



Andrew Harper's Hideaway Report

A connoisseur's worldwide guide
to peaceful and unspoiled places

Our 25th Year

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Dear Subscriber:

Hideaways of the Year

Each year at this time, we single out some of the world's most captivating hideaway hotels and resorts for special recognition. To be initially considered for our annual awards competition, properties must be relatively intimate in size and be located in peaceful and scenically pleasing surroundings. Moreover, previous recipients are ineligible to repeat as award winners for a three-year period. Distinctive country house hotels and resorts compatible with these basic qualifications are then judged for their all-round comfort, non-commercial character and passionate commitment to personal service. Also taken into consideration: the recent firsthand guest experiences of *Hideaway Report* readers.

Properties are not evaluated solely by means of a quantified checklist. During incognito inspections, of course, we note the general decor, design, cleanliness and upkeep of lodgings and public lounges; staffs are judged on esprit de corps, attentiveness, friendliness, thoroughness and efficiency; food on ingredients, inspiration and presentation; grounds on overall appearance and maintenance, and so on.

Ultimately, however, we rely on the 'Q factor' — the intangible summary impression that instinctively separates the good from the truly enchanting. Some of our award winners are grander than others, but each exudes an inviting sense of warmth and charm conducive to a relaxing stay.

On behalf of all of us at Harper Associates, we wish you and your family a very joyous Christmas season and the promise of a whole new year of wonderful hideaway discoveries.

Richard Harper
Associate Publisher

Andrew Harper
Editor & Publisher

What Andrew Harpers said about Treetops

A stunning new fishing/eco adventure hideaway, Treetops is embraced by its own 2,500 acre North Island wilderness Reserve. The casually elegant stone and timber lodge takes in a sport Great Room, panelled library, breakfast conservatory and formal dining room specializing in fresh regional fare. Accommodations include four lodge suites and eight special villas with separate fireplaced living rooms. Fly Fishing enthusiasts will revel in seven trout-filled streams and four crystalline lakes, while non-anglers can explore 50 miles of hiking, biking and horseback riding trails lacing the wildlife-rich virgin forests