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Prize trips: Top 10 destinations for contests, auction winners

Posted on Saturday, May 4 at 2:26pm | By Jeanne Cooper



Top 10 trips



Image 1 out of 10

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No. 10: Alaska cruises. 'Alaska has been just huge,' says Michelle Cohen of Mitch-Stuart, which packages incentive trips for contests, charity auctions and other purposes. 'It used to be Mediterranean and Caribbean or Mexican cruises. A lot of people are into the venues that are more natural, more outdoorsy, like quaint fishing villages, seaplane excursions, seeing glaciers from helicopters. They sound sound different and exciting.'

The “top 10 destinations” are always a moving target, but if you want to know the favorites of company contests and charity fundraisers, you talk to [Mitch-Stuart](#) (and view the photo gallery above).

The 20-year-old company based in ~~New York~~ Laguna Niguel has helped raise a billion dollars for charity, according to co-founder **Michelle Cohen**, by putting together travel packages for raffles, live auctions, etc., which the nonprofits pay for on consignment. (“If they don’t hit their goal, they don’t have to pay for the trip,” she explained.) The company also works with event planners and live auctioneers in creating buzz for the trips, which may include special events, such as the 2014 Super Bowl in New York, or experiences such as a “CSI”-themed tour in Las Vegas, Cohen said.

I’m guessing Bay Area readers will not be quite as excited by the No. 1 destination (hint: wineries), but Nos. 2-9, all in North America, might be very enticing (I’m a No. 7 person myself.) **Feel free to name your favorite in the comments field below.**

— Jeanne Cooper



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