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TRAVEL+
LEISURE
INDIA
& SOUTH ASIA

SPECIAL EDITION

WEDDINGS & HONEYMOONS

2018-19 / ₹150

**BIPASHA BASU
&
KARAN SINGH GROVER**
ON FINDING #MONKEYLOVE

39
**WAYS
TO
WOW
GUESTS**

+
EXPERT TIPS
**PERFECT
WEDDINGS**



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AN EXPERT TEAM

With over 25 years' experience of bringing to life the most magical stories through dazzling shows and events, our wedding team designs the dearest celebrations for couples from all around the world. With high commitment, great attention to detail and the careful selection of the most luxurious décor, flowers and delicacies, our designers create the most bespoke weddings. The team will accompany you throughout the organisation of your grand moment and ensure the magic never ends.

A GOURMET EXPERIENCE

Disneyland® Paris is also a place for gastronomy and drinks. Guests can enjoy the most delightful Indian food, while tasting the finest French wine and champagne. You can also bring your personal chef with you.

For more information, contact DLP.Selection@disney.com.



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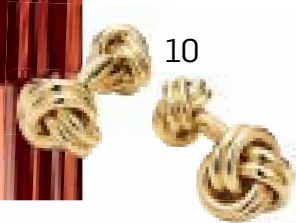
Photographer
Rahul Jhangiani;
Stylist Divyak D'souza;
Hair & Makeup (Bipasha)
Kajol Mulani and
Billy Manik;
Hair & Makeup (Karan)
Ritesh Chudasama
and Dinesh Patil;
Location Conrad Pune

ON BIPASHA Dress,
Anamika Khanna;
jewellery, Suhani Pittie;
shoes, Christian Louboutin

ON KARAN Blazer and
pants, Rocky Star; shirt,
Abraham & Thakore;
pocket square, Hackett;
loafer, Tresmode



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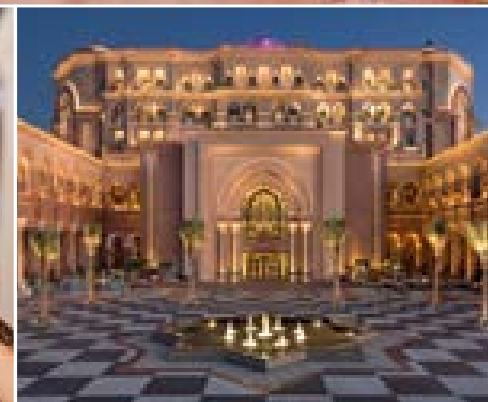
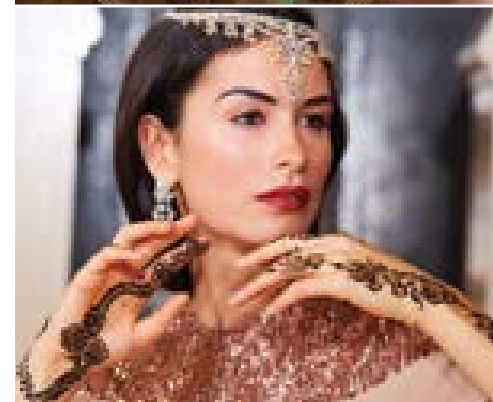
Reinvigorate yourself after a big, fat Indian wedding by checking into India's best spas.

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A Precious Moment in Time

Our editors list unforgettable discoveries waiting to be explored by couples in the city of their choice. These special places, experiences, and keepsakes will remain with you forever.

CLOCKWISE: RAHUL JHANGIANI; COURTESY OF TIFFANY & CO.; SHUTTERSTOCK; COURTESY OF GRAND HYATT KOCHI BOLGATTY; COURTESY OF BVILGARI



The most magical journey in your life begins at Emirates Palace.

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American author Dr Seuss hit the nail on the head when he wrote, “People are weird. When we find someone with weirdness that is compatible with ours, we team up and call it love.” And that so aptly describes the love story of our Bollywood cover couple, Bipasha Basu and Karan Singh Grover. In their differences, they found love—one that expresses itself instinctively when they are together, even after two years of wedded bliss—which we were privy to as they enjoyed their staycation at Conrad Pune.

In India, probably more than anywhere else in the world, your wedding day inevitably becomes one of the most important occasions of your life. No wonder then that the Indian wedding services industry, catering to your every imaginable need, is valued at more than ₹1,00,000 crore! In order to help you achieve that picture-perfect fairy tale wedding, we present *Travel + Leisure India and South Asia's* annual edition of the *Weddings & Honeymoons Special*—the ultimate guide to help you prep for the big day! Whether it's the latest trends in trousseau and jewellery, the best wedding venues (and destinations), zany décor, entertainment, cuisine, and gift ideas that'll be cherished (and talked about for days to come!), or tips for getting that perfect wedding album—we've got it all covered right here. And to recover from the stress and the paraphernalia that a big, fat Indian wedding entails, we've especially curated a list of top spa vacations, mini-moons, and unmissable honeymoon destinations, of course.

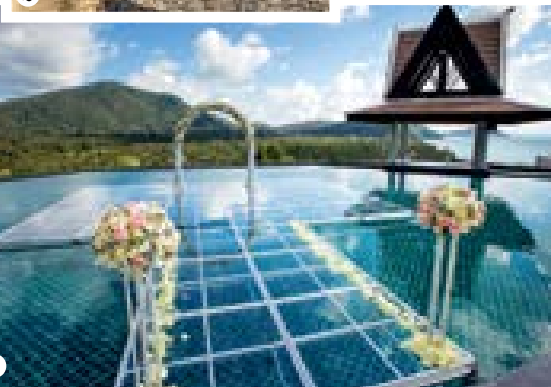
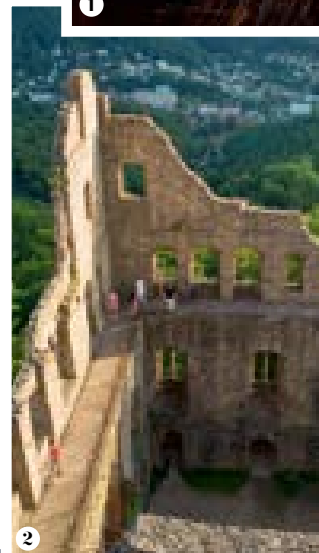
So gather your family and friends, and get ready to start the show. Just make sure you relish the most eventful day of your life, and don't forget to smile in the process! After all, happiness is priceless, and most certainly, the key ingredient for a successful wedding, right?

Carpe diem!

Aindrita Mitra

aindrita.mitra@burda.in

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1. Celebrity couple Bipasha Basu and Karan Singh Grover share a moment of togetherness at Conrad Pune.
2. Dense forests surround the magnificent Hohenbaden Castle, Baden-Baden.
3. A magical setting for a wedding at the InterContinental Samui Baan Taling Ngam Resort in Koh Samui.
4. The desert is a perfect backdrop for an intimate evening for two at Sujana The Serai, Jaisalmer.

HEMANT KHENDILWAL: RIGHT ROW FROM TOP: PHOTOGRAPHS BY RAHUL JHANGIANI; COLOURIA MEDIA/ALAMY; COURTESY OF INTERCONTINENTAL SAMUI BAAN TALING NGAM RESORT, KOH SAMUI; COURTESY OF SUJANA THE SERAI

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Jhoomar bridal earrings, **Hazoorilal**, price on request; hazoorilaljewellers.com



Nooria bangle, **Minawala**, price on request; minawala.com



Gold-rosette oval clutch, **lovetobag**, ₹11,305; lovetobag.com



Mary Janes in varnish with jewel strap, **Dolce & Gabanna**, ₹83,323; store.dolcegabanna.com



Refined Elegance

The wedding season is here and it's time to amp up your style quotient with luxurious adornments. *By Pallavi Singh*



Jadau bridal necklace, **House of Rose**, price on request; therose.in



Serpenti Secret Watch, **Bulgari**, price on request; bulgari.com

Pearl and ruby cuff, **Gempalace**, price on request; gempalace.com



Diamond-studded maang tika, **Mirari**, price on request; mirari.com

Bridal ring in precious stones, **Dillano Luxurious Jewels**, price on request; dillano.com



Necklace, Festive Collection, **TBZ-The Original**, price on request; tbztheoriginal.com

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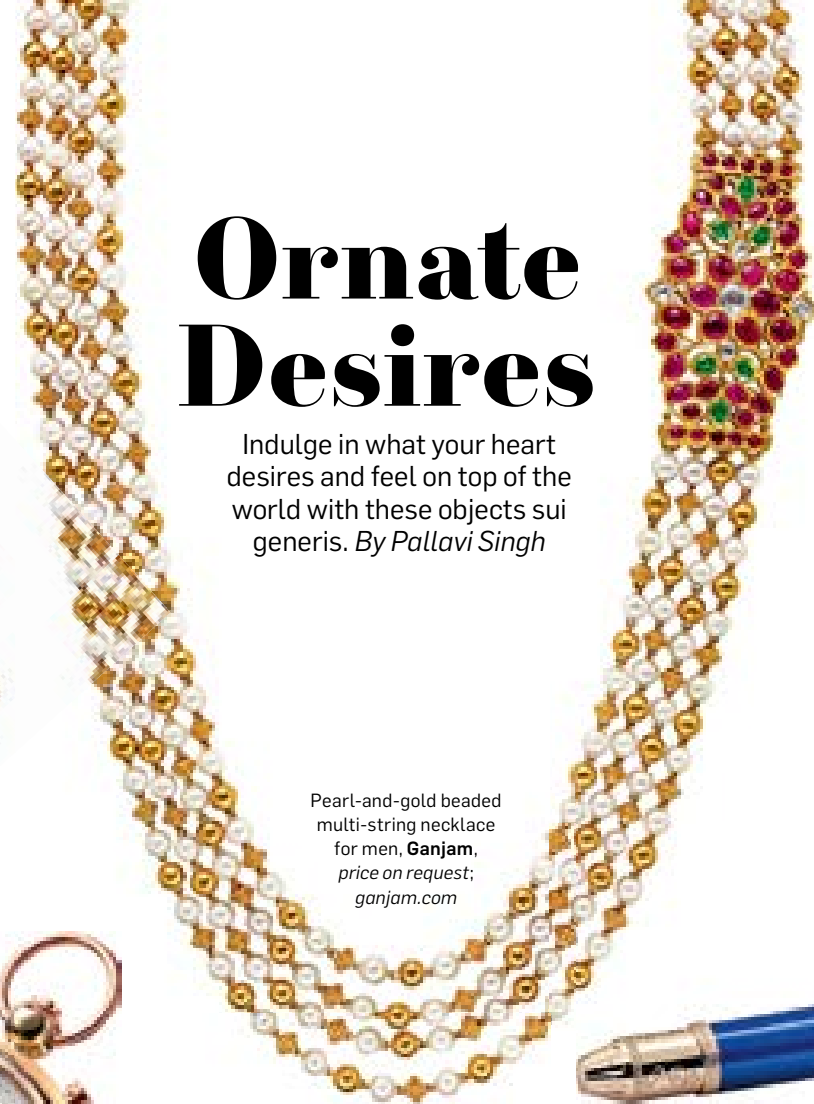


Ornate Desires

Indulge in what your heart desires and feel on top of the world with these objects sui generis. *By Pallavi Singh*



Knot cufflinks in 18k gold, **Tiffany & Co**, ₹2,46,381; tiffany.com



Pearl-and-gold beaded multi-string necklace for men, **Ganjam**, price on request; ganjam.com



Mr Burberry Indigo Eau de Toilette, **Burberry**, ₹8,640; in.burberry.com



Patron of Art Homage to Ludwig II limited edition; **Montblanc**, ₹6,22,123; montblanc.com



Grand Strike 1907 pocket watch, **Breguet**, ₹3,60,00,000; breguet.com



Italian leather belt 'Celino Sz32 ltpl', **Hugo Boss**, ₹14,000; hugoboss.com



Black-and-grey silk sherwani, **Tarun Tahiliani**, price on request; taruntahiliani.com

Men's brooch in 22k gold, embedded with emeralds, polkis, and South Sea pearls, **Sunita Shekhawat**, price on request; sunitashekhawat.com



Zewar Flat Galet Crosta, **Christian Louboutin**, ₹71,744; us.christianlouboutin.com



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Picture Perfectly Yours!

Step away from the been-there and done-that to explore these 10 trendy destinations to string together your first official album as a couple. *By Divya Behl and Vikas Plakkot*



At the world's edge in the infinity pool, overlooking Singapore's skyline, Marina Bay Sands Hotel.

1 SINGAPORE

No matter what you desire for that perfect pre-wedding picture, Singapore smoothly slides into the frame. An ideal blend of classic style, quirky art, and elegant architecture makes it shutter-friendly for all hearts.

HAJI LANE

A trendy spot for bohemian spirits, Haji Lane's hip cafés, edgy yet chic graffiti, and colourful Arabic trinket stores make for an uber cool frame. Wear monochromes to stand out in the picture.

MOUNT FABER AND HENDERSON WAVES

The vast expanse of rich greenery across Faber Park and the undulating curves of the majestic Henderson bridge make for a perfect man-versus-nature-themed photo

album. Set it against the indigo blue of a day fading into dusk, and you have a winner.

MARINA BAY SANDS HOTEL

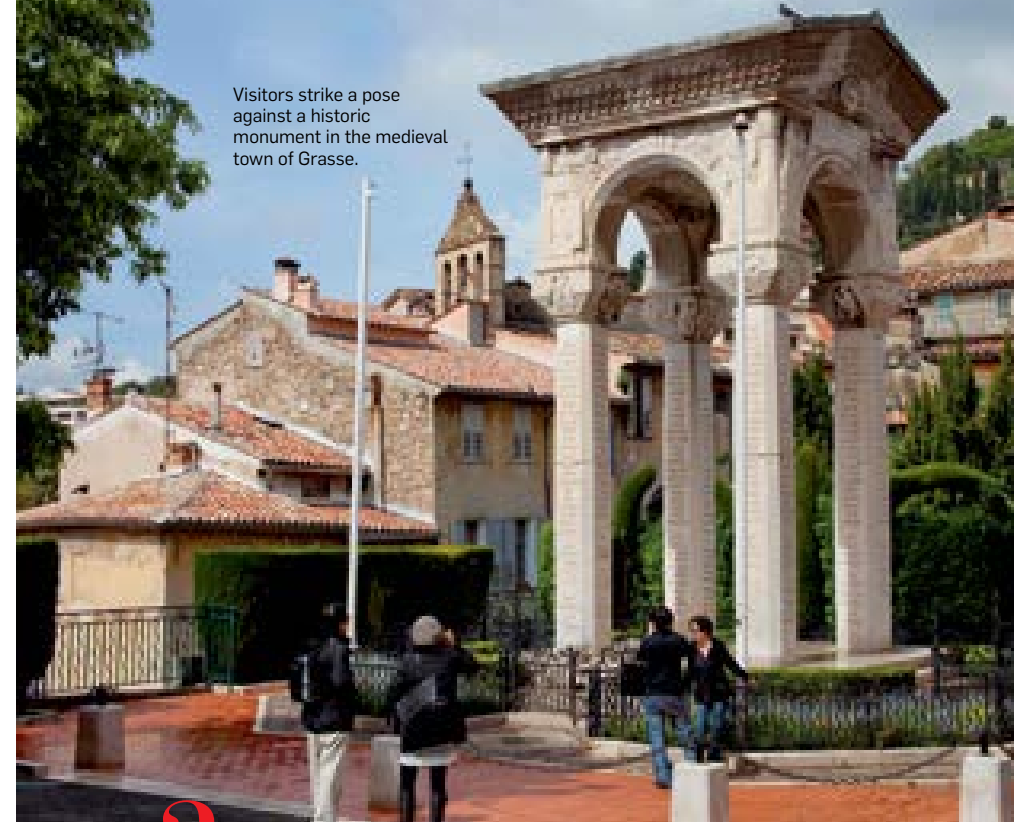
Head straight to the rooftop of this plush property and strike a pose by the absolutely stunning infinity pool. Make sure you're at your elegant best as you stand against a breathtaking view of the city's skyline. Capture this top-of-the-world vibe for a great cover picture for your album. marinabaysands.com



OUT OF THE BOX!

Give a bold twist to your pre-wedding attire and choose a fiercely creative gown from the 'Brave' collection at Amanda Lee Weddings. amandaleeweddings.com

COURTESY OF MARINA BAY SANDS HOTEL; COURTESY OF AMANDA LEE WEDDINGS



Visitors strike a pose against a historic monument in the medieval town of Grasse.

2 FRANCE

Gorgeous chateaus, cobbled streets, pretty cafés, and its stellar fashion scene make France an elegant choice for those picture-perfect moments before the big day.

CANNES

A sophisticated tux and graceful gown are all you and your partner need for your very own glamour shot on the Cannes' Film Festival red carpet. Next, head to the Promenade de la Croisette for a 'hand-in-hand' moment, before wrapping up with a perfect kiss on the beach. Step into the pages of French history by shooting a series of pictures in a 400-year-old, rustic yet chic Gypsy Caravan in **Mougins**, a short drive from Cannes.

FRENCH RIVIERA

Pick the lavender fields near **Grasse**, the 'perfume capital' of the world, for a shoot of a lifetime. Add some rustic shots on the cobbled lanes of the medieval old town and some under the olive trees of Domaine de la Royrie, a 15th-century grove. Book a stay at the regal Le Negresco Hotel (hotel-negresco-nice.com) in **Nice**, and recreate the grandness of the French royalty by posing under its shimmering, crystal-encrusted chandelier.



THE SHUTTER MASTER

A fine-art wedding photographer based in Paris, Greg Finck was rated among the World's Top 10 by *Harper's Bazaar*. Invite him to do a dreamy shoot for your once-in-a-lifetime album! gregfinck.com

3 DUBAI

Give that sparkling touch to your pictures with the towering skyscrapers, ultra-luxe cars, and enviable nightlife of this futuristic city.

THE DESERT

Clichéd as it may be, the depth and sensuality of photographs taken in the dramatic setting of a desert cannot be ignored. With not a soul to spoil your frame, raise the artsy quotient of your pose.

ATLANTIS AND THE BURJ

Take advantage of these iconic structures to create spectacular memories. Sail away on a yacht with the palatial Atlantis The Palm (atlantisthepalm.com) in the background or pose in front of the sky-kissing tower of the Burj Khalifa (burjkhalifa.ae) for a photograph that will likely be by your bedside forever.

MIRACLE GARDEN

What better place to take striking pictures than against millions of colourful flowers, wacky landscaping, and jaw-dropping artwork! Slip into rainbow-coloured costumes and put on funky glasses to get an album full of super-fun pictures. dubaimiraclegarden.com

RAZZLE DAZZLE

Whatever your taste in wheels, spice up the glamour by renting a limousine from Valencia Limo Services. Our pick is the outstanding Cadillac Stretch Limo. valencialimodubai.com



Cascading flowers make for a pretty sight in the Miracle Garden.



Cottages nestled amidst lush foliage offer complete privacy at the Zuri, Kumarakom.

4 KERALA, INDIA

Lush greenery, iconic snake boats, undulating hills, and azure skies create the perfect setting for couples seeking to capture nature's glory.

ZURI, KUMARAKOM

Set along the shores of serene backwaters, this luxe retreat is the ideal base to take some quintessential Kerala pictures aboard a houseboat. Glide away on a small *shikara* during sunset for that extra touch of romance to your shoot. thezurihotels.com

BEKAL FORT

This majestic 17th-century fort looks out to the Arabian Sea and, from a distance, seems to rise from its very depths. The waves crashing against the towering walls make for a dramatic effect in pictures. The nearby Lalit Resort is an excellent base. thelalit.com

MUNNAR

The rolling hills, mystical clouds, and expansive tea estates of this hill station breathe romance with every gust of wind. This year will be even more special, as after a 12-year hiatus, the *neelakurinji* flowers will finally be in bloom, covering the slopes in a soft carpet of blue.

The ancient ramparts of the majestic Bekal Fort, Kerala.



LIKE A LOCAL!

Head to the Seematti (seematti.com) store in Kochi for a traditional *kasavu* sari and *mundu* (men's lower wear), before picking gold jewels from nearby Kalyan Jewellers (kalyanjewellers.net).

5 GREEK ISLES

Collating a classic album from the romantic islands of Greece is all about blue skies, picturesque beaches, white-coloured houses, and ancient Greek traditions.

MILOS

Every part of this beautiful island is perfect for a pose. Wear rich, vibrant colours to stand out against the soft, grey-and-white shades of the volcanic rocks surface of Sarakiniko Beach, bring out your wild side in the sea caves of the rugged Papafragas Beach, and experiment with classic poses in one of the many pretty fishing villages.

OIA

It is simply not possible to take any bad shots at the most gorgeous sunset point in the world. Book a suite at Oia Santo Maris and pose freely in your private pool; the blue of the Aegean Sea in the background is just perfect. A romantic silhouette shot against the sunset is sure to be your favourite. santomaris.gr

Emerald waters glimmer under the white-chalk cliffs of Sarakiniko, Milos Island.



GREEK MAKEOVER

Visit the i-D Concept Store (idconceptstores.com) to pick up some signature pieces designed by the talented Sophia Kokosalaki, known for her Greek-inspired jewellery and clothing for women.

COURTESY OF ZURI, KUMARAKOM; COURTESY OF KALYAN JEWELLERS; SHUTTERSTOCK; COURTESY OF IDCONEPTSTORES.COM; IMAGEBROKER/ALAMY

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Nestled away in the majestic shore town of Mahabalipuram, InterContinental Chennai Mahabalipuram Resort is the getaway that your love deserves.

Take a stroll along the beach as a gentle breeze caresses your face and watch the pristine waves of the Bay of Bengal flow into the mesmerising horizon. InterContinental Chennai Mahabalipuram Resort - part of the InterContinental Hotel Groups – is both a celebration and a testament to the allure of luxury, love and romance.

From the time you check in, a fairy-tale experience unlike any other unfolds. Whether you are basking on the sun kissed beach, taking in nature's charm or indulging in the bliss of a tranquil couples massage, an air of romance encompasses all these experiences.

InterContinental Chennai Mahabalipuram Resort gives you a bespoke honeymoon experience that will tug at your heartstrings and for some, rekindle the passion. At the restaurants, the award winning chefs take you on an unparalleled culinary experience to discover the perfect recipe for love with caviar, shucked oysters and other delectable global cuisines. 'Dine by design' makes sure no stone is left unturned and creates an inimitable dining experience to commemorate your courtship. Experience love in the ultimate cocoon of romance with a range of Honeymoon Packages.

ROMANTIC RENDEZVOUS

Room Type	Package Price (INR)
Resort Classic	28,999
Resort Deluxe	31,999
Club InterContinental	35,999

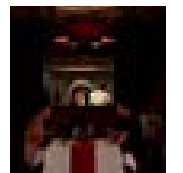
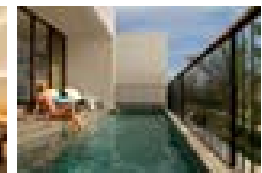
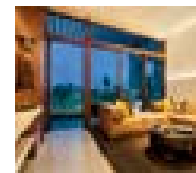
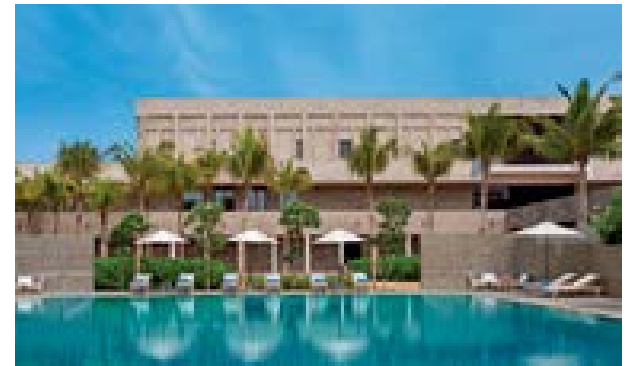
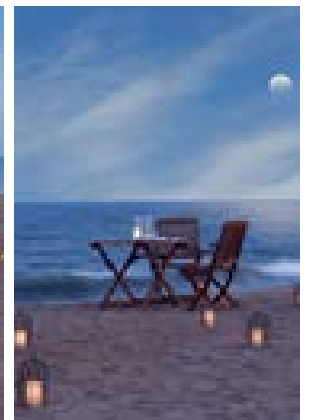
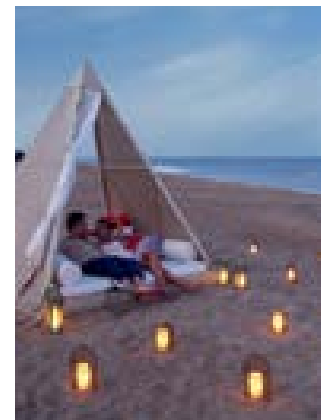
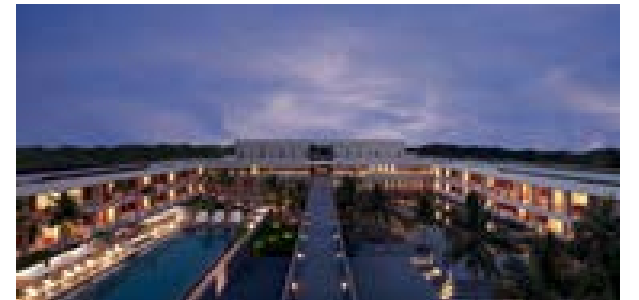
The all-encompassing honeymoon experiences also includes a romantic candle light dinner, an hour long couples spa experience to elevate your romantic holiday and a complimentary cake if you are celebrating an extra special day. Stay in a setting that oozes and buoys love and immerse yourself in a fairy-tale. Your honeymoon might happen only once, but InterContinental Chennai Mahabalipuram Resort is the exception to the rule.

The InterContinental Chennai Mahabalipuram Resort, transcends traditional hotels and envelops you in an experience that celebrates love in all its purest forms. It is an ode to your love story.

Continue the romance at:

InterContinental Chennai Mahabalipuram Resort
212 Nemelli Village, Perur Post Office, East Coast Road,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu 603104

T : +91 44 7172 0101 | E : info@icresortchennai.com





A cable car approaches the cloud-covered peak of the mighty Table Mountain.

6 WESTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA

Flanked by the ocean, spectacular cliffs, and exotic wildlife, Cape Town has everything your adventurous heart needs for an electrifying album.

THALI THALI GAME LODGE

In true African style, head to this nature reserve for a safari-themed photoshoot; play with contrasts by posing for an elegant dinner for two in the heart of the jungle. thalithali.co.za

THE TABLE MOUNTAIN

Take a cable car up to this majestic mountain to catch the breathtaking view of the crescent-shaped coast in the horizon, and the wisps of pillowy clouds around you. Since a picture in heaven isn't possible, this is a close second.

BLOUBERGSTRAND BEACH

If you want to capture the wonder of Table Mountain, an orange-hued sunset, white sands, and emerald waters all in one frame, then this is the place to be. A flowing gown and formal suit will add that extra touch of drama to your shot.



GET QUIRKY

Rent a sidecar with Cape Sidecar Adventures and head to the Cape of Good Hope; it's a great way to explore Cape Town while clicking zany pictures! sidecars.co.za

FROM TOP: HEMIS/ALAMY; COURTESY OF SIDECARS.CO.ZA



Introducing artful space to enrich your ideas.

Spectate the unique JW experience at the new event destination in Delhi NCR, The Gallery Room. The art-inspired interiors, delectable food & beverage offerings, orchestrated service and Bose acoustics and sound system, all at one venue to make your event exquisite.



For more information, please contact: +91 011 4521 2121 or

Sukhjyoti Paul - Email: Sukhjyoti.Paul@marriotthotels.com; Mobile: +91 85888 99491

Pearl Kala - Email: Pearl.Kala@marriotthotels.com; Mobile: +91 85276 97344

Asset Area 4 - Hospitality District, Delhi Aerocity, New Delhi 110037, India | jwdelhi.com

7 ODISHA, INDIA

The ideal setting for a traditional Indian frame, Odisha's pristine beaches, stunning sunsets, magnificent architecture, and quaint village lanes are made for that perfect shot.

CHILIKA LAKE

Make sure you're by the lake at the break of dawn to catch the golden rays of the sun glimmering over the waters in your pictures. A local boatman will be happy to ferry you across while your photographer captures the romance.

RAGHURAJPUR

Drape your favourite sari for this location, and strike a pose against the colourful wall paintings, traditional handicraft, and gorgeous *tussar* silks on display in this charming little crafts village. Photo shoot aside, your interest in their work will also be a big boost for the 300 artists who reside here.

CHANDRABHAGA BEACH

The golden sands of this beach make a lovely backdrop as you watch the sun setting over the horizon. Nearby, the Sun Temple of Konark is great for a vintage picture.

The golden waters of the beautiful Chilika Lake at sunrise.

LIVING WITH THE ROYALS

While in Odisha, stay at Kila Dalijoda, the original hunting resort of the Panchakote royals. The heritage palace is still home to the princely family, which welcomes guests with much warmth. kiladalijoda.com

8 JEJU ISLAND, SOUTH KOREA

Recreate an album reminiscent of Korean soap operas against a stirring landscape of towering volcanoes, blue waters, and dense forests.

SEOGWANG TEA GARDEN

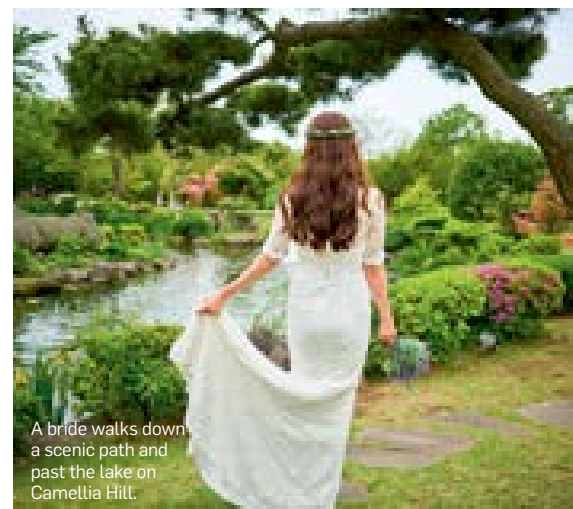
These endlessly green tea gardens are an ideal spot for an enticing drone shot of the two of you running hand-in-hand. Make sure to wear white shades for an impactful contrast.

HYEOPJAE BEACH

Hold each other close while posing atop the black volcanic rocks jutting over an expanse of white sand, as the sun sets on a glorious evening. A classic black-and-white outfit combination may work best for a memorable picture.

CAMELLIA HILL

A vision of pinks and reds, this pretty garden is home to millions of camellias. As per local folklore, this flower is symbolic of an extreme longing for someone—be sure to capture your moment here as a couple ready to spend their lives together.



A bride walks down a scenic path and past the lake on Camellia Hill.

A PERFECT DEAL

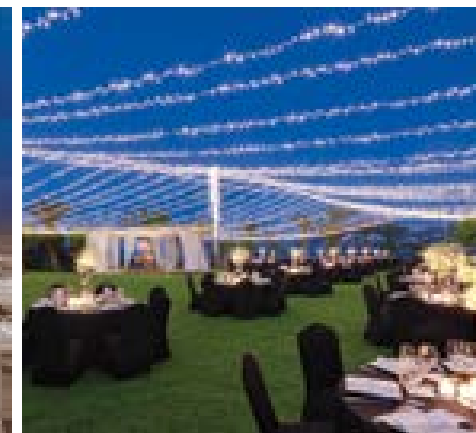
Book a Jeju Island Pre-Wedding Package with Viator to take care of all your needs, from airport transfers to hiring an experienced photographer. viator.com

Aerial view of a tuff cone, Jeju Island.



CLOCKWISE TOP: SHUTTERSTOCK (2); QUYNH ANH NGUYEN/GETTY IMAGES; COURTESY OF KILA DALIJODA

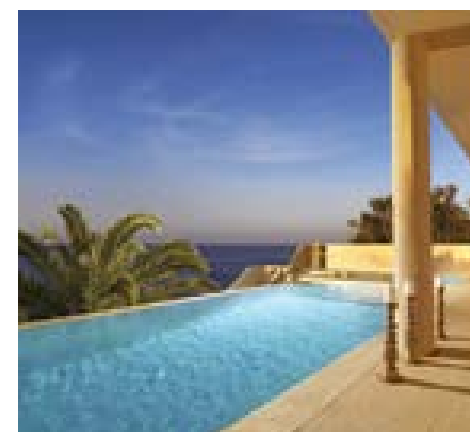
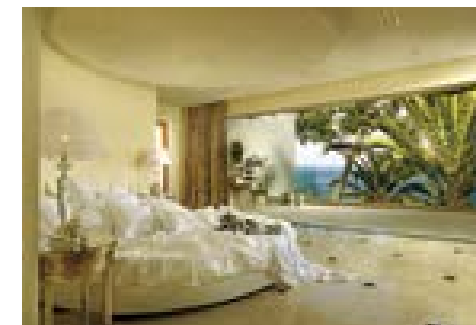
Four Wedding in Greece



CRETE • GREECE

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LIFESTYLE™
Preferred
HOTELS & RESORTS





The brightly lit and colourful interiors of the First World Plaza, Genting Highlands.

9 MALAYSIA

An embodiment of everything that defines Southeast Asia, Malaysia's glittering nightlife, Victorian-era buildings, and proximity to nature offer inspiring picture opportunities.

GENTING HIGHLANDS

Whether you pose for a photograph aboard a wild roller-coaster ride or prefer a classy shot at the Times Square area in the bustling First World Plaza, you'll have myriad choices of frames in this buzzing resort town, as long as you don't mind the crowd.

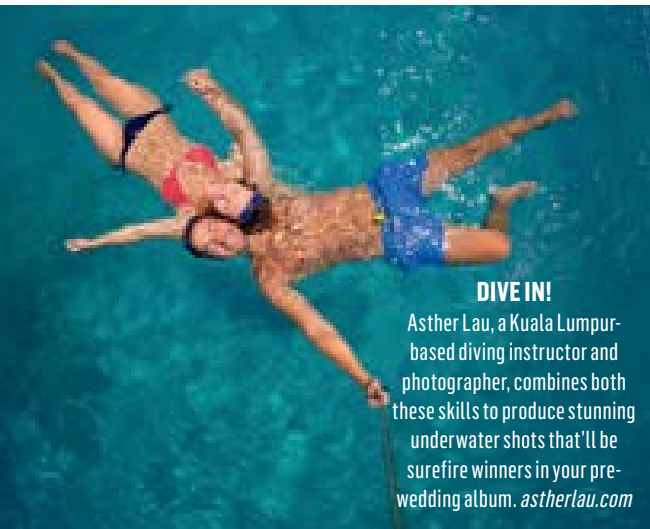
MALACCA

This UNESCO World Heritage city is home to maroon-coloured buildings that make a

vibrant backdrop for a themed shoot. A picture in front of the old church is guaranteed to be a showstopper!

TANJUNG RHU RESORT, LANGKAWI

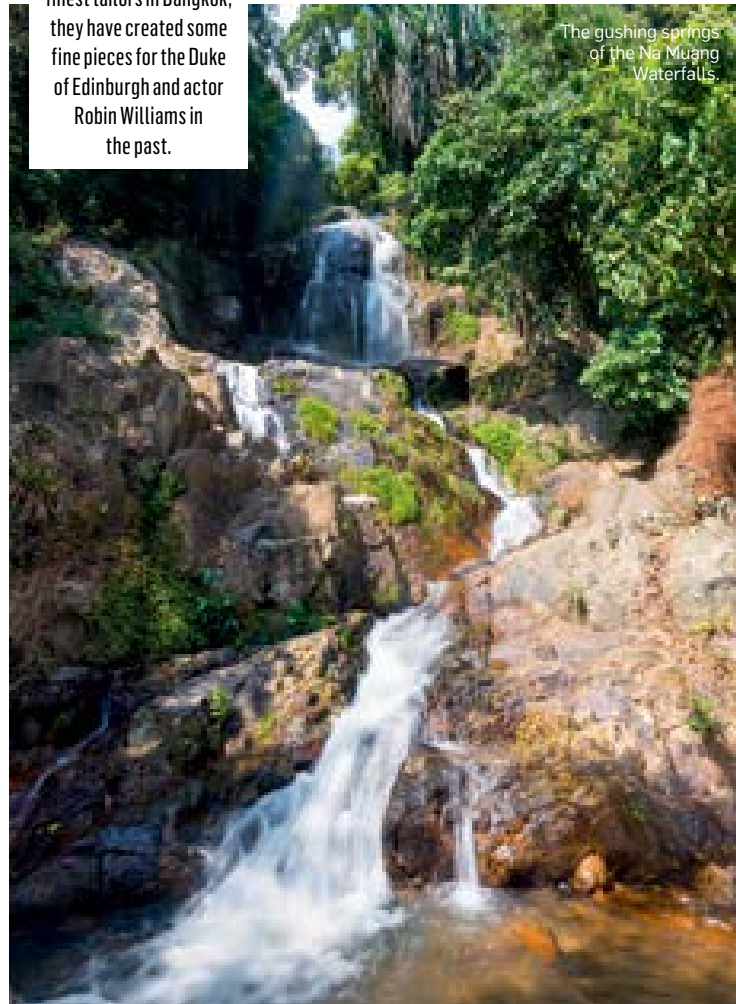
Sequestered from the world, this plush resort is a haven for dreamy beach shots, featuring crystal-clear waters, powdered sands, and tropical trees. Wear white and blue to blend effortlessly with the environment. tanjungrhu.com.my



DIVE IN!

Asther Lau, a Kuala Lumpur-based diving instructor and photographer, combines both these skills to produce stunning underwater shots that'll be surefire winners in your pre-wedding album. astherlau.com

SUIT UP!
Order a custom-made men's suit from Perry's (facebook.com/perrystailor), one of the finest tailors in Bangkok; they have created some fine pieces for the Duke of Edinburgh and actor Robin Williams in the past.



The gushing springs of the Na Muang Waterfalls.

10 THAILAND

Modelling aboard a luxury yacht, underwater proposals, or dancing in the moonlight—you name it, Thailand has the perfect venue for that perfect shot.

BANGKOK

Stay at the Sala Rattanakosin Resort (salahospitality.com) to take advantage of its beautiful view of Wat Arun for a clutter-free picture. In the evenings, head for a sundowner at the Vertigo Bar, located on the 61st floor of the Banyan Tree Hotel (banyantree.com), and pose for that flawless night shot.

KRABI

Enjoy the privacy of the beach at the lavish Rayavadee Resort and set up an intimate shoot in its lush green surroundings. For some evergreen romantic photographs, be sure to reach the stunning Nong Thale Lake by sunrise. rayavadee.com

KOH SAMUI

Venture deep into the crystal-clear waters of the Gulf of Siam aboard *Minor Affair*, Four Season's palatial yacht, for a glamorous photoshoot. Or, make your way to the Na Muang Waterfalls and pose amidst the richness of nature; the secluded Lipa Noi Beach is the best place for some candid pictures. fourseasons.com ✕

CLOCKWISE TOP: SHUTTERSTOCK(2); MORITZ WOLF/BETTY IMAGES



Let us handle everything so you could step into your new life with peace of mind.

My spirit feeds on joy and my life feeds on memories.

JOALI
— MALDIVES —
joali.com



Clockwise from left: Set up for an intimate beach wedding at the Banyan Tree Seychelles; romantic dinner for two amid lush greenery at The Leela Goa; spectacular view from Palm Residence at Coco Privé Private Island.



COURTESY OF BANYAN TREE SEYCHELLES; COURTESY OF COCO PRIVÉ PRIVATE ISLAND MALDIVES; COURTESY OF THE LEELA GOA

Knot on the BEACH

If an intimate wedding ceremony on the beach is your dream, look no further. **Preferred Hotels & Resorts'** Legend collection has retreats in the world's most scenic locations, setting the stage for your perfect celebration.

Banyan Tree Seychelles

Experience spectacular views of the Indian Ocean, from a spot where relaxation meets romance. A private island paradise, this beautiful boutique spa resort on Mahé is built into the jungle, along white-sand beaches. Intimate weddings can be set up on the beach, in the wedding gazebo, or in a colonial-style villa overlooking your pool. And for your honeymoon, delight in the turquoise waters of Intendance Bay, or try a relaxing massage at the spa: you'll love the open-air treatment rooms and their tree-top views! An evening walk on the beach will be a precious memory. banyantree.com

Coco Privé Private Island Maldives

Maldives' best kept secret, this tropical getaway is available for exclusive hire! Ideal for those who prefer classy and clandestine getaways, the resort is built on the untouched private island of Kuda Hithi, has a brilliant combination of indoor and outdoor spaces, and a dedicated staff of 30 to take care of your every demand. Encompassed by white sands and crystal-clear waters, the resort has only six villas, ensuring quality time with your beloved on your island escape. A private luxury yacht brings you to the resort, where custom meals, ocean

excursions, and unlimited spa treatments by your personal therapist are on offer. Explore the depths of the Indian Ocean if you are a certified diver, or enjoy sailing, canoeing, and windsurfing. cocoprive.com

The Leela Goa

This riverside luxury resort tries to recreate the majesty of 13th-century Vijayanagara palace architecture, alongside 18th-century Mediterranean designs and Goan-Portuguese elements. Add dramatic interiors and lush gardens

to get one of the most sought-after destinations to get married or enjoy your honeymoon. With a virgin beach, a 12-hole golf course, and world-class dining, the resort has everything a grand wedding venue needs. Hold your nuptials by the sea, or host a lavish cocktail soiree under the stars. For an out-of-this-world experience, book the Presidential Suite to enjoy the private plunge pool, a garden shower in the courtyard, and a hot spa. theleela.com —JYOTI VERMA

Lost in the Land of Romance

Magic awaits you in Welcomhotel Pine-n-Peak, Member of ITC's Hotel Group, where your dream wedding turns real and honeymoon becomes memorable.



A view from the Premium cottage.



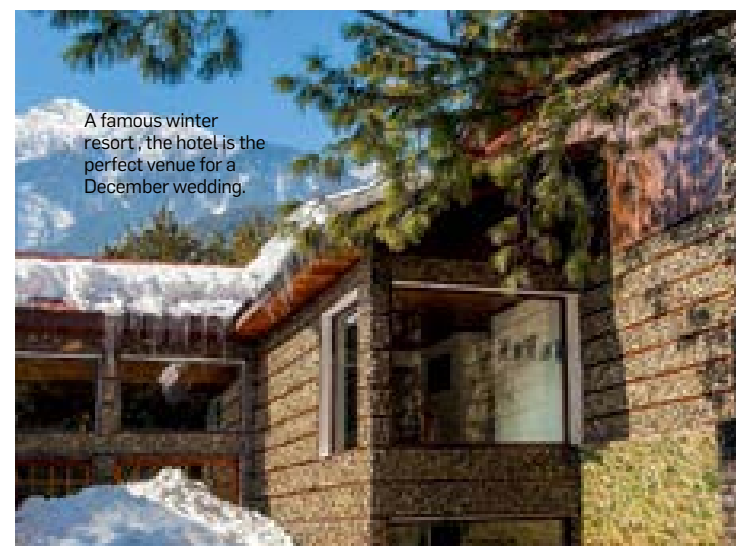
Comfort meets luxury in the hotel's lavish cottages.

complements a modern aesthetic design, making it a destination that is perfectly suited to the celebration of precious bonds.

An impeccable sanctuary away from worldly chaos, especially during the winter season, Welcomhotel Pine-n-Peak offers picturesque views outside and the best of amenities inside. The hotel features 60 centrally heated rooms, three suites, and three luxury cottages, all adorned with lavish crafts from the state. The Presidential Suite, Shabistan, is spread across two floors, with approximately 1,830 sq ft of space, and has a range of modern amenities, a separate living area, a private workstation, and a personal host. The luxury cottages are aesthetically decorated, too, with each cottage featuring a living room with an attached balcony, a master bedroom with twin Jacuzzis, a fully equipped pantry, and a personal retreat host.

Anjuman, the property's magnificent hall, is where you can host a wedding reception for up to 100 guests. Family members and guests travelling for the wedding will relish the delicious ethnic and multi-cuisine dishes prepared by hotel's culinary experts, including a bowl of *kahwa* and delectable barbecue dishes in Gulistaan, the alfresco dining area in the lawns. Remember to make the most of the services of the on-site spa, Hammam.

For more information: info@ahadhotelsandresorts.com; itchotels.in/welcomhotelpinenpeak



A famous winter resort, the hotel is the perfect venue for a December wedding.

Finding Bliss as I Thee Wed...

Whether you're getting married in your own city or organising a destination wedding, let **Hyatt Hotels** plan the wedding of a lifetime for you. *Ananya Bahl* presents a choice of seven resorts across India for stress-free and fun-filled nuptials.



Andaz | DELHI

For weddings with 'andaz', opt for this property in New Delhi's Aerocity. Here's what you'll get:

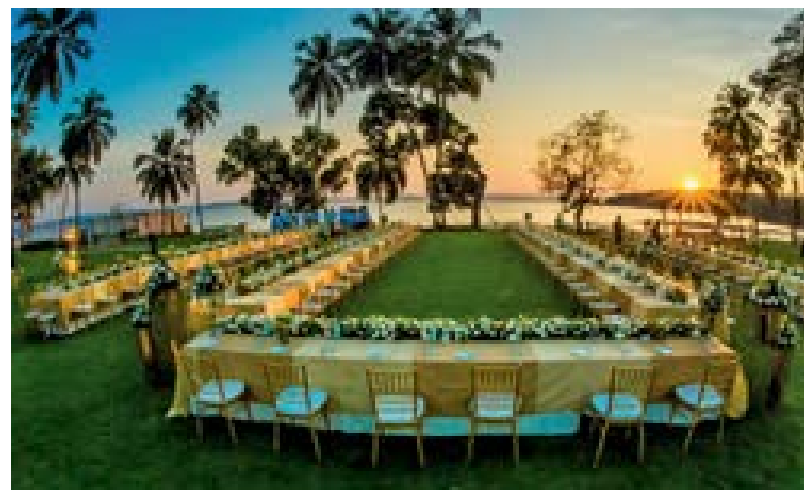
- An Andaz Host will guide you every step of the way, ensuring your wedding reflects your personal style: bespoke curation is a star feature of weddings at the Andaz Delhi.
- Innovative spaces, spanning more than 37,500 square feet, are customisable for both large-scale and intimate celebrations.
- From global cuisines to menus designed by a chef specialising in Rajasthani, Gujarati, and Marwari food—culinary delights are just a booking away.
- The Andaz Studios, with their outdoor terraces, offer perfect venues for all types of gatherings. And the lavish ballroom and pretty alfresco areas, perfect for a winter wedding, add grandness to an all-out Indian wedding!
- With 401 luxurious rooms, a poolside bar, and the Andaz

Spa, your guests will be entertained throughout their stay. delhi.andaz.hyatt.com

Grand Hyatt | GOA

This 28-acre gorgeous seaside resort is perfect for your vows. Read on to know some of the exclusive benefits of a wedding at the Grand Hyatt Goa:

- Inspired by Indo-Portuguese palace architecture, this regal hotel offers verdant waterfront lawns and the Grand Ballroom as splendid venues for a celebration: in total, it has ten indoor and five outdoor event areas.
- Organise an intimate dining experience in your room, or a romantic dinner on the lawns overlooking the waters of Bambolim Bay, or by the 17th century chapel.
- Newlyweds are treated to a glass of champagne by the bay before heading to their honeymoon suite.
- Seven, award-winning restaurant and bar concepts offer a world of cuisines to satisfy every palate in your wedding party.



- Unwind at the Shamana Spa by signing up for a treatment in its special Couple Suite. Its salon, Snip Prive, offers hairstyling services for guests.
- Your friends and family will be surrounded by comfort in the 313 rooms, oozing traditional Goan hospitality. goa.grand.hyatt.com

Grand Hyatt | MUMBAI

For a fantasy-filled marriage ceremony in India's 'city of dreams', it really doesn't get better than the Grand Hyatt Mumbai. Here's why:

- A chic, indoor banquet space of 30,000 square feet includes one of the city's largest ballrooms, seven

- additional smaller venues, and a spacious pre-function area—all opulent settings for your dream wedding.
- The romantic ambience of the Grand Lawns is perfect for couples who want to exchange vows under a starry sky.
- The dedicated events team leaves no stone unturned in bringing your dreams to life.

CLOCKWISE: COURTESY OF HYATT HOTELS CORPORATION



- Exemplary global and local gastronomic delights, and the chance to curate special menus with experts are just some of the hotel's food and beverage offerings.
- Customised honeymoon packages for newlyweds. mumbai.grand.hyatt.com

PARK HYATT | CHENNAI

If a memorable, intimate wedding is on your mind, here's the perfect destination.

- Home-inspired settings, handcrafted furniture, art installations, and a tasteful colonial ambience make The Apartment the apt venue for a wedding.
- The property features 201 indulgent rooms, including 20 lavish suites, expert chefs, and a dedicated wedding-planning team.
- The Antahpura Spa offers Tamil herbo-mineral healing and Chettinad therapies in a calm setting. chennai.park.hyatt.com

PARK HYATT | HYDERABAD

An ode to opulence, this 5-star hotel is for those seeking unique and personalised experiences.

- The hotel's expansive venues are spread across more than 1,595 square metres, and include a pillarless

- ballroom with an exclusive pre-function area, a built-in bar, and an adjoining terrace, perfect for cocktails.
- A dedicated and experienced events team, as well as international chefs, adept at creating exquisite menus for your big day.
- Features the Manor, India's first residential-style, multi-functional facility with six, stylish event rooms, exceptional cuisine, and a dedicated team of hosts. hyderabad.park.hyatt.com

The Mansion at the Hyatt Regency | DELHI

This brand-new event facility in India's capital is sure to make for a sparkling wedding venue. Here's why:

- Sprawled across 32,050 square feet, it has venues across two levels: the Oval Room and Regency Ballroom on the ground level, and the Living Rooms (a series of multi-functional event spaces) on the second level; there's also a lovely outdoor garden. Up to 2,000 guests can be hosted here.
- The Oval Room is Delhi's first event space to feature dramatic open-air kitchens.
- Personalised settings, coupled with innovative food and beverage concepts that are executed

- flawlessly are at the core of the Mansion's many offerings.
- The Mansion's architecture draws heavily from Delhi's heritage and boasts an indoor, airconditioned *vedi* for marriage function require lighting of the sacred fire. delhi.hyatt.regency.com

Grand Hyatt | KOCHI BOLGATTY

A few reasons why your wedding will be nothing short of spectacular at this new waterfront resort:

- It boasts India's largest convention centre, the Lulu Bolgatty International Convention Centre, and the entire resort is built specifically for large events and destination weddings.
- In addition to two large, indoor event spaces that can host up to 6,000 people, the resort provides wedding parties the chance to host grand events in its large pre-function areas and lawns.
- The resort specialises in Kerala-themed weddings.
- Dedicated food-tasting sessions, cuisine options, detailed packages, curated menus, and a multi-cultural team create memories to last a lifetime! kochibolgatty.grand.hyatt.com ✕



Clockwise from left: Elegant table setting at Grand Hyatt Mumbai; newlyweds share a slice of wedding cake, Park Hyatt Hyderabad; The Oval Room, Hyatt Regency Delhi; The Apartment, Park Hyatt Chennai. Opposite, from top: A happy couple in the grand ballroom of Andaz Delhi; beautiful, outdoor dinner setting at Grand Hyatt Goa.





LUXURY STAYS

Glittering chandeliers lend a regal touch to the hotel's interiors.

Wed in Style in the Land of the NIZAMS

Going beyond the ordinary, the swanky new ITC Kohenur goes all out to ensure you have a chic wedding.



A delicate preparation by the chefs at ITC Kohenur.

Launched in June 2018, ITC Kohenur gave the world yet another reason to visit Hyderabad. One of India's most vibrant cities, the capital of Telangana has long been the centre of art, culture, cuisine, luxury, and hospitality—all aspects that ITC Kohenur has absorbed and taken to the next level with its architectural brilliance, extraordinary location, and world-class amenities.

The hotel offers an incredible range of elegant spaces that provide an ideal setting for any grand Indian wedding. Host a lively *sangeet* in the city's largest pillarless hall, a posh wedding reception in the expansive lawns, and an intimate evening with friends at Skypoint, the luxury rooftop bar overlooking Hyderabad's skyline. With 271 comfortable and luxuriously appointed rooms, there is more than enough space to accommodate your wedding party. And for those all-important dinners and feasts, make sure you ask the hotel to design menus that allow your guests to savour royal Indian traditions—especially authentic Hyderabadi delicacies from Dum Pukht—as well as delectable flavours of the West and the Far East at the warm and inviting Yi Jing (Chinese) and Ottimo (Italian) restaurants. itchotels.in

CAPITAL EXUBERANCE

Head to **JW Marriott New Delhi Aerocity** for a destination wedding within the city.

Weddings are serious business at the plush JW Marriott New Delhi Aerocity. Minutes away from the capital city's international airport, this luxe hotel has everything you are looking for in a wedding destination—a convenient location, versatile wedding halls, a proficient event-planning team, expert chefs, high-end technology to manage grand functions, and an enviable focus on details.

The resort's star attractions, however, are its impressive banquet facilities, which feature over 30,000 sq ft of flexible spaces, including the Grand Crystal Ballroom, an absolutely massive pillarless ballroom that can accommodate more than 1,000 guests! There's also a pretty, open-air courtyard, where you can have the wedding of your dreams, personalised to suit your vision. And for your guests, there's premium accommodation, providing superior levels of quality and comfort in 511 beautifully furnished rooms and suites, a 24-hour operational spa, and a heated outdoor pool. marriott.com

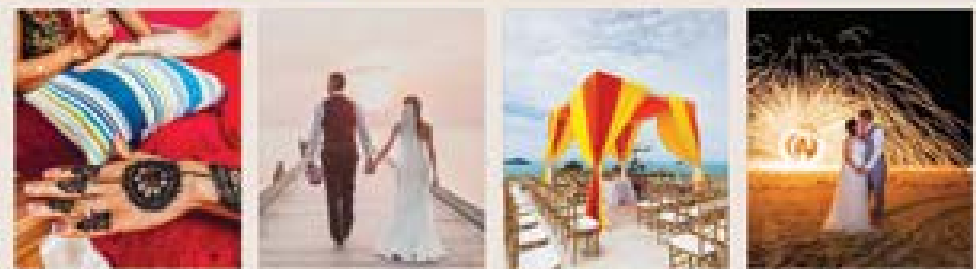


Guests enjoy a romantic dinner by the resort's pool.

CLOCKWISE: COURTESY OF ITC KOHENUR HYDERABAD; COURTESY OF JW MARRIOTT NEW DELHI AEROCITY

INTERCONTINENTAL World of Weddings

WORLDLY TRADITIONS WITH A LOCAL TOUCH.
BRING ALL YOUR WEDDING DREAMS TO LIFE
AT INTERCONTINENTAL SAMUI BAAN TALING NGAM RESORT.



INTERCONTINENTAL WORLD OF WEDDINGS.

Predestined for unforgettable weddings, InterContinental Samui Baan Taling Ngam Resort offers a range of intimate venues – a private pier; a floating stage on the exclusive infinity pool; or the magnificent lobby overlooking the Gulf of Thailand, there is the right setting for every kind of ceremony. It's your special day – make it truly unforgettable with a wedding at the World's Leading Wedding Resort.

210 Moo 3, Taling Ngam Beach, Koh Samui, Suratthani 84140
Tel: +66 7742 0100 Email: events@ic.samuiresort.com,
samui.intercontinental.com

INTERCONTINENTAL
SAMUI BAAN TALING NGAM RESORT

Nuptials on the Beach

Capture the perfect backdrop for an unforgettable wedding at The LaLiT Golf & Spa Resort Goa.



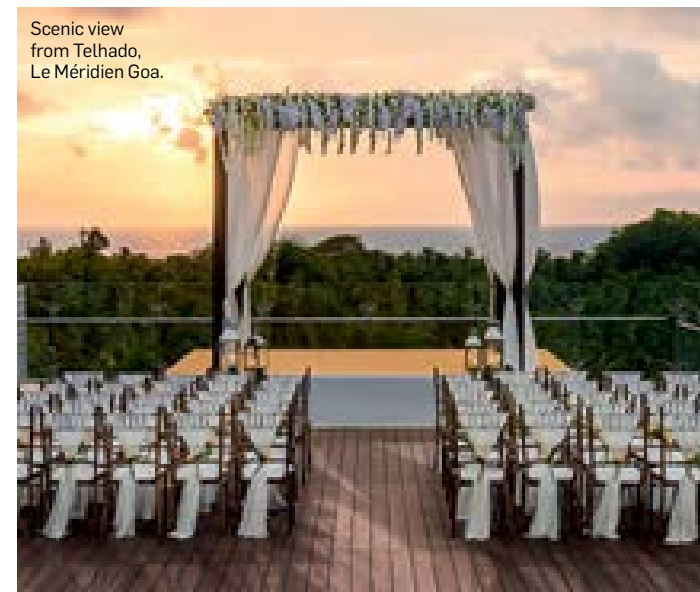
Ornately decorated mandaps cast a golden hue over the resort's beach as dusk falls.

A RESPLENDENT DESTINATION, an extensive resort with a private beach, baroque Portuguese architecture, landscaped gardens, and bespoke service make every occasion at The LaLiT Golf & Spa Resort Goa an affair to remember. And if you're planning a destination wedding by the sea, then look no further than the picturesque location of this exclusive property. Whether you want to exchange vows by the serene, deep-blue waters of a blissful tropical paradise, or host a lavish cocktail dinner right on the beach, under thousands of twinkling stars, just leave it in the capable hands of the hotel's experienced wedding planners. The well-trained staff will assist you with logistics, decorations, catering, creating scrumptious menus, and organising artists for entertainment. The on-site spa, Rejuve is a great place to relax as you prepare for the upcoming wedding. So, head to The LaLiT to take your vows and be assured of memories that will last a lifetime. thelalit.com/the-lalit-go

An Intimate Affair

LE MÉRIDIEN GOA, CALANGUTE

Chic and contemporary, Le Meridien Goa, Calangute is a secluded haven, located on the other side of North Goa's touristy Calangute Beach. Its quiet, scenic environs are perfect for couples planning a private wedding ceremony. Possibly the best place to host your event is Telhado—the stunning rooftop terrace that overlooks the Arabian Sea and can accommodate 200–250 guests. With 146 plush rooms, and Goa's first whiskey bar, the resort promises entertainment and relaxation, and makes for an exquisite wedding venue. marriott.com



Scenic view from Telhado, Le Meridien Goa.

CLOCKWISE: COURTESY OF THE LALIT GOLF & SPA RESORT GOA; COURTESY OF LE MÉRIDIEN GOA CALANGUTE; COURTESY OF SHERATON GRAND CHENNAI



The resort offers a private setting overlooking the bay.

Grand Beginnings

SHERATON GRAND CHENNAI RESORT & SPA

The destination of choice for believers of the 'Big, Fat Indian Wedding', this exceptional retreat is Sheraton's first resort in India. Spread over ten acres, with lush, well-manicured lawns, the hotel offers upscale stays, world-class services, and unmatched dining experiences. Set on the East Coast Road of Tamil Nadu, with panoramic views of the Bay of Bengal, the hotel presents a great location for beachside wedding events. As palm trees line the horizon, the Pelican, a beautiful outdoor deck, ideal for a stylish cocktail evening, offers captivating views across the sea. For large functions, book the lavish party grounds, and allow the in-house wedding experts to plan every detail of your grand day, while you indulge in a signature treatment at the Shine Spa. marriott.com

YOUR DREAM WEDDING IN YOUR ANDAZ



Clockwise, from left: The pre-function area; apothecary blending bar; an Ambassador car at Andaz Delhi.

If you wish to host a destination wedding without stepping out of your favourite city, come to Andaz Delhi—a luxury lifestyle hotel by Hyatt, where style meets art, culture, and adventure. The latest swanky address of Delhi not only has the perfect location, but also extremely elegant venues and comfy accommodation. Just minutes away from Delhi's international airport, this is where your dream wedding—grand or intimate—comes true.

Andaz Delhi offers a brilliant mix of gastronomy,

entertainment, and hospitality by expert regional chefs and wedding planners known for creating bespoke experiences, with unique fun elements. Host a grand reception at the hotel's oval-shaped ballroom that has a specially designed dramatic entrance for your *baarat* and swing-sets hanging from the high ceilings for that traditional feel. You can do more, as the 10,800-sq-ft pillarless ballroom presents a blank canvas, allowing you to plan your functions the way you like. Equally promising are Andaz Studios,

401 REASONS TO FALL IN LOVE
This book is Andaz Delhi's tribute to Delhi, from iconic monuments to forgotten rituals and lesser-known places that make even locals nostalgic.

the residential-style event spaces with open kitchens and terrace, and alfresco spaces, where creativity knows no bounds.

As you put your ideas to work, the guests get to enjoy the 401 stylishly appointed rooms—each with a unique

artwork inspired by Delhi. The tastefully furnished rooms, award-winning restaurants, and immersive stories of Andaz Delhi are reasons enough for guests to stay longer. While they enjoy, begin your married life with a post-wedding rejuvenation at the spa, where treatments are guided by your energies and desires. Book the luxurious Signature Suite to escape to the privacy of a plush honeymoon suite, find time for a romantic evening at the Juniper Bar, or discover your favourite backdrop for that forever framed picture.

For more information, write to delhi.andaz@hyatt.com

Email delhi.andaz@hyatt.com, Website <https://delhi.andaz.hyatt.com/en/hotel/home.html>, Number +91 11 49031234, Facebook @AndazDelhi; Instagram @andazdelhi; Twitter @AndazDelhi.



Sun-kissed deck of Fish, the resort's signature seafood restaurant.
Below: The Extreme Wow Ocean Haven Villa.

Timeless Love

Cherish your love story at **W Maldives**, where romance meets indulgence and bliss.

A sought-after place for a grand Indian destination wedding, Maldives sits amid the blue expanse of the Indian Ocean, secluded from the bustling chaos of the world. And on this island paradise, you'll find W Maldives, brimming with ideas to celebrate your love. Sail into the deep waters of the ocean on *Escape*, the resort's private yacht, to say 'I do', or tie the knot amidst the serene greenery of the island, as the plush property makes your special day larger than life. If this is your first journey together after getting married, there's scope for writing a little underwater story for the ages among the corals. If this trip follows many memorable years of togetherness, this ultimate romantic luxury resort is your best bet for a discreet beach ceremony to renew your vows.

Nestled within lush tropical vegetation, surrounded by the sounds of waves breaking

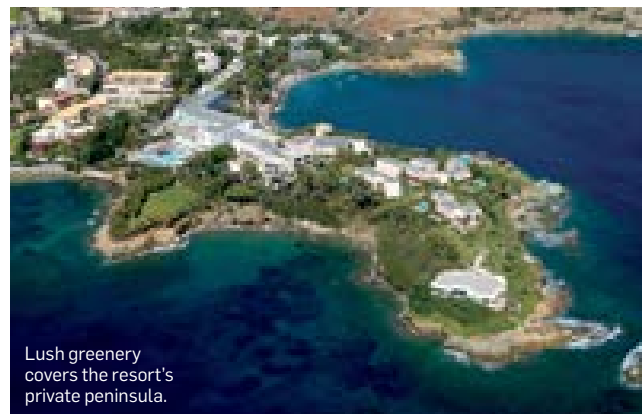


on the shore, W Maldives accentuates each moment of your love life with special experiences: champagne picnics on uninhabited islands, diving with whale sharks, and staying in over-the-water villas, with a private chef. It is also a great place to relax, rejuvenate, and reconnect with each other. Begin the day with a dip in your private pool on the deck, and end with a stroll on the beach, as the ocean breeze passes through gently swaying coconut trees.

marriott.com

Celebrating Togetherness

A wedding at **Out of the Blue, Capsis Elite Resort** not only means breathtaking backdrops and impeccable hospitality, but also quality time with your beloved.



Lush greenery covers the resort's private peninsula.

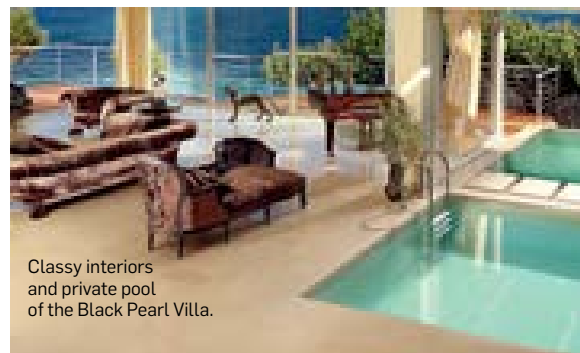
The largest of all the Greek Islands, Crete lets you capture some precious 'we time' from the very beginning of your relationship. Experience this first-hand by staying at Out of the Blue, Capsis Elite Resort, an idyllic setting for an outstanding beach holiday, a memorable wedding, and therapeutic spa vacation.

A beachfront escape, this unique luxury resort, near the capital Heraklion, is set in rambling botanic gardens and located on its own private peninsula! With striking views of the Aegean Sea, the Cretan marvel offers a host of wedding venues—an on-site chapel, a private beach, and lawns—as well as some beautiful

stay options—a modern-art inspired boutique hotel, bungalow-style stays, an all-suite hotel, maisonettes, and villas with private pools—to accommodate the whole wedding party.

Flawless hospitality is also on offer, as the in-house wedding team tailors your special day as per your needs, while the resort's six multi-cuisine restaurants and eight bars take your guests on a divine gastronomic journey, featuring fresh ingredients, handpicked from the hotel's own greenhouses. Don't miss the many leisure facilities that you can enjoy, right from your bachelor party to your super romantic post-wedding holiday.

capsis.com



Classy interiors and private pool of the Black Pearl Villa.

FROM LEFT: COURTESY OF W MALDIVES; COURTESY OF OUT OF THE BLUE, CAPSIS ELITE RESORT



Spectacular views from the pool of Extreme Wow Ocean Haven.

W Maldives

Where Romance Meets Luxury

W Maldives adds the extra to your ordinary. Secluded yet welcoming, this island retreat invites you to take a leisurely stroll on its white-sand beaches, feel the freshness of the ocean breeze as it lightly kisses your face, and explore the turquoise lagoon and vibrant reefs.

Create memories to last you a lifetime amidst Maldivian nature, with experiences on the sand, as well as above and below the waves. Pamper yourself at the overwater AWAY® Spa, the best place to relax, rejuvenate and reconnect with yourself. Wine, dine and satisfy all your cravings in the six dining venues. Sail off into the sunset on the most romantic nautical getaway or go on a private overnight cruise on *Escape*. If you are dreaming up adventure of your own, make your way across the shores of W Maldives to Gaathafushi, the resort's private island, for an all-out *Cast Away* experience. Splash in your private pool on the deck or dive right into the ocean from the overwater escapes.

For all those lovers out there, the island property is, possibly, the very epitome of sweet getaways. Have you just said 'I do'? Then seal it with a kiss, kick

off your shoes, and set out on a romantic adventure on the island where time stands still. If you are feeling more impulsive and want to tie the knot here and now, W Maldives has a few ideas on how to celebrate your special day.

Providing an amazing backdrop, W Maldives is the perfect destination to say 'I do'. Get wed on a private beach surrounded by lush tropical landscapes with infinite Indian Ocean views. Escape from it all and exchange rings with the other half in the world's most remote destinations, your own desert island of Gaathafushi.

For adventurous lovers, abandon the ordinary and celebrate your love under the sparkling blue waters surrounded by a myriad of colourful exotic fish and beautiful corals. Let your most glamorous dreams come true at W Maldives, the ultimate romantic Escape. From the moment the question is popped to the last bite of cake at the reception, enjoy exclusive Whatever/Whenever® service so your every wedding experience and celebrations of lifetime are exactly how you've always imagined. No matter what you have in mind, W Maldives can tailor your celebration style and make your most glamorous dreams come true.



The picturesque Fabulous Overwater Oasis Villa.

For more information: www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/mlewh-w-maldives



THE BIG IDEA

Say “I DO” to INDONESIA

A world filled with natural beauty and cultural richness awaits in the archipelagic island nation of Indonesia. Read on to know why a wedding or honeymoon here will be the stuff of legends.

By Ananya Bahl

Whether you are a couple that loves hiking to the top of a volcano or deep-sea diving amongst rich coral reefs, or whether you and your partner yearn for beachside sunsets while enjoying some lip-smacking food, or possibly exploring ancient cultures and monuments—whatever your passion, you’re certain to find it in Indonesia. After all, in a region that includes more than 14,000 islands, there is, literally, something for everyone! All you need to do is decide what you find most appealing—the tropical paradises of Bali and Lombok, the mysterious customs of the Asmat people in Papua, or the highlands of South Sulawesi.

The entire archipelago is dotted with spectacular historical structures that provide simply gorgeous backdrops for pre- and post-wedding photoshoots, as well as wedding ceremonies. For instance, Borobudur, the world’s largest Buddhist temple, is a magnificent monument in Central Java, set against a horizon that includes the twin volcanoes of Mount Merbabu and Merapi—the entire vista is simply unforgettable—just as a wedding near this setting will be.

If you’re seeking to introduce some local flavour to your wedding, then be sure to take advantage of the extremely diverse dances, musical styles, and foods of Indonesia. The islands are home to more than 200 ethnic groups, each with their own unique and

colourful customs—you can incorporate some of these traditions into your wedding festivities. One of the highlights of these multicultural societies is the delectable feast on offer. Indonesia’s rich culture and heritage naturally translate to flavourful cuisines that are sure to add a traditional twist to your wedding. Your guests will be talking about the *rendang*, a spicy meat dish from West Sumatra; *soto lamongan*, a heavenly broth from East Java, and *pempek*

kapal selam, a savoury dumpling from South Sumatra, for years to come!

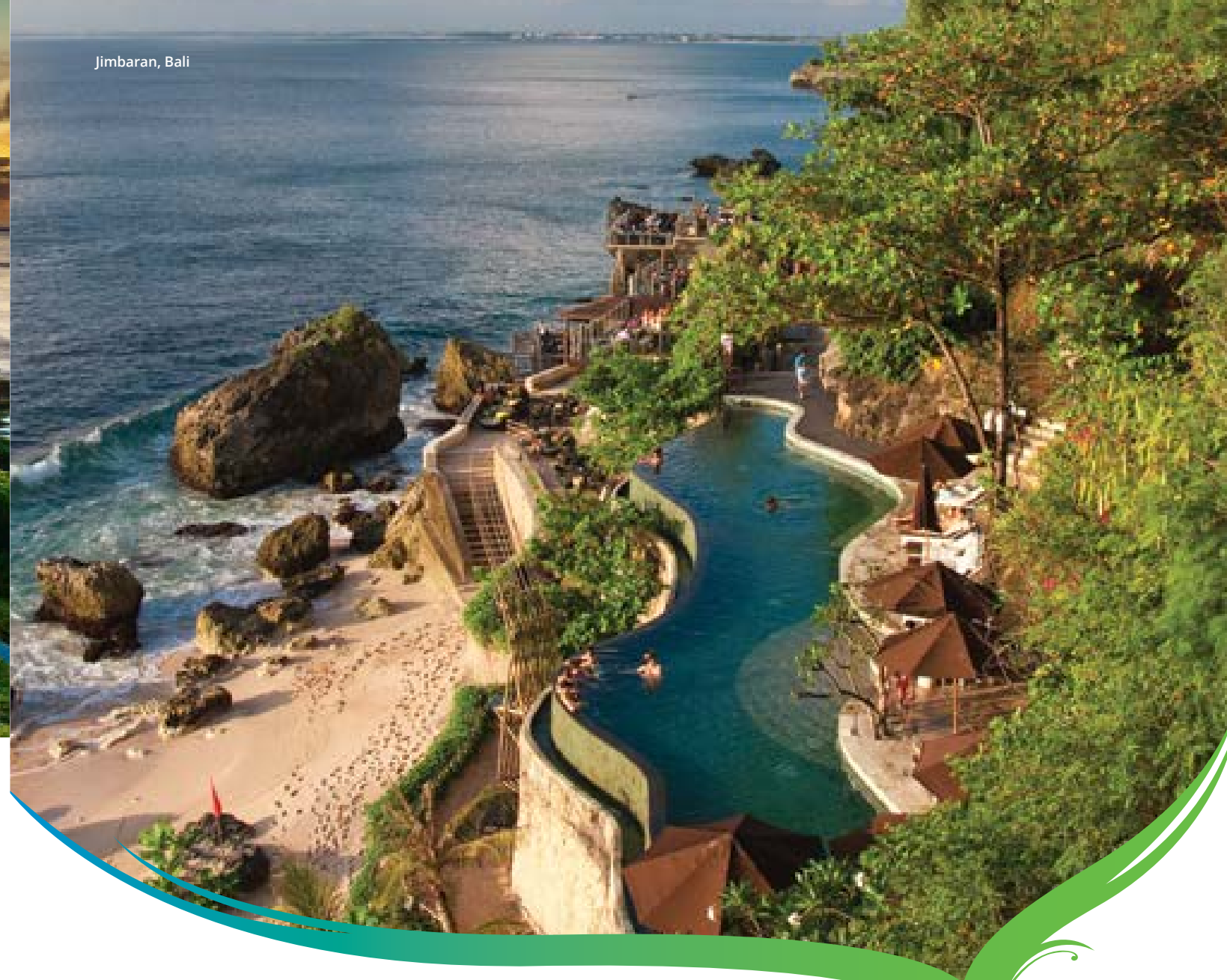
A wedding in Indonesia means you and your guests will enjoy swaying palm trees, starry skies, and a never-ending coastline on its many islands. If you’re dreaming of the perfect beachside wedding, then this is it. There’s also the bustling capital of Jakarta, with its numerous luxurious hotels and resorts, shopping destinations, and lively night clubs apt for city weddings.

SHUTTERSTOCK(2)

The ancient Hindu temple of Prambanan or Rara Jonggrang, Java Island.



Jimbaran, Bali



An infinite amount of surprises are waiting for you

Embrace every journey of your life. Open the door to your endless imagination. Have an exploration in this marvelous universe. Witness a glance of our treasures in Bali, a heavenly island prosperous in exotic cultures, ethereal natures, exquisite dishes, and limitless other sensory indulgences. A paradise to enjoy spectacular discoveries. From a momentous break to a zestful action, everything is possible here. It is a destination abundant in enjoyable spots above and below the horizon. Rejoice beyond the bounds and experience a miraculous break in the archipelago of endless wonders.



www.indonesia.travel
[indonesia.travel](#)
[Indonesia.Travel](#)
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A Touch of Pixie Dust

A fairy tale wedding needs more than a prince and a pumpkin carriage. It needs your belief in magic and imagination. For the rest, there's always **Disneyland Paris**.



"If you can dream it, you can do it." —Walt Disney

Did you ever dream of getting married in a magical kingdom, much like Cinderella, with a Prince Charming by your side, or in a green meadow like Snow White, with seven dwarfs as guests? Reads like your own little story, doesn't it? But made quite possible at Disneyland® Paris, where magic and love meet fantasy. With two spectacular theme parks, seven enchanting hotels, and numerous iconic landmarks, this wildly entertaining European destination hosts couples keen to bring their fairy tales to life through memorable proposals and dreamy weddings.

At Disneyland® Paris, you can choose to host a celebration in a luxury hotel with a Victorian-inspired backdrop, or have a regal gala right next to the Sleeping Beauty Castle,

surrounded by extraordinary magic. You can also arrange for a private fireworks' display, an ice extravaganza, and a Cinderella-style ball. The Newport Bay Club is ideal for those planning a ceremony with an air of adventure. On the shores of this 1920s-inspired venue, you can party amidst a beautiful nautical setting, with an abundance of gastronomic and festive delights. And to satiate those taste buds, try Disney-licious dishes served on spectacular Disney-themed tables at Disneyland® Hotel. A dedicated wedding planner is on hand to make it all come true, just like a fairy godmother!

Add more magic to your unforgettable day by choosing from a range of unique enhancements—appearances by Disney characters, live musical shows, dance performances, and customised decorations. If in the mood, you and your guests can plan a



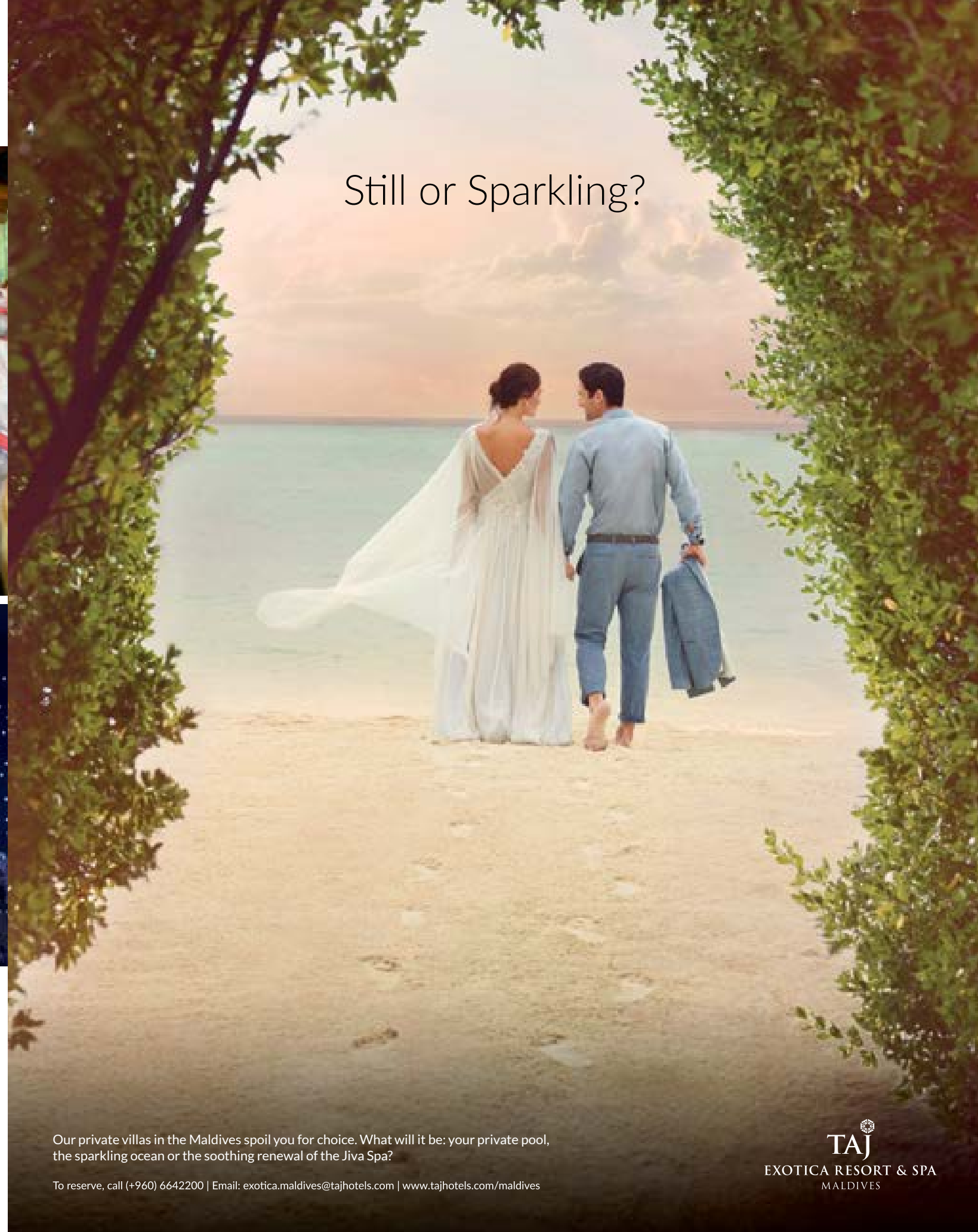
Clockwise from left: Wedding preparations at the Sleeping Beauty Castle; newlyweds taking a ride on the merry-go-round; Cinderella's magical pumpkin carriage.

visit to Paris, as well. Simply book a bus tour covering museums and other city attractions, or take the RER train and explore the bustling French capital. disneylandparis.com

—JYOTI VERMA

COURTESY OF DISNEYLAND® PARIS

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Our private villas in the Maldives spoil you for choice. What will it be: your private pool, the sparkling ocean or the soothing renewal of the Jiva Spa?

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TAJ
EXOTICA RESORT & SPA
MALDIVES



Love in the Valley of Shepherds

In the lap of nature, **Welcomhotel Pine-n-Peak** is spot-on for a wedding with panoramic views.

Come to paradise and simply soak in breathtaking views of the charming Pahalgam valley, the gleaming waters of Lidder River, snowcapped mountains, and a mansion nestled amid nature's best. If you've been dreaming of a wedding that



From left: Stunning views over a lush valley and distant mountains from the resort's terrace; the hotel's traditionally decorated lobby.

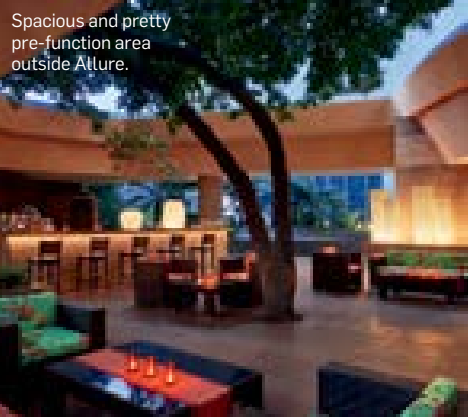
everyone will remember for years to come, then book the Welcomhotel Pine-n-Peak, a palatial resort atop the Rajwas Plateau, away from the chaos of the world. A perfect winter retreat, this ITC hotel offers stunning views of the Valley of Shepherds, making the destination perfect for a memorable honeymoon, too. And for your guests, the landmark hotel has 66 luxury rooms, which include lavishly appointed cottages and uniquely designed suites. The valley's only opulent resort also features a splendid hall, Anjuman, that can host a function for 100 people, catered to by the resort's exemplary dining facilities. And after the eventful wedding, family and guests can unwind at Hammam, the warm and inviting spa, while the newlyweds are left alone to explore the natural beauty around. With plenty of options nearby, the couple can go for a trek to the serene Tulian Lake, or opt for something unusual by exploring the lesser-known cheesemaking culture of Pahalgam. Either way, a marriage here is as close to the heavens as one can get. *itchotels.in/welcomhotelpinenpeak*

For an Iconic Wedding

Check out **Le Méridien New Delhi** for a personalised celebration in the heart of the capital.



Champagne, roses, rings, and a wedding cake make for a charming table setting.



Spacious and pretty pre-function area outside Allure.

A luxury wedding destination ideally located in the centre of the capital city, Le Méridien New Delhi has played host to many renowned, high-end weddings over the years. And its 22,000 sq ft of contemporary venues are ideal for weddings of any scale. A popular choice for both intimate gatherings and large celebrations, the hotel's inspiring spaces can make your wedding a long-lasting affair. With chic décor, meticulous detailing, artistic food and beverage concepts, careful execution, and separate banquet porch and pre-function areas, the hotel has the passion to create the most magical wedding ambience. *marriott.com*



Time of Your Life

The jewel of the Swiss Riviera, Montreux is where romance comes alive.

Every year, in July, Montreux, a traditional resort town on Lake Geneva, is the place to be for its internationally famous Jazz Festival; for the rest of the year, for all things Swiss—snow-covered Alps, beautiful vineyards, classical architecture, fine dining, and superb wines. It is this potent combination of immersive experiences that attracts visitors from around the world to this little piece of paradise. Among its many attractions is a long, flower-bordered lake promenade that is, possibly, the most magical stroll you'll ever take with your partner.

And for that high-profile Indian wedding, there's the Fairmont Le Montreux Palace (*fairmont.com/montreux*), a resplendent hotel featuring the traditional elegance of Belle-Époque architecture. Within it are grand ballrooms, sparkling chandeliers, mouth-watering cuisine, and a flair for romance—host a grand affair at the expansive front lawn overlooking the Alps or in the 800-square-metre Léman Ballroom; for a more private nuptial, book the intimate La Coupole. Your in-house wedding planning team can help designate a theme to each event to give it a distinct vibe, while also taking care of décor and everything needed to make your ceremony a cut above the rest. As for your guests, each of the 236 guest rooms and suites of Fairmont Le Montreux Palace offer luxurious furnishings, sumptuous bedding, and all the amenities needed for a memorable stay.

Scenic vistas from Fairmont Le Montreux Palace.

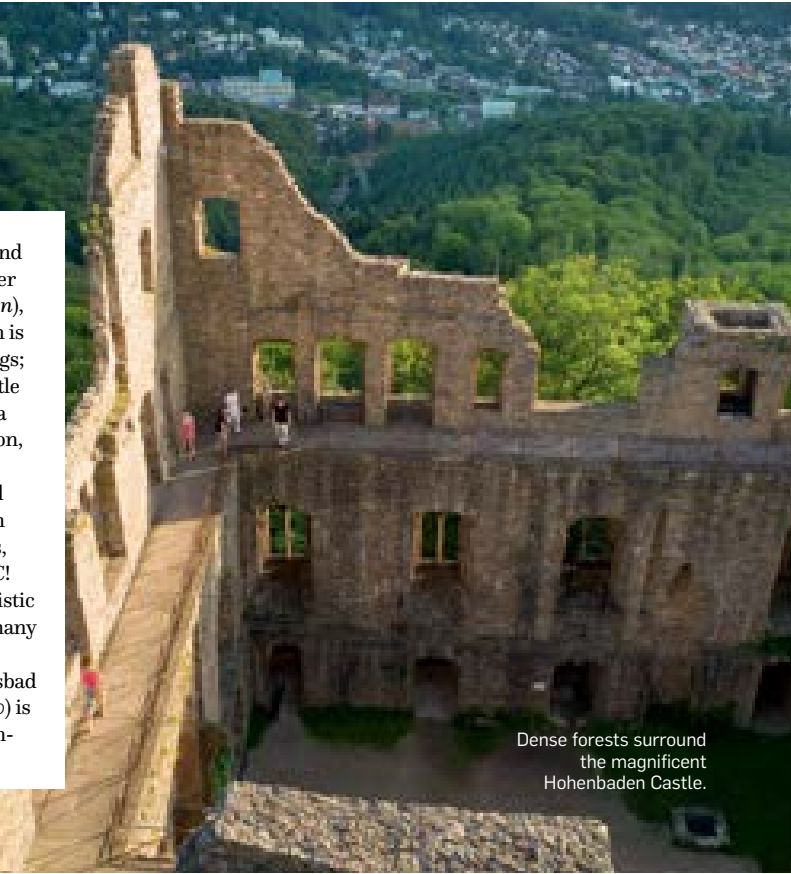
Towards ETERNITY

Embark on a life blessed with wellness and vivacity in Baden-Baden.

If you are still wondering about that one destination where you and your new life companion will find the best of the Europe, then look no further than Baden-Baden. Located at the base of the Black Forest in south Germany, this vibrant destination is trendy, stylish, and picturesque, with an old-world grace that makes it timeless—just like your honeymoon will be.

Set amidst lush greenery, the entire area is blessed with impressive avenues, art and music centres, healing waters, and an overall air of cultured sophistication. Lovers of culture will be spoilt for choice by its many museums and events—from opera, cabaret, and modern-art shows, to jazz music and dance performances. Their striking venues, such as the grand

Festival Hall (*festspielhaus.de/en*) and the award-winning Museum Frieder Burda (*museum-frieder-burda.de/en*), enhance the experience. The region is also famed for its historical buildings; among these, the Hohenbaden Castle (*altes-schlosshofenbaden.de/en*) is a must-visit! A popular spa destination, as well, the town draws thousands to the healing powers of its thermal waters—its 12 springs bubble forth from a depth of about 2,000 metres, at temperatures of as much as 68°C! The water's minerals possess a holistic healing effect, which the region's many spas use to offer amazing wellness treatments. A visit to the Friedrichsbad Spa (*carasana.de/en/friedrichsbado*) is highly recommended for its Roman-Irish baths and elaborate frescoes.



Dense forests surround the magnificent Hohenbaden Castle.

FROM TOP: COURTESY OF WELCOMHOTEL PINE-N-PEAK; COURTESY OF LE MÉRIDIEN NEW DELHI

FROM TOP: COURTESY OF FAIRMONT LE MONTREUX PALACE; COLOURIA MEDIA/ALAMY



WHERE EVERY WEDDING IS ROYAL

Look no further than the AccorHotels for that larger-than-life wedding. With its bouquet of scenic destinations, striking architecture, lavish amenities, and dedicated wedding packages, your special occasion is bound to be spectacular and unforgettable. Here's our list of a select few of its gorgeous hotels that will ensure your big day is planned to perfection.

Sofitel Dubai The Palm Resort & Spa

FAIRMONT THE PALM

This luxurious Dubai resort offers dazzling views of the Arabian Gulf, as well as outstanding restaurants, a world-class Willow Stream Spa, and spectacular venues for that perfect wedding. Choose the alfresco setting of the Seaview Garden with its sparkling Dubai Marina skyline backdrop or celebrate in the elegant opulence of the Palm Ballroom. Pick from an array of specially curated wedding packages catering to your individual needs, all with a generous dose of personalised attention. Newlyweds also get to enjoy the services of a dedicated wedding concierge and complimentary two-night stay. fairmont.com/palm-dubai

AJMAN

The ideal address for a grand destination wedding, Fairmont Ajman has all the ingredients to make your celebrations swoon-worthy. Within easy driving distance of Dubai, this massive resort, with its own malls and museums, is an all-encompassing destination-within-a-destination! Located amidst the turquoise waters of the Arabian Gulf, on a 200-metre pristine beach, it features 252 guest rooms and suites,

and Emirate's only private helipad. The hotel's innovative culinary line-up introduces a truly upscale epicurean experience in its eight distinct dining venues. Host a stylish outdoor *mehendi* in its beautiful Pearl Garden, the wedding in its opulent ballroom, and cocktails by the infinity-edged pool. A team of dedicated wedding planners organise every minute of your event, ensuring you can enjoy your special day, absolutely stress-free. Choose from the many wedding packages on offer, and avail complimentary Bridal Suite decoration services. fairmont.com/ajman

MOUNT KENYA SAFARI CLUB

Serene and untouched, Kenya is, possibly, the ideal venue to begin one's new life. Besides the perfect mix of spectacular nature and a vibrant culture, the destination has Fairmont Mount Kenya Safari Club to take your experience to a higher level. Nestled in the foothills of Mount Kenya, the resort is strategically located within the Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy, offering impressive views of the famed peak across well-manicured lawns and a delightful rose garden with a stream. Exchange your vows at a grand wedding reception in the beautiful ballroom with a capacity of 200, or in an

WEDDING BLISS

At Fairmont The Palm, Dubai, newlyweds get to enjoy the services of a dedicated wedding concierge and complimentary two-night stay.



Willow Stream Spa, Fairmont The Palm, Dubai



Fairmont Mount Kenya Safari Club



Family Lifestyle Suite, Fairmont The Palm, Dubai

intimate ceremony in a quaint little chapel that can host up to 15 guests. For a dreamy outdoor wedding, take advantage of the resort's lush expansive grounds. The resort extends three wedding packages that can be customised to suit your personal wedding theme and preferences. fairmont.com/mount-kenya-safari

SOFITEL

BAHRAIN ZALLAQ THALASSA SEA & SPA

Set on the pristine Zallaq Beach, this exclusive resort is surrounded by the shimmering blue waters of the Arabian Gulf. Complemented by splendid French décor with a touch of traditional Arab flair,

this secluded retreat sets the stage for your dream wedding. Go grand with a function in the Al Nakheel Ballroom or plan an intimate event at the private Sofi Island. For big fat Indian weddings, personalised packages cater to every ceremony with scrumptious food by the in-house chef of Indian cuisine. sofitel.accorhotels.com/gb/hotel-6722-sofitel-bahrain-zallaq-thalassa-sea-spa/index.shtml

THE PALM RESORT & SPA

A lavish island retreat where elegant Polynesian design meets French panache, Sofitel The Palm is a unique five-star beach hotel on Dubai's man-made

island of Palm Jumeirah. With bespoke wedding packages, personalised service, and a range of world cuisines to choose from, you'll be totally spoilt for choice. Host an intimate gathering, an elaborate celebration with 200 guests, or a traditional indoor event for 450 guests—there's a venue for every type of function! From the utterly charming garden, the tropical Maui Rooftop, to the very grand Palm Suite and the plush yet inviting private villas. sofitel-dubai-thepalm.com

RAFFLES DUBAI

Rising like a golden pyramid against the night sky, the Hotel displays an aesthetic allure evident in its chic interiors, exceptional service, and extravagant gastronomic spreads. And for that perfect wedding, the glittering Raffles Ballroom, adorned with Swarovski crystal chandeliers, is the ideal venue to host a function; while the private adjacent terrace is great for a cocktail night. The Raffles Garden is equally suitable for a private outdoor dinner or an extravagant *sangeet*. For a more intimate gathering, book the Luxor and Gizza rooms. Whatever the venue, you can be assured that the hotel's experienced team will make sure your special occasion is a memorable one. raffles.com/dubai

A Wedding That's Trending

Weddings, they are a-changing, with inspiration, personalisation, and uniqueness being the new buzz words. Stunning dresses, inventive foods, exotic décor, themed extravaganzas—we speak to India's best professionals serving these innovative demands for trends and tips for a memorable wedding celebration.

As told to Pallavi Mehra, Deepika Khurana, and Jyoti Verma

CHEF SHARAD DEWAN

Regional Director – Food Production, The Park Hotels

Many people are now opting for intimate parties. And they want food that reflects the wedding's theme, and entertains, as well. Once, for a bachelor party, we organised three concert performances between 10 pm and 6 am, and kept people engaged with changing menus and décor



Guests enjoy the royal biryani counter, The Park.



The chilled-out setting of Ira, the waterside bar, is perfect for a cool cocktail evening, ITC Maurya.

MANISHA BHASIN

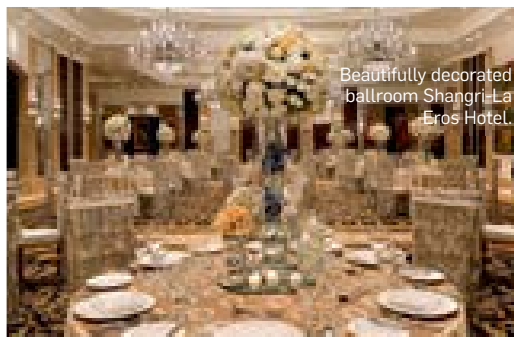
Senior Executive Chef, ITC Maurya

Our clients seek innovation in buffets, from flair bartending and dry ice presentations, to beautiful, innovative food table set-ups. Themes are in, too, from outfits colour-coordinated with the food, in lavish recreations of settings, such as Covent Garden or Versailles. We once curated a truck-themed wedding, showcasing foods along the highway, from Peshawar

to Kolkata, thereby exploring various cuisines across India. Clients are also willing to take a specific cuisine and highlight it from beginning to end, enhancing the cultural experience for guests. Locally sourced Indian products, featured in an interesting nouveau preparation that is unique yet healthy, like barley risotto or Amaranth seed pudding, are in too. And vegan isn't far behind. Many high-end weddings ask for gluten-free, lactose-free options. itshotels.in

Clients love a fusion of tastes and cultures. And we have created dishes that combine cuisines of the East and West, like Burrata *papdi chaat*, tandoori paneer in phyllo cups, *jalebi* trifle, and *achar* carrot carpaccio.

throughout the event. While reconstructed food (classic dishes in a new avatar) and vertical buffets are in, more quirky experiences, such as a chef bartender (for 'liquid food', like Tom Yum martinis and *nolen gurer* toddys with mini rasgullas) and a quest for the unique (an exotic vegetable from South America or a fruit from the Mediterranean) are popular for the 'unusual' factor. theparkhotels.com



Beautifully decorated ballroom Shangri-La Eros Hotel.

PARMEET SINGH NAYAR

General Manager, Shangri-La Eros Hotel

Choosing the ideal venue for your wedding is one of the first decisions you will make as an engaged couple. Opting for a full-service venue that can offer assistance with the various elements that need to be considered in a wedding is always a

more pragmatic choice, as it makes things so much easier. A venue that offers a combination of indoor and outdoor spaces gives you leeway to experiment with the overall aesthetic. The focus of your venue should not only be to deliver a spectacular celebration, but also to ensure that every part of your event is memorable. shangri-la.com

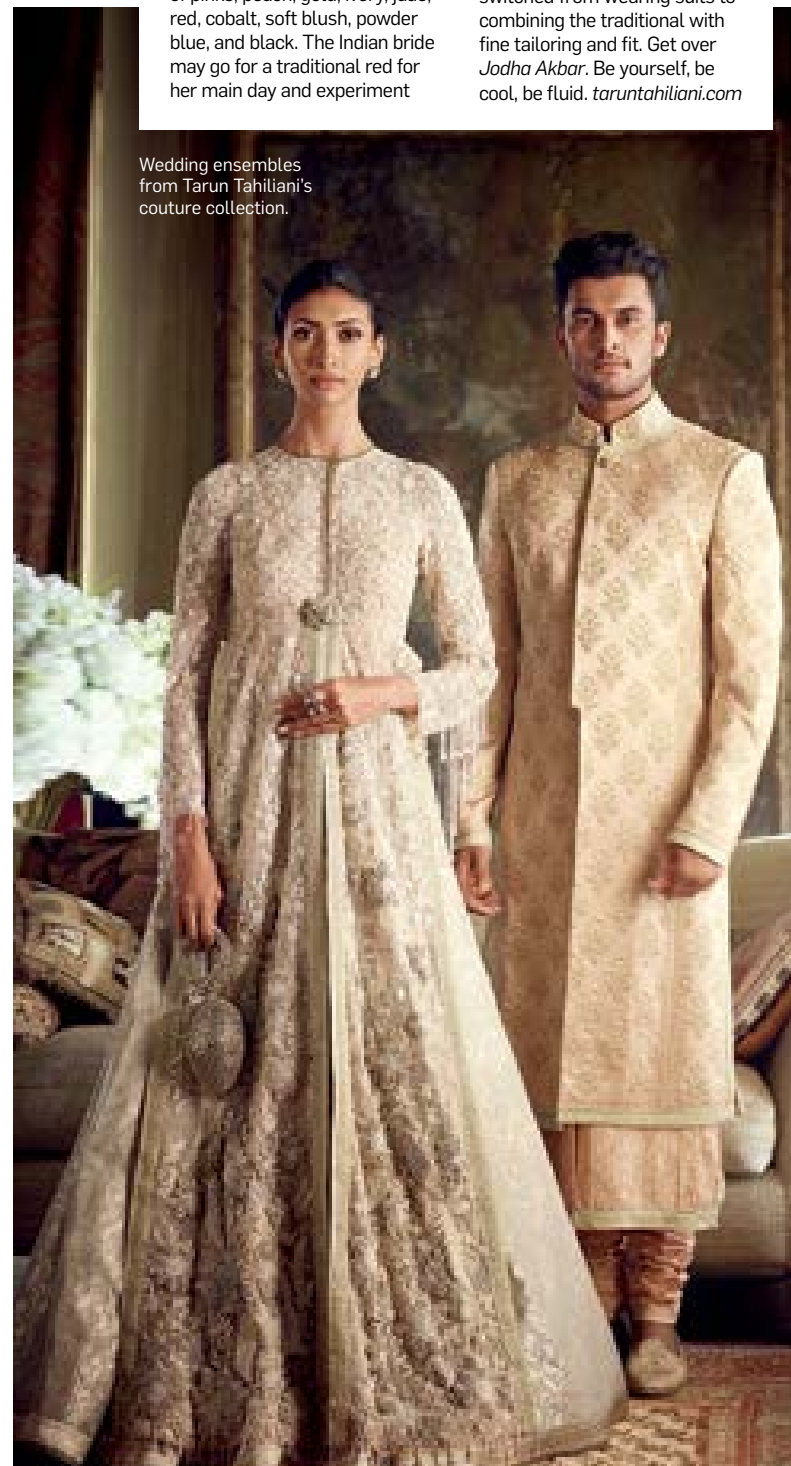
TARUN TAHILIANI

Fashion Designer

Bridal trends are moving away from blingy and multi-coloured ensembles to a more sophisticated palette of creams, beiges and golds, with red and pearlised summer tones. Black and cream, of course, are classics. In our latest bridal collection, we have worked with an excitingly varied colour palette, which includes renditions of pinks, peach, gold, ivory, jade, red, cobalt, soft blush, powder blue, and black. The Indian bride may go for a traditional red for her main day and experiment

with offbeat colours for her *sangeet* or reception; a peplum bodice and structured drapes with *ghoonghats* are cool, too. For a destination wedding, I would advocate a sari. The beauty of it is that it looks different on each person—loosely draped or moulded to the body, it adds romance; cinched at the waist with a belt or cummerbund makes it sexy and uber chic. Pre-stitched sarees are also a practical choice. Grooms have switched from wearing suits to combining the traditional with fine tailoring and fit. Get over *Jodha Akbar*. Be yourself, be cool, be fluid. taruntahiliani.com

Wedding ensembles from Tarun Tahiliani's couture collection.



KUNAL RAWAL

Men's Fashion Designer

A groom should make sure that what he wears represents his personality and is comfortable. Moreover, he should always have fun with what he's wearing. While it's important that the groom's ensemble complements the bride's outfit, his look should make a statement of its own. Along with the design of the garment, fit is equally important. Additionally,

the groom should discuss his complete look with his designer, including footwear and accessories. It's also a good idea to work with the same designer for all the wedding functions, to avoid wearing outfits with a similar aesthetic. Always have a Plan B, carry your vanity kit, and personalise the outfits. Customise your ensemble by adding a motif or an embroidered insignia; you'll feel like a royal on your wedding day! kunalrawal.com

SUNITA SHEKHAWAT

Jewellery Designer

Less is no longer more. Transform your simple lehenga into a gorgeous outfit with layered neckpieces. Mix-and-match magnificent necklaces with a similar design, club a classic choker and a big necklace, or take the royal route with a lot of layering using strands of emeralds and pearls in a statement neckpiece. Follow this trend in moderation, as minimalism is equally a trend! Grooms must accentuate with a necklace, too. For that rich look, go for a bejewelled brooch that can be paired with your sherwani, or with a decorous *sarpech* (a head ornament) made of rubies, diamonds, or emeralds with strings. This can be teamed with a layered, one-sided necklace. sunitashekhawat.com



FARAH KHAN ALI

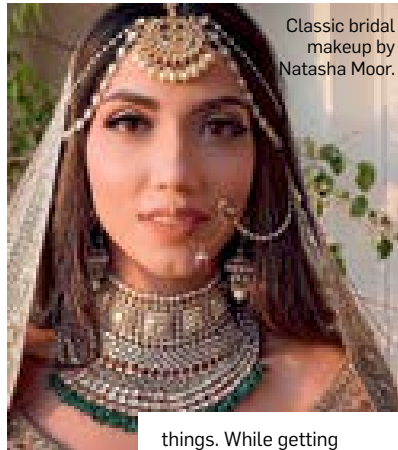
Jewellery Designer

Focus on the event. For the *mehendi*, select practical pieces—a small necklace, pendant, brooch, or *maang tikka*; on the *sangeet*, be experimental and playful—*baju bandhs* with dangling tie-up tassels; and for the wedding, wear something timeless yet classy. Don't overload yourself with high-shine metals, such as gold; instead, choose gemstones, an emerald or a ruby, depending on the colour of your outfit. farahkhanfinejewellery.com

Traditional menswear by Kunal Rawal.

NATASHA MOOR
Makeup Artist

From my experience, most brides go over-the-top at their weddings. Keep it simple and elegant! Just because it's your wedding, it doesn't mean you need to change the way you look. Simply look the best possible version of yourself. Before the wedding, keep yourself hydrated, and don't sweat the little



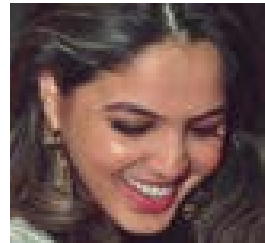
Classic bridal makeup by Natasha Moor.

things. While getting ready for your functions, don't isolate yourself from your friends and family, but don't have too many people around, as it can get overwhelming. At the wedding functions, be graceful and don't forget to smile. Lastly, remember why you're getting married. Let all the stress melt away and be excited that you're having a beautiful celebration with your dearest friends and family. natashamoor.com

PRIYA GOGTE
Caterer, Foodlink

When planning your food menu, always make sure it is relevant to the occasion. Pick cuisines that complement the wedding theme and function. Keep your menu simple and non-complex, with fewer cuisines. You don't want to overwhelm your guests with too many choices, as it could confuse them. When it comes

to wedding catering, I always emphasise the need to focus on quality over quantity. When deciding your menu with your caterer, pick a good balance of comfort food and interesting cuisine options, to ensure that the dishes served are delicious and intriguing. In the age of Pinterest and Instagram, remember that taste should not be compromised for looks, especially when it comes to food! foodlink.in



LAKSHMI LEHR
Celebrity Stylist, Style Cell

Indian weddings are always colourful, high-energy affairs. Luckily, current fashions offer a plethora of outfit options. For your *mehendi* or *sangeet*, I recommend opting for a sexy cutout ensemble, or an outfit with an Indo-Western vibe over a traditional Lehenga. On your wedding day, wear something unique, yet wearable even after your wedding—most brides choose pastel shades, such as salmon pink over the classic reds, for their wedding lehenga. For hair and makeup, I usually suggest keeping it simple.

ANURADHA GUPTA
CEO, Vows for Eternity

A marriage is built on friendship, trust, respect, and loyalty. Personality fits and the connect of values between two people and their families are very important. Before you say, 'I do', engage to understand each other's personalities and background. vowsforeternity.com



Sonam Kapoor-Anand Ahuja cut a sensational, multi-tiered cake by Pooja Dhingra on their reception.

POOJA DHINGRA
Baker, Le15 Pâtisserie

Indians are increasingly keen to try new and innovative desserts, especially when planning the menu for their weddings. They want each element of their special day to stand out, which means that their bakers can

experiment with flavours and textures, and offer something entirely new. The trends I see as most prevalent are those that add a touch of drama—multi-layered cakes decorated with flowers, patterns (ranging from geometric to lacy), rosettes, and even monograms are all the rage. le15.com



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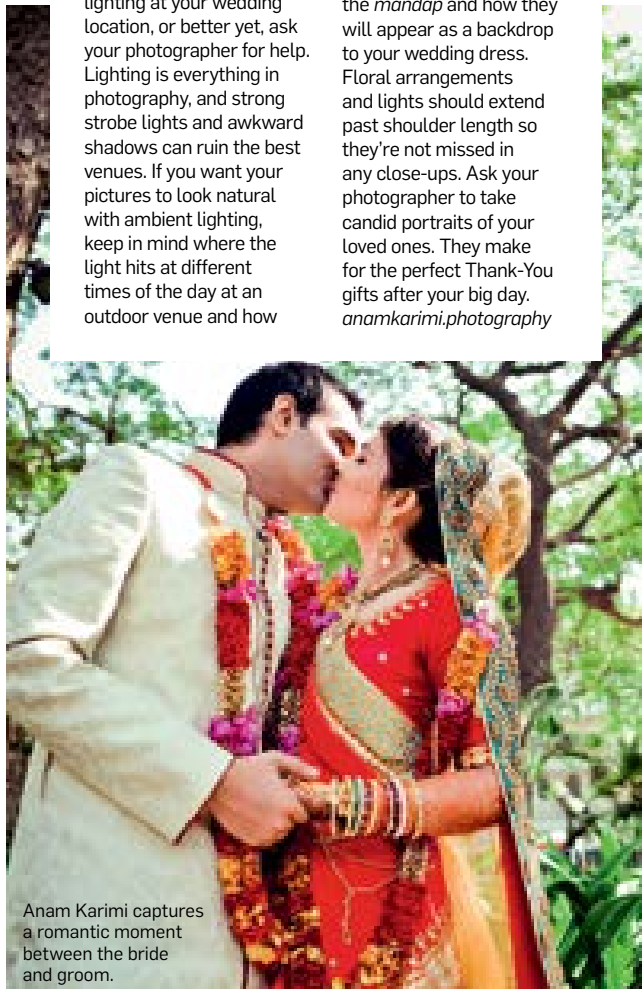
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ANAM KARIMI
Photographer

Take time to decide the lighting at your wedding location, or better yet, ask your photographer for help. Lighting is everything in photography, and strong strobe lights and awkward shadows can ruin the best venues. If you want your pictures to look natural with ambient lighting, keep in mind where the light hits at different times of the day at an outdoor venue and how

coloured lights will look in an indoor venue. For the *phas*, consider the colours and decoration of the *mandap* and how they will appear as a backdrop to your wedding dress. Floral arrangements and lights should extend past shoulder length so they're not missed in any close-ups. Ask your photographer to take candid portraits of your loved ones. They make for the perfect Thank-You gifts after your big day. anamkarimi.photography



Anam Karimi captures a romantic moment between the bride and groom.

ALISHA SHIRODKAR
Décor Designer

These days, couples are choosing new and innovative décor ideas and themes. These include 3D mapping, origami décor instead of real flowers, and acrylic *mandaps*. They are also using technology for concept-based events, such as Cirque du Soleil, and themes such as Moroccan or Cuban. The wedding planning process can be gruelling with multiple decision makers. The bride and groom should pick their battles and choose two-three aspects that are most important to them, and focus on getting them right. tamarindglobal.com



VISHAL PUNJABI
Videographer

It's important that a bride and groom share the same creative sensibilities as their wedding videographer. This includes music and sound design, which should not be treated as an afterthought. Some of the most beautiful wedding films made by us, including the one for

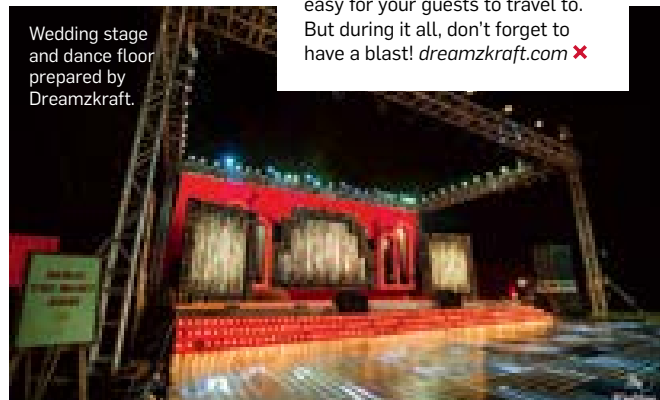
Virat and Anushka's functions, came together so magically because of the thought given to the music. We truly believe that every love story deserves its very own soundtrack, and at the end of the day, these wedding films are meant to preserve the memories of a very special moment in time. Nothing can ever be lost if we remember it. theweddingfilmer.co.in

UTTARA SHAH
Invitation Designer

A wedding card sets the expectation of what's to follow. Invites today are artful masterpieces, with innovative designs and use of unusual materials. It is essential that wedding gifts and favours are integrated into the invite for it to look like a complete package. uttarashah.com

PRITI SIDHWANI
Wedding Planner, Dreamkraft

If you are opting for a destination wedding, keeping the weather of that place in mind is extremely important. For a beach wedding, decide your dates early, and book well in advance to get the best deals. This is especially significant if you're planning your celebrations during peak wedding season. While choosing to do a destination wedding may seem like an easy option at first, make sure you select a venue that isn't logistically challenging and is easy for your guests to travel to. But during it all, don't forget to have a blast! dreamkraft.com



Wedding stage and dance floor prepared by Dreamkraft.

THE PERSONALISED MATCHMAKER

Gone are the days of fairy godmothers and lamp genies. In the modern age, personalised matrimony services like **Vows for Eternity** are the ones who play the role of cupid.



Finding the right life partner is not easy. For Anuradha Gupta, her search led to two crucial realisations—one, a successful marriage is built on the four pillars of friendship, trust, respect, and loyalty; and secondly, finding an ideal level of compatibility between two people and their families becomes harder with time and age. "The days when a resumé, a few photographs, and a meeting would suffice the matchmaking process are now passé," says Gupta. "Today, we require a service that concentrates on how two individuals connect in terms of outlooks, value systems, and personalities." Determined to fill the void and address the need for such a resource, Gupta launched Vows for Eternity.

A matchmaking service with a difference, this global, ultra-premium, personalised, and confidential firm works through an offline, closed group network that focusses on their clients' individual wishes and requirements. Headquartered

in New York, they have offices in Mumbai, Delhi, London, and Singapore. The agency's wide international scope is deliberate. "This is a platform for people seeking a true confidante, a soulmate, in their life partner," says the entrepreneur. "But this is easier said than done, which is why we provide a global outreach whilst maintaining a discreet and customised approach."

Considering the success of the venture, Gupta seems to have hit all the right buttons. Her clients, within the age group of 21–65 years, are affluent, well-educated professionals, industrialists, and celebrities, primarily based in India, the US, UK, Singapore, and Dubai. As expected, they are well travelled, progressive, and belong to diverse backgrounds. And the one thing they all have in common is a desire to make their lives even more meaningful with the right companion. As such, the personal touch becomes even more

relevant. "I don't work on biodatas as people are so much more than what can be conveyed on paper," says Gupta. "I like to engage with them personally, to better understand their nature, childhood, and life experiences." The focus, however, is on quality rather than quantity, which is why there is a strict eligibility criterion for membership.

The service offers three membership options: Privilege Suite is the signature bespoke service; its members include dignitaries, famous personalities, and very senior executives. The Premium membership is designed for highly driven and accomplished individuals, who may be entirely self-made or were born with a silver spoon. The Silver Lining membership is specifically for people above the age of 55.

The path to finding true love can be difficult, but it helps to know that the journey can be made easier with Vows for Eternity. —RASHIMA NAGPAL

Website: www.vowsforeternity.com E-mail: contactus@vowsforeternity.com;
Call: +91 997 173 1300, +91 960 703 0003 Office: +91 11 30446450

THE PROMISE

If there are two characteristics that define Vows for Eternity, they are integrity and relatability. It is with these values that the matchmaking service sets out to find the soulmate of their client's dreams.

39 WAYS TO WOW YOUR WEDDING GUESTS

1 THE "AAH" FACTOR

Set the mood for the special week ahead as soon as your guests arrive. Surprise them with foot massage counters for some indulgent relaxation. They're sure to love the treat, especially if they've taken a long flight.

2 TASTING SESSION REVELRY

A lot can happen over drinks! Plan an outdoor cocktail hour with a laid-back picnic vibe. For a fun, interactive time at the bar, organise a wine-and-cheese pairing session or a wine, whiskey, or liqueur tasting with a sommelier. Or just let the creative juices flow at the make-your-own margarita bar!

3 UNCONVENTIONAL PORTRAITS

Organise the usual, but with a twist. Hire a silhouette artist or a caricaturist for personalised portraits of your guests, which they can take home as wedding mementos.

4 HOSPITALITY LOUNGE

Wedding planner Nida Abed suggests, "Set up an easily accessible area that can be used as a 24-hour lounge serving high tea, as well as a comfortable space to sit back and unwind with much-needed sweet and savoury bites to satiate those after-party hunger pangs."

5 GET SPORTY

Take advantage of sunny afternoons with a burst of sporting energy. Vikram Mehta of Mpire Weddings says, "Organise cricket or volleyball games for a great bonding experience. Kids and adults alike will also enjoy garden games such as giant Jenga or life-size snakes and ladders."

6 SILENT DISCO PARTY

Take a page out of Karan Johar's *Ae Dil Hai Mushkil* and invite everyone to a silent disco party at your *mehendi*. Your guests will have a great time dancing to the beats of their favourite songs as part of this unique experience!

7 THE PERSONAL TOUCH

Personalise your welcome hampers and hangover kits with handwritten notes. This small gesture will go a long way with your guests.

8 FUN AT THE FAIR

Wedding planner Karishma Manwani says, "Once, we planned a funfair with merry-go-rounds, game stalls, and candy floss. Fairs are very popular and are trending at Indian weddings in the UK!"

9 3D PROJECTIONS

"Every wedding should have that 'wow factor'," says Abed. "3D projections of music videos or a short film on the couple are great ways to go."



10 WEDDINGS & HONEYMOONS

"Keep those updates coming and your wedding trending by opting for social media-friendly options such as Instagram Boomerangs, Flipbooks, or slow-motion videos uploaded live from every function." Neha Ahuja, The Doli Diary.

11 GO THEMATIC

Popular wedding themes include 'going green' and favourite movies or TV shows. Themes based on the couple's personality, such as bohemian or glamorous, are popular too.

12 DIY MERRIMENT

"Stalls with DIY oil and fragrance counters, block-printing and art stations, and cupcake-making stands are perfect for keeping guests entertained," says Neha Ahuja of The Doli Diary.

13 INNOVATIVE BARS

Set up a coffee bar and have baristas prepare cappuccinos with yummy toppings, such as chocolate shavings and cinnamon. Or, even a dessert bar, with a chocolatier serving handmade truffles.

14 WHAT WAS THAT?

Turn your guests' heads by adding revolving sculptures, human statues, and unusual installations to the décor.

15 ENTERTAINING ELDERS

Housie, dumb charades, or *antakshari* are always a big hit with elders during a *mehendi* or *sangeet*. You can also have a photograph of the couple blown up and made into a jigsaw puzzle. Put its pieces on the table for the guests to assemble.



16 RAPID-FIRE QUESTIONS

Host a bridesmaids versus groomsmen rapid-fire contest. Ask them a series of questions about the couple to determine which side knows the couple better.



17 EATING COMPETITIONS

Create teams with members from both sides for eating competitions at your *mehendi*. This delicious exercise is a brilliant icebreaker for the two families.



18 WHAT THE GUESTS SAY

Prepare unconventional message corners at the venue with a video box; guests can record short video messages for the couple. They can even sing songs or share funny anecdotes.



19 KEEP THE CHILDREN HAPPY

Hire kids' entertainers and wedding nannies to keep the children occupied. Think crayons, balloons, and candies. "Separate activities for kids keep the parents happy too!" says Abed.

20 INTERACTIVE SESSIONS

Hire palm and tarot card readers, illusionists, and magicians to keep guests thoroughly amused.

21 WEDDING VIDEOS

Play an edited video of the same day's festivities at your *sangeet* or cocktail later that night—it'll be a delightful surprise for the guests.

22 FUNNY T-SHIRTS

"Gift customised T-shirts with funny Bollywood quotes to wear in the *baraat* or for the *haldi*. They are a big hit with guests!" says Mehta.

23 FLASH MOB TIME

"Plan a flash mob involving as many guests as possible," suggests wedding planner Sidhi Mitra. "They get the party started and bring everyone to the dance floor."

24 HAPPY FEET

Arrange a shoe counter to offer guests flip-flops, flats, or comfortable shoes to wear at a beach wedding or at the after-party.

25 THE WEDDING IS IN...

Unusual venues are the call



27 A PET-FRIENDLY WEDDING

Arrange for dog sitters and pet entertainers, so that guests can bring their four-legged best friends to your wedding.

of the season. "This summer, we're planning the first ever Indian wedding at Disney World in Orlando, United States!" says Mehta.

28 LIVE ART

Invite an artist to create a painting of the wedding ceremony as the event unfolds. "Sand-art artists are a popular choice for many couples," says Avinaash Bodwaani of The Wedding Co.

29 ACCESSORIES GALORE

Arrange for fresh-flowers wrist and head bands,

30 WISH LANTERNS

For an outdoor night function, arrange for wish lanterns that your guests can release in the sky. This charming activity makes for a beautiful backdrop in photographs.

glitter booths, and bangles counters for your female guests during a *mehendi*.

31 EXCITING EXCURSIONS

Destination wedding? Don't forget to organise outings to the city's famous sites, before or after the functions, for the guests. This will make the wedding more memorable.

32 RADIO SHOW

"While transporting guests from one venue to the next by car, play a pre-recorded radio show that includes details of the functions and your favourite songs," says Bodwaani.

33 A FLEA MARKET

"Source products from local artisans and create your very own flea market. If your destination-wedding guests don't have time to visit the town, bring the town to them!" says Manwani.

34 GLAMOROUS ACTS

"Add to your cocktail night's glamour quotient with interactive entertainment acts by circus performers, stilt walkers, and costumed artists," suggests Abed.

35 YOUTUBE SENSATIONS

Make an all-out, fun-filled music video featuring all your guests dancing on your *sangeet* and post it on social media. You never know, it may go viral!

36 PETTING ZOO

For an outdoor function during the day, organise a petting zoo with rabbits, ponies, miniature donkeys, and sheep—it's certain to be a huge hit among children.

37 FUN TUTORIALS

Between wedding functions, plan beauty tutorials with a makeup artist or hire a mixologist for some cocktail-making sessions. Get some dance instructors on board before your *sangeet* to teach your guests how to sway and shake their way on to the dance floor with some *bhangra*, *salsa*, or *garba*!

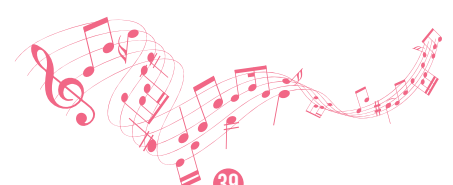
38 UNUSUAL MEMENTOS

Rent a 3D-printing machine so that your guests can customise their wedding mementos. It's one way to ensure they'll remember these gifts and your 'oh-so-cool-wedding' for months to come! ✕



26 MRS & MR CONTEST

Request the couple to come on stage for a fun Q&A session about each other. This game is a surefire way to get everyone laughing.



39 LIVE MUSIC

"Have a saxophonist, violinist, or percussionist play along with the DJ. This season, international drummers with LED drums are quite popular." Sidhi Mitra, Wedding Planner.

Let the STORIES UNFOLD

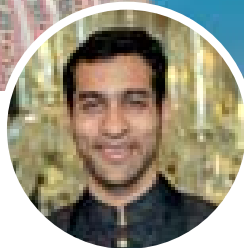
There's something exciting about capturing that significant moment when a couple commits to a life of love and togetherness. *Anuja Dixit* captures the work of four wedding photographers travelling across the world, entrusted with the task of making every moment look candid, glamorous, poignant, timeless, and perfect.



A multi-layered shot of a pool party in Thailand.



The groom announces the baraati's super-cool arrival with a special CO₂ gun, Jaipur.



ANAND RATHI Reels and Frames

An engineer and MBA by education, Rath is a self-taught photographer. In photo-journalistic style, he chases those special moments, while keeping their aesthetics intact. As for editing, Rath likes it, "Fresh, clean, and 100 percent gluten free!" Some of his biggest projects include shooting for WeddingSutra, and many A-list weddings. reelsandframes.in



A candid moment capturing the bliss and closeness of the celebrity newlyweds.



The gorgeous backdrop of the artistic pool at the Oberoi Udaivilas captured in an innovative aerial shot.



SHRUTI KHANNA AND JAYANT CHHABRA Cupcake Productions

This husband-wife led venture specialises in destination weddings, with more than 250 luxury events across the globe to their credit. Capturing weddings artistically is the motto, and they precede each project with an in-depth research of their clients' personalities. cupcakeproductions.in



A fairy tale moment between Sanjam and Sahil, Delhi.



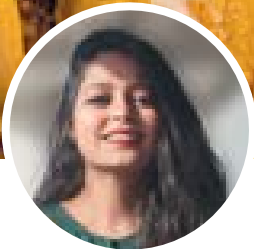
The bride looks like a princess as she approaches her prince, Delhi.



Blue skies and palm trees provide the perfect frame for Mansi and Arvind's royal procession at Taj Falaknuma Palace, Hyderabad.



The bride can't hide her delight as the *haldi* ceremony takes a watery turn, Hubli.



ANKITA ASTHANA
The Wedding Nama

A lover of epic imagery, Asthana tries to capture natural moments as beautifully as possible. "I personalise everything, be it film or photographs, and get emotionally connected to the couples and their families. That is how I am able to give my best." weddingnama.in



The bride shares her special day with the canine love of her life, Planet Hollywood, Goa.



Love is in the air for this happy couple, along with several multicoloured balloons in Cappadocia, Turkey.



The bride resembles a Rajasthani princess as she takes a walk along the ramparts of the Laxmi Niwas Palace, Bikaner.

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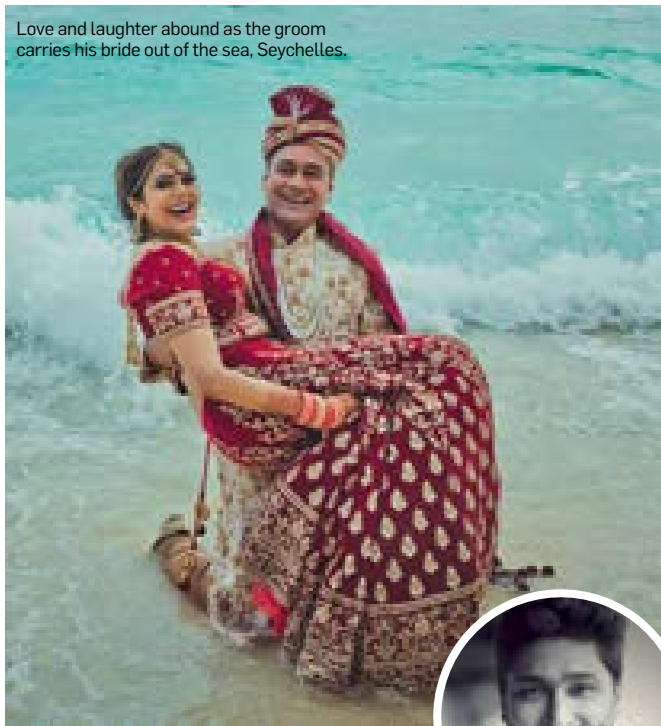
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WEDDING MOMENTS

Bipasha makes a radiantly happy bride in her traditional Bengali attire.

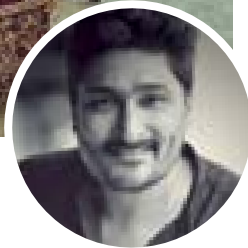


Love and laughter abound as the groom carries his bride out of the sea, Seychelles.

HARPREET BACHCHER

The Wedding Story

The founder of India's leading wedding photography firm believes in keeping it natural. "Just focus on your story. Weave the location in with local elements—a legend, music, or props. The team handpicks these elements and packs them with moments of love and bonhomie." theweddingstory.com



The groom stays grounded while his best men take flight in this magical shot in Udaipur.



Rose petals grace the aisle of a beach wedding.

Feel the Colours of Romance

Come to **Gili Lankanfushi, Maldives**, a tropical escape where love blossoms.

Surrounded by sparkling turquoise lagoon waters, this heavenly retreat is where couples can tie the knot in a space radiating romance, and receive a special blessing from a local Maldivian cleric. From your nuptial on its beautiful lagoon

champa (wedding pavilion), to sipping champagne at sunset on a traditional *dhoni* cruise, or a star-lit private dinner on One Palm Island, the scenic resort offers you a timeless haven for a celebration of a lifetime. It is here at this ultimate island destination, where seclusion, exceptionality, and barefoot luxury blend with exquisite natural settings to ensure you an unforgettable time.

From creating the perfect setting for that all-important proposal to preparing a magical moment in time for your wedding and honeymoon, the resort can take care of every detail. All you need to do is choose from its many

dedicated packages and stunning venues, which include the Private Reserve, Lagoon Champa, One Palm Island, Over Water Bar, and Palm Beach. Exchange vows on a rose petals-strewn beach, or a beautiful sunset terrace, serenaded by the lagoon's gentle waves. The Palm Beach Wedding package presents a magical, candle-lit grove as your chapel and the vast Indian Ocean as your witness. It includes a minimum four-night stay in the Villa Suite, a sunset cruise with canapés and drinks, spa services for the couple before and after the wedding, a photographer, and a standing cocktail ceremony for 30 guests. gili-lankanfushi.com



Golden rays kiss the tranquil waters by the jetty at sunset.

Over to Your Forever Moments

Step into your new life at **Sun Siyam Resorts**, where luxury and decadence meet togetherness.



For couples seeking that unforgettable setting for an ultimate beach wedding, whether lavish or private, the uber-luxurious Sun Siyam Resorts are picture-perfectly ideal retreats. With three resorts in the beautiful Maldives—all with stunning settings overlooking the Indian Ocean, glowing under the glorious Maldivian sunshine—the chain's waterfront destinations are perfect for a romantic wedding and fantastic after-party.

Choose from their many wedding-ceremony packages. Specially curated as per your needs, each package celebrates the beauty and joy of a couple's love for each other, while arranging all the symbolic activities relevant to nuptial ceremonies. The resorts also offer a diverse range of luxury stay options, including exclusive retreats with round-the-clock services, private pools, sitting areas, spacious bathrooms, and terraces. With a multitude of restaurants and bars serving a range of cuisines, you and your guests will find it difficult to choose between the incredible flavours showcasing local Maldivian ingredients and the exquisite Italian, Thai, Indian and international creations. Do try and find some time for diving, snorkelling, and other fun excursions. There are new possibilities every day. sunsiyam.com

FROM TOP: COURTESY OF GILI LANKANFUSHI MALDIVES; COURTESY OF SUN SIYAM RESORTS

WEDDINGS *of our* DREAMS

Grand or intimate, traditional or innovative, celebrity weddings always manage to hit that perfect note of glitzy glamour and elegant flair—be it an Italian wedding fiesta or a vibrant Punjabi wedding. *Manvi Malhotra* lists some insightful tips drawn from five famous weddings in India to help you plan your very own celebrity wedding.



Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma

Virat and Anushka remind us of that popular high-school couple, who would secretly meet in the alley behind the school, making sure nobody ever found out about them. The lovebirds did not so much as confirm their relationship before surprising us with the news of their wedding in Tuscany, Italy. Unless you've been living under a rock, you must already have seen pictures and videos of their absolutely gorgeous wedding. And considering how perfect everything looked, the planning must have been quite remarkable. There is much to learn from this sensational destination wedding.



Focus more on love and less on pomp and show When that first picture of Virat and Anushka exchanging garlands on the day of their wedding came out, it warmed our hearts; not because of the big, fancy setting, but because the couple's smiles as they saw each other were precious, and their love seemed to radiate from the photograph.

Surround yourself with those who share your happiness Spend some time working on that all-important guest list, making sure you focus on and invite those who are close to you and will add to the warmth of the occasion. This is especially relevant for destination weddings. It's the bonhomie of your nearest and dearest that marks a happy time.

Pick all or most of your bridal outfits from the same designer An important tip for all those brides struggling to put together their trousseau. It doesn't matter whether you pick your lehenga from Sabyasachi or something from your favourite local store, it's better to get all your bridal outfits from one place to avoid hassles with fittings and other things.



Sagarika Ghatge and Zaheer Khan

In a case of life imitating art, Sagarika found love in Indian cricketer Zaheer, much like her character did in her debut movie, *Chak De! India*. And when they married, we adored the way they celebrated their special day.

Change the usual pattern to suit your needs While most couples follow a set order of *mehendi*, *sangeet* and then *shaadi*, Sagarika and Zaheer tweaked the 'norm'. They had a simple registered wedding first, and then celebrated the other functions—they expressed their love their own way, instead of simply following the traditional path.

Stand out by using unusual colours for your outfits Sagarika chose the most unique colours for all her bridal outfits—a blush-pink sari for the cocktail, a sea-green lehenga for the *sangeet*, and a beige one for the reception. She looked like a complete vision in all her outfits, so kudos to her fashion sense!

TOP LEFT: NEWSCOM/ALAMY; COURTESY OF SHIRISH SHETE

BOTTOM LEFT: COURTESY OF PICASA



Sonam Kapoor and Anand Ahuja

A mention of this vivacious bride and calm groom is enough to inspire feelings of love, adoration, and warmth. She's an actress and a fashionista; he's an entrepreneur and a basketball player—talk about opposites attract! The couple decided to have a big, fat Punjabi wedding, and here are a few things we loved about their extravagantly colourful functions.

Make sure you have fun at your wedding The entire Kapoor clan, including the bride, went into a frenzy at Sonam's wedding. They ate, danced, and had a gala time, ensuring they made the most of each moment, and it was the most amazing thing to witness.

Don't sacrifice your comfort for fashion Looking pretty is important, but so is being comfortable. Sonam changed into a nightsuit at her *mehendi* and wore a maxi dress to her reception so she could enjoy it just as much as the others. If she can do it, so can you!

Small gestures go a long way Sonam picked pretty, customised *juttis* as her *mehendi* giveaways. And the Kapoors arranged lunch for all the media waiting outside in the glaring sun while covering the wedding. A thoughtful gesture that touched everyone's hearts.

Milind Soman and Ankita Konwar

In a special union, with their dear ones by their side, Milind and Ankita had the most fun-filled wedding in Alibaug. Here are some useful gems to take away from the Marathi-Assamese union:

Love, not age, is what matters We are saying this once and for all, age difference in a marriage is just mind over matter—if you don't mind, it doesn't matter. Milind and Ankita have a 27-year-age gap and are still happily married and much-in-love.

Quirky is the new sexy And the couple proved it at their wedding! Ankita's bright-yellow, ankle-length lehenga, and Milind's translucent dhoti kurta had us from the very go. It's your special day, so pick an outfit that meets your style, without thinking about what people will say.



Neha Dhupia and Angad Bedi

The rumours that the two were dating were still doing the rounds, when, out of nowhere, we got the sweet shock that Neha and Angad had gotten married. A picture of the two in a gurdwara at their Anand Karaj ceremony, looking deeply in love, took our breath away. And boy, what an attractive couple they make! Let's see what we learnt from this surprising yet heart-warming wedding.



Your wedding is about you, not one else There's no need to make a noise about your wedding if you don't want to. You don't owe anybody an explanation about how you decide to get married. It's your big day, and you should enjoy it the way you like.

Keep your look fresh and fuss-free Neha looked beautiful in her blush-pink lehenga, minimal makeup and jewellery, and classic-bun hairstyle—a clean look we dig for a summer bride. ✕

Living Happily Ever After

TALES OF ROMANCE OFTEN LEAD US DOWN THE PATH TO THAT BLISSFUL HAPPY ENDING, BUT NEVER FURTHER. *RASHIMA NAGPAL* MEETS UP WITH DEEPLY-IN-LOVE COUPLE **BIPASHA BASU** AND **KARAN SINGH GROVER** AT THE **CONRAD PUNE** OVER AN INDULGENT GETAWAY TO DISCOVER WHAT LIES ON THE OTHER SIDE OF MARRIAGE.

PRODUCED BY AINDRILA MITRA

PHOTOGRAPHED BY RAHUL JHANGIANI

STYLED BY DIVYAK D'SOUZA

ASSISTED BY KEYURI SANGOI, MAYURI KATARIA

AND SURYA PRATAP SINGH

HAIR AND MAKEUP FOR BIPASHA KAJOL MULANI AND BILLY MANIK

HAIR AND MAKEUP FOR KARAN RITESH CHUDASAMA AND DINESH PATIL

ON BIPASHA: Sari, **Rimzim Dadu**, ₹89,600; earrings, **Valliyan**, ₹5,500; bracelet, **Valliyan**, ₹4,000.

ON KARAN: Jacket, **Wendell Rodricks**, ₹18,000; dhoti, **Wendell Rodricks**, ₹6,500.

ON BIPASHA
Dress, **am.it** by Amit Aggarwal, price on request; shoes, **The Source**, ₹3,500; haathphool, **Suhani Pittie**, ₹19,000; earrings, **Flowerchild By Shaheen Abbas**, price on request.

ON KARAN
Shirt, **Dhruv Vaish**, ₹10,995; trousers, **Suket Dhir**, price on request; shoes, **Clarks**, ₹8,999.

It is as pleasant as July evenings are in Pune—cool, breezy, and with the smell of monsoon in the air. We are glad to have left Delhi’s humidity behind as we land in this green city, nicknamed the Queen of the Deccan. Without wasting any time, we make our way to the luxurious Conrad Pune. It is there that the star couple—Bipasha Basu and Karan Singh Grover—are set to arrive from Mumbai, for a photo shoot, and a relaxing escape from their hectic lifestyles.

It’s a short drive to our destination from the airport, and I am pleasantly surprised by its deceptively unassuming location. Deceptive because while it is based in the heart of Pune’s business district, Hilton’s first luxury hotel in India—Conrad Pune—stands magnificently tall amidst the dense greenery of a leafy neighbourhood. This, perhaps, is a quality inherent to Pune; opulence and simplicity blend seamlessly here.

This theme of quiet luxury continues within, and I get an overwhelming sense of tastefully furnished, spacious interiors, soaring ceilings, with soft Art Deco-lighting and muted colours that lend an elegance to the setting. As Deepa Chandiramani, Marketing Communications Manager at Conrad Pune, guides us through the property in search of that perfect venue for our shoot, I realise it’s going to be much harder than I had anticipated. Every part of the hotel reveals an enticing backdrop—whether it is the regal grace of the wide, marbled staircase in the lobby, the golden richness of Koji, the hotel’s exclusive Pan-Asian restaurant, or the sophisticated décor of the Presidential Suite.

It’s been a long day of travelling and exploration, and we’re famished by the time we head to the Coriander Kitchen, a 24-hour, multi-cuisine venue, for dinner. The beautifully created dishes of the lavish spread tempt the eyes as well as the mouth. With live counters offering gourmet versions of Indian, Asian and Mediterranean street food, a rotating ice cream bar, and a unique food ‘library’ wall serving mini portions of salads and desserts from its many shelves, we’re completely spoilt for choice.



It's an early start the next day as we get down to the serious part of the shoot. But there are long breaks in between as the crew changes camera angles and our models change their outfits, and I find the time to wander through the hotel, discovering its delights. For instance, I learn it houses the city's largest collection of saké, and that Masu, the hotel's uber-chic bar, which features an absolutely stunning saké wall, is called so after the traditional square wooden boxes that saké was served in, back in the day. Needless to say, the next time you're in Pune, you know where to head to for a glass of the finest Asian rice wine. From Masu, I make my way to Koji. Fascinated by its décor the previous day, I wanted to know more. "The restaurant has been designed by Spin, a renowned Japanese interior design company," Chandiramani tells me. "And the ornate chandeliers are from the Czech Republic, while the origami on the walls was created by artists from Hong Kong."

Given the pleasing aesthetics, I'm not surprised that this restaurant has won as many awards as it has hearts.

And while on the subject of winning hearts, I also discover the special 1/3/5 Experiences programme that Conrad has made available for its guests. Depending on the free time one has, the concierge curates special itineraries in one-, two-, and five-hour packages that allow guests to explore the city at their own pace. This can include a visit to the ancient citadel of Shaniwar Wada, the abode of the Peshwas in the 18th century, or a stop at the grand Aga Khan Palace,

ON BIPASHA
Dress, **Anamika Khanna**, ₹1,20,000; earrings, **Suhani Pittie**, ₹16,000; bracelet, **Art Karat**, ₹9,500; ring, **Art Karat**, ₹4,800; shoes, **Christian Louboutin**, ₹73,500.

ON KARAN
Kurta trouser set, **Khanijo**, ₹24,500; waistcoat, **Khanijo**, ₹34,500; shoes, **Tresmode Gusser**, ₹3,900.

a former prison and significant monument during the Indian freedom struggle—both historical landmarks lie within a proximity of five kilometres of the hotel.

Work beckons and I head to the Presidential Suite for the last shot of the day. This also happens to be where our celebrity guests are staying—the photographer thinks that it's the perfect backdrop for a romantic picture of the couple. Everyone agrees. Spread across 164 square metres, this stylish chamber features beautiful, contemporary furnishings, a cosy study, spacious living and dining areas, a tasteful powder room—where we take our final shot—and floor-to-ceiling windows that allow for plenty of natural light, as well as stunning views over the city.

The next morning comes too soon, and it's our last day at the Conrad Pune. We successfully wrap up the shoot mid-afternoon and gather at Pune Sugar Box, the hotel's charming delicatessen, for a quick bite and a refreshing cuppa. My ginger-honey-lemon



Clockwise, from top: The well-lit reception at Conrad Pune; the spacious living room of the Presidential Suite offers a panoramic view of the city; refreshing cocktails at Masu; chefs lay out a multi-cuisine buffet spread at Coriander Kitchen; the soothing and elegant décor of a suite. *Centre:* A tranquil ambience envelops the poolside area.

COURTESY OF CONRAD PUNE

tea, with gooey chocolate brownies, is possibly the most comforting beverage I've ever had, especially welcome after our hectic schedule. Our star couple, meanwhile, is celebrating the wrap of the shoot with an indulgent massage at the spa. In the end, one thing is clear—be it a simple cup of tea in comfortable environs or a rejuvenating therapy session, Conrad Pune and its calm affluence is certain to leave you feeling relaxed and at peace with the world.

THE DETAILS

GETTING THERE

There are several flights to Pune, and the hotel is a short 15-minute drive from the airport. The Mumbai-Pune expressway is a driver's delight in case you're taking the road from Mumbai.

STAY

Located in the heart of the city, the iconic Conrad Pune features 310 luxurious, elegantly appointed guestrooms and suites. Book the One Bedroom Deluxe Suite for a memorable experience—newlyweds, especially, will love the privacy of their personal living and dining areas. It also has a walk-in rain shower, plush furnishings, and picture windows with spectacular views over the city; you also get exclusive access to the Executive Lounge on the 13th floor. From ₹20,499 per night; conradhotels3.hilton.com

FOR COUPLES

Take a break from hectic pre- and post-wedding festivities, or even that much-needed respite from the chaos of the city, in the soothing environs of this inviting retreat. Spend some quality time and reconnect with each other over delectable food and drinks. Or unwind with a signature treatment for couples in the hotel's harmoniously designed spa—the deeply relaxing programmes use essential oils of rose, jasmine, and sandalwood to leave you feeling refreshed and rejuvenated.

EAT

The Conrad Pune is home to six trendy dining venues. And there's something for everyone. Dine on fine Indian cuisine that includes the freshest seafood at **Zeera**, or head to the **Coriander Kitchen** for some innovative, street-food style creations with Mediterranean and Asian influences. The warm interiors of **Koji** are a chic setting for savouring some Japanese, Chinese, and Thai specialties, while **Kabana**, the poolside café, is ideal for a casual meal of sandwiches with fruity beverages. Choose from an impressive selection of drinks and cocktails at the strikingly posh **Masu** bar, and round up the night with fresh, sweet and savoury delicacies at the **Pune Sugar Box**. ✕



ON BIPASHA
Kurta, **Rajesh Pratap Singh**, price on request; jacket, **Anamika Khanna**, price on request; necklace, **Art Karat**, ₹83,740.

ON KARAN
Waistcoat and dhoti, **Tarun Tahiliani**, price on request.

WHEN RAKISHLY HANDSOME TV STAR **KARAN SINGH GROVER** MADE HIS DEBUT ON THE BIG SCREEN, IT WAS ALONGSIDE THE BEAUTIFUL **BIPASHA BASU**. AS FATE WOULD HAVE IT, SPARKS FLEW BETWEEN THESE TWO CHARISMATIC PERSONALITIES—ONE A PUNJABI, THE OTHER A BENGALI—AND BY THE END OF THE FILM SHOOT, THE TWO HAD FALLEN DEEPLY IN LOVE. FUNNY, PASSIONATE, AND OUTRIGHTLY ADORABLE, THE COUPLE OFFERS AN ENTERTAINING PEEK INTO THEIR RELATIONSHIP AS THEY DISCUSS THE PASSIONS THEY SHARE AND REVEAL SOME SECRETS ABOUT EACH OTHER.

How did you two meet?

“We first met for the reading of a film at a hotel in Mumbai,” Bipasha begins. Karan confirms and adds, “As soon as I looked at her, my first reaction was wow, she’s so hot and beautiful. And then you get to know her, and you realise she is crazy!” (Bipasha giggles) “But still a very warm, big-hearted girl; very easy to get along with,” he continues, with a smile. “We hit it off from day one on the set,” says Bipasha. “We would talk all the time in between shots and otherwise, we would eat together, hang out together, and just wouldn’t stop talking.”

When did you realise you're made for each other?

“I think our strong bond and deep friendship helped us get together,” confesses Bipasha. “It was a long process—of meeting, not meeting, trying to stay away from each other, living in denial, and all that... a really *filmy* time. There was no plan in place; I didn’t think about getting married. He surprised me with a beautiful proposal when we took a holiday to Koh Samui to celebrate the New Year. Later, I got to know he had been planning it for a while.” Karan pitches in, “For me, once I realised how much I love her, I knew I was

going to ask her sooner or later. There was no doubt about that.”

How has life changed after two years of marriage?

“I have been living independently since I started working at the age of 15,” answers Bipasha, “So I was used to being by myself, and never missed having a partner. Maybe that’s why I didn’t really consider getting married. But now, every morning when I wake up and see him sleeping next to me, I feel blessed. I come home to him and understand how amazing it is to have a companion, somebody you love. We both look forward to seeing each other at the end of the day,” she adds. Karan chuckles. “I’d work from home if I could!”

Who's better at making decisions?

“I’m very practical,” Bipasha announces. “I’m better for sure!” Agreeing, Karan adds, “And I genuinely believe, everybody should let the woman take the lead.”

Does either of you like to cook?

“We love to eat!” the two answer in unison. “I cook sometimes,” says Bipasha, “when I feel like making something special.” Karan nods. “I love this custard, layered with jim-jams, she makes on Sundays.”

Favourite restaurant in India?

“I love Bengali food, so Oh! Calcutta definitely,” smiles Bipasha. “And Indigo Deli is our all-time favourite.”

Go-to Indian destination?

Goa, all the time!

Favourite city in the world?

London.

Who's more of a fitness freak?

“She is into fitness, and I am a freak!” quips Karan. Bipasha laughs, “No, we’re both equally committed to keeping fit.”

Who's better at packing?

“I detest packing clothes!” replies Bipasha. “He is great at it.”

Who's more of a shopaholic?

“It’s, hands-down, him!” laughs Bipasha. “He has very good taste and I have very little patience!” Karan grins. “She can’t stand in a store for more than five minutes.”

Five things you love to do together?

Eat, sleep, workout, shop, and watch Netflix.

Any nicknames for each other?

“He’s my monkeylove!” smiles Bipasha. “Everyone knows that!” Karan agrees, “I definitely am.”



STELLAR IMPRESSIONS

Launched earlier this year, **Conrad Bengaluru** is dazzling global luxury travellers with its many exceptional offerings. *Rashima Nagpal* takes a look at why it's the talk-of-the-town.



FROM THE SHIMMERING BRILLIANCE of the central chandelier—an artistic creation of finely-cut crystals—in its grand lobby, to the delicious sea bass at its Mediterranean restaurant Tiamo, and the stunning views from its infinity pool, Conrad Bengaluru is giving the discerning traveller many a reason to fall in love with it.

THE LUXURY OF COMFORT

A glorious, 24-storey luxury hotel—currently, the tallest in southern India—Conrad Bengaluru owns a sweet spot in the central business district of Karnataka's capital. Within, the 285 guest rooms, which include 21 suites, are luxuriously furnished in the quiet elegance typical of the Conrad ethos; the natural light streaming in from floor-to-ceiling windows with views of the scenic Ulsoor Lake is inherently calming. Smart and intuitive, the rooms are equipped with state-of-the-art technology ensuring a comfortable stay. While the intuitive motion sensors are excellent for drawing the curtains, and controlling the air conditioning and ambient lighting, manual buttons beside your bed let you set the mood with four kinds of lighting—clove, reading, sleep, and master. For further comfort, refer to the pillow menu in your room and pick from one of six options—from a Memory Foam pillow for extra neck support, to a Big Cozy pillow, best for lounging—there's something for everybody. The vanity mirrors with in-built television screens in the bathrooms are truly the cherry on top!

For those days when you need some special TLC, a therapy session at Conrad Spa is always a good idea. Based on 'adaptogenic' philosophy, which includes natural ingredients that are good at helping your body adapt to the environment,

CLETUS REBELLO (4)



the spa offers a range of treatments especially designed to help you unplug from the outside world, and nourish your body, mind, and soul. Better still, ask for an exclusively customised therapy for your specific needs. Yet another tiring day at work? Take a plunge in the temperature-controlled infinity pool, and let the waters soothe your aches away. Gym enthusiasts can benefit from a round-the-clock fitness centre that houses the best of machines and equipment. If you have brought little ones along, take them to the kids' pool for a fun afternoon.

GOURMET INDULGENCE

Conrad Bengaluru's five dining venues offer enticing culinary fare, each with a distinctive appeal of its own. Fulfilling its aim to represent the country's many states with locally sourced ingredients, Indian Durbar has garnered much appreciation for its regional specialities, such as the Nizami chicken korma, Goan fish curry, and Rajasthani *laal maas*. Walk in at the all-day, multi-cuisine Caraway Kitchen for delicacies from Asia to the Americas, or make your way to Mikusu for lip-smacking Japanese, Thai, and Chinese creations. The Lobby Brew, with its aromatic coffee and sweet treats is perfect for a refreshing break. But it is Tiamo, the poolside Mediterranean restaurant that is the shining star of the hotel—make sure you save it for a romantic evening.

CELEBRATE IN STYLE

Planning the wedding of your dreams becomes that much easier at Conrad Bengaluru, as an experienced team of wedding coordinators

Clockwise from top: The elegant Grand Ballroom; a chef stands beside his delicious delicacies in the Caraway Kitchen; a spiral staircase in the lobby. Opposite, from left: The unique chandelier casts a golden hue over the main lobby; the glittering façade of Conrad Bengaluru.



A HELPING HAND

► Make use of the unique Conrad Concierge App, a signature offering by the property, to access the hotel's services—early check-ins, room selection, restaurant reservations, car rentals, and more at your fingertips.

► Have a few hours to spare? Then sign up for the hotel's 1/3/5 Experiences package that arranges 1-, 3-, and 5-hour long city tours to must-see destinations. Visit the beautiful white mansion of the National Gallery of Modern Art, a treat for the soul, or head to the bustling Commercial Street, a treat for shopaholics!

dedicates itself to ensuring your special day is as perfect as possible—from themed décor and food menus, to all those thoughtful little touches that make a celebration memorable, the team takes care of everything. Be it a lavish affair or an intimate gathering, customise your celebrations as per your taste, at your choice of venue—the opulent Grand Ballroom can accommodate up to 675 guests; with two, spacious pre-function areas, including a private foyer, it is ideal for a gala event. Cosier ceremonies can be beautifully arranged in one of the six Function Rooms. With so much to offer and so much to experience, no wonder this world-class property is the 'it' place in town! conradhotels3.hilton.com ✕



TUSCAN DELIGHTS

The expansive fields near the Cappella della Madonna di Vitaleta are typical of Tuscan landscape, Val d'Orcia.

ON HER: Lehenga, **Sabyasachi**; jewellery **Red Dot Jewels** and **Nikita Ladiwala**, prices on request.

ON HIM: Suit, **Massimo Dutti**, price on request.



A Slice of *La Dolce Vita*

As a coveted destination for couples seeking the wedding of a lifetime, picturesque **Tuscany** is second to none. *Shaikh Ayaz* ventures into its depths to the unspoilt valley of Val d'Orcia, only to discover the perfect setting for love and inspiration.

Produced by **Nisha Kundnani (Bridelan)** | Photographed by **Aziz Khan (Muse Motion Pictures)**
Models **Shivani Sharma** and **Erim Serinoglu** | Fashion Assistants **Shubhangi Ladiwala** and **Preethi S** | Location **L'Olmo Podere a Pienza, Italy**

Medieval villas and gorgeous valleys make Val d'Orcia a splendid rural retreat.

Lehenga and jacket, **Aikeyah**; belt, **Sabyasachi**; jewellery, **Red Dot Jewels**, prices on request.



IT'S SUMMER IN EUROPE, and the days are longer than the reign of the Roman Empire. Or so it seems to me. We are in a speeding hatchback, zigzagging along the bucolic roads of Italy, hurtling past idyllic villages. It's not been long since we set out southward bound from Siena on our way to the Val d'Orcia region, set about an hour's drive away. The time flies, and as we enter a landscape of gently rolling hills and vast fields, one thing becomes clear soon enough—this is that true slice of the Italian countryside, an embodiment, so to speak, of those sweetest of brioches, Pesche di Prato, for which they ought to have invented the phrase *la dolce vita*, the quintessentially Italian 'sweet life'.

Nestled exquisitely in the heart of Italy—both geographically and culturally—Val d'Orcia has a sense of the timeless about it. An unhurried pace defines the rustic Tuscan life, and you can drive past miles and miles of sweeping openness without finding a single soul. And yet, when you do, the Italians can be just as chatty as generous. But nowhere is the



L'Olmo Podere a Pienza, a luxury hotel overlooking vast vistas lush with cypress and olive trees.

Cape sari, **Sabyasachi**; jewellery, **Red Dot Jewels**; prices on request.



A pathway to heaven between singing valleys and cypress-lined country roads, Podere Covili.

Gown, **Georges Chakra**; jewellery, **Red Dot Jewels** and **Nikita Ladiwala**; prices on request.

Golden dusk sky reigning over the quiet fields near Monticchiello.

Lehenga, **Anamika Khanna**; jewellery, **Red Dot Jewels**; prices on request.



‘timelessness’ of this secluded haven, also a UNESCO World Heritage Site, more apparent than in its architecture.

A short drive takes us to the Abbey of Sant’Antimo in the small, medieval commune of Montalcino. Standing proud under the warm Tuscan sun, this 12th-century relic appears oblivious to our inquisitive presence. The other villages dotting the Montalcino settlement are similarly medieval Roman in form; remarkably, each has managed to maintain its historical character. As our local guide explains, “You can’t even change the window of your house without the permission of local authorities. We have been asked to protect and keep things as they originally were.”

The magnificent Cappella della Madonna di Vitaleta is further proof of how beautifully historical structures are preserved in the valley. The stone chapel is visible from miles away, rising like a lone man-made wolf from among the area’s natural bounties. We choose to spend our evening in the fields, strolling and taking videos of the gorgeous drowning-sun-and-rising-moon moments before dusk settles. We eventually move on to San Quirico, where the long shadows of tall cypresses cast a spell on us.

Our hotel is not far from there. L’Olmo Podere a Pienza is a grand Tuscan villa promising to be your ultimate getaway. And so it is. Dating back to the 17th century, this former farmhouse is where pilgrims stopped for the night on their way to Rome. In 2014, under the guidance of owner Tonino Cacace, L’Olmo was converted into a swanky, five-star hotel, with expansive grounds and plush suites. It has since become popular with couples looking for a quaint, intimate wedding. “The lights and colours of the landscape change constantly,” notes Cacace. “It’s a very romantic sight.”

The next morning, we head out to Montepulciano, a Renaissance hill town nearby, known for splendid 14th-century buildings and great restaurants. We return to L’Olmo by dark and find it glittering like a jewel. It’s a gem worthy of its place in this Tuscan crown. ✕



Forever Yours in Tuscany

Regal architecture, inspired luxury, everlasting romance, or sheer love for Tuscany will lead you to the Castello del Nero, a grand castle-hotel near Florence.

Delightfully pretty and utterly romantic, Italy is Europe at its best. Especially when you have that perfect wedding or honeymoon in mind. And there’s no better destination that encapsulates a gorgeous, fairy tale setting, with that added gift of sinful luxury, than Castello del Nero Hotel & Spa, a 12th-century castle-hotel in Chianti, Tuscany. A member of the Leading Hotels of the World, this property is a half-an-hour drive from Florence and Siena, and is renowned for being home to the region’s best wine cellar—ancient Etruscans tended their vineyards here around 2,500 years ago, making Chianti one of the world’s oldest wines. The two, wonderfully atmospheric stone cellars are part of the original castle, and draw guests from across the globe for tastings of its historic Tuscan wines.

Set amidst 740 acres of lush, rolling Tuscan hills, Castello Del Nero Hotel & Spa is ideal for those seeking an indulgent spa vacation,

a memorable gastronomic experience, or an extraordinary destination wedding. Beautifully blending Italy’s Renaissance charm with all modern comforts, the retreat offers its guests the ultimate getaway, with spectacular sights—noble architecture, sweeping vineyards, and olive groves outside, and strikingly original frescoes, vaulted ceilings, and charming fireplaces inside—around every corner. The 50 rooms and suites of the hotel, unique and painstakingly restored, are furnished with elegance. And for the gourmands, the Michelin-starred La Torre and the rustically enchanting La Taverna, which serve authentic flavours of Tuscany with creativity, expertise, and a love of seasonal, local ingredients, are certain to transport one to the heavens. The earthy, brick-walled environs of its bar are ideal for relaxing over a glass of local wine. castellodelnero.com/en — SHAHNAAZ BAKSHI

Clockwise from top: Panoramic view from the spacious terrace; an ideal vantage point overlooking green vineyards; a delicate dish made from fresh ingredients.



THAT SPECIAL TOUCH

Spread over 1,000 square metres, ESPA is the in-house luxury spa like no other. Offering spectacular views of the scenic surroundings through glass walls, the plush interiors are perfect for a session of pampering through personalised treatments and an outdoor vitality pool. The signature programmes use yields from the estate; the lavender-infused extra-virgin olive oil is especially relaxing.



AN

AUTHENTIC

TUSCAN

EXPERIENCE


CASTELLO DEL NERO
HOTEL & SPA

Where **Dreamy Weddings** *Take Place*

THERE'S NO STOPPING TO-BE-WEDS FILLED WITH A PASSION FOR TRAVEL. ANANYA BAHL PRESENTS A GUIDE TO THE BEST LOCALES FOR DESTINATION WEDDINGS—SOME USUAL SUSPECTS AND SOME PLEASANT SURPRISES—ALL DEDICATED TO MAKING YOUR VOWS 'WOW'.

COURTESY OF INTERCONTINENTAL SAMUI BAAN TALING NGAM RESORT

With panoramic views over the Gulf of Thailand, the infinity pool is a magical setting for a wedding at InterContinental Samui Baan Taling Ngam Resort, Koh Samui.

KOH SAMUI

There are few places more suited for Indian wedding parties than Thailand, especially given their easy visa policy. While the country is dotted with gorgeous islands, Koh Samui is, possibly, the perfect getaway. For starters, it's packed with luxury and boutique resorts; some rate high on the family-friendly quotient and others on privacy. Add to this, the expertise of the resorts' in-house weddings planners, and you have a match made in heaven.

IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T FORMALLY POPPED THE QUESTION TO YOUR PARTNER, HERE ARE FIVE STUNNING BEACHES PERFECT FOR A QUICK PROPOSAL:

- Choose any spot on the Silver Beach, a 250-km-long tropical paradise, for the ideal setting to ask the all-important question. Verdant cliffs rising against the horizon provide a picturesque backdrop.
- Bophut Beach features sandy stretches and lots of boutiques to enjoy some retail therapy after you pop the question!
- The waters at Lipa Noi Beach are shallow for almost 100 metres into the sea. Make your proposal unique by asking for your partner's hand mid-sea!
- If both of you are night birds, pop the question while partying at any of the happening clubs and restaurants at Chaweng Beach.
- Made up of many smaller bays, Choeng Mon Beach has the perfect private spot for you to propose. And its white sands and cerulean waters make for amazing photographs of daytime proposals.

Palm trees overlook the white sands and blue waters of Silver Beach, Koh Samui.

INTERCONTINENTAL SAMUI BAAN TALING NGAM RESORT

One of the most romantic settings for a wedding, this exclusive resort was named Luxury Wedding Destination - South East Asia at The World Luxury Hotel Awards 2017. The hotel offers multiple packages to suit your needs,

as well as the size of your wedding. This includes the Private Villa, Intimate Affair, and the Western Ceremony Packages, among others. The exceptional chefs ensure all your culinary preferences are taken into account, while the dedicated in-house wedding coordinators work out a plan to suit every palate. Spread

across 22 acres, the resort boasts venues for all types of functions. Among its prime venues are the beach, noted as one of the most pristine seaside escapes in Koh Samui, which can host about 180 guests; the Azure Lounge overlooking the Gulf of Thailand, with a capacity to host 80 guests;

a private pier for an intimate ceremony with 20 people; and the beachfront lawn that can accommodate up to 200 guests. Special arrangements, such as Thai lantern ceremonies, fireworks, and necessities for Indian events can also be organised. samui.intercontinental.com

SERGEY BELOV/ALAMY

JAIPUR

Just when you think the Pink City has revealed all its wonders, it surprises you with yet another marvel. This evergreen wedding destination is a classic choice for fabulous ceremonies, given its abundance of historical palaces and luxury hotels.

Scenic view of the 'route of elephants' from Amber Fort, Jaipur.

FAIRMONT JAIPUR

Set against the lush backdrop of the Aravalli Hills, this fine property is the perfect reflection of today's Jaipur—a flourishing mesh of the old and the new. Designed as an ode to the Mughals and Rajputs, this newly-built hotel hearkens back to the days of yore. Rest assured, a wedding here will have the perfect balance of classic and contemporary, with the finesse of familial service and hospitality. Here's the fine print: probably the most striking, and also convenient, aspect of this hotel is the complete separation of the banquet and event facilities from its residential block, ensuring the wedding party doesn't cross paths or disturb the hotel's other guests during its revelries.

Its location is a huge plus point, too—distanced from the din of the city, yet not too far

for comfort. Green environs and chirping birds add to the romance. And given the sweeping expanse of the resort, venue options include the regal Grand Ballroom, adorned with royal blue upholstery and crystal chandeliers; the pretty lawns of Charbagh; and smaller rooms for intimate ceremonies.

A dedicated team ensures the planning for your special day is seamless, right from the décor to specialised menus. Newlyweds are sure to love the Platinum Honeymoon Programme, offering desirable honeymoon destinations, platinum concierge service, and assisted reservation options for various experiences. There are 245 luxurious rooms to ensure that guests enjoy every comfort. The property itself is an architectural delight, ensuring festivities and photo-ops are nothing short of spectacular. fairmont.com/jaipur

HEAD TO THESE RETAIL SPOTS IN THE CITY FOR ALL YOUR WEDDING SHOPPING:

- Gem Palace, Amrapali, and Jewels Emporium, located on Mirza Ismail Road, are perfect for picking up some ethnic jewellery.
- Shop traditional *gota patti*, *leheriya* and *bandhej* saris at Ranas and Nidhi Tholia's Saffron; pick up unique block prints at RASA.
- For gifts and exclusive home décor, head to Jaipur Blue Pottery Art Centre, PM Allah Buksh & Sons, and Ninety One Degree.
- For just about anything on any budget, stroll through the old Johari Bazaar. Pick up some trinkets as *mehendi* gifts, or delectable *kachoris* for your famished guests.

Newlyweds descend the grand staircase of Fairmont Jaipur.

ABU DHABI

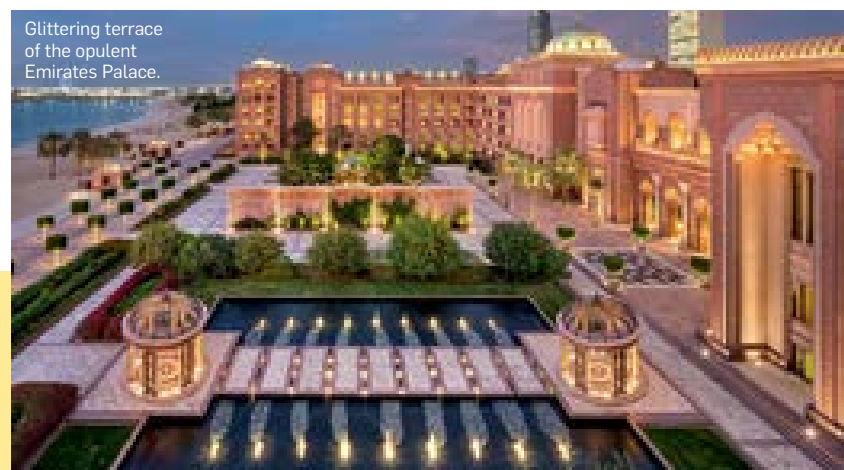
Long associated only with trade and commerce, Abu Dhabi is now burgeoning with not just entertainment choices, but also luxurious venues for your big day. With a delectable array of things to do, the city offers plenty of leisure options for guests of all ages, making it the perfect destination for large-scale weddings.



Lush surroundings of the contemporary Yas Hotel, Yas Island, Abu Dhabi.

FOUR SPOTS YOU CAN HEAD TO FOR SOME FUN IN BETWEEN WEDDING FESTIVITIES:

- 🦄 Spend some time with your favourite cartoon characters and superheroes at the Warner Bros. World Abu Dhabi, Yas Island. This brilliant entertainment venue is sure to get kids and adults charged up for wedding festivities. wbworldabudhabi.com
- 🦄 The Louvre Abu Dhabi, Saadiyat Cultural District, is an oasis of art and culture and stays true to its status as a 'universal museum in the Arab world'. Head here for a quiet moment in the midst of all the crazy fun. louvreabudhabi.ae
- 🦄 Yas Marina Circuit lets you live life in the fast lane just before you say, 'I do!' Drive Formula 1 cars or try some go-karting to get your blood pumping. yasmarinacircuit.com
- 🦄 Fun for adults and kids alike, Ferrari World Abu Dhabi is a ride on the wild side—its Formula Rossa, the world's fastest roller coaster, is unmissable! ferrariworldabudhabi.com



Glittering terrace of the opulent Emirates Palace.

FROM TOP: ROBERT HARDING/ALAMY COURTESY OF EMIRATES PALACE

EMIRATES PALACE

There's no denying it. The ethereal Emirates Palace is the perfect venue for a royal wedding affair. Winner of Best Venue for Big Fat Weddings at the Experiential Venue Awards 2017, the hotel offers one million square metres of breathtaking grounds, sparkling oceanfront spaces,

and venues that can host up to 1,000 guests under 24k gold-embellished ceilings and chandeliers! Such is its size that guests can book a hotel within the hotel, ensuring their festivities don't disturb others. And it's the only venue in town where you can host an unbridled outdoor *sangeet* ceremony that can go on till the wee hours.

And while award-winning restaurants and chefs cater to the Indian palate of your guests, newlyweds can escape to the privacy of a plush honeymoon suite; ask your personal butler to draw you a bath with rose petals. Make sure you share an intimate meal at BBQ Al Qasr, the most romantic table in the city! kempinski.com

CARIBBEAN ISLANDS

For those who believe that everything is always better on an island, start preparing for a Caribbean wedding! The region is made up of several small island nations, all of which have their own customs and traditions, where the family plays an integral part—a feature they share with Indian marriage ceremonies.



Aerial view of the vibrant Balashi Bar, Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort Spa & Casino.

FIVE CARIBBEAN WEDDING CUSTOMS TO TRY AT YOUR WEDDING:

- 🦄 With such upbeat island music in the air, make sure at least one of your wedding parties is an all-night affair. The only rule here is to dance and make merry!
- 🦄 Try some black cake in your varied dessert platter. Made with cherries and served with a rum sauce, this traditional recipe is passed down by women through generations.
- 🦄 For luck and prosperity, ask your priest to bless a plate of coins for you; it's a much-loved local custom among the Puerto Ricans.
- 🦄 Channel the people of Bermuda and plant a cedar tree together on your wedding. This will ensure the growth and maturity of your relationship.
- 🦄 Caribbean brides often combine traditional motifs with modern designs for their outfits. As an Indian bride, combine Caribbean designs with Indian attire for that island feel!

HYATT REGENCY ARUBA RESORT SPA AND CASINO

Located on the white sands and crystal-clear waters of Palm Beach, this resort offers scenic event spaces (fully serviced!), with the largest venue boasting a whopping 5,500 square feet of exclusive space. Choose the beach for a pretty outdoor

event, the poolside Balashi Bar for an intimate cocktail party under the Aruba stars, or the Regency Ballroom for a grand reception. From comprehensive catering and vendor management, the resort's in-house wedding experts will help you plan

every aspect of your dream Caribbean destination wedding. The team works tirelessly to ensure guests' palates are satisfied when it comes to menu selection. And with 357 rooms, there's plenty of space for hosting a big Indian *baraat*! hyatt.com



Fairy tale setting for an intimate wedding at the Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort Spa and Casino.

FROM TOP: COURTESY OF ARUBA RESORT SPA & CASINO, SHUTTERSTOCK

NAPLES

It's impossible to consider romantic destinations without thinking of Italy. And there's no better place for that intimate wedding than Naples—a seaside escape brimming with striking art and architecture, magical legends, and gastronomic genius.

HERE ARE SOME SPOTS IN THE CITY THAT COULD BE USED TO DRAW INSPIRATION FOR YOUR WEDDING'S THEME:

- 🏰 The city's Palazzo Reale is absolutely stunning. Be inspired by its regal opulence, and plan a royal reception, replete with neoclassical furnishings and tapestries, and porcelain centrepieces.
- 🏰 Italy's largest opera house, Teatro San Carlo, is the perfect inspiration for a theatrical evening: arrange a masked ball filled with the fervour of dancing for a memorable *sangeet!* teatrosancarlo.it
- 🏰 Give a delicious twist to your *mehendi* by creating a menu from the bylanes of La Pignasecca, Naples's oldest street market, bursting with the flavours from fresh fruit, seafood, cheese, and pastry stalls!

PALAZZO CARACCILO NAPOLI-MGALLERY BY SOFTEL

Located in Old Naples, emanating the joy of antiquity, this chic property blends its historic ethos with modern comforts. Tucked away in the quiet Vicolo San Gregorio Armeno neighbourhood, it is perfect for a couple planning an intimate gathering for their nuptial ceremony. Chef Daniele Riccardi serves up gorgeous Neapolitan meals with a hint of traditionalism and savoir-faire. The wine bar is perfect for cosy parties. And if you're seeking some after-party downtime, there's nothing better than the warm and inviting environs of the in-house spa; the Turkish steam bath is a must-try. A wedding here means experiencing all the charm of a bygone era, while savouring the flavours of old Italy. accorhotels.com



Old-world charm of Hotel Palazzo Caracciolo Napoli.



A green island-haven in the middle of the ocean, Maldives.

MALDIVES

Sitting pretty in the Indian Ocean, Maldives is the perfect escape for that big, fat Indian wedding, given its proximity to India, and the presence of several luxurious resorts. Too tired to travel far for your honeymoon after the celebrations? Then stay on at this sprawling collection of atolls for some romantic one-on-one time.

HERE ARE FIVE EXPERIENCES TO BE ENJOYED ON YOUR MALDIVES HONEYMOON:

- 🏰 Dive deep into the ocean with your partner to encounter rich corals and exotic creatures of the ocean. Most resorts offer specialised honeymoon packages designed to create a moment of underwater bliss.
- 🏰 Experience rejuvenation nirvana at a couple's massage on the beach, a perfect finish to those exhausting wedding festivities.
- 🏰 Take a walk of wonder along Maldives' spectacular bioluminescent beaches—your world will light up with the neon-blue colours of the ocean!
- 🏰 If you and your partner love culture, then take a tour to any of the nation's many historical spots, including the interesting National Museum and the ornate Friday Mosque.
- 🏰 It doesn't get better than a sunset cruise on a honeymoon! After all, it's the very epitome of a romantic date.

JOALI MALDIVES

Situated on Muravandhoo Island in the Raa Atoll, this picturesque property is set amidst white-sand beaches and stunning coral reefs, ensuring your wedding spells gorgeousness. The resort's theme of the 'joy of living' is sure to envelop your celebrations too, as you engage in its many offerings—head deep into the sparkling-blue waters and have a cocktail party on a boat, or make a grand entry straight to your beachside party on water-skis! Whatever you choose, the resort's team can arrange it for you.

Accommodation options here range from beach and pool villas, to private duplex beach residences and water villas—all ensure your guests' comfort, and their privacy, too. The talented chefs offer a wide selection of cuisines for your wedding menu. Choose from Japanese, Peruvian, Southeast Asian, Italian, and more for your functions. Her Kitchen is a great place for the bride and her bridesmaids to have a fun cooking-and-tasting session. joali.com

FROM TOP: COURTESY OF JOALI MALDIVES
COURTESY OF PALAZZO CARACCILO NAPOLI-MGALLERY BY SOFTEL



Mesmerising view of Athens from the Kohyllia Polynesian Restaurant, Grand Resort Lagonissi.

ATHENS

Skip the done-to-death island itineraries for a gorgeous wedding on the Athenian Riviera. Get that perfect blend of city life and glorious island vibe, without leaving the mainland! Blessed with spectacular Aegean Sea vistas and ancient ruins, there really isn't a better venue for a wedding!

INSTAGRAM-WORTHY SPOTS FOR YOUR PRE- OR POST-WEDDING SHOOT:

- 🏰 There's really no way to beat the magnificence of the mighty Acropolis. It's only fair that an iconic love story like yours is witnessed by a place that has seen years of antiquity.
- 🏰 Capture some great sunset shots at the ancient Temple of Poseidon on Cape Sounion; wait till the monument is bathed in golden rays and stands out against the cerulean sea.
- 🏰 The Anafiotika neighbourhood is reminiscent of the Cycladic Islands with its white-washed houses, secret alleys, and unending bougainvillea branches—and it's located right in the heart of the city!
- 🏰 Lake Vouliagmeni doesn't just flaunt different hues of greens and blues; it's also a natural mineral spa, so make sure you to make a splash while posing there. ✕

GRAND RESORT LAGONISSI

A member of the prestigious Leading Hotels of the World group, the 72-acre private peninsula of this grand resort is ideal for a wedding with Mediterranean flair. The hotel's wedding experts will take care of your every need with their wide array of wedding packages. Services such as limousine transfers, designers for cakes and

flower arrangements, special bridal spa and salon facilities, famous DJs, and an exceptional Honeymoon Suite are just some of the fantastic perks of getting married here.

Wedding venues here include Uranus, a spacious open-air terrace with scenic views; Veghera, a secluded deck, perfect for an intimate gathering; the poolside La Piscina; the seaside setting

of Aphrodite; and the Villa Elounda, a charming cottage near the beach. World-class chefs create imaginative menus around Italian, Cretan, Mediterranean, Japanese, and Polynesian cuisines.

Perfect for large-scale weddings, the resort's many leisure activities—mini golf, water sports, family zone, and more—keep guests busy throughout the day. lagonissiresort.gr

COURTESY OF GRAND RESORT LAGONISSI

The PERFECT AFTER-PARTY CURE

It's incredibly thrilling to be part of a big, fat Indian wedding, but it's sure to leave you completely knackered. Reinvigorate yourself by checking into these wellness retreats to soothe your body and soul. *By Divya Behl and Vikas Plakkot*



A guest basks in the lush solitude of the Konkani Villa at SwaSwara.



A basket of essential-oil towel poultices, SwaSwara.

CGH EARTH SWASWARA | GOKARNA

With its ethos of proximity to nature, infusion of local culture, and responsible tourism, CGH Earth's SwaSwara property is an ideal wellness retreat.

► Located on the verdant cliffs around Om Beach in Gokarna, SwaSwara features a host of wellness treatments that include ayurveda, community giving, yoga, and more. The resort's signature five-day Swa Wellbeing programme is curated to have a transformative effect on not just your body, but on your soul.

► SwaSwara's tranquil and earthy villas feature open, healing spaces within the

confines of their walls. A private courtyard, a garden of medicinal plants, and open-sky bathrooms keep you close to nature at all times. The yoga deck on the second floor offers a stunning view of the ocean and the horizon, creating a hushed setting for your practice.

NAMASTE RETREATS SwaSwara aims to be more than a spa, or an ashram. Its objective is to become a sanctuary for an individual's innermost self. The destination offers a life plan, from 5–21 nights, for mind-body 'reconstruction'. And the time to book this plan is now! cghearth.com/swaswara

COURTESY OF CGH EARTH SWASWARA, GOKARNA (2)

ITC MAURYA | NEW DELHI

In the heart of the frenzied capital city lies an oasis of calm—the riveting ITC Maurya hotel. For Delhites and out-of-towners alike, the luxury property's focus on wellness is a boon from heaven.

► Kaya Kalp Spa at ITC Maurya offers an eclectic mix of spa and massage rituals from ancient India and the West. Opt for the revitalising mud wrap treatment, the 60-minute Shirodhara ayurveda therapy, or the signature full body massage.

► Take a quick, refreshing dip in the large, outdoor pool, then order some mocktails, and bask under the sun—the easiest way to de-stress. If you end up more tanned than you like, the experienced beauty staff of Salon Di Wills will make sure your skin is at its glowing best.

A GASTRONOMICAL RETREAT While at ITC Maurya, make sure you visit the hotel's iconic restaurants that have been serving distinguished guests, including the heads of state from the US and Russia, for years. From the delicious Sikandri Raan at Bukhara to the Dudiya Kabab at Dum Pukht, gourmands are in for a treat. itshotels.in

FROM TOP: COURTESY OF ITC MAURYA NEW DELHI; COURTESY OF GRAND HYATT GOA



The elegantly minimalist decor of the treatment room at Kaya Kalp Spa, ITC Maurya.



The traditional Portuguese architecture of the Grand Hyatt Goa blends seamlessly with the city's natural environs.

GRAND HYATT | GOA

There are very few things a spa cannot heal, let alone a wedding hangover. The serene waters of Bambolim Bay in North Goa are home to the Portuguese-inspired Grand Hyatt, which features the award-winning Shamana Spa.

► Awarded the Best Spa Interiors multiple times, Shamana offers relaxing massages of 60–90 minutes, specifically catering to a body made sore from much dancing and merriment. We recommend the Moon & Stars treatment, a soothing Swedish massage enhanced by the company of the starry sky.

► There's no need to fret about leaving your children alone while you rejuvenate at a spa. At Shamana, they can choose from a host of child-friendly packages, including the special Chocolate Crazyness massage and mask.

AN ALL-INCLUSIVE DEAL If the lengthy wedding planning and coordination has left you exhausted, book the seven-day wellness package that includes yoga sessions, a customised fitness schedule, and healthy spa cuisine. Moreover, your spa butler will plan special activities designed to leave you totally refreshed. goa.grand.hyatt.com



WELLNESS

The cool waters of the winding pool at Namah, Jim Corbett.

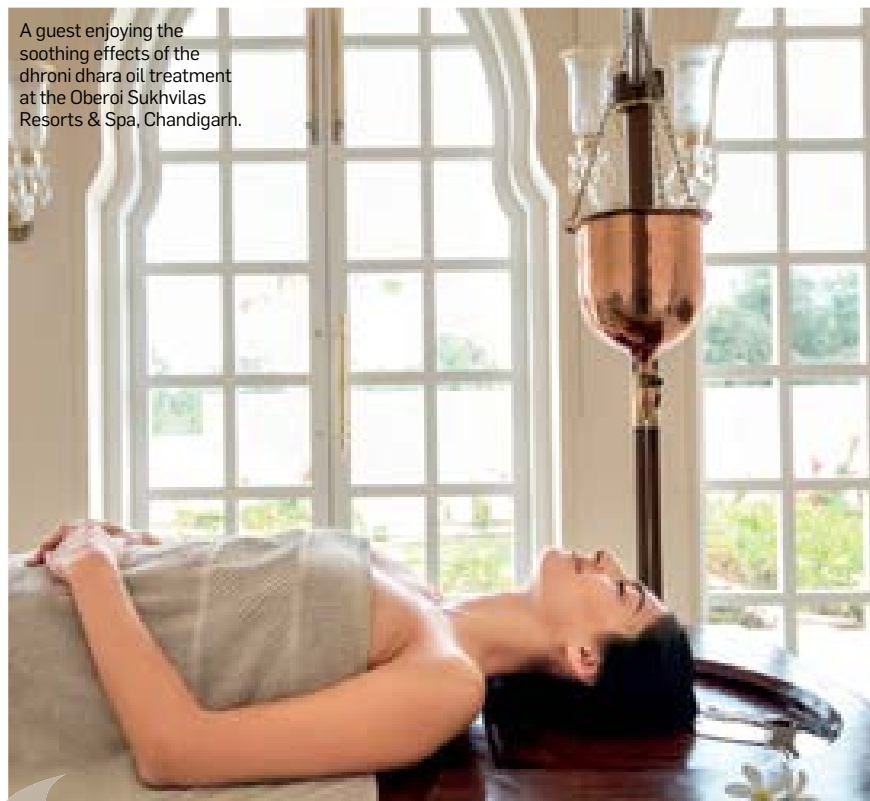
NAMAH | JIM CORBETT

If the cacophony of noises from the DJ night, the *sangeet*, or even the crowded reception continues to reverberate in your ear, whisk yourself away to the jungle at Namah's plush resort in Jim Corbett National Park.

► Channel the healing properties of the forest by heading out on a guided nature walk through the lush greenery. Or, hire a jeep for a safari deep into the jungle to spot the famed Bengal Tiger. In either case, the quiet of the surrounding forest is intensely soothing.

► Indulge in a full-body relaxation therapy at the resort's spa, with only the calls of squawking birds for company. And when in the mood, catch one of the many outdoor yoga sessions, amidst and under gently swaying trees.

WEEKEND BONANZA Opt for the lavish long-weekend package, which includes accommodation, discounts on spa, and free access to the pool and gym. namah.in



A guest enjoying the soothing effects of the dhroni dhara oil treatment at the Oberoi Sukhvilas Resorts & Spa, Chandigarh.

OBEROI SUKHVILAS RESORTS & SPA | CHANDIGARH

Nestled amidst the pristine Siswan forest range, Oberoi's new property in Chandigarh promises a cathartic spa experience, certain to press the refresh button in your aching body.

► Situated on the foothills of the outer Himalayas, the retreat is flanked by 8,000 acres of lush greenery. The tranquil, light-filled spa offers everything—from a Turkish hammam and ayurvedic treatments, to a Roman tepidarium. The unique aroma massage with attars is exceptionally soothing.

► The resort also presents a range

of wellness programmes—couples' spa retreats, nature therapies that include moon and forest bathing, 1–21-day relaxation programmes, ayurvedic weight management plans, and so on. Whatever your choice, the end result is one of profound calm.

SANCTUARY FOR SOULMATES For couples seeking a romantic weekend, there are few better places than the Sukhvilas. Soak in a whirlpool for two, and enjoy some wine and delectable treats by the candlelight, or dine under the starry sky while savouring champagne and canapés beside a picturesque poolside setting. oberoihotels.com

CLOCKWISE: COURTESY OF NAMAH JIM CORBETT; COURTESY OF OBEROI SUKHVILAS RESORTS & SPA CHANDIGARH; COURTESY OF THE PARK KOLKATA



Tranquility and nature beckon from the secluded environs of Ananda in the Himalayas.

ANANDA IN THE HIMALAYAS UTTARAKHAND

Sitting pretty near the heart of India's spiritual capital of Rishikesh, this award-winning property is built on a 100-acre palace estate within the Sal forest range. Tailor-made for its concept of holistic living, it wraps you in well-deserved luxury.

► The exclusive wellness retreat is renowned for its extensive range of packages, ranging from a five-day detox starter, a seven-day renew and cleansing programme, a 7–21-day *dhyana* meditation plan, a selection of 7–14-day stress and weight management therapies, and many more.

► The 25,000-square-foot Ananda Spa offers more than 80 body and beauty treatments! Integrating traditional Indian practices such

as ayurveda and yoga with the best of international experiences, each treatment is carried out by qualified experts from across the globe.

LEARNING THE TRADE Based on your interests, time your visit with one of the many special workshops conducted by visiting masters. From a facial reflexology workshop led by Dien Chan, to a crystal-healing session by Bindu Maira, the year's calendar is packed with opportunities to get more out of your break. anandaspa.com

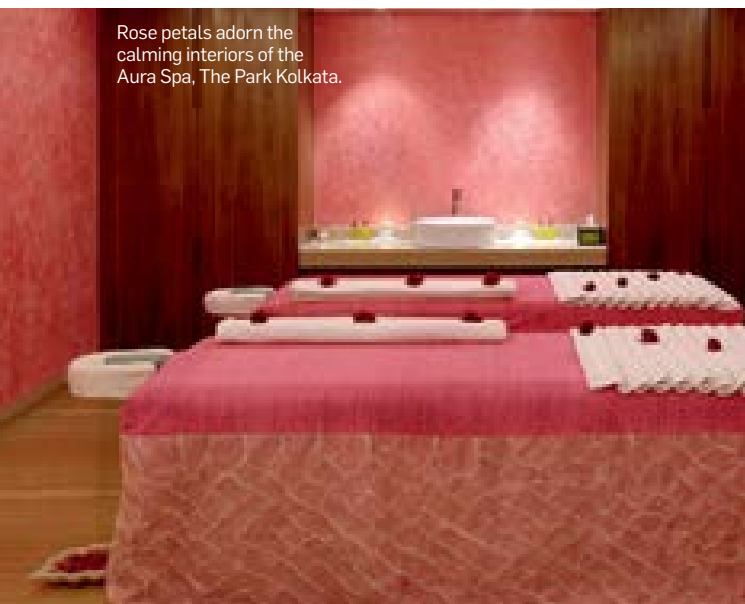
GRAND HYATT | KOCHI BOLGATTY

Few places combine luxury and wellness the way Kerala does, and Grand Hyatt's opulent property on Bolgatty Island in Kochi, overlooking the pristine Lake Vembanad, is the ideal choice to whisk away to after an Indian wedding.

► Age-old ayurvedic and Western therapies aimed at holistic healing and rejuvenation blend to create a custom experience for the weary at the Santata Spa. Opt for the Arabian sea salt ritual or the Spice Symphony massage for a one-of-a-kind fusion therapy.

► A yoga studio to ensure your body feels refreshed and toned, an outdoor pool with poolside cabanas to bathe in the sun, a meditative view of the lake from every suite, and a modern fitness studio are just some of the resort's many features that make it the optimal getaway for some special indulgence.

BLISSFULL DAYS The property's specially curated experiences ensure you enjoy your spa holiday doing things you like. Ride a tuk-tuk through the streets, learn the art of prawn fishing, or take a canoe ride through the scenic backwaters, the choice is all yours! grand.hyatt.com ✕



Rose petals adorn the calming interiors of the Aura Spa, The Park Kolkata.

THE PARK | KOLKATA

This iconic 50-year old property oozes class and offers exceptional service. If the wedding festivities have worn you out, be sure to spend a few days at this haven for much-needed rejuvenation.

► Check into a suite and make multiple trips to the Aura Spa—you'll be spoilt for choice with the traditional and signature massages on offer. The exotic dalim scrub and mineral mud body wrap are sure to revive your skin's radiance.

► With seven therapy rooms, a state-of-the-art gymnasium, butler services, and a range of wellness activities to keep you away from the digital world, you'll have no choice but to unwind and relax.

READY TO BE PAMPERED

Reserve the Presidential Suite and you won't have to lift a finger to access any amenity! With an in-room Jacuzzi, private butler service, high-tech communication devices, private dining options, the only time you'll have step out is to get a massage. theparkhotels.com



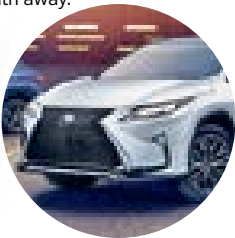
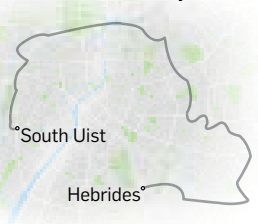
The sophisticated and plush setting of the spa relaxation room at Grand Hyatt Kochi Bolgatty.

It Takes Two to Tango

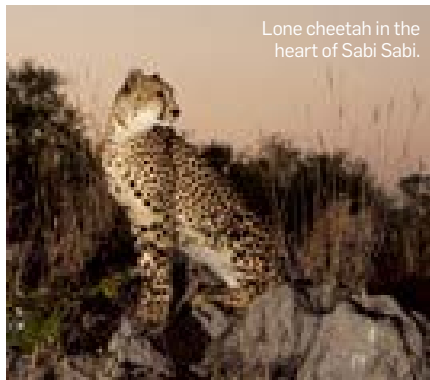
Exploration is the key to happiness, be it new places or a deeper connection to your new life companion. So, this wedding season, head out with your better half on the road trip of a lifetime—you'll be on a journey to discover not only some of the world's most stunning locations, but also each other. *Bunny Punia* suggests eight epic getaways around the globe that could just be the best way to begin this exciting new chapter of life.

1 THE HEBRIDES | SCOTLAND

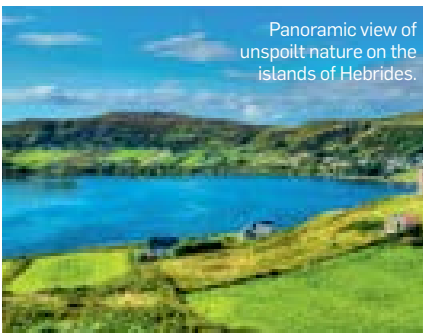
A drive through Scotland's Lake District will take you past no less than eight picturesque lakes, as you make your way to the Hebrides, a dramatic archipelago off the west coast of the country. A short ferry ride carries you deep into the Atlantic Ocean and the twin islands of North and South Uist—home to sandy beaches and verdant mountains; a drive through its untouched beauty is sure to take your breath away.



LEXUS RX 450H F SPORT This luxury crossover is our pick for beautiful Scotland. The F Sport's striking visual stance, with add-ons like 20-inch alloy wheels, is all you need to make those selfies look gorgeous. This petrol-hybrid vehicle combines Toyota's (yes, Lexus is Japanese!) legendary reliability with plush interiors.



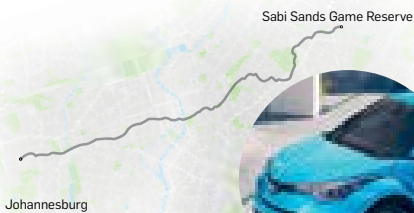
Lone cheetah in the heart of Sabi Sabi.



Panoramic view of unspoilt nature on the islands of Hebrides.

2 SABI SABI | SOUTH AFRICA

Deep in the expanse of the African bushveld, the Sabi Sabi private game reserve (*sabi-sands.com*) is spread across 65,000 hectares. Head to this safari wonderland via a six-hour drive from Johannesburg—take the scenic Panorama Route for dramatic vistas of waterfalls and canyons, as well as lovely views of lush green valleys, specially from the God's Window viewing point. With multiple stops en route, explore at your own pace. At Sabi Sabi, stay at the Earth Lodge to be one with nature and your life partner.



TOYOTA CHR

While a large utility vehicle is ideal for an adventure drive, the CHR also has the coolness factor. This 2-door SUV is ideal for young couples and Toyota's famed trustworthiness is great for peace-of-mind.



Visitors take in the mesmerising view over the Western Rim of the Grand Canyon from the Skywalk.

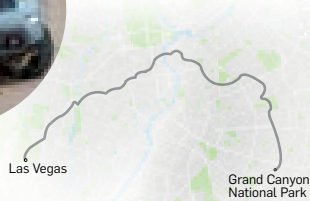


3 LAS VEGAS | USA

Fly into this desert oasis and check into any one of its many luxurious, themed hotels. The next day, head out on a four- to five-hour drive on the super-smooth interstate to the majestic Grand Canyon—while the destination is spectacular, the drive is pretty awesome, too. The desert's rust-coloured, rocky terrain stands out in deep contrast to the clear blue sky. Stop along the route at the Hoover Dam to stretch your legs and take in some fantastic views over the Black Canyon.

JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE TRAILHAWK

If it's Las Vegas, it has to be something distinctive and American. The Jeep Grand Cherokee fits the description like a glove and will make you feel right at home among the rich and famous. Plus, it's the perfect backdrop for those cool Instagram posts.



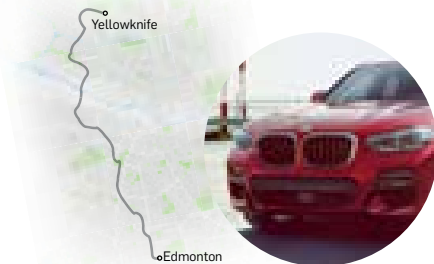
A lush valley carves its way through rugged mountains in Milford Sound.

4 YELLOWKNIFE | CANADA

Located in northwestern Canada, this is possibly the best place to catch the magical Northern Lights. Rent a car in Edmonton and set out on captivating 1,500 km-long road trip through forests, waterfalls, and wilderness, with possible sightings of bears and bison! As it's a long drive—close to 17 hours—book overnight stops at one of the charming hotels en route. At the end of the trip, when you're viewing the mesmerising spectacle in the sky, your partner's hand in yours, you'll feel closer to each other than ever before.

BMW X4

Since the Northern Lights are best seen from October to March, you need a tough 4x4 to drive through snow. The X4's Driving Assistant Plus provides excellent driving-aids to keep you safe at all times. Check dot.gov.nt.ca for highway updates.



FROM TOP: SHUTTERSTOCK: APMADDC/GETTYIMAGES



Northern Lights paint the sky in a spellbinding experience, Aurora Village, Yellowknife.

5 MILFORD SOUND | NEW ZEALAND

This stunning fjord, in a remote part of South Island, offers stunning views of towering cliffs and waterfalls cascading down 3,300 feet! It's a long drive—around nine hours—from Christchurch to Milford Sound, so you can spread it across two days. This will give you plenty of time to enjoy the rugged, verdant beauty of the passing countryside. You can also stop to explore the Te Anau Cave with its luminous glowworms and the crystal-clear waters of the Mirror Lakes.



SUZUKI BALENO

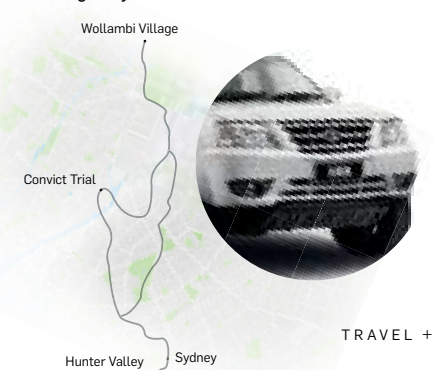
Available in New Zealand, the Maruti Baleno, with its modern design, comfortable interiors, and reliable engine, is our choice for this trip. Moreover, its powerful 1.4-litre petrol unit is ideal for the long highways of this country.

6 HUNTER VALLEY | AUSTRALIA

Known for its beautiful vineyards, Hunter Valley greets you with magnificent mountain views and glowing sunsets. Although a two-hour drive from Sydney, we suggest you take the slightly longer route via Newcastle towards the charming Wollombi village. You'll be travelling along the 240-km-long Convict Trail. Soak in the lovely countryside and colonial-era heritage before stopping for a bite at one of the pretty roadside cafes.

TATA XENON

A reliable and comfortable vehicle, this 4x4 SUV is perfect for unexplored country roads where roads and highways cease to exist.



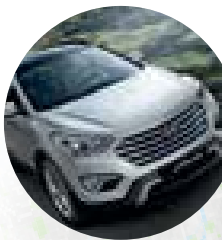
7 MARRAKECH | MOROCCO

This iconic 'Red City' gets its nickname from the colour of its old city walls, which are made of red sandstone. Spend the day discovering the many secrets of the bustling and colourful bazaars and stalls in the ancient medina quarter. The next day, head south of the city on a short and scenic two-hour drive to the snowcapped Atlas Mountains. Stop to enjoy the many pretty villages along the route, the beautiful vistas of the green Ourika and Imilil Valleys, and the old city of Taroudant. In the far distance, the 13,671-foot-high Mount Toubkal makes for a perfect backdrop for your photo-ops.

MERCEDES-BENZ G500 The G Class remains one of the most iconic names in the world of SUVs. Pick the G500 variant that comes packed with a V8 twin turbo petrol engine, which puts out enough juice to propel this mammoth from standstill to the 100km/h mark in less than six seconds.

8 AJMAN AND FUJAIRAH | UAE

Situated in northwestern UAE, along the Persian Gulf coast, Ajman is known for its golden sandy beaches, and is a 90-minute drive from Abu Dhabi. Spend a few days in this charming little town before driving for an hour and half down a route blessed with natural beauty and rugged landscapes to Fujairah, on the other side of the mainland. Looking out over the Gulf of Oman, this beach town has a 70-km-long coastline and was once known as the land of the sea giants.



HYUNDAI GRAND SANTA FE

Pick Hyundai's largest SUV ever, the Grand Santa Fe, for your UAE tour. A luxurious ride, the clever vehicle has a 360° view camera that allows you to see everything around you! Take the 3300cc petrol variant as petrol is as cheap as water here!



Over the Moon

For newlyweds who need a break between the hectic wedding and that mega honeymoon, a mini-moon is the way to go. You'll save some vacation days at work, too! *Shikha Pushpan* lists seven destinations you can visit closer home.

GOA 2.0

Let's just accept it. There's no place like Goa when it comes to whisking away your partner on a romantic getaway. And **W Goa**, near the Vagator Beach, is just perfect for that short and sweet break. The resort's Whatever/Whenever® service allows its guests to plan the best surprises for their partner—from arranging an intimate evening by the beach to indulging

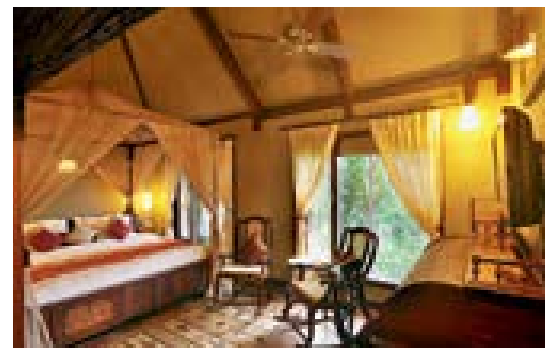
in couples' spa therapy in the comfort of your suite; basically, the resort offers whatever you want, whenever you want, quite literally. The Fantastic One-Bedroom Seafront Villa is a great place to catch some ethereal sunsets. The best part? You can check into the resort with your pets! And the villa is sound proof (if you know what we mean!). *w-goa.com*

From top: Idyllic view of palm trees, the beach, and stormy waters in Goa; the tranquil setting of the Two-Bedroom Villa at W Goa.



BOTTOM CENTRE: APEKSHA BHATEJA; COURTESY OF W GOA

CLOCKWISE: COURTESY OF VEDIC VILLAGE SPA RESORT KOLKATA; COURTESY OF THE TREE HOUSE HIDEAWAY RESORT MADHYA PRADESH



A VEDIC GETAWAY

Newly married couples from eastern India seeking some alone time need look no further than the **Vedic Village Spa Resort**, Kolkata. Located a mere 25 kilometres from the city, the resort is a secluded retreat, offering a sylvan setting with its tranquil lakes, coconut groves, and earthy villas, whose architecture is reminiscent of a traditional Bengali village. You'll find yourself relaxing almost instantly as nature woos you with her many wonders—colourful migratory birds and fluttering butterflies, shimmering waters, and dense greenery all around. The more adventurous couples can bond over the many outdoor activities on offer, such as kayaking, zorbing, ATV-bike riding, and more. For those in need of some much-needed TLC, the resort's lakeside Sanjeeva Ayurveda Spa is a standout experience. Let the experienced masseur knead your tiredness away with the signature Rasayani therapy (four treatments in one!). Curated with no sense of urgency, this is possibly the best way to get rid

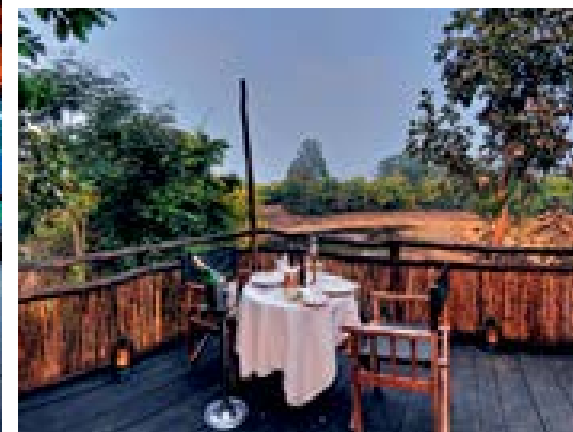


Clockwise from top: The plush, warm interiors of the Earth Villa, Vedic Village Spa Resort; the grounded ambience of the Earth Villas resonates with its natural landscape; view of the jungle from the balcony of a treehouse, The Tree House Hideaway Resort, Bandhavgarh; rustic setting of the dining hall, set around an ancient Mahua tree.

of all the wedding-related weariness. While here, stay at the Zaminder Suite—laze in the indulgent four-poster bed, take a dip in the Jacuzzi, or simply unwind by your private lake. *thevedicvillage.com*

INTO THE WOODS

Beautiful adventures are created in the wild, or so we believe. And they become even more special at **The Tree House Hideaway Resort** in Bandhavgarh National Park, Madhya Pradesh. With intimate tree cottages located in the middle of dense woods, the retreat ensures your desired privacy. Check into this plush cocoon and spend quality time together spotting wild animals from the comfort of your shaded verandah—the treehouses overlook a watering hole, often frequented by the big cats and tuskers, so expect a few sightings without even stepping out—or soak in the quietness of your calm environs from your four-poster bed. In case you're in the mood to explore the forest, just book a morning





MINIMOON

or evening safari to experience nature up close and personal. [treehousehideaway.com](#)

BACKWATERS BLISS

Mini-moon or not, this is going to be one of your favourite places on the planet for a very long time. The **Kumarakom Lake Resort** in Kerala offers unmatched natural beauty—the kind that dreams are made of. Book the Presidential Suite where Prince Charles and his wife Camilla stayed, and surprise your partner with the best wedding present. The resort’s wood-beamed villas, an excellent example of traditional Kerala

Clockwise from top: Serenity and rich greenery envelop a private villa at the Kumarakom Lake Resort; a romantic setting in place for dinner on the beach; guests enjoy a day of fishing; a suite at Intercontinental Chennai Mahabalipuram featuring chic furnishings and an abundance of natural light.



architecture, look out over the bewitching beauty of Lake Vembanad. You can even check into one of the resort’s private houseboats—the bliss is tangible as you drift into the lake’s calm waters. A private butler takes care of all your needs. All you need to do is sit back and watch the sunset. [kumarakomlakeresort.in](#)

SYMPHONY IN STONE

If spending time at a quaint little beach is your idea of a romantic interlude, then head to the **Intercontinental Chennai Mahabalipuram Resort** without a second thought. Located just 60 kilometres from Chennai, the retreat offers stunning views of the Bay of Bengal. Be sure to check into one of its many plush suites and arrange a romantic dinner for your partner on your private balcony. Gourmet couples are certain to end up spending a lot of time at Melting Pot: The Market Café. With European, South Asian, and Peninsular Indian cuisines on offer, alongside a floating deck and alfresco



CLOCKWISE: COURTESY OF KUMARAKOM LAKE RESORT KERALA; INTERCONTINENTAL CHENNAI MAHABALIPURAM RESORT CHENNAI(3)



seating area overlooking the central water feature, the in-house restaurant is a major highlight of the hotel. [ihg.com](#)

DESERT INDULGENCE

Escape the city by taking a flight into the heart of the Thar Desert to **Sujan The Serai** by Relais & Châteaux in Jaisalmer. Set amidst an expanse of undulating, golden-hued sand dunes, this 100-acre property is a literal oasis. Accommodation here takes the form of spacious and lavish, gold-and-white tented suites, complete with a private spa, outdoor pool, and personal butler. If that doesn’t take your breath away, wait till night falls and the landscape transforms into something out of the *Arabian Nights* tales. Pick your favourite spot and ask the concierge to set up a cosy, candlelit dinner for you and your partner, to the accompaniment of traditional folk music. Or sign up for The Thar Sundowner experience to catch the shifting colours of the desert. [sujanluxury.com](#)

CAPITAL HIDEAWAY

So, you had that big, fat Delhi wedding and now can’t wait to get away from all the madness for some quiet togetherness? **Jaypee Greens Golf & Spa Resort**, Greater Noida, ticks all the right boxes for an idyllic staycation near home, but with the solitude of a private island. Designed

From top: The vast desert landscape makes a perfect backdrop for an intimate evening for two at Sujan The Serai; the scenic setting of the pool that overlooks the golf course at Jaypee Greens Golf & Spa Resort.



by noted golfer, Greg Norman, the resort scores high on aesthetics, and offers rooms with uninterrupted views of the golf course. Stay in one of the Executive Suites, and step out into the balcony and straight into the bubbling Jacuzzi with a glass of champagne. Adventure-seekers can ask the concierge to arrange a trip to the nearby Buddha International Circuit in a Mercedes Benz. If you’re lucky, you may even get to take a lap around the Formula One Grand Prix circuit! [jaypeehotels.com](#) ✕

A Honeyed Moment in Time

SO, YOU'RE HEADED OFF ON THAT LONG-AWAITED HONEYMOON OF YOUR DREAMS. WHILE THE TRIP AHEAD IS CERTAIN TO BE FILLED WITH MANY INTIMATE EXPERIENCES, THERE ARE SOME UNFORGETTABLE DISCOVERIES WAITING TO BE EXPLORED BY YOU AND YOUR PARTNER IN THE CITY OF YOUR CHOICE. TO HELP YOU CAPTURE THAT ONE SWEET MEMORY FROM YOUR VACATION, OUR EDITORS SHARE THOSE SPECIAL PLACES, EXPERIENCES, AND KEEPSAKES THAT THEY LOVE BEST FROM ACROSS THE WORLD.

LOOK: DIE BILDAGENTUR DER FOTOGRAFEN GMBH/ALAMY

View of Tiberio Beach at Villa San Michele, Capri, Campania, Italy.



Dois Irmãos stands tall and proud against the horizon, Rio de Janeiro.



Spectacular view from the top of Dois Irmãos, Rio de Janeiro.

THE HIKE WITH THE MOST PHOTOGENIC OVERLOOKS

BY KAREN I. CHEN

From its beaches and mountains, to its leafy tropical forest and iconic Christ the Redeemer statue, Rio de Janeiro is, simply put, an embarrassment of beautiful views. My favourites are the ones you'll catch while climbing Dois Irmãos, the iconic twin peaks at the far end of Leblon Beach. It's an easy, relatively short hike, with mega-rewarding panoramas of the city spread out before you. The trail begins at the top of the Vidigal favela—it's safe for tourists, but still a fascinating (and thrilling) experience riding up the winding streets on a mototaxi!

948 Avda. Presidente João Goulart.



THE SEASONAL BREAKFAST SO SIMPLE IT HAS ONLY ONE INGREDIENT

BY NATHAN LUMP

Spring in Mumbai is many things, and one of them is *hot*. But it's also mango season, when the Alphonso variety arrives on the scene. One morning, I strolled into the lovely breakfast room at the Taj Mahal Palace hotel—a historic icon, and my favourite place to stay in the city. Looking at the buffet, my heart sank: no mangoes! So, I settled into my chair with coffee and an array of pastries and prepared for my day. Suddenly, a waiter appeared and placed before me a single bowl brimming with nothing but cubes of mango. Words cannot capture its heady perfume, the sensual quality of its texture and flavour. Heaven.

Mango season starts in late March, but the fruit is at its peak in April and May; tajhotels.com; doubles from ₹20,900.



Benozzo Gozzoli's *Procession of the Magi* at Palazzo Medici Riccardi, Florence.

THE ARTWORK I COULD STARE AT FOR HOURS

BY PETER TERZIAN

It's located only a block away from the Duomo, but the Palazzo Medici Riccardi is mysteriously left off the standard Florence itinerary—which is a shame,

because it contains one of the most beguiling Renaissance paintings. Benozzo Gozzoli's *Procession of the Magi* is a joyous fresco cycle, composed not just of the titular tribute-payers, but a long and winding parade of nobles on horses, canines, camels—even a leopard—set against a backdrop of Tuscan forests, shires, castles, clouds, and Seussian trees. With its meticulous details and fine, regal colours, Gozzoli's great work rewards long study.

firenzeturismo.it; admission ₹862.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: SHUTTERSTOCK; COURTESY OF KAREN I. CHEN; ADAM EASTLAND/ALAMY; DEAG. NINATALLAH/GETTY IMAGES

THE STYLISHLY WITCHY STORE THAT MADE ME WANT TO JOIN A COVEN

BY RICHELLE SZYPULSKI

Unconventional though it may be, the airy and modern metaphysical shop HausWitch Home & Healing, in Salem, Massachusetts, does exactly what you hope a local boutique will: it captures the essence of the city in a memorable way. On the shelves, you'll find items like candles, crystals, artisanal teas, potions, and other magical home goods—many of which are handmade. They've also nailed the whole shop-meets-community concept,



HausWitch Home & Healing in Salem, Massachusetts.

hosting events like guided meditations, tarot readings, and astrology lessons that are a fitting continuation of the town's unusual history.

hauswitchstore.com

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: NATHAN LUMP; COURTESY OF THE TAJ MAHAL PALACE; COURTESY OF HAUSWITCH HOME & HEALING



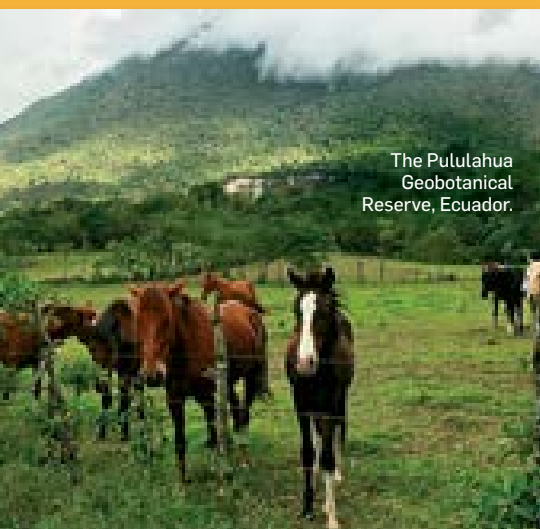
The oceanfront baths at the Esalen Institute in Big Sur, California.

THE HORSEBACK RIDE THAT TAKES YOU INSIDE A VOLCANO
BY CHELSEA SCHIFF

About five minutes into our descent down a steep dirt road in the Pululahua Geobotanical Reserve, an inhabited crater outside of Quito, Ecuador, I thought I'd made a mistake. It was hot, the horseback ride was bumpy, and I was regretting my hearty breakfast. But as soon as we dipped below the cloud line and saw the farming community below,

I was in awe. I spent the rest of the day riding through the jungle, chasing the sounds of birds and wind, completely giddy and enamoured of the lush landscape in the crater.

greenhorseranch.zohosites.com; horseback excursions from ₹6,830.



The Pululahua Geobotanical Reserve, Ecuador.

THE BEST REASON TO BE OUT AT 2 AM IF YOU'RE NOT A 23-YEAR-OLD CLUB KID
BY PICO IYER

The baths at the Esalen Institute in Big Sur, California—open to the public between 1 am and 3 am—are as magical and transporting an experience as any I've known. The surf is crashing immediately below you, against the cliffs; there are more stars above than you can count; the bathhouse, consisting of many baths, outdoors and inside, is silent and dimly lit; and even amid the 20 or so others who come in each night, you will have a romantic and even spiritual experience that you will never forget.

Book online at esalen.org; same-day reservations are required and cost ₹2,515.

THE WINERY AS ART INSTALLATION
BY SARAH BRUNING

McLaren Vale spoils visitors to South Australia with choice wineries, but d'Arenberg's new Cube sets the stage for a singular experience. On the ground floor of the five-level building, you encounter a series of trippy, multisensory art installations before making your way up to the tasting areas and restaurant. The latter serves a superlative, multicourse meal that's playful and engaging but



doesn't sacrifice taste, and the wines are equally excellent.

darenberg.com.au; tours ₹718; tasting menu ₹13,650.

FROM TOP: BROWN CANNON III; COURTESY OF D'ARENBERG; CHELSEA SCHIFF
OPPOSITE PAGE: RAY ISLE; TRAUMLICHTFABRIK/GETTY IMAGES; COURTESY OF LORETTA CAPONI



THE UNMISSABLE SECRET RESTAURANT IN A CITY ON THE RISE
BY RAY ISLE

I had a mind-blowingly good meal at Bina N37, which is hidden—truly—in a top-floor apartment in Tbilisi, Georgia (the owner makes

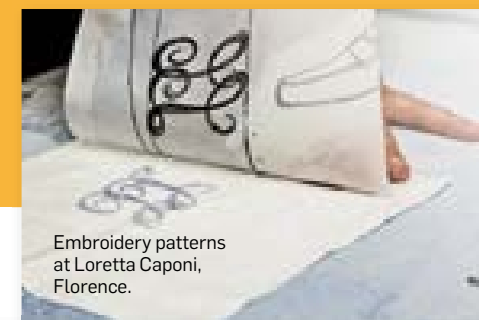
wine on the roof!). The meal went on for at least 14 courses, and it ended with a choral group at the next table regaling everyone with traditional songs, and, because it is Georgia, lots and lots of toasts.

fb.com/bina37bina37; entrées ₹575–₹1,000.

THE SOUVENIR I GO BACK FOR EVERY YEAR
BY MELISSA VENTOSA MARTIN

Florence is my all-time favourite city, but even without the art and food, I would travel there just to shop at Loretta Caponi, which specialises in the most beautiful embroidered nightgowns. I pick up several for myself and my daughters every time I'm there. Be sure to tell the ladies in the shop what you're looking for—they'll pull out a selection that's not on display.

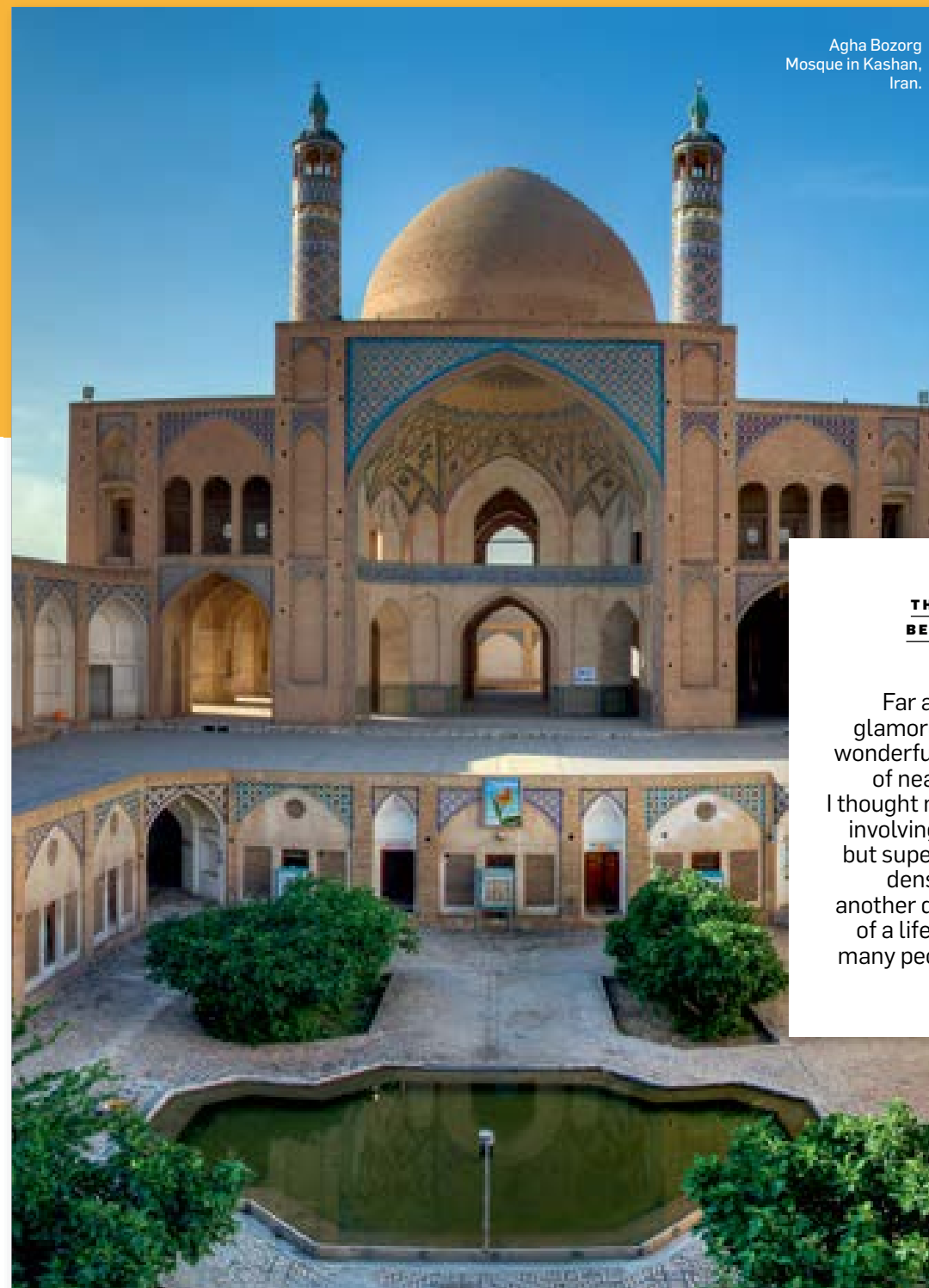
lorettacaponi.it



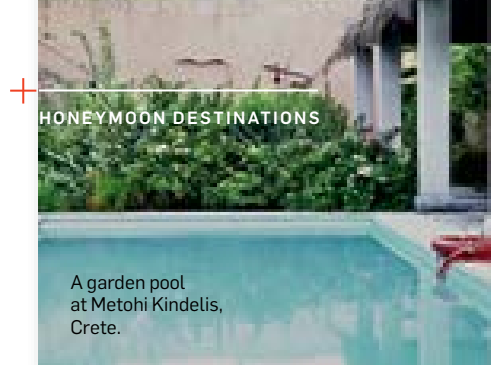
Embroidery patterns at Loretta Caponi, Florence.

THE COUNTRY THAT SHOULD BE ON YOUR MUST-VISIT LIST
BY PICO IYER

Far and away the richest, most glamorous, most unexpected—most wonderful—place I've visited in 44 years of near-constant travel was Iran. I thought nothing could be more complex, involving, and invigorating than Cuba, but super-chic, super-savvy, culturally dense, and diverse Iran was in another dimension. I had the experience of a lifetime—it's no surprise that so many people call it the best destination on the planet.



Agha Bozorg Mosque in Kashan, Iran.



HONEYMOON DESTINATIONS

A garden pool at Metohi Kindelis, Crete.

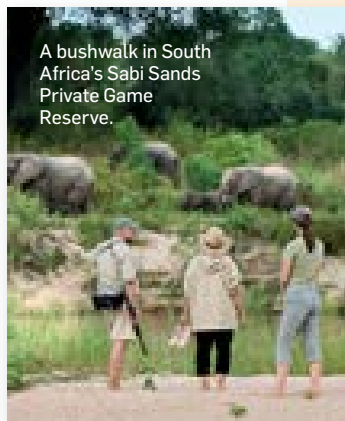
THE GREEK FARM STAY THAT MAKES COUNTRY LIFE FEEL STYLISH

BY FLORA STUBBS

On a recent trip to Crete, my family and I stayed at Metohi Kindelis, on the outskirts of Chania. The Kindelis family converted buildings on their 17th-century Venetian-era farm into three beautiful apartments, each with its own pool. Every day, we would find our kitchen stocked with fresh, organic produce from the working farm—from bitter

marmalade to thick, green extra-virgin olive oil and crumbly sheep-milk cheese.

Book the Kyriakos apartment if you can—it's private pool is at the bottom of a wildflower garden. metohi-kindelis.gr; apartments from ₹22,700.



A bushwalk in South Africa's Sabi Sands Private Game Reserve.

THE TRACKER I'D TRUST TO KEEP ME ALIVE IN THE AFRICAN WILDERNESS

BY SARAH BRUNING

On our honeymoon, my husband and I stayed at Dulini's lodges in South Africa's Sabi Sands Private Game Reserve. While all the staff members went out of their way to make us feel

welcome and answer our questions about the local flora and fauna, we learnt the most during an hour-long bushwalk with our tracker, Isaac. He pointed out enormous termite hills, explained how to decipher the tracks of animals that had recently passed through, and demonstrated how a type of plant called devil's thorn could serve as soap when mixed with water. Between that experience and his determination on game drives, I'd specifically request him (and our guide, Dinamosi) again.

dulini.com; doubles from ₹89,400.

THE ON-TREND CRAFT BREWERY EVEN NON-BEER SNOBS WILL LOVE

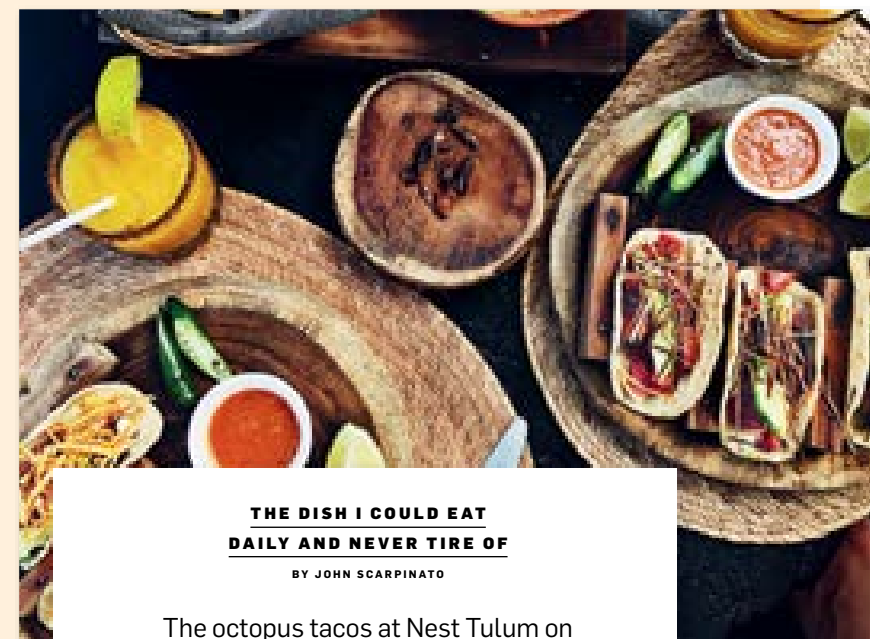
BY CHRISTINE BOWER-WRIGHT

Bracingly bitter, hops-heavy brews have taken over the craft-beer scene in recent years, but now fruity, creamy New England-style IPAs (India pale ales) are having a moment. The best of these new juice bombs are the ones at Other Half Brewing Co. in Carroll Gardens, Brooklyn. Even people who don't think they like beer—or especially IPAs—will have their eyes opened by the incredibly quaffable selection.

otherhalfbrewing.com



Enjoying a fruity drink at Other Half Brewing Co, Brooklyn.



THE DISH I COULD EAT DAILY AND NEVER TIRE OF

BY JOHN SCARPINATO

The octopus tacos at Nest Tulum on the Mayan Riviera, where I honeymooned last year, remain the best tacos I've ever eaten. I ordered them every day for lunch while staying there. By the end of the week, the staff didn't even have to ask for my order; they'd just bring a plateful when my wife and I sat down. The taco itself is quite simple—charred octopus topped with chile aioli and crispy potato strings—but the flavour is fantastic. Order a few with a margarita and sit outside facing the ocean with your feet in the sand.

nesttulum.com; entrées ₹930–₹1,360; doubles from ₹19,766.

THE HOTEL FREEBIES WORTH FLYING FOR

BY NATHAN LUMP

I still get a kick out of seeing what products I'll find in a hotel bathroom, but generally they leave me bored: international brands that I already know or have at home. At Borgo Egnazia, a beautiful resort in Puglia, Italy, however, I fell in love with a special shampoo and conditioner. Both are made from local ingredients—the shampoo with ivy and rice, the conditioner with wheat germ—and both have that creamy, light feeling of old-fashioned, handcrafted products that go on smooth,

wash out easily, and leave you feeling fresh and clean. I still miss their earthy scents, and the way they served as a daily reminder of the pastoral quality of one of my favourite places on earth.

borgoegnazia.com; doubles from ₹53,300.



The spa at Borgo Egnazia, in Puglia, Italy.

THE BEST MUSEUM IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE

BY HEIDI MITCHELL

Amid the vineyards of the Hess estate in Salta, Argentina, there's a private James Turrell Museum—the only one in the world dedicated entirely to the work of the seminal light-and-space artist. It's worth staying at the nine-room Estancia Colomé next door to experience the run of the place. Having the museum all to yourself at sunset is truly spectacular.

For outside visitors, tours are available at 3 pm and 5 pm with advance booking. bodegacolome.com; doubles from ₹11,860.

Unseen Blue at the James Turrell Museum in Salta, Argentina.



FROM TOP: COURTESY OF METOHI KINDELIS; COURTESY OF DULINI; FLORIAN HOLZHIERR. COPYRIGHT © JAMES TURRELL

FROM TOP: JOHN SCARPINATO; COURTESY OF BORGO EGNAZIA; COURTESY OF CHRISTINE BOWER-WRIGHT



**THE CULINARY
MEMENTO WORTH ITS
WEIGHT IN GOLD**

BY HANNAH WALHOUT

I am obsessed with *shichimi*, a seven-spice blend I bought in Nagano, Japan, where it was traditionally a souvenir for pilgrims to the Zenkoji temple. Now, you can get it all over the country, but it's reputedly still best in

Nagano. I got it on my way to the Korakukan Jigokudani ryokan near the Jigokudani National Park (where the snow monkeys are!), and I have been savouring it ever since, using only a few shakes here and there on noodles or rice, so I don't run out too fast.

Look for Yawataya Isogora brand shichimi, in a cylindrical red tin with a gold top.



**THE BEST LATE-NIGHT
STREET-FOOD DISH IN
SOUTH KOREA**

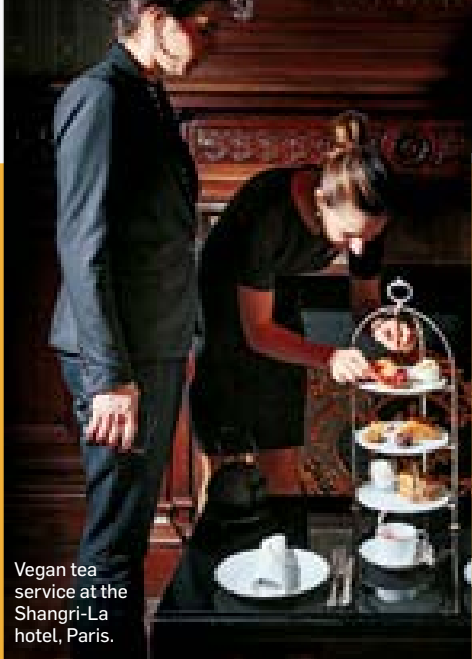
BY JESSE ASHLOCK

On a Saturday night in Busan, I left my wife and daughter asleep back at the Park Hyatt and ventured out in search of a bowl of *dwaengi-gukbap*, a pork-and-rice soup that is one of the

city's signature dishes. I think often about the feeling of wandering through that unexpectedly fun seaside city: the teenagers setting off fireworks on Haeundae Beach; the Lamborghinis racing along the coastal road; the crazy, *Blade Runner*-ish neon zigzag of the city blocks; and finally Seomyeon Food Alley, where I happily devoured a ₹280 bowl of the brothy, savoury soup paired with a cold bottle of OB beer in one of the bright, fluorescent little restaurants.

Seomyeon Food Alley, Bujeon-dong, Busanjin-gu, Busan, South Korea.

Vegan tea service at the Shangri-La hotel, Paris.



**THE MOST INDULGENT HEALTHY (ISH)
MEAL IN FRANCE**

BY SKYE SENTERFEIT

The vegan tea service at the Shangri-La hotel is a completely unexpected Paris find—when's the last time you thought of France for vegan anything? The hospitality is impeccable but warm, not stuffy at all. You get many items: lots of sweets and a few savouries, English tea staples like scones and (faux) cream, plus fancy French patisserie items that seem impossible to make without eggs and butter. And in a country that doesn't really do doggie bags, the Shangri-La servers even offer to pack up any leftovers for you to take home.

Afternoon tea is served in the lounges from 4 pm to 5:30 pm on weekdays and in La Bauhinia from 3 pm to 6 pm on weekends; shangri-la.com; ₹3,700 for one person, ₹6,685 for two; doubles from ₹95,200.

**THE CAVE THAT CHEESE
LOVERS WILL NEVER WANT
TO LEAVE**

BY JESSICA PLAUTZ

Locals in Asturias, in northern Spain, have been perfecting their cheese-making for centuries. It's here you'll find Fundación Cabrales—a cheese museum in a cave, essentially—where you can take a tour, learn how this pungent blue is made, and eat some cheese. Asturias even calls itself the Land of Cheese, and there are variations on cow-, sheep-, and goat-milk cheeses that are all local and all delicious.

fundacioncabrales.com; tours ₹360.



The Cabrales cheese cave in Spain's Asturias region.



**THE MOST LUXURIOUS
EXPERIENCE YOU CAN
HAVE FOR LESS THAN**

₹10,000

BY LILA BATTIS

I'd never given Moroccan wine much thought (who has?), but on a whim I booked a tasting while staying at La Mamounia in Marrakesh. They set you up with a private table somewhere on the property—ours was in the beautiful black-and-white atrium—and the sommelier walks you through the evolution of Moroccan wine making, which began in earnest in the late 19th century, as you sample six wines. We were blown away by the quality, and given how private and personal the experience is, and at such a high-end hotel, it felt like a steal!

Ask about buying a bottle of Icône—it's sold only at the hotel. mamounia.com; wine tasting ₹4,300 per person; doubles from ₹36,000.

**THE ROBE SO GOOD
THAT I HAD TO HAVE
ONE OF MY OWN**

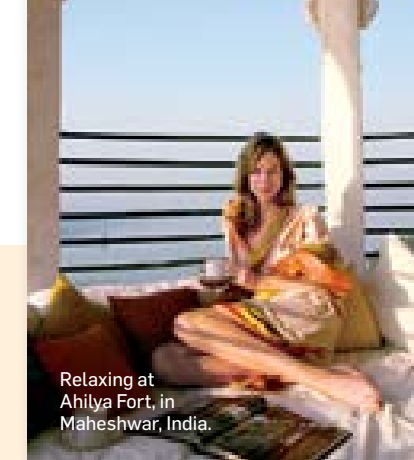
BY FLORA STUBBS

Maheshwar, a town in Madhya Pradesh, in central India, is known for its ultra-fine weaving. The former maharajah's palace has been made into a very special boutique hotel named Ahilya Fort that overlooks the Narmada River. Right next door is a weaving workshop where craftspeople work by hand on wooden looms, and

Relaxing at Ahilya Fort, in Maheshwar, India.

many of the textiles in the hotel are made using those same techniques. I have strong feelings about hotel bathrobes, and I loved the one there so much that my husband bought it for me as a surprise when we checked out. I think of that amazing place every time I wear it.

ahilyafort.com; doubles from ₹21,400.



**THE WILDLIFE ENCOUNTER THAT WOULD
TURN ANYONE INTO A NATURE LOVER**

BY JACQUELINE GIFFORD

Ashford Castle, one of Ireland's top hotels, has something called a Hawk Walk—you get to hold the bird on your arm, then watch it take off, soar into the trees, and come back for a piece of meat that's resting on your glove. It's like medieval times brought to life. The guides who explain the sport of falconry are so knowledgeable and charming, and walking the grounds is lovely.

ashfordcastle.com; Hawk Walk experience ₹7,550; doubles from ₹50,000.



A trainer from Ashford Castle's School of Falconry works with a bird at nearby Lough Corrib.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: SHUTTERSTOCK; ALEX CRETEY SYSTERMANS; AGE FOTOSTOCK/ALAMY; NOBUO KAWAGUCHI/SEBUN PHOTO/GETTY IMAGES

FROM TOP: COURTESY OF FLORA STUBBS; LILA BATTIS; COURTESY OF ASHFORD CASTLE

ANOTHER REASON TO VISIT VEGAS
BY MARIAH TYLER

There are little corners of Las Vegas that feel unlike any other place in the world. One of them is the Neon Museum, in the relocated shell of what used to be the beautiful La Concha Motel lobby. It sits on two acres and serves as a graveyard for the colourful neon signs of the city's past lives. The tour to book is at sunset—you walk around listening to tales of Las Vegas history and watch the neon come alive.

neonmuseum.org; tours from ₹1,365.



The Neon Museum, Las Vegas.

THE HOUSE MUSEUM
YOU'LL WANT
TO MOVE INTO
BY PETER TERZIAN

When you arrive in Capri, ask for directions to the Phoenician Steps, and then climb all 921 of them—come on, you can do it—to the village of Anacapri, making

sure to turn around every so often to see the view of the Gulf of Naples behind you. As you reach the topmost step, you'll arrive at Villa San Michele, a modest but lovely house built in the 1890s by Axel Munthe, a good-hearted Swedish doctor. Munthe wrote a book called *The Story of San Michele*, about how he found bliss living on Capri. It was published in 1929 and became a huge worldwide success—sort of the *A Year in Provence* of its time. Now open to the public for tours, San Michele was Munthe's seasonal home until his death in 1949. Over those decades, he amassed an impressive collection of classical statuary, which is on display in both the cool, peaceful building and the enchanting walled garden.

villasanmichele.eu; tickets ₹645.



A pergola at Villa San Michele in Capri, Italy.

FROM TOP: MARIAH TYLER; BARRY MASON/ALAMY



Crèmeux de Cîteaux at the Restaurant at Meadowood in St. Helena, California.

THE TASTING-MENU
FINALE I CAN'T STOP
TALKING ABOUT
BY RAY ISLE

I don't normally like gimmicks in restaurants, but one of the last courses at the meal I had at the Restaurant at Meadowood in Napa Valley was both brilliant and utterly delicious. There was a large candle, flickering away, on our table the entire meal,

and the server came up and said, "For your next course," and promptly cut the top half of the candle off with a chef's knife! Inside was an entire *crèmeux de Cîteaux* cheese with truffles, now melted by the heat of the candle. We spooned it onto bread and basically went to paradise.

therestaurantatmeadowood.com; tasting menu ₹20,500; doubles from ₹54,000.



THE BEST LITTLE HOTEL
LIBRARY IN TUCSON
BY HANNAH WALHOUT

The site of the Arizona Inn in Tucson has had many lives—everything from a furniture workshop for World War I veterans to a Hollywood retreat where actors such as Katharine Hepburn and Bing Crosby

would stay. Now, it's the best property in Tucson, a colourful complex of low-slung stucco buildings, with cacti and wildflowers everywhere. When you're not out at the pool, the rustic library, full of dark wood, Navajo rugs, and antiques, is the perfect haunt for a coffee and a newspaper. It's all adobe and exposed beams, and feels reminiscent of a time when Arizona was a wilder place. Reading in there makes you feel very glamorous, and I like that it's got lots of little Arizonan twists on the typical ornate-mahogany-library vibe.

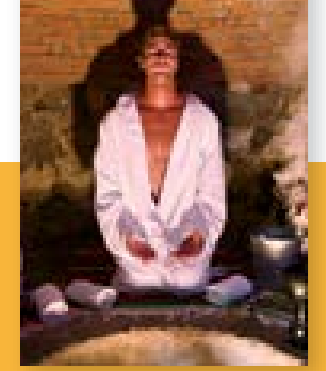
arizonainn.com; doubles from ₹10,700.

THE MOST FAR-OUT SPA
SERVICE IN THE WESTERN
HEMISPHERE
BY SIOBHAN REID

An experience that really wowed me was the *temazcal* ceremony at Playa Grande Resort & Spa in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, last year. It's an ancient Mayan ritual that involves crawling into a tiny, igloo-like hut filled with molten-hot rocks and having a shaman splash

you with water and rub herbs all over your body. Sounds crazy, but it left me feeling more relaxed than 99 percent of the other spa treatments I've had.

grandsolmarresort.com; temazcal ceremony from ₹8,625; doubles from ₹8,625.



Dog-sledding in the Jacques Cartier River Valley, Quebec.

THE ONE-OF-A-KIND WINTERTIME ADVENTURE
BY NINA RUGGIERO

Deep in a snowy forest north of Quebec City, there's a dog-sledding operation unlike any other I've experienced. You get to drive your own traditional sled, which is both fun and terrifying, and you give the dogs commands in French. After your ride, the owners walk you through the kennels and show you how the dogs live, what they eat, and how they train; then the owners serve you hot chocolate and cookies indoors. If you're there at the right time of the year, there are puppies you can hold—it's the cutest thing ever! You can even adopt the dogs that are retiring.

traineaux-chiens.com; dog-sledding from ₹6,100.



Luxurious sundeck area by the pool, Wildflower Hall, Shimla.

PACKAGED to PERFECTION

Planning your honeymoon? Make sure you check out these exciting deals and packages offered by some of the most extravagant destinations around the world. *By Rashima Nagpal*

SHIMLA

Wildflower Hall, Shimla in the Himalayas – An Oberoi Resort

Choose the Himalayan Vacations package for a romantic escape amid 20 acres of a secluded cedar forest.

🛏️ Deluxe Garden View Room.

✂️ Daily breakfast.

💰 25% savings at Oberoi Spa.

💰 ₹18,500 onwards per night for a minimum of two nights. [oberoihotels.com](#)

NEW DELHI

Le Meridien New Delhi

If you're getting married at this plush property, use their indulgent one-night honeymoon package.

🛏️ Maple Suite featuring a king bed and spacious sitting room.

✂️ A bottle of champagne, a themed cake, and a decorated suite on arrival; breakfast at The One restaurant next morning.

💆 Couples massage at the Three Graces Spa.

💰 ₹25,000 plus taxes for one night. [marriott.com](#)

GURGAON

ITC Grand Bharat

A truly sumptuous honeymoon package at India's first all-suites luxury retreat.

🛏️ Pool Suite

✂️ Welcome drink on arrival; breakfast for two at Aravali Pavilion; a candlelit, three-course table d'hôte European cuisine dinner at The India Room;



Regal façade of The Peninsula New York.

a candlelit, three-course table d'hôte dinner at Apas Promenade.

💆 Kaya Kalp signature body treatment for two; hatha yoga session for two; the choice of a golf lesson, segway ride, or nature trail for two; evening ritual by the Yamuna Ghats for two; an in-suite bath ritual for two.

💰 ₹42,000 upwards for two nights. [itchotels.in](#)

NEW YORK

The Peninsula New York

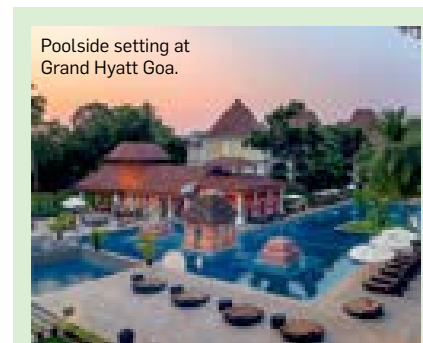
The Manhattan Retreat package at this glamorous hotel in the city's prestigious shopping, entertainment and cultural district is a perfect fit for the millennial couple.

🛏️ Available for all room categories with a late 4 pm check-out.

✂️ Daily continental breakfast; bottle of red wine.

💆 30% discount on treatments at The Peninsula Spa.

💰 Subject to the choice of room. [peninsula.com](#)



Poolside setting at Grand Hyatt Goa.

HYATT hotels offer an exciting deal for couples who choose to get married at one of their participating hotels. Host your wedding at a Hyatt hotel and earn free nights on your honeymoon; the World of Hyatt Bonus points are redeemable free nights with no blackout dates at Hyatt hotels or resorts worldwide. [hyatt.com](#)

FROM LEFT: COURTESY OF WILDFLOWER HALL, SHIMLA IN THE HIMALAYAS-AN OBEROI RESORT; COURTESY OF THE PENINSULA NEW YORK; COURTESY OF GRAND HYATT GOA



The tranquil pool at SALA Samui Choengmon Beach Resort.

GERMANY

Hotel Der Kleine Prinz, Baden Baden

The Honeymoon Special package here is all-encompassing with romantic French traditions.

🛏️ Choice of three categories; Double Room, Junior Suite, and Penthouse Suite.

✂️ Champagne breakfast in bed each morning;

six-course gourmet menu every evening; daily afternoon tea with scones and cakes; daily aperitif.

💆 A romantic bath with rose petals, with a bottle of chilled Veuve Champagne and homemade pralinés.

💰 ₹9,200 per person per night for two nights; stay five nights at the price of four. [derkleineprinz.de](#)

MONTE CARLO

Fairmont Monte Carlo

The Fairmont Suite Moments package offers an indulgent fare.

🛏️ A luxurious suite.

✂️ Breakfast; Fairmont Classic Perfected Cocktail.

💰 ₹50,000 onwards per night; stay seven nights and pay for six. [fairmont.com](#)

SINGAPORE

Conrad Centennial Singapore

This lavish property's Honeymoon Package is simply extravagant.

🛏️ Suite category; access to the Executive Lounge.

✂️ Daily buffet breakfast; afternoon tea with finger sandwiches and cakes; evening drinks with hors d'oeuvres at the Executive Lounge; special dinner at the Golden Peony—the hotel's award-winning Chinese restaurant.

💰 ₹34,000 onwards per night. [conradsingapore.com](#)

THAILAND

SALA Samui Choengmon Beach Resort

Grab the Honeymoon of a Lifetime package for a memorable holiday.

🛏️ Four-nights accommodation.

✂️ Sparkling wine and chocolates on arrival; daily breakfast; a candlelit dinner, paired with a bottle of house wine, at SALA Seafood Grill.

COURTESY OF SALA SAMUI CHOENGMON BEACH RESORT; COURTESY OF ROSEWOOD LONDON

LONDON

Rosewood London

The honeymoon package here is completely made for romance.

🛏️ Luxury residence subject to one-category upgrade; turndown service.

✂️ English breakfast in bed; chilled bottle of Ruinart champagne and a sweet gift on arrival.

💆 Access to the luxurious Sense spa's sauna and steam room.

💰 ₹75,000 per night. [rosewoodhotels.com](#)



Wedding cake, Rosewood London.

💆 60-minute treatment for the couple, including a choice of Swedish, Asian Combination, Soothing Aroma and Traditional Thai massages; Sesame Herbal, Salt Glow or Asian Herbal body scrubs, and a Thai Herbal facial at SALA Spa.

💰 ₹79,500 onwards for a four-night stay.

[salachoengmon.com](#)

SPECIAL DEALS

If you are looking for gorgeous places to host a lavish dinner or lunch, or even a stay, check out these deals.

THAILAND

Pimalai Resort and Spa, Koh Lanta

Go for the Western Wedding Package—Classic Romance, which includes a venue of your choice, location and flower decoration, master of ceremonies, celebrant, music, wedding rehearsal facilities, bouquet and corsage, decoration of the bridal bed on wedding night, and more.

✂️ A bottle of sparkling wine, a wedding cake, three-course a la carte dinner at Seven Seas restaurant for the couple.

💆 Two-hour 'koo rak' romantic massage.

💰 ₹1,65,597. [pimalai.com](#)

SINGAPORE

Marina Bay Sands

Book the hotel for an intimate gathering of 10 over lunch (Happiness Package) or dinner (Double Happiness Package). The package includes one-night stay in Bridal Suite with breakfast for the couple.

✂️ Exquisite set menu of your choice, menu tasting for 10, a bottle of champagne for toasting, a barrel of beer, free-flow beverages for four hours (soft drinks and Chinese tea), and refreshments for the couple.

🎉 Selection of seat covers and linen, floral centrepiece for guest tables, eight floral stands, and an attractive backdrop for the stage.

🏢 Marina Bay Sands Signature Chocolate Pralines, and invitation cards for 70% of guaranteed number of guests.

💰 ₹59,550 onwards (Happiness Package) and ₹73,000 (Double Happiness Package) per table of 10. [marinabaysands.com](#)

EUROPE

Hôtel de Crillon, Paris

Host an intimate wedding dinner at the hotel for a truly Parisian experience.

✂️ Two glasses of champagne with six canapés for the couple, still and sparkling water, four-course menu, wine pairing, tasting menu for wedding dinner for two.

💰 ₹29,590 onwards per person (30 people minimum). [rosewoodhotels.com](#)

Holiday Inn Resort Phi Phi Island

Rejoice with this Island Romance package.

🛏️ Two romantic nights accommodation.

✂️ Daily breakfast buffet; welcome drink; a bottle of house wine on arrival; romantic dinner on the beach.

🚗 Round-trip land and speedboat transfers between Phuket or Krabi and Holiday Inn Resort Phi Phi Island.

💰 ₹30,000 onwards per night. [holidayinnresorts.com](#) ✂️

Worth Flying For
**CRETE ISLAND,
GREECE**

Simply oozing romance, the Greek island of Crete presents the perfect destination for a wedding or honeymoon. With jaw-dropping scenery—turquoise waters, white-sand beaches, and ancient ruins—rest assured, your special day will be set amidst magical splendour.

Located in the Aegean Sea, the 260-km-long island has a landscape that changes as you travel from north to south. While pristine beaches, set alongside cities with a buzzing nightlife, are the hallmark of the north, the south is marked by striking rugged cliffs and pretty villages. This

means that depending on the size or theme of your wedding, you can choose from luxurious beachside resorts to charming village lodges, or even an enchantingly scenic lagoon as the ideal spot for exchanging your vows. For those seeking an intimate wedding, the fishing village of Agia Pelagia and Koufonisi island are idyllic settings, lush with mesmerising beauty. Or, for that gala affair, head to the capital city, Heraklion, packed with an exciting mix of endless entertainment. And as for the food, Crete offers a cuisine as tasty as the island is beautiful!—ANANYA BAHL

GEORGIOS TSICHLIS/ALAMY



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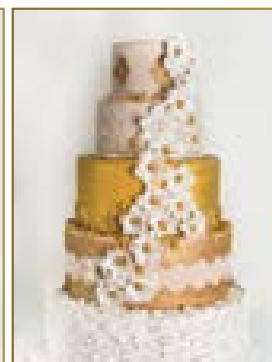
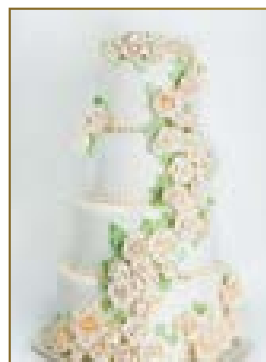


A Taste of Perfection

On your special day, the wedding cake is just as important as your dress and bouquet. Cutting the cake is the first tradition you will follow as a newly-wed couple and one of the lasting impressions your guests will savour before they leave your wedding celebration. From whimsical designs and blossomed décor to classic flavours and fine details, our wedding cakes are created to take center stage on your big day.

Distinguished by 5-star personal service, our famous Cake Artist Gelly Kalouta will work with you to create a wonderfully unique and truly distinctive cake that reflects your personality and dream wedding day celebration, surpassing all your expectations.

To find out more visit:
jwmarriottmarquisdubailife.com or contact Cake Artist Gelly on +971 4 414 3000



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