

**CONDE NAST TRAVELER NAMES PLANTERS INN ONE OF THE WORLD'S BEST**  
**Hotel and City of Charleston Continue to Receive Honors**

CHARLESTON, SC, Oct. xx, 2005 – Planters Inn, the historic boutique hotel in the heart of downtown Charleston, has been named one of the Top 75 Hotels in the Continental U.S. by *Condé Nast Traveler's* annual Readers' Choice Awards 2005, published in the November issue. As its third time on the prestigious annual readers' poll, Planters Inn is one of two Charleston properties to be ranked among the top 100. Also making its mark on the distinguished list is Charleston, named one of the Top Ten Cities in the U.S.

At number 62, Planters Inn had a score of 87.6, which reflects reader's evaluations of the hotel's food/dining, location, overall design, rooms and service. Furthermore, Charleston ranked third among the country's top destination cities. As *Condé Nast Traveler* notes, "Charleston, the scene of the first shots of the Civil War and fictional hometown of Rhett Butler, is central to the legend of Dixieland and a must for any visitor to the USA. With its distinctive architecture, charming hidden gardens, tropical climate and easygoing atmosphere, this soulful South Carolina city is ideally explored on foot."

As such a desirable destination, it is no wonder that another Charleston hotel, Charleston Place, also placed among the Top 75 Hotels in the Continental U.S. at number 69. To reach its precise numbers, *Condé Nast Traveler* has a formal methodology. The Readers' Choice Survey was made available to 387,205 subscribers: 289,403 subscribers were sent by mail one of several partial, 16-page editions of the survey; and 97,802 subscribers received an invitation to a secure Web site that contained the complete 84-page questionnaire. The final tabulations of 27,957 responses were done by Mediamark Research, Inc., of New York City. With a variety of poll categories followed by the criteria for each, questionnaires contained lists of candidates and space was allowed for write-ins. Each candidate was rated, criterion by criterion, as excellent, very good, good, fair or poor. Criterion scores, which represent the percentage of respondents rating a candidate excellent or very good, were averaged to determine the final score.

A 62-room inn located in the heart of Charleston's Historic District, the Planters Inn combines the charm of old world hospitality with 21<sup>st</sup> century amenities. Also named one of the

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## CONDE NAST TRAVELER AWARD/ 2-

“Greatest Hotels in the World” in *Travel + Leisure*’s 2005 Readers’ World’s Best Awards, the antique accented residential ambiance, coupled with the courteous staff’s amiable attention to detail, creates the illusion of staying in one of Charleston’s great mansions – one with a nationally celebrated restaurant, the *Mobil* – four star Peninsula Grill, which *Food & Wine* has cited twice as one of “America’s 50 Best Hotel Restaurants” and which earned it seventh “Best Restaurant” title and fifth “Best Chef” title in its eighth year history in *Charleston City Paper*’s Annual Best of Charleston Readers Poll for 2005. The Inn’s two buildings wrap around a captivating courtyard, distinguished by palm trees, parterres and fountains, which provides visitors a delightful oasis from the bustling downtown Charleston.

The Planters Inn, Charleston’s only Relais & Châteaux property, anchors the northeast corner of Charleston’s famed City market. The Historic District’s boutiques and bistros beckon right outside the front door, while the antique shops of King Street are a block away. And, it is just a four-block stroll to Waterfront Park, The Battery, the Theatre District and the Old City’s world famous antebellum mansions.

For Planters Inn reservations, please call (800) 845-7082; in South Carolina (843) 722-2345 or visit the Inn’s Web site at [www.plantersinn.com](http://www.plantersinn.com).

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