

PACHYDERMS' PLAYHOUSE
Elephants retire with dignity in rural Tennessee

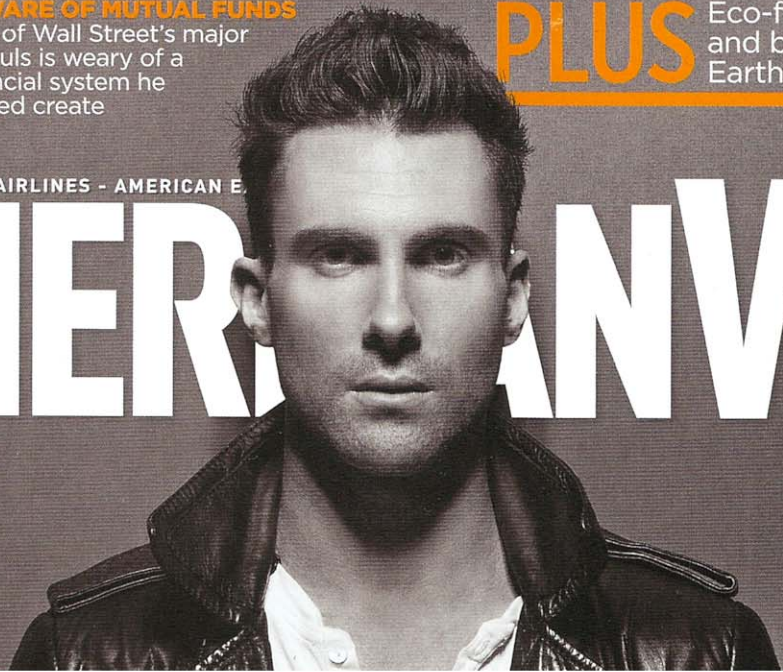
BEWARE OF MUTUAL FUNDS
One of Wall Street's major moguls is weary of a financial system he helped create

PLUS Eco-friendly boutique hotels and beauty products for Earth Day and every day

AMERICAN AIRLINES - AMERICAN EXPRESS

AMERICAN WAY

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THE GREEN SCENE

Properties around the world are stepping up to protect the planet — and seeking green certifications to honor their efforts. What, exactly, do those certifications mean, and what are some hotels that qualify? Turn the page for a cheat sheet that explains all you need to know to travel with an eco-clear conscience. *By Jodi Helmer*

| CERTIFICATION | LEED | Green Globe International | Green Seal | Green Key |
|-------------------------|---|---|--|--|
| DETAILS | LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification is awarded to properties that meet certain criteria for green design and construction. Hotels earn points for eco-friendly features like energy efficiency and green materials. www.usgbc.org | This is the only global certification for green hotels. One of the areas included in certification is corporate social responsibility. www.greenglobeint.com | Hotels must meet standards in areas like waste reduction and use of environmentally safe products. The nonprofit awards three levels of certification — gold, silver and bronze. www.greenseal.org | Launched in September 2009, this is the newest green certification in the U.S. Properties are awarded one to five Green Keys for green hotel operations, including water conservation and waste management. www.greenkeyglobal.com |
| HOW IT'S AWARDED | Hotels must meet criteria in areas like waste reduction and use of green products. The nonprofit awards four levels of certification — platinum, gold, silver and certified. | Auditors perform on-site inspections. Hotels are recertified on an annual basis. | Hotels undergo an initial evaluation and annual monitoring. | Ratings are determined based on an online questionnaire; just 20 percent of hotels participate in on-site inspections. |
| PROUD MEMBERS | The Ritz-Carlton Charlotte is the first Ritz hotel to be built to LEED gold standards. Even the spa is eco-friendly. \$489, (704) 547-2244, www.ritzcarlton.com | The Lodge at Chaa Creek , a 365-acre eco resort in Belize, practices sustainability in a luxury setting. \$195, (877) 709-8708, www.chaacreek.com | Green initiatives like energy efficiency and conservation, management of fresh water resources and waste water, and the reduction and handling of hazardous substances all helped Hotel Monaco in Portland, Ore., earn the Green Seal Silver certification. \$139, (503) 222-0001, www.monacoportland.com | Located in the heart of Banff National Park in Canada, the Fairmont Banff Spring honors its natural surroundings with green programs. \$299, (403) 762-2211, www.fairmont.com |