

# Letters | June 2010

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## Reader's Find: A Sustainable Costa Rican Retreat

While driving around Lake Arenal last May, I came upon a sign for [Rancho Margot](#) (*doubles from \$140, including breakfast, a ranch tour, and yoga classes*), a “self-sufficient organic ranch.” It’s also a totally off-the-grid resort with 18 beautifully appointed, terraced bungalows. It sits right on the lake, in the middle of a breathtaking river valley surrounded by 148,263 acres of forest. Yoga, horseback riding, kayaking, hiking, and rappelling are just some of the things you can do there. But what I found most inspiring about Rancho Margot is its sustainable approach. It creates its own electricity with hydroelectric turbines and uses energy generated by composting to heat water for showers and a pool (with a swim-up wet bar). Most of the food is produced on the ranch, which has a chicken coop for fresh eggs and a dairy where guests can help make cheese. I’d recommend this place to anyone looking for paradise off the beaten path. —TOMAS LOEBEL, DAYTONA BEACH, FLA.

## TravelandLeisure.com

New! *Travel + Leisure* Photo Contest Submit your best travel pics on [TravelandLeisure.com](#) starting June 1. You could win one of our great monthly prizes—and have a chance to be published in *Travel + Leisure*!

On the Beach, All the Time For our lists of top American beaches, affordable beach resorts, and seaside inns, go to [TravelandLeisure.com/ideas/beaches-resorts](#).

Feel the Adrenaline Summer is here, which means it’s time to get outdoors and get moving. Find your next adventure—and top outfitters—at [TravelandLeisure.com/ideas/adventure](#).

The Travel Scoop Bookmark T+L’s blog ([TravelandLeisure.com/blogs/carry-on](#)) to stay current on the latest news, trends, deals, and editors’ finds.

T+L Asks: If You Could Live at Any Hotel in the World, Which One Would You Choose—and Why?

Here are selected responses posted on our Facebook wall ([facebook.com/TravelandLeisure](#)) and tweeted to us ([@TravlandLeisure](#)).

## Tuscany

[La Locanda di San Francesco](#) (*doubles from \$265*), a 14th-century palazzo, has the most magnificent views of the countryside. —ANNE BINGHAM, AUSTIN, TEX.

## South Carolina

I’d love to wake up each morning with the sun shining into my cottage at the [Inn at Palmetto Bluff](#) (*doubles from \$650*)—simple yet luxurious. —BLAKE MILLER VOSSEKUIL, CHARLOTTE, N.C.

## Peru

[Las Casitas del Colca](#) (doubles from \$395, including meals and activities), in Colca Canyon. Fresh air, fantastic food, amazing spa, plus beautiful views. —MICHELLE GUY NICHOLSON, FORT RUCKER, ALA.

## Hawaii

I'd choose [Grand Wailea](#) (doubles from \$564), on Maui. To swim in the ocean and sit under whispering palm trees every day would be magical. —LAURIE WORKMAN MALENFANT, COLCHESTER, VT.

## Istanbul

[Four Seasons Hotel Istanbul at Sultanahmet](#) (doubles from \$585), a prison turned five-star hotel with *the* best beds—you feel like you're sleeping on a cloud. —CAROLINE ROE, MADISON, WIS.

Coming Next Month: If you were to plan an entire trip around food, where would you go—and what would you eat?

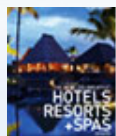
## Your Hotels Hit List

Here, the most clicked-on hotels on [TravelandLeisure.com](#) at press time.

1. [Kaawa Loa Plantation](#), Kealahou, Hawaii
2. [Hôtel l'Oursin](#), St.-Jean-Cap-Ferrat, France
3. [Çiragan Palace Kempinski](#), Istanbul
4. [L'Oustau de Baumannière](#), Les Baux de Provence, France
5. [Relais Sant'Elena](#), Bibbona, Italy
6. [Art'Otel](#), Berlin
7. [W Retreat & Spa Maldives](#), Fesdu Island, the Maldives
8. [Sapibenega—The Kuna Lodge](#), Panama
9. [Cavallo Point—The Lodge at the Golden Gate](#), Sausalito, California
10. [Inn at Ocean's Edge](#), Lincolnville, Maine

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