TRAVEL+ LEISURE

Home + World's Best

The Top 15 Resort Hotels in the West

BY HANNAH WALHOUT SEPTEMBER 08, 2021



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The word resort might conjure dreams of tropical locales or Mediterranean beaches, but this year's list of the best resort hotels in the western U.S. proves that you don't have to travel far for beauty and solitude. With rugged mountains, rolling plains, and those famous big skies, there's a serene remoteness that feels completely transportive.

Every year for our World's Best Awards survey, T+L asks readers to weigh in on travel experiences around the globe — to share their opinions on the top hotels, resorts, cities, islands, cruise ships, spas, airlines, and more. Hotels were rated on their facilities, location, service, food, and overall value.

Properties were classified as city or resort based on their locations and amenities.

The least populous states in the region (excluding California, Arizona, Colorado, and Utah, which all have dedicated categories this year) are well-represented on the list, offering plenty of wide-open spaces, dramatic mountains, lakes, and forests, and few people to bother you while you're taking it all in. Idaho, Oregon, and Montana claim eight of the top 15 between them. Among these is Montana's Lone Mountain Ranch, a 106-year-old property (No. 9 in the rankings) just outside the boundaries of Yellowstone National Park. Twenty-seven historic log cabins, refurbished in 2016, are set on 148 acres of pristine wilderness, including 50 miles of hiking trails and 80 miles for cross-country skiing. "If you're going to stay in Big Sky," one survey respondent wrote, "this is the only place you need to know."

But even states that are perhaps better known for their urban centers have plenty to offer. Nevada is a traveler favorite for the big-lights entertainment and high-rolling nightlife of Sin City, but take a seven-hour drive from Vegas to the crook of Nevada and California, and you'll hit the Sierra Nevada and the Lodge at Edgewood Tahoe, on the south shore of the glacial lake, which comes in at No. 2 on this year's list. And less than an hour from Seattle, in the foothills of the Cascades, No. 4 honoree Salish Lodge & Spa offers an easy escape from the bustle. (*Twin Peaks* fans will also remember its star turn in exterior shots of the Great Northern Hotel.) One reader described it as "cozy and romantic, a wonderful getaway in a stunning setting."

Wyoming has the lowest population of any U.S. state, but offers access to two of the country's most stunning national parks — Yellowstone and Grand Teton — and a wealth of other protected natural areas. No wonder that four of this year's top 15 resorts call the Cowboy State home — including the property in the top spot. Read on to learn more about the resort T+L readers voted the best in the West.

2. Lodge at Edgewood Tahoe, Stateline, Nevada



CREDIT: THOMAS HART SHELBY/COURTESY OF THE LODGE AT EDGEWOOD TAHOE

Score: 96.22

More information: edgewoodtahoe.com