

Top restaurants check into luxury hotels

First-rate food on the road abounds, survey finds

By Gary Stoller
USA TODAY

It may surprise business travelers who often encounter lackluster hotel restaurants or have permanently written off hotel food: A new survey shows there are plenty of first-rate hotel dining options.

At the request of USA TODAY, Zagat Survey found the top 100 hotel restaurants in America, based on

**Business
travel**

Every Tuesday

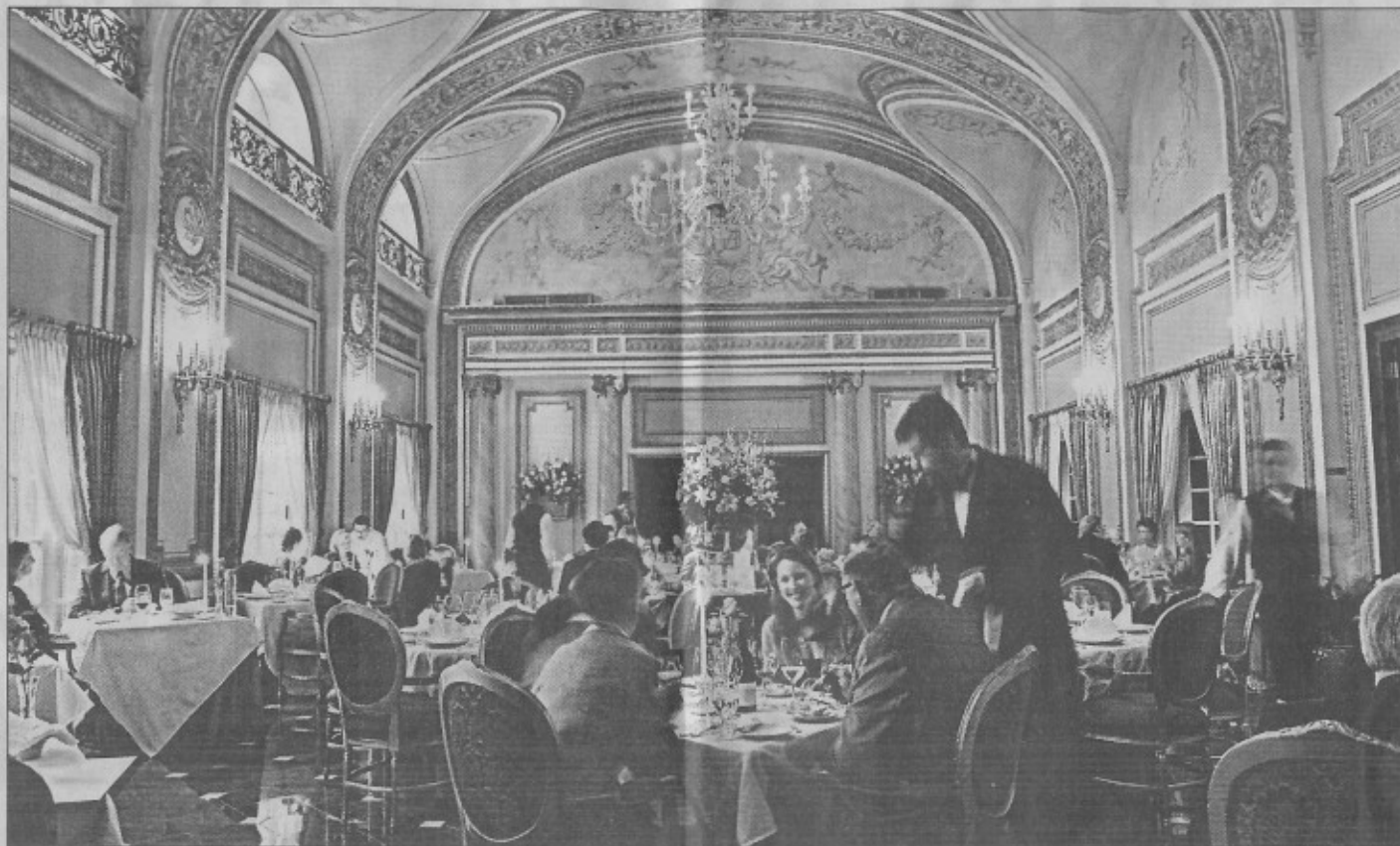
food quality, décor and service. Zagat Survey, www.zagat.com, publishes guidebooks

based on reviews by restaurant customers.

Each of the top 100 hotel restaurants offers fine dining and elegant décor at high price. Most provide impeccable service, and many offer breathtaking views.

"Almost all have superior décor to what any normal restaurant could afford," CEO Tim Zagat says.

The best restaurant? The French Room in The Adolphus Hotel in downtown Dallas.



By Mark W. Williams for USA TODAY

Splendor: The French Room at The Adolphus Hotel in Dallas features hand-blown crystal chandeliers and great food, Zagat says.

"There aren't enough superlatives" to describe it, Zagat Survey says about the French-American restaurant, which has hand-blown crystal chandeliers and an 18-foot-

high domed ceiling adorned with frescoes.

This week's \$72 fixed-price, three-course dinner menu includes seared tuna, roasted Colorado rack

of lamb and vanilla and raspberry crème brûlée.

"Hotel food has gone through a renaissance," says Jason Weaver, The French Room's executive chef.

"Hotel food used to be bland and boring, but that's not true anymore."

Twenty of Zagat's top 100 hotel restaurants are in California. Mas-

sachusetts ranks second with 13, followed by Nevada with 11, Texas with eight and Florida with six.

Many top hotel restaurants are not big profit makers but are used as a marketing tool, Tim Zagat says. "Having a big-name restaurant is one of the best ways to advertise yourself as a first-class hotel."

Hotels have brought in America's best chefs, making them "deals they couldn't refuse," Zagat says. Las Vegas hotels are a good example, he says.

The city's Bellagio hotel has four restaurants — Picasso, Prime Steakhouse, Le Cirque and Michael Mina — in the top 100. Other hotels with more than one restaurant in the top 100 are the Wynn Las Vegas, Honolulu's Halekulani and Baltimore's Harbor Court.

Fine dining is usually not what frequent business traveler Ed Krach of Austin finds at hotels. Krach, who works in the computer industry, says he tries to avoid eating dinner at hotels because of poor service, high prices and "bad food."

But another frequent business traveler, James Espy, was given an advance look at Zagat Survey's top 100 hotel restaurants and sees many culinary wonders.

"You have certainly picked the cream of the crop," says Espy, who runs a Christmas décor manufacturing company in Christopher, Ill. "I have eaten at more than 15 of the restaurants on your list. They have all been extraordinary events."

Top hotel restaurants

The following are Zagat Survey's choices for America's Top 100 hotel restaurants. Advance reservations and proper attire may be required.

State	City	Restaurant	Hotel	Cost ¹	Rank
Ala.	Birmingham	Rugby Grille	Townsend Hotel	\$60	16
Ariz.	Scottsdale	Mary Elaine's	The Phoenician	\$82	14
	Scottsdale	Marquesa	Fairmont Scottsdale Princess	\$59	17
	Phoenix	T. Cook's	Royal Palms Resort and Spa	\$56	34
	Tucson	Ventana Room	Loews Ventana Canyon Resort	\$65	93
Calif.	Big Sur	Sierra Mar	Post Ranch Inn	\$72	11
	Beverly Hills	The Belvedere	The Peninsula Beverly Hills	\$66	20
	San Francisco	The Dining Room	Ritz-Carlton Hotel	\$87	23
	Los Angeles	Hotel Bel-Air Restaurant	Hotel Bel-Air	\$67	24
	Carmel	Marinus	Bernardus Lodge	\$83	39
	Rancho Bernardo	El Bizcocho	Rancho Bernardo Inn	\$57	40
	Forestville	Farmhouse Inn & Restaurant	Farmhouse Inn	\$58	48
	Laguna Beach	Studio	Montage Resort & Spa	\$78	49
	San Francisco	Masa's	Hotel Vintage Court	\$92	50
	La Jolla	Sky Room	La Valencia Hotel	\$62	62
	Carlsbad	Vivace	Four Seasons Resort Aviara	\$53	66
	Rancho Santa Fe	Rancho Valencia	Rancho Valencia Resort	\$55	70
	San Francisco	Campton Place	Campton Place Hotel	\$70	74
	Rutherford	Auberge du Soleil	Auberge du Soleil	\$71	77
	San Diego	Le Fontainebleau	Westgate Hotel	\$59	78
	San Francisco	Michael Mina	Westin St. Francis	\$107	80
	Rutherford	La Toque	Rancho Caymus Inn	\$103	83
	Anaheim	Napa Rose	Disney's Grand Californian Hotel	\$56	85
	Carmel	Pacific's Edge	Highlands Inn	\$71	87
	Los Angeles	Gardens	Four Seasons Hotel	\$54	95
Conn.	Greenwich	Thomas Henkelmann	Homestead Inn	\$74	12
	Ivoryton	Copper Beech Inn	Copper Beech Inn	\$54	51
Del.	Wilmington	Green Room	Hotel du Pont	\$53	30
Dist. of Col.	Washington, D.C.	Citronelle	Latham Hotel	\$80	53
Florida	Little Torch Key	Dining Room at Little Palm Island Resort	Little Palm Island Resort	\$66	3

Florida	Palm Beach	Four Seasons - The Restaurant	Four Seasons Resort	\$73	26
	Lake Buena Vista	Victoria & Albert's	Disney's Grand Floridian Resort & Spa	\$85	29
	Miami	Azul	Mandarin Oriental Hotel	\$66	60
	Palm Beach	Café Boulud Palm Beach	Brazilian Court Hotel	\$71	67
	Key West	Café Marquesa	Marquesa Hotel	\$55	98
Georgia	Atlanta	Ritz-Carlton Buckhead Dining Room	Ritz-Carlton Buckhead	\$76	9
	Atlanta	Nikolai's Roof	Hilton Atlanta	\$72	56
	Atlanta	Park 75	Four Seasons Atlanta	\$54	64
Hawaii	Honolulu	La Mer	Halekulani Hotel	\$78	8
	Honolulu	Orchids	Halekulani Hotel	\$57	44
	Honolulu	Hoku's	Kahala Mandarin Oriental Hotel	\$60	55
Illinois	Chicago	Seasons	Four Seasons	\$77	22
	Chicago	Ambria	Belden-Stratford Hotel	\$72	25
	Chicago	Shanghai Terrace	Peninsula Hotel	\$54	71
	Chicago	NoMI	Park Hyatt Chicago	\$66	79
La.	New Orleans	New Orleans Grill	Windsor Court Hotel	\$63	15
Md.	Baltimore	Hampton's	Harbor Court Hotel	\$68	6
	Baltimore	Brightons Orangerie	Harbor Court Hotel	\$43	100
Mass.	Boston	Aujourd'hui	Four Seasons Hotel	\$72	7
	Edgartown	L'Étoile	Charlotte Inn	\$73	13
	Lenox	Wheatleigh	Wheatleigh	\$80	31
	Lenox	Blantyre	Blantyre	\$77	35
	Nantucket	Topper's	Wauwinet Inn	\$82	43
	Boston	Julien	Langham Hotel	\$67	68
	Boston	Meritage	Boston Harbor Hotel	\$63	81
	Chatham	Twenty-Eight Atlantic	Wequassett Inn	\$53	82
	Boston	Clio	Eliot Suite Hotel	\$68	90
	Brewster	Bramble Inn	Bramble Inn	\$60	92
	Menemsha	Beach Plum Inn	Beach Plum Inn	\$55	96
	Boston	The Federalist	XV Beacon Hotel	\$69	97
	Boston	Oak Room	Fairmont Copley Plaza	\$60	99
Mich.	Dearborn	The Grill	Ritz-Carlton Dearborn	\$57	58
Nevada	Las Vegas	Picasso	Bellagio	\$102	10
	Las Vegas	Prime Steakhouse	Bellagio	\$83	41

Nevada	Las Vegas Henderson	Alex Medici Café	Wynn Las Vegas Ritz-Carlton, Lake Las Vegas	\$114 \$51	42 63
	Las Vegas	SW Steakhouse	Wynn Las Vegas	\$74	69
	Las Vegas	Fleur de Lys	Mandalay Bay Resort	\$90	72
	Las Vegas	Le Cirque	Bellagio	\$88	73
	Las Vegas	Michael Mina	Bellagio	\$82	75
	Las Vegas	André's	Monte Carlo Resort	\$69	76
	Las Vegas	Alizé	Palms Casino Hotel	\$75	84
	Las Vegas	Okada	Wynn Las Vegas	\$72	88
	Short Hills	The Dining Room	Hilton at Short Hills	\$69	47
New Jersey	Garden City	Polo Restaurant	Garden City Hotel	\$64	27
New York	New York	Alain Ducasse	Jumeirah Essex House	\$179	37
	New York	Jean Georges	Trump Int'l Hotel	\$95	38
	New York	Atelier	Ritz-Carlton Central Park	\$95	54
	New York	Café Boulud	Surrey Hotel	\$75	91
Ohio	Cleveland	Classics	InterContinental Hotel	\$67	28
	Cleveland	Sans Souci	Renaissance Cleveland	\$47	65
	Cleveland	Century	Ritz-Carlton Hotel	\$51	89
	Cleveland	Baricelli Inn	Baricelli Inn	\$57	94
Pa.	Philadelphia	Fountain Restaurant	Four Seasons Hotel	\$76	2
	Philadelphia	Swann Lounge	Four Seasons Hotel	\$50	19
	Philadelphia	Lacroix at the Rittenhouse	Rittenhouse Hotel	\$74	21
Texas	Dallas	The French Room	The Adolphus Hotel	\$80	1
	Dallas	Hôtel St. Germain	Hôtel St. Germain	\$83	18
	Dallas	Nana	Wyndham Anatole	\$65	33
	Dallas	Mansion on Turtle Creek	The Mansion on Turtle Creek	\$73	36
	Austin	The Café	Four Seasons Hotel	\$46	45
	San Antonio	Francesca's at Sunset	Westin La Cantera Hotel	\$48	52
	Austin	Driskill Grill	Driskill Hotel	\$52	59
	Houston	The Remington	St. Regis Hotel	\$51	61
Va.	Washington	Inn at Little Washington	The Inn at Little Washington	\$129	4
	McLean	Maestro	Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner	\$98	5
	Boyce	L'Auberge Provençale	L'Auberge Provençale	\$75	57
Wash.	Woodinville	The Herbfarm	Willows Lodge	\$152	32
	Seattle	The Georgian	Fairmont Olympic Hotel	\$52	46
	Seaview	Shoalwater	Shelburne Inn	\$43	86