

# Condé Nast Traveler

20th Anniversary Contest  
**WIN!**  
A \$20,000  
**DREAM  
VACATION**  
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TRUTH IN TRAVEL

APRIL 2007

**MEXICO'S  
GOLD COAST**  
**+10** HOTELS  
STARTING AT \$70

**CLASSIC  
CRUISES**  
IN GREECE, ITALY,  
AND TURKEY

**SWISS BLISS**  
EUROPE'S SECRET  
SUMMER ESCAPE

**JAPAN'S**  
MYSTIC MOUNTAIN



**SPECIAL**  
**LUXURY  
FOR LESS**  
BEST RATES  
ON TOP ROOMS

**THE NEW  
CARRY-ON**  
HOW TO PACK  
FOR COMFORT  
IN COACH

**TOP**  
**55 SPAS**  
HOT TRENDS,  
TREATMENTS

U.S.A. \$4.50  
Foreign/Canada \$5.50



**SETTING**

- 100 Carneros Inn, Napa, Calif.
- 100 Esperanza, an Auberge Resort, Cabo San Lucas, Mexico
- 100 Four Seasons the Biltmore, Santa Barbara, Calif.
- 100 The Greenbrier, White Sulphur Springs, W.Va.
- 100 Las Ventanas al Paraiso, Los Cabos, Mexico
- 100 Lodge at Pebble Beach, Pebble Beach, Calif.
- 100 Loews Ventana Canyon, Tucson
- 100 Mii Amo Spa, Sedona, Ariz.
- 100 Post Ranch Inn, Big Sur, Calif.
- 100 Spa at the Breakers, Palm Beach, Fla.
- 100 Willow Stream Spa at Fairmont Banff Springs, Banff, Alberta

**PROGRAMS**

- 96.3 Willow Stream Spa at the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess, Scottsdale, Ariz.
- 95.7 JW Marriott Resort & Spa, Cancún
- 95.5 Spa Palazzo at Boca Raton Resort, Boca Raton, Fla.
- 95.0 Disney's Saratoga Springs & Spa, Lake Buena Vista, Fla.
- 95.0 Four Seasons the Biltmore, Santa Barbara, Calif.

**TREATMENTS**

- 100 Esperanza, an Auberge Resort, Cabo San Lucas, Mexico
- 100 Willow Stream at the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess, Scottsdale, Ariz.
- 97.2 Mii Amo Spa at the Enchantment Resort, Sedona, Ariz.
- 96.9 Four Seasons Hualalai, Big Island
- 96.6 Four Seasons, Nevis

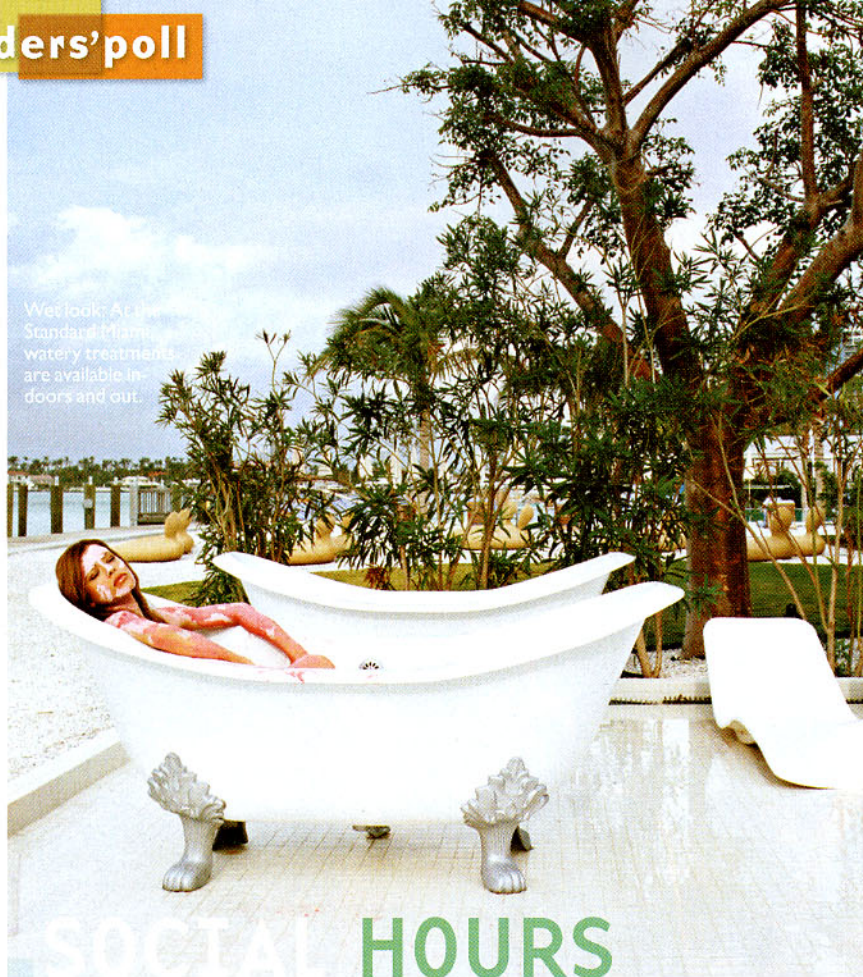
Over the top: Pacific views beckon at Big Sur's Post Ranch Inn.



**SERVICE**

- 100 Carneros Inn, Napa, Calif.
- 100 Post Ranch Inn, Big Sur, Calif.
- 100 Topnotch Resort & Spa, Stowe, Vt.
- 97.4 Four Seasons Resort Aviara, Carlsbad, Calif.
- 96.3 Willow Stream at the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess, Scottsdale, Ariz.

Wet look: At the Standard Miami, water-y treatments are available in- and out-of-doors.



**SOCIETY HOURS**

The point of spas today is not to get away but to get together. At the **Standard Miami**, a spa concierge delivers tubs of colored clay for sunbathing pals to slather on one another. This summer, Napa Valley's new **Solage Calistoga** spa debuts an open-air Mud Bar, where clients can paint lavender-laced mud on one another and then rinse with geothermal water. At spa gatherings, novelty is a big draw: In Las Vegas, **Caesars Palace's Qua Baths & Spa** offers Swarovski body art, so best buds can get removable sparkly tattoos. And at New York City's **Townhouse**, theme parties include an investment bankers' cocktail party cum golf clinic with golf-specific massages and a 20-foot-long virtual putting green. At a singles' mixer, men have mini-facials and women makeup sessions. Afterward, the guests, suitably relaxed and radiant, mingle in the lounge.

**CRUISE LINE SPAS** Crystal Cruises is No. 1 for treatments, service, and workout facilities. Debuting in the top five, Cunard counts among its fleet the *Queen Mary 2*, the only ship with a Canyon Ranch SpaClub—all 20,000 feet of it. Regent Seven Seas gets high service marks for its fleetwide Carita spas.

|  | ★<br>OVERALL SCORE | 🏠<br>Treatments | 👤<br>Staff/Service | 🔑<br>Cabins | 🏋️‍♀️<br>Workout Facilities |
|--|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Crystal Cruises; 800-804-1500</b>           | <b>90.0</b>        | 87.7            | 93.8               | 90.9        | 87.5                        |
| <b>Cunard Line; 800-728-6273</b>               | <b>83.6</b>        | 84.9            | 89.1               | 85.7        | 74.5                        |
| <b>Disney Cruise Line; 800-951-3532</b>        | <b>80.2</b>        | 81.5            | 80.4               | 82.5        | 76.6                        |
| <b>Regent Seven Seas Cruises; 877-505-5370</b> | <b>80.2</b>        | 82.1            | 88.4               | 92.8        | 57.6                        |
| <b>Celebrity Cruises; 877-202-4345</b>         | <b>76.6</b>        | 79.2            | 79.8               | 72.1        | 75.3                        |

**METHODOLOGY** More than 5,000 *Condé Nast Traveler* readers rated 429 spas that they had visited in the past three years on a 100-point scale. Only spas that received the required minimum number of responses were eligible to be included in these rankings. Six criteria were used to evaluate destination spas: Location/Setting, Treatments, Staff/Service, Rooms, Diet/Cuisine, and Programs/Facilities. Resort spas were judged on these and a seventh: Other Activities. Cruise line spas were judged on Treatments, Staff/Service, Cabins, and Workout Facilities. Urban hotel spas were judged on Location/Setting, Treatments, Staff/Service, and Workout Facilities.

Top left: Photograph by Hans & Werner