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WALLAND

■ **Blackberry Farm (88.62)**
Sprawling country estate with expansive hiking trails on 4,200 acres in the Great Smoky Mountain foothills. **STATS** 60 rooms; 2 restaurants; 3 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Culinary excellence (there is a farmstead on the estate) and plush quarters, in a rugged Appalachian setting. **ROOM TO BOOK** Magnolia, for the best mountain views. **DON'T MISS** Roasted Tennessee small chicken in the 1780's barn, which was relocated from Pennsylvania in 2006. **COST** Doubles from \$745, including meals. 800/648-4252 or 865/984-8166; blackberryfarm.com

TEXAS

AUSTIN

No. 1
TEXAS
■ **Four Seasons Hotel (85.79)** Southwestern hotel on 11 lakeside acres near the convention center. **STATS** 291 rooms; 1 restaurant; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** A waterfront location, plus a recently completed \$15 million renovation that added a restaurant, Trio, and a 5,500-square-foot spa. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Those on the 7th floor with balconies overlooking the lake. **DON'T MISS** Hiking the 8-mile Lady Bird trail to the Congress Bridge. **COST** Doubles from \$410. 98 San Jacinto Blvd.; 800/332-3442 or 512/478-4500; fourseasons.com

DALLAS

■ **Four Seasons Resort & Club Dallas at Las Colinas (81.62)** Spanish colonial-inspired golf and tennis complex on a former cattle ranch, 15 minutes from downtown. **STATS** 307 rooms; 90 villas; 3 restaurants; 3 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** A sprawling playground for adults, thanks to 2 golf courses and a 176,000-square-foot athletic facility. **ROOMS TO BOOK** First-floor Villa rooms on the fairway's 18th hole. **DON'T MISS** The Hall of Champions, a collection of legendary golfer Byron Nelson's memorabilia. **COST** Doubles from \$395. 4150 N. MacArthur Blvd.; 800/332-3442 or 972/717-0700; fourseasons.com

DALLAS

■ **Hotel Crescent Court (83.00)** Nine-story limestone chateau attached to an office tower and luxury department store near the Arts District. **STATS** 220 rooms; 4 restaurants; 2 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** A one-stop spot for top-notch dining and shopping. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Northwest-facing Deluxes, with balconies overlooking the landscaped courtyard. **DON'T MISS** An 80-minute Lady Primrose rose bath and massage at the 23,000-square-foot spa. **COST** Doubles from \$525. 400

Crescent Court; 888/767-3966 or 214/871-3200; rosewoodhotels.com

DALLAS

■ **Hotel ZaZa (82.16)** French Mediterranean-inspired villa, overlooking Uptown's McKinney Avenue. **STATS** 152 rooms; 1 restaurant; 2 bars. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Dallas's most style-conscious hotel, with whimsical interiors (African prints, Midcentury Modern furniture). **ROOMS TO BOOK** Those ending in 01, 17, and 61 are quietest. **DON'T MISS** An 80-minute exfoliation, massage, and wrap at ZaSpa. **COST** Doubles from \$295. 2332 Leonard St.; 800/597-8399 or 214/468-8399; hotelzaza.com

DALLAS

■ **Rosewood Mansion on Turtle Creek (83.69)** 1925 house and newer 9-story tower with Italianate interiors, in the upscale Turtle Creek neighborhood. **STATS** 143 rooms; 2 restaurants; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** A residential feel, thanks to its past as a cotton mogul's estate. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Nos. 101, 103, and 105 have French doors that open onto the pool deck. **DON'T MISS** A drive in one of the hotel's Lexus convertibles. **COST** Doubles from \$525. 2821 Turtle Creek Blvd.; 800/527-5432 or 214/559-2100; rosewoodhotels.com

SAN ANTONIO

■ **Hotel Valencia Riverwalk (81.40)** Tuscan-style, terra-cotta-roofed property on the River Walk, 5 blocks from the Alamo. **STATS** 213 rooms; 1 restaurant; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** San Antonio's hippest hotel, with its stylish VBar, designed by Dudd Mitchell. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Those with balconies overlooking the courtyard. **DON'T MISS** People-watching from the VBar terrace. **COST** Doubles from \$309. 150 E. Houston St.; 866/842-0100 or 210/227-9700; hotelvalencia.com

SAN ANTONIO

■ **Omni La Mansión del Rio (82.64)** 1852 Spanish colonial building with courtyards, overlooking the River Walk and steps from the historic La Villita district. **STATS** 338 rooms; 1 restaurant; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** A high level of charm, plus a recently completed \$6 million renovation. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Corner Deluxes, with 2 walls of windows, have the best light. **DON'T MISS** Chef Scott Cohen's deviled blue-crab cakes with roasted corn relish at Las Canarias. **COST** Doubles from \$249. 112 College St.; 888/444-6664 or 210/518-1000; omnihotels.com

SAN ANTONIO

■ **Watermark Hotel & Spa (82.59)** Four-year-old hotel with sophisticated Texan ranch-style interiors, across the river from the Majestic Theater. **STATS** 99 rooms; 2 restaurants; 1 bar.



A hallway at the Greenbrier, in West Virginia.

COMPETITIVE EDGE Old-school hospitality combined with a top-notch, 17,000-square-foot spa. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Those on the spa level facing the River Walk have oversize Jacuzzi baths. **DON'T MISS** Sampling the world-class tequilas (Porfidio Super Ancho, Rey Sol, Chinaco Emperado) at Pesca's bar. **COST** Doubles from \$609. 212 W. Crockett St.; 866/605-1212 or 210/396-5800; watermarkhotel.com

EDGE A hotel with personality (evening wine receptions; a Director of Pet Relations) and a convenient location. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Corner King Premiers, for views of the Wasatch Range. **DON'T MISS** The fantastic blue cheese-flavored potato chips at the stylish Bambara restaurant. **COST** Doubles from \$259. 15 W. 200 South; 800/805-1801 or 801/595-0000; monaco-saltlakecity.com

UTAH

PARK CITY

■ **Stein Erlksen Lodge (87.18)** Cozy Scandinavian-inspired chalet with stone fireplaces at Deer Valley ski resort. **STATS** 180 rooms; 1 restaurant; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** Back-door access to the slopes, and impeccable service. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Those in the West Wing have the best views of the Rockies. **DON'T MISS** Taking full advantage of the ski valets, who help with equipment and greet you with hot cocoa. **COST** Doubles from \$735. 800/453-1302 or 435/649-3700; steinlodge.com

SALT LAKE CITY

NEW **Hotel Monaco Salt Lake City (82.93)** Fourteen-story former bank (built in 1924), a block from the convention center. **STATS** 225 rooms; 1 restaurant; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE**

FAST FACT

Small hotels with under 100 rooms account for roughly 33 percent of the U.S. and Canada list. Nearly all of them could fit inside the largest U.S. hotel on the T+L 500, the Venetian in Las Vegas (4,027 rooms).

VIRGINIA

CHARLOTTESVILLE

■ **Keswick Hall (82.53)** Palatial country estate with a private golf course, on 600 bucolic acres close to the Blue Ridge Mountains. **STATS** 48 rooms; 40 residences; 2 restaurants; 1 bar. **COMPETITIVE EDGE** A secluded country setting that's still convenient to downtown Charlottesville. **ROOMS TO BOOK** Balcony State Nos. 1, 4, 9, and 27, for outdoor terraces overlooking the golf course. **DON'T MISS** An evening wine tasting with sommelier Richard Hewitt in the bar at Fossitt's restaurant. **COST** Doubles from \$395. 800/274-5391 or 434/979-3440; keswick.com

WASHINGTON

■ **Inn at Little Washington (87.83)** Romantic early-20th-century house filled with antiques and fabulous