

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

CONDÉ NAST

NOVEMBER 2015

Traveler

2015
READERS' CHOICE
AWARDS

BEST
IN THE
WORLD

\$5.99US \$6.99FOR

11>

08434

0 319466 9

Word of Mouth

The things we can't stop talking about

**YOUR NEXT
DREAMY
ITALIAN
VACATION**



SAN FRANCISCO

Japantown: Eat, Play, and (Finally) Stay

At once kitschy and classic, San Francisco's Japantown is one of the few districts in the city whose unwitting cool has survived the second tech boom, its cherry blossom-lined plaza, octogenarian shopkeepers, and hole-in-the-wall noodle and sushi spots still as authentic as ever. The neighborhood's never had many places where you'd want to stay, however. But now there's **The Buchanan**, right by residential Pacific Heights and trendy Fillmore. The boutique hotel takes creative hints from its setting, with *shibori*-print robes and a Japanese whiskey-themed lobby where thousands of empty bottles decorate the ceiling and wood barrels make up one wall; and the hotel shares space with Mum's, one of the city's oldest Japanese hot-pot joints. The Buchanan's 128 rooms are a study in wabi-sabi: Rough canvas drapes offset crisp white bed linens; pale marble-topped dressers contrast with bright, asymmetrical wall prints. It's the perfect home base for exploring the area: approximately six square blocks whose treasures are mostly housed in malls (more Tokyo's Asakusa district than King of Prussia) that sell everything from kimonos and boba tea to bonsai. Here, a neighborhood hit list. —LEXI PANDELL



Bold prints (left) and a *shibori* robe hang in a guest room at The Buchanan.

1. Benkyodo serves fresh *mochi* out of a nondescript glass-and-brick storefront. Get the *chofu*, a plain sweet *mochi* wrapped in a pancake and stamped with Japanese characters.

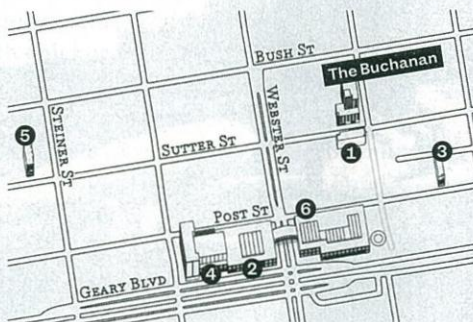
2. Kinokuniya Bookstore, a bi-level bibliophile's dream in the Kinokuniya Building, draws the aesthetically minded for its rare design books, Asian literature, and manga selection.

3. Waraku specializes in steaming bowls of ramen with thick, chewy noodles in pork bone or chicken broth. For something new, try the dipping ramen—a heaping plate of noodles, meat, and mushrooms ready to dunk into a bowl of fish broth.

4. Relax at Kabuki Springs & Spa, which offers massages, Reiki, and acupuncture but is most famous for its communal baths. (Swimsuits optional; silence mandatory.) The Sushi & Sartori group package includes access to the baths, private massages, and sushi.

5. The airy Song Tea & Ceramics gives free tastings from a hand-picked selection of Chinese and Taiwanese leaves, walking you through the teas' origins, brewing practices, and flavor profiles. Ask to try one of the aged varieties, some of which have been preserved and roasted for more than two decades.

6. Nijiya Market has the city's best assortment of imported Japanese snacks, sake, and beer. Buy a bag of Kasugai kiwi-flavored gummy candy and a bottle of Kawaba Sunrise, a craft amber ale from a mountain village in Gunma.



JAMAICA

Island Grown

If you're Chris Blackwell—owner of three of Jamaica's most sybaritic retreats—you have an enviable array of places you might call home. But it's to **Pantrepant**, his farmstead in west Jamaica, that the legendary music impresario heads when he needs to unwind. Tucked in the hills of Trelawny Parish, the 2,500-acre estate shows a wilder, greener side of Jamaica, harking back to when farms outnumbered all-inclusives and everything on your plate was island grown. Now, for those staying at his resorts (Goldeneye, The Caves, and Strawberry Hill), Blackwell has quietly opened Pantrepant to overnight guests (for an additional fee). They'll have the run of the place—picking mango and ackee and callaloo for breakfast, hiking to swimming holes, milking cows at the dairy, and eating farm-fresh meals under a giant guango tree. Food is very much the focus here: Having spent his early career bringing Jamaica's music to the world, the man who signed Bob Marley is now doing the same for the island's homegrown cuisine, which he sees as its next great tourism draw (islandoutpost.com). —PETER JON LINDBERG

Chris Blackwell's
Pantrepant.





READERS' CHOICE AWARDS



REST OF THE WORLD

Canada TOP 20

- 1 Nita Lake Lodge, Whistler, B.C. 96.248
- 2 Wickaninnish Inn, Vancouver Island, B.C. 88.058
- 3 Post Hotel & Spa, Lake Louise, Alberta 88.019
- 4 Four Seasons Resort and Residences Whistler, B.C. 87.557
- 5 Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise, Alberta 87.120
- 6 Fairmont Chateau Whistler, B.C. 86.068
- 7 JW Marriott The Rosseau Muskoka Resort & Spa, Minett, Ontario 85.714
- 8 Moraine Lake Lodge, Lake Louise, Alberta 85.357
- 9 Emerald Lake Lodge, Yoho National Park, B.C. 84.670
- 10 Fairmont Banff Springs, Alberta 84.203
- 11 Long Beach Lodge Resort, Vancouver Island, B.C. 84.017
- 12 Fairmont Tremblant, Mont-Tremblant, Quebec 83.632
- 13 Mineral Springs Resort, Salt Spring Island, B.C. 83.168
- 14 The Algonquin Resort St. Andrews by-the-Sea, New Brunswick 82.879
- 15 Fairmont Le Manoir Richelieu, Charlevoix, Quebec 82.850
- 16 Pan Pacific Whistler Mountainside, B.C. 82.197
- 17 Black Rock Oceanfront Resort, Vancouver Island, B.C. 82.181
- 18 Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge, Alberta 82.148
- 19 Le Germain Hotel Charlevoix, Baie-Saint-Paul, Quebec 82.102
- 20 Pan Pacific Whistler Village Centre, B.C. 82.091

61.5

MILLION

Total number of passengers who passed through Indianapolis and Singapore airports—the top-rated domestic and international airports, respectively.

Mexico (Caribbean Coast) TOP 20

- 1 Generations Riviera Maya 94.595
- 2 Viceroy Riviera Maya 93.463
- 3 Zoëtry Paraíso de la Bonita Riviera Maya 93.367
- 4 Rosewood Mayakoba 93.075
- 5 El Dorado Maroma 90.929
- 6 Le Blanc Spa Resort, Cancún 90.628
- 7 Belmond Maroma Resort & Spa 90.038
- 8 Fairmont Mayakoba 86.905
- 9 Excellence Playa Mujeres 86.485
- 10 Secrets Maroma Beach Riviera Cancun 86.277
- 11 InterContinental Presidente Cozumel Resort Spa 85.913
- 12 Grand Velas Riviera Maya 85.895
- 13 Royal Hideaway Playacar 85.714
- 14 Live Aqua Cancun 85.648
- 15 Ritz-Carlton, Cancun 84.921
- 16 Nizuc Resort & Spa, Cancun 84.590
- 17 JW Marriott Cancun Resort & Spa 83.876
- 18 Secrets the Vine Cancun 83.673
- 19 Banyan Tree Mayakoba 82.841
- 20 The Royal Playa del Carmen 82.823

Mexico (Pacific Coast) TOP 20

- 1 Four Seasons Resort Punta Mita 96.079
- 2 Rancho La Puerta, Tecate 95.636
- 3 Pueblo Bonito Mazatlán 92.155
- 4 Las Ventanas al Paraíso (Rosewood), San José del Cabo 91.917
- 5 Pueblo Bonito Emerald Bay Resort & Spa, Mazatlán 91.864
- 6 One&Only Palmilla, San José del Cabo 91.460
- 7 Capella Ixtapa 91.056
- 8 Viceroy Zihuatanejo 90.833
- 9 St. Regis Punta Mita Resort 90.830
- 10 Esperanza (An Auberge Resort), Cabo San Lucas 90.287
- 11 The Resort at Pedregal (formerly Capella), Cabo San Lucas 89.541
- 12 Pueblo Bonito Sunset Beach Golf & Spa Resort, Cabo San Lucas 89.368
- 13 Pueblo Bonito Pacifica Golf & Spa Resort, Cabo San Lucas 89.214

- 14 Rancho Pescadero, Todos Santos 89.167
- 15 Marquis Los Cabos Resort & Spa (formerly Secrets), San José del Cabo 88.350
- 16 Grand Velas Riviera Nayarit, Nuevo Vallarta 88.021
- 17 La Casa Que Canta, Zihuatanejo 86.574
- 18 Hard Rock Hotel Vallarta, Nuevo Vallarta 83.915
- 19 Hacienda Encantada Resort & Spa, Cabo San Lucas 82.375
- 20 Grand Solmar Land's End Resort & Spa, Cabo San Lucas 82.353

Caribbean Islands TOP 40

- 1 Jade Mountain, St. Lucia 95.312
- 2 Guana Island, BVI 94.334
- 3 Montpelier Plantation & Beach, Nevis 94.177
- 4 Ladera Resort, St. Lucia 93.158
- 5 Sugar Beach, A Viceroy Resort, St. Lucia 92.409
- 6 Petit St. Vincent Resort, St. Vincent and the Grenadines 91.629
- 7 Nisbet Plantation Beach Club, Nevis 91.307
- 8 Eden Rock-St. Barths 91.286
- 9 Tortuga Bay Puntacana Resort & Club, Dominican Republic 90.774
- 10 Rosalie Bay Resort, Dominica 90.693
- 11 Jamaica Inn, Ocho Rios, Jamaica 90.358
- 12 Le Guanahani, St. Barts 90.232
- 13 The Peninsula House, Las Terrenas, Dominican Republic 90.000
- 14 Palm Island Resort, St. Vincent and the Grenadines 89.980
- 15 The Hermitage Plantation Inn, Nevis 89.744
- 16 Viceroy Anguilla 89.696
- 17 Curtain Bluff, Antigua 89.269
- 18 Round Hill Hotel and Villas, Montego Bay, Jamaica 89.145
- 19 Sandals LaSource Grenada 88.980
- 20 Dorado Beach (A Ritz-Carlton Reserve), Puerto Rico 88.958
- 21 Cap Maison, St. Lucia 88.826
- 22 The BodyHoliday, St. Lucia 88.719
- 23 Hôtel Le Toiny, St. Barts 88.542
- 24 Hermitage Bay, Antigua 88.095
- 25 Zoëtry Agua Punta Cana, Dominican Republic 87.768
- 26 Malliouhana (An Auberge Resort), Anguilla 87.619
- 27 Jumby Bay (Rosewood), Antigua 87.547
- 28 Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman 86.703
- 29 Cheval Blanc St-Barth Isle de France, St. Barts 86.122
- 30 Anse Chastanet, St. Lucia 85.667
- 31 The Caves, Negril, Jamaica 85.125
- 32 Rosewood Little Dix Bay, Virgin Gorda, BVI 84.920
- 33 Fairmont Royal Pavilion, Barbados 83.801
- 34 Strawberry Hill, Blue Mountains, Jamaica 83.790
- 35 Le Sereno, St. Barts 83.705
- 36 Four Seasons Resort Nevis 83.563
- 37 Half Moon, Rose Hall, Jamaica 83.291
- 38 Caneel Bay, St. John, USVI 83.231
- 39 Peter Island Resort & Spa, BVI 83.195
- 40 Couples Swept Away, Negril, Jamaica 83.149