

AVOID FLIGHT DELAYS! BEST (AND WORST) AIRLINES AND AIRPORTS

TRAVEL + LEISURE

Where To Go For The
HOLIDAYS

VIENNA
MAUI
PROVENCE
TOKYO
VIEQUES
CHARLESTON
RIO
QUEBEC CITY
VENICE

22

TRIPS
OF A
LIFETIME

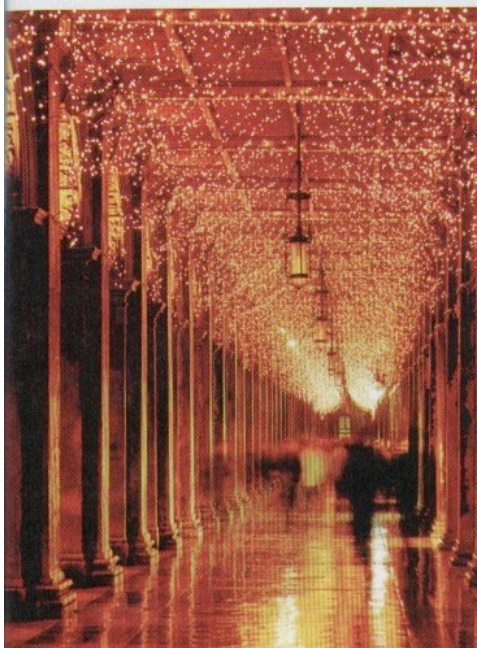
VENICE

Italy

No other place celebrates New

Year's with such brilliance—literally—as Venice, when the city's cathedrals light up at night. But my Venetian holiday is all about eating and drinking. Lunch is at **Osteria Oliva Nera**, a neighborhood restaurant where Isabella and Dino, the owners, feed you well (incredible *baccalà*). Afterward, I swing by the glass shop **Venini** for striped tumblers, followed by a glass of wine or two (and a meatball!) at **Trattoria alla Vedova**. By midnight, San Marco is packed with revelers; from the balcony at the **Hotel Danieli**, a final glass of Prosecco in hand, I watch the last dancers wander home. Tomorrow there's a trip to Lido island, where the *Ibernisti* take a New Year's dip before eating a bowl of lentils for prosperity. —REGGIE NADELSON

Osteria Oliva Nera (3417 Castello; 39-041/522-2170; dinner for two \$70); Venini (314 San Marco; 39-041/522-4045; venini.com); Trattoria alla Vedova (3912 Calle del Pistor Cannaregio; 39-041/528-5324; lunch for two \$77); Hotel Danieli (4196 Castello; 800/325-3589; danielihotelvenice.com; doubles from \$1,194).



CITY SNAPSHOTS Clockwise from above: A lit-up San Marco, in Venice; Keawakapu Beach, in Maui; a suite at the historic Auberge Saint-Antoine, in Quebec City.

QUEBEC CITY

Canada

Even when it's 10 degrees outside (yes, 10!), 402-year-old

Quebec City rivals any European capital: French is the main language and snow-dusted castle turrets make up the wintertime views. The skating rink at **Place d'Youville**, in windswept Upper Town, is always packed, and at the classic crêperie **Au Petit Coin Breton**, locals line up for piping-hot cider. A table by the window of Le Champlain dining room, at the **Fairmont Le Château Frontenac**, is hard to come by (make sure to book in advance)—but there's no better spot to watch the snowflakes fall over the frozen St. Lawrence River. The brunch here is the best in town, with sugar-coated maple cookies and nutty raw-milk cheeses made by monks. In the six Historic Suites of **Auberge Saint-Antoine**, the exposed wooden beams and brick walls all survived the British bombardment in 1759. It's just a short walk to **Restaurant L'Initiale**, where the foie gras is seared, whipped into a pâté, and stuffed into supple dumplings. —SHERRI EISENBERG
Au Petit Coin Breton (1029 Rue St.-Jean; 418/694-0758; lunch for two \$25); Fairmont Le Château Frontenac (1 Rue des Carrières; 418/692-3861; brunch for two \$92); Auberge Saint-Antoine (8 Rue St.-Antoine; 888/692-2211; doubles from \$299); Restaurant L'Initiale (54 Rue St.-Pierre; 418/694-1818; dinner from \$65 per person).



MAUI

Hawaii

Just before dawn

on the first morning of the New Year, the feeling of renewal is palpable. I'm paddling a kayak down the southern coast of Maui—the sun won't crest the island's 10,000-foot Haleakala volcano for half an hour. From here, I can see Ferraro's, the patio restaurant at the **Four Seasons Resort**, where I'll dine tonight on pan-seared *branzino* while watching the year's first sunset. Around the point, the **Fairmont Kea Lani** rises; it was there on Christmas Eve that I saw Santa Claus paddle ashore in an outrigger canoe with his bag full of goodies. Farther south, Keoneoio (La Perouse) Bay, filled with dolphins and humpback whales, awaits for an afternoon snorkel. On land, Wailea Alanui Drive parallels my route—but it's more fun by kayak.

—ANDREW MCCARTHY
Four Seasons Resort Maui at Wailea (3900 Wailea Alanui Dr.; 800/334-6284; dinner for two \$120); Fairmont Kea Lani, Maui (4100 Wailea Alanui Dr.; 866/540-4456; doubles from \$499).

(Continued on page 216)

T+L RECOMMENDS: FOUR MORE NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATIONS

The New Year's Cape Minstrel Carnival in **CAPE TOWN** is an African Mardi Gras: a raucous parade of musicians with painted faces and bright costumes playing traditional songs (tourismcapetown.co.za). ➔ The fireworks displays in **ICELAND** are on par with anything Eyjafjallajökull can muster; view the pyrotechnics from Reykjavik's glass-domed Perlan restaurant (*Oskjuhljó Hill*; 354/562-0200; dinner for two \$155). ➔ Join villagers in **VIELLA, FRANCE**, in the Pyrenees, as they mark the annual harvest: evening mass followed by a torchlight procession to the vineyards to pick the overripe grapes (plaimont.com). ➔ If the Mayans were correct and the world is ending in 2012, then kick off your last year on earth right: beachside brunch at the Fairmont Mayakoba on the **RIVIERA MAYA**, followed by an ancient purification ritual by the pool (800/441-1414; fairmont.com; *casitas* from \$699). —JAMES JUNG AND NINA FEDRIZZI

