

City of Charleston Awards

AWARDS 2011

America's Best Shopping Streets

King Street named among top 10 shopping streets in U.S.

U.S. News and World Report – November 2011

Top American Travel Destination

Charleston, SC Ranked #1

Condé-Naste – October 2011

World's Best Cities

Charleston, SC Ranked #3 City for travel in the world

CNNGo – October 2011

America's Most Beautiful Neighborhoods

Charleston's South of Broad area #5

Travel + Leisure– 2011

The 10 Best Cities For Weekend Vacations

Charleston Ranked #5

Forbes – October 2011

Top "Surprisingly Romantic City"

Charleston, SC Ranked #1

Yahoo.com Wanderlust- 2011

2011 World's Best Cities

Charleston ranked #2 in the United States and Canada region

Travel + Leisure– 2011

50 Best Master-Planned Communities in the United States

Daniel Island listed among the 50 Best Master-Planned Communities in the United States

Where to Retire Magazine - 2011

Top 10 Food & Wine Destinations in the U.S.

Charleston ranked #4

TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice Destinations Awards - 2011

AWARDS 2010

Top American Destination

Charleston, SC Named No. 2 for the 18th year behind San Francisco, CA
Condé-Naste - October 2010

Travel + Leisure's 2010 America's Favorite Cities

Out of 35 cities, Charleston ranked #1 in several categories:

- #1 Best Shopping
- #1 Best Antique stores
- #1 Most Noteworthy neighborhoods
- #1 Friendliest People
- #1 Most Attractive People
- #1 Best B&Bs/Inns
- #1 Most Stylish boutique hotels

Travel + Leisure - November 2010

Best Places for Holiday Travel

Charleston named one of the best places for holiday travel

Travel + Leisure - October 2010

Best Places to Retire in the South

Charleston named one of the best places to retire in the South

Wall Street Journal - October 2010

2010 Best Tennis Town

Charleston Ranked #1 in the Nation

USTA - September 2010

10 Great Places for History Buffs to Retire

Among Nation's Top 10

U.S. News & World Report - September 2010

2010 World's Best Cities

Charleston ranked #3 in the United States and Canada region

Travel + Leisure- 2010

Top 10 Food & Wine Destinations in the World

Charleston ranked #3

TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice Destinations Awards - 2010

Top 50 Best Cities in which to do business

Out of 101 cities, Charleston ranked 47

MarketWatch - January 2010

AWARDS 2009

Top 10 Memorial Day Travel Destinations

Charleston ranked #5

#4 Gatlinburg, TN

#5 Charleston, SC

#6 Austin, TX

Southern Living Magazine - 2009

Best Cities For Technology Jobs

Among Nations Top 10

Forbes - 2009

National WELCOA Well Workplace Gold designation

Charleston awarded the national WELCOA Well Workplace Gold designation

WELCOA - 2009

Top Ten Destinations of Christmas Vacation

Charleston ranked #3

Away.com - December 2009

World's Smartest Cities

Charleston Ranked #8 for strong infrastructure, attractive economy and savvy urban planning

1. Singapore
2. Hong Kong
3. Curitiba, Brazil
4. Monterrey, Mexico
5. Amsterdam
6. Seattle
7. Houston
8. Charleston
9. Huntsville, AL
10. Calgary, Alberta

Forbes - December 2009

"Charleston Ranked a 'Top City'"

Lonely Planet, an international tourism guide, has named Charleston one of the "Top Cities to go to in 2010."

Lonely Planet - November 2009

Top American Destination

Charleston, SC Named No. 2 for the 17th year behind San Francisco, CA

Condé-Naste - October 2009

Preservation Honor Award

Charleston awarded the Preservation Honor Award from The National Trust for Historic Preservation

The National Trust for Historic Preservation – October 2009

Travel + Leisure's 2009 America's Favorite Cities

Charleston ranked #3 - Most Attractive People

1. Miami
2. San Diego
3. Charleston
4. Los Angeles
5. Austin

Charleston ranked #3 - Friendliest People

1. Nashville
2. New Orleans
3. Charleston
4. Austin
5. Minneapolis/St. Paul

Charleston ranked #5 - Most Stylish People

1. New York
2. Miami
3. San Francisco
4. Los Angeles
5. Charleston

Charleston ranked #4 - Best Historical Sites/Monuments

1. Washington, D.C.
2. Boston
3. Philadelphia
4. Charleston
5. San Antonio

Charleston ranked #1 - Best B&Bs/Inns

1. Charleston
2. New Orleans
3. Santa Fe
4. Portland, Oregon
5. Providence

Charleston ranked #4 - Best Stylish, Boutique Hotels

1. New Orleans

2. Miami
3. San Francisco
4. Charleston
5. Chicago

Charleston ranked #2 - Best for a Romantic Escape

1. Honolulu
2. Charleston
3. San Francisco
4. New Orleans
5. Santa Fe

Charleston ranked #1 - Holiday Travel - Thanksgiving

1. Charleston
2. Orlando
3. Phoenix/Scottsdale
4. Kansas City
5. San Antonio

Charleston ranked #3 - Relaxing Retreat

1. Honolulu
2. Santa Fe
3. Charleston
4. Phoenix/Scottsdale
5. San Diego

Charleston ranked #2 - Antique and Vintage Shops

1. New Orleans
2. Charleston
3. New York
4. Santa Fe
5. San Francisco

Charleston ranked #5 - Farmers' Markets

1. Seattle
2. Portland, Oregon
3. New Orleans
4. Cleveland
5. Charleston

Charleston ranked #2 - Noteworthy Neighborhoods

1. San Francisco
2. Charleston

3. New Orleans
4. Boston
5. New York

Charleston ranked #3 - Safety

1. Portland, Oregon
2. Minneapolis/St. Paul
3. Charleston
4. Austin
5. Santa Fe

Charleston ranked #2 - Peace and Quiet

1. Santa Fe
2. Charleston
3. Honolulu
4. San Diego
5. Portland, Oregon

Charleston ranked #4 - Holiday Travel - Spring Break

1. New Orleans
2. Miami
3. San Diego
4. Charleston
5. Las Vegas

Travel + Leisure Magazine - 2009

Best Small Towns

Charleston Ranked one of the 10 best small "Adventure Burbs"

1. Salida, Colorado
2. Leavenworth, Washington
3. Charleston, South Carolina
4. Alpine, Texas

Outside Magazine - August 2009

Travel + Leisure Magazine's World's Best Poll

Charleston ranked #4 in Travel + Leisure magazine's World's Best Awards 2009 readers' survey

Travel + Leisure magazine - July 2009

Progressive Environmental Stewardship & Sustainable Growth

Charleston ranked 11th among 405 small cities (pop. 50,000-99,999)

Smarter Cities - July 2009

Most Livable Cities in America

Charleston Receives First Place Honors

US Conference of Mayors – June 2009

Next Cities: Best Places to Live & Work for Young Professionals

Charleston 2nd among cities with 100,000 to 200,000 population

Next Generation Consulting – June 2009

Top 25 Arts Destinations

In the Mid-Size Cities category Charleston ranked #6

AmericanStyle – April 2009

Best Place for Start-Ups

Mount Pleasant cited as best city in South Carolina

Business Week – April 2009

America's Strongest Housing Markets

Charleston ranked among the top 25

Forbes - January 2009

AWARDS 2008

Readers' Choice Award Winners

Charleston ranked #2 for Best Neighborhood for Shopping:

1. Buckhead, Atlanta, GA
2. King street, Charleston, SC

Charleston Ranked #4 for Best Festival or Fair

1. State Fair of Texas, Dallas September 25-October 18
2. North Carolina State Fair, Raleigh October 15-25
3. New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, April 24-26 and April 30-May 3
4. Spoletto Festival USA, Charleston, SC May 22-June 7
5. Florida Strawberry Festival, Plant City, February 26-March 8
6. Yellow Daisy Festival, Stone Mountain, GA

Charleston ranked #1 for Best Southern City

1. Charleston, South Carolina
2. Savannah, Georgia
3. Atlanta, Georgia

Charleston Place Hotel ranked #5 for Best Hotel

1. The Grove Park Inn Resort & Spa, Asheville, North Carolina
2. Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center, Nashville, Tennessee

3. The Peabody Memphis, Tennessee
4. Grand Hotel Marriott Resort, Golf Club, & Spa, Point Clear, Alabama
5. Charleston Place, Charleston, South Carolina

Charleston ranked #10 for Best Family Destination

1. Orlando/Walt Disney World Orlando, Florida
2. Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
3. Destin, Florida
4. Gulf Shores/Orange Beach, Alabama
5. Gatlinburg/Pigeon Forge, Tennessee
6. Hilton Head Island, South Carolina
7. Williamsburg, Virginia
8. San Antonio, Texas
9. Branson, Missouri
10. Charleston, South Carolina

Southern Living Magazine - 2008

Top American Destination

Charleston, SC Named No. 2

Condé-Naste - October 2008

2008 Best Performing Cities: Where America's Jobs Are Created

10th among mid-sized metros

Milliken Institute - September 2008

The Best Cities for Doing Business

Charleston ranked 6th out of the Top 30 Midsize Cities

Inc.com - August 2008

50 Next Great Adventure Towns

Charleston named one of "the 50 next great adventure towns"

National Geographic Adventure magazine - August 2008

Top 10 Cities U.S. and Canada

Charleston listed among the 10 best destinations

Travel + Leisure - July 2008

Top Arts Destinations

Charleston #6 the nation's mid-size cities

American Style magazine - June 2008

Great Public Spaces in America

Waterfront Park, Charleston

American Planning Association- October 2008