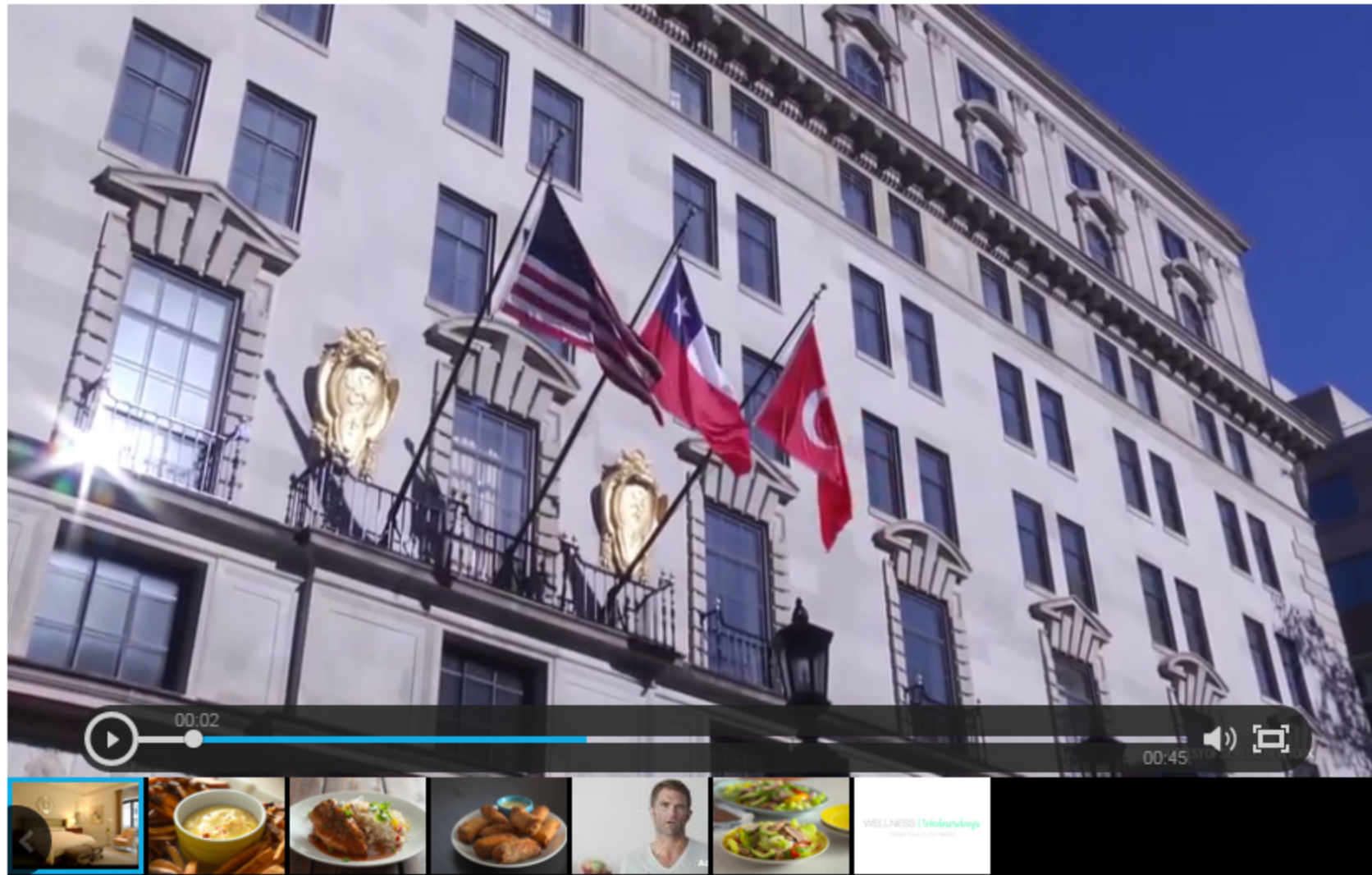


AAA reveals its coveted 5 Five Diamond Award hotels for 2017

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On Jan. 26, the AAA announced that 120 hotels throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean would be honored with the prestigious Five Diamond designation.

Only 0.3 percent of all 'approved' hotels and restaurants that AAA examines receive this coveted award.

This year, six hotels were added to the list. The tradition began 80 years ago, with professionals conducting unannounced, in-person evaluations to determine the best-of-the-best from nearly 28,000 eligible properties.

Just because a hotel is a celebrity favorite since 1904 doesn't automatically guarantee it 5 Diamond status. The St. Regis New York in NYC has been beloved over the years by the rich and famous thanks to its exquisitely themed rooms like the [Tiffany Suite](#) and status as the inventor of the [Bloody Mary](#). However, it was not until last year that the sister hotel to the Waldorf Astoria joined the list. Now, it shares the award with just nine other [New York](#) properties, including two Trump NYC estates. The president-elect's family has [four](#) 5 Diamond hotels; [Trump International Hotel and Tower Toronto](#), [Trump International Hotel and Tower New York](#), [Trump SoHo New York](#) and [Trump International Hotel and Tower Chicago](#).

Many regions of the country are absent from the list. Only 20 states and Washington, D.C., made it. California plays host the most 5 Diamond resorts with 17. Florida comes in second with 11.

Click below to see the hotels to see if your state has one of the hotels and start playing tourist without hopping on a plane.



North Carolina

CARY

The Umstead Hotel & Spa (2007)*

CHARLOTTE

The Ritz-Carlton, Charlotte (2010)

FEARRINGTON VILLAGE

The Ferrington House Inn (1994)

* indicates year establishment first received current, consecutively maintained Diamond Rating.

Photo: The Ferrington House Inn