



Bride To Be
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Looking for an escape from the everyday with your nearest and dearest? Slip away for a weekend, or even weeks on end, to one of these 10 loved-up city or tropical resorts



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1 The Sarojin, Thailand above:

WHERE? About 1 hour 20 minutes drive north of Phuket International Airport, outside Khao Lak on the east coast of Thailand.

ROMANCE BASICS Immerse yourself in nature and culture at this relaxing resort.

You're surrounded by rubber plantations, palms and all kinds of tropical flowers, not to mention a pristine white sandy beach fringing the Andaman Sea. It's the perfect backdrop for love. The rooms, ah the rooms – private gardens and sun decks, intimate couple's baths, rainfall showers, plunge pools and relaxation pools that blend into the natural habitat – you'll want to move right in and stay. However, we recommend you step out to enjoy a pleat boat ride through the mangroves, an elephant trek and a shopping expedition in nearby Khao Lak.

HOW MUCH? Book The Pool Residence from \$340 per night.

sarojin.com

made to feel the special guests you are. The rooms are sumptuous, dressed in fabrics in alluring colours, certain to imbibe romance.

And many have views over the spectacular Lake Bellagio, so be sure to watch the infamous fountain from your bedroom window.

HOW MUCH? Try the Romance Retreat package for \$1014. You'll get a night in the Lakeview Cypress Suite, limousine airport transfers, a bottle of Veuve Clicquet, a couple's massage, dinner for two and more...

bellagio.com



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2 Bellagio, USA

WHERE? On the Las Vegas 'Strip'.

ROMANCE BASICS With nearly 4000 rooms and suites, a casino (of course), restaurants, bars and shops, you'll feel lost in this urban fantasy land. But despite its size, you're still

3 Bedarra Island, Qld

WHERE? On the Great Barrier Reef in Far North Queensland.

ROMANCE BASICS With only 30 guests allowed to stay on the island at any one time in 16 private villas, you will feel like the two of you are all alone in paradise. This island has it all – exquisite food, secluded beaches, peace, privacy and more... Why not grab a picnic hamper and find your own little tropical nook, or take a dinghy and explore the bays? You'll find romance around every turn.

HOW MUCH? From \$1700 per night for a Hillside Villa. Add on a rejuvenating Spa Package for \$290 per person.

bedarra.com.au

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4 *The Chedi Club at Tanah Gajah, Bali, Indonesia*

WHERE? In Bali, just 3km from Ubud.

ROMANCE BASICS Delight in Balinese culture and architecture in this tranquil resort encircled by rice fields. The Pool Villas are luxe maximus and feature local artefacts, an outdoor bathtub (yum), a 10m private pool and sundeck with dining table – ideal for romantic dinners.

Before dining, head to The Bird Lounge for a cocktail as you listen to the trill of birdsong.

HOW MUCH? A Pool Villa is from \$548 per night, including a host of value adds.

karlamanda.com

5 *The Flamingo, USA*

WHERE? In the heart of Las Vegas.

ROMANCE BASICS A two-time finalist in the Hospitality Design Awards, the rooms are everything you'd expect – pink touches, of course, plus the mod cons. Think a TV inside the bathroom mirror, iPod connections and motorised curtains. Outside, you may want a map to get around – from gaming rooms and shops to the pool and a Wildlife Habitat, boredom is the only thing you won't find here.

HOW MUCH? Nab a Flamingo Go Room from around \$41 per night.

flamingo.com

6 *Metropolitan, Thailand*

WHERE? A 40-minute drive into town from Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport.

ROMANCE BASICS This urban hotel is inviting from the charming staff who greet you to the comfy rooms with bathrooms that go on forever. But what makes it outstanding is the food. Whether ordering room service or dining in Nahm restaurant, you can be certain of some of the finest food you'll ever taste.

HOW MUCH? The popular Metropolitan Room is \$358 per night.

metropolitan.bangkok.como.bz

7 *Turtle Bay Resort, Hawaii*

WHERE? On Oahu's North Shore.

ROMANCE BASICS This beach resort sits on a headland backed more than 800 acres of golf courses, bike trails and flora. Be sure to visit Spa Luana for pampering with indigenous fruit and plants. We think the Coconut Body

Scrub, Hawaiian Clay Ti Leaf Ritual and Pineapple Pedicure sound good enough to eat.

HOW MUCH? Try the North Shore Romance package for \$613 per night, with car rental, sparkling wine, strawberries, brekkie and more.
turtlebayresort.com

8 *Crown Plaza Coogee Beach, NSW*

WHERE? In Sydney's eastern suburbs.

ROMANCE BASICS The light-filled rooms are furnished in relaxing hues – great for hanging about in or slumbering in the king size bed.

Opposite, there's the beach for a splash in the waves, and nearby are shops and bars for retail therapy and fun. Check out the hotel's Bluesalt Bar with views over the Pacific – the cocktails are amazing – or the Ocean's Bar for delish pizza.

HOW MUCH? From \$270 for a King Ocean View Room with balcony.

coogeebeach.sydney.crownplaza.com

9 *Dunk Island, Qld*

WHERE? The Great Barrier Reef.

ROMANCE BASICS The Aborigines call this island 'Coonanglebah' – the island of peace and plenty. Peace? The Beachfront Suites are steps from the sand and views across Brammo Bay. Relax on your balcony in a robe and you'll soon forget about the TV and phone. Hungry? A daily menu means you could be enjoying Italian one meal and a tropical buffet the next at various restaurants.

HOW MUCH? The Beachfront Suite is from \$518 per night.

dunk-island.com

10 *Sebel Manly, NSW*

WHERE? Opposite Manly beach, 30 minutes drive or ferry trip from Sydney's CBD.

ROMANCE BASICS With room views across the ocean or to Sydney Harbour, or both – who could resist? Not to mention massive balconies with tables and chairs just perfect for taking it all in. If you go out, this hotel is the gateway to some of the best restaurants in Sydney, including its very own Manly Wine for relaxing beachside dining and cocktail sipping.

HOW MUCH? An Oceanview one-bedroom apartment is from \$299 per night.

mirvachotels.com/Sebel

