

skiers who like to eat well: from mountain-top lunches with local wine to superb three-star Michelin dining at Marc Veyrat's Ferme de Mon Père." **OTHER SPECIALTIES** U.K., Italy. **CONSULTING FEE** \$100 per hour. Poe Travel, Little Rock, Ark.; 800/727-1960; cseyer@poetravel.com.

**DIVING**

**Gary Cole YEARS AS AGENT 16. TOP TIP** "Right now I'm liking the Caymans: Rent a villa and take advantage of the diving facilities. Use a mixed gas system, which allows you to spend more time in deep water and worry less about decompression sickness." **CONSULTING FEE** None. Atlantic Coast Travel, North Palm Beach, Fla.; 800/284-4555; gary@ac-travel.com.

**Gene Lashley YEARS AS AGENT 19. TOP TIP** Lanai. "It's an excellent choice, especially for people who've done Hawaii before—off Shipwreck Beach you see moray eels, sea turtles, and the incredible coral reefs of Moolalo Bay." **OTHER SPECIALTY** Biking. **CONSULTING FEE** From \$150. Century Travel, Atlanta; 800/533-6336; gene@centurytvl.com.

**FISHING**

**DEEP-SEA AND SPORT Cheryl Greenwood YEARS AS AGENT 23. TOP TIP** Central America. "Costa Rica is still one of

**SUPER-AGENTS SAY**

**FISHING**

- Make sure your guide speaks English and—unless you're a pro—that he or she is trained not only to look for fish but also to teach technique.
- Before you leave, ask your guide what kind of equipment you should bring—special gear may be useful in some locations.

my favorite places in the world—stay at Los Sueños, where you can fish all day (or golf or swim), or else rent a villa. Also, Panama is incredible for flats fishing. It's inexpensive and has great places to stay." **CONSULTING FEE** \$150.\* Hill's Travel Service, St. Petersburg, Fla.; 877/822-5993; cheryl@hillstravel.com.

**FLY-FISHING Betsy Donley YEARS AS AGENT 15. TOP TIP** Cleer Creek, a tributary

of the Talkeetna River in Alaska. "On my last trip, which I did with Alaska Unusual, I spent ten hours straight fishing with a wonderful guide. It was sunny and eighty degrees, and he was able to target some huge trout under trees and logs. It was the closest thing to *A River Runs Through It* that I've ever experienced." **OTHER SPECIALTY** Adventure travel. **CONSULTING FEE** From \$100. Camelback Odyssey Travel, Phoenix; 800/445-6527; betsyd@camelbacktravel.com.

**Hotels and Spas**

**HOTELS**

**Manny Beauregard YEARS AS AGENT 31. TOP TIP** Wildflower Hall in Simla, India. "It's an Oberoi property in the foothills of the Himalayas; during the Raj, the Brits would go there for the cool weather. The hotel is stunning—spectacular rooms, great massages in the spa." **CONSULTING FEE** \$150. Hallmark Travel, Atlanta; 800/762-2136; manny@hallmarktvl.com.

**Elayne Edelman YEARS AS AGENT 32. TOP TIP** Esperanza in Los Cabos, Mexico. "It's one of the hottest hotels right now, and for good reason. The setting is wonderful, and the view from the dining room just can't be beat." **OTHER SPECIALTIES** Hawaii, cruises, family travel. **CONSULTING FEE** From \$150. Regent Travel, Los Angeles; 310/550-6800; info@regenttravel.com.

**Diane Hilliard YEARS AS AGENT 32. TOP TIP** The Seychelles. "I fell in love with the country—it's a long trip from the States, so I encourage people who are going to the U.K. or France to add it on. I recommend the Banyan Tree for its beach, Lémuria for golf, and Alphonse Island for fishing. There's also a couple building an eight-room tree-house resort that I'm excited about." **OTHER SPECIALTY** Educational trips. **CONSULTING FEE** \$500. Hilliard & Olander, Stillwater, Minn.; 800/229-8407; diane@hilliardolander.com.

**Nancy Strong YEARS AS AGENT 29. TOP TIP** "Choose your hotel based on specific wants (or needs). A grand piano in London? The Connaught. A wraparound balcony in Paris? The Meurice. The best business services in Asia? The Peninsula in both Hong Kong and Bangkok." **OTHER SPECIALTIES** Europe, cruises. **CONSULTING FEE** \$250. Strong Travel Services, Dallas; 800/747-5670; nancy@strongtravel.com.

**Bob Watson YEARS AS AGENT 18. TOP TIP** The Kahala Mandarin Oriental on Oahu. "It's got one of the best beaches. And the design is brilliant—the bathrooms are incredibly well thought-out, with more than enough room for two people to each do their own thing." **CONSULTING FEE** \$150. Watson & Watson, Scarsdale, N.Y.; 800/892-8767; bob@watsonandwatson.com.

**Valerie Wilson YEARS AS AGENT 22. TOP TIP** The Aleph in Rome. "It's a design hotel by Adam Tihany (his first hotel) based on the Divine Comedy. Rooms are white and the lobby is red—heaven and hell. Very chic." **CONSULTING FEE** From \$100. Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc., New York, N.Y.; 800/776-1116; valeriew@vwti.com. >>

The new Adam Tihany-designed Aleph hotel, Valerie Wilson's pick for where to stay in Rome.



**SURVEY SAYS**

Best cities for luxury hotels 1 Paris (30%) 2 New York (19%) 3 London (14%) 4 Hong Kong (12%) 5 Bangkok (7%)

he mentions in the text. It's a drive that weaves the past into the present."

**CONSULTING FEE** \$75. Rudi Steele Travel, Inc., Dallas; 214/522-2777; margery@rudisteele.com.

**Joy Rohman YEARS AS AGENT 31. TOP TIP**

Drottningholm Palace, outside Stockholm. "It has a magical royal theater; in the summer, there are performances of early Mozart operas, with the orchestra and ushers in period costume." **CONSULTING FEE** From \$125. American Express Travel, White Plains, N.Y.; 800/258-5538, ext. 222; whiteplainsctn@amex.com.

**FOOD AND WINE**

**Laura Gable YEARS AS AGENT 18. TOP TIP**

"If you want to do Napa and Sonoma, go for one of the wonderful wine weekends that are

organized there in January and May: you pay \$12 per person and get to visit tons of wineries where they pair food and wine. I recommend staying at the Gaige House Inn in Sonoma, or, if you like golf and tennis, Meadowood in St. Helena."

**OTHER SPECIALTY** Barge trips. **CONSULTING FEE** \$25 per hour. Worldview Travel, Solana Beach, Calif.; 858/755-1894; laurag@worldviewtravel.com.

**Lynda Turley YEARS AS AGENT 23. TOP TIP**

Hawaii. "The islands host some of the best food and wine festivals—at Kapalua, Mauna Lani, the Lodge at Koele, Kea Lani. They bring in celebrity chefs and top vintners. My favorite

restaurants on the islands: Nick's Fishmarket and the Plantation House Restaurant, on Maui; Hoku's, at the Kahala Mandarin Oriental on Oahu."

**CONSULTING FEE** From \$100. Alpine Travel, Saratoga, Calif.; 800/829-4456; lyndat@alpine-travel.com.

**SUPER-AGENTS SAY FOOD AND WINE**

- For great food recommendations around the world, log on to [www.jack-travel.com](http://www.jack-travel.com).
- Don't haul wine on the plane—almost every winery will ship it home for you. Pay by credit card so you're covered if it doesn't arrive.

**HONEYMOONS AND WEDDINGS**

**Cookie Anspach-Kohn YEARS AS AGENT 23. TOP TIP**

Villa Cortine Palace Hotel in Sirmione, on Lake Garda.

"I've sent my own family members there for honeymoons—it's just as impressive and wonderful and romantic as Villa d'Este, but not as well known."

**OTHER SPECIALTY** France. **CONSULTING FEE** \$150. Anspach Travel Bureau, Highland Park, Ill.; 800/345-7901; cookie@anstrav.com.

**Sue Brown YEARS AS AGENT 37. TOP TIP**

Book an entire property for a wedding. "For the same amount of money you'd spend on a lavish wedding at home, you can host your closest friends somewhere wonderful. My favorite places to do this: Parrot Cay in Turks and Caicos, Palazzo Sasso in Ravello." **OTHER SPECIALTY** Italy. **CONSULTING FEE** From \$300. Sue Brown Travel Consultants, Boca Raton, Fla.; 800/637-5577, ext. 14; sue@suebrowntravel.com.

**Patsy Martin YEARS AS AGENT 16. TOP TIP**

Costa Rica. "Perfect if you want to be adventurous on your honeymoon—go river rafting, hike up volcanoes. Stay at Hotel Punta Isleta on the Pacific side." **OTHER SPECIALTY** Caribbean. **CONSULTING FEE** From \$75.\* Strong Travel Services, Dallas; 800/747-5670; patsy@strongtravel.com.

**Becky Theisen YEARS AS AGENT 25. TOP TIP**

Hostellerie Bérard in Provence. "What an experience: it's owned by a couple, and the husband is a wonderful chef who prepares special dinners and gets you involved in the process. It's in a gorgeous eleventh-century monastery—every room is different." **OTHER SPECIALTIES** Caribbean, Italy. **CONSULTING FEE** From \$50.\* World Wide Travel, Austin, Tex.; 512/635-7167; btheisen@wwts.com.

**Carol Ann Weir YEARS AS AGENT 36. TOP TIP**

"Take a short trip right after the wedding, to relax, and then a big honeymoon six months later. I like the Big Island of Hawaii—for quiet, stay at Kona Village, where rooms don't have phones or radios, or, if you want lots of amenities, the Four Seasons Hualalai." **OTHER SPECIALTY** Ireland. **CONSULTING FEE** Up to \$150.\* American Express Travel, Palo Alto, Calif.; 800/766-0804, ext. 236; carol.a.weir@aexp.com. +

**NOMINATIONS** If you know an agent (or are one yourself) whom we should consider for the 2004 A-list, send an e-mail with contact information and qualifications to [tlalist@yahoo.com](mailto:tlalist@yahoo.com).



**SURVEY SAYS**

**Best honeymoons and romantic getaways** 1 French Polynesia (40%) 2 Hawaii (38%) 3 Greek Isles (28%) 4 Italian countryside (28%) 5 Caribbean (25%)

Agents could select up to three destinations