Leisure*, in association with Harris Interactive, was made available to *Travel + Leisure* subscribers at [www.tlworldsbest.com](http://www.tlworldsbest.com) during the first quarter of this year. Respondents reported where they had traveled worldwide and how, and rated only the destinations, properties, and companies that were relevant to their recent travel experiences. Respondents were asked to rate hotels, cities, islands, spas, hotel spas, tour operators/safari outfitters, cruise lines, airlines and car rental companies on several characteristics. The scores are indexed averages of responses concerning applicable characteristics. The complete survey methodology is available in the August issue of *Travel + Leisure*, and online at [travelandleisure.com/worldsbest](http://travelandleisure.com/worldsbest).

\*The spa survey results will be featured in a special World's Best Spas report in *Travel + Leisure's* October issue and will be posted online at that time.

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*Travel + Leisure*, published monthly by American Express Publishing Corporation, is the world's leading travel magazine with a circulation of almost one million. Sophisticated, modern, and always intelligent, *Travel + Leisure* examines the way we travel now and where we'll be going years from now, putting into context all the elements of the traveler's experience—from hotels, restaurants, and shopping to architecture, culture, and politics—while delivering the latest news on security, health, trends, and innovations. A global brand, *Travel + Leisure* currently publishes *Travel + Leisure En Español*, *Travel + Leisure Russia*, *Travel + Leisure Turkey*, *Travel + Leisure China* and *Travel + Leisure Australia*, and is launching *Travel + Leisure South Asia* in Fall 2006.