

## TRAVEL FOR TWO

# YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO LOVE THESE ROMANTIC DESTINATIONS

Where do couples honeymoon when budgets are tight? Closer to home, says a survey by Traveler's Joy ([www.travelersjoy.com](http://www.travelersjoy.com)), an online honeymoon registry service.

In a recent survey, 62 percent of respondents said they plan to trim honeymoon costs by using loyalty rewards for free travel, cutting extras like spa treatments and excursions, delaying their honeymoons and staying closer to home.

Rebecca Dolgin, Executive Editor of the bridal website, The Knot ([www.theknot.com](http://www.theknot.com)), predicts honeymooners may forgo Italy — a perennial honeymoon favorite — in favor of the Caribbean and Florida. And she expects California wine country — particularly Napa and Sonoma — to become more popular.

In years past, when honeymooners were spending close to \$5,000 on honeymoons lasting at least eight days, The Knot ranked its Top Ten destinations as **Mexico, Hawaii, Jamaica, Florida, Italy, the Bahamas, St. Lucia, California, St. Thomas and Nevada.**

"Anecdotally and on the message boards, we're definitely seeing people talk more about homefront honeymoons, staying local," says Dolgin. "Part of it is budget, but part is not wanting to waste time getting through customs and the time that takes from the honeymoon."

Whether you're taking your first honeymoon, a repeat or just practicing for the real thing, here are some of the planet's most romantic places as judged by top publications.

- JANE WOOLDRIDGE

### ROMANTIC RETREATS

From Hideaways International, luxury travel club and site, [www.hideaways.com](http://www.hideaways.com):

● **1. Chateau Eza**, Cote d'Azur, France; [www.chateaeza.com](http://www.chateaeza.com). Ten rooms on the French Riviera.

● **2. Hotel Splendido**, Portofino, Italy; [www.hotelsplendido.com](http://www.hotelsplendido.com). It was

good enough for Taylor and Burton, Bogart and Bacall.

● **3. Blue Palace Resort & Spa**, Crete, Greece; [www.bluepalace.gr](http://www.bluepalace.gr): Views of the sea along the island's rocky northern coast.

● **4. Ladera Resort**, St. Lucia; [www.ladera.com](http://www.ladera.com): Canopy beds and plunge pools in every room.

● **5. Maroma Resort and Spa**, Riviera Maya, Mexico; [www.maroma-hotel.com](http://www.maroma-hotel.com): Gourmet dining and yoga amid airy, harmonious surrounds by the sea.

● **6. Sivory Punta Cana**, Dominican Republic; [www.sivorypuntacana.com](http://www.sivorypuntacana.com): New luxury resort with miles of deserted beaches.

● **7. Bora Bora Lagoon Resort & Spa**, French Polynesia; [www.orient-express.com](http://www.orient-express.com): Bungalows built over the water make this the iconic South Pacific resort.

● **8. Lillianfels Blue Mountains Resort & Spa**, Australia; [www.lillianfels.com.au](http://www.lillianfels.com.au): Elegant hotel with views across the Jamison Valley to the Blue Mountains.

● **9. The Viceroy Bali**, Ubud, Bali; [www.theviceroybali.com](http://www.theviceroybali.com): Serene setting and private villas on a hillside.

● **10. Little Palm Island**, Florida Keys; [www.littlepalmisland.com](http://www.littlepalmisland.com): Palms, thatched bungalows on a private island.

### DREAM ESCAPES

Travel + Leisure names 20 top romantic destinations in its February issue. They are divided into six categories:

#### Urban retreats

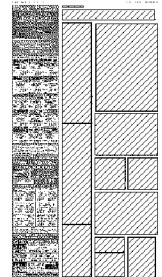
- Buenos Aires
- Istanbul
- New York City
- St. Petersburg, Russia

#### Secret villages

- Chassignolles, France (north of Limoges)
- Vico Equense, Italy (near Naples)

#### Waterfront retreats

- Bali



- Bora-Bora
- Grenada
- Kerala, India
- Patmos, Greece
- Savannah, Ga.
- Whidbey Island, Wash.

#### **Wine country**

- Colchagua Valley, Chile
- Napa Valley, Calif.

#### **Desert getaways**

- Fez, Morocco
- Palm Springs, Calif.
- San Camp, Botswana

#### **Mountain hideaways**

- Telluride, Colo.
- Woodstock, Vermont

#### **COZY INNS**

American Historic Inns, which publishes the Iloveinns.com website, has named these bed-and-breakfasts to its 2009 Most Romantic list:

- **MacCallum House Inn**, Mendocino, Calif.
- **Highland Haven Creekside Inn**, Evergreen, Colo.
- **The Towers Bed & Breakfast**, Milford, Del.
- **Port d'Hiver Bed and Breakfast**, Melbourne Beach, Fla.
- **Carriage House at the Harbor**, South Haven, Mich.
- **Fleur-de-Lys Mansion**, St. Louis, Missouri
- **The Edward Harris House Bed & Breakfast Inn**, Rochester, N.Y.

- **The Inn & Spa at Intercourse Village**, Intercourse, Penn.

- **French Quarter Inn**, Charleston, S.C.

- **Inn at Warner Hall**, Gloucester, Va.

#### **HONEYMOON SPOTS**

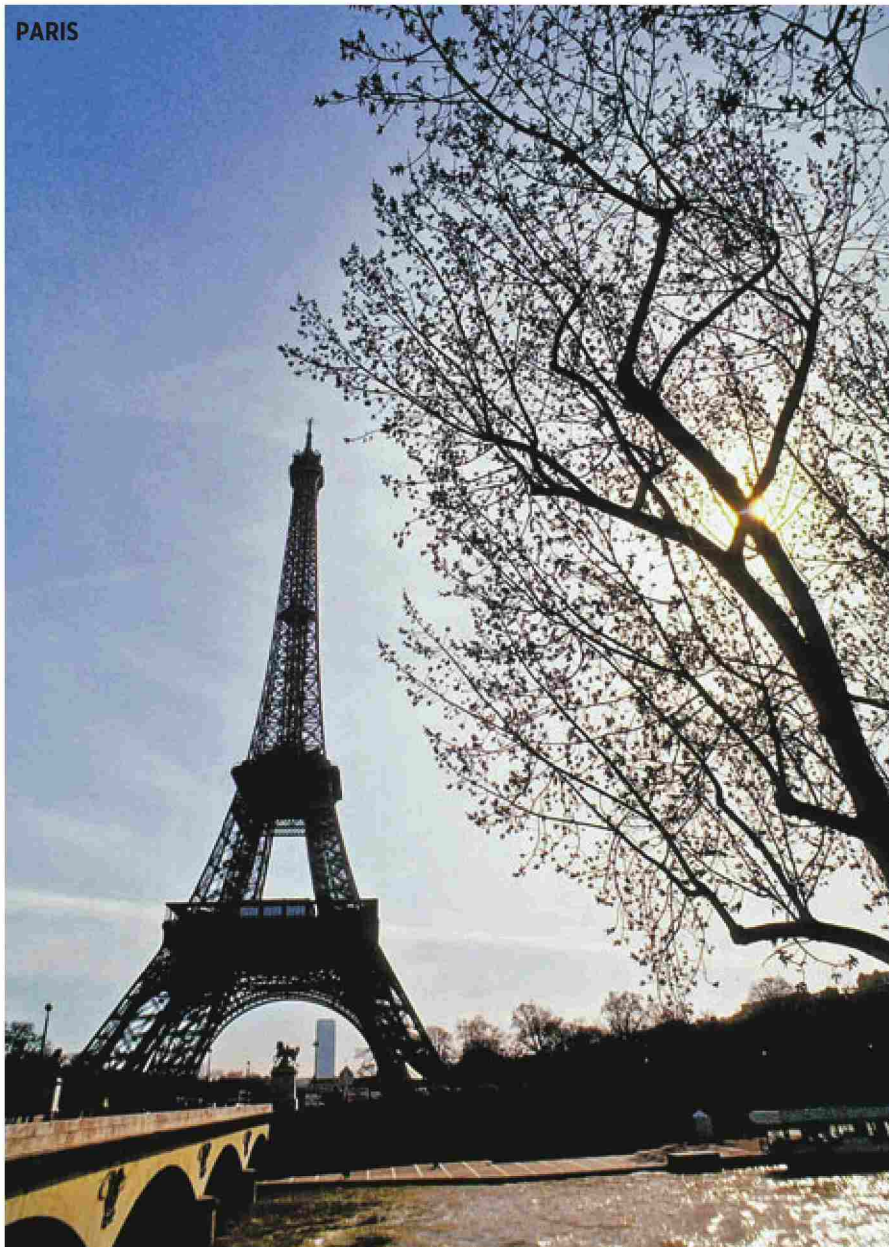
When Modern Bride magazine polled travel agents, they named these places the best for honeymooning couples.

- Hawaii
- Italy
- Tahiti
- Anguilla
- Fiji
- St. Lucia
- Mexico
- St. Bart's
- Jamaica
- France

#### **WINTER ROMANCE**

A honeymoon in paradise may seem like an obvious choice, but www.WeddingChannel.com says these five fun spots are great for winter honeymoons.

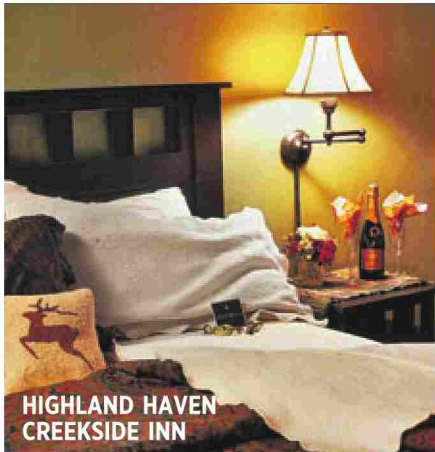
- Finnmark, Norway
- Quebec City, Canada
- Niseko, Japan
- Innsbruck, Austria
- Santiago, Chile



RICHARD DEREK/LOS ANGELES TIMES

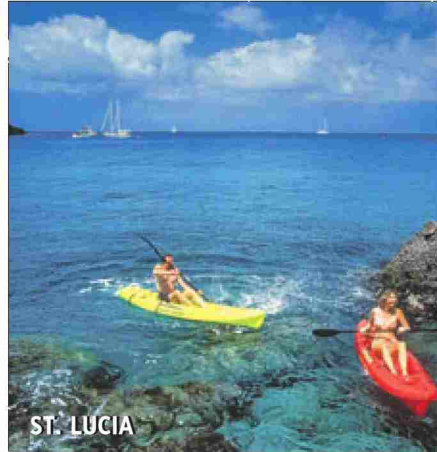


SAVANNAH



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ST. LUCIA

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STEVE DESLICH