



World

Luxury Travel

Magazine

Vol. 3 ■ Issue 7 ■ February, 2015

**Best Romantic
Destinations to
Woo Her in**

**Destination
Wedding**

Romantic Escapades

Five amazing luxury
honeymoon suites

**March Festivals
around the World**



Romance is in the air. February being the month that celebrates St Valentine's Day, it is the perfect time to express your affection to the one you love and adore. This issue of the World Luxury Travel Magazine is dedicated to that – expressing your love. In doing so, we present to you several ideas to woo that special someone on this special day. Flip through the pages of our cover story to pick the idea that suits your beloved the best.

Destination wedding is one of the most happening ways to get married. A feature on Destination Weddings in this issue of the e-zine talks all about it and more.

A wedding is followed by a honeymoon to create some unforgettable pleasant memories. Our Luxe Stays section talks about some of the must-experience honeymoon suites in some of the renowned luxury hotels around the world.

Apart from the regular sections, don't forget to grab the exciting offers on our Offers section in this issue.

Happy reading!




Manashree Prakash
Editor-in-Chief

World
Luxury Travel
Magazine

■ Vol. 3 ■ Issue 7 ■ February, 2015

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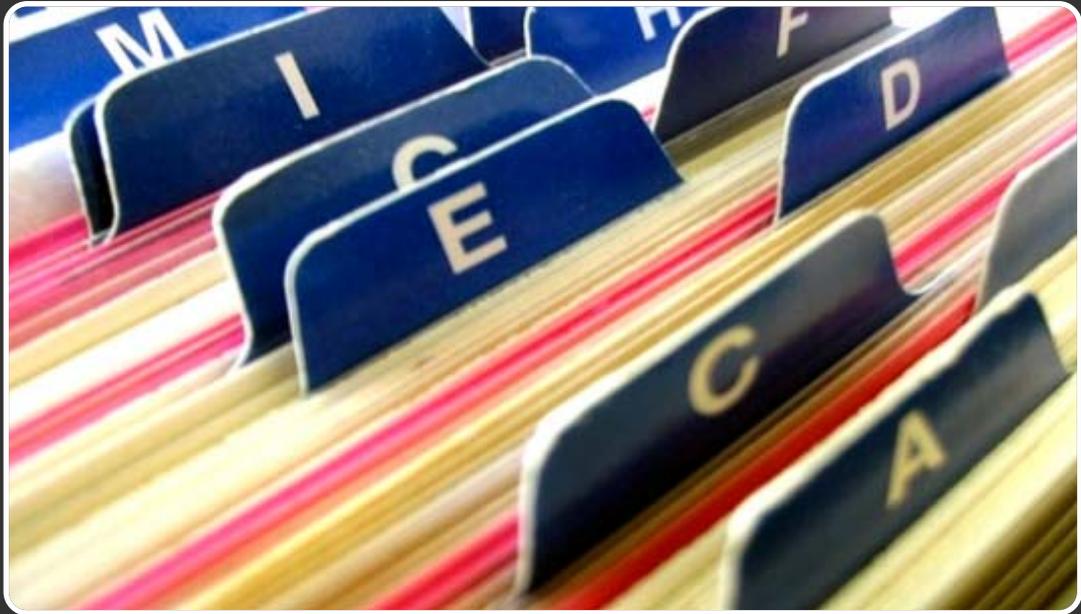
Destination Wedding

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March Festivals around the World

Introducing the MICE Directory by www.worldluxurytourism.com (WLT)

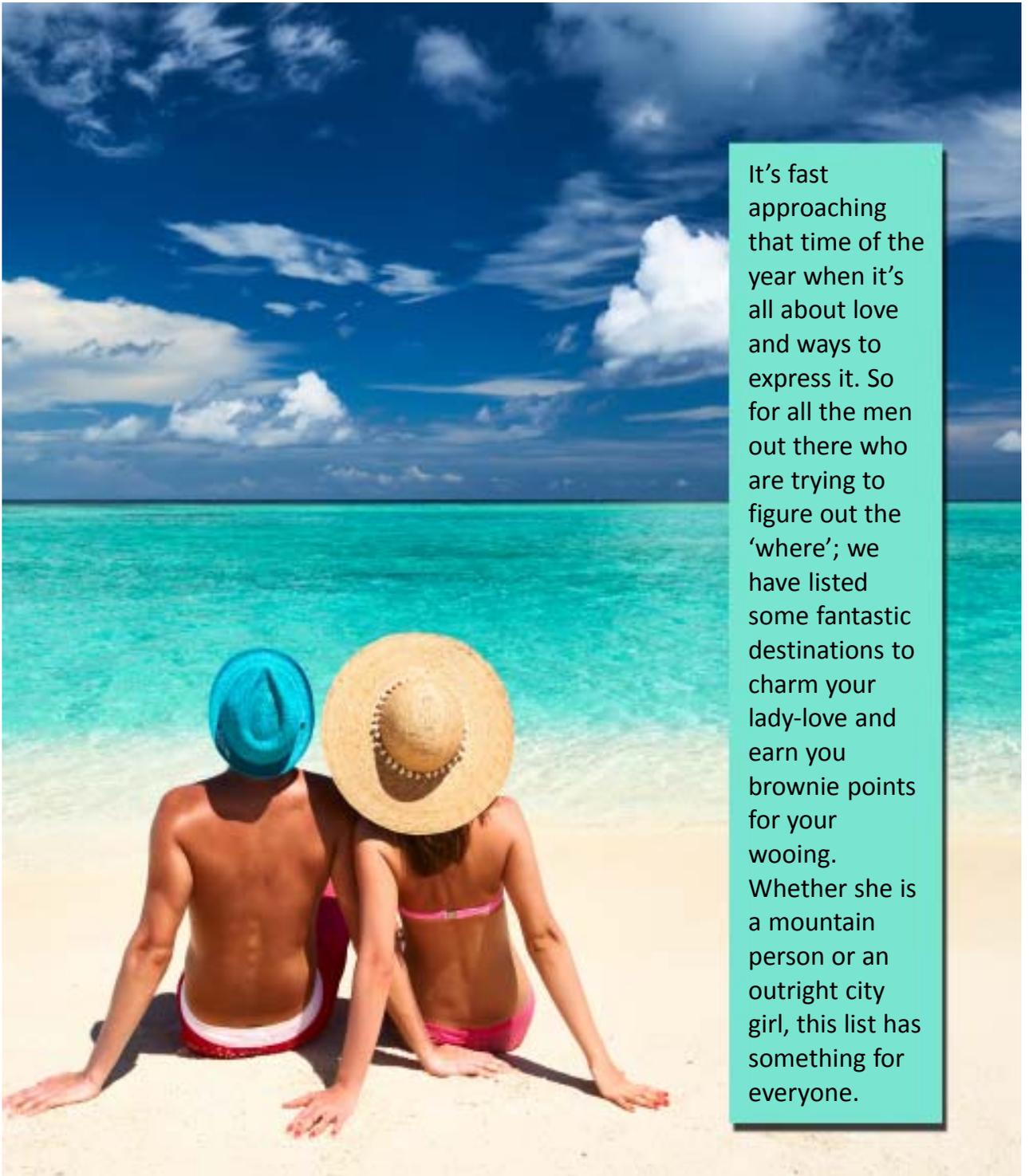


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Valentine's Day Special

Best Romantic Destinations to Woo Her in



It's fast approaching that time of the year when it's all about love and ways to express it. So for all the men out there who are trying to figure out the 'where'; we have listed some fantastic destinations to charm your lady-love and earn you brownie points for your wooing. Whether she is a mountain person or an outright city girl, this list has something for everyone.



Capital Destination

Paris

Paris is an eternal favourite as a romantic destination. Beautiful monuments, great food, delightful cafes, lovely avenues, lively night life - you name it, the city has it. Romantic hotspots include the Eiffel Tower (proposal hotspot – Jules Verne restaurant on the second floor), the lovely Champs Elysees, the Sacre-Coeur (for best viewing of the 'city of lights') or the Luxembourg gardens. Do admire the lovely view from the Pont Neuf Bridge or seal your love by putting a lock on Lovers' Bridge. Taste luxury at the George V hotel, enjoy rustic picnics on the river bank or taste local delicacies at delightful roadside cafés. End the day with a titillating show at the Moulin Rouge. Do not overlook intimate walks in the flowery lanes of the city.

Top Romantic Thing to Do: Indulge in a romantic dinner cruise on the lovely River Seine!

City Destination

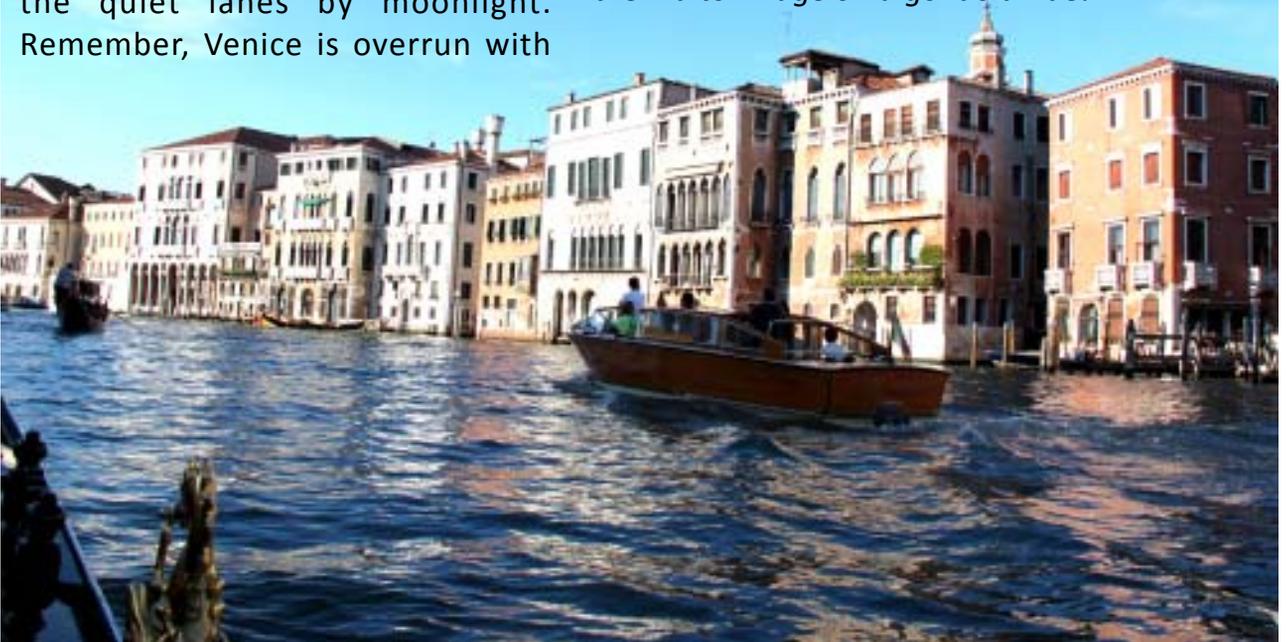
Venice

This is the only city where you can glide along canals, whispering sweet nothings in the intimacy of a gondola. Venice charms lovers with its quaint piazzas, canal views, museums, art galleries and delightful bridges. The Rialto Bridge and its quaint market (where you can buy pretty trinkets for her), The Bridge of Sighs, St Mark's Basilica and the Doge's Palace are popular attractions. Melt her heart with music at the Teatro La Fenice or enjoy the street orchestras at the St Mark's Square. Stroll hand-in-hand in the quiet lanes by moonlight. Remember, Venice is overrun with



tourists. So discover your own nooks, stumble upon intimate cafes, catch a heart-stopping sunset, eat a gelato together and discover the magic of romance in Venice.

Top Romantic Thing to Do: Kiss at sunset under the Rialto Bridge on a gondola ride!





Island Destination

Maldives

Nothing spells romance like the beautiful surroundings of Maldives. The 1200-island country abounds in gorgeous beaches, crystal clear waters and amazing marine life. You can visit the National

Museum, the Sultan Park or go island-exploring. This is the best place to enjoy snorkelling, diving and view

: the rich underwater life of
 : coral reefs and colourful fish.
 : For moonlight romance, go on
 : a night fishing trip. Mingle with
 : locals, drink the local brew,
 : shop for souvenirs and
 : rejuvenate yourself at the end
 : of the day by luxuriating in a
 : spa. The enchanting natural
 : beauty effortlessly creates
 : romance.

Top Romantic Thing to Do:
 : *Take a sunset cruise and*
 : *discover the magic of a*
 : *gorgeous sunset!*





Resort Destination

The Landing, Lake Tahoe Resort & Spa, California

The Landing is a beautiful lakeside boutique resort in the South Lake Tahoe area. The area is perfect for hiking, cruise tours and water sports. Shopping and nightlife is also a stone's throw away. For men who want to plan something special, book the VIP Night Out. Spend the night in a Premium Lake Front Suite and get VIP pampering. Sip on chilled champagne kept ready for you and head to the couple's



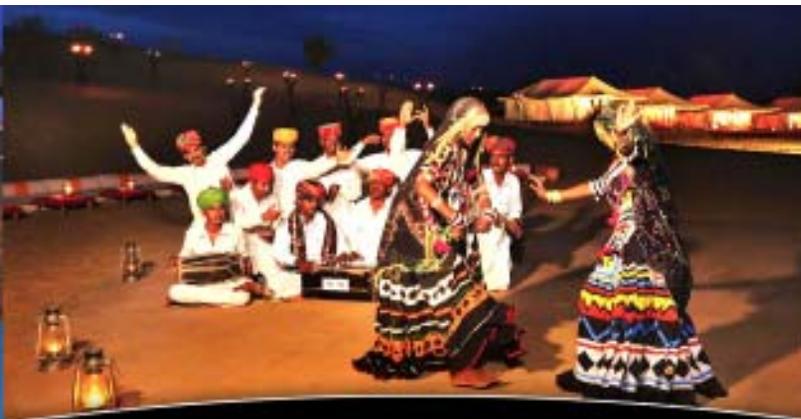


massage (or two fifty-minute treatments). After the relaxing treatment, enjoy a romantic dinner with your partner at Jimmy's. Catch a stroll along the lakeside beach and end the day at your patio watching the sunset. The sweetness of the moment is

complemented by the dessert that is sent up for you. The check-out time is only at 1 pm. the next day, so stretch the night as long as you wish.

Top Romantic Thing to Do: A romantic dinner cruise aboard the Tahoe Queen!





Desert Destination

Samsara Dechu Luxury Resort & Camp, Rajasthan, India

To discover the brooding romance of the desert, book a night at the desert campsite of Samsara. Located in Thar Desert in Jodhpur, this beautiful resort is the perfect place for celebrating a special day with her. Explore the grandeur of the desert in a jeep safari. Later, there is a live barbecue in the evening and dinner. The dinner is set up amidst the romance of the sand dunes and you can reach the venue swaying atop a camel's back. Soulful folk music heightens the romance. You could even find yourself popping the question to her.

Top Romantic Thing to Do: A massage under the starry skies at the Samsara Spa!





Cruise Destination

Sydney-Valentine's Day Cruise, Captain Cook Cruises

The Sydney Harbour is a great backdrop for a romantic outing. A perfect way to enjoy the day and the sights is to book the Valentine's Day Captain Cook Cruise. The cruise is perfect for all age groups. You can dance the hours away, chill at the lounge or gaze at the lovely

view from the Star Deck at night. There are various day and night packages available on Valentine's Day. Our pick would be the Gold Dinner Cruise. Expect privileged treatment, great food and entertainment. Window seating ensures amazing views while you relish the six course menu complemented by vintage wines.

Top Romantic Thing to Do:

Share a special moment at the Star Deck gazing at the harbour view and the stars!

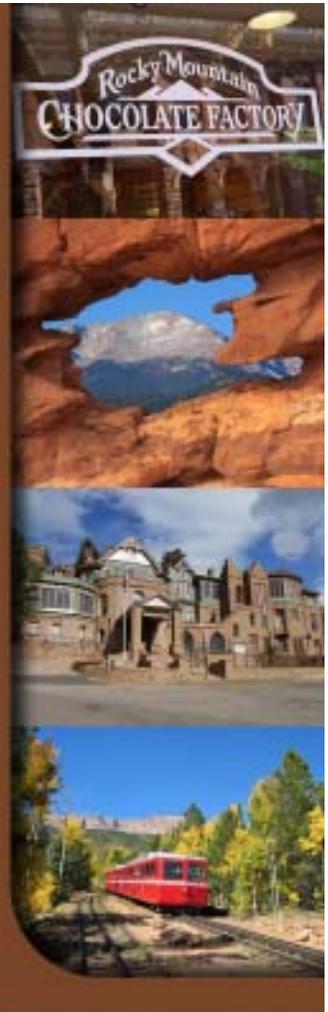


Pikes Peak, Colorado 4302 m

Spend this Valentine's Day against the imposing 4302 m Pike's Peak. The Pikes Peak Region in Colorado abounds in attractions that are sure to charm your Valentine's Day date. Visit Old Colorado City, the museum; enjoy the carriage ride for two at Bancroft Park and delight her with chocolate covered strawberries from the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory.

Enjoy a lantern tour at the Cave of the Winds (if she is scared, you can hold her comfortingly close). If you want to impress her by royal pampering, treat her to the four-course high tea at the Queens Parlour in Miramont Castle.

Top Romantic Thing to Do: Travel on the Pike's Peak Cog Railway, catching your breath at the magnificent scenery along the 14,115 feet climb!





Exotic Destination

Donyo Lodge, Kenya

For a taste of the exotic, what can be a better destination than Africa? Woo her at the lovely Donyo Lodge in Kenya. This romantic and luxurious lodge is set against stunning views of Mount Kilimanjaro. Set amidst the Chyulu National Park, it is close to the elephant migration route. Choose the romantic vacation plan with all inclusive meals. Enjoy a relaxed lunch on the veranda, candle-light dinners in the dining room or a romantic dinner under the stars in the bush setting.

Top Romantic Thing to Do: Cuddle up in the rooftop star bed under the starry sky and in the intimacy of your suite!



Feature

Destination Wedding





What exactly is a destination wedding? Simply put, it is a wedding in a specific location to which guests have to travel and where they stay for some days. Though there is no specific definition, popular opinion considers a destination wedding to be one which is held 100 miles from the bride's home. Often destination weddings are held in vacation spots like beaches,

resorts, mountains, cities etc.

The popularity of destination weddings is on the rise. In the past, destination weddings were only for couples who eloped or for the rich who could afford it. Times are changing and destination weddings have become much more affordable. There are several reasons for its increasing popularity including:



Plenty of options: Many planners and resorts have great packages which make the idea of a destination wedding attractive. You can simply beat the stress by leaving the planning to them. Flowers, catering, priests, everything is arranged by them. They will even help you with the choice of location.

Getting away: Given the hectic times we live in, the idea of combining a wedding and a



vacation is a tantalising one. You would be definitely tempted to attend a wedding that was held in Bali than in the neighbourhood church.

Unique background: A beautiful beach or a mountain valley will provide a lovely background to your special day. Not only will the photographs be awesome, you will create fabulous memories too. Your guests won't forget the wedding either.

Savings: There are several great destination wedding packages available if you do a little research. A good all-inclusive package not only takes care of the planning but also helps you save money. You can further cut down on travel expenses if you plan to honeymoon in the same location.

Tips for planning a successful destination wedding

Budget: First plan how much you can spend. Once your budget is fixed, you can narrow down the options to the ones that fit your budget.

Destination: Choose the



destination to suit your tastes. If neither you nor your partner knows swimming, a water-park may not exactly be the ideal location. So get together and make the decision. You may want to check out the thoughts of your close family members too.



**Research:**

Put in a lot of homework before you finalise the destination or package. Check on the weather conditions, safety, legal requirements. It would be a pity to go scurrying indoors because you forgot it was hurricane season at the beach destination. Legalities involving a wedding differ in different countries. So make sure you know beforehand what the requirements are. Be prepared with the necessary documents and proofs.

Choose a reliable vendor: Go through the wedding package carefully. Coordinate, ask questions and



find out exactly what items are covered in the package and what you have to pay for. Please do read the fine prints, as you would not like to get surprised by any hidden costs. Officiating priest, live band, flowers, food, drinks – check all the details of what will be provided. Choose reliable vendors who won't scam you with false promises. Good vendors will also be able to help you with legal requirements, documents and other arrangements.

Guest list: This one is tricky. You have to choose wisely. You have to make sure the people who mean the most to you





are able to make it to that destination. If your heart is set on your grandmother attending the wedding, make sure she can make it to the Maldives if you should choose it. Destination wedding etiquette does not demand that you pay for your guests. You may want to invite only the closest and most important people for the wedding. You also need to check with them well in advance about their attendance. Based on your guest list, you can proceed to make the reservations. Remember you cannot expect gifts, as your guests are spending a lot of money to attend the wedding and that is the best gift they are giving you.

Plan well in advance: This is absolutely important if you want everything to work seamlessly. Make advance reservations for hotels and flights. Check if passports need renewal. (Do not forget to inform the best man and the bridesmaids well in advance). Have all the necessary information regarding flights, timings, transportation to venue etc. and convey the same so that your guests are not inconvenienced.

Familiarise yourself with the destination: It is ideal if you can visit the destination and familiarise yourself with the actual scheme of things beforehand. It makes planning much



more convenient too. There is a lot of difference in planning on paper and reality. If you are unable to do this, however, find out as much about the destination as you can. Useful points to consider would be the currency used and exchange rates, language problem, local transport etc.

Be a warm host: Make your guests feel welcome and show that you appreciate their coming. See that their

travel and stay is as convenient for them as possible. Include small touches like arranging sight-seeing tours or giving them welcome kits. Make sure you accommodate any special needs your guests may have. It may be special dietary requirement, equipment (wheelchair) or pet accommodation. It will show that you care for your guests who have come a long way for the event.





Pack appropriately: Pack weather appropriate clothes and accessories. Do not forget some large hats, suntan lotion and bikinis if it is a beach wedding. Do share the information with your guests too.

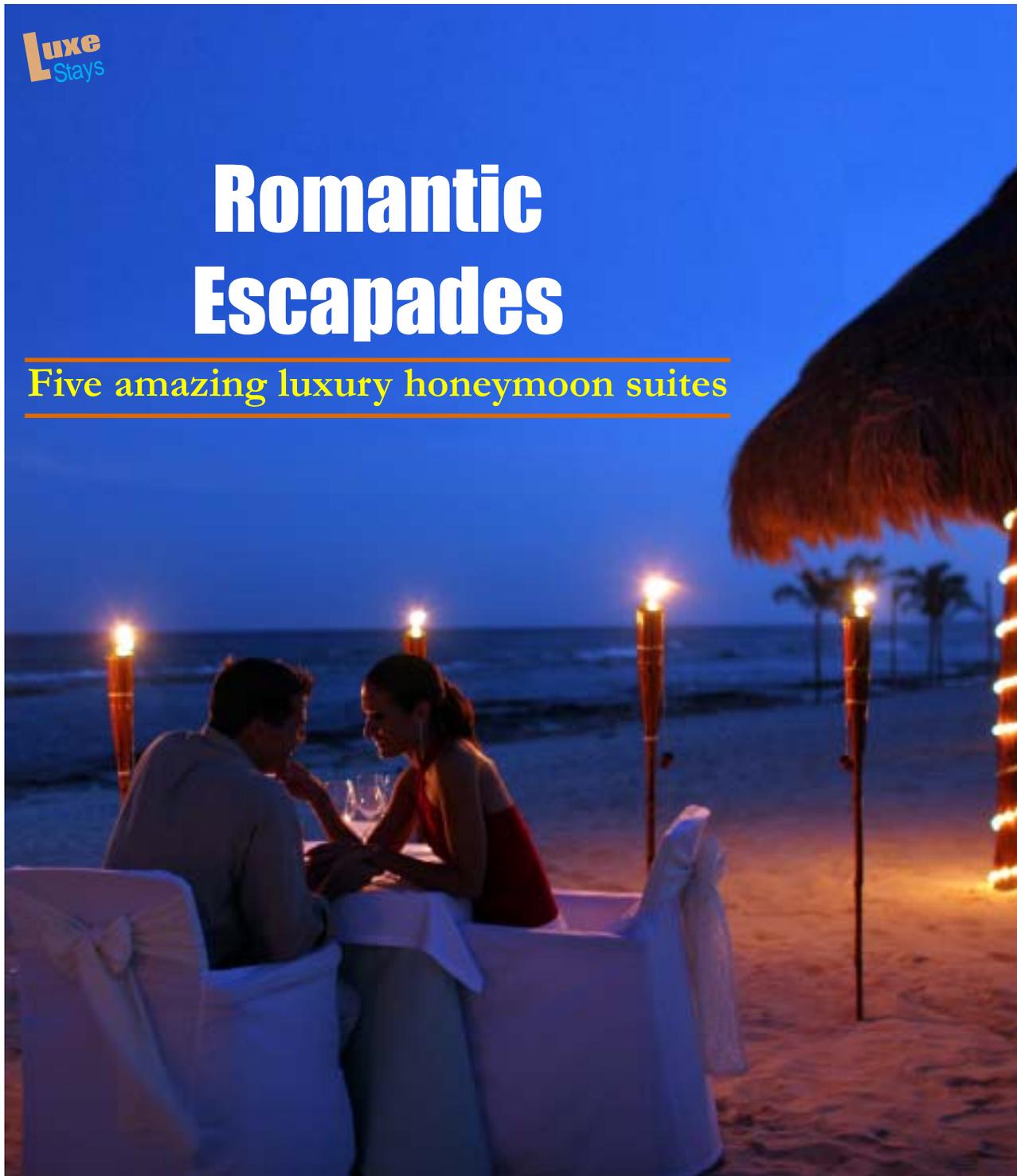
Back Home: You may have to throw a party for those back home who could not make it. So plan for that too.

Relax, smile and be happy

Even the most meticulous planning may leave out some loose ends. There may be minor hurdles, extra expenses, delays or slip-ups. At such times, do keep your cool and your smile on. Be prepared to take minor upsets in your stride and don't let it ruffle your temper. After all a happy heart and a huge smile are the best ornaments you can wear on your wedding day.

Romantic Escapades

Five amazing luxury honeymoon suites



Honeymoons are meant to be grand and romantic. While pampering each other comes naturally, choosing the ideal trip and most importantly the perfect suite for those special days is what calls for an effort. None of the limousine rides, spa breaks, candlelit dinners or romantic sunsets can compensate for a suite gone wrong.

If you are going to spend all that money you might as well do a bit of research to ensure your honeymoon is as amazing as your dream wedding, if not more. These over the top suites for couples will not just give a perfect start to your married life but guarantee that you have a memorable vacation with your sweetheart.





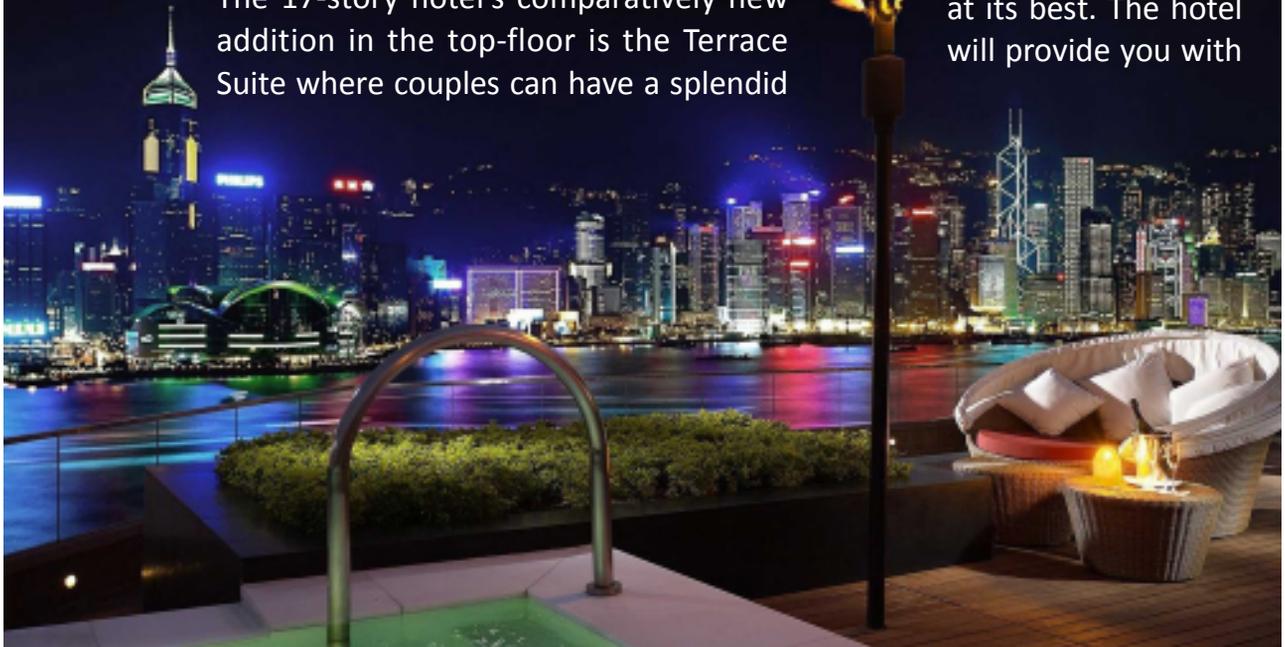
The InterContinental, Hong Kong

Terrace Suite

What if you two could have the entire view of Hong Kong's elaborate skyline and the Victoria Harbour all to yourself? Well look no further than the Terrace Suite at The InterContinental, Hong Kong. Its waterfront setting in Kowloon is brilliant to say the least.

The 17-story hotel's comparatively new addition in the top-floor is the Terrace Suite where couples can have a splendid

romance of sorts. The private terrace is simply a treasure with its tranquil infinity Jacuzzi and panoramic views over the harbour. Camp out in the open right under the stars with your special one to experience romance at its best. The hotel will provide you with



a mosquito net, duvet, cushions, candles, and rose petals. Additionally you can enjoy Rolls-Royce transfers, Dom Pérignon on arrival, a lovely private dinner on the terrace as well as 24-hour butler service. The romance package will pamper you with a delicious spa session, romantic bath, private yoga or tai chi class and breakfast

for two.

Why choose: To fall asleep under the stars on a private terrace overlooking the Hong Kong skyline and enjoy an open air Jacuzzi

Best suited for: Die hard romantics who love being dripped in luxury from head to toe.





Six Senses Hideaway Zighy Bay, Sultanate of Oman

The Retreat

Six Senses Hideaway Zighy Bay is a much talked about and overly hyped private resort on the southeast coast of the Arabian Peninsula. Dramatically cradled between the ruggedly craggy Hajar Mountains and fascinating Zighy Bay, it offers undulated privacy and exotic romance. The delightful lodgings in traditional Omani village style, the rustic stone and timber villas will simply mesmerize you.





There are two Private Retreats which are ideal for couples in search of tranquility. Each equipped with a spa treatment room, library, two enormous joined pavilions and highly impressive butler service. The two Retreats overlook an infinity pool and a private beach access to enjoy the spectacular views.

Why choose: For an exotic escapade in a unique location.

Best suited for: Those who value privacy and variety along with uninterrupted romance.





Four Seasons Resort Punta Mita, Mexico The Coral Suite

The 9,000-square-foot Coral Suite is the reigning gem of Four Seasons Resort Punta Mita. Drenched in luxury, this over-the-top honeymoon suite in the most exclusive abode of Mexico will spoil you silly. It comes with a wraparound pool,

personal spa with massage table, marvellous outdoor shower, an entire mini fitness centre and a private cinema.

Designed by the renowned architect Diego Villaseñor, the suite is unbelievably





high tech yet refreshingly serene and exquisite. The waterways winding through the rooms, mother-of-pearl accents and direct access to the beach make it all the more drool-worthy. Couples staying in the suite can relax in the cabana at the new Tamai Pool for

added privacy and comfort.

Why choose: To enjoy an intimate holiday with unimaginable, exclusive perks.

Best suited for: Honeymooners who love to be pampered every minute of the day.





Hotel Plaza Athénée, Paris

Eiffel Suites

Hotel Plaza Athénée aptly reflects the spirit of Paris – romance. Impeccable interiors and a splendid location on Avenue Montaigne accentuate its widespread appeal. Made famous by the popular sitcom, *Sex and the City* during its finale season, the hotel is a favourite among fashionistas, lovers and travel honchos. The classic Parisian address welcomes you with trees lining the avenue, the rooftops of Montmartre and of course the Eiffel Tower. Elegant 18th century

furnishings and regal touches complete its look.

Among its remarkable suites, all of which deserve immediate thumbs up, the Eiffel Suite 361 holds a special place. True to its name, it features none other than the icon of Paris and the most frequented attraction, the grand Eiffel Tower right outside its window. That apart, there is a grand piano, a gaming table, a portrait and two plasma TVs in the stunning suite.

Why choose: To celebrate romance right next to the iconic Eiffel Tower in a royal setting.

Best suited for: Those who love old school romance, grandeur and glamour.





Eagle Island Camp, Okavango Delta, Botswana

Private Suite

If you and your partner love to experiment and push the boundaries every now and then, a safari honeymoon will be your ideal bet. However being high on the adrenaline and adventure does not mean you have to give up on your luxury. The Eagle Island Camp redefines a classic safari. The private

suite is an amalgamation of dynamism and supreme comfort.

A strategic location and unlimited privacy makes it immensely popular with honeymooners. You can look forward to an all-encompassing experience right in the heart of the awesome delta, surrounded by wildlife and a river. A plunge pool enclosed by trees, an outdoor copper bathtub and shower are the biggest draw. There is a





massive viewing deck that offers to acquaint you with the inhabitants – both humans and animals. Hippos, crocodiles, and elephants are plenty.

Why choose: For a thrilling vacation into the wild without sacrificing on the comfort factor.

Best suited for: Adventurous couples who love being outdoors.

Honeymoons are what movies are made of and where fairy tales belong. The more memorable the start, the better becomes the journey. It is probably the only time when no gesture seems overwhelming or no amount of splurging seems irrelevant. Book a suite of your choice and make the most out of your special holiday that you will cherish for years.



Presenting to you, a few of the luxurious romantic experiences on offer this Valentine's Day...



ROMANTIK HOTEL MUOTTAS MURAGL - WINTER MAGIC IN ENGADIN



As the name says it all; the Romantik Hotel MuottasMuragl is an ideal location for you to spend a romantic holiday with your loved one. The hotel is nestled in one of the most beautiful vantage points in the Engadin St. Moritz region amidst the Alps on 2,456 metres. Savour the winter romance with your partner while the sun slowly sets behind the magnificent Alpine peak and leaves you both to the most magical moment of your lifetime.

The package is priced from CHF 294.00 per person for 2 nights includes:

- Return trips on the MuottasMuragl funicular railway
- Wide spread of breakfast buffet



- A 3-course romantic menu at our Panorama restaurant (excl. drinks)
- A traditional Graubünden afternoon tea

The above package is valid till April 6, 2015

For more information please visit <http://www.muottasmuragl.ch/>

Make your holiday even more special by staying with the Romantic Hotel during **Valentine's Day** and surprise your sweetheart with a sumptuous meal on the most picturesque restaurants:

- Panorama restaurant:
Enjoy a wonderful candle-lit dining experience that overlooks the Alps with a 3 - 5 course meal Offer starting from CHF 81.00 (excluding beverages)
- Scatla restaurant:
Treat your partner to a romantic champagne truffle fondue Offer starting from CHF 44.00 (excluding beverages)

150 YEARS OF WINTER TOURISM

The winter of 2014/2015 marks the 150th year of winter tourism in St. Moritz and the Engadin valley

One&Only
RESORTS

Luxurious dining for just the two of you at One&Only Reethi Rah, Maldives

Celebrate Valentine's Day with your special one with an extensive choice of private dining options at One&Only Reethi Rah, may it be in the privacy of your own villa, on one of the stunning beaches or on a traditional Dhoni, the chefs is on call to create exquisite dining arrangements.

Surrounded by the crystal blue wonders of the Indian Ocean, this superb all-villa Maldives resort offers an unrivalled level of style, choice and personalised exploration. Sleek and



spectacular, with unprecedented privacy, One&Only Reethi Rah, Maldives inspires extraordinary journeys for the soul.

Luxury Sandbank Dinner

An exclusive speed boat will whisk you away to a nearby sandbank in the middle of the Indian Ocean a romantic getaway for a couple. Upon arrival, a Private Chef and Host will escort you with a romantic candle light dinner set-up. One of the highlights is to watch a spectacular Maldivian sunset from the comfort of Arabian style setup majlis, sipping Champagne and savoring delicious canapés.

Enjoy a barbecue dinner cooked to perfection beneath a moonlit sky. Sit back and relax on your own stretch of paradise with a warm gentle breeze and the soft sound of the Indian Ocean.

INR 120,000 approx. per couple

Dhoni Dining Experience

Enjoy a unique dining experience onboard the traditional Maldivian dhoni under the magical starlit sky. Whilst sailing the waters in the vicinity of Reethi Rah, relax with sipping exquisite wines & Champagne as well as enjoying a succulent barbeque meal prepared by our culinary team.

Starting from INR 60,000 (US\$ 975) approx. onwards per couple



For further information, please visit www.oneandonlyresorts.com



CELEBRATE VALENTINE'S DAY AT MANDARIN ORIENTAL, PARIS

Inspired by Valentine's Day, [Mandarin Oriental, Paris](#) will celebrate love throughout February by offering four romantic treats, including two in partnership with Guerlain.

The 'Kisses from Paris' overnight stay package

- Luxurious accommodation for one night
- Breakfast for two in-room or at [Camélia](#)
- In-room welcome of bottle of champagne and rose petal arrangement
- French Kiss perfume by Guerlain with an engraved message
- Kiss Kiss lipstick by Guerlain for collection at the Spa

Available from February 1 to February 28, 2015. Price from EUR 1,075 based on two sharing.

‘Guerlain Orchidée Imperiale’ Treat for Two at [The Spa](#)

- Face and body treatment for couples, with flowers and candles
- Champagne



• Orchidée Imperiale discovery box containing Guerlain creams

Available from February 1 to March 31, 2015. Price EUR 560 on weekdays, EUR 600 on weekends.

‘You are so beautiful’ at [Bar 8](#)

- Romantic cocktail that combines vodka, lemon juice and sugar with either rose

syrup and bitter tiki for women or blue curaçao and ginger juice for men. Price EUR27.

Valentine’s Day Dinners at Camélia and Sur Mesure par Thierry Marx

- For a truly romantic dinner in Camélia, [Chef Thierry Marx](#) has designed meals to share with a loved one, including Bresse chicken with crayfish, while pastry chef Pierre Mathieu, has invented ‘Nuit blanche’ a dessert made from almonds, almond biscuits, champagne foam, whipped cream and jelly.
- Camelia will offer a five-course dinner of amuse-bouche, starter, fish course, meat course and dessert with one glass of Rosé champagne.

Available on February 14 from 7.30 pm. Price EUR 168 per person,

- [Sur Mesure par Thierry Marx](#) will offer an exclusive 9-course menu with one glass of champagne.

Available on February 14 from 7.30 p.m. Price EUR 290 per person.

Reservations can be made on-line through Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group at www.mandarinoriental.com or by contacting Mandarin Oriental, Paris on +33 1 7098 7333 / mopar-reservations@mohg.com. Rooms are subject to availability.

Terms and conditions apply.



MANDARIN ORIENTAL
 HONG KONG

Mandarin Oriental, Hong Kong Celebrates Valentine's Day With an Array of Romantic Treats

Located in the heart of the city, Mandarin Oriental, Hong Kong offers a myriad of celebratory settings for special occasions with a luxurious romantic package, fantastic dining choices on Valentine's Day and indulgent spa treatments.

Offering luxurious rooms and suites that overlook either Victoria Harbour or the city's skyline, an array of outstanding restaurants—three of which boast Michelin stars—and a luxurious spa, this iconic hotel is the ideal location for a memorable Valentine's Day stay. The *Celebration Retreat* package includes:

- In-room breakfast or breakfast at the Clipper Lounge or Café Causette
- A welcome bottle of Champagne



- Welcome chocolates
- HKD500 credit to use in the hotel's award-winning restaurants, The Mandarin Spa, or The Mandarin Barber during the stay
- Upgrade upon arrival (room to room, suite to suite)
- Late check-out at 2pm

Rooms start at HKD5,050 and are subject to 10% service charge and availability. Room reservations can be made by contacting the hotel directly at +852 2820 4202, through Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group's worldwide sales network, via your travel professionals or by visiting the Tempting Offers page on our website.

Treat your loved one to a truly romantic dinner

Pierre is the hotel's stunning two-Michelin-starred restaurant and Pierre Gagnaire's pied-à-terre in Hong Kong. During lunch, guests will enjoy a four-course menu with half a bottle of Billecart Salmon Rosé Champagne priced at HKD1,488 per person and a red rose as a gift from us. Begin the evening at 6pm with a five-course menu and a complimentary homemade pastry priced at HKD1,688 per person. The second celebration from 8:30pm onwards will include an eight-course menu, with sweeping evening views for guests' enjoyment, at HKD2,388 per person with a pastry gift to take home.

The popular Michelin-starred **Mandarin Grill + Bar** is another romantic destination tucked away on the hotel's first floor. Begin the day with a free-flow Rosé Champagne





Brunch from 11am to 3pm at HKD1,288 per adult and HKD688 per child. In the evening, two seatings will be offered, with the earlier five-course dinner beginning at 6pm at HKD1,388 per person. The second seating for the eight-course menu starts at 8:30pm and is priced at HKD2,188 per person. Guests at both seatings will receive a homemade treat as a gift from us.

Man Wah is Mandarin Oriental, Hong Kong's Michelin-starred Cantonese restaurant and often referred to as Hong Kong's most beautiful dining space, thanks to its Imperial splendour as well as the panoramic views of Victoria Harbour and the Hong Kong cityscape. This elegant restaurant will offer a special six-course menu along with the traditional à la carte menu. A minimum spend of HKD1,398 per person on food and beverage is required.

Hidden deep inside Mandarin Oriental, Hong Kong, behind an inconspicuous doorway in the heart of the kitchen, **The Krug Room** boasts a tone of sophisticated intimacy that befits one of the best-kept secrets in the world of gastronomy. Designed to re-create the intimate surroundings of a train carriage, the special full-experience menu paired with an impressive selection of Krug Champagne is priced at HKD3,688 per person will ensure guests receive a sensory adventure that is by turns fascinating, mesmerising and exhilarating this Valentine's Day.

A popular tradition in Hong Kong is to celebrate at the **Clipper Lounge** with a traditional afternoon tea set from 3pm to 5:30pm at HKD288 per person or HKD488 per couple. In the evening,

enjoy a sumptuous buffet with an array of international dishes, seafood delights and sweet treats. Two seatings will be offered, with the earlier starting at 6pm until 8pm and the second seating starting at 8:30pm, both priced at HKD758 per person.

Perched on the 25th floor of the hotel, **M bar** boasts stunning views overlooking the harbour and Hong Kong's skyline, and has established itself as one of the city's favourite nighttime destinations. Enjoy a selection of Valentine's Day cocktails or champagne to celebrate the special evening together.

All prices are subject to 10% service charge, and reservations for dining on Valentine's Day can be made by calling +852 2522 0111 or emailing mohkg-restaurants@mohg.com.

Indulge your loved one this Valentine's Day

The award-winning Mandarin Spa will offer the *Couples' Yin and Yang* package, a selection of relaxing experiences for Yang and nourishing treatments for Yin to complete the synergy of relationships. Yin treatments will include a 60-minute Enrich Body Wrap to deeply nourish and a 60-minute Elemental Facial to customize your skin condition, whereas Yang treatments will include a 60-minute back, neck and scalp massage to relax tense areas of the body and a 60-minute Customised Men's Facial to refresh and rejuvenate the skin. Three-hour Suite Experiences, including the use of private facility and refreshments, will be available at HKD6,240 on weekdays and HKD7,000 on weekends. The Couples Room,





including 30 minutes of relaxation time, will be available at HKD5,100 on weekdays and HKD5,400 on weekends. Individual reservations will be available at HKD3,000 on weekdays and HKD3,250 on weekends. Available 12 to 16 February, all of the above can be purchased as a gift certificate, and reservations can be made by calling +852 2522 4888 or emailing mohkg-spa@mohg.com.

For guests who wish to ease physical tension and emotional anxiety during Valentine's Day, the Inner Strength full-body treatment promotes healing and uses the Inner Strength oil to build strength, inspire courage and induce a positive state of mind. The Inner Strength treatment is available as a 90-minute experience for HKD1,650 on weekdays and HKD1,800 on weekends, as well as a two-hour treatment for HKD2,000 on weekdays and HKD2,400 on weekends. Aromatherapy Associates' Inner Strength oil will also be available for purchase at The Mandarin Spa's boutique. For spa reservations, please contact +852 2825 4888 or email mohkg-spa@mohg.com.

Located on the 24th floor of the hotel, The Mandarin Salon will offer a *Champagne Pedicure for Him and Her* package. Enjoy the privacy of the Salon VIP suite together, and get your feet pampered and groomed in the fizzy delight of champagne. Available 12 to 14 February, the package is priced at HKD1,160 per couple. For salon reservations, please contact +852 2825 4088 or email mohkg-salon@mohg.com.

One&Only

Le Saint Géran, Mauritius

Celebrate this Valentine's Day at One&Only Le Saint Géran, Mauritius



Save 50% including Half Board and More
Leave the world behind and revel in the intimacy of the Indian Ocean. One&Only Le Saint Géran welcomes newlyweds with a special romance offer.

Starting from INR 35,000 (US\$ 568) approximately per night, couples reserving a minimum of 5 nights will enjoy a 50% discount off the nightly rate plus the following special benefits:

- Daily complimentary breakfast for 2
- Complimentary romantic 3 course dinner

- 1 Bottle of Select Champagne on arrival
- 1 bath ceremony
- Daily fresh fruit basket
- Heart shaped chocolate amenity
- 1 Cap and 1 Beach bag as welcome gift
- For further information, please visit www.oneandonlyresorts.com



THE LONDON NYC

THE MODERN ROMANCE

Romantic evenings can be indulgent, luxurious and glamorous. In the privacy of your own suite, spoil yourself with a relaxing 60 minute massage. A decadent assortment of canapés prepared and delivered by the acclaimed culinary team of Gordon Ramsay paired with their signature martini will satisfy any palate. Escape in to a soothing bath that you customize with a selection of aromatherapy bath salts. Pamper your senses with the ultimate indulgence. Our Modern Romance Package includes:

- Couples massage in the intimacy of your own suite once during your stay. To book your massage, please call the concierge at 212-468-8856 or email atlondonnyconciierge@thelondon.com.
- Signature Gordon Ramsay Martini delivered to your suite
- Assorted canapés prepared by the culinary team of Gordon Ramsay delivered to your suite
- An assortment of aromatherapy bath salts
- Rate: Starts at \$433 per night
- Valid: Through February 13-15, 2015.



ATLANTIS

THE PALM, DUBAI

When romance sizzles on the beach of Atlantis, The Palm, Dubai

Surprise your loved one with the most memorable dining experience under the stars

Treat your partner to the most romantic dining experience made special for the occasion on the gorgeous coastline of Atlantis, The Palm. Dine under stars over the most sumptuous meals prepared by internationally recognized chefs this Valentine's Day; make the moment magical for the special someone with an exceptional evening.

Valentine's Day at Royal Beach

We promise that there's no better way to say "I love you" than with a Valentine's dinner on the beach that will set hearts racing and make you feel like you're on your very first date with your partner. Complete a perfect evening with a bottle of Champagne, a tantalizing set menu and a little romantic stargazing.

Timing: - 8:00pm to 12:00am

Offer starts from 219,000 INR (US\$ 3,552) approximately per couple including a bottle of Perrier Jouët Brut Champagne

Valentine's Day at Nasimi Beach

With its beach front location and cosmopolitan crowd, Nasimi Beach is the perfect place to spoil your loved one. A breathtaking view of Dubai's glittering skyline, our resident DJ playing cool beats and an eclectic four course menu all combine to ensure that your Valentine's Day will be a magical evening.

Timing: - 6:00pm to 11:30am

Offer starts from 57,000 INR (US\$ 924) approximately per couple including two glasses of bubbly

For further information and offers please log onto: <http://www.atlantisthepalm.com/restaurants/specialoffers/valentineday.aspx>



Happenings

**March Festivals
around the World**



Starkbierzeit

Place: Munich, Germany

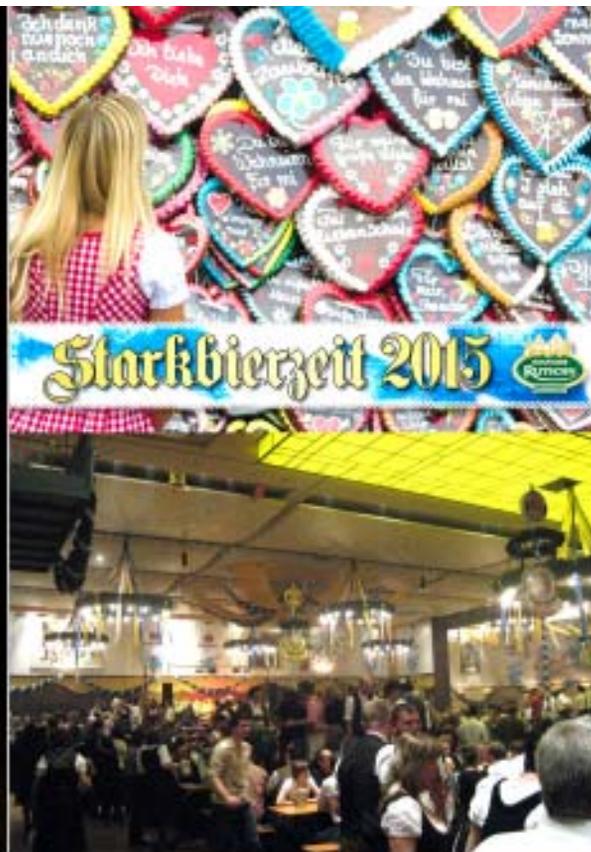
Dates: February 27 – March 28, 2015

In the 17th century, the Paulaner monks brewed extra-strong beer called Salvator, to see them through their Lent fasting. Later, the monastery was turned to a beer hall and Salvator became widely popular. Today the monastery-turned beer hall is known as Paulaner Keller and is the site of the popular Starkbierzeit festival.



Thousands turn up here to drink the beer and snack on grilled chicken or pig knuckles. The atmosphere, complete with the beer maids and drinking songs playing, is definitely lively. Head over to the Löwenbräukeller, another venue, for tasting the deadly Triumphator, enjoying boulder lifting contests and to gape at the mechanical roaring lion at the entrance. March 19, St Joseph's Day, is the highlight day of the festival.

***Trivia:** Starkbierzeit literally means 'strong beer festival' in German.*





International Yoga Festival

Place: Rishikesh, India

Dates: March 1 – 7, 2015

Nestled in the foothills of the majestic Himalayas, lies the holy city of Rishikesh. An important pilgrimage site for Hindus, the city has attracted spiritual seekers and teachers for centuries. Today, the city, nicknamed as the ‘yoga capital of the world’, plays host to the annual International Yoga Festival organised by the Uttarakhand State Tourism Department. Yoga is an ancient Hindu discipline consisting of breathing techniques, exercises and meditation. Yoga

while promoting well-being of mind, body and spirit ultimately aims at merging the individual with the cosmic consciousness. The festival is hosted at various venues. Renowned masters at yoga sessions, workshops, lectures, Ganga aarti (beautiful prayer ritual for River Ganges) and kirtans (devotional songs) make the festival memorable. Various cultural shows are also part of the festival.

Trivia: ‘Pranayam’ or breath control is one of the most important basics of yoga.



St. Maarten Heineken Regatta

Place: Sint Maarten,
Netherlands

Dates: March 5 – 8, 2015

The biggest regatta (boat race) in the Caribbean, this event began in 1980 on a small scale with a dozen entries. Today it has swelled to over 200 boats with world-wide participants. The four days of the regatta sees action-packed world-class sailboat racing and the presence of international media. Equally famous are the night parties



featuring legendary names in music, great food, ice-cold beer and a spirit of fun. Names like Jimmy Cliff, Black Eyed Peas and the Party

Rock Crew have all featured during the concerts in the past. This four day festival is all about world class yacht races, legendary parties and great entertainment. The spirit of the festival is aptly captured by its slogan 'serious fun'!

Trivia: *The St. Maarten Heineken Regatta celebrates its 35th anniversary this year.*



Night of the Witches/Noche de Brujas

Place: Catemaco, Mexico

Dates: March 6 – 7, 2015

On the first Friday of March every year, Catemaco lives up to its name as the 'Capital of Witchcraft'. The small town is flooded with occult practitioners of various kinds – witch doctors, shamans, soothsayers, psychics and healers. The gathering is a celebration of their supernatural art as well as a time of cleansing and renewal. The hypnotic rituals, consisting of chanting, dance and music is conducted to purge the practitioners of negative energies.

Tourists flock to the place as much to watch the mystic rituals as to benefit from the occult solutions to the problems besetting them. Here you can buy a love potion, a good luck amulet to ward off the evil eye, herbal remedies for various ills or even black magic spells.

***Trivia:** The statue of the Virgin Mary in the Basilica is credited with miracles and cures.*





Calle Ocho

Place: Miami, USA

Dates: March 15, 2015

The largest street party in the world bursts into action in Miami every year in March. Celebrating the Hispanic culture with gusto, the festival is the culmination of the ten-day Carnaval Miami. The action is concentrated in Little Havana, along 23 blocks in the main street of the area – SW 8th Street or Calle Ocho as it is known in Spanish. Over a million visitors come here to gyrate to the mesmerising rhythms of salsa,



hip hop and merengue. Latin music at its best is on showcase here and you can dance the night away effortlessly. No less famous is the amazing food doled out by the stalls. You can gorge on barbecued meat, seafood and guzzle the popular drink Cuba Libre. Food, drinks, dance and music make for a heady concoction of memories that will stay with you long after the night is over.

Trivia: Wear the most comfortable shoes you can to walk and dance the night away.



Frozen Dead Guy Days

Place: Colorado, USA

Dates: March 13 – 15, 2015

When 89 year old Grandpa Bredo died in 1989, he had little idea that his family's belief in cryonics and their attempts to preserve his body in icy immortality would spark off a full-fledged and bizarre festival. The story caught the attention of the world and Nederland, Grandpa's resting place, became the site of annual winter celebrations. A host of lively, snowy activities enliven the festival. Coffin racing, frozen salmon tossing, Frozen Dead Guy look-alike contests and ice-turkey bowling are some

of the activities of the event! If that does not make you shiver, there is also a jump into icy pond contests and a frozen t-shirt contest where participants have to don ice-cold t-shirts. The Saturday night Blue Ball is a popular event featuring an Ice Queen pageant. Needless to say, there is plenty of food, drinks, music and fun.

Trivia: 'Ice Man' Bo Shaffer packs 1600 pounds of dry ice around Grandpa Bredo, maintains -60°F temperature and keeps him preserved till today!





Rouketopolemos

Place: Vrontados, Greece

Dates: March 18 – Apr 30, 2015

Rouketopolemos or ‘rocket wars’ is exactly what the festival is all about. In the Greek town of Vrontados, two rival churches (Agios Markos and Panagia Erithiani) launch tens of thousands of rockets aimed at each other. The objective is to ring the opposite church bell. The missile war begins during midnight on

Easter Sunday and while the pyrotechnic display is booming outside, the midnight sermon is preached as usual. The side which succeeds in ringing the bell first is the winner. Interestingly, the difficulty of establishing any clear winner leaves room for a repeat performance the next year with renewed gusto.

Trivia: *Wire mesh caging is put over buildings as protection against the 60,000 odd rockets that are fired during the event!*



W L T

World Luxury Tourism