



THE KNOT: Spring | Summer 2009



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50th ANNUAL GUIDE
the knot
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BEST HONEYMOON SPOTS

Looking for that dream destination?
No problem—here are our top picks
from around the world.

MOST ROMANTIC 10

VENICE, ITALY
WHY Two words: Grand Canal.
HONEYMOON TO-DO Piazza San Marco won't disappoint, but you'll also love just wandering around together and stopping at a local wine bar for a Chiavari.
WHERE TO STAY Hilton Molino Stucky Venice, a former flour mill with a rooftop pool and Venice's largest spa. Hilton.com/venice
HAUST-TRY DISH Try a variety of small plates from Cantina do Moro; they've been in business for over 500 years.

BY MILES STIVERSON
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PARIS, FRANCE

WHY Culture, cafés and haute cuisine are waiting for you. **HONEYMOON TO-DO** Do the Louvre, but also check out lesser-trafficked museums. In the Rodin Museum, you can see The Thinker sculptor's works in his former studio, and you'll find the lines are much shorter. **WHERE TO STAY** Hotel d'Aubusson, a seventeenth-century renovated mansion on the left bank. HoteldAubusson.com **MUST-TRY DISH** Savory crepe from a street stand on Rue Mouffetard.

ISLAMORADA, FLORIDA

WHY More low-key than Key West with plenty of privacy, plus lots of activities. **HONEYMOON TO-DO** Acquaint yourselves with the water. Islamorada is known for its sport fishing, so test your luck at reeling in one of the massive fish native to the area, like a blue marlin or a sailfish. **WHERE TO STAY** Casa Morada, an intimate 16-suite hotel with friendly owners. CasaMorada.com **MUST-TRY DISH** Fresh (as in caught that day!) seafood

prepared using classic French techniques at Pierre's Restaurant.

OAHU, HAWAII

WHY Torn between the city or beach? For the best of both worlds, try Oahu. **HONEYMOON TO-DO** Wake up early and hike to the top of Diamond Head, the 760-foot crater that overlooks Waikiki. The park opens at 6 a.m., so check the day's sunrise time at SunriseSunset.com. **WHERE TO STAY** Turtle Bay Resort, the backdrop for the movie *Forgetting Sarah Marshall*. TurtleBayResort.com **MUST-TRY DISH** Chef Mavro serves a fixed menu that's the talk of the island.

SANTORINI, GREECE

WHY All the great food and culture of Mykonos without the crazy nightlife. **HONEYMOON TO-DO** See the sunset from Oia village, which sits on a cliff on the edge of a volcanic crater. **WHERE TO STAY** Perivolos; it has beautiful views of the Aegean. Perivolos.gr



MUST-TRY DISH The seafood is simply fantastic. Try noodles with cuttlefish from Selene in Fira.

ST. LUCIA

WHY Towering peaks, lush surroundings and a protected national park make this among the most beautiful islands in the Caribbean. **HONEYMOON TO-DO** Stray from the beach and take in St. Lucia's natural scenery with a stroll in Diamond Botanical Gardens or a helicopter tour booked through St. Lucia Helicopters. **WHERE TO STAY** Ladera; it's close to

Soufriere and has an excellent restaurant. Ladera.com

NAPA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

WHY Delicious wine + scenery = bliss. **HONEYMOON TO-DO** Drive on Highway 29 to visit the vineyards (tastings tend to cost around \$10). Tour a winery like The Hess Collection to learn how vino is made. **WHERE TO STAY** For breathtaking views, go to Auberge du Soleil, AubergeduSoleil.com **MUST-TRY DISH** Call two months ahead for a reservation at The French Laundry.



LIBERIA, COSTA RICA

WHY Less hectic than flying into San José, with easy access to the gorgeous beaches on the Pacific Coast. **HONEYMOON TO-DO** Arrange a day trip so you can explore the outdoors, like going on a hike through nearby Rincon de la Vieja National Park. **WHERE TO STAY** Four Seasons Resort Costa Rica at Peninsula Papagayo, where luxury meets seclusion. FourSeasons.com **MUST-TRY DISH** In Costa Rica, coffee is more than a caffeine fix—it's an art.

RIVIERA MAYA, MEXICO

WHY Leave the crowds behind for a laid-back beach retreat. **HONEYMOON TO-DO** Though a little bit touristy, the Mayan ruins at Tulum—built overlooking the Caribbean—are nearby and definitely worth the visit.

WHERE TO STAY Matoma Resort and Spa; it's just a 45-minute drive from Cancún and set on a jungle preserve with a white sand beach. MaromaHotel.com **MUST-TRY DISH** Find 100-percent agave tequila (for sipping, not shots) and bring a bottle home. >>



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