

BEST OF BREED: 5 BLUE-RIBBON STOCKS

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AIR PRESSURE

In an era when airline perks keep disappearing and fares keep rising, there's good news for frequent fliers: American Airlines and United Airlines are slashing the miles needed to book free shorter domestic flights, from 25,000 to 15,000. Randy Peterson, editor of *Inside Flyer*, says the moves are due to pressure from low-cost carriers like Frontier Airlines and America West that award free trips after 15,000 miles. But book soon: The United deal expires on Dec. 31; American will run the reduced-mileage rate through Feb. 28.

—Jason Feirman