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Erin Duggan / Sarasota Convention & Visitors Bureau  
941-356-0432 / [eduggan@sarasotafl.org](mailto:eduggan@sarasotafl.org)

## SARASOTA INCLUDED AS A TOP 10 BEACH DESTINATION ON TWO “BEST OF” LISTS FOR 2010

Sarasota is named one of TripAdvisor’s Top 10 Beach Destinations and Siesta Key is featured on Dr. Beach’s 2010 Top 10 Beaches list

SARASOTA, Fla. (May 28, 2010) --Some of us call it home; others call it one of the top 10 beach destinations in America. Sarasota’s beauty, soft sands and fishing piers earned the destination its spot on **TripAdvisor’s Top 10 Beach and Sun Destinations in the United States** list.

Sarasota also makes an appearance on **Dr. Beach’s 2010 Top Beaches** list. The world-famous **Siesta Key Beach**, known for its powder white sand, was rated number “2” on Dr. Beach’s eagerly awaited list. Siesta Beach also graced the top of this list in 2008 and 2009.

### **TripAdvisor Travelers Choose Their Favorites in Sarasota**

TripAdvisor’ Travelers’ Choice 2010 lists include a list of the Top 10 Beach and Sun Destinations in the U.S., reserving a spot for Sarasota, Florida. “Chances are, you’ll find something in the Sarasota area that appeals to you. Soft sand, fishing piers, shells-you can find it around here,” the site boasts.

TripAdvisor highlights Sarasota’s top-rated hotels, restaurants and attractions based on reviews on its site. Top-rated hotels include the **Ritz-Carlton Sarasota** (1111 Ritz Carlton Dr., 941-309-2000, [www.ritzcarlton.com](http://www.ritzcarlton.com)), **Hotel Ranola** (118 Indian Pl., 866-951-0111, [www.hotelranola.com](http://www.hotelranola.com)), **Hyatt Place Hotel-Sarasota** (950 University Parkway., 941-554-5800, [www.hyattplacesarasotabradenton.com](http://www.hyattplacesarasotabradenton.com)), **Southland Inn** (2229 N. Tamiami Trail, 941-954-5775, [www.southlandinn.com](http://www.southlandinn.com)) and **Hotel Indigo** (1223 Blvd. of the Arts., 941-487-3800, [www.hotelindigo.com](http://www.hotelindigo.com)).

Among the top-rated Bed & Breakfasts in Sarasota are the **Cypress** (621 S. Gulfstream Ave., 941-955-4683, [www.cypressbb.com](http://www.cypressbb.com)), **Timberwoods Vacation Villas** (8378 S. Tamiami Trail, 941-923-4966, [www.timberwoods.com](http://www.timberwoods.com)) and **La Palme Royale Bed and Breakfast** (624 S. Palm Ave., 866-800-3921, [www.lpsrq.com](http://www.lpsrq.com)).

Travelers chose **Rick’s French Bistro** (2177 Siesta Dr., 941-957-0533, [www.ricksfrenchbistro.com](http://www.ricksfrenchbistro.com)) and **El Toro Bravo** (2720 Stickney Point Rd., 941-924-0006) as some of their favorite restaurants in Sarasota. Sarasota Convention and Visitors Bureau members **Selva Grill** (1345 Main St., 941-362-4427, [www.selvagrill.com](http://www.selvagrill.com)), **Ceviche** (1216 1st St., 941-925-1036, [www.ceviche.com](http://www.ceviche.com)), **Cafe L’Europe** (431 St. Armands Circle, 941-388-3796, [www.cafeleurope.net](http://www.cafeleurope.net)), **Barnacle Bill’s** ([www.barnaclebillsseafood.com](http://www.barnaclebillsseafood.com)), **Yoder’s** (3434 Bahia

Vista St., 941-955-7771, [www.yodersrestaurant.com](http://www.yodersrestaurant.com)) and **Troyer's Dutch Heritage** (3713 Bahia Vista St., 941-955-8007, [www.troyercorp.com](http://www.troyercorp.com)) also earned their spots among the top 25.

Sarasota visitors selected **Key Sailing Charters** (1219 Southport Dr., Siesta Key, 941-346-7245, [www.siestakeysailing.com](http://www.siestakeysailing.com)) and **Almost Heaven Kayak Adventures** (941-504-6296, [www.kayakfl.com](http://www.kayakfl.com)) as the providers of their favorite activities and chose French pastry shop **Le Macaron** (382 St. Armands Circle, 941-552-8872) as one of their favorite stops in the area.

The **John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art** (5401 Bay Shore Rd., 941-359-5700, [www.ringling.org](http://www.ringling.org)), **Mote Marine Aquarium** (1600 Ken Thompson Parkway, 941-388-4441, [www.mote.org](http://www.mote.org)) and **Marie Selby Botanical Gardens** (811 S. Palm Ave., 941-366-5731, [www.selby.org](http://www.selby.org)) were rated the top attractions.

To see the full list of TripAdvisor Top 10 Beach and Sun Destinations winners and to learn more about traveler's picks in Sarasota, visit [www.tripadvisor.com](http://www.tripadvisor.com).

## **Dr. Beach Names Siesta Beach to his Top 10 in '10**

Sarasota boasts the beautiful Siesta Beach, the number "2" beach in the country per Stephen P. "Dr. Beach" Leatherman's announcement today.

Siesta Key Beach is located on Florida's Gulf Coast in Sarasota County. Known for having some of the finest sand in the world, Siesta Beach also has clear blue water, a relaxing ambiance, both luxurious and low key accommodations, gourmet and casual bars and restaurants, quaint shops and a variety of options for recreational fun.

Dr. Beach is a beach and coastal scientist and author. According to his website, "his annual list of America's Top 10 Beaches is to the travel and tourism industry what the Oscar is to the movie industry. Being named as one of the Top 10 beaches in America by Dr. Beach, who uses a strict 50 point criteria, is a very prestigious honor."

While on Siesta Key, visitors can enjoy a filling brunch at the **Broken Egg** (140 Avenida Messina, 941-346-2750, [www.thebrokenegg.com](http://www.thebrokenegg.com)), a casual lunch at the **Daiquiri Deck Raw Bar** (5250 Ocean Blvd., 941-349-8697, [www.daiquirideck.com](http://www.daiquirideck.com)), a gourmet dinner at **Ophelia's on the Bay** (9105 Midnight Pass Rd., 941-349-2212, [www.opheliasonthebay.net](http://www.opheliasonthebay.net)) or a beachy drink at **Siesta Key Oyster Bar** (5238 Ocean Blvd., 941-346-5443, [www.skob.com](http://www.skob.com)).

If you get restless digging your toes into the soft white sand and swimming in the clear blue water, Siesta Key boasts a variety of activities, such as boat rentals from **CB's Saltwater Outfitters** (1249 Stickney Point Rd., 941-349-4400, [www.cbsoutfitters.com](http://www.cbsoutfitters.com)), parasailing rides from **Siesta Key Parasailing** (941-586-1972, [www.siestakeyparasailing.com](http://www.siestakeyparasailing.com)) and bike and kayak rentals from **Siesta Key Bike and Kayak** (1224 Old Stickney Point Rd., [www.siestakeybikeandkayak.com](http://www.siestakeybikeandkayak.com)).

To see the full list of Dr. Beach's Top 10 Beaches and to learn more about Siesta Beach, visit [www.drbeach.org](http://www.drbeach.org).

For more information on Siesta Key and planning your next visit to Sarasota, visit [www.sarasotafl.org](http://www.sarasotafl.org).

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Sarasota and her string of eight islands are located along Southwest Florida's Gulf Coast between Tampa and Ft. Myers. Sarasota and Her Islands is comprised of Sarasota, Longboat Key, Lido Key, St. Armands Key, Manasota Key, Siesta Key, Casey Key, Englewood, Nokomis, North Port, Osprey and Venice. In addition to sandy beaches, Sarasota and Her Islands also offer numerous cultural and ecological attractions. For more information on discovering Sarasota & Her Islands, call the Sarasota Convention & Visitors Bureau at (800) 522-9799 or visit [www.sarasotafl.org](http://www.sarasotafl.org).