



30 ROMANTIC DREAM TRIPS

From a beach resort in Zanzibar to a Costa Rican tree house to your own apartment in the heart of Rome, T+L scanned the globe for a range of experiences that will put you in the mood. Read on for 30 great ideas



Outside the Crosby Street Hotel in New York City. Opposite: A view from the Indian Ocean of Kilindi, in Zanzibar, Tanzania.

U.S.

A MANHATTAN MOMENT

New York City

London's Firdale Group brings the spirit of Soho to a cobblestoned lane in the *other* SoHo. The new 86-room **Crosby Street Hotel** feels very much a part of its vibrant, intimately scaled neighborhood: the restaurant-bar has become a local favorite, and the salon-like lobby is filled from morning to midnight. Kit Kemp's bold interiors manage to challenge and soothe the eye all at once: austere charcoal-gray wall coverings set off pastel headboards; soft silk curtains frame steel warehouse windows; gritty brick façades background a lush rooftop garden. 79 Crosby St.; 1-212/226-6400; crosbystreethotel.com; doubles from US\$495.

BAREFOOT LUXURY

Islamorada, Florida

Even after serving as the backdrop for countless fashion-magazine photo shoots, the **Moorings Village & Spa**—18 brightly accented cottages connected to the beach by wooden walkways on a former coconut plantation in the Florida Keys—still seems like your own secret discovery. Lush, almost jungle-like landscaping gives way to a private white-sand beach with swaying hammocks and a thatched-roof dock. Book a snorkeling trip à deux with **Bay and Reef Co.** (1-305/393-0994; bayandreef.com; tours from US\$250) to view a multi-colored swirl of marine life and the 136-year-old lighthouse; then return to your porch to feast on succulent stone crab. 123 Beach Rd.; 1-305/664-4708; themooringsvillage.com; cottages from US\$275.

A LOW-COUNTRY DRIVE

South Carolina

There's something particularly romantic about South Carolina's low country: roads lined with moss-draped trees lead to tiny coastal towns, where there are plenty of places to try the region's famed oysters. From Charleston, head north for 64 kilometers on Highway 17 to the fishing village of McClellanville, stopping at **T.W. Graham & Co. Seafood Restaurant** (810 Pinckney St.; 1-843/887-4342; lunch for two US\$35) for a lunch of fried oysters. And in Georgetown, the **Rice Paddy Restaurant** (732 Front St.; 1-843/546-2021; dinner for two US\$92) is known for its oyster pies. Thirty-two kilometers north is Murrells Inlet, where bivalves come steamed or on the half shell at the **Inlet Crab House Restaurant & Raw Bar** (3572 Business 17; 843/651-8452; dinner for two US\$61).

SKI IN, SKI OUT

Taos, New Mexico

In winter, this snug town appeals for its art galleries, tequila cantinas, challenging black diamond trails at Kachina Peak and sunny climate. At the base of Lift 4, halfway up the mountain, »



A guest room at the Crosby Street Hotel.
Opposite, from left: A sitting room at the
hotel; the Crosby Bar, on the ground floor.





The Hoshinoya Kyoto *ryokan*, on the Hozu River in Kyoto, Japan. Opposite, from left: A view from Heidelberg Suites; a cabana at the Hyatt Regency Maui Resort & Spa.



schuss into the **Bavarian Lodge & Restaurant** to warm up by a traditional *Kachelofen* tile stove. The four Alpine-chic chalets—designed by Alexandra Champalimaud—are done up with organic linens, stainless-steel fireplaces, and reproductions of 1950’s ski posters on the walls. *100 Kachina Rd.*; 1-575/776-8020; *thebavarian.net*; doubles from US\$335, chalets from US\$750.

STARGAZING

Maui, Hawaii

Thanks to its latitude, Hawaii is a celestial mecca (it’s one of the only states with views of both the North Star and the Southern Cross). At the **Hyatt Regency Maui Resort & Spa**, director of astronomy Eddie Mahoney ushers couples to the rooftop, where a 16-inch reflector telescope is set up next to strawberries and champagne. Ask Mahoney to point out your astrological constellations, then head downstairs to Kaanapali Beach to watch bioluminescent creatures light up the waves. *200 Nohea Kai Dr., Lahaina*; 1-808/661-1234; *hyatt.com*; doubles from US\$311; *Romance Tour of the Stars package US\$70 for two.*

ARTISTS’ RETREAT

Marfa, Texas

On a 7-hectare plot here, hotelier



Liz Lambert has created the ultimate retreat for couples looking to get away from it all—**El Cosmico**, a collection of five expertly restored vintage travel trailers (including two Spartans and a Vagabond). Each has a mini-kitchen, glossy birch-veneer walls and beds topped with Bolivian wool blankets. For a dose of culture, visit the neighboring **Chinati Foundation** (artist Donald Judd’s military fort turned 137-hectare art museum). *802 S. Highland Ave.*; 1-432/729-1950; *elcosmico.com*; doubles from US\$75.

EUROPE

A SCANDINAVIAN CABIN

Furillen, Sweden

The pleasures are simple on the tiny islet of Furillen, off Sweden’s Gotland Island: clear blue skies, deserted beaches and fresh seafood. Here you’ll find **Fabriken Furillen**, a former limestone quarry transformed into Sweden’s farthest-flung design hotel. Locally

sourced sheepskin rugs and handcrafted Midcentury furniture give the seemingly spare six cabins an alluring warmth, while Bang & Olufsen stereos and flat-screen TV’s lend the 15 rooms in the main house a modern edge. *Lärbro*; 46-498/223-040; *furillen.nu*; doubles from SEK1,950, including breakfast.

STORYBOOK TOWN

Heidelberg, Germany

The pedestrian Hauptstrasse in Heidelberg, is lined with classic cafés—Schafheutele, Rossi and Knoesel—that overlook the Neckar River, serve up first-rate *Milchkaffee* and luscious chocolate tortes and offer the best vantage point for people-watching. Stay at the **Heidelberg Suites**, a converted 19th-century villa across the Karl Theodor bridge, where 26 rooms are done up with heroic busts, deer antlers and etched mirrors; most have views of the city’s medieval castle. *12 Neuenheimer Landstrasse*; 49-622/165-5650; *heidelberg-suites.com*; doubles from €255. »

COOKING IN FRANCE

Paris

Amateur cooks now have access to the culinary secrets of Paris's top chefs at the nine-month-old **École de Cuisine Alain Ducasse**. On a quiet residential block in the 16th Arrondissement, Romain Corbière, former head chef at Ducasse's Le Relais du Parc, leads small classes with the help of such topflight toques as Christophe Moret, from Alain Ducasse au Plaza Athénée. A day might start with a trip to a farmers' market to pick up ingredients for a *soupe au pistou*, followed by a hands-on demonstration of dishes like *blanquette de veau*. 64 Rue du Ranelagh; 33-1/44-90-91-00; ecolecuisine-alainducasse.com; classes from €280 per day.

PERFUME MIXING

Montpellier, France

Lavender, geranium and mint are some of the scents that may inspire you during **GoLearnTo.com**'s weekend perfumery course in France's verdant Languedoc region. In a sprawling 18th-century farmhouse near Montpellier, study base and top notes and concoct your own signature scent. In the evening, meals—spit-roasted pork paired with wine from nearby vineyards—are served before guests retreat to the antique-filled rooms. You get to take your bespoke creation home in a carry-on container that meets airlines' requisite 88-milliliter limit. *Domaine de Alabrena, Laval de Nize, Lunas*; 44-845/625-0445; golearn.to; four-day courses from £379, including lodging and meals.

YOUR OWN ROMAN HOLIDAY

Rome

The olive-oil maker Armando Manni's one-bedroom **Casa Manni Roma** is an Adam Tihany-designed space overlooking the Piazza Colonna. The real draw here is access to Manni's black book: request a private *agnolotti*-making class with Oretta Zanini de Vita, Italy's mistress of handmade pasta, or a decadent four-handed Thai couples' massage at Acanto, a spa favored by

well-heeled locals. Manni can also arrange a *Roman Holiday*-esque tour by vintage Piaggio. 70 Via di Pietra; 39-06/9727-4787; casamanni.com; daily rentals from €530, two-night minimum.

A VENETIAN PALAZZO

Venice

Beyond the crowded Rialto, this city is more than gondolas and Gorgonzola. In the serene Accademia neighborhood, just beyond the Campo San Stefano, the 22-room **Palazzina Grassi** has a superb collection of Modernist glass from Murano masters in a sparkling space designed by Philippe Starck. The bar is *molto romantico* for Prosecco cocktails and the canal-side restaurant turns out a perfect raviolo. *San Marco 3247*; 39-041/528-4644; designhotels.com; doubles from €290.

SKIING BY MOONLIGHT

St. Moritz, Switzerland

For a truly otherworldly trip down the slopes, nothing beats full-moon skiing at **Diavolezza**, the most spectacular of St. Moritz's five ski areas. Once a month, a tram drops night-owl skiers off at the craggy peak's nearly 3,048-meter summit, which affords jaw-dropping views of the glacial Bernina Range. The 914-meter vertical trail is blanketed in soft blue light. After a few runs, take the lift back to the top for a traditional Swiss dinner of Bündnerfleisch, *Rösti* potatoes and cheese fondue at the Berghaus Diavolezza restaurant. 30 Via San Gian; 41-81/830-0001; engadin.stmoritz.ch; lift tickets from 50 Swiss francs.

A DAY OF PAMPERING

London

Decadence abounds inside London's new **Dorchester Spa**, an ivory-and-coral-colored subterranean paradise with cream chiffon curtains and a chandelier made from 72,000 South Pacific pearls. Seasoned aesthetician Vaishaly has developed a menu of facials, administered in enormous, mood-lit double treatment suites. Afterward, wrap yourselves

in oversize robes and slip past the glass doors to the relaxation room, where you'll find lychee juice, the latest glossies and plenty of champagne. *Park Lane*; 44-207/319-7109; treatments from £55.

A LIGHTHOUSE HOTEL

Devon, England

Set high on a 2-kilometer-long headland with sweeping views of the Channel, the 1863 **Start Point Lighthouse** is flanked by keepers' quarters, which were recently transformed into two charming cottages. Inside you'll find modern kitchens, fireplaces and a basket filled with tea and freshly baked bread. Don't miss the spectacular walk along a stretch of the adjacent South West Coast Path trail. *Start Point, near Hallsands Kingsbridge*; 44-1386/701-177; ruralretreats.co.uk; doubles from £377, two-night minimum.

THE CARIBBEAN, BERMUDA AND THE BAHAMAS

PURE PRIVACY

Antigua

Jumby Bay, A Rosewood Resort, situated on a private 121-hectare island 10 minutes by boat from Antigua, is still the standard-bearer of Caribbean luxury. Following a US\$28 million reconstruction, 28 new suites have ocean views and outdoor bathtubs in lush private courtyards. But the most exciting addition is the property's first-ever spa, Sense, an open-air facility with a garden just 15 meters from the beach; book the Sense Hammock Massage treatment for two. *St. John's*; 268/462-6000; jumbybayresort.com; doubles from US\$1,350, all-inclusive.

ISLAND-HOPPING MADE EASY

Eastern Caribbean

Regent Seven Seas Cruises has perfected the island escape with a new eastern Caribbean itinerary on the *Seven Seas Navigator*. The cruise begins in Fort Lauderdale and continues on to classic ports of call on St. Bart's, St. Maarten and Virgin Gorda. On a special stop »



The Adam Tihany-designed living room at Casa Manni Roma, in Rome. Clockwise from above: A Harley-Davidson motorcycle on Rome's Via di Pietra; a view of the *centro storico* from the terrace at Casa Manni Roma; the apartment's dining area.



The Four Seasons Resort Bali at Jimbaran Bay. Opposite, from left: One of the suite terraces at Tucker's Point Hotel & Spa in Bermuda; the resort's palm court.



in Princess Cays, a private island in the Bahamas, you'll be treated to beach barbecues and Jet Skiing; in the Dominican Republic, guided excursions lead you through mangrove swamps in Los Haitises National Park. But why leave the ship at all? Thanks to a recent renovation, all 245 cabins now have ocean views, and many have private decks—an ideal vantage point when you're arriving in Puerto Rico and San Juan's imposing fortress emerges on the horizon. *1-877/505-5370; rssc.com; 10-night Eastern Caribbean Cruise from US\$5,065 per person round trip, including airfare from select cities.*

NEW OLD-WORLD CHARM

Bermuda

Inspired by an era of horse-drawn carriages and cricket matches, **Tucker's**

Point Hotel & Spa is the first luxury resort to open on Bermuda in almost four decades. Situated on 81 hectares overlooking Castle Harbour, the hotel's 88 guest rooms come with everything you could hope for in an old-world Caribbean retreat: mahogany beds, deep soaking tubs and balconies. The white-tablecloth Point Restaurant & Terrace showcases local ingredients and is adorned with large murals depicting 19th-century clipper ships. *60 Tucker's Point Dr.; 1-866/604-3764; tuckerspoint.com; doubles from US\$340.*

MEXICO AND CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

AN ARGENTINEAN MANOR

Buenos Aires

The rooftop of the six-story **Algodon**

Mansion, overlooking the posh Recoleta neighborhood's French-colonial buildings, is the perfect spot for a sunset tango (arrange a lesson through the hotel). This Belle Époque gem has just 10 suites, each with cavernous limestone-and-marble bathrooms and ebony floors; most have views of the hotel's central atrium and its two-story waterfall. The spa offers organic, wine-inspired treatments, a rewarding end to a day spent exploring the colorful cityscape. *1647 Montevideo St.; 54-11/3530-7777; algodonmansion.com; doubles from US\$400.*

A TREE-HOUSE ESCAPE

Punta Uva, Costa Rica

Adventurous couples can live out their Tarzan-and-Jane fantasies at **Tree House Lodge**, a secluded spot in the rain forest on Costa Rica's southern Caribbean shore. The four individual bungalows, with wide-open canopy views, are made from fallen tropical hardwoods. The most dramatic of these—the eponymous Tree House—is a bi-level cottage built around the trunk of a rare *sangrillo* tree. Inside, a whimsical bamboo-walled shower and an elevated master bedroom (reached via »



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palm-thatched suspension bridge) are perfect for watching howler monkeys rustle in the treetops. 506/2750-0706; costaricatreehouse.com; doubles from US\$200.

DINING IN THE DESERT

San José del Cabo, Mexico

At **One&Only Palmilla**, on Mexico's Baja Peninsula, splurge on dinner in a hidden Sonoran canyon. You'll be chauffeured in the resort's own-Hummer to this high-desert feast, where a table for two is illuminated by a bonfire and flickering candles. Share chilled champagne and dine on grilled meats and fresh salads, then take turns at the telescope set up to spot celestial bodies above the Pacific. Km 7.5, *Crta. Transpeninsular*; 1-954/809-2726; oneandonlyresorts.com; doubles from US\$675; dinner for two US\$1,210.

GARDENER'S PARADISE

Salcedo, Ecuador

Between the central Cotopaxi and Tungurahua volcanoes 200 kilometers south of Quito lies **Nevado Roses**—the antithesis of your grandmother's flower garden. More than 3 million rosebushes bloom in tidy rows, wafting their heady fragrance into the air. Roberto Nevado, who has co-owned this



36-hectare plot since 1996 with his son John, will walk you through the harvest, pointing out varieties that grow improbably tall at this altitude (2,743 meters). Handpick your favorites—a fiery Lina or an organic Flaming Pale Pink—and the bouquet will be waiting for you when you return home. Km 3, *Crta. Mulalillo*; 59-3/3227-6100; nevadoecuador.com; tours from US\$25.

ASIA

A GLAMOROUS BEACH SCENE

Bali, Indonesia

The just-renovated **Four Seasons Resort Bali at Jimbaran Bay** sits on a crescent of soft sand that's alluring enough by day—and now even lovelier after dark, thanks to the resort's new Beds on the Beach nights. Every Tuesday and Saturday evening, dozens of votives are set alight in the sand, surrounding 20 canopied lounge beds swathed in colorful silk. Barefoot wait-staff bring cocktails and Asian-

inspired tapas, while jazz music plays and the sunset blazes across the Indian Ocean. Fortunately, lingering is strongly encouraged. *Jimbaran, Denpasar*; 62-361/701-010; fourseasons.com; doubles from US\$680; dinner for two US\$250.

HORSEBACK RIDING IN RAJASTHAN

India

On the wild plains of Rajasthan—just an hour south of Jodhpur—the **Mihir Garh** is a palatial fortress hotel with an impressive stable of indigenous Marwari steeds. Take one on a maharajah-worthy journey through the desert or on a staff-guided picnic safari to a picturesque Bishnoi tribal village. Then come home to one of the nine enormous guest suites (each is over 158 square meters), which are done up in colorful Rajasthani textiles and rich fabrics that will put the final touches on your storybook adventure. *Knandi, Rohet, Pali*; 91-9/636-169-665; mihirgarh.com; doubles from R14,500, including meals.

A hammock awaits at Jumby Bay in Antigua. Opposite, from left: In Rajasthan, the palatial Mihir Garh; at the Four Seasons Resort Bali.



Tasmania's Quamby Estate, a serene setting. Opposite page: In Tanzania, Kilindi is within earshot of the surf.



A MODERN RYOKAN

Kyoto, Japan

The Arashiyama neighborhood of Kyoto, full of bamboo groves and Zen temples, is the site of the city's newest—and most exquisite—*ryokan*, or traditional inn. **Hoshinoya Kyoto** has 25 guest rooms along the banks of the Hozu River, each with Japanese futons, yellow cedar bathtubs and delicate rice-paper screens. In the morning, you can have a Japanese breakfast delivered to your room—*nabe* hot pot served with tofu and local vegetables—and sit by the window, against a backdrop of maple and cherry trees. *11-2 Genrokuzan-cho, Arashiyama, Nishikyoku-ku; 81-75/871-0001; kyoto.hoshinoya.com; doubles from ¥59,000.*

AUSTRALIA AND THE SOUTH PACIFIC

NAPA DOWN UNDER

Tasmania, Australia

This region's highlight is the winery-filled Tamar Valley. At the Ninth Island Vineyard, reserve a table at **Daniel Alps at Strathlynn** (95 Rosevears Dr., Rosevears; 61-3/6330-2388; lunch for two A\$148), for fresh regional dishes such as Spring Bay scallops in a leek-and-thyme butter sauce. The restored **Quamby Estate**—a 28-kilometer drive from the city of Launceston—was once

the centerpiece of an 1820's ranch. Now set within serene English gardens, the sprawling, contemporary-style homestead has been renovated into 10 spacious suites with colonial antiques and views of the surrounding farmland. *1145 Westwood Rd., Hagley; 61-3/6392-2211; quambyestate.com; doubles from A\$300.*

A NEW BLUE LAGOON

Cook Islands

In the South Pacific, 644 kilometers southwest of Tahiti, you'll find the lesser-known Cook Islands, an ideal playground for snorkeling, kayaking and *motu* walking (the local pastime of wading in the shallow waters between islets). Rising from one of these white-sand *motu* is **Aitutaki Lagoon Resort & Spa**—which has the island chain's only overwater bungalows as well as the new Villa Te Arau, a mod-Maori haven with black-pearl-shell inlays, woven-pandanus walls and a private pool. This is the place to spend days learning to pluck a ukulele or dozing in the double-wide hammock. *Akitua Island; 682/31203; aitutakilagoonresort.com; doubles from NZ\$395, villas from NZ\$1,875.*

AFRICA

THE BEST OF WINE COUNTRY

South Africa

Few views are as stage-set for romance as the one over Stellenbosch Valley and the Western Cape Winelands, with hectares of vineyards, white Cape Dutch houses and dramatic mountains. Now there's a prime spot from which to take it all in: the newly renovated **Delaire Graff Estate**. The property's contemporary-art collection is a carefully edited selection of some of South Africa's finest working artists. Take an extravagant wine tutorial in the state-of-the-art tasting lounge, with flights of Delaire reds and whites and organic food pairings. *R310, Hellschoogte, Banhoek Valley, Stellenbosch; 27-21/885-8160; delaire.co.za; lunch for two 594 South African rand (US\$80).*

AN AFRICAN BEACH GETAWAY

Zanzibar, Tanzania

This island is famous for its aromatic spices, Swahili culture, and most of all, its isolated beaches. At **Kilindi**, on a sun-bleached crescent opposite Tumbatu Island, 15 domed limestone pavilions are tucked along a tidal bay where wooden *dhows* still ply the aquamarine waters. Here, luxury comes with a light footprint—rainwater collected on the roofs of the cottages is used to water the lush gardens. The white-on-white rooms are within earshot of the surf. *255-24/223-1954; kilindi.com; doubles from US\$900, including all meals.*

ANTARCTICA

THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

Argentina, Falkland Islands, Antarctica

Following in the footsteps of explorers Captain James Cook and Ernest Shackleton, **Silversea Cruises'** 17-day Explorer's Antarctica has all the adventure of an expedition with a minimal amount of roughing it. The 132-passenger *Prince Albert II* embarks from Ushuaia, Argentina, and heads toward the Falkland Islands. You'll get 360-degree views of hulking glaciers, blue icebergs and snowcapped peaks from the two top-deck, glass-enclosed whirlpools. For up-close encounters with wildlife (southern fur seals; albatross; chinstrap penguins), book a naturalist-guided tour on one of eight Zodiacs. This takes the phrase "getting away from it all" to a new level. *1-877/215-9986; silversea.com; 17-day itinerary from US\$7,926 per person. +*

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