

F CONSISTENCY IS A VIRTUE, these cities should be canonized. From **Florence** (84.5) in Europe, to **Buenos Aires** (82.2) in the Americas, to **Cape Town** (83.0) in Africa, to **Bangkok** in Asia (82.8), each of these winners has maintained its monopoly since last year's poll. Perpetual victor **Sydney** (87.2) doesn't disappoint, claiming top honors among all cities for the seventh consecutive year. Local favorite **San Francisco** (85.2) takes the United States category for a whopping sixteenth year in a row, a feat never before accomplished by any destination or property. One reason: its worldwide high Restaurant score of 93.1. ● In Europe, **Prague** makes a splash, reappearing after a four-year absence with a robust 77.9. **Hong Kong's** Shopping score (88.1) is tops in Asia, while **Dubai's** rising skyscrapers and man-made islands lead Lodging (88.2) in the Middle East, and **Cuzco's** Culture and Sites (94.2) rule the Americas.

TOP

ASIA
CITIES

- 1 Bangkok 82.8
- 2 Chiang Mai 81.2
- 2 Hong Kong 81.2
- 4 Singapore 79.8
- 5 Kyoto 79.3
- 6 Shanghai 77.1
- 7 Jaipur 74.5
- 8 Tokyo 73.7
- 9 Hanoi 68.8
- 10 Beijing 68.0

TOP

UNITED STATES
CITIES

- 1 San Francisco 85.2
- 2 Charleston, S.C. 82.9
- 3 New York City 81.6
- 4 Santa Fe 81.5
- 5 Chicago 81.0
- 6 Carmel 79.0
- 7 Honolulu 78.4
- 8 Savannah 78.0
- 9 San Diego 77.2
- 10 Sedona 77.0

TOP

EUROPE
CITIES

- 1 Florence 84.5
- 2 Rome 82.4
- 3 Salzburg 80.8
- 3 Venice 80.8
- 5 Vienna 80.5
- 6 Barcelona 80.4
- 7 Paris 80.0
- 8 Bruges 79.8
- 9 Siena 78.5
- 10 Prague 77.9

TOP
5

AFRICA/MIDDLE EAST
CITIES

- 1 Cape Town 83.0
- 2 Jerusalem 75.6
- 3 Damascus 73.3
- 4 Dubai 72.5
- 5 Beirut 70.8

TOP
10

THE AMERICAS
CITIES

- 1 Buenos Aires 82.2
- 2 Vancouver 81.9
- 3 Quebec City 80.1
- 3 Victoria 80.1
- 5 San Miguel de Allende 79.0
- 6 Cuzco 77.5
- 7 Montreal 76.1
- 8 Oaxaca 74.2
- 9 Toronto 71.1
- 10 Rio de Janeiro 70.4

TOP
5

AUSTRALIA/PACIFIC
CITIES

- 1 Sydney 87.2
- 2 Melbourne 78.8
- 3 Queenstown, N.Z. 77.0
- 4 Christchurch 73.2
- 5 Auckland 72.5

YOU ARE THE JUDGE The annual **Readers' Choice Awards** are based on your travel experiences. The scores represent the percentage of "excellent" and "very good" ratings in the survey (see "Methodology," page 225).

RATED ON

Atmosphere/Ambience • Culture/Sites • Friendliness • Lodging • Restaurants • Shopping