



We thank all the 20 tourist information offices chosen this year for their active participation in the success of the 4th edition of the election of the Best European Destination !

Thanks to this mobilization, "European Best Destinations", an event developed and supported by the non-profit making organisation "European Consumers Choice", has again this year, proved to be the largest competition of E-tourism in Europe, bringing together thousands of European citizens, public institutions and stakeholders from the private tourism sector.

In addition to their own dedicated website www.europeanbestdestinations.org these splendid European destinations were also introduced on Youtube, Pinterest and Flickr to share the information and facilitate the discovery of their exceptional qualities.

As well as our strong presence on Facebook with over 11.000 followers, seasoned travellers and professionals, our organisation is also on Twitter along with representatives of the various tourism sectors (airlines, tourist offices, hotels, restaurants, museums...)

While you get the results, learn what travellers think about the victorious destinations that rank in the top 10 :

#10 STOCKHOLM

With 5.3% of the votes, **Stockholm** is elected as one of the 10 European best destinations.



- ★ Nina : "If you don't vote Stockholm - you haven't been here! STOCKHOLM! "
- ★ Sjezad Sajid : «_Stockholm!! No competition!! :)”
- ★ Genever : "I love Stockholm !!!!! ”
- ★ Floo : "... obviously STOCKHOLM!"
- ★ Alia : "I vote for Stockholm , so lovely beautiful country "

#9 MILAN

With 5.9 % of the votes, Milan is elected as one of the 10 European best destinations.



- ★ David : "Visit Milano: culture, shopping, fashion, beautiful surroundings (lakes, mountains, sea), amazing food. You'll be always welcome!!!! "
- ★ Traveller : «_Milan offers not only many important ancient points of interest, such as its Roman and Renaissance treasures, but also refined museums and events about modern design and art. » Genever : "I love Stockholm !!!!!”
- ★ « I love Milan! Milan Milan Milan! "

#8 NICE

With 6,2 % of the votes, Nice is elected as one of the 10 European best destinations.



- ★ Nathalia : “Nice : beaches, montains, wonderful architectur, sun all the year : the most beautiful city in Europe !! ”
- ★ Tracy : “The only place where you can ski (lot of snow!), trek, climb in the beautiful Alpine mountains and be on the seashore in the same day, enjoy great French/Italian food as well as a yearlong sunny weather, in a city with lovely architecture, great events such as Jazz festival, Carnival... this is Nice ! On the French Riviera. It takes time to discover and enjoy, but when you really know the place...it's delightful. Of course Lisbon is another great city but has already won once, so I would go for Nice this year !!! ”
- ★ Julie : “Nice ! Culture, Mountains, Sun and Sea ! ”

#7 VALLETTA

With 6,3 % of the votes, La Valletta/Malta is elected as one of the 10 European best destinations.



- ★ Valletta 1566 : “Come to our city :) I'm not saying it's the best but it's full of culture and I'm sure you'll love it here! When tourists come here,they compliment because of the historic walls :) Valletta , Malta :)!”
- ★ Miriam Consiglio : “History, harbour and hidden treasure, all in one. ”
- ★ Monica Ordonez : “Valleta (Malta) is the paradise !!! Nice weather, a country with lot history, the people is friendly, beautiful sceneries surrounded by a wonderful sea. ”



#6 MADRID

With 6,5% of the votes, Madrid is elected as one of the 10 European best destinations.



- ★ Isabel M. : "MADRID por supuesto. Y como dice un refrán "De Madrid al cielo". "
- ★ Kelly K : « I think Madrid is simply awesome, I love it."
- ★ Philip : "always MADRID"
- ★ Blaise : « Madrid is my favorite but all destinations are beautiful. "

#5 AMSTERDAM

With 7,2% of the votes, Amsterdam is elected as one of the 5 European best destinations.



- ★ Mr Kraaijenagen : "Amsterdam is the most fun, liberal and cosmopolitan Europe! Amsterdam awaits you! Vote for Holland! "
- ★ Chris : "I grew up in the best city on this planet, and miss it every single day ! Amsterdam is just amazing ! Just go and see it to believe it, and see past all the hype about drugs and the red light district."
- ★ Elisabeth : "Amsterdam; what a place with such great atmosphere, international crowd and great locals. canals, romantic views, restaurants and bars of all kinds and sizes. musea, sports and a het Amsterdamse Bos! what else do you need! "



#4 BARCELONA

With 8,3% of the votes, Barcelona is elected as one of the 5 European best destinations.



- ★ Rosa Herrera : “Barcelona is cosmopolitan, great for shopping, wonderful to walk, breathing mountains and parks, relaxing sexy beaches, international high quality restaurants, friendly and funny local people.”
- ★ MR Secanell : “Barcelona has the perfect size to be visited. Sea and mountains around. Light and sun all the year. High quality restaurants and Hotels. Markets, theaters, Opera, concerts and pop music festivals all the year. Good transports. My vote is for Barcelona”
- ★ Natalia Bossom : “Barcelona is one of the most exceptionally cities of the mediterranean where culture and tradition converge.”

#3 VIENNA

With 9,5% of the votes, Vienna is elected as one of the 3 European best destinations.



- ★ Véronique Liacre / France : “Space, very good museums and concerts, nice welcome from residents, every thing seems easy and clean, I love Vienne...”
- ★ Maja Lazovic : “Vienna is the best choice in Europe. After spending just 6 days in February in this fascinating city, I fell in love with it. I hope to visit it again very soon. There are so many beautiful, interesting and attractive things to see and experience in Vienna...it is a must for all art lovers!!! ”



- ★ Johannes Woudenberg : “Vienna has everything, what a visitor wants and is looking for history and romance and beautiful buildings and people are friendly and great for ladies to go shopping. Love Vienna. ”
- ★ Christl : “I voted for Vienna, because you will fall in love with it as soon as you get there !! ”

#2 LISBON

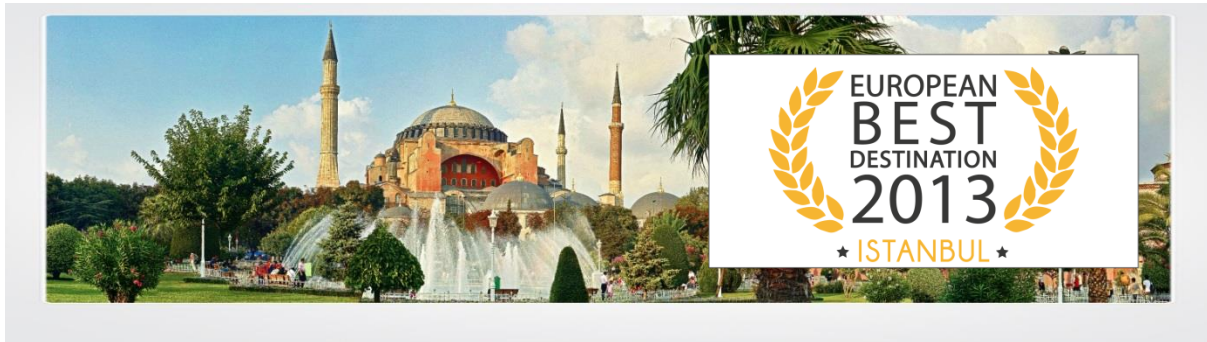
With 12,2% of the votes, for achieving to be listed three years running in the European citizens' top ten preferred destinations, Lisbon, is the runner up (with only 439 votes behind the winner).



- ★ “Lisbon city with magic light, bathed in the river and kissed by the Atlantic Ocean... The millennial history, the castle of Sao Jorge with breathtaking views over Lisbon, monuments, gardens and palaces... The gastronomy healthy and rich in flavor... The unique wine produced in our country of mild temperatures throughout the year... The white sand beaches and the hospitality of the people, solidarity and always ready to help the next... The nights filled with excitement... The culture, exhibitions and theater... A city unforgettable, historic and sophisticated ... ”
- ★ Ana : “Lisboa, the most amazing city in Europe! ”
- ★ Helena Ferreeira : “Lisbon for ever, you are mine
Great people, great food, great history , great monuments,great everythig. YOu are umforgettable.
The most beautiful town in the world”
- ★ Guilherme Leal : “Seven hills, many views, more options and secrets, history, stories, coffee and sun!!!
Great food, great people. Lisbon is right in the edge of Europe, the best sunset of the old Continent!!
- ★ Wil : “Lisbon has stolen my heart, it's such a beautiful city with lots to discover, a very good gastronomic kitchen and the people are friendly. We live on the Alentejo coast, just 1 hour drive away from this flower from the sea and really love it! ”
- ★ Veronika Krebentitscher : “Lisbon, of course!!!!
Quem não viu Lisboa, não viu coisa boa!
Wer Lissabon nicht gesehen hat, hat nichts Schönes gesehen!
He who has not seen Lisbon has seen nothing! ”

1 ISTANBUL

With **12,4%** of votes and the largest number of votes, the European destination which the European citizens have chosen to win the 2013 edition of this great competition is a city which can now carry the prestigious title of « European Best Destination » with pride -and let the world know it in all its communications, advertising, brochures, maps, airports, travel stands, promotional films etc ; it is a fantastic destination, listed for the first time in our competition, a great winner, a great city . Ladies and gentlemen, we proudly present **Istanbul** , European Best Destination 2013 !



- ★ Hatice aus Berlin : « Istanbul is the best city of the world and sooo nice i love turkey <3”
- ★ Otfire : “I S T A N B U L - the ONE and ONLY! :)”
- ★ Mark : “If new york was in europe, guess we call it istanbul.
- ★ Nikos : “Vote for Istanbul, it is the best city in the world!”
- ★ Mikey : “Istanbul is the most beautiful city of the WORLD ;)”
- ★ Busra : “I think Istanbul is the nicest city of Europe because there are many things with History which are very important and there is a big nice blue sea which creature a good atmosphere at nigt but normal days too. You can see different cultures and many other persons of the world. There are many modern buildings too which is interesting too. Everybody have to visit Istanbul it is only perfect !!! »
- ★ Adam : « Istanbul is an unique city and not only in the europe but also in the world. It is the oldest city of the old world. Other cities in the list are new and more or less same cities compare to istanbul.”
- ★ Susan Gurz : « After travelling most of the world, ISTANBUL is my favorite city”
- ★ Maria : “I really love Istanbul.. it´s the best place in Europe”
- ★ Lones : “ISTANBUL I LOVE YOU »
- ★ Bern : « The world's most beautiful city Istanbullllll:) »
- ★ Ralph Franco : « Amazing views, great food, perfect weather, friendly people and astonishing historical sites...Havent been anywhere better than Istanbul so far... »
- ★ Frank Maxters : « I've been to Istanbul. It's such an amazing place. Wish I could live there..”
- ★ Manuella Bertoncello : “Turkey is STILL the best and the most beautiful interesting country in the whole world.... Istanbul is the most amazing and historical city that I have ever seen... I love you Istanbul ♥”
- ★ Gengiz : “Istanbul- Love of Two continents...whereelse in the world two continents kiss each other like Romeo&Juliet? Definitely Istanbul is number 1 and my vote goes to Istanbul.. Also Dont forget Nobel prize winner Mr.Orhan Pamuk is also from Istanbul and he got the award with his love to Istanbul! »
- ★ Robert : « No doubt: Istanbul is simply the best and most attractive city in Europe! »
- ★ Michael : “Woow Istanbul looks amazing with this famous bridge... I'll try! »



Congratulations once again to all the tourism offices and community managers for this 2013 edition. Visitors, citizens and also the media have discovered through print, photo and video these 20 exceptional destinations which make up Europe's richness and diversity.

With the title of "European Best Destination 2013" Istanbul also wins a dedicated online guide (over 280 000 visits to Porto's guide in 2012) and a photo reportage.

The next 9 cities in this ranking will have the right to use for all their communications, websites and official documents the "European Best Destinations 2013" logo.



They will also be highlighted throughout the whole year on our social networks and recognized as being in the top ten European destinations to be discovered in 2013. Every opportunity will be taken to showcase them and praise their beauty, landscape, history and culture and to generate an ever-increasing excitement for these cities.

The winner, Istanbul, will have the right to use the European Best Destination logo on all its communications, websites and documents.



You can download all the material free of charge at :
<http://www.europeanbestdestinations.org/media/>

For more photos, logos, texts, and all material please contact our press office :

press@europeanconsumerschoice.org

We also thank and congratulate the destinations in 10th to 20th position ; although they are not in the top 10, they were, however, selected as being part of the best european destinations and the votes this year were extremely close.

We hope to see you again next year for the 2014 European Best Destination competition (January 2014). In the meantime, watch this space for our soon to be launched « European Best Cultural Event », « European Best Gastronomical Destination » and « European Finest Beaches » competitions. And, last but not least, discover today the hotels from your region and country which have been elected as some of the best hotels on our dedicated website www.europeanfinesthotels.com

Travel Dept. European Best Destination

European Consumers Choice - 1150 Brussels – Belgium

E-Mail : travel@europeanconsumerschoice.org

Press : press@europeanconsumerschoice.org

Phone : 0032.49.49.202.54

- www.europeanbestdestinations.org
- www.europeanconsumerschoice.org
- www.facebook.com/ebdestinations
- twitter.com/ebdestinations



“Europe is a wonderful world...”