

TOWN & COUNTRY

WEDDINGS

SPRING/SUMMER 2014

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choose your own JOURNEY

There are two ways to decide on a honeymoon destination: Close your eyes and spin the globe, or pick from our list of foolproof choices for culture, adventure, or a quick jaunt away from home.

BY STEPHANIE WU



> *venice*

THIS CITY HAS NO SHORTAGE of attractions, from the canals to the famed landmarks—which explains why it gets 30,000 visitors a day. For a personalized (and more private) experience, book through IC Bellagio, run by Andrea Grisdale, one of Italy's top travel planners. Her itineraries feature private art tours, a visit to Italy's oldest café, and a day trip to surrounding islands, including Murano, where the famous hand-blown glass is made. Venetians know never to skip aperitivo hour, when you can meet locals over wine and *cicchetti* (traditional snacks). Grisdale's connections also allow her to arrange exclusive tours, such as a visit to the studio of designer Roberta di Camerino—whose bags became status symbols after one was spotted on the arm of Grace Kelly. *From \$26,500 per couple for six nights (airfare not included), icbellagio.com*



> *morocco*



MARRAKECH-BASED TOUR operator Boutique Souk takes travelers through the city's museums, palaces, and, indeed, souks, as well as such landmarks as the bustling Jemaa el-Fna Square, with its snake charmers and acrobats. On this trip you'll stay in the stunning Royal Mansour Hotel (*above*), in a tent with a private pool, and in a treehouse. For professional pictures, a photographer can tag along for a day. End the vacation in the coastal town of Oualidia, with a boat trip featuring a picnic of local oysters. *From \$11,835 per couple for seven nights (airfare not included), boutiquesouk.com*

FOR *culture fiends*

> *burma*



ASIA-BASED TOUR OPERATOR Remote Lands has seen a spike of interest in Burma (a.k.a. Myanmar) recently,

especially from those who have already traveled far and wide on the rest of the continent. With translators and guides, you'll see Burma old and new, from ancient temples and colonial buildings to contemporary galleries and high-end gem shops. Along the way you can go for a hot air balloon ride over Bagan (*left*), take a sunset cruise on the Yangon River, visit Buddhist monasteries, and spend a few days at Lake Inle, which is home to vineyards, floating markets, and stilt house villages. (One house is famous for the purebred Burmese cats that reside there.) The trip finishes up with a kickboxing lesson and a visit to a fortune teller for a glimpse of what's ahead. *From \$15,000 per couple for nine nights (airfare not included), remotelands.com*

FOR *adventure seekers*



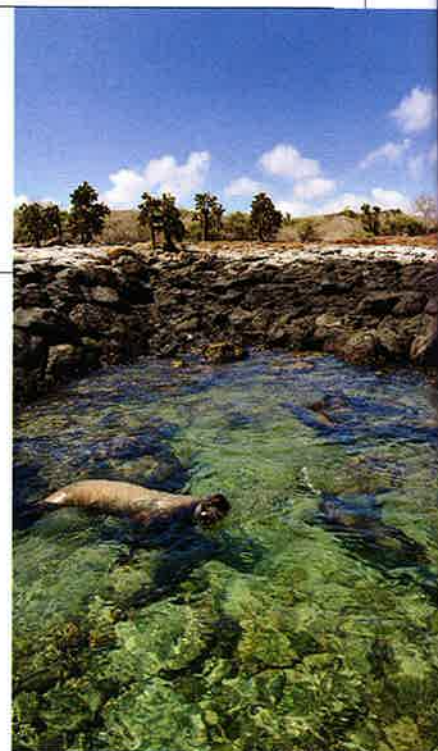
> *serengeti*

IT'S A LITTLE-KNOWN FACT THAT THE GREAT Migration actually goes on all year—you just have to know when to go where. Epic Road, a tour operator with a philanthropic and conservation bent, can help you figure it out. On its safaris you can view zebras, gazelles, and elephants from an open vehicle, on foot, or from a hot air balloon. Spend nights on a coffee plantation and at the decked-out Singita camps. Depending on the time of year, you might witness newborn wildebeests learning to run, crocodiles hunting at the Grumeti River crossing, or lions stalking antelope. And with Epic Road, you can do your part by helping to geotag members of endangered species, tracking rhinos, or distributing solar-powered lights to those without electricity. *From \$1,200 per couple, per night, epicroad.com*



> *galápagos*

LOCATED ON SANTA Cruz Island in the Galápagos, Pikaia Lodge, the archipelago's latest high-end resort, is for those who want the islands to be more than a pit stop during a cruise. The brand new lodge, on a former cattle ranch, was built with recyclable steel and glass, as well as local stone, and is completely eco-friendly. There are only 14 rooms in the hotel—one has its own plunge pool—so you'll feel as though you have the place to yourself, especially if you're taking a day trip on a yacht to one of the even more secluded islands, beaches, or national parks nearby. Other activities include snorkeling, checking out lava tunnels, spending a quiet day on Garrapatero Beach, and hunting for the famous giant tortoises and seals that populate the area. *From \$3,230 per person for three nights (all-inclusive), pikaialodgegalapagos.com*



> *patagonia*

THOSE WHO LOVE THE GREAT OUTDOORS SHOULD visit South America's Tierra Patagonia (*left*), located on the edge of Torres del Paine National Park (a UNESCO-protected area) and Lake Sarmiento. At the hotel you can alternate your days between horseback riding with Patagonian *baqueanos* (local cowboys) and puma-spotting along the lake. The restaurant serves meat from local ranches, and there's a weekly asado, the traditional barbecue beloved by early settlers as well as modern-day South Americans. The weather in the area is known to fluctuate rapidly, but should the temperature dip during a hike, climb, or boat ride to Grey Glacier, head back to the hotel for one of its signature hot whiskey drinks or, of course, a classic pisco sour. *Open September 1 to April 30; from \$2,050 per person for three nights (all-inclusive), tierrapatagonia.com*