



2015 WHERE TO HONEYMOON

in two-thousand and fifteen

These hot spots are making headlines — and we've sifted through the most Googled, Instagrammed and "liked" locales for a honeymooner's hit-up list. Here's where to make your great escape in 2015 and when (hint: It's not always in June).

BY KATARINA KOVACEVIC

Spring

WHERE TO HONEYMOON IN 2015



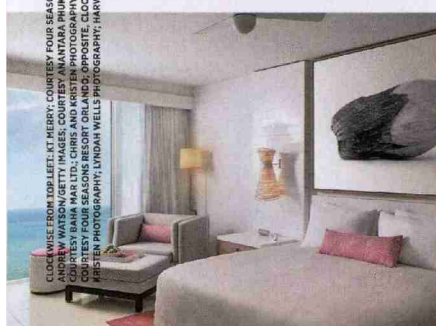
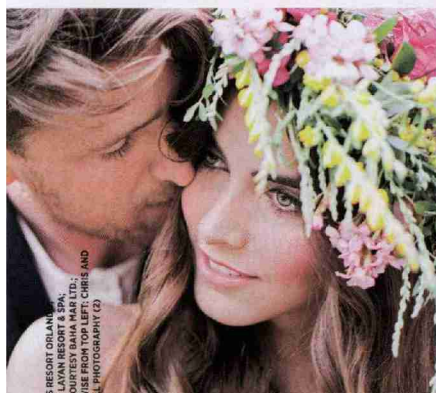
NASSAU, BAHAMAS

WHY IT'S HOT ➤ With added Southwest flights and a flurry of development, the Bahamas has been luring loads of Hollywood stars lately: Gwyneth Paltrow, Chelsea Handler and Hilary Duff are just a few who have traipsed into town recently. **WHAT'S NEW** ➤ In 2015, Nassau welcomes the \$3.5 billion Baha Mar resort that's five hotels in one: **Baha Mar Casino & Hotel, SLS LUX at Baha Mar, Rosewood at Baha Mar, Grand Hyatt at Baha Mar** and the all-inclusive **Melia at Baha Mar**. There's a Las Vegas-style casino in the works, but expect more serenity than Sin City; its 3,000 feet of white sand, preserved Caribbean gardens and crystal-clear water are all Bahamian, baby. Spring marks Baha Mar's grand unveiling, which is fitting — it's also the sunniest season for visiting the isles. Per-night prices available spring 2015. **TO DO'S** ➤ There's an 18-hole Jack Nicklaus golf course, but two spas and 20 acres of beach promise a chilled-out 'moon. Adventurers can book a snorkeling encounter to get up close with nurse sharks, green turtles and southern stingrays.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Flower clad among springtime blooms. Colorful architecture, snorkeling the reefs, beach huts and modern art at Baha Mar, Bahamas. OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: A Bahamian Junkanoo band. Sunset and a room at the Four Seasons Orlando (2). Cruising the cliffs of Ko Phi Phi Leh in Thailand. A villa plunge pool at Anantara Phuket Layan Resort & Spa. Oceanfront vistas at Grand Hyatt at Baha Mar, Bahamas. Pretty in pink. PREVIOUS SPREAD: Strolling the streets of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (2).





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: KT MERRY, COURTESY FOUR SEASONS RESORT ORLANDO; JESSICA AND CHRIS, COURTESY ANANTARA PHUKET LAYAN RESORT & SPA; COURTESY BAHIA MAR LTD.; CHRIS AND KRISTEN PHOTOGRAPHY; COURTESY BAHIA MAR LTD.; COURTESY FOUR SEASONS RESORT ORLANDO; OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: CHRIS AND KRISTEN PHOTOGRAPHY; LINDAH WELLS PHOTOGRAPHY; HAYWELL PHOTOGRAPHY (2)



ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Why it's hot ➤ Orlando claimed the designation of the United States' most visited city in 2013 — and it shows no signs of slowing down. In July 2014, Muggles worldwide raised a Butterbeer in a toast to the opening of Diagon Alley and Hogsmeade at The Wizarding World of Harry Potter. Just four weeks after opening, the Hogwarts Express celebrated hosting its one-millionth passenger.

By April, the spring breakers are gone, and Orlando is primed for weeks of fine Florida sunshine before the May humidity kicks in.

What's new

Find a quiet moment for two at **Four Seasons Resort Orlando at Walt Disney World**, which opened August 2014. Book a spa bungalow, or catch the Magic Kingdom's fireworks from the rooftop of Capa steakhouse. *From \$545 per night.*

To Do's ➤ Spot lions on a VIP trek through Disney's Animal Kingdom; stroll 50 acres of graceful greenery at Harry P. Leu Gardens; or dunk and drizzle chocolate bites with a hands-on class at Farris and Foster's Famous Chocolate Factory.



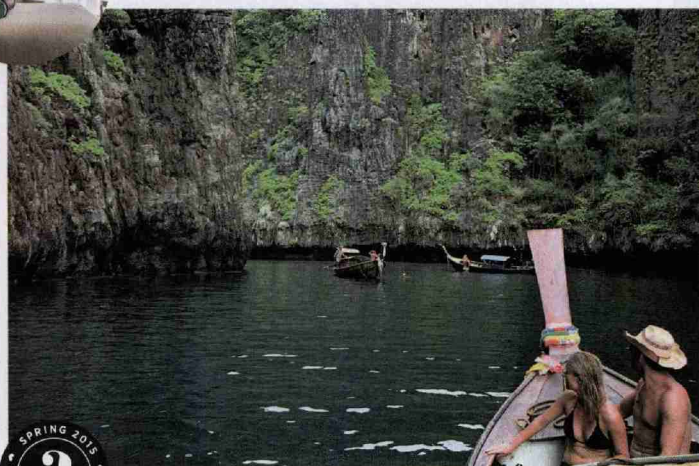
PHUKET, THAILAND

Why it's hot ➤ Thailand ranks No. 5 among the most searched honeymoon locations on Google. The Kardashians may have something to do with it: Phuket's mountain landscapes and sparkling Andaman Sea played backdrop to Kim's tour-de-selfie on last season's *Keeping up with the Kardashians* family vacation. March through May is the tail end of the Thai dry season, so you might be warm (average March temps are in the low 80s), but you'll miss the monsoon rains.

What's new ➤ **Anantara Phuket Layan Resort & Spa** opened on Phuket's northwest coast in April 2014. Hugging Layan

Beach (which underwent a cleanup initiative in 2014), it's the kind of seclusion you expect to find in Thailand; there's even a cliff-side chapel for private dining. *From \$130 per night.*

To Do's ➤ Watch leopard sharks in their natural habitat on a dive to Shark Point, or cruise the lagoons surrounding Banyan Tree Phuket resort on a dinner float for two on the *Sanya Rak*, a traditional Thai long-tail boat. Make a memory and a Thai meal together at Paresa Resort.



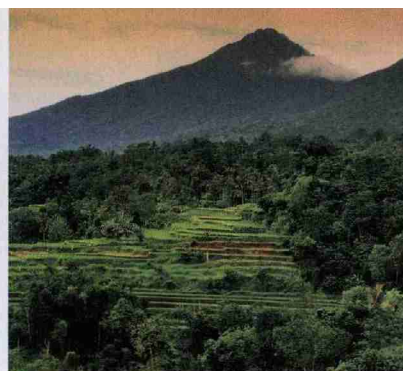
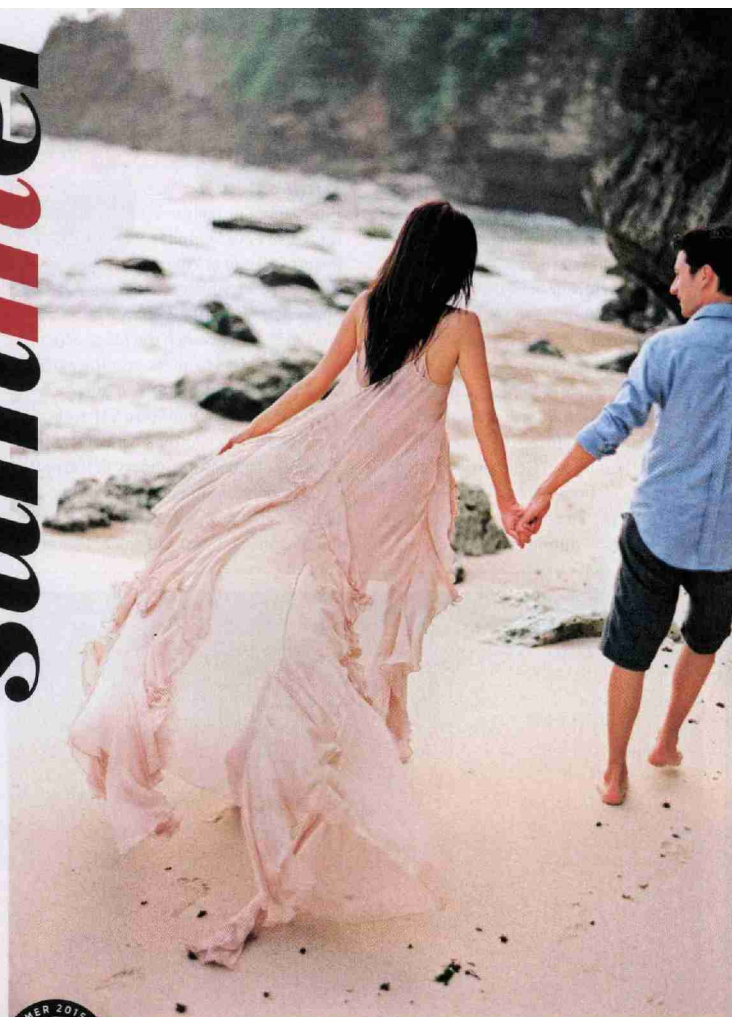
Summer

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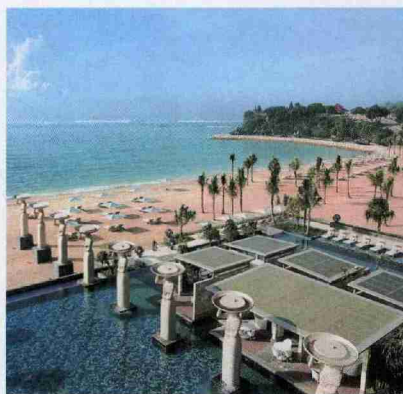


BALI, INDONESIA

WHY IT'S HOT ➤ It's been four years since Julia Roberts' character ate, prayed and loved her way through Bali, but the mystical tropical island is still all over celeb Instagram feeds — Vampire Diaries' Nina Dobrev struck a standing split with its emerald palms as her backdrop, while The Hills' star Audrina Partridge floated freely in its crystal waters. Unless you're a hard-core, hang-ten surfer, summer is the time to take advantage of Bali's moderate temperatures and balmy breezes. **WHAT'S NEW** ➤ **Mulia, Mulia Resort & Villas** — a three-resorts-in-one property with dramatic Indian Ocean vistas, 10 restaurants and a spa that's home to Bali's only ice-fountain room — debuted in 2013. From \$380 per night. **TO DO'S** ➤ Channel joy with The Oberoi's couple's blessing by a Pemangku (Hindu priest); master Bali's famous bold curry dishes at Anika Cooking Class; wander Jatiluwih's rice terraces for stunning jungle and ocean views.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Walking the cliffsides of Uluwatu in Bali. Rice terraces in Jatiluwih, Indonesian stew. A sea view at Mulia, Mulia Resort & Spa. Floating near Bali's Nusa Lembongan. OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Fairy-tale romance in the English countryside. Turtle Beach on the island of Tahiti. A bungalow at The Brando. View above Ponta dos Ganchos. Strolling Florence. Aqua waters at Nanuku Resort & Spa Fiji. Getting close in Kauai. Adriatic waterfront in Dalmatia, Croatia. Stealing a smooch in London.



Why it's hot ➔ London was crowned the world's most popular tourist destination by the MasterCard Global

What's new ➔ Dive in at **The Brando**, an all-inclusive that debuted

A circular inset image showing the interior of a traditional Balinese house. The room features a thatched roof, a large window with white curtains, and a view of a tropical landscape with a body of water and palm trees. The interior is furnished with a low table and a sofa.

To Do's ➔ Save your appetite for a secluded *motu* picnic packed by The Brando's experts or a champagne lunch and lagoon float at The St. Regis Bora Bora.

June



Croatia might have Bey and Jay to thank for its record 10 million visitors in 2013. Music's it couple reportedly named daughter Blue Ivy after a local tree. June warms the Adriatic Sea enough for a swim — and you'll beat the high-season masses. **Adriana Spa Hotel** (from \$280 per night) boasts views of the ancient city center and Pakliniski Islands archipelago. Explore Hvar's wineries and sample seafood like Dalmatian fish stew at Gajica.



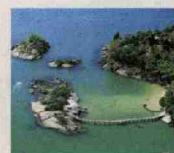
Most flock to Hawaii when it's wintery at home — December through March — but local conditions are best in June. After a \$10 million renovation completed in summer 2014, the 200-room **Kauai Shores** (from \$239 per night) on the island's Coconut Coast features two cozy pools and free oceanfront yoga. At nearby Koloa Landing Spa, book the Honeymoon Ritual, a massage topped with a bath for two in a wooden soaking tub.



Shoulder season is short in Fiji, but the weather is ideal in June. Last year, the South Pacific locale was named one of the Top 10 Dream Destinations by Virtuoso luxury travelers. Viti Levu's newest spot, **Nanuku Resort & Spa** (from \$756 per night), which debuted in March 2014, fronts sandy Beqa Lagoon. Villa accommodations include non-motorized fun like snorkeling. Bonus: June is best for spotting manta rays and bull sharks.



After the Kimye nuptials, Florence is high on newlyweds' romance radar, and June sees both mild temperatures and crowds. Kardashian-West guests stayed at **The Westin Excelsior** (from \$315 per night), a move you might want to mimic, given the hotel's terrace with panoramas of the Florence Cathedral and Arno River. See the city on two wheels; Florence by Bike offers a new photography tour of the town's living history.



No time to rest from the World Cup — Brazil is now deep in preparation for the 2016 Summer Olympics. The lineup of new digs includes swank newcomers like **Fasano Rio de Janeiro** (from \$820 per night) and **Copacabana Palace** (from \$550 per night), located smack in the middle of the iconic beach. At **Ponta dos Ganchos** resort (from \$700 per night), relaxation reigns in seaside bungalows nestled in the rainforest.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: TIM-MCKENNA.COM; COURTESY PONTA DOS GANCHOS; SIMPLY BLOOM PHOTOGRAPHY, LLC; NANUKUFIJI.COM; THE WAYFARERS PHOTOGRAPHY; THE WAYFARERS.CO; SHUTTERSTOCK; ANETA MAK PHOTOGRAPHY (2); OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: SHUTTERSTOCK (2); COURTESY MULIA RESORT AND VILLAS; APIPHOTOGRAPHY.COM; JEMMA KEECH



CAPE COD & ISLANDS

WHY IT'S HOT ➤➤ The start of the school year sweeps away family vacations, and the Technicolor trees are primed for leaf peeping — making fall fab for romance in this pocket of New England, where President and Mrs. Obama prefer to practice their conscious coupling. **WHAT'S NEW** ➤➤ In June 2014, the 50-room **Mirbeau Inn & Spa at the Pinehills**, with its Monet-inspired gardens and country-mansion setting, brought a taste of joie de vivre to the area. Kick off your rendezvous at the spa with the Art of Living treatment, which includes a fireside massage and an herbal bath for two. Then dine at Henri-Marie; located inside the replica of a 19th-century chapel, the restaurant dishes out multicourse tasting menus of modern French fare. From \$199 per night. **TO DO'S** ➤➤ Follow the first couple's lead with a candlelit table at The Sweet Life Cafe on Martha's Vineyard. Charter a sunset sail aboard the Endeavor, or take to the air on a helicopter tour with Ryan Rotors, savoring views of dramatic bluffs and historic Plymouth Rock.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Sharing a moment at the Sandwich Boardwalk in Cape Cod. The 21 Broad Inn in Nantucket. A harbor seal steals the show. Secluded dunes on Martha's Vineyard. Bubbly in a rowboat for two. **OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT:** Embrace the winter snow and each other. Historic Washington School House in Park City, Utah. The storied Piton peaks in Saint Lucia. What's SUP at Rendezvous Saint Lucia. Whitehaven Beach in the Whitsunday Islands, Australia. El Arco in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.



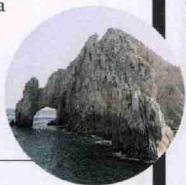


LOS CABOS, MEXICO

Why it's hot ➤ Los Cabos' popularity continues to surge, thanks to a favorable exchange rate (15 pesos to the dollar) and 355 days of sun a year. And talk about a celeb magnet: Adam Levine said I do at Flora Farms, while *Glee*'s Naya Rivera married her beau on a Cabo beach. You can still get great hotel deals in the fall after most of the summer crowds disperse.

What's new ➤ In July 2014, **Capella Pedregal** introduced bespoke stays in beachfront villas that open to the Pacific through the Suite Celebrations package. Expect amped-up amenities and offers like a terrace wine dinner or a gratis fifth night. **Package from \$2,850 per night.**

To Do's ➤ August through December sees the release of baby sea turtles with Cabo Outfitters. Take a day trip to artsy Todos Santos and watch local painters and sculptors at work.



WHITSUNDAYS, AUSTRALIA

Why it's hot ➤ Australia saw an 8 percent uptick in visitors last year, and *Modern Family* put the Whitsunday Islands — 74 sandy isles on the Great Barrier Reef — on the national radar last season when the Pritchett-Dunphy-Tucker clan took an LOL-filled trip Down Under. Visiting in spring (September-November) means missing the rainy season, with plenty of sunshine to be had.

What's new ➤ TV's favorite blended family stayed at **One&Only Hayman Island**, revamped in July 2014. Lounge on pearly beaches, enjoy snorkeling in the Coral Sea or bliss out with a tropics-inspired spa treatment. **From \$670 per night.**

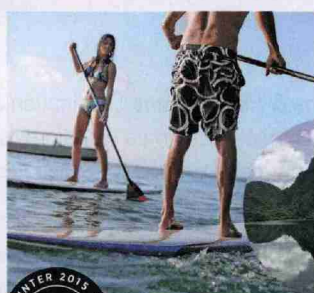
To Do's ➤ Indulge in Déjà Vu Restaurant's eight-course Sunday lunch, or camp on one of 66 uninhabited islands to be one with nature.



PARK CITY, UTAH



WHY IT'S HOT ➤ Park City extended its contract with the Sundance Film Festival through 2026, so you still have time to follow in the snowy steps of Hollywood elite like Liv Tyler and Blake Lively at Silver or Spa at Montage. The celeb-studded film fest runs the last 10 days in January, but you can spot stars hitting the slopes and sipping toddies from just after New Year's through Valentine's Day. **WHAT'S NEW** ➤ Vail Resorts' acquisition of Canyon Resort in 2013 means skiers and snowboarders now have eight whitecapped mountains to conquer on the unlimited Epic Pass program. Wintertime is playtime at **Washington School House**, a historic hotel with a chic ski lounge, roaring fires and a heated hillside pool. From \$925 per night. **TO DO'S** ➤ Take a horseback ride through winding Wasatch mountain trails with Rocky Mountain Outfitters, or book an earthy Bindi Body Rejuvenating treatment at the Waldorf Astoria Park City's spa.



SAINT LUCIA

Why it's hot ➤ That rush of water showering Juan Pablo and Andi during their island date on *The Bachelor* last season? It was at the foot of Saint Lucia's rainforest in Latille Falls, a blooming garden of flowers and exotic fruit trees. Thanks to a weekly

nonstop on Delta from New York's JFK Airport starting in December 2014, a tropical jaunt to this volcanic isle is easier than ever.

What's new ➤ The island's jade peaks and clear seas are on display at **Rendezvous Resort**, an adults-only, all-inclusive hotel that sits on Saint Lucia's longest white sandy beach. Stay in one of the seaside suites, renovated in fall 2014. **From \$419 per person, per night, all-inclusive.**

To Do's ➤ Reserve a customized couple's massage in Rendezvous' aquatic garden. Drop by Dasheene restaurant at Ladera resort for a Saint Lucian Creole breakfast of salt fish and sweet peppers. Hitch up for a horseback ride on Savannes Bay shores with Atlantic Shores Riding Stables.

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winter

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: KATE POWERS/GETTY IMAGES; COURTESY WASHINGTON SCHOOL HOUSE; COURTESY RENDEZVOUS RESORT; SAINT LUCIA (2); SHUTTERSTOCK CAROLINE JURGENSEN PHOTOGRAPHY; OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: LEFT: KELLY DILLON PHOTOGRAPHY (KELLYDILLONPHOTO.COM); RARE BRICK SHUTTERSTOCK (2); REBECCA ARTHURS PHOTOGRAPHY (REBECCAARTHURS.COM)