

CONDÉ NAST

# BRIDES

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## 2018 Wedding Planner

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advice and genius  
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# Where the **GURUS** want to go

Ready to raise the honeymoon bar? We asked eight travel experts for the destinations they're desperate to visit...

## NATURE FIX IN INDONESIA COMO Echo Beach, Bali

**'MY DREAM WOULD BE TO RETURN TO BALI** – it's paradise. I went there two years ago with girlfriends, and completely fell in love with the island's spirit – the philosophy, people, cuisine, climate, nature. At the end of this year, COMO will open new hotel Echo Beach on the south coast, overlooking the Indian Ocean. I like the brand's understated luxury and individually tailored resorts. I'd love to spend hours escaping in the spa, trekking in the jungle or watching the sun set over the ocean with a G&T!'

**JACKIE MCDEVITT, PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER FOR THE RITZ**  
Echo Beach is due to open early 2018. An Ubud Room at COMO Uma Ubud, Bali, costs from £280 per night, B&B, based on two sharing; comohotels.com

## MAGIC IN THE MIDDLE EAST Alila Jabal Akhdar, Oman

**'I ABSOLUTELY LOVE THE PERSONALISED SERVICE**, cutting-edge architecture and environmental ethos of other Alila resorts I've visited, and the ethereal setting of this one – deep in a mountain canyon – looks spectacular. I do love a slick and modern city hotel, but there's no feeling quite like swimming late at night, under an ink-black starry sky, with local wildlife providing the only sound in the still night air.'

**JARVIS MARCOS, LUXURY FLIGHT  
AND TRAVEL BLOGGER**

(jarvismarcos.com; @jarvismarcos)  
A Mountain View Suite costs from £237 per night, B&B, based on two sharing. Includes tax; alilahotels.com/jabalakhdar →

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## MODERN ART IN PROVENCE

### Villa La Coste, South of France

**'THIS NEW HOTEL IN AIX-EN-PROVENCE** is set in the vineyards of beautiful Château La Coste, an outstanding destination for art and architecture. It is small and intimate, with 28 villa suites, and has an amazing restaurant by the legendary chef Francis Mallmann. I long to see the unique collections of art pieces – including Louise Bourgeois' Crouching Spider,



a sculpture by Alexander Calder and installations from Tracey Emin, Richard Serra, Sean Scully, Ai Weiwei and Frank Gehry – all set amid 500 acres of woodland, vineyards and olive groves. Everyone tells me it is the most magical place on Earth... and I'll be booking in soon!

**PAULA FITZHERBERT, GROUP DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS FOR CLARIDGE'S, THE CONNAUGHT AND THE BERKELEY**

*A Pavillon Suite costs from approx £530 per night, B&B, based on two sharing. Includes breakfast, Art & Architecture tour, and wine-cellar tour with wine tasting; villalacoste.com*

## FAMILY LUXE IN THE MED Marbella Club, Marbella

**'IT IS MY ABSOLUTE FAVOURITE HOTEL IN THE WORLD** and I'd choose it over any new opening. It's exactly the opposite of what people think of when they imagine Marbella. It has huge, beautiful gardens that roll down a hill to a wonderful-but-quiet beach club (nobody dancing on tables or spraying Champagne on each other), where my little boys eat ice cream and my wife and I drink rosé and eat fresh fish. The staff are so kind and thoughtful and it manages to be completely family friendly, but chic and peaceful at the same time. Each summer, we are allocated the same room maid, Carmen, who plays hide and seek with my sons every morning. They adore her. For me, it is literally a little piece of heaven.'

**JAMES MASSEY, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF TRAVEL AND LUXURY AGENCY THE MASSEY PARTNERSHIP**

*A Double Deluxe Room costs from approx £336 per night, B&B, based on two people sharing. Includes VAT; marbellaclub.com*



## SUN & SPORT IN THE MALDIVES Kanuhura, Lhaviyani Atoll

**'AQUAMARINE WATERS? CHECK.** Blissful sunshine? Check. Romantic water villas? Check. World-class martial arts academy? Er, check. When travelling, I search for magic and charm, and a *souçon* of eccentricity, which Kanuhura on Lhaviyani Atoll definitely has. That's why it's top of my list. Recently refurbished with a laid-back, bohemian-castaway-meets-glamorous-jet-setter vibe, it has its own hideaway islands, exceptional snorkelling, and, yes, a martial arts centre... ideal if you want to mix workouts with lounging.'

**OLIVIA WHELDON, LUXURY TRAVEL AND LIFESTYLE BLOGGER** (roamantics-travel.com; oliviawheldon\_)

*A Beach Bungalow at Kanuhura costs from approx £800 per night. Includes taxes; kanuhura.com →*

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## ECO ADVENTURES IN ASIA

### Six Senses, Bhutan

'I'M DESPERATE TO GET TO BHUTAN, particularly to tour between the five brand-new Six Senses properties, launching in early 2018. They're creating a circuit, taking in the mountain kingdom's top sites. And they're pleasingly sustainable, too, so you can holiday with a happy conscience – only right and proper in a country that's been called the "happiest place on Earth".'

**FRANCISCA KELLETT, TRAVEL EDITOR, TATLER**

Scott Dunn ([scottdunn.com](http://scottdunn.com)) offers a seven-night Bhutan itinerary from £4,500 per person, half board. Includes flights and transfers.



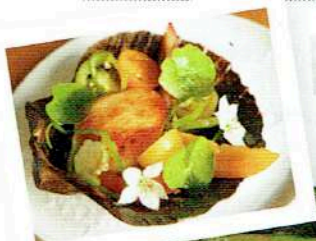
## LUXE ACTION

### Eleven Experience

'I'D LIKE TO GO ANY PLACE WITH ELEVEN EXPERIENCE BEHIND IT.

This outfit is providing a new tone in the hotel agenda, with very stylish design and an adventure-based outlook. And in terms of their newest properties, I'm drawn to Bahama House, which is in

my favourite Caribbean spot of Harbour Island. Rum punches, pink sand, sea, salt and sunshine. The best.' **MELINDA STEVENS, EDITOR, CONDÉ NAST TRAVELLER**  
Bahama House is open from November to July. Eleven Experience ([elevenexperience.com](http://elevenexperience.com)) offers a Queen Suite from approx £326 per person, per night, B&B, and exclusive use of the property from approx £6,485 per night for a maximum of 22 guests.



## LOVE BITES IN THE UK

### The Mash Inn, Buckinghamshire

'I AM SERIOUSLY EXCITED ABOUT VISITING THE MASH INN. It's a small boutique pub with six rooms, an incredible restaurant, and plenty of fireplaces, cocktails and charm. Dinner is sourced from the local countryside, and breakfast (the highlight) is fresh fruit, homemade jams and freshly baked croissants delivered to your door.'

**TOM ROGERS, FOOD & TRAVEL INFLUENCER (@gourmet\_guy)**

Rooms start from £110 per night, B&B, based on two sharing; [themashinn.com](http://themashinn.com) **B**

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