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New Orleans Superlatives 2009

- Business Week ranks New Orleans as one of the **best cities to ride out the national recession** – October 2008
- Southern Living Readers Choice Edition voted New Orleans back on their top 10 Best City list. **New Orleans is #4** and listed as a great vacation, day trip or long weekend destination, all by readers' votes –January
- www.pettravel.com featured New Orleans as the **pet friendly destination** for January and February (PetTravel.com got so many views, they extended New Orleans for another month)
- New Orleans is ranked **eighth-highest growth area in the U.S.** according to Gadburry Group Research Firm in Little Rock, Arkansas –Released January
- New Orleans voted **#1 Romantic Vacation** amongst the contiguous 48 states by Trip Advisor.com. New Orleans was # 2 overall, behind Hawaii –January
- New Orleans is **the #2 Top Travel Experience** in 2009 according to Rough Guides' list, "The Nine Top Travel Experiences" -*Volunteering in New Orleans* is the only American destination on this list –January
- New Orleans is the **#2 Coolest North American City** according to MSN.com –January. MSN.com listed a total 15 cities –Washington D.C took first place.
- The Dauphine Hotel New Orleans and Hotel Monteleone were included in Travelocity's **Ten Great Hotels for Romantic Valentine's Day Weekend** based on customers reviews –February
- **"Party Across America! 101 of the Greatest Festivals, Sporting Events and Celebrations in the U.S"** A book by Michael Guerriero ranks New Orleans amongst the best in the nation – February
- New Orleans' **Audubon Insectarium** received an award for **Outstanding Achievement** at the 15th annual Thea Awards Gala in California. Chosen from more than 120 nominees, the Audubon Insectarium is one of sixteen world-class recipients to be honored by the Themed Entertainment Association, along with Walt Disney World's EPCOT, the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum, Busch Gardens and the 2008 Summer Olympics Opening Ceremonies, among others –March

- The Fine Living Network named **French Quarter Festival** one of the **Top Five Popular Events & Festivals** in the nation –March
- The Association of Zoos and Aquariums announced that the **Audubon Aquarium of the Americas** has been granted accreditation by the association's independent accreditation commission. Association President, Jim Maddy, said the Audubon facility has become **one of the top aquariums in North America** –March
- The St. Louis Cemetery was named one of the **Top 10 Fascinating Must See Graveyards** by ListVerse – March 2009
- New Orleans is the **#7 City for Spring Destinations** in 2009 according to MSN.com.
- New Orleans is #8 on the **Top Ten Cities Where Americans Are Relocating To** list by Forbes Magazine and www.Forbes.com –April
- Prevention Magazine voted New Orleans in their **Top 25 Best Walking Cities in America** (#22 to be exact). According to the healthy lifestyle magazine, the American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA), and Sperling's BestPlaces (a resource for destination facts), Louisiana's river city was chosen based on 19 criteria –among them population density per square mile, use of mass transit, crime rates, and square miles of local and state parks –April
- Saveur Magazine named New Orleans' famed restaurant, **Commander's Palace**, in their main feature –**America's Top 12 Kitchens and Restaurants that Matter Most** (#3) –April
- Touchdown...and it's good! New Orleans will play host to thousands of football fans from around the globe at the XLVII Super Bowl Championship game in 2013! The 2013 Super Bowl makes **New Orleans the only city to host the most Super Bowls in NFL history** over-running South Florida's (Miami and Tampa Bay) combined record of 10 Super Bowls. Way to go New Orleans! And may the good times keep *spi-rolling!* –May 2009
- Travel MSN.com ranks New Orleans (#13) in the **World's 15 Best Cities and Festivals for Music Lovers** –May 2009
- New Orleans ranked as one of the **Top Cities That Move American Music Today** according to Amanda Petrusich's article Sonic Towns for MSN City Guides.
- Travel Expert Peter Greenberg names New Orleans' **Tales of the Cocktail** the **#4 Culinary Festival for Foodie Travelers** – May 11, 2009
- TRAVEL and LEISURE flips over Luke Restaurant Burger –**Chef John Besh's Luke Burger is named among America's Top 11 Burgers** –May 2009
- TravelChannel.com named **Acme Oyster House** the **#6 World's Best Places to Pig Out**.
- TravelChannel.com named New Orleans the **#5 Creepiest Places in the World**. The feature focused on the Haunted St. Louis Cemetery No. 1 and Voodoo Queen, Marie Laveau.
- On the Travel Channel website, **Café Du Monde** was named one of the **top donut shops** in the nation for their "Donut Paradise" category.

- Mardi Gras was named the **#2 Top Party Spot in the world** by TravelChannel.com
- Yahoo! Travel.com named New Orleans the **#1 Music Travel Destination**.
http://travel.yahoo.com/p-travelguide-191500002-destination_guides_vacations-i-searchtype-searchregions?tags=music
- The Sundance Channel documentary series, “Architecture School,” featured Tulane University’s yearlong URBANbuild program in their August 2008 series. In 2009, the American Institute of Architects’ New Orleans chapter recognized URBANbuild’s two-story red house in Central City with a Residential Award of Merit.
http://blog.nola.com/stephaniestokes/2009/04/tulane_students_house_wins_arc.html
- Priceline.com, in its annual survey of the 50 most-popular destinations for the upcoming Independence Day weekend (based on 30,000 hotel room booking requests made by Priceline.com customers) announced New Orleans as the **top July 4th destination for 2009**. Because the survey is based on credit card –backed booking requests, and not on consumer preference polls or votes, priceline.com believe c the annual survey is one of the most accurate predictors of July 4th trends.
<http://www.hotelsmag.com/articleXml/LN996457381.html?nid=3457&rid=12731811>
- New Orleans is atop the list of **fastest-growing large American Cities**, posting an 8.2 percent jump in population the year ending July 1, 2008, according to U.S. Census Bureau –released July 1, 2009. New York City topped the roster followed by Phoenix, Houston, Los Angeles and San Antonio and Fort Worth, Texas.
http://www.nola.com/news/index.ssf/2009/07/new_orleans_is_the_fastestgrow.html
- In Travel and Leisure’s “Best of 2009 Awards” named the Windsor Court Hotel #13 in the **top 50 hotels** in large cities in the U.S. and Canada; Cochon Butcher was named one of the **50 best new restaurants** in America and the New Orleans Segway tours was named one of the **top 25 American Adventures**. <http://www.travelandleisure.com/worldsbest/2009/>
- Angelo Brocato’s named one of **America’s Best Ice Cream Shops** by Travel and Leisure
<http://www.travelandleisure.com/slideshows/americas-best-ice-cream-shops/6>
- New Orleans has been given Southern Business and Development’s Major Market of the Year designation in its Top Deals & Hot Markets report –July
<http://www.neworleanscitybusiness.com/uptotheminute.cfm?recid=25753&userID=0&referer=dailyUpdate>
- New Orleans named **#2 City for NFL Fans** by Fox Sports.
<http://msn.foxsports.com/nfl/pgStory?contentId=9813222#sport=NFL&photo=9808298>
- GQ Magazine (September Issue) ranked New Orleans in their “**Top Six American Drinking Cities**” –cheers!
- Members of the Society of American Travel Writers (SATW), the world’s largest organization of professional travel journalists and photographers, voted New Orleans North America’s **top destination for live music**. “New Orleans bleeds music – it’s in the air, in the water, in the

people. You can't go to New Orleans without the music swallowing you whole." Lisa A. Tomaszewski, travel editor, HMP Communications.

- New Orleans tops 10 categories in *America's Favorite Cities 2009* survey by Travel + Leisure Magazine. New Orleans swept the magazine's nightlife categories, besting cities including New York and Los Angeles as the top city for cocktail hour, live music and the singles and bar scene. New Orleans was also the top pick for a wild weekend, boutique hotels, antique and vintage shops, cafes, neighborhood dining, people-watching and spring break. For more details, visit: <http://www.travelandleisure.com/afc/2009/category/12/>
- New Orleans own Fauberg Marigny has been named to the American Planning Association's 2009 **Top 10 Great American Neighborhoods** list. It's the only Louisiana neighborhood to make the list. <http://www.planning.org/greatplaces/>
<http://www.neworleanscitybusiness.com/uptotheminute.cfm?recid=27215&userID=0&referer=dailyUpdate>
- New Orleans was ranked **the 25th best sports city in the United States** by Sporting News Magazine between October 2008- 09.
<http://neworleanscitybusiness.wordpress.com/2009/10/07/n-o-helps-bring-new-meaning-to-sportsmans-paradise/>
<http://www.sportingnews.com/general/article/2009-10-06/best-sports-city-list>