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The 50 best honeymoon hotels

From island escapes to luxury city stays, Amanda Statham picks the most romantic destinations for newlyweds

Cover story



This is one of the most anticipated and indulgent holidays you'll ever take, so naturally expectations are high. Once-in-a-lifetime experiences such as champagne picnics on uninhabited islands, diving with whale sharks and staying in over-water villas with their own chef have long lured happy couples. But now action and adventure are a top priority for newlyweds who have already taken sun, sea and sand holidays together numerous times – anything from gorilla encounters in Uganda to tandem skydiving in New Zealand. And twin-centre honeymoons – city and spa, safari and sand – are also very popular. Some things never go out of honeymoon fashion, though: a big bed, amazing views, fantastic food and top-notch service.

Animal attraction

1 Samode Safari Lodge, India
Samode has raised the bar for wilderness safaris in India. When you're not out spotting tigers in neighbouring Bandhavgarh National Park, you can chill out together in one of the 12 villas. Each has a sexy indoor/outdoor bathroom, dressing room and sitting room. The main lounge, with fireplaces and comfy

sofas, is the heart of the lodge; there is also a spa, gym and pool.

0091 76532 80579; samode.com/safarilodge. Villas from £620, including park fees, all meals, drinks and game drives.

2 Sanctuary Gorilla Forest Camp, Uganda

Deep in the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest in western Uganda, this eco lodge of eight permanent en-suite tents offers the chance to see more than 113 species of mammal, including elephants and mountain gorillas, one of the rarest animals on the planet. After a day of adventure, relax on your raised tent's veranda then enjoy dinner à deux around the campfire.

01242 546 609; sanctuaryretreats.com. Doubles from £178 per person.

3 Pikaia Lodge, Galapagos

Hotel locations don't come more staggering than this: atop an extinct volcano on Santa Cruz Island, ringed by a marine reserve that is one of the seven underwater wonders of the world. It's the first design-led, carbon-neutral accommodation in the Galapagos. Guests are invited to hop aboard the hotel's luxury yacht to follow in Darwin's footsteps and visit islands sheltering marine

iguanas, sea lions, blue-footed boobys and giant tortoises. Back at your sustainable modernist base there is an infinity pool to enjoy. Unforgettable.

00593 4371 1670; pikaialodgegalapagos.com. Doubles from £4,940 per person for a three-night minimum stay, including all meals, transfers and excursions.

4 Belmond Savute Elephant Camp, Botswana

Watch elephants drink and hippos wallow at the waterhole adjacent to Savute, a heaven-sent place in Chobe National Park. Your accommodation will be one of 12 swish en-suite tents covered by African thatch with timber deck, mosquito-net-swathed bed and his-and-hers vanity units. When you're not out on game drives tracking lions and hyenas, there is an elephant-proof pool to dive into and, at night, a traditional firelit boma for dining.

0027 21 483 1600; belmondsafaris.com. Luxury tent from £1,709, including return flight from Maun, all meals and drinks, park fees and game viewing activities.

5 Ngorongoro Crater Lodge, Tanzania

This decadent lodge is set high on the rim of the vast Ngorongoro

Pikaia Lodge in the Galapagos, above left; and Pacuare Lodge, Costa Rica, right. Cover image: Pangkor Laut, on a private island off the Malaysian mainland



Crater, a Unesco World Heritage Site stretching from the Rift Valley to the Serengeti and sheltering a haven of wildlife, including the Big Five. It's not a rustic experience – we're talking personal butlers, crystal chandeliers, antiques, claw-foot bathtubs sprinkled with rose petals – but, hey, this is your honeymoon. Fun extras include picnics in the crater, Maasai cultural visits and bush walks.

0027 11 809 4300; andbeyond.com/ngorongoro-crater-lodge. Doubles from £680, including all meals, drinks and safari activities.

Hotel rates

Prices quoted are per room per night, unless otherwise stated.

Activity and adventure

6 Misibis Bay, Philippines

Segways, zip-lines and dune buggies are all exciting ways to explore Misibis Bay's eco-park and the surrounding forests on Cagraray Island. The resort also offers whale shark tours, where you can snorkel alongside the world's biggest fish, or sightseeing from the Misibis helicopter over the Mayon Volcano, Nag-Aso Lake and Legazpi City.

0063 917 599 1606; misibisbay.com. Suites from £194 per night.

7 Tierra Patagonia, Chile

On the eastern edge of the Torres del Paine National Park, this unique hotel has serious wow factor, from the 40 rooms with floor-to-ceiling windows and minimalist style to the living roof. Once you've stopped gawping at the architecture and view, it's time to choose from the 30-plus excursions. Boat journeys past icebergs, riding with gauchos, hiking to the base of the Torres and condor viewing are all available.

0056 2 2207 8861; tierrahotels.com. Minimum three-night stay from £3,260 for two adults, all-inclusive and including two half-day excursions and transfers.

8 Huka Lodge, New Zealand

Horse riding, kayaking, white-water rafting, bungee jumping, skydiving, quad biking... However you want to get your honeymoon kicks, it can be arranged at this elegant hunting lodge on Lake Taupo and the Waikato River. Lodge rooms are elegant, but for total privacy book the Owner's Cottage, which has a view of the mighty Huka Falls with outdoor dining table, fireplace, private chef and butler.

0064 7 378 5791; hukalodge.co.nz. Doubles from £372 per night.



9 Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel, Peru

Colourful Peruvian alpaca blankets, local artwork and views of the Vilcanota River fill the 85 rustic casitas of this Andean village-style property. It's not five-star, but its location amid 12 acres of cloud forest at the foot of Machu Picchu is unbeatable.

0051 1 610 0400; inkaterra.com. Casitas from £329.

10 Pacuare Lodge, Costa Rica

If you're craving a back-to-nature honeymoon, pick this. The lodge is set in the Costa Rican rainforest on the banks of the Pacuare River and can only be reached by boat. Activities include guided jungle tours and white-water rafting. Back at base, newlyweds will want to spend at least one night in the Canopy Honeymoon Suite, a treetop retreat reached via a private suspension bridge.

0800 051 6420; pacuarelodge.com. Minimum two-night stay, from £568 per person, including three daily meals, non-alcoholic drinks and transfers.

Barefoot bliss

11 Malliouhana, Anguilla

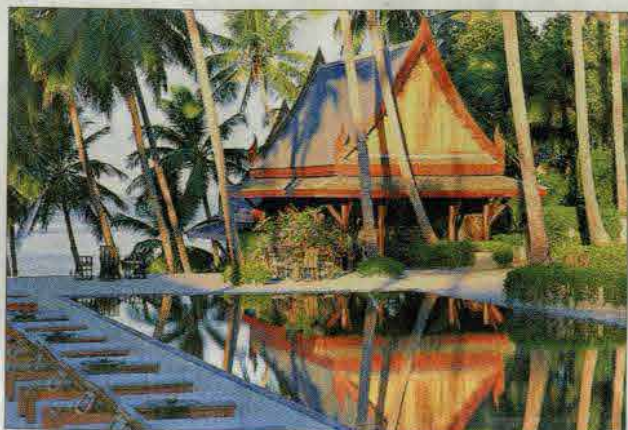
Anguilla has the best beaches in the Caribbean, and recently

refurbished Malliouhana overlooks two of them: Meads Bay and Turtle Cove. It has been given a new lease of life by Auberge Resorts and reclaims its crown as one of the most glamorous resorts in the region. Moorish arches frame the large rooms, which have white four-poster beds and private terraces. There is also a two-tier infinity pool and a spa.

00855 485 1333; malliouhana.aubergeresorts.com. Doubles from £424.

12 Gecko Beach Club, Formentera

Formentera, 30 minutes by ferry from Ibiza, has gorgeous, secluded



Clockwise from above: Cocoa Island by COMO, Maldives; Belmond Cipriani, Venice; and Amanpuri, Thailand

stretches of sand, but the only really stylish place to stay to take advantage of them is this Migjorn beachfront hideaway. Lounge around the pool, bike to a beach, return and sink on to a giant white daybed to watch the sunset. Then repeat. If you want to push the boat out, book an upstairs Gecko Suite for its vast terrace with sea views.

0034 971 328 024; geckobeachclub.com. Doubles from €195 (£139).

13 Fundu Lagoon, Zanzibar

On the tranquil island of Pemba, accessible only by boat, Fundu is the epitome of barefoot honeymoon chic. Although the setting is wild and remote, the 18 tented safari-style bungalows are surprisingly swish. Most are on a hillside but four edge the eye-poppingly perfect white-sand beach. Surrounded by pristine coral reef, this is also an excellent place for diving and snorkelling.

00255 07774 38668; fundulagoon.com. Bungalows from £287.

14 Amanpuri, Thailand

Amanpuri, the first resort opened by the upmarket Aman chain, is still the best. Pansea Beach, which it overlooks, could be a blueprint for paradise, so perfect is the sand lapped by the warm,

turquoise Andaman Sea. Luxury Thai-style pavilions are scattered among the palms and the level of romance is off the scale, from sunset cruises to candlelit dining.

0066 76324 333; Amanresorts.com/amanpuri. Pavilions from £426.

15 Aitutaki Lagoon Resort & Spa, Cook Islands

Step ashore on Bligh's Beach and marvel at the white, white sand, then check into one of the nine new beachfront bungalows facing Sunset Beach, or bag an over-water wooden bungalow. The real star here, however, is the lagoon dotted with uninhabited sandbars. Take a boat trip to Honeymoon Island, where you can plant a coconut palm together and enjoy a lunch of freshly caught fish.

00682 31203; aitutakilagoonresort.com. Pavilions from £301.

Private islands

16 North Island, Seychelles

For a total blow-out, it has got to be North Island. Seamlessly blending bespoke eco luxury (it has just 11 villas) with absolute relaxation, it's a paradise island of white-sand beaches and granite boulders where high-profile guests such as the Duke and Duchess of

Cambridge, who honeymooned here, can completely switch off. As much a conservation project as a resort, giant tortoises roam, rare birds tweet in the treetops and the rich marine life is heaven for snorkellers.

00248 4293 100; north-island.com. Villas from €2,765 (£1,974) per person.

17 Taprobane Island, Sri Lanka

A two-and-a-half-acre tropical fantasy located just 100 yards off Sri Lanka's south coast and reached only by wading through knee-deep water or on the back of an elephant (yes, really). Once you've arrived it's an oasis of palm trees, beach, infinity pool and an octagonal villa built in the Twenties. A staff of six, including a chef and butler, have catered to the whims of royalty, film stars and recluses as well as honeymooners.

0094 91 4380 275; taprobaneisland.com. Villas from £653.

18 Cocoa Island by COMO, Maldives

Yes it's the Maldives, but forget cutting-edge design and self-conscious furnishings; Cocoa Island is charmingly simple. All 33 villas are inspired by dhonis (traditional Indian Ocean sailing boats), and you

can step straight off into the sea. Ringed by a white-sand beach, its COMO Shambhala Spa is a treat, and a restaurant serving delicious Maldivian delicacies is the only other thing you really need.

00960 664 1818; comohotels.com/cocoaisland. Dhoni suite from £588.

19 The Brando, French Polynesia

Once Marlon Brando's private retreat, this new super-luxe resort was created by the film star's eight children after his death. Tetiaroa Island is accessible only by private aircraft and is home to vast thatched villas, each with a slice of private beach, pool and media room. There is plenty to help you idle the days away – treatments in the Varua Spa, paddleboarding to an uninhabited island, or visiting the environmental research station to discover more about the island's wildlife.

00689 40 866 300; thebrando.com. Villas from €2,400 (£1,713) all-inclusive.

20 Song Saa, Cambodia

Serenity reigns at this all-villa island resort on an archipelago 30 minutes by boat from mainland Cambodia. Overlooking a deserted golden beach, 27 villas are dotted

Continued overleaf ▶



◀ Continued from page 3

between palm trees by set over the sea and all have private decks and plunge pools. The diving is fabulous – the owners created a marine reserve – and rates include all meals and most drinks, so there's no shocking bill at the end of your stay.

00855 23 989 009; songsaa.com. Villas from £730.

European cities

21 Belmond Cipriani, Venice

Who wouldn't be seduced by a private boat ride across the Venetian lagoon? It's the only way to reach the glamorous Cipriani, which sits on Giudecca island, opposite St Mark's Square. Everything at the hotel is splendid – Murano glass chandeliers, antiques, the gold ceiling of Oro Restaurant, an Olympic-sized pool – and there are few activities more romantic than sitting on the club terrace gazing across to St Mark's Square with a glass of champagne in hand at sunset. It's little wonder George Clooney stayed here when he married Amal Alamuddin last year.

0039 041 240 801; belmond.com/hotel-cipriani-venice. Doubles from £474.

22 Four Seasons Hotel, Prague

Converted from three historic buildings in the Old Town on the banks of the Vltava River, Four Seasons Hotel Prague is a place of repose. Rooms are elegant yet up-to-the-minute; book a premier river room for fabulous views of Prague Castle or Charles Bridge. The hotel's restaurant, CottoCrudo, includes a raw bar where the freshest seafood is prepared before you. For extra honeymoon magic, treat yourselves to a private night at the opera

followed by vintage Rolls-Royce transfer and dinner on the hotel's rooftop.

00420 221 427 000; fourseasons.com/Prague. Doubles from £302.

23 Byblos Art Hotel, Verona

You'll wander jaws-to-the-floor in awe of the modern works of art scattered all over this colourful 18th-century villa – Damien Hirsts, a gold Kate Moss statue by Marc Quinn and Anish Kapoor pieces. Beautiful gardens, a large pool and first-rate dining are the icing on the arty cake (it's a popular wedding venue, too). When it's time to discover Verona, book a night at the opera and drop by Juliet's house for a chance to recreate Romeo's balcony wooing scene.

0039 045 685 5555; byblosartotel.com. Doubles from €150 (£105).

24 Eiffel Suites, Shangri-la Paris

For the best views of the Eiffel Tower, book a suite at this painstakingly restored palace. If you can afford it, splash out on a split-level Eiffel duplex suite, where the tower looks close enough to touch. If you can drag yourselves away from that view, book a table at the hotel's restaurant Shang Palace, the first Cantonese restaurant in Paris to gain a Michelin star.

00331 5367 1998; shangri-la.com/paris. Eiffel duplex terrace suite from €2,480 (£1,772).

25 Hotel Bellevue, Dubrovnik

The views of the Adriatic from this modern cliff-top hideaway at Miramare Bay are breathtaking, and are available from every wood and cream suite. Launch yourselves into crystal-clear waters from the pebbly beach below, then enjoy some post-

dip Mediterranean bites on the terrace at Nevera restaurant. An indoor pool and quality spa are welcome extras and a sunset stroll from the Bellevue to Dubrovnik's Old Town is fabulous.

00385 20 300 300; adriaticluxuryhotels.com. Doubles from €232 (£165).

Worldwide city hotels

26 Palais Amani, Fes

This restored riad on the edge of the city's ancient medina lies behind enormous gold-studded doors. Within, there is romance by the bucket load, with 14 intricately tiled rooms overlooking an orange and lemon-tree filled courtyard and a roof terrace with tiny bar and mesmerising views of the city. After a lie-in, tuck into a late breakfast before a massage in the hotel's hammam or a cookery lesson.

00212 535 63 32 09; palaisamani.com. Doubles from £107 per night.

27 Meadow Suite, Crosby Street Hotel, New York

There are dozens of amazing hotels in Manhattan, but for a honeymoon Crosby Street's Meadow Suite is hard to beat. Floor-to-ceiling doors slide open to reveal a private terrace garden with more than 50 varieties of flowering plant. An oasis in the heart of the city (Balthazar and Bloomingdale's are just around the corner), it looks good year-round. There's also a popular gastropub, private screening room and roof terrace with a herb garden.

001 212 226 6400; firmdalehotels.com. Meadow Suite from £1,611 per night; doubles from £383.

28 One&Only, Cape Town

This Victoria and Alfred Waterfront resort has views of Table

The star bed at Loisaba, Kenya, above left; take in the view from the infinity pool at the Grace hotel, Santorini, above; another enticing view at Pangkor Laut, Malaysia, below

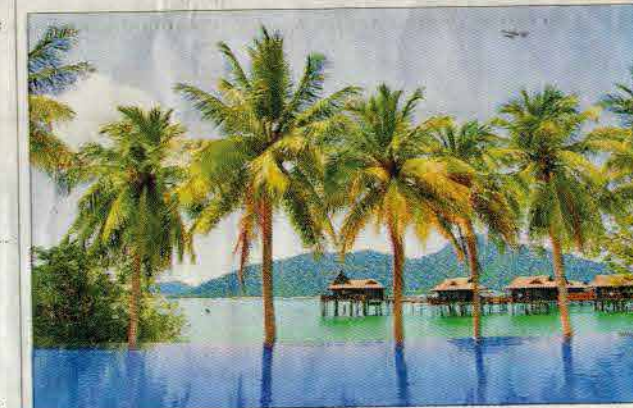
Mountain from all 91 rooms, a restaurant by Nobu and spa set on a private island. It's a splendid base from which to ascend Lion's Head or for wine tastings in Stellenbosch. Handily, there is a honeymoon registry to which wedding guests can contribute, including a night in a suite or a massage for two.

0027 21431 5888; capetown.oneandonlyresorts.com. Doubles from £378.

29 Faena Hotel, Buenos Aires

A Philippe Starck-designed red brick playground in the hip Puerto Madero district, Faena is sexy and fun. In contrast to the dark, velvet curtain-clad lobby, the red and white rooms are surprisingly light, with wood floors and a nod to Belle Epoque. Don't miss dining at El Bistro, a white and gold room with unicorn heads on the wall, flamboyant tango shows at El Cabaret, or late-night cocktails at the Pool Bar. You'll be assigned an "Experience Manager" on arrival who can book you anything from tango lessons to tickets for a polo match.

0054 11 4010 9000; ba.stayfaena.com. Doubles from £297.



30 Upper House, Hong Kong

Occupying the top 13 storeys of a 50-floor block in Pacific Place, Upper House offers exceptional city views that make even the most seasoned traveller stop and stare. It's all deliciously slick and modern, from the Asian-led design to the roof garden and one of Hong Kong's best restaurants, Café Gray Deluxe, on the 49th floor.

00852 3968 1111; upperhouse.com. Doubles from £420.

Gourmet getaways

31 Hotel 20°Sud, Mauritius

The main restaurant at this boutique retreat lies only 10 yards from the sea, so you can hear the waves lap the shore as you tuck into a six-course lobster menu or sushi prepared from catch of the day. Other options include a candlelit meal amid picturesque ruins on a nearby private island – or how about supper on the resort's renovated boat, the Lady Lisbeth? As with all the best honeymoon hotels, breakfast is available at any time, so if you can't bear to leave your suite's white four-poster, just dial room service.

00230 263 5000; 20degressud.com. Doubles from €280 (£200) half-board.

32 Le Mas Candille, France

Aside from stunning views (it's set high in the hills above Cannes), a Shiseido spa and beautifully furnished rooms (honeymooners book 216, with its four-poster bed and authentic French styling), you'll rave about the Michelin-starred restaurant Le Candille. The six-course *menu découverte*, all paired with local French wines, is so delicious you'll eat every morsel. Book a night at the Chef's Table

inside the kitchen to watch chef David Chauvac at work.

0033 4 92 28 43 43; lemascandille.com. Doubles from €315 (£206).

33 Belle Mont Farm, St Kitts

Gastronomes will want to move into this organic Caribbean farm, spread over 400 ocean-view acres on Kittitian Hill. Everything that passes your lips is either locally sourced or picked right on the farm, including lemongrass-poached lobster with dasheen risotto. Champagne Sunday brunch has more than 30 dishes, and a 12-course tapas-style tasting menu is ideal for sharing. The beach club, golf course, spa, pool and hot tub are welcome distractions.

001 855 846 3951; bellemontfarm.com. Doubles from £1,110.

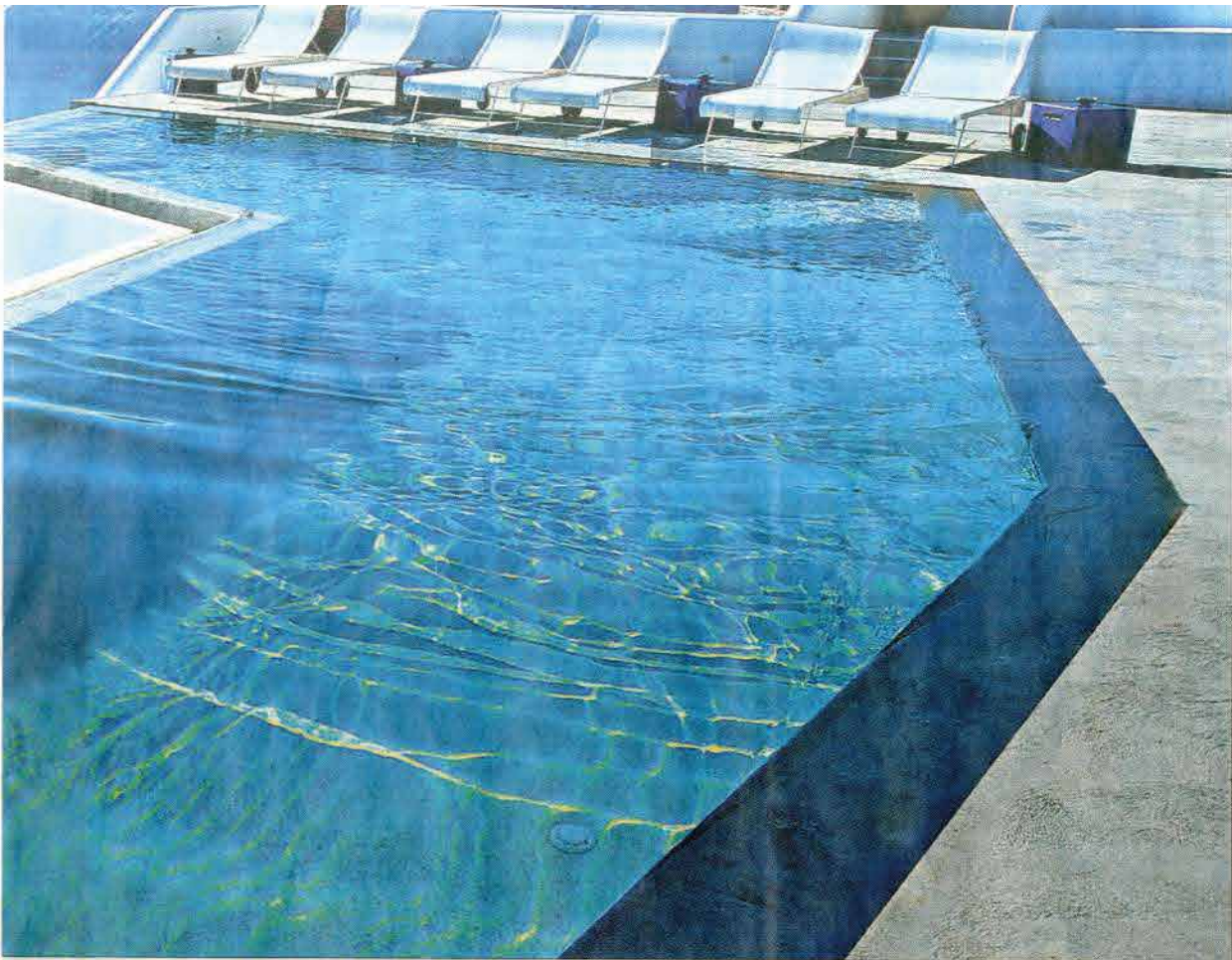
34 The Sarojin, Thailand

It's impossible not to be captivated by The Sarojin, which is why it frequently tops lists of the best places to honeymoon in the East. Dining on delicious Thai and Italian cuisine (steak with spinach tagliolini and fresh lobster) beneath a giant lantern-lit ficus tree is magical. Less formal but just as enchanting is The Edge, a pavilion next to the beach serving curries and noodles. Best of all, though, are the intimate dining experiences: champagne suppers for two beside a waterfall or on a private island after a sunset cruise.

0066 76 427 900; sarojin.com. Garden residence rooms from £138.

35 Chedi Club at Tanah Gajah, Bali

Overlooking lush rice fields, jungle and Gunung Agung volcano, near Ubud, the open-sided, thatched-roofed restaurant at this peaceful



Balinese retreat is a thing of beauty. Each Sunday at sunset, a torchlit barbecue is set up in the fields so guests can dine on local black pig, freshwater carp and free-range chicken plus salads from the chef's vegetable garden. Book a cooking lesson in the open-air kitchen to learn how to create dishes such as jackfruit salad and black rice pudding once you return home.

0062 81 3377 33796; tanahgajah.com. Suites from £235.

Over-water villas

36 Four Seasons Resort Bora Bora, Tahiti

Each over-water villa is a pocket oasis, complete with broad bed, private deck with steps to the sea and a free-standing bathtub beside sliding doors which, when opened, reveal views of Bora Bora's Mount Otemanu across the lagoon. It's the sexiest tub in the world. The private beach, a cathedral-like spa with a couples' massage room and the poolside cabanas are also fabulous.

00689 40 603 130; fourseasons.com/borabora. Over-water suite from £625.

37 Baros, Maldives

Thirty wooden water villas line a crescent boardwalk on the lagoon, and these are furnished with large four-poster beds and a private sunbathing deck with daybed and loungers. It's home to Lighthouse, one of the loveliest Indian Ocean restaurants: open-sided, set over water and circular with tables dotted around the edge, so you feel like you're dining alone together in the middle of the ocean.

00960 664 2672; baros.com. Villas from \$675 (£429).

38 St George's Caye Resort, Belize

If you're on a budget but want the over-water suite experience, St George's Caye is a great option. The six thatched-roof cabanas built on stilts in the Caribbean Sea are simply furnished with a mosquito-net-draped bed, private bath, hammock on the porch and little else for a Robinson Crusoe vibe. When you're not snoozing in the hammock, Belize is on your doorstep, which means some of the best scuba diving in the world and Mayan ruins to explore.

001 800 813 8498; st-georgesresort.com. Cabanas from £90.

39 Pangkor Laut, Malaysia

Surrounded by rainforest and pristine sandy beaches on a private island off the west coast of Malaysia, Pangkor Laut is honeymoon gold. Standing elegantly on stilts in Emerald Bay, each wooden sea villa has a king-sized bed, balcony and enormous bath with sea views. Two pools, a yoga deck and rainforest walks are calming diversions, or you can book treatments at the Spa Village, which offers ancient Malay, Chinese and Thai healing rituals.

0060 5 699 1100; pangkorlautresort.com. Doubles from £139.

40 Punta Caracol Aqua Lodge, Panama

Wonderfully remote, this Bocas Del Toro eco retreat isn't a renowned honeymoon escape but it should be. The nine green and yellow over-water cabanas, connected to each other and the restaurant via walkways, have a downstairs living area and veranda with a ladder plunging into the sea. It lies in 150 acres of protected rainforest and mangrove reserve, and uses solar energy. Prices

include snorkelling, kayaking, breakfast and candlelit dinners.

00507 757 9410; puntacaracol.com. Doubles from £216.

Fabulous views/romantic vistas

41 Grace, Santorini, Greece

It's a pinch-yourself moment the first time you catch sight of the caldera from the whitewashed terraces of this gorgeous hotel carved into a cliff face in the north west of Santorini. Luckily that view is available pretty much everywhere, from the breathtaking infinity pool to the stylish white honeymoon suites (couples looking for added wow factor should book the Grace Suite, which has its own hammam, hot tub and plunge pool). There's even a 15th-century church nearby, so you could marry here, too.

0030 22860 21300; gracehotels.com/santorini. Doubles from €500 (£357).

42 Gran Hotel La Florida, Barcelona

Escape the hustle and bustle of Las Ramblas at this hilltop hotel overlooking the city that Gaudi made his own. Airy rooms have the glamour of a bygone age – the hotel was host to Ernest Hemingway back in the day – and you can take breakfast on the terrace with a spectacular city and sea vista, or dinner as the lights twinkle below.

0034 93 259 30 00; hotellaflores.com. Doubles from €149 (£106).

43 Loisaba, Kenya

This lodge is set on top of a rocky escarpment in a 61,000-acre private reserve. The suites are dreamy affairs, with four-poster bed and timbered deck offering life-affirming views across the plains to Mount Kenya. Honeymooners are

invited to spend a night on a handcrafted Koi star bed rolled on to an elevated platform for an evening spent gazing at the Milky Way. As well as game drives, Loisaba also offers rafting, horseback and walking safaris.

00254 0 705 202 375; loisaba.com. Star beds from £228, full-board.

44 Adler Lodge, Italy

Hidden away in the heart of the Dolomites, this remote hotel offers awe-inspiring mountain panoramas from the outdoor pool and 18 suites, plus spa treatments using local products. It's also a year-round honeymoon destination: skiing, snowshoe hikes, tobogganing in winter; picnics in flower-filled meadows and late-night stargazing in summer.

0039 0471 723 000; adler-lodge.com. Doubles from €348 (£250) per person, full-board.

45 Oberoi Amarvilas, India

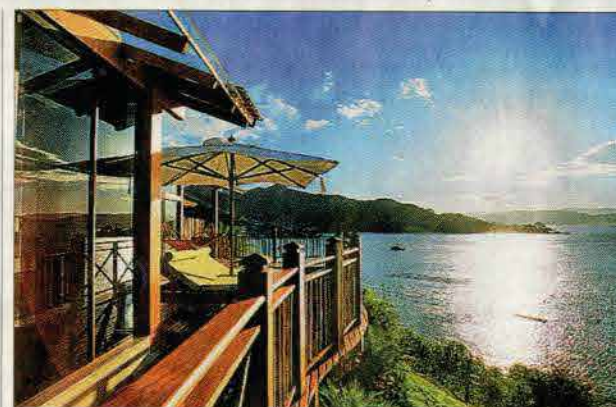
There are uninterrupted views of the Taj Mahal from every room at this converted palace fit for a Mughal emperor. It's not hard to imagine being a prince and princess as you stroll around the ornate gardens, or dine on delicious Indian cuisine at Eshpahan while a sitar player strums. Have post-dinner drinks on the hotel bar's terrace, with its captivating views of the Taj lit up at night.

0091 562 2231515; oberoihotels.com/hotels-in-agra. Doubles from £276.

Hotels with fabulous spas

46 Aman Sveti Stefan, Montenegro

The Aman group's largest spa recently opened at this island hotel, a converted 15th-century fishing



Dine beneath a lantern-lit ficus tree at The Sarojin, Thailand, top; and Ponta dos Ganchos, Brazil, above

village reached via a narrow causeway. The four double treatment suites, indoor-to-outdoor granite pool, pilates studio and private hydrotherapy suites with herbal baths big enough for two are divine. After a day's pampering, stroll back hand-in-hand through a maze of cobbled streets to dine in the central piazza before hitting your suite.

00382 33 420 000; amanresorts.com/aman_sveti_stefan. Doubles from €717 (£512).

47 Borgo Egnazia, Italy

There's much to get excited about – two beach clubs, sumptuous rooms, a championship golf course – at this romantic castle-like Puglia escape high above the Adriatic, but the Vair Spa is the highlight. Set across two floors, it has treatments inspired by the past – think Roman bath rituals and massages using local herbs.

0039 080 225 50 00; borgoegnazia.com. Doubles from €176 (£125).

48 D-Hotel Maris, Turkey

Located in a nature reserve on Turkey's Datca Peninsula, the

hotel has an ESPA spa offering all the top treatments, including a large pool, sauna, steam room and hammam. James Duigan (the man who created Bodyism, loved by Elle Macpherson) recently hooked up with the resort to create a workout plan and dining options – meaning you should return from your honeymoon looking more radiant than when you started.

0090 252 441 2000; dhotel.com. Doubles from £420.

49 Ponta Dos Ganchos, Brazil

Everything about this glorious resort near Florianopolis is geared towards romance; no time limit on breakfast, private cinema, 25 enormous suites, dining on a private island and secluded daybeds. However, it's the tiny spa you'll be reminiscing about on a cold, grey day back in Blighty. The spa consists of three ocean-view white tents at the edge of the resort's peninsula. Listen to the sea below as warm breezes caress the skin during a hot stone treatment, reflexology or shiatsu massage.

0055 48 3953 7000; pontadosganchos.com. Suites from £335.

50 Sugar Beach, A Viceroy Resort, St Lucia

This resort has one of the most original spas in the Caribbean, surrounded by rainforest. Therapists give massages in seven treehouse treatment rooms often using lotions and potions created from fruit and herbs grown on site. When you're not being pampered, wake late in the four-poster of your hillside pool villa, then ask your butler to hail a buggy and head down to the beach.

001 758 4568000; viceroyhotelsandresorts.com. Doubles from £359.