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ETC weddings

Time to

escape

Dreaming of an unforgettable honeymoon? Here are Travel Bureau's top honeymoon destination tips for 2015

MAURITIUS & LÉ REUNION

This castaway island has a lot more to offer than beaches – from waterfalls and sacred lakes to an extinct volcano and great deep sea fishing – all mixed up with a little Creole culture. Or why not combine it with neighbouring island Lé Reunion? Still largely undiscovered, it's a paradise for all things nature, with jagged peaks, lava fields, lush forests and coastal towns to explore by land, sea and air. Great if you want to combine a bit of nature and sightseeing with a Mauritius beach break.

What's
your dream
destination?
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MALDIVES, INDIAN OCEAN

The Maldives is one of the all-time dream honeymoon destinations. With brilliant white sands, sparkling aquamarine lagoons and vibrant coral reefs, it's no wonder this paradise is at the top of many honeymoon wish lists.

A collection of more than 1000 tiny coral islands it offers some of the most luxurious hotels in the world, with fine dining in abundance and spa treatments to die for. Cruising or island-hopping is a great way to explore and it's a perfect honeymoon destination for scuba-diving or water-sport enthusiasts. Or alternatively just put your feet up and relax on the pristine sandy beaches...

WHEN TO GO: December to April is generally a good time to travel as it's dry and hot.

TRAVEL BUREAU RECOMMENDS
Kandolhu Island Resort – a picture-perfect, tiny island resort with 30 beach and water villas and diverse dining.



SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka is a beautiful island that's rising in popularity with honeymooners, with wonderful wildlife and spectacular scenery surrounding luxury beach front hotels. It's steeped in history and culture and is ideal if you're looking for a multi-centre experience.

Visit the Lion Rock fortress of Sigiriya, where you can watch monkeys swinging between the trees surrounding the magnificent ruins. Then head for the Yala national park to see leopards, water buffalo and elephants in their natural habitat, before heading to your beach front resort to relax.

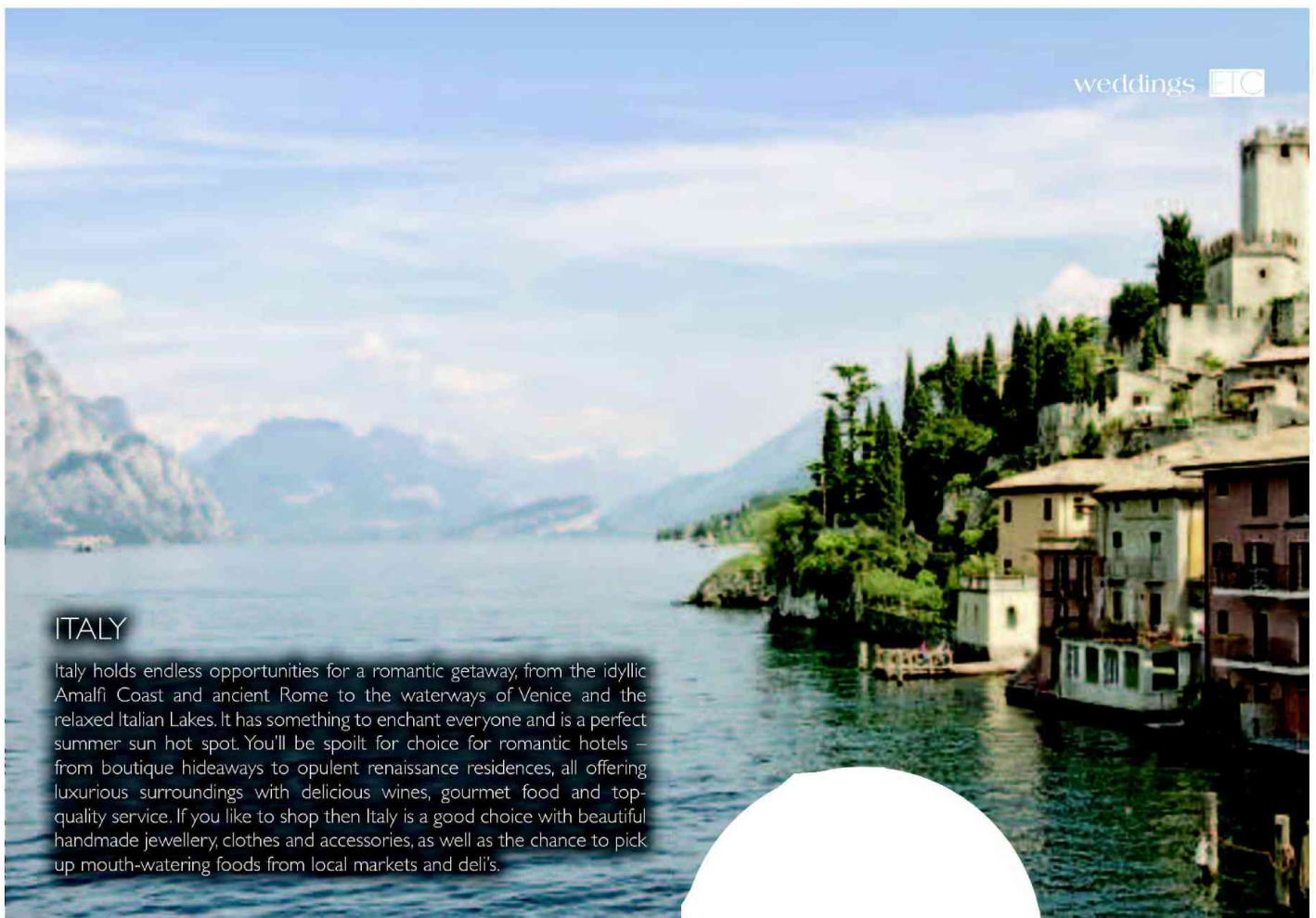
WHEN TO GO

The monsoon period is April to May so it's best to avoid this season.

TRAVEL BUREAU RECOMMENDS

Cinnamon Lodge, Habarana, is an intimate lakeside retreat, in the perfect spot to explore the cultural triangle.

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ITALY

Italy holds endless opportunities for a romantic getaway, from the idyllic Amalfi Coast and ancient Rome to the waterways of Venice and the relaxed Italian Lakes. It has something to enchant everyone and is a perfect summer sun hot spot. You'll be spoilt for choice for romantic hotels – from boutique hideaways to opulent renaissance residences, all offering luxurious surroundings with delicious wines, gourmet food and top-quality service. If you like to shop then Italy is a good choice with beautiful handmade jewellery, clothes and accessories, as well as the chance to pick up mouth-watering foods from local markets and deli's.

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AFRICAN SAFARI

Africa offers an incredible landscape for a romantic and intimate honeymoon. Combine the thrill of a breathtaking safari and the pure paradisiacal bliss of relaxing on tropical beaches. South Africa's Kruger National Park offers that 'once in a lifetime' chance to spot the safari big five, whilst Tanzania, Zanzibar, Botswana and Uganda also all offer unique and authentic African experiences.

Don't let being out in the wilderness put you off, as luxurious safari lodges, tented camps and treehouses are popping up all over the place, offering stylish accommodation, fine dining and views that will take your breath away.

WHEN TO GO

Africa is great to visit year round, but temperatures vary by region so ask before you book.

TRAVEL BUREAU RECOMMENDS

Lion Sands Game Reserve in South Africa has super luxurious safari lodges, as well as a fabulous treehouse suite for two, complete with four poster bed, set in an ancient tree overlooking the plains.



CALIFORNIA, USA

Cool cities, beaches, wineries, coastal drives and jaw-dropping scenery, California has it all. Hit the road and cruise Highway One from San Francisco southwards (the best direction to travel as driving on the right means you'll maximum those coastal views) and take in quaint Carmel, quirky Santa Cruz, dramatic Big Sur and the lazy Santa Ynez wine valley. The southern Californian coast offers beaches galore – choose from Santa Barbara, Malibu, Santa Monica or Newport Beach – with uber-cool beach front hotels or all-inclusive luxury resorts to choose from.

WHEN TO GO

May through to September is the best time to travel but avoid the 'June Gloom' in the north of the state, which can linger even in July and August. Head south for the hotter, sunnier weather.

TRAVEL BUREAU RECOMMENDS

The Resort at Pelican Hill, Newport Beach is a good place to head for the ultimate luxury resort after a jam-packed road trip.