BEST HOTELS

MONEY compared price, value, and customer service for 55 hotel chains, across three different classes.

BEST MID-RANGE HOTEL
AMONG CHAINS WITH FEWER THAN FOUR STARS, THESE HOTELS TEND TO COST $900 TO $200 PER NIGHT.

THE WINNER
DRURY HOTELS
THE SHEER VOLUME of guest freebies helps push Drury ahead of its competitors. The chain, which operates 150 hotels in 25 states, goes beyond free Wi-Fi and complimentary hot breakfast—Drury's includes Belgian waffles and eggs—to include lobbies stocked with popcorn and soda. There's also a free happy hour at 5:30 p.m. every day, where guests can mingle and pick up appetizers and drinks (including wine and beer in almost all of the chain's properties).

BEST LUXURY HOTEL CHAIN
AMONG CHAINS WITH FOUR OR MORE STARS AND AN AVERAGE PRICE OF MORE THAN $300 PER NIGHT.

THE WINNER
THOMPSON HOTELS
NO TWO THOMPSON properties are alike. The boutique hotel chain works with local designers and architects in building each of its hotels and resorts, aiming at a luxurious experience that delivers a true sense of place. Visitors arriving at the Cape, Thompson's Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, location, for instance, receive a free bottle of mezcal upon checking in. The Thompson Nashville, meanwhile, features a vintage turntable in the lobby and a deep library of vinyl—with a particular nod to Third Man Records, owned by musician Jack White and located just a few blocks away.

BEST BUDGET HOTEL
AMONG CHAINS WITH ONE- TO TWO-STAR RATINGS: THESE COST AN AVERAGE OF $100 PER NIGHT.

THE WINNER
AMERICAS BEST VALUE INN
GREAT ROOMS AT GREAT RATES: This chain consistently hits the mark for budget travelers, offering low prices without forcing guests to settle for poor service. Landing well above rivals in MONEY's value analysis, the company says customers can expect to pay $75 a night—the cheapest rate among the budget chains we surveyed. These hotels generally provide complimentary continental breakfast, free Wi-Fi, and parking, as well as premium television and movie channels. Customers seem to be happy with the deal: The chain outscored all other economy lines for guest satisfaction in J.D. Power's annual ranking. Americas Best Value Inn spans the country with 870 outposts, covering every U.S. state except Delaware, Hawaii, New Hampshire, and Vermont—often with convenient locations near highways and interstate exits.

COURTESY OF THOMPSON HOTELS