



The Top 25

From the editors of Elite Meetings magazine

YEAR-ROUND RETREATS

AUGUST 2010

Not sure what time of year you want your event? Well you're in luck because these 25 resorts are year-round destinations that are sure to please no matter the season.





AURA COZUMEL WYNDHAM GRAND BAY, Cozumel, Mexico

Guest Rooms: **87** Largest Meeting Room: **618 ft²**

The adults-only, all-inclusive nature of Aura Cozumel Wyndham Grand Bay frees groups to focus on the business at hand. At the same time, it ensures a carefree stay for incentive trips to Cozumel's premier boutique property. With just 87 accommodations, the all-suite resort fronts the channel between the island of Cozumel and the Caribbean coast of Mexico. Blissfully outside the mainstream, the location nevertheless affords easy access to Cancún and the Riviera Maya by way of ferry, plane, or boat.

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BANYAN TREE MAYAKOBA, Playa del Carmen, Mexico

Guest Rooms: **132** Largest Meeting Room: **3,311 ft²**

In February 2009, Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts debuted its first North American property and the only all-pool villa resort on Mexico's Riviera Maya. Based in Singapore, the company operates nearly two dozen resorts in the Asia-Pacific region, all renowned for their service, jewel-like design, holistic spas, and devotion to the environment.

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CASA VELAS HOTEL BOUTIQUE, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

Guest Rooms: **80** Largest Meeting Room: **775 ft²**

Puerto Vallarta's all-inclusive, adults-only Casa Velas Hotel Boutique blurs the line between work and play with its 360-degree views of Marina Vallarta's golf club and 500-slip Pacific yacht harbor. When it comes to corporate retreats and events, the AAA Four Diamond Award-winning property gives executives the attention they deserve and meeting planners the flexibility they need to achieve their goals.

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THE FAIRMONT MIRAMAR HOTEL & BUNGALOWS, Santa Monica, CA

Guest Rooms: **302** Largest Meeting Room: **7,400 ft²**

The Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows overlooks the Pacific Ocean from atop the bluffs in Santa Monica, California. An authentic Hollywood hideaway, the resort occupies five parklike acres brimming with lush gardens, fountains, and waterfalls. The setting affords unparalleled views and privacy for the 302 recently refurbished guest rooms, including 32 California Bungalows reminiscent of beach cottages.

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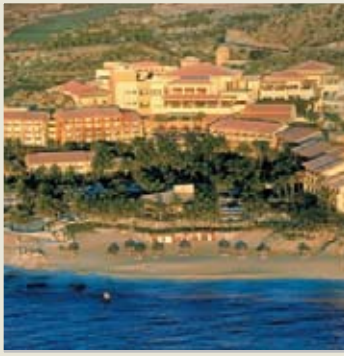
FIESTA AMERICANA GRAND CORAL BEACH CANCUN RESORT & SPA, Cancun, Mexico

Guest Rooms: **602** Largest Meeting Room: **15,351 ft²**

A passion for perfection explains why, year after year, Fiesta Americana Grand Coral Beach maintains its reputation as a master of hospitality for meetings in Cancún. Set on Cancún Point, facing the island's most coveted stretch of white-sand beach, the flagship property of Fiesta Americana Hotels and Resorts earned the AAA Five Diamond Award for the fourteenth year in 2008—a distinction held longer than any other hotel in the Caribbean or Mexico.

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FIESTA AMERICANA GRAND LOS CABOS GOLF & SPA RESORT, Los Cabos, Mexico

Guest Rooms: **249** Largest Meeting Room: **11,035 ft²**

With its exuberant atmosphere and unwavering emphasis on hospitality, Fiesta Americana Grand Los Cabos Golf & Spa Resort offers a slice of Baja at its best. The resort is a popular destination for corporate functions, and for good reason. In addition to a highly trained staff to assist in every element of event planning, the property features an impressive selection of meeting venues that can accommodate up to 550 guests.

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THE GREENBRIER, White Sulphur Springs, WV

Guest Rooms: **721** Largest Meeting Room: **16,128 ft²**

Celebrated as “America’s Resort,” The Greenbrier represents more than two centuries of history with its stately architecture, period decor, meticulously sculpted gardens and impeccable service. Located in White Sulphur Springs, amid West Virginia’s scenic Allegheny Mountains, the five diamond-awarded resort has hosted almost every reigning president since the Civil War, and keeps guests returning again and again to relish in storybook opulence, stunning natural surroundings, and a vast array of activities.

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HOTEL DEL CORONADO, Coronado, CA

Guest Rooms: **757** Largest Meeting Room: **12,600 ft²**

A well-loved national landmark, Hotel del Coronado rests on Coronado Island, a bridge away from downtown San Diego, California. More than 120 years of headline events and luminaries highlight the resort’s meeting history. And yet today’s groups experience the seaside legend at its peak.

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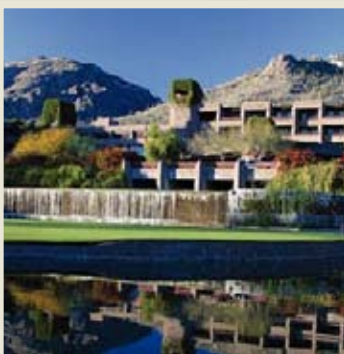
HYATT GRAND CHAMPIONS RESORT, VILLAS AND SPA, Indian Wells, CA

Guest Rooms: **530** Largest Meeting Room: **20,000 ft²**

Sparkling lagoons, swaying palms, and views of the Santa Rosa Mountains surround the deluxe accommodations and group facilities at Hyatt Grand Champions Resort, Villas and Spa. A recipient of the AA Four Diamond Award for over 20 years, the resort welcomes attendees to the prestigious enclave of Indian Wells, just minutes from Palm Springs and the desert’s natural wonders.

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LOEWS VENTANA CANYON, Tucson, AZ

Guest Rooms: **398** Largest Meeting Room: **10,800 ft²**

Inspired by the Sonoran Desert outside Tucson, Arizona, Loews Ventana Canyon opened in 1984 as one of the world’s first environmentally conceived resorts. Groups share the 93-acre property with more than 3,500 saguaro cacti, an 80-foot desert waterfall, 36 holes of golf, and low-rise granite buildings that almost disappear against the Catalina Mountain backdrop.

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MANDARIN ORIENTAL LAS VEGAS, Las Vegas, NV

Guest Rooms: **392** Largest Meeting Room: **7,650 ft²**

The new Mandarin Oriental, Las Vegas brings the hotel group's legendary service to Las Vegas for the first time. Along with spectacular interiors by the renowned designer Adam D. Tihany and a revolution in green design, the 47-story building features state-of-the-art meeting facilities, sumptuous accommodations, an unparalleled spa, and superb dining at the gateway to CityCenter, the new \$9.2 billion urban destination at the heart of the Las Vegas Strip. Reception takes place on the twenty-third floor, where the staff welcomes guests between sweeping views of CityCenter and Las Vegas Boulevard.

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MONTAGE DEER VALLEY, Park City, UT

Guest Rooms: **249** Largest Meeting Room: **4,300 ft²**

Opening December 2010 in the heart of Utah's Deer Valley Resort, Montage Deer Valley promises a premier mountain destination. Set amid pristine wooded terrain in a coveted on-mountain setting at Empire Pass, the resort features dramatic views of the mountains and valleys, and ski-in, ski-out access to North America's No. 1 ski resort for three years running, according to Ski magazine. The added convenience of year-round shopping, culture, and dining along Park City's historic Main Street just minutes away adds to its enormous appeal.

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MOON PALACE GOLF & SPA RESORT, Cancun, Mexico

Guest Rooms: **2,457** Largest Meeting Room: **55,850 ft²**

Moon Palace Golf & Spa Resort offers planners luxury, choice, and convenience on a monumental scale. Just ten minutes from Cancun International Airport, the all-inclusive, 2,457-room playground boasts conference facilities among the largest, most flexible, most technologically sophisticated in Mexico. The largest events take place in the 55,850-square-foot Universal Ballroom Lower Level, which seats up to 5,000 people. Upstairs, another 36,000 square feet includes the Universal Ballroom Upper Level and the Galactic Ballroom's 26,800 square feet, complete with a permanent stage and adjoining boardroom.

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OCEAN REEF CLUB, Key Largo, FL

Guest Rooms: **275** Largest Meeting Room: **7,350 ft²**

Ocean Reef Club combines a taste of the Caribbean with the ultimate in stateside convenience and security. Less than an hour's drive from Miami International Airport, on the north shore of Key Largo, Florida, the 2,000-acre private community claims its own airport, medical center, and emergency and security teams. In fact, the U.S. Secret Service calls the gated community one of the most secure in the nation—which only partly explains the top-level dignitaries who appear regularly on the guest list.

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PARK HYATT BEAVER CREEK RESORT AND SPA, Beaver Creek, CO

Guest Rooms: **190** Largest Meeting Room: **8,631 ft²**

A resort for all seasons, Park Hyatt Beaver Creek Resort and Spa offers enough activities to keep everyone as busy as the proverbial beaver who gave the Colorado creek, mountain, and village its name. Instant access to 16 ski lifts—including a brand-new eight-passenger gondola at the doorstep—and 1,850 skiable acres highlights the winter season, followed by play at the Beaver Creek Golf Club in summer. Year-round attractions include gourmet dining, boutique shopping, and pampering at the newly enhanced Allegria Spa and fitness club—the largest and most up-to-date facility of its kind in the Vail Valley.

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RESORT AT SQUAW CREEK, Olympic Valley, CA

Guest Rooms: **360** Largest Meeting Room: **9,525 ft²**

The alpine setting of Resort at Squaw Creek sets a majestic backdrop for meetings. Set at the base of Squaw Valley USA, site of the 1960 winter Olympics and minutes from Lake Tahoe's north shore, the resort presents superb event facilities in a recreational paradise.

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THE RITZ-CARLTON HIGHLANDS, LAKE TAHOE, Truckee, CA

Guest Rooms: **170** Largest Meeting Room: **6,600 ft²**

December 9, 2009, marked the opening of The Ritz-Carlton Highlands, Lake Tahoe, the first five star-caliber resort and spa to grace the Sierra Nevada range of northern California. Located outside the historic town of Truckee, the resort nestles mid-mountain at The Highlands, part of the Northstar-at-Tahoe resort. For a first impression no one will ever forget, planners can arrange for guests to arrive via gondola from Northstar Village below.

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THE RITZ-CARLTON LODGE, REYNOLDS PLANTATION, Greensboro, GA

Guest Rooms: **251** Largest Meeting Room: **7,200 ft²**

Completing all 99 holes of golf may pose a tough challenge for groups visiting The Ritz-Carlton Lodge, Reynolds Plantation in Greensboro, Georgia. But thanks to Southern hospitality and The Ritz-Carlton brand of luxury, everything else comes easy.

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SHERATON WILD HORSE PASS RESORT & SPA, Chandler, AZ

Guest Rooms: **500** Largest Meeting Room: **17,376 ft²**

With its 120,000 square feet of gathering space, Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort & Spa lends new meaning to the term wide open spaces. Ballrooms of 17,000, 15,000, and 7,200 square feet—combined with 16 additional meeting rooms—meet the needs of virtually any size group indoors, whether for a board meeting or trade show. A wide choice of patios and terraces, the intimate Clubhouse Lawn, and six event areas on the Hemapick grand lawn host receptions under the sun and stars year-round.

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THE ST. REGIS ASPEN RESORT, Aspen, CO

Guest Rooms: **179** Largest Meeting Room: **9,146 ft²**

An elegant Rocky Mountain decor and St. Regis butler service accompany groups discovering the joys of Aspen, Colorado, at The St. Regis Aspen Resort. Flanking Aspen Mountain, mere steps from the ski lifts, business takes place in conference rooms adding up to more than 18,000 square feet of meeting space.

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THE ST. REGIS DEER CREST RESORT, Park City, UT

Guest Rooms: **181** Largest Meeting Room: **2,814 ft²**

The St. Regis Deer Crest Resort opened last November in Park City, Utah, to the delight of guests who appreciate a magnificent natural setting and ski-in, ski-out access to Deer Valley Resort's 2,026 legendary acres. Along with slopes billed as the "greatest snow on earth," snow-time incentives include a ski lounge, ski valet service, and a one-of-a-kind ski beach complete with chaise lounges and a split-level infinity pool.

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THE ST. REGIS MEXICO CITY, Mexico City, Mexico

Guest Rooms: **189** Largest Meeting Room: **7,669 ft²**

The St. Regis Mexico City opened in August 2009 in an important new landmark on the world stage, the 31-story Torre Libertad on Mexico's City's central Paseo de la Reforma. The tower's legendary architect, Cesar Pelli, also designed the famous Petronas Towers in Malaysia and the Torre de Cristal in Barcelona. Inside, the interiors echo Pelli's world-class design, from the lobby to the 189 guest rooms and suites, Remède Spa, fitness center, pool, and 13,493 square feet of meeting space.

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THE SUMMIT AT BIG SKY, Big Sky, MT

Guest Rooms: **213** Largest Meeting Room: **7,991 ft²**

The Summit at Big Sky earns its reputation for wildly successful meetings in more ways than one. The surrounding Montana wilderness lends an air of adventure to all proceedings, whether a keynote speech, a banquet, team-building or leadership activities, rounds of golf, skiing down the mountain, or aromatherapy sessions at the spa.

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TERRANEA RESORT, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA

Guest Rooms: **582** Largest Meeting Room: **18,048 ft²**

When Terranea opened last summer, guests found that California's newest coastal destination resort resembled a carefully tended seaside estate evolved slowly and naturally over time. Every element grows out of the native coastal habitat and Mediterranean architectural heritage of the Palos Verdes Peninsula. The resort's 102 oceanfront acres form part of Rancho Palos Verdes, an exclusive community just 20 miles south of Los Angeles International Airport. The location serves as a central gateway to all of Southern California's major attractions. However, few visitors want to leave the property.

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THE WESTIN MAUI RESORT & SPA, Lahaina, HI

Guest Rooms: **758** Largest Meeting Room: **8,760 ft²**

Predictable sunshine, miles of golden sand, and crystal-blue water draw groups to The Westin Maui Resort & Spa year-round. The wide range of activities pleases every taste, from soothing treatments at the spa to beach and poolside sun worship, unlimited ocean sports, and golf at the 36-hole Ka'anapali Golf Resort adjacent to the resort.

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