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Cindy Yuille and Steve Forsyth are victims of Clackamas Mall shooter

BREAKING NEWS: Ravi Shankar, sitar maestro, dies at age 91 (videos-slideshow)

European hotels for your winter and 2013 vacation (Part II)

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Hotel Santa Caterina

Photo: Santa Caterina

Monday, November 5, 2012 - Travels with Peabod by Bob Taylor

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Bob Taylor



Ask me a question.

CHARLOTTE, November 6, 2012 – Each year when Conde Nast Traveler publishes its Top 100 list the first thing I do is peruse the various rosters to find out if I have been among the privileged group of travelers who has experienced one of them. This year I found nine.

Last week I wrote about three properties in the Caribbean. Now I will focus on Europe and the United Kingdom for the remaining six hotel treasures.



To begin we head to the sunny places of the Continent where visitors can get an early escape from the harsh realities of winter. After that we will move to hotels and resorts better geared for shoulder and high season pleasures.

Europe (Italy):

Hotel Santa Caterina (Amalfi, Italy) – The thing that strikes you about

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IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



12-12-12 Sandy Benefit Concert TV schedule, lineup



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Michigan unions say no right to work

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Hotel Santa Caterina (www.hotelsantacaterina.it/en/index) is that it sneaks up on you. When you arrive for the first time, the gleaming white façade along a wide spot in the road is deceiving until you walk through the front door into a timeless *Alice in Wonderland* world.

Service is the name of the game at Santa Caterina which is owned and operated by sisters **Giusi and Ninni Gambardella**. The aromatic smell of lemon groves, the coolness of painted inlaid tiles from neighboring Vietri and a staff that has been in charge almost as long as the hotel has existed combine with Mediterranean charm and exquisite cuisine to create an unforgettable experience. As Conde Nast's third best hotel in Italy, Santa Caterina is infectious.

Il San Pietro (Positano, Italy) –

Just outside Positano, CN's fourth best hotel in Italy is built within a cliff that plunges into the sea. I call San Pietro (www2.ilsanpietro.it/en/) the "Invisible Hotel" because it was designed so that it cannot be seen from the road, and you really have to look for it



Dramatic San Pietro, Positano

from the water. It began in 1962 when Carlo Cinque decided to build a private villa beneath the peak of a rocky cliff where only the tiny Chapel of San Pietro existed.

The hotel is designed in such a way that many of the bedrooms and bathrooms have no need for curtains. Instead they gaze upon breathtaking views of the stunning Amalfi Coast. The main veranda faces

Positano and the elevator to the beach takes a full 90 seconds to tunnel through sheer rock into the grotto that leads to the pool.

Grand Hotel Quisisana (Capri, Italy) –



Hotel Quisisana, Capri

If you ever wondered how a Roman emperor would have lived in the 21st century, Hotel Quisisana (quisisana.com/en/index) would be the place. Whether you go to the Isle of Capri for a day trip or to spend some time there, Quisisana's magnificent location is impossible to miss at the junction of the three main routes as you stroll around the island.

Originally a sanatorium that opened in the mid-nineteenth century by George Sidney Clark (Quisisana means "here one heals"), the property was developed to its present status by the Morgano family in 1981. Among its notable guest list of monarchs, actors, writers and celebrities are Ernest Hemingway, Tom Cruise, Sidney Sheldon, the Savoy family, Hohenzollerns, Claudette Colbert, Jean Paul Sartre, Gerald Ford and Sting.

Europe (Central):

Grand Hotel Beau-Rivage Palace (Lausanne, Switzerland) –

Lausanne's Beau-Rivage Palace (<http://www.brp.ch/uk/index.php>) is rated the best hotel in central Europe. This elegant property is nestled on a hillside overlooking the harbor of Lausanne on the shores of Lake Geneva with the French Alps in the distance. Since opening in 1861



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QUESTION OF THE DAY

Is Michigan right to adopt "Right to Work", breaking the UAW stronghold? Tell us why.

- Yes
- No
- Unions do some good, but people should have a choice

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World View

Columns from Voices around the World talking about the events, people, politics and social issues that concern us wherever, and whoever, we are.

Cindy Yuille and Steve Forsyth are victims of Clackamas Mall shooter

Our condolences to the families of Cindy Ann Yuille and Steve Forsyth, murdered by the mall shooter. Our prayers for recovery to Kristina Shevchenko and all those impacted by this tragedy.

The triple failure of American policy in Benghazi

The Benghazi tragedy was a perfect combination of failure of intelligence, failure of operation and failure of investigation.

Islamic extremism growing in northern Mali as Sharia gains strength

Islamic supremacists have been in control of northern Mali for more than six months. They have initiated Sharia law and it is an prime example of what happens when Islamists hold power.

Ronald Reagan's Ginger Rogers: Ambassador Faith Whittlesey

Ambassador Faith Whittlesey speaks at the Institute of World Politics

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the hotel has hosted numerous international celebrities including Victor Hugo, Gary Cooper, Camille Saint-Saens, Coco Chanel and Charlie Chaplin.



Step back in time at Beau-Rivage

Situated within ten acres of private gardens, Beau-Rivage is sequestered within a residential area of Lausanne. Its next door neighbor is the gleaming white marble Olympic Museum which is less than a five-minute walk. This sophisticated hotel offers superb service, accommodations, and cuisine in one of the cultural centers of Switzerland.

Palace Luzern (Lucerne, Switzerland) –



Lucerne Palace, Switzerland

Hotel Palace Lucerne (<http://www.palace-luzern.ch/en/>) is known as “the pearl of hotels in Lucerne” for good reason. Sitting along the romantic promenade that lines the perimeter of a portion of the Lake of Lucerne, the hotel is framed amid a bowl of idyllic alpine panoramas. Lucerne’s Old Town has long been a favorite destination for travelers. Here the Lake of Lucerne flows beneath the historic landmark Chapel Bridge before it empties into the rushing waters of the River Reuss.

The Belle Epoque style property conjures images of Old World travel with 136 rooms and suites. Hospitality thrives at this chic yet unpretentious grand hotel located in the heart of Switzerland’s historic roots. Many rooms feature lake view vistas where excursion boats serenely sail between nostalgic charming shoreline villages. Hotel Palace Luzern is traditional hotel elegance as it was at the turn of the twentieth century.

British Isles:

Ballynahinch Castle Hotel (Connemara, Ireland) –

Ireland’s 4-star Ballynahinch Castle Hotel (<http://www.ballynahinch-castle.com/connemara-hotel>) proves you don’t need 5 stars to make the list. Although Ballynahinch calls itself a castle, it feels more like a luxurious hunting lodge. It is located within a 450-acre forested estate filled with woodlands and lakes in the heart of Galway.



Ballynahinch Castle Hotel, Ireland

The nearby Twelve Bens mountains are among many places for outdoor enthusiasts who can use Ballynahinch as a base for day trips. The castle hotel itself offers fishing, hiking, cycling and nature trails amid picturesque surroundings while providing elegantly rustic accommodations after a full day of activity.

If you are planning the trip of a lifetime, you might want to think about the opportunity to indulge yourself. If you do, it could also be the memory of a lifetime.

Peabod is Bob Taylor, owner of Taylored Media Services in Charlotte, NC. Taylor is founder of **The Magellan Travel Club**, which creates, and escorts customized tours to Switzerland, France and Italy for groups of 12 or more. Inquiries for groups can be made at Peabod@aol.com Taylored Media has produced marketing videos for British Rail, Rail Europe, Switzerland Tourism, the Swedish Travel & Tourism Council, the Finnish Tourist Board, the Swiss Travel System and Japan Railways Group among others. As author of **The Century Club** book, Peabod is now attempting to travel to 100 countries or more during his lifetime. To date he has visited **70 countries**. Suggest someplace new for Bob to visit; if you want to know where he has been, check his [list](#) on Facebook. Bob plans to write a sequel to his book when he reaches his goal of 100 countries. He also played professional baseball for four years and was a sportscaster for 14 years at WBTV, the CBS affiliate in Charlotte.

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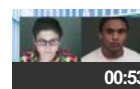
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AP Video: Students Accused of Giving Pot Brownies to Class



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PHOTO GALLERIES



Pacquiao v Marquez, Sat. Dec 8, 2012

Images for the Pacquiao vs Marquez PPV boxing match. Sat. December 8, 2012
12 Photos



Slideshow: 2012 Zombie Walk in Salem, Massachusetts

The annual infestation of the undead highlights some of the Halloween fun to be had in Salem Massachusetts. (Photos by Jacquie Kubin)
18 Photos



MTV Video Music Awards 2012

From the red carpet to the performances inside the Staples Center to the press conferences following the show, see all the highlights in our slideshow.
35 Photos



Mars Curiosity Landing

Rover and reaction photos from the successful landing of the Mars Rover, Curiosity.

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Images from Peace Park at Hiroshima

Images captured by photographer Dave Bartruff of Japan's Peace Park, first built in 1955, on the site of the Hiroshima A-Bomb

19 Photos



The Fab Five - Olympic gymnastics all-around gold medalists

Images of Gabby and the Fab Five from the 2012 Summer Olympics (all photos AP)

24 Photos



Curacao

Discovered by Europeans in 1499, there is much more than just sand and sun on the Caribbean hotspot of Curacao that is worth exploring.

22 Photos

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