

 NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

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TRAVELER

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Welcome

Travel, All the Time
April 2009 \$4.99

HOTELS WE LOVE

129 HOTELS WITH LOCATION-INSPIRED ARCHITECTURE, AMBIENCE, AND AMENITIES • ECO-STEWARDSHIP • PLUS AN ETHIC OF GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

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SENSE OF PLACE

The hotels on our Stay List 2009 don't just reflect their surroundings—they help define them. What they all have in common is a transcendent vision that goes beyond traditional hotel-keeping. This mindset is what gives these hotels their special sense of place. Make no mistake: You'll sense the vibe at once. Maybe it's the regional architecture that speaks to you. Or a guest room resonating with history. Or local food that not only tastes great but tells a story to boot. After your stay, you'll leave with the kind of insight only soulful places can provide. ¶ To find these hotels, *Traveler* tapped into the collected experiences of veteran journalists, inveterate road warriors, and local experts. They based their nominations on key criteria. Is the hotel engaged with the local community? Does it subscribe to sustainable practices that respect the region? Does it truly capture the spirit of its setting? Further research and detailed questionnaires winnowed hundreds of submissions down to this sweet list of 129 hotels. ¶ There's something for everyone here, from wilderness cabins to urban lairs of luxury—all authentic, purposeful places to enhance your travels. Welcome to Stay List 2009. —Charles Kulander

Our 2nd
AUTHENTIC, SUSTAINABLE

■ AUSTRIA'S SECRETS OF THE LAKES

■ ECUADOR: AVENUE OF THE VOLCANOES

■ PENANG: MALAYSIAN MAGIC

PLANTER'S INN Charleston, S.C. An urbane synthesis of history and Southern lifestyle in a former 1844 dry goods emporium. Museum-quality repro furnishings in white-shuttered, high-ceilinged rooms. High-end cooking employs Low Country ingredients: grits, black-eyed peas. Palmetto courtyard. Explore boutiques and bistros around the corner; King Street antiques shops, a block away. 64 rooms; from \$199; www.plantersinn.com.