

TAKE THE MONEY AND RUN!

Seven Sensational Honeymoon Hideaways



By Judy DiEdwardo

That's Italian

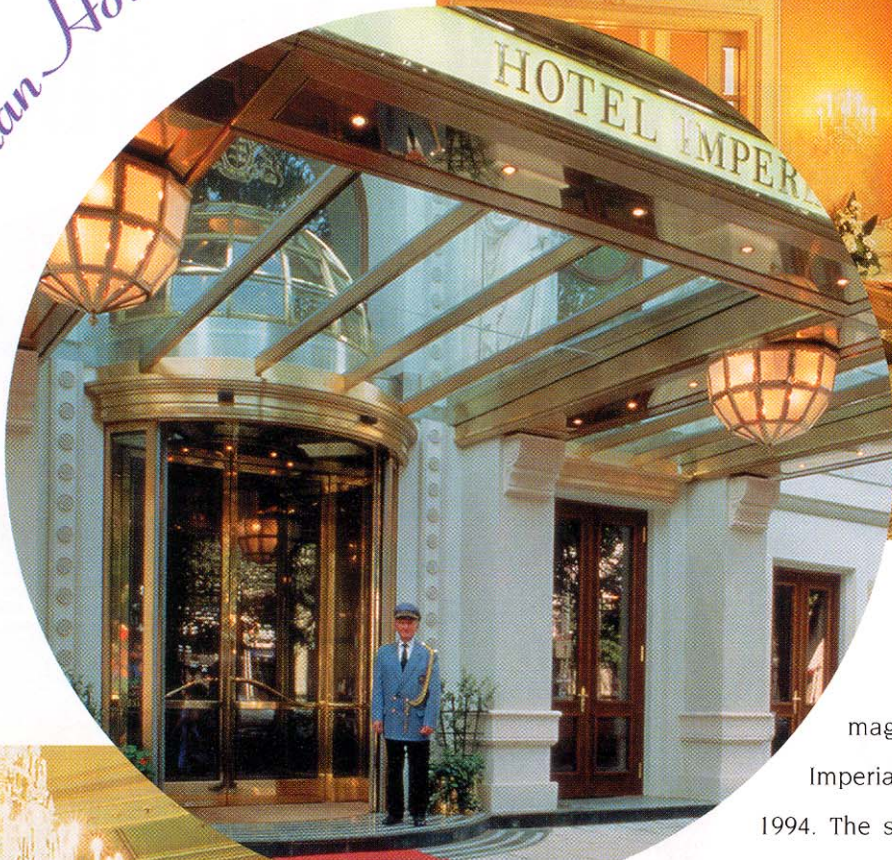
Even those who were lucky enough to have been born in this enchanting country consider Il Pellicano to be one of Italy's most romantic and tranquil hotels, with a breathtaking location atop the cliffs of Port Ercole overlooking the Tyrrhenian Sea just north of Rome. You'll fall in love with this enclave of vine-covered sienna villas decorated with local ceramics and antiques, scattered among olive trees that have stood vigil over the stunning Italian coastline for centuries. Spacious two- and three-bedroom villas

offer modern amenities and feature flower-bedecked terraces for private views and sun.

As for cuisine, Il Pellicano is legendary for both Italian and international fare served inside its quaint restaurant or, more appropriately, alfresco beneath an azure sky.

From \$320 nightly. For reservations and information, call 800/223-9832.

Austrian Holiday



Forget that *Conde Nast Traveler* magazine named Vienna's Hotel Imperial "Best Hotel in the World" in 1994. The sheer romanticism of this ornate 19th-century architectural landmark stands on its own, as do the storybook fantasies that have been inspired by its sumptuous design.

Inaugurated in 1873 as the Württemberg Palace by Emperor Franz Josef I, the Imperial brings a legacy of grand opulence into the 20th century. From its sinfully lavish rooms and palatial suites, to the velvety bath and bed linens that will send you straight to the Pratesi racks back home, the Imperial is a total experience for the senses. And that's all before you step onto the cobblestone streets of this fabled city.

On the famed Ringstrasse—the cosmopolitan hub of Viennese social, cultural and business life—you're never far from the sights and sounds that have earned Vienna a reputation for being one of the most romantic cities in Europe. For honeymooners, the choice couldn't be sweeter—or more memorable.

From \$325 nightly. For reservations and information, call 800/325-3589.





Nestled in the heart of northern California's majestic Sonoma County is one of the region's best-kept secrets—not to mention a favorite getaway of those looking for the simplicity of a bed and breakfast, the elegance of a fine hotel, and the seclusion of a private residence. Built in 1877 by a local logging family, The Inn at Occidental has been applauded for all three characteristics since opening its doors in 1988 to an appreciative clientele.

Adorned with an enviable cache of antiques and collectibles courtesy of owner Jack Bullard's penchant for the stuff, The Inn is a picture-perfect embodiment of everything you hope for in a B&B. Not surprisingly, both the National and California Associations of Bed and Breakfast Inns chose Bullard's property for the cover of their 1995 editions. Each of The Inn's eight guest rooms and private baths—most with fireplaces—is unique and tastefully stylized with the warmth of country and the elegance of Victorian

decor. The downstairs living room, with its centerpiece fireplace, is cozy and functional—ideal for an intimate



gathering for two or a wedding reception for 40.

The area surrounding The Inn is equally alluring. Ancient redwoods, a rugged ocean coast, and meandering trails and bike paths with apple blossoms in the spring and wine vineyards in the fall create a nature-lover's nirvana.

From \$95 nightly. For reservations and information, call 800/522-6324.

French Twist



If Provence is on your wish list, so too should be the Hostellerie les Frênes. As if carved from a Van Gogh landscape, this lovely 19th-century hotel set in the heart of Avignon is a panoramic treat for the senses and imagination. Run by the charming Biancone family, who first opened their private home to guests in 1969, this enchanting 20-room country villa is a treasure trove for romantics and historians alike. The city and surrounding region are home to the-

ater and opera festivals in the summer and fall, and offer a superb vantage point from which to tour one of Provence's richest corners.

At the helm of the hotel's Le Jardin des Frênes restaurant is the youngest of the Biancones: Antoine, who has masterminded a stellar cuisine for his guests. Considered among the region's top bistros, Le Jardin offers a menu of provençal cuisine that is both innovative, refreshing and unforgettable. With Chef Antoine in the kitchen, it's little wonder that no one left home.

From \$120 nightly. For reservations and information, call 800/223-9832.



This is the ranch that Billy Crystal and his "City Slicker" friends had hoped for when they saddled up for a weeklong trek through the Old West. Unfortunately, they hadn't heard about The Home Ranch, in northern Colorado on the Continental Divide, where creature comforts rate nearly as high as the scenery: Gourmet meals, hot tubs, maid ser-



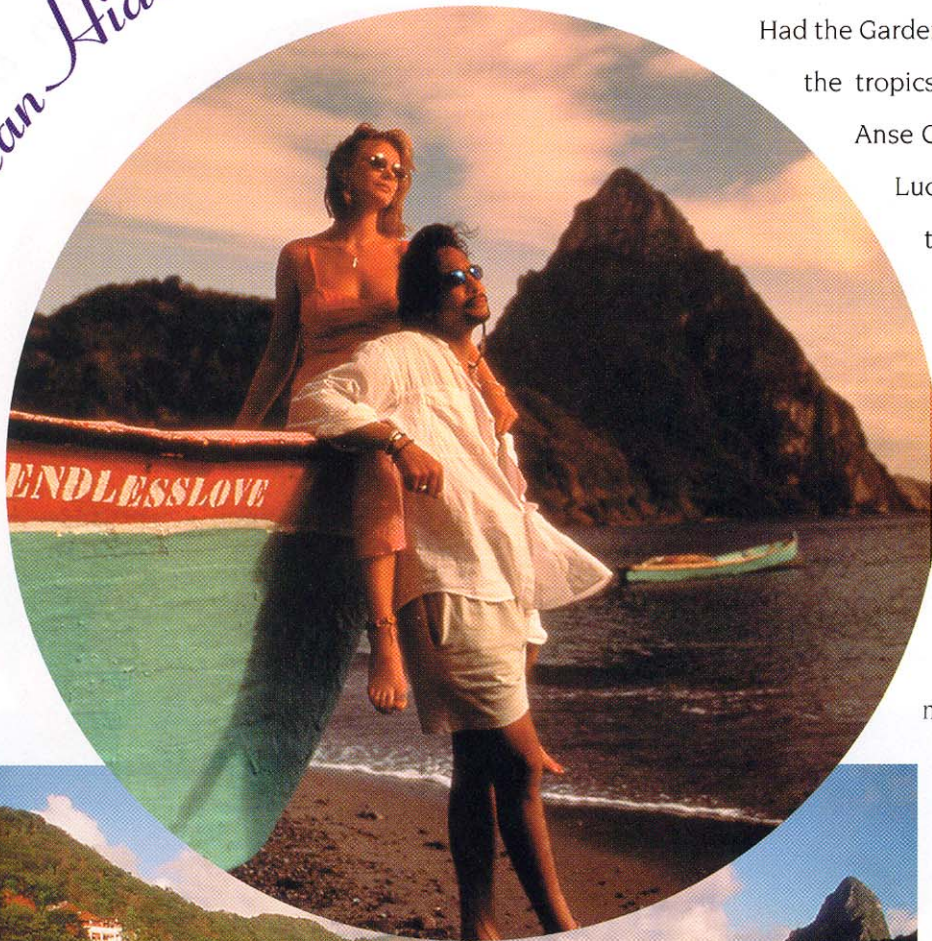
vice and homemade chocolate-chip cookies delivered daily to each guest room are enough to woo the stress from the most tense city-dweller, to say nothing of one's libido.

Eight private cabins, varying in size from a single-bedroom studio to a three-bedroom, two-bath "house," are fully self-supporting, equipped with wood-burning stoves, stocked refrigerators and a direct line to the

ranch's own gourmet kitchen. Outdoor activities run the gamut of summer and winter activities, from horseback riding (lessons for novices), fly-fishing, hiking and rodeo exhibitions; to arts and crafts, and shopping excursions to picturesque Steamboat Springs.

From \$385 nightly. For reservations and information, call 970/879-1780.

Caribbean Hideaway



Had the Garden of Eden ever been envisioned in the tropics it is likely to have looked like Anse Chastanet on the tiny island of St. Lucia. Its swaying palm trees, balmy trade-winds and kaleidoscopic array of bougainvillea make for as idyllic a Utopia as one could imagine.

Home of the world-famous twin peaks (Gros Piton and Petit Piton), rising more than 2,600 feet above the Caribbean's azure waters, this mountain hideaway has earned kudos from romantics in search of a true unspoiled paradise. With miles of deserted beaches to explore and 19,000 acres of tropical rainforest to enjoy, this remote 500-acre estate was made to offer its guests the best of all worlds. Each of its 48 rooms was designed with privacy and luxury in mind, set within the lush countryside and outfitted with all of the amenities one would expect of a true Utopian retreat.

St. Lucia is more accessible than ever, thanks to two airports and two major seaports. As for island excursions, St. Lucia's newly paved West Coast Road now links the northern Castries area to the spectacular scenic attractions of the Southwest in and around nearby Soufrière.

Honeymoon and wedding packages available from \$495 nightly. For reservations and information, call 809/459-7000.

Canadian Highlife

Honeymooning thrill-seekers and adventure lovers will want to include Nimmo Bay Resort on their "Been-There-Done-That" list. On the western edge of majestic British Columbia, 200 miles northwest of Vancouver, the folks at Nimmo Bay have pioneered the sport of "heli-venture," helicopter-chauffeured jaunts high above the Canadian Rockies delivering what promises to be an unequalled experience in aviation, angling and aquatic adventure alike. "To fly is human; to hover, divine," proclaims the colorful brochure.



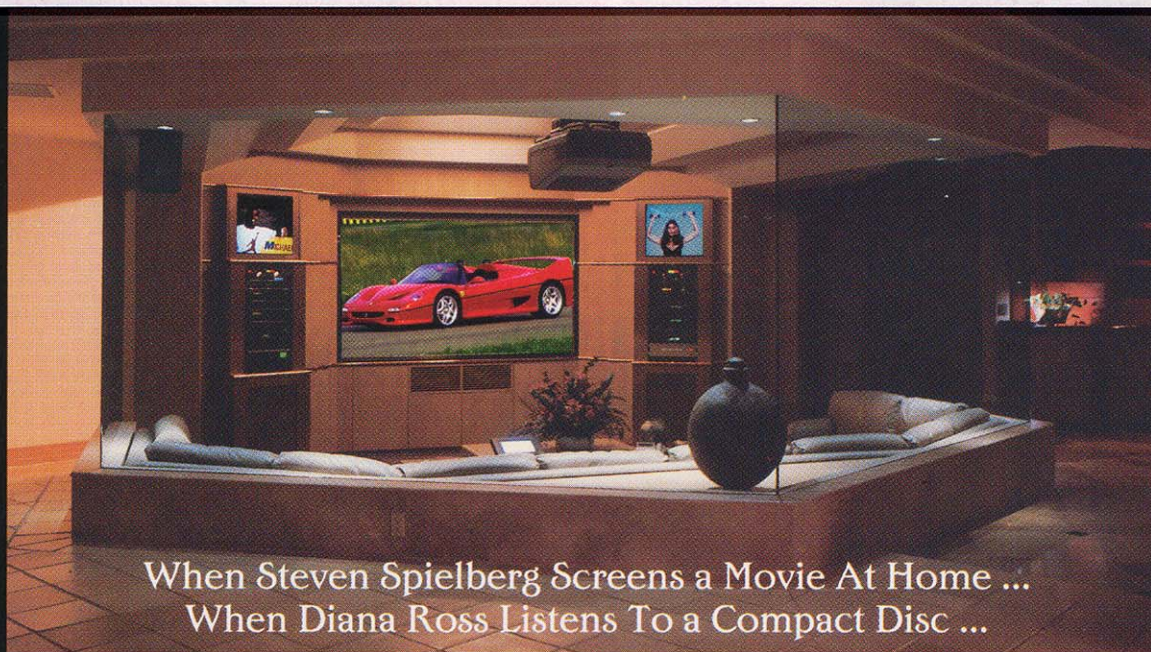
Visit grizzly bears in their native habitat, fly-fish or spin-cast for the best Pacific salmon this side of the Publix fish counter, or watch killer whales as they migrate through the frigid glacial waters below. Finish off the day

in a steaming mountainside Jacuzzi followed by a candlelit feast of gourmet proportions.

The bigger the thrill, the bigger the price tag. Four days in a chopper with your loved one: \$8,590 (four-night minimum, all inclusive). For reservations and

information, call 800/557-4255. ◆

All rates in this story are based on double occupancy. Special conditions may apply.



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