



HONEYMOONS AS INDIVIDUAL AS YOU

Find post-nuptial paradise by matching your getaway to your personality

By Suzy Feine

Forgo the crowded beaches and tourist traps and let your personality be your tour guide when planning the first, and most important trip you'll take as a married couple. Today, there is a real movement to make a honeymoon something that is personally fulfilling instead of just a romantic week away, notes Virtuoso travel adviser Alyssa Schulke of Schulke Travel. "Couples realize they are not sacrificing any luxury amenities by selecting a more unusual itinerary," she says. "Many are taking advantage of the wide array of choices to craft itineraries that reflect them as a couple."

Follow your personality style to one of these honeymoon hot spots for truly customized commingling.

For the Outdoor Adventurers

Tent camping might not appeal to most honeymooners, yet chances are you have never camped in a penthouse suite tent equipped with a queen-size bed, down duvets, Persian carpets, hand-picked antiques, a propane stove and evening candlelit turn-down service.

The Outpost at Bedwell River on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada, (which is only open May through September) offers three-, four- and seven-day, all-inclusive luxury adventures that include gourmet organic meals, personalized guided adventures and all the amenities the resort has to offer. Honeymooners can enjoy horseback riding, hiking through a rainforest, river and ocean

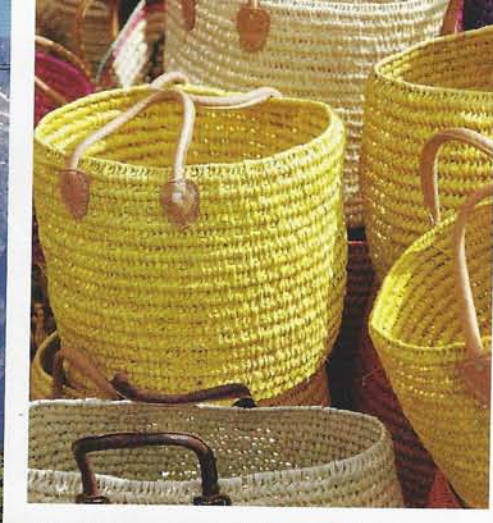
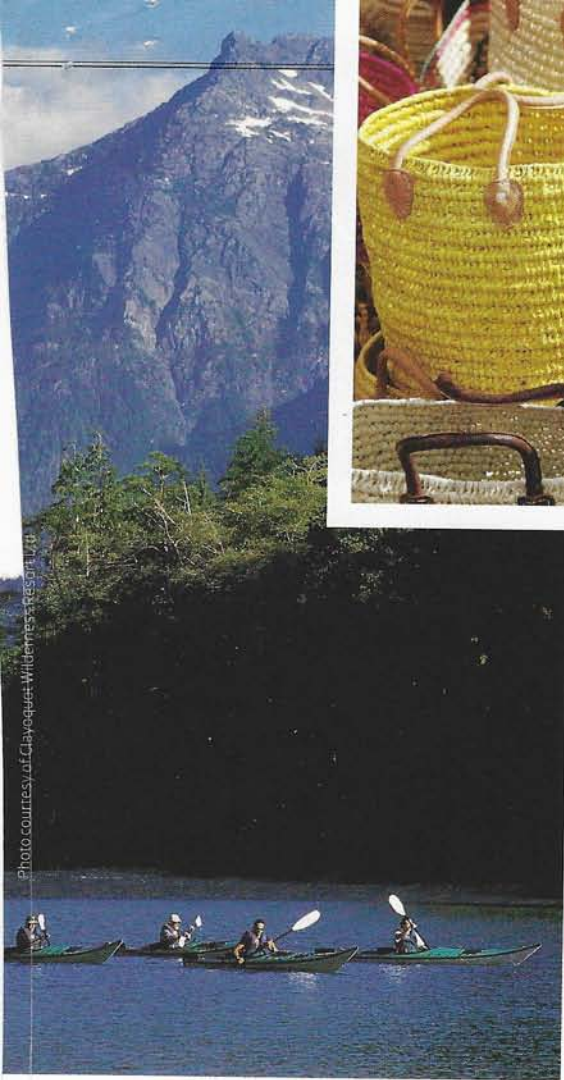


Photo courtesy of Beall + Thomas Photography

kayaking, zodiac tours to visit with gray humpback and Orca whales, spa treatments, cooking classes and dozens of other activities. "For outdoor enthusiasts who would prefer an active honeymoon rather than a more traditional beach vacation, our romantic tents, outdoor adventures, gourmet food and wine, and spa offer a great alternative," says Sue Bosdet, director of sales and marketing for The Outpost.

For the Shopaholics

If the thought of shopping your way through Morocco is your idea of the perfect getaway, but coordinating such a trip is intimidating, let Heritage Tours Private Travel handle every last detail. "Being such a sensual city, Marrakech is a designer's and shopper's paradise," says Joel Zack, president of Heritage Tours Private Travel. "There is a long and highly respected tradition of craftsmanship in Morocco, and our guests enjoy purchasing local fabrics and textiles, jewelry, furniture, tiles, carpets, Moroccan slippers, leather and interesting work in ceramics and metal."

Heritage Tours Private Travel is known for organizing luxury travel experiences that feature the very best properties, hand-picked expert guides and more. Zack will even incorporate signature moments into your trip, such as time in the Sahara Desert under the stars at a private encampment with music and local foods, dinner reservations at the trendiest Moroccan restaurants or spa treatments in a traditional Moroccan hammam.

For the Spa Junkies

After a 30-minute limousine ride from Phuket International Airport in Thailand, followed by a 10-minute speedboat ride, arriving at Six Senses Destination Spa Phuket on the tiny island of Naka Yai is like taking a step away from the world. Customized itineraries based on healthy and mindful living may be just what you need after the wedding. "Six Senses Destination Spa Phuket is popular among honeymooners as it caters a wellness program to each guest," says Ana Maria Tavares, general manager of Six Senses Destination Spa Phuket. "The Couple's Choice Life

OPPOSITE: A villa at Six Senses Destinations Spa Phuket

ABOVE LEFT: Ocean kayaking at The Outpost

INSET: Shopping the streets of Morocco

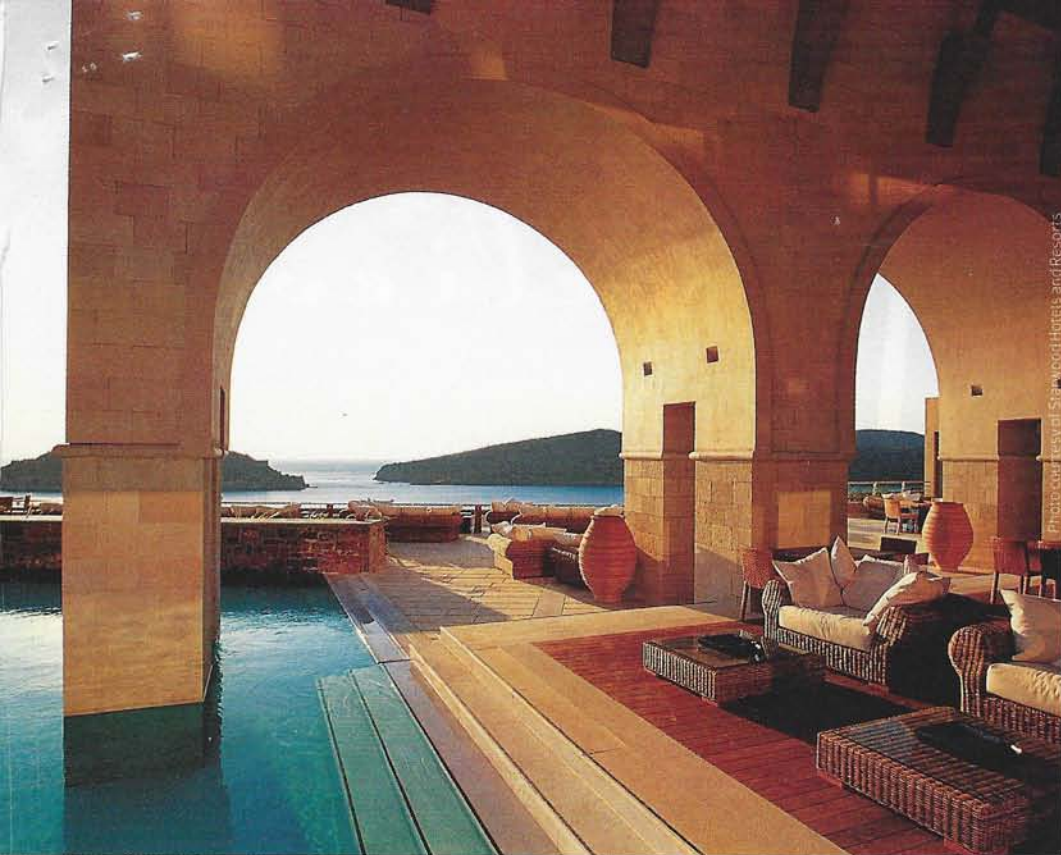
ABOVE RIGHT: Dining at Blackberry Farm

Passage offers an integrated mix of wellness activities that support, celebrate and inspire health and joie de vivre within partners."

Your stay includes accommodations in a pool villa with private garden; spa cuisine meals; an individual wellness consultation; two Indian, Thai, Chinese or Indonesian holistic treatments per day; and wellness activities including classes, lectures and fitness programs.

For the Foodies

Connoisseurs of fine foods will appreciate the ultimate food and wine dining experience found at Blackberry Farm, a working farm and romantic hideaway tucked into Tennessee's Great Smoky Mountains. Farm-to-table dining is the essence of this resort featur-



ABOVE: Relaxing at the Blue Palace Resort & Spa in Greece

ing culinary artisans and the farm's bakery, preservation kitchen, gardens, butchery and creamery.

Chef de Cuisine Joseph Lenn and his team serve up their famous Foothills Cuisine morning, noon and night. The food highlights seasonal, fresh-picked produce and handmade products that demonstrate the culinary mastery of onsite chefs, gardeners, a chocolatier, sommelier, butcher and cheesemaker. "There are different tasting menus with wine pairings each evening, so guests can have a different culinary experience every night without leaving the property," he says.

With a full belly, rejuvenate at the Farmhouse Spa, learn the cooking skills prevalent on the farm during a cooking class or epicurean event, take up fly fishing or just relax in your cottage or estate room complete with feather bed and plush robes.

For the History Buffs

Along the famed coast of Elounda, on the island of Crete in Greece, discover nearby

archeological sites and historic wonders when you stay at the Blue Palace Resort & Spa. From April through October, honeymooners can savor the resort's private beach, partake in water sports and request customized day trips and private tours of the local historic sites.

Dine at one of five onsite restaurants featuring traditional Greek, Mediterranean, Asian, American or Italian cuisine. Then, start your day with a personalized itinerary touring the fortress of Spinalonga on the Island of Kalidon; the Palace of Knossos, which is the largest Bronze Age archaeological site on Crete; or the plateau of Lassithi. Upon your return to Blue Palace, enjoy signature spa treatments or therapeutic Thalassotherapy services, then curl up in your luxury bed with 320-thread-count satin sheets, select a pillow from the pillow menu and enjoy the perfect night's sleep. ✦

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Outpost at Bedwell River: wildretreat.com
 Heritage Tours Private Travel: privatetravel.com
 Six Senses Destination Spa Phuket: sixsenses.com
 Blackberry Farm: blackberryfarm.com
 Blue Palace: bluepalace.gr



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1 Give yourself enough time between your wedding day and your honeymoon. While the idea of whisking away immediately after your wedding guests leave is romantic, many flights leave early in the morning. Consider allowing at least one day between your wedding and honeymoon to give yourselves enough time to comfortably pack and make it to the airport.

2 Consider an all-inclusive honeymoon package. All-inclusive resorts are available in a variety of destinations and greatly simplify planning and budgeting for your honeymoon. With all your accommodations, food and even entertainment taken care of, you will have more time to unwind together. There are many adult-only, intimate resorts for couples looking for seclusion, elegance and romance.

3 Make sure you have all the documentation and that it's in the right name. To take advantage of special amenities for couples on their honeymoon, many hotels require a copy of your marriage certificate. For the bride, make sure the name on your passport matches the name on your reservations and any other required travel documentation, whether that is your new married name or your maiden name.

4 Your guests can help pay for your honeymoon. If you don't need another place setting or gravy boat, your travel specialist can help you set up a gift registry for your honeymoon. Family and friends can contribute to your airfare, accommodations or extra components such as dinner on the beach, a couple's massage or sightseeing tours.

5 Every couple's idea of a romantic honeymoon is different. Whether your perfect honeymoon is relaxing on a sun-soaked beach, trekking through South American rainforests or hitting the powdery ski slopes of the western U.S., a AAA Travel honeymoon specialist can help you sort through the options and find a getaway you both will treasure.

Book your travel at AAA.com or call 952.927.2525