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## Charleston ranks as 4th best North American city

BY ALLYSON BIRD  
*The Post and Courier*  
 Monday, July 20, 2009



For the second consecutive year, **Travel + Leisure** magazine ranked Charleston the fourth best city in the United States and Canada.

The Holy City jumped up two spots last year and held onto that accolade for the 2009 World's Best Awards. New York, San Francisco and Quebec City topped Charleston this year.

Three local properties also took spots on the magazine's Top 100 Hotels in the Continental U.S. and Canada. **Planters Inn** ranked eighth, **The Sanctuary at Kiawah Island Golf Resort** came in at No. 16 and **Charleston Place** took the No. 22 spot.

"We've known for quite a while that Charleston is a special place with world-class amenities and attractions," said **Helen Hill**, executive director of the **Charleston Area Convention and Visitors Bureau**. "The fact that the sophisticated readers of Travel + Leisure also recognize this is an added bonus."

Travel + Leisure has a circulation of about 1 million.

### Waste management

Next time you toss your drink away before stepping into the security line at **Charleston International Airport**, you can do it in a more environmentally friendly way.

With the help of **Charleston County's environmental management team** and the **S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control**, the state's busiest airport launched an in-terminal recycling program last week. The new waist-high bins include three separate slots for newspapers and magazines, plastic bottles and aluminum cans and non-recyclable trash.

The **Charleston County Aviation Authority** began recycling in its administrative and tenant offices nine months ago and has already diverted 90 tons of trash from the landfill.

The agency, which owns and operates the county three airports, expects to save money by letting passengers recycle, because it pays by weight for solid waste collection.

The airport's switch to recycling aligns with **Charleston County Council's** commitment earlier this year to increase the recycling rate from 40 percent of trash from 10 percent.

Officials estimate that businesses generate half the county's trash that heads to the incinerator and landfill.

Reach **Allyson Bird** at 937-5594 or [abird@postandcourier.com](mailto:abird@postandcourier.com).

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