

DARK ENERGY | MERCEDES-BENZ'S C63 AMG COUPE BLACK SERIES

Robb Report

RobbReport.com

100

THE WORLD'S TOP RESORTS

ASPEN | BAHAMAS | BALI | COURCHEVEL | FIJI | NAPA VALLEY
SCOTTSDALE | SEYCHELLES | ST. BARTHS & MORE



MAY 2012



THE 2012 PORSCHE 911 CARRERA S
PUSHING THE LIMITS IN ARIZONA'S DESERT PARADISE

PLUS SPECIAL HOST'S GUIDE
REVIVING THE SPIRITS (AND COCKTAILS) OF THE ROARING '20s

THE Robb Report

100

RESORTS

EARTH'S MOST EXCLUSIVE RETREATS

THE WORLD DOES NOT need another list of top beach resorts, mountain lodges, wine-country inns, and other popular retreats. But popularity is not a prerequisite for the *Robb Report* 100. In fact, several of the selections in our 2012 top-resorts list have never been, and never will be, popular destinations. In compiling the list, we consulted our trusted correspondents, associates, and friends in the luxury-hospitality community and asked them to select the most exceptional and exclusive properties—then pressed them to pick their favorites from among that elite group. The result is a one-of-a-kind compendium of resorts that we recommend with no hesitation, from an Italian director's dramatically converted four-villa estate on the Amalfi Coast to private islands in Fiji, the Bahamas, the Maldives, and more. And while seasoned travelers will undoubtedly be familiar with many of our choices, we hope the *Robb Report* 100 uncovers at least a few gems that will become popular with you and yours. ►



*All pricing information is listed in U.S. dollars per room, per night, based on double occupancy, unless otherwise noted.

AUSTRALIA

Saffire Freycinet TASMANIA

Breathe the world's cleanest air and swim in its most pristine water at this 20-suite retreat set within view of Freycinet National Park. The suites—and a striking, manta ray-shaped main lodge that serves some of the world's freshest seafood—are strung along the northern shore of Tasmania's Great Oyster Bay. (\$1,800–\$2,800, all-inclusive) www.saffire-freycinet.com.au

Southern Ocean Lodge KANGAROO ISLAND

Sophisticated bluff-top lodge with 21 suites perched above a long sandy beach. Serves as a base camp for encounters with koalas, fur seals, and near-extinct tamar wallabies. Island food safaris explore bee sanctuaries, vineyards, and olive groves. (From \$1,050 per person, all-inclusive) www.southernoceanlodge.com.au

Wolgan Valley Resort and Spa WOLGAN VALLEY

Owned by the conglomerate behind Emirates airlines, this 40-villa retreat is set on 4,000 acres of conservancy land near the Blue Mountains. A supremely comfortable place to rest between Aboriginal cultural tours, horseback rides to sandstone

escarpments, and marsupial safaris. Expect Emirates' first-class standard of service. (\$2,050–\$5,825, all-inclusive) www.wolganvalley.com

CAMBODIA

Amansara SIEM REAP

Former Cambodian king Norodom Sihanouk's 1962 Villa Princièrè reborn as 24 suites of polished concrete and lacquered teak, half with private pools. Guides confer ancient secrets of nearby jungle temples such as Angkor Wat, where sunrise yoga is among Amansara's inspired activities. (\$850–\$1,100, all-inclusive) www.amanresorts.com

FIJI

Laucala Island

A resort without equal, this Eden-like isle is ringed by turquoise waters and sugarcane beaches. The 3,000-acre property features 25 villas—each a sprawling haven in its own right—plus restaurants and bars, a hilltop spa, tennis courts, and a David McLay Kidd-designed golf course for its lucky few guests to enjoy. (\$3,800–\$35,000, all-inclusive) www.laucala.com

FRENCH POLYNESIA

The St. Regis Bora Bora Resort

BORA-BORA

South Pacific paradise overlooking a crystalline lagoon in the shadow of craggy Mount Otemanu. Butler-serviced overwater bungalows, the best restaurants in French Polynesia, a full-service spa, and a swim-up bar make for a sublimely self-contained retreat. (\$1,375–\$16,425) www.stregis.com

INDIA

Amanbagh JAIPUR

(See opposite page)

The Leela Palace Udaipur UDAIPUR

This modern 80-room palace on the shores of Lake Pichola takes cues from nearby Udaipur City Palace. Bold chevron patterns, glittering mosaics, and elephant portraits appear at every turn. Ride a tuk-tuk to town to encounter northern India's true colors. (\$725–\$5,000, including breakfast) www.theleela.com

INDONESIA

Alila Villas Uluwatu BALI

The iconic isle's ultimate getaway, with 84 striking wood-and-stone pool villas perched atop the windswept Bukit Peninsula. Attentive butlers arrange organic spa treatments and excursions to nearby

Uluwatu Temple or Jimbaran Bay. (\$675–\$4,600) www.alilahotels.com

The Bulgari Resort, Bali BALI

Stone fortress atop a nearly 500-foot bluff, high above a white-sand beach accessible only by funicular. With an emphasis on drama, the common spaces and 59 spacious villas fuse the spirit of Bali with sophisticated Italian design. (\$1,000–\$7,000) www.bulgarihotels.com

Como Shambhala Estate BALI

Sanctuary on 23 rolling acres near Ubud that takes a holistic approach to wellness with goal-driven programs, treatments, and activities. Thirty accommodations range from contemporary Retreat Villas near the main spa to five themed Balinese Residences. (\$500–\$4,000, including breakfast) www.como.bz

Nihiwatu SUMBA

Tops for surfing sybarites, this laid-back resort is tucked within a 432-acre stretch of forest, beach, and rice paddies. Filled with Indonesian artifacts, the 18 rustic bungalows are set along the 1.5-mile-long beach, where prime waves break along a shell-strewn shore. (\$800–\$3,575) www.nihiwatu.com