

Travel + Leisure names Charleston best city in U.S. and Canada for third consecutive year

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Charleston was named the best city in the U.S. and Canada for the third year in a row by Travel + Leisure magazine Tuesday. File/Wade Spees/Staff

For the third year in a row, Charleston took home first place in a contest for the best cities in U.S. and Canada by Travel + Leisure magazine.

The competition is a part of the periodical's World's Best Awards.

"It's not easy to win anything three years in a row, but Charleston clearly keeps on delivering one of the most satisfying travel experiences in the United States and the world," Nathan Lump, the magazine's editor, said in a written statement from the Charleston Convention and Visitor's Bureau. "Now more than ever it's great to see T+L readers recognize what's so special about the city, from terrific food to historic architecture to a local population that exudes hospitality."

Following Charleston, the other cities that made the Top 10 in order were New Orleans, Savannah, Santa Fe, San Francisco, Quebec City, Chicago, New York, Victoria City (in Canada) and Asheville in North Carolina.

In the contest for Top 10 Cities in the World, Charleston came in second place. Kyoto, Japan, took first.

Cities were judged based on “sites and landmarks, culture and arts, restaurants and food, people, and value,” according to the Charleston tourism agency.

Top Islands in Continental U.S. and Canada is another category that showcased the Lowcountry. Kiawah Island took fifth place. The island’s Sanctuary resort made number 19 for the Top Resorts in the Continental U.S. category.

The magazine showed favor to area hotels also. Wentworth Mansion, the French Quarter Inn, Planters Inn and The Vendue were ranked numbers one through four in the contest for Top Small City Hotels, the statement said. Market Pavilion Hotel came in sixth. The category was for hotels with no more than 100 rooms.

Wentworth Mansion took 35th and the French Quarter Inn took 77th in the global category ranking hotels.

This was the 20th year the magazine had its World’s Best Awards. The rankings are published on travelandleisure.com and also will be published in next month’s print edition of the magazine.