



BERMUDA

FRESH FACE

Pastel-pink-sand beaches, a sophisticated British air and easy accessibility from the East Coast (it's a three-hour direct flight from New York) keep Bermuda high on the honeymoon radar, and now a newly renovated hotel scene gives couples even more reason to go. At [MANDARIN ORIENTAL ELBOW BEACH](#) (pictured above left), a decrease in the number of rooms means a major uptick in privacy. Investing millions into facility upgrades, the tranquil and exclusive once 235-room (now 98-room) haven received a chic makeover, with sumptuous new bedding and linens, advanced in-room entertainment (like 200-plus high-def channels) for quiet nights in and a new spa beach pavilion perfect for oceanside couples treatments. Farther down the shore, [FAIRMONT SOUTHAMPTON](#) celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2012 and has been busy prepping. The 593 spacious guest rooms — all boasting private balconies — have been enhanced with redesigned marble bathrooms, luxury bedding and flat-screen TVs. Other improvements include a recently opened full-service golf pro shop to complement the award-winning greens (pictured above right), as well as the newly transformed Asian-inspired Ocean Club, whose water-view outdoor terrace is *the spot* for an intimate dinner. *Elbow Beach from \$325; Fairmont Southampton from \$249. — Jennifer Sembler*



TURKS AND CAICOS

star treatment

Even some of the highest-paid celebs don't have their own private island, which is why many of them (including Jennifer Garner and Ben Affleck, who wed here) venture to **PARROT CAY**'s 1,000 acres of white-sand beaches. But it's not just stars who get the red-carpet service. After a flight into Providenciales, guests are whisked from the resort's welcome center to the private isle via a 25-minute boat ride — which allows the perfect amount of time to get into vacation mode. Each of the 70 rooms opens to a four-poster bed and Balinese furnishings, while 12 beach villas offer up a private pool, an outdoor shower garden and a personal butler waiting to chauffeur you around the property on a golf cart. Water sports like windsurfing and kayaking are gratis, or for a fee, sign up with Big Blue Unlimited for a day spent snorkeling or diving the remote Caicos banks (made-to-order lunch included). Wellness is also a top priority, so nourish your mind, body and soul with complimentary meditation, Pilates and yoga sessions at the open-air pavilion overlooking the sea. (Bonus: If you're the only ones in attendance, you score a private lesson.) Pacify yourselves even further with a couples massage at the **COMO Shambhala Retreat**, then toast the day at the **Lotus** restaurant, renowned for fresh grilled cod, scallops and conch. *From \$545. — Tara Bradley*



HAWAII

hana nirvana

Couples love Maui's Hana region for its unspoiled beauty and pure seclusion. Now just-opened **TRAVAASA HANA** (formerly the iconic Hotel Hana-Maui) makes the most of both to offer honeymooners the ultimate tranquil escape. A new experiential brand, Travaasa gives guests a range of rotating diversions posted daily on the activities board (think a romantic horseback ride to a vista overlooking an 80-foot waterfall or a couples lomilomi massage, followed by a dip in the alfresco lava-rock whirlpool). Only 71 rooms are scattered on 70 lush acres, making you feel like the only guests on property. For prime peace and quiet, the adults-only bluffside **Sea Ranch Cottages** are so remote that all you can hear is the crashing of the waves (opt for cottages 215 through 218 for the best ocean proximity and sunrise views). If all you want to do is relax in your private-terrace hot tub overlooking the ocean and soak in the gorgeous landscape, go for it. The rooms' lack of TVs, clocks, phones, Internet and radios cultivates an unplugged retreat that puts the focus where it should be — on each other. *From \$399. — JS*

CURACAO

historic + hip

There's never been a better time to visit colorful Curacao, which is having a spotlight moment after being declared autonomous from the Netherlands last year. A history-rich honeymoon starts at the 200-year-old **AVILA HOTEL** (above right), near pastel-hued Willemstad, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Take in the sunset and villa-dotted coastline from a spacious suite, sample the signature *keshi yena* (stuffed cheese, a local specialty) at a private beach dinner, and bask in the balmy sea breeze while enjoying live jazz at **Blues**. For a taste of contemporary Curacao, head east to the year-old **HYATT REGENCY CURACAO** (below right), an airy 350-room resort at the sprawling Santa Barbara Plantation. Sexy one-bedroom bungalows each come with butler service and a pool with a mini cabana made for two. After a couples massage at the **Atabei Spa** or a round on the golf course, work your way through the sangria menu at **Medi**, with 10 custom concoctions. *Avila Hotel from \$209; Hyatt Regency Curacao from \$199. — Brooke Showell*



NEW YORK

BIG APPLE BLISS

Honeymooners in the city that never sleeps can rest easy at these new NYC properties where style rules — no matter what your taste.



TRENDY

On a cool block in Chelsea stands 316-room **Dream Downtown**, hotelier Vikram Chatwal's latest creation. Plan your adventure in the surreal lobby, with oversize porthole windows and modern art installations, then settle into a Platinum King mini suite decked out in sultry silver and white. For a serene break from the urban grind, unwind in a private cabana at the intimate pool deck (its glass bottom is visible from the lobby below). Reserve dinner at the innovative **Romera New York** (a fine-dining experience focused on neurogastronomy), then party with the glitterati at the 12th-floor **PH-D Rooftop Lounge**. *From \$395.*



HOMELY

Live like a local at the **Nolitan**, a 55-room boutique hotel nestled in the charming shopping- and cafe-filled downtown Nolita neighborhood. Fill out a personal profile prior to arrival to request the perfect pillows or organic snacks for your room. Check-in staff can acquaint you with shopping deals at nearby boutiques, provide running maps, and lend bikes and skateboards for exploring the area. Or embrace your inner homebody with board games in the cozy sunken lobby lounge. Rooms done in black, white and red are light and airy, and each comes with a sexy open bathroom and yummy bath amenities from nearby **Red Flower**. *From \$426.*



ARTSY

In gallery-filled SoHo, the **Mondrian SoHo** conveys a sense of fantasy with powdery French-blue and silver decor — a modern twist on Jean Cocteau's 1946 film *La Belle et la Bête*. In the 270 guest rooms, sweeping views of the city make you feel as if you're living in a painting, while the lobby's pretty periwinkle love seats are prime spots for gazing at magical ceiling murals. Use the in-room iPad to make a rez at the hotel's garden-like seafood restaurant, **Imperial No. Nine** — sit under the dramatic glass roof and admire spectacular crystal chandeliers and a handblown glass sculpture by artist **Beth Lipman**. *From \$409. — BS*

TOP RIGHT: AL ARGUETA; BOTTOM LEFT: PHILLIP ENNIS PHOTOGRAPHY



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love at large

GET THIS

VERY VERA

We're gaga about her gowns (for some of our faves, check out page 68), and now we're loving that we can travel in style with her new HARTMANN SIGNATURE COLLECTION BY VERA WANG luggage. Sleek and chic (natch), the collection includes carry-on pieces (a convertible tote for her, a doctor's bag for him), along with classic rolling cases (right) in multiple sizes. All feature lovely lavender linings, plus the latter have outer leather motifs with the designer's trademark draping and layering, which make the luggage stand out in a sea of black bags.

It's roomy enough for a long trip *and* plenty of souvenirs, as our editor in chief found out on her recent two-week trip to India. *From \$240. — Rebecca Kinnear*



COOL ROOMS

NATURE CALLS

Everyone loves national parks, but how do they rate when it comes to romance? Couples don't have to sleep in tents and schlep backpacks to discover the great outdoors — if they book their honeymoon at one of these swish lodges that make some parks practically luxurious.



MONTANA: OVERLOOK FIELD CAMPUS, YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

This three-cabin refuge on the northern edge of the world's first national park offers comfy digs, incredible views and access to private guides who can show you Yellowstone like few others. Cook your own meals or hire Zac's Montana Kitchen to cater your gourmet feasts. **ROOM TO BOOK:** Bunsen Peak Cabin. *From \$200.*



GEORGIA: GREYFIELD INN, CUMBERLAND ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE

Built as a holiday home for the Carnegie family, this 16-room Victorian house is still owned and operated by descendants of the steel clan. The wildly romantic isle boasts native wildlife, wild horses, 50 miles of hiking trails and a pristine 18-mile-long beach backed by coastal dunes. **ROOM TO BOOK:** Library Suite. *From \$395.*



CALIFORNIA: FURNACE CREEK RESORT, DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

Opened in 1927, this 68-room retreat attracts a hip Hollywood crowd (Clark Gable and Carole Lombard honeymooned here) to its cool oasis pool and activities like horseback riding, hiking and golfing the world's lowest course (214 feet below sea level). **ROOM TO BOOK:** Pool Bungalow. *From \$265. — Joe Yagerst*

LUGGAGE: DIANE RICE; GREYFIELD INN: ALAN S. WEINER