

westessexlife

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Purple reign

Why it's this year's
hottest shade

WEDDING
SPECIAL
Guaranteed to
get you in the
mood for
romance

Turning Japanese
*Saisaki, the Epping eatery
that's full of Eastern promise*



PARADISE FOUND

Enjoy post-wedding bliss on a beautiful Caribbean island

As hopeless romantics, we know only too well which dreamy locations will hit the sweet spot for those in search of the ultimate honeymoon destination.

There is an endless choice of enchanting places that present the perfect setting. Deserted island, sunset cocktails, warm sandy beaches and intimate secluded coves adorned by gently swaying palm trees are all on the list. Have we set the scene?

Not surprisingly, many newlyweds head for the sun-kissed Caribbean with its white-sand beaches, lush tropical gardens and grand hotels where your every whim is catered for, with a dash of island charm. So let us do the hard work and make sure your dream romantic getaway is extra special.

Here's a selection of our favourite Caribbean honeymoon gems.

Hermitage Bay, Antigua

Antigua has 365 sweeping white sand beaches, there's one for every day of the year - and that's how long you'll want to stay on this idyllic island. Journey down a private track and you'll be greeted by this beautiful resort tucked away on a hillside in a hidden cove, with cottages that seamlessly blend into the environment. All this overlooks a white-sand beach and turquoise waters. Hermitage Bay draws honeymooners that are looking for seclusion and dazzling beaches. With just 30 cottages, a sense of intimacy is guaranteed. We recommend the Hillside Pool suites, which feature their own private plunge pool and breathtaking views of the beach and ocean below from their vantage point nestled into the hill.

7 nights from £3,499 per person

sharing a Garden Suite on All-Inclusive
Offer - Save 10% or receive a complimentary suite upgrade for honeymooners

ABOVE:
The breathtaking landscape of St Lucia makes it the ideal romantic getaway



Hermitage Bay is all white sandy beach and turquoise waters

**Stolentime by Rendezvous,
Saint Lucia**

With its romantic mountain scenery, it's little wonder that this picturesque island is such a favourite amongst honeymooners. Those seeking a relaxing and romantic break, should look no further than one of the Caribbean's most popular adults-only resorts. An all-inclusive luxury resort for couples, surrounded by two miles of powdery beach and exotic tropical gardens, it's no surprise Rendezvous has been called "The Romantic Holiday". Private, peaceful and unspoilt, it's hard to imagine a more idyllic setting. Here you can relax under a secluded beachside cabana, treat yourselves to a couples massage at the spa, take up a game of tennis and sip champagne nightly in the piano bar.

7 nights from £1,899 per person sharing a Premium Garden View Room on All-Inclusive
Offer - Save up to 40% plus a complimentary massage and a bottle of sparkling wine for honeymooners



**The House by Elegant Hotels,
Barbados**

Exclusively for adults, the House by Elegant Hotels is a tranquil retreat and the perfect luxury escape for hopeless romantics. Set on the platinum sands of the island's West Coast, this elegant boutique hotel is renowned for its attentive service ambassadors who are just waiting to spoil you. With a relaxed beach house feel, the 34 well positioned Junior suites and one-bedroom suites enjoy an attractive, contemporary style. Watch deep orange sunsets from the hotel deck overlooking the ocean, while sipping a divine cocktail. Daphne's, one of the islands



LALUNA 2017 © ORLANDO ROMAIN

best restaurants, is also next door - as well as a number of other fine dining options close by. There is more than enough temptation for choosing this luxurious and elegant resort.

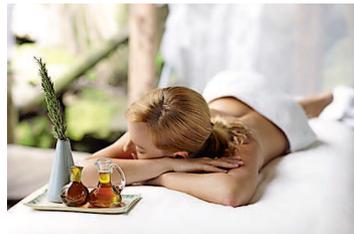
7 nights from £2,129 per person sharing a Garden View Junior Suite including breakfast

Offer - Save up to 40%. Honeymooners staying 5 nights or more receive a bottle of champagne and flower petals in their room on arrival

Laluna, Grenada

Whether dancing to calypso bands on the beach or swimming in romantic waterfalls in unspoilt rainforest, you'll find Grenada is as surprising as it is beautiful. It is hard to put our finger on what in particular makes Laluna one of the coolest, most romantic hideaways in the Caribbean. Is it the sunset bar or the seclusion of the white sand beach? Everything from the views to the atmosphere and the chic design makes this a gorgeous place to spend some time with someone special. Drink in the scenery of the endless blue ocean from your private plunge pool and spend the evening indulging in sundowners from the collection of wines hand chosen and imported by the Italian Owner. Italian influences are also evident in the delicious food much of which has been handpicked in Italy and shipped to Laluna. Complimentary yoga classes take place daily and the Asian-style spa offers a wonderful array of pampering treatments. Laluna is a real gem of a resort epitomising barefoot luxury with top end service.

7 nights from £1,995 per person



sharing a cottage suite on room only
Offer - Save up to 20%

Viceroy Riviera Maya, Mexico

From jungles and mystical Mayan temples to vibrant modern cities, Mexico's diversity is enthralling - and honeymooners will fall in love with the tranquil Viceroy Riviera Maya. An adults-only hideaway fringed by lush palm and guava trees, you'll enjoy the utmost privacy in your villa-style accommodation, which comes complete with its own private plunge pool and a Mayadormo butler service. The luscious spa, draped in exotic jungle foliage, provides the perfect backdrop for relaxation and revitalisation. Choose between two superb restaurants or, for something really special, why not opt for a candlelit dinner on the beach, just the two of you. You'll also be just ten minutes from Playa del Carmen, one of Mexico's most trendy holiday hotspots.

7 nights from £2,239 per person sharing a luxury villa inclusive of breakfast
Offer - Save up to 35% plus receive a US\$100 resort credit

Get in touch.

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ABOVE:
The view of the beach from one of the cottages at Laluna

BELOW LEFT:
Enjoy being pampered at the Viceroy Riviera Maya

LEFT:
Watch beautiful sunsets at The House by Elegant Hotels



Abbotts Travel's triple whammy

Is the award for Top London Travel Agency about to go to Abbotts Travel for the third year in a row? The South Woodford-based agency certainly hopes so, having just been shortlisted for the gong by industry bible Travel Trade Gazette. It's going to have to wait a couple of months to find out though, because the winner won't be announced until the tail end of April at a special awards evening which this year takes place at The Vox in Birmingham. Of course the Abbotts Travel team will be in attendance, eager to make it a hat trick!

BUSINESS NEWS

All the latest from local businesses

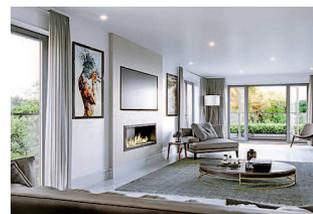


ON YER' BIKE!

A local businessman has gone from an occasional Boris bike user to cycling across Lao for charity. Peircing Hill's David Tymms, CEO of city-based i-movo (a digital payments platform) planned the ride after an impassioned conversation with a stranger in a pub about unexploded landmines in the Southeast Asian country. Determined to raise money for the Mine Advisory Board to help clear the live bombs away, his ride will commence on February 3. tinyurl.com/yblwwdj7

GOING, GOING...

Higgins Homes is quietly patting itself on the back having had reservations for all but one of the apartments at Augustus Lodge in Chigwell (named after Augustus Pugin, a leading light of the Arts and Crafts movement). The company has however, saved the best to last, with the launch of The Penthouse Collection, offering the ultimate in luxury living and situated right next door to Chigwell Golf Course. The penthouse show apartment opens on February 2, with viewings by appointment only. Prices start from £825,000. augustuslodge.com



The gift of giving



Such is the generosity of the staff at Haslers that when the company made its annual appeal to donate gifts to charity, they were inundated with so many presents that the Chartered Accountancy firm not only fulfilled its

obligation to the Frank Charles Give a Gift Appeal (where presents are given to the Acorn Ward at Whipps Cross Hospital), but were also able to extend their gift giving to include Loughton Baptist Church's Give a Gift scheme (where presents go to the local homeless shelter). Well done guys!