

Leisure Lifestyle Awards 2018

Daily



By [Kimberly Krol](#) - May 1, 2018

AHOY, MATEYS! WELCOME ABOARD the *m/s Globility* as we embark with the 2018 Leisure Lifestyle Awards. For the sixth consecutive sailing, we're celebrating the best in the world of leisure and lifestyle travel, awarding goods, services, destinations, hotels, airlines and cruises. Allow us to be your cruise director through this year's elite roster of winners.

We're not just looking through the porthole at stunning scenery — we're disembarking the ship and immersing ourselves in the destination. For a few award-winning options, look no further. Turkey scores big with Best Historical Attractions, while twotime winner Thailand is named Best Adventure Travel Destination. For Best Beaches, Costa Rica earns top billing.

A cruise among all of these top island winners would be a dream come true, indeed. The ports of call would include Saint Lucia, Best Caribbean Island; Santorini, Best Island in Europe, for the fifth consecutive time; and Cook Islands, three-time Best Island Pacific Rim.

Now we keep on cruising around the world, celebrating these worldwide destination honorees. In the United States, three Southern cities earn accolades: Nashville, Best Leisure Destination in the United States; Savannah, Best Weekend Destination in the United States; and Key West, Fla., Best Babymoon Destination. Jackson Hole, Wyo., is named Best North American Ski Destination. Also in North America, Whistler, British Columbia, garnered Best International Ski Destination, and Cabo San Lucas is Best Leisure Destination in Mexico.

Continuing the circumnavigation, we drop anchor in Lisbon, Best Leisure Destination in Europe; Taipei, Best Leisure Destination in Asia; Buenos Aires, Best Leisure Destination in Latin/South America; and Bermuda, Best Weekend Destination in the World.

It's up the gangway and back onto the ship to celebrate the best of the best in cruise lines. Regent Seven Seas leads the list with two wins: Best Family Cruise Line and Best Cruise Line Spa. Another dual winner is Silversea Cruises, sailing away with the Best Luxury Cruise Line (three times running) and Best Cruise Line Suites accolades. MSC Cruises debuts on our winners' list with not one but two wins: Best Cruise Line Entertainment and Best Cruise Line Rewards Program for its MSC Voyagers Club.

A number of cruise lines celebrate their third consecutive wins in their respective categories. They are Paul Gauguin Cruises, Best Small-Ship Cruise Line; Cunard Line, Best Large-Ship Cruise Line; and Princess Cruises, Best Cruise Ship Excursions.

Windstar Cruises came out on top as Best Adventure Cruise Line, a new category on the 2018 ballot, while Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection dominated the Best River Cruise Line category. Rounding out the cruising category, Viking Ocean Cruises earns top billing as Best Cruise Line Dining; and Celebrity Cruises' *Celebrity Reflection* is Favorite Cruise Ship.

We move now from the cabin to the guestroom, honoring hotels and resorts around the globe that have the whole leisure lifestyle concept down pat. For the fourth consecutive year, the high honor of Best Luxury Leisure Hotel Group in the World goes to Meliá Hotels International.

A triple winner in this year's survey, Westin Hotels & Resorts has it all — it was voted Best Hotel Chain Resorts for the fourth time in a row; Best Pet-Friendly Hotels; and Best Family Resort Chain in the World for the second consecutive year.

The Resort at Paws Up is the first-time winner of Best Glamping Destination, acknowledged for its excellence in one of the travel industry's trendiest endeavors. Another popular concept in leisure travel, all-inclusive resorts, is topped by Sandals Resorts, Best All-Inclusive Resorts.

Aside from cruising the high seas, how can we get to our leisure destinations in award-winning style? Here's a hint: with these airlines and providers, 2018 award winners. For the fourth consecutive year, Hawaiian Airlines is named Best Leisure Airline, while Scandinavian Airlines makes its first appearance in the Leisure Lifestyle Awards with its win for Best Premium-Economy Class. Asiana Airlines is the first-time winner in a new category, Best Airline for Onboard Entertainment.

When it comes to downtime, these are the airports you should reroute yourself through: Doha Hamad International Airport, Best Airport for Layovers, and Munich Airport, Best Airport for Recreation. Both categories are new on this year's ballot.

If driving is more your speed, opt to rent with Hertz, Best Leisure Car Rental. To really up the ante on your next vacay, rent a Maserati, Best Luxury Vehicle.

And should you need guidance to get it all together, Elegant Resorts, Best Luxury Tour Operator, can assist.

Before we disembark from *m/s Globility*, we must acknowledge two more winners. Congratulations to TAG Heuer, a three-time winner for Favorite Luxury Watch Brand, and to Johnnie Walker Blue, Best Liquor Brand.

Join us on the lido deck as we raise a glass to this year's Leisure Lifestyle Awards winners.

BEST WEEKEND DESTINATION

1. Bermuda

2. Dublin, Ireland
3. Lisbon, Portugal
4. Québec City, Canada
5. Belize City, Belize
6. London, England
7. Cartagena, Colombia
8. Vienna, Austria
9. Paris, France
10. Rome, Italy