

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

# Robb Report

RobbReport.com

## 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. ►

SECOND FROM LEFT: WESLEY ALLISON



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

### The Resort at Pelican Hill NEWPORT COAST

Admire colossal Palladio-inspired architecture and golf-course and Pacific Ocean views at this 504-acre estate, which includes two Tom Fazio-designed layouts plus 204 bungalows and 128 villas. Do not skip the house-made gelato and pasta at Andrea. (From \$500) [www.pelicanhill.com](http://www.pelicanhill.com)

### The Ritz-Carlton, Lake Tahoe

Expansive mountain and valley views, 170 rooms with fireplaces, and ski-in/ski-out access to Lake Tahoe's Northstar California Resort. Enjoy a royal après-ski treatment at the 17,000-square-foot spa, the Living Room bar, or Manzanita, the California-French restaurant from San Francisco chef Traci Des Jardins. (\$400-\$4,000) [www.ritzcarlton.com](http://www.ritzcarlton.com)

### Post Ranch Inn BIG SUR

(See page 93)

## COLORADO

### The Little Nell ASPEN

Aspen's only ski-in/ski-out hotel offers perks including a first-tracks program that puts guests on the mountain before the general public. After a day of skiing, the Terrace Bar is the place to view Aspen's social scene. Nearly

## A FIRST- TRACKS PROGRAM PUTS GUESTS ON THE MOUNTAIN BEFORE THE PUBLIC.

all of the 92 rooms were redesigned in 2009 for the lodge's 20th anniversary. (\$275-\$8,000) [www.thelittlenell.com](http://www.thelittlenell.com)

### The Ritz-Carlton, Bachelor Gulch BEAVER CREEK

Grand Rocky Mountain lodge tucked among pine trees and ski slopes and featuring 180 rooms. Children's programs, ski nannies, and nightly marshmallow roasts cater to families, while Wolfgang Puck's Spago satisfies foodies

and après-skiers. (\$225-\$4,600) [www.ritzcarlton.com](http://www.ritzcarlton.com)

## HAWAII

### Four Seasons Resort Hualalai at Historic Ka'ūpūlehu

**KAILUA-KONA**  
On a half-mile-long white-sand beach, this Big Island fantasy world encompasses 243 bungalow-style accommodations, seven pools, eight tennis courts, and a Jack Nicklaus-designed golf course winding through a lava-rock landscape. (\$550-\$13,000) [www.fourseasons.com](http://www.fourseasons.com)

### Four Seasons Resort Lana'i, the Lodge at Koele

**LANA'I CITY**  
Visit the private island of Lana'i by checking into this 102-room lodge nestled in the rain forest-covered mountains of this former Dole pineapple plantation. Enjoy a Greg Norman-designed golf course, horseback riding, and access to the beach and ocean activities at the island's other Four Seasons, Manele Bay. (\$300-\$1,500) [www.fourseasons.com](http://www.fourseasons.com)

### The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua MAUI

Sprawling resort on the western tip of Maui that encompasses 463 rooms and suites, a massive spa, a trilevel swimming pool, and 36 holes of championship golf yet still



The Little Nell