

Writing Sample:

Resorts & Great Hotels, front of book



Editor's Note

This issue marks 20 years of seeking, finding, and showcasing the best places to stay in the world. In 1987 we profiled properties at the pinnacle of hospitality. We still do. But back then we had no idea we stood at the threshold of a new age in luxury travel.

Boutique hotels, club-level accommodations, over-water bungalows, and urban resorts existed only as a gleam in visionaries' eyes in 1987. We had minibars and 800-numbers for reservations, but no fax machines. Then the World Wide Web debuted in October 1990—nearly four years after our first edition. Five years later, we all had PCs.

How quickly the innovations became standard, from online booking to Wi-Fi and high-def TVs. Sure, we jogged and had fat farms in 1987. But we never thought of looking for a spa or fitness facility at a luxury resort—not to mention a city hotel. Today it's almost *de rigueur* to find both no matter where you stay.

You can also count on museum-quality art in the lobby, a down duvet and triple 300-thread-count sheets on your bed, a whirlpool tub and second TV in your marble bathroom, infinity-edge pools outside (shared and your own), kids' clubs, and show kitchens with

superstar chefs on display.

As resorts and hotels strive to one-up the competition—and keep up with customer demand—we can only wonder what's next. I myself vote to standardize chocolate therapy, the latest craze at the Hyatt Regency Cancun, page 75, and designer beds for canine companions, now offered by the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa, page 166. Or check out the Mandarin Oriental, Miami, page 183, where the new Spa Lifestyle Rooms come with dumbbell racks, wellness halls, and yoga mats, straps, and blocks. Or turn to Le Méridien Bora Bora, page 34, where the waters of paradise now serve as a sanctuary for endangered sea turtles.

Here's to 20 years of innovation in the world of luxury travel. Long may it reign. Till next year—*bon voyage!*

A Connoisseur's Collection

On the following pages you'll find some of the world's best hotels and resorts wrapped up in a single volume. Though they represent a widely diverse lot, gathered from all corners of the globe, they hold one attribute in common: All make an extraordinary commitment to providing a quality experience for the discriminating traveler.

Location, reputation, and aesthetics play the largest part in our selection process. We subscribe to and count on several excellent rating guides; to these experts we entrust the critical analysis. Our purpose is simply to single out the best and then present them for your perusal, trip-planning convenience, and pleasure.

While the world's top hotels and resorts may seem expensive relative to others, on this earth, at least, you can bet that price reflects value. When choosing among the best of the best, however, value admittedly can be a highly subjective criterion.

We trust you'll discover the overriding value of our connoisseurs' collection lies in acting as your own expert—in picking your own particular pleasure, whether for the next real-life trip or for your very next daydream.

Writing Sample:

Resorts & Great Hotels, 450-word profile



The Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise Lake Louise, Alberta, Canada

“I never, in all my explorations, saw such a matchless scene,” declared Tom Wilson, the first non-native person to view Lake Louise, in 1882. Generations of travelers have savored the same heart-stopping Canadian vista at The Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise, from its log-cabin beginnings in 1890 to the grand resort of today.

In summer, the peaks and valleys of Banff National Park provide a playground for hiking, horseback riding, fishing, mountain biking, and rafting. Guests can canoe across the turquoise waters of legendary Lake Louise or relive the experiences of early adventurers with the Mountain Heritage guide program.

In winter, downhill and cross-country skiing beckon with champagne powder and pristine slopes. Snowshoeing, dogsledding, ice-skating, and sleigh rides round out the options of this winter wonderland.

Those looking for inspiration and relaxation indoors find it at the Escape Spa & Salon. Following the Aveda concept, it features a steam room with color therapy and aromatherapy, a hydrotherapy suite, couples room, relaxation area, and separate men’s and women’s locker rooms with luxury bath amenities. The health club offers still

more options, including a heated pool, whirlpool, steam room, and fitness center.

Between activities, guests enjoy the sanctuary of 548 luxurious rooms and suites overlooking the lake and majestic Victoria Glacier. The Fairmont Gold floor provides a boutique hotel within a hotel complete with private reception, dedicated concierge, and an exclusive lounge offering deluxe Continental breakfast and an honor bar.

History blends perfectly with modern-day amenities in the chateau’s Mount Temple Wing. It houses 18,000 square feet of the resort’s 36,000 square feet of state-of-the-art meeting facilities.

Echoing the original chateau in style, the Temple Wing’s space for groups reflects a theme of natural wonders. The spectacular Mount Temple Ballroom accommodates 700 attendees, and the adjoining Heritage Hall displays dramatic stained-glass windows depicting the grizzly bear, eagle, and other Rocky Mountain wildlife. The wing also incorporates six breakout rooms, a 200-seat restaurant, additional guest rooms, and a fully equipped 24-hour business center.

Guests can satisfy their culinary cravings with an exquisite selection of dining options—from the Alpine Breakfast Buffet at the Poppy Brasserie to the signature Walliser Stube, where tempting aromas of fondue highlight a European menu. Tradition comes alive with afternoon tea in the Lakeview Lounge, authentic Western barbecues in the dance barn, and après-ski revelry in the Glacier Saloon.

One-of-a-kind moments highlight every stay at The Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise. Whether riding the Lake Louise gondola, savoring a meadow picnic, skiing by torchlight, or relaxing at the Lake Agnes Teahouse after an exhilarating hike, guests find lasting inspiration in the setting—made all the more memorable by Fairmont savoir faire and service.