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## Vancouver Island properties recognized in Travel + Leisure T&L 500

### And Conde Nast Traveler's Gold List

**For immediate release:** The January issue of Travel + Leisure T+L 500 and the January issue of Conde Nast Traveler magazine, with a special Gold List section, highlight several properties from the Vancouver Island region of British Columbia.

Travel + Leisure's top 500 listings include **Sooke Harbour House**, an 'art-filled clapboard inn on the edge of the Pacific, overlooking the Olympic Mountains', and mentions the competitive edge is 'Chef Edward Tuson's regional West Coast cuisine'. Also included is the **Wickaninnish Inn**, a 'rustic cedar inn with handmade driftwood furnishings, on a remote West Coast promontory', with the competitive edge of a 'spectacular setting, between a temperate rain forest and the ocean'. Both properties are listed among the top 5 in Canada in the magazine's list.

Conde Nast Traveler magazine's Gold List includes Victoria's **Magnolia Hotel & Spa**, which scored a perfect 100 in both the *Best by Location* and *Best by Rooms* categories in the Americas. Canada's Gold List includes several properties from the Vancouver Island & Gulf Islands region including **Hastings House** on Salt Spring Island, the **Aerie Resort** on the Malahat, the **Wickaninnish Inn** in Tofino, and Victoria's **Fairmont Empress**, the **Magnolia Hotel & Spa**, and a special mention of the **Laurel Point Inn** (which didn't score high enough to make the Gold List, but was worth highlighting in the magazine).

"These highly regarded properties certainly keep Vancouver Island top of mind for discerning travelers booking island destination holidays in Canada" says Dave Petryk, President & CEO of Tourism Vancouver Island. "We are proud of the accomplishments of these properties and the teams of people that share the recognition". Petryk adds "Our Island destination offers a diverse mix of experiences for everyone, from the very young to the young-at-heart and we invite all travelers to experience our Island Time hospitality."

Vancouver Island is located in south western British Columbia, Canada, and is the largest island off the North American west coast. Tucked against the mainland edge of British Columbia and the north shore of Washington's Olympic Peninsula, Vancouver Island stretches approximately 500 km (300 miles) southeast to northwest and has an average width of 100 km (62 miles). At 32,260 sq km, it is comparable in size to countries such as the Netherlands or Taiwan.

Vancouver Island continues to be recognized as a premier vacation destination. For the eighth year in a row Vancouver Island has been rated as the Best Island, North America by the readers of Conde Nast Traveler. This prestigious travel magazine with a per issue readership of 2 million has been conducting a Readers' Choice award program for 18 years.

Tourism Vancouver Island is one of six regional destination marketing organizations in British Columbia that administers co-operative marketing and advertising projects for its stakeholders throughout the

region. To access information about Tourism Vancouver Island and marketing initiatives, please visit [www.tourismvi.ca](http://www.tourismvi.ca). For general travel information on Vancouver Island, Victoria and the Gulf Islands, please visit [www.vancouverisland.travel](http://www.vancouverisland.travel).

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*Tourism accounts for more than 117,900 direct jobs in British Columbia, representing approximately one in every 20 jobs in the province. BC's tourism industry generated approximately \$9.8 billion in revenues in 2005 and over \$5.8 billion in GDP in 2004, making tourism one of the largest resource industries in the province. (source: cotabc.com)*

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