

**20 Dream Escapes**  
 What's your idea of romance?  
 Exploring the sexy streets of Manhattan?  
 Sipping in a swathed, overcast boudoir in Rome? Soggy  
 Sampling local seafood on Italy's Sorrento Coast?  
 We've scoured the globe for unique and romantic  
 experiences that will put you in the mood.



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**Seminyak**; 62-361/737-773; [anantara.com](http://anantara.com); doubles from \$530) attracts couples looking for more of a scene. At its rooftop club, sip cocktails on daybeds and watch the sun set. On nearby Jimbaran Beach, order lobster, shrimp, or squid grilled over coconut husks at **Jimbaran Fish Grills** (no phone; lunch for two \$20). Afterward, continue to the southernmost point of the island's Bukit Peninsula for the views from one of Bali's most sacred temples, **Pura Luhur Uluwatu**, which commands a cliff above the surf.

**KERALA, INDIA** This lush South Indian state—the birthplace of ayurveda—is an intricate web of calm backwaters. Here you'll find the **Kumarakom Lake Resort** (*Kumarakom North Post, Kottayam*; 91-481/252-4900; [thepaul.in](http://thepaul.in); doubles from \$437), set on 25 acres alongside Lake Vembanad. A world unto itself, the resort features 49 villas that were created with materials sourced from century-old ancestral homes and are full of traditional details: wooden gables, carved doors, massive brass locks. Sample the spicy curries (okra-and-tomato *bindi masala*) and exotic ice creams (pepper; nutmeg) at the restaurant **Ettukettu** (dinner for two \$60). A five-minute ride away is the 14-acre **Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary**, filled with storks, herons, egrets, and parrots. You can also rent one of the property's thatched-roof houseboats for a tour of the area's palm-lined fields and Hindu temples. By day, float past villages and fishing canoes. Come night, you can be alone on the shimmering lake.

**PATMOS, GREECE** Just 14 square miles, this tiny island of the Dodecanese archipelago is only accessible via boat. The rewards, however, are well worth the trip.

From the port of Skala, head to Chora, a walled hilltop village that's a maze of interlinked courtyards, chapels, and whitewashed mansions—one of which serves as the town's only hotel. At the 17th-century **Archontariki** (30-22470/29368; [archontariki-patmos.gr](http://archontariki-patmos.gr); doubles from \$254) you'll find six modern-rustic suites with stone archways, teak furniture, and private roof-

top terraces overlooking the Aegean Sea. Patmos has countless hidden coves and deserted beaches along its jigsaw coastline. Don't miss a stroll on secluded Diakofti Beach—then try the fried zucchini balls at the shorefront food stand. At dusk, make your way to **Benetos** (*Sapsila*; 30-22470/33089; dinner for two \$50), on the edge of Sapsila Bay, for fresh fish dishes such as grouper fillet with caramelized onions, and herb-crusted seared tuna with wasabi and seaweed.

**GRENADA** Some 200 years ago, the writer Henry Nelson Coleridge called Grenada a “poet's Arcadia.” And for decades to come, the tiny Caribbean island, with its powerful waterfalls that flow into the sea and fragrant nutmeg trees, remained an insiders' secret. The opening of the Bali-inspired **Laluna Resort** (*Morne Rouge, St. George's*; 473/439-0001; [laluna.com](http://laluna.com); cottages from \$730) and the more recent **Mount Cinnamon Beach Resort** (*Morne Rouge, St. George's*; 473/439-9900; [mountcinnamongrenada.com](http://mountcinnamongrenada.com); doubles from \$500), on a white-sand beach, heralded a new level of sophistication. But Grenada's authenticity and natural appeal remain. One-sixth of the land is protected wilderness, including Grand Étang, a crater lake set atop an extinct volcano. Farmers still sell fresh fruit and spices at the market, and in the French-colonial capital, St. George's, the winding roads are lined with boutiques like **Tikal** (473/440-2310), which carries local crafts. On Friday nights, listen to steel drums at the fish fry that takes over the small village of Gouyave. End your day at the beachside **Aquarium** (*Magazine Beach*; 473/444-1410; dinner for two \$60), for West Indian barbecue served beneath the stars.

# SECRET VILLAGES

**CHASSIGNOLLES, FRANCE** Lost at a head-clearing elevation of 3,000 feet in the Livradois-Forez, France's largest national park, 100 miles southwest of Lyons, Chassignolles invites long, extravagantly lazy days spent communing with cows, admiring the accidental land art created by a farmer with some hay bales, and stopping to smell the rockroses that fringe the lanes. There is only one place to stay: **Auberge de Chassignolles** (*Le Bourg*; 33-4/71-76-32-36; [aubergedechassignolles.com](http://aubergedechassignolles.com); doubles from \$58; dinner for two \$44). The eight rooms are basic, but the views are ravishing, whether of the village's 12th-century church or the surrounding wildflower meadows. The English chef-owner Harry Lester, an early and important crusader in the gastropub campaign, will be chalking his menu board with dandelion-and-marigold salad dressed in sunflower oil, a citrusy fresh goat cheese, and a cherry-and-almond tart. If Chassignolles isn't heaven on earth, it will have to do.

**VICO EQUENSE, ITALY** A crenellated castle, pink-washed cliff-top church, and pebbled beach make Vico Equense perhaps the most dramatic—though surprisingly undiscovered—village on the Sorrento Coast. On the main coastal road, Annamaria Cuomo and Salvatore De Gennaro serve cured meats and cheeses at their epicurean market **La Tradizione** (969 Via R. Bosco; 39-081/802-8437; lunch for two \$40). At **Torre del Saracino** (9 Via Torretta, Località Marina d'Equa; 39-081/802-8555; lunch for two \$190), chef Gennaro Esposito creates innovative dishes, such as risotto with cod and figs, in a seventh-century tower. Stay just outside the village at the **Hotel Capo La Gala** (8 Via Luigi Serio; 39-081/801-5757; [hotelcapogala.com](http://hotelcapogala.com); doubles from \$260), a stone-studded cliffside lodge. The hotel has a nautical theme: porthole windows and hurricane lamps in the lobby, blue-and-white guest rooms accented with miniature model boats. Book one of the nine Classic rooms, and take your breakfast (cappuccino and croissants) on the roomy balcony overlooking the Bay of Naples. »

# DESERT GETAWAYS

**FEZ, MOROCCO** Though often overshadowed by Marrakesh, its fashionable neighbor to the south, this medieval city is the real soul of Morocco. And with new boutique hotels opening in restored *riads* and *dars*, Fez is quietly coming into its own. Housed in a 17th-century palace, **Riad Laaroussa** (3 *Derb Bechara*; 212-74/187-639; [riad-laaroussa.com](http://riad-laaroussa.com); doubles from \$194, including breakfast) has seven suites with mosaic floors and antique Fassi furniture, all looking out on an orange-tree–shaded courtyard. At **Dar Roumana** (30 *Derb el Amer, Zkak Roumane*; 212-35/741-637; [darroumana.com](http://darroumana.com); doubles from \$109), a century-old manse on a hillside, you can take Moroccan cooking lessons. The restaurant at **Riad Ibn Battouta** (9 *Derb Lalla Mina, Ave. Allal el Fassi*; 212-35/637-191; [riadibnbattouta.com](http://riadibnbattouta.com); dinner for two \$88) serves traditional dishes, such as lamb *tagine*, on a glass-roofed marble patio. Within the city's crumbling walls, 30,000 artisans fill the streets, brandishing everything from exquisite tiles to handworked leather goods. For a traditional Berber rug, head to **Coin Berbère** (67 *Talaa Kebira, corner of Derb el Horra*; 212-35/636-946). At the newly opened **Arganza** (9 *Rue de la Poste*; no phone), you'll find shelves of argan oil—derived from a native tree—which is known as “Moroccan liquid gold” for its ability to diminish dry skin and wrinkles.

**SAN CAMP, BOTSWANA** The middle of nowhere, recast as one of the sexiest places on earth? Only in Africa—the stark Makgadikgadi Pans in northeastern Botswana, to be precise. The Uncharted Africa Safari Company's legendary **San Camp** (27-11/447-1605; [unchartedafrica.co.za](http://unchartedafrica.co.za); doubles from \$1,960), which opened in 1994 and is a favorite of safari enthusiasts such as photographer Peter Beard, has been completely updated. The tented main lodge is now far more roomy and luxurious, without sacrificing a shred of the original San's sensual charms: extra-long chaise longues in buttery leather; swing beds big enough for two. On the

perimeter, six very private white-canvas tents are appointed with tall four-poster beds and handwoven textiles; the enormous glass showers open to the deep-blue skies above. If you want to see more of Botswana, Uncharted Africa arranges multiday safaris through the Okavango Delta, where zebra and cheetah roam along dried floodplains, and the Western Kalahari lands of the Bushmen.

**PALM SPRINGS** Two hours east of Los Angeles, Palm Springs has long attracted Hollywood power couples, from Frank Sinatra and Ava Gardner in the 50's to Brad and Angelina. The newest draw for A-listers? The eight casitas at the year-old, Moroccan-inspired **Colony Palms Hotel** (572 *N. Indian Canyon Dr.*; 800/557-2187; [colonypalms.com](http://colonypalms.com); doubles from \$339; casitas from \$419), with private patios, outdoor bathtubs, and quick access to the **Purple Palm** restaurant, for a pool-side meal of Mediterranean-inspired dishes. There's more to do in Palm Springs than lounge by the pool: in a single afternoon you can hike through canyons and, after an eight-minute tram ride up **Mount San Jacinto** (1 *Tramway Rd.*; 888/515-8726; [pstramway.com](http://pstramway.com)), toss snowballs in a fairy-tale alpine forest. Head downtown to browse the Midcentury Modern furniture shops along North Palm Canyon Drive. One of the best is the new **Trina Turk Residential** (895 *N. Palm Canyon Dr.*; 760/416-2856), stocked with vintage pieces and pillows upholstered in Turk's signature graphic prints.

## MOUNTAINSIDE HIDEAWAYS

**TELLURIDE, COLORADO** Snowcapped mountains surround this mining village turned ski resort, where the scent of pine fills the air. Its streets are lined with 19th-century gingerbread houses and family-run shops such as the **Between the Covers Bookstore** (224 *W. Colorado Ave.*; 970/728-4504), a cozy bookshop with a café; and at **Coffee Cowboy** (123 *E. Colorado Ave.*; 970/369-4946) locals fuel up on fair-trade espresso before taking on the slopes. At **Honga's Lotus Petal** (133 *E. Colorado St.*; 970/728-5134), home to the town's best après-ski scene, bartender Sean Garatt mixes potent mojitos. For an

intimate dinner, reserve a table at **La Marmotte** (150 *W. San Juan Ave.*; 970/728-6232; dinner for two \$85), a 125-year-old former icehouse. Book one of the new hotels in nearby Mountain Village; the easiest way to get there is by gondola, especially atmospheric at dusk, when the valley lights up from the glow of streetlights. At **Lumière** (118 *Lost Creek Lane*; 866/530-9466; [lumierehotels.com](http://lumierehotels.com); doubles from \$319), all residences and penthouses come with a fireplace and oversize soaking tub. Or consider the 100-room **Capella Telluride** (568 *Mountain Village Blvd.*; 877/247-6688; [capellatelluride.com](http://capellatelluride.com); doubles from \$295), set to debut this month. With a butler catering to your every need, you'll be more than ready to hit the trails in the morning.

**WOODSTOCK, VERMONT** The town of Woodstock is a slice of classic Americana: a tableau of steepled churches, white picket fences, and covered bridges, all in the shadow of Vermont's expansive Green Mountains. At the **Woodstock Inn & Resort** (14 *The Green*; 800/448-7900; [woodstockinn.com](http://woodstockinn.com); doubles from \$175)—recently updated by designer Alexandra Champalimaud—the 142 rooms have red wool throws on the maple four-poster beds, perfect to curl up in while sipping the hot chocolate delivered at turndown. **F.H. Gillingham & Sons Country Store** (16 *Elm St.*; 802/457-2100; [gillinghams.com](http://gillinghams.com)) stocks snowshoes and mittens—just what you need for an afternoon trek in the woods. Down the road in a former woolen mill, **Shackleton Thomas** (Rte. 4, *Bridgewater*; 802/672-5175; [shackletonthomas.com](http://shackletonthomas.com)) sells handmade wooden bowls and ceramics. Before heading to the slopes of **Suicide Six** (Pomfret; 802/457-6661; lift tickets from \$36)—Vermont's oldest ski area—warm up with scrambled eggs and a house-made English muffin at the **Farmer's Diner** (Rte. 4, *Quechee*; 802/295-4600; breakfast for two \$20). +

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