

FOR THE BRIDE

SPRING 2009

SECRETS TO A
HAPPY
MARRIAGE

10
BEAUTY TIPS
THAT
REALLY
WORK

EASY STEPS TO A
SEXY BODY

ULTIMATE TRAVEL
SUITES
SPAS
BEACHES

LOVE IN

BLOOM

MAKE YOUR DAY A CELEBRATION TO REMEMBER



LOVE TAKES A *Holiday*

THE CAKE'S BEEN EATEN, THE CHAMPAGNE'S BEEN DRUNK. NOW IT'S ESCAPE TIME. HERE, 10 NEWLYWED VACATIONS—NEAR AND FAR.

SWITZERLAND Few places are as ruggedly beautiful and urbane as Switzerland. Blessed with natural drama—breathtaking vistas of serrated peaks and deep valleys—it is a living postcard with three distinct regions. Each offers visitors a wealth of diversions, all with an accent of the outdoors.

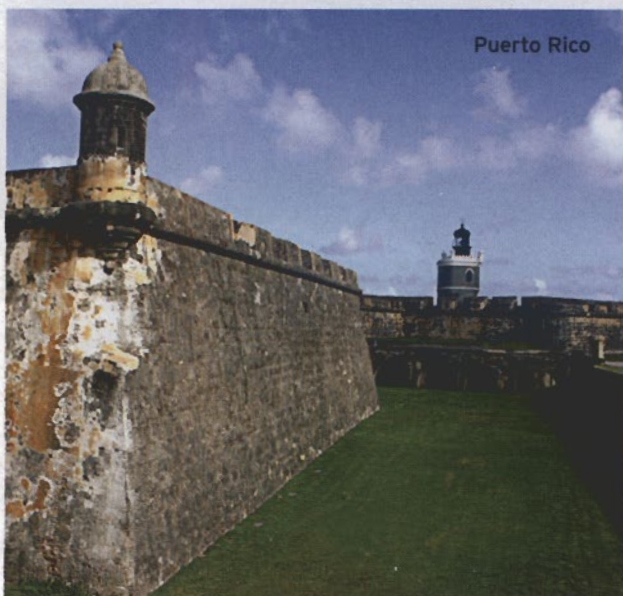
In German-speaking east, skiing is the activity of choice, mostly on glaciers that abut the villages of Zermatt, Saas-Fee and Gstaad. In French-speaking west, a laid-back sensibility permeates the storybook hamlets of St. Moritz, Crans-Montana and Verbier, where Rolexes are as omnipresent as Ferraris and marinating over a martini is the *raison d'être*. The Italian-speaking south really warms to visitors during the summer, when bikers and hikers take to trails leading to villages where populations often top out at a few dozen. If cities are more your speed, head for the refinement of Zurich and Geneva. Regardless of where you visit, you'll have an unforgettable stay, courtesy of people who delight in offering hospitality. —Chris Michael



PUERTO RICO A salsa beat, fast and sexy, sets the pace. Island meets urban in the capital, San Juan, where nightclubs and open-air cafes energize a romantic Old World setting of cobbled streets and balconied buildings. Beaches of every kind—windswept, surf-ready and diver's delight—ring this U.S. commonwealth, backed by a mountainous interior of vast caves and lush forests. Even nature makes music on P.R. The island's coqui frog, a wee fellow with a strong song, thrives in the El Yunque rainforest. For more creature comforts, take a post-sundown swim in Phosphorescent Bay, where microscopic organisms cause your breaststroke to glow in the dark. For terra-not-so-firma, hike one of the world's largest cave networks at Rio Camuy.

For a truly unique experience, reserve a "loft" at **Hix Island House** (hixislandhouse.com) on the off-shore island of Vieques. Here you'll find a unique blend of indoor/outdoor living adventure and night theater under the stars. The three villas—Casa Redonda, Casa Rectangular and Casa Triangular—possess the largest cement studio lofts on Vieques and are dramatically set on a gentle rolling hillside. A tradition at Hix is stocking your apartment for breakfast including homemade potato bread and for your comfort luxurious cotton robes. As you may have already guessed ecology plays a big role at this "green" resort: Solar panels provide all the electricity and hot water. An elegant pool and yoga studio are also run by the sun.

—C.M.



Puerto Rico



Sheriva

ANGUILLA There's not much to do on Anguilla. No mountains to scale. No extreme sports. Not even good shopping. And that's exactly the point. Mornings are spent lingering in bed over fresh-squeezed juice and croissants, afternoons are best enjoyed on the beach or by your private plunge pool. Nightlife is nonexistent, with the exception of *Johnno's Beach Stop* (a favorite of all who visit), known for its great music and dancing under the stars.

Begin your journey together at **Sheriva** (sheriva.com) at Sheriton Estates—an enclave of three luxurious villas where guests enjoy privileges at the very tony **Cap Juluca** resort next door. At Sheriva, you may rent an entire villa (or all three) but you may also want to explore renting a portion of one of these "luxury boutique villa hotels"—perfect for destination weddings and honeymoons. Accommodations range from one-bedroom private pool suites to palatial seven-bedroom villas; all offering incredible views of neighboring St. Martin, Cove Bay and the Caribbean—and seven private pools. Yet, there is exceptional privacy to be enjoyed. And just in case you want to be in touch with the "world" there is cable TV, DVD players and Wi-Fi available. Dining in-villa with your own private chef, or out at one of the surprisingly numerous top-notch restaurants, is one of the island's most popular sports. But for a truly romantic night, book a torchlit table in the sand at Cap Juluca, where white Moorish archways rise behind you and the chef serves up a array of fresh seafood, tapas and other mouth-watering morsels.

—Clint Brownfield

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS On a typical day in the B.V.I. a fisherman guides his crayon-colored skiff to shore, blowing on a conch shell to alert locals to his catch. Offshore, a dozen gleaming yachts bob in the bay's calm. Yes, tranquility rules! You've arrived in a sailor's paradise, where modern-day swashbucklers day-trip to Jost Van Dyke for aptly named Painkiller cocktails. Or land in Tortola just in time for a raucous full-moon party at *Bomba's Shack*. Virgin Gorda is mandatory for snorkeling among the granite boulders that line the oh-so-photogenic Baths. For landlubbers? Well, they hide out in a variety of places such as **Aquamare** (villaaquamare.com), a group of three new luxurious villas, forming one of the most private and exclusive enclaves on Virgin Gorda. Each multi-level 8,000-square foot villa can host up to a dozen pampered guests in three master suites designed for private in-room spa treatments, in addition to a junior suite and a studio. Each room features the utmost in privacy with breathtaking views of the private sandy beach and the islets in the Drake Channel beyond. All villas feature a private infinity pool, Frette linens, LCD flat screen TVs, fully equipped, professional-grade kitchens and, of course, a private chef upon request. You may be as active or non-active as you wish while at Aquamare but you will undoubtedly want to take advantage of the island's attractions, most of which will involve frolicking in the gorgeous turquoise waters that surround you. Be sure to charter one of Aquamare's yachts for a romantic sunset cruise. Just the two of you, the night and the entire Milky Way. Once you visit, you'll want to return.

—C. B. ♦