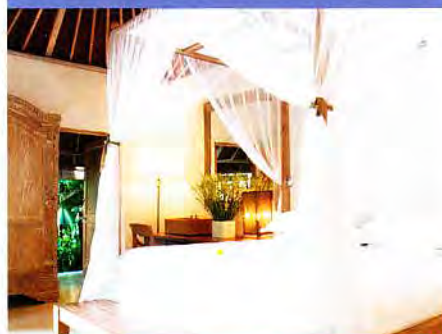


BUDGET HONEYMOONS

How to live the champagne lifestyle on a shoestring



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM: Langham Place Eco Resort and Spa, Thailand. Cape Panwa, Phuket. Guest room at Villa Sungai, Bali. Rydges Sabaya Resort, Port Douglas.



You don't have to mortgage the house to have the perfect honeymoon. It is possible to enjoy romance without scrimping on luxury – you just have to know where to go and when.

Bride to Be has done the searching for you with a selection of the region's finest honeymoon destinations for under \$2000 and under \$4000 per couple.

UNDER \$2000 NEW ZEALAND WINE ESCAPE

Imagine seven days among the famed Martinborough New Zealand vines, sipping wine and sampling goodies in the gourmet cuisine region of the North Island. Parehua Martinborough Country Estate is set in the Wairarapa Region among manicured gardens with a private lake. Six nights in a Lakeside suite with daily breakfast, bottle of wine, two in-house spa treatments and use of the Estate's retro bikes comes in at \$1900.

parehua.co.nz

CHIC WELLINGTON STYLE

Wellington has more cafes per capita than New York City and is known for its thriving restaurant scene. Stay in the executive suite at the new Holiday Inn with its water views and urban chic style for \$196 a night for seven days. They'll throw in GH Mumm Champagne and strawberries on arrival, chocolates and dinner at Plate Restaurant.

holidayinnwellington.co.nz

PACIFIC ISLAND PARADISE

Imagine your own private island with 500 acres of coral reef in Fiji. At Tivua Island in Fiji, for \$250 per person for the first night, then \$168 for every night after, you and your man can stay in one of two bures. Included are all

meals, all activities and return transfers on a tall ship from Denarau to Tivua. For seven days that's \$2180 with nothing more to spend. captaincook.com.au

RAINFOREST ROMANCE

The Gold Coast Hinterland serves up lush rainforest with ocean views. Cedar Creek Lodges sits at the edge of a creek with rock pools for bathing as well as walking trails, horse riding, mountain biking, yoga and more. The resort has its own thunder egg mine for gemstones that can be made into jewellery. Stay in a Deluxe Spa Room with mountain views for seven nights for \$1678 per couple, with sparkling wine, chocolate strawberries, three dinners and five breakfasts.

cedarcreeklodges.com.au

UNTOUCHED MAGIC

The Solomon Islands is a Pacific gem known for its marine life and tropical beaches. Fatboys Gizo Resort on Mbabanga Island boasts beachfront bungalows looking out towards Kennedy Island and the majestic volcano of Mt Kolombangara. The blue hues in the oceans here are complemented by pristine white sands to present a tropical island you just won't want to leave. Seven nights in a bungalow that sleeps two starts from \$1120.

www.fatboygizo.com

ROUND OF GOLF ANYONE?

Lakes Resort is in Pauanui on New Zealand's North Island in the stunning Coromandel region with its crystal waters and white sand bays and features an international golf course. When you're done playing the 18 holes, there's fishing, diving, hiking and beachcombing to keep you occupied. Add Legends Bar & Restaurant for



sumptuous dining and luxury two-bedroom villas. Seven nights is \$1326 per couple. lakesresort.com

PARADISE IN PHUKET

Picture a secluded beach in a tropical grove on the Andaman Sea perfect for snorkelling, sailing, swimming and lounging. Cape Panwa on the Thai island of Phuket features the Cape Panwa Hotel & Spa. For \$1590 per couple you'll get seven nights with an upgrade to a Jacuzzi Suite, breakfasts, chocolates and wine, a romantic dinner for two at Top of the Reef restaurant, a spa treatment at the Cape Spa plus airport transfers. Valid until October, book locally on (02) 9410 3405. capepanwa.com

TRUE FIVE STAR LUXE

The Langham Place Eco Resort and Spa in Koh Lanta, Krabi, Thailand is all about time out. Their All About Me packages are ideal for waterfront soul rejuvenation. The Indulge Me package has three nights with one Thai dinner, a Chuan Spa massage and return airport transfers for \$495 per couple. Upgrade to the Surprise Me package and add a lunch, full-day sightseeing tour and mini bar for \$649. Valid until October 31. <http://krabi.langhamplacehotels.com>

**UNDER \$4000
BALI VILLA HEAVEN**

Bali is all about villas – private homes with staff to attend to your every need. Villa Sungai is the ultimate in personal attention. Located in Cepaka village, a traditional village not far from Seminyak, Villa Sungai comes complete with personal driver to take you wherever you like. Then there's the horizon infinity pool, the Egyptian cotton linen on four-poster king-size beds, the wine list, the massage, the fresh meals cooked by your own chef, the tropical breezes ... You could also choose the Sungai Gold villa next door with nightly canapés, VIP airport fast track service, butler

and chauffeur. From \$719 per night. bali-villasungai.com

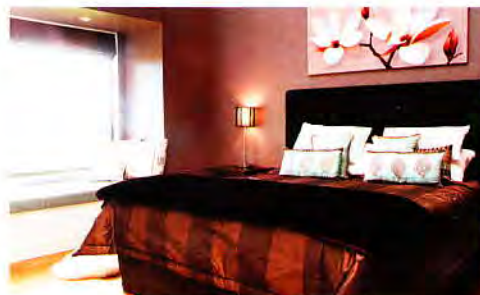
PORT DOUGLAS MAGIC

Port Douglas is made for honeymoons with its romantic waterfront restaurants, crystal waters and lush rainforest. Rydges Sabaya Resort at Port Douglas offers an ultimate romance package with seven nights in an executive one-bedroom apartment with private deck spa. From \$2950 per couple, expect champagne and chocolate strawberries, a three-course meal and breakfasts plus a one-hour spa treatment each at the Sabaya Spa. rydges.com

TWO ISLANDS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE, INCLUDING AIRFARES

It doesn't get better than this in Fiji for luxury value. Stay a minimum of three nights on Castaway Island and another three on Outrigger on the Lagoon in Fiji and receive a one-way, 20-minute chopper transfer, two spa treatments at Bebe Spa Sanctuary plus a Dolphin Safari Tour around Mamanuca Islands. Stay in a Bure, Deluxe Ocean View Room or Suite at Outrigger and enjoy a Talai butler service plus welcome drinks, champagne and canapés in your room daily. Prices for the six night experience start from \$2113 ex Sydney, \$2084 ex Brisbane and \$2224 ex Melbourne per person including airfare. Valid until March 2009 through Talpacific Holidays. Call 1300 665 727.

outriggerfiji.com and castawayfiji.com



GLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Tivua Island, Fiji. Outrigger on the Lagoon, Fiji. Holiday Inn, New Zealand. Fatboys Gizo Resort, Solomon Islands. Lakes Resort, New Zealand. Guest room at Parehua Martinborough Country Estate, New Zealand.

