

CONDÉ NAST

BRIDES

HONEYMOON

GUIDE

2017/18

The luxury collection

From spas to bars, ocean views to OMG rooms, THIS is your kind of bliss



In association with

Turquoise
The Turquoise Holiday Company

BRIDES FIRST LOOK 30 brand-new properties inside
SWIMWEAR PANIC? As if! Dive into our edit

The luxury of... **privacy**

Destination VIP (THAT'S VERY IMPORTANT PRIVACY)

Push-the-boat-out pads that are all yours, discreet private islands and now-you-see-me, now-you-don't service... this is Do Not Disturb, the deluxe way

NORTH ISLAND SEYCHELLES



12 HOURS

YOU WANTED A PRIVATE ISLAND?

Well, you got it. In its *entirety*. It's almost impossible to get a true sense of North Island from pictures alone. Beneath the extraordinarily white, glittering sand, the topaz blue water, the *Jurassic Park* vegetation and the 11 box-fresh villas lies something that's hard to capture on camera – *pure*, unadulterated freedom. No crowded 'resort' vibes here. The appeal of North is the lack of restrictions: the ability to wake up and not see another soul all day, should you so wish, and the wonderful absence of forced fun or over-organised activities. That said, if you want a bit of action, there's plenty to do. Buggy (you get to drive it yourself: a buzz with a capital B) or cycle your way through the heart of the island on his-and-hers bikes; explore hidden beaches, with only giant tortoises for company; go kayaking, SUP-ing or learn to scuba dive (PADI exams and all) with awesome in-house instructor Nicole – for free. Yup, *for free*. It's not a cheap trip

(Wills and Kate stayed here for their honeymoon), but never has a property deserved its price tag more, because not only is it gloriously secluded and luxurious, but almost everything here is included (only spa treatments and private yoga classes are extra). So you can kick back in the knowledge that the food and refreshments can, and will, keep coming – including the personalised 'foodie goodies stuffed in your villa.

OUR KIND OF LUXE At chef Donaldson's beach barbecue there's no elaborate fanfare, no clothed tables or white-glove service and no other guests. Just you two, a wooden, candlelit table, a giant platter of fresh seafood (highlight: the lobster and shrimp with a zingy quinoa salad) and Julio, the mixologist, creating Prosecco cocktails for you all night. It's stripped-back luxury at its finest. **GO** *Yellow Zebra Safaris* (yellowzebra.com) offers seven nights from £22,367 per person, all inclusive. Includes flights, transfers and in-house activities. →





SAFONTASA POLLENÇA, MALLORCA



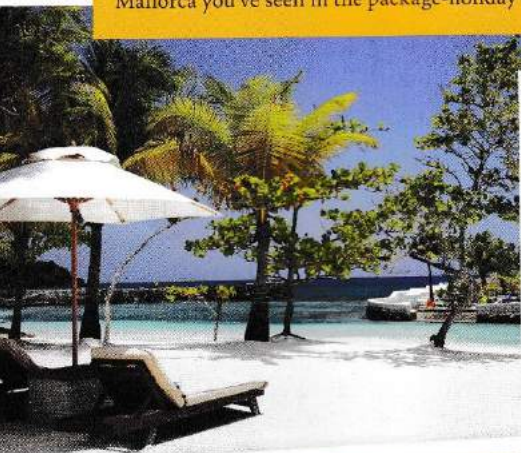
MOUNTAIN VIEWS, BRILLIANT BLUE SKIES, THE BEST SPOT BY THE POOL every day, and no one else in sight. Where do we sign up? Because, even though luxury hotels have their appeal (who doesn't love daily housekeeping?), a private villa – complete with its own turquoise pool – is where it's at for those who want real privacy. Sa Fontasa is a pretty little Mallorquin stone villa, surrounded by orchards, olive trees and the occasional donkey. Inside, cool meets trad with exposed beams, fresh white linen and playful pops of colour. It's the perfect setting to finally take a breath after the adrenaline rush of your big day. Your nearest neighbours are a few quiet hamlets (almost devoid of people, never mind tourists) – this really isn't the Mallorca you've seen in the package-holiday brochures.



For something a little livelier (though still relatively peaceful), the historic town of Pollença is a 30-minute drive away. Treat yourselves to some traditional Mallorquin delicacies at the Sunday market on the Plaça Major (town square), then stroll it off along the Pine Walk – a scenic pedestrianised area on the seafront at Puerto Pollença. Bring your bikini – the beach is 1.5km of Europe's finest sand. Hurrah!

OUR KIND OF LUXE Soak up the view from your terrace as the sun sets over the stunning Campanet Valley. The hypnotic sound of singing cicadas will quickly become your only soundtrack.

GO Simpson Travel (simpsontravel.com) offers seven nights at the villa from £628 per person, including flights, transfers and car hire.



GOLDENEYE JAMAICA

ON THE SAPPHIRE-BLUE NORTH COAST of Jamaica is a very special getaway – GoldenEye, a near-mythical place and a resort that takes its secrets seriously. Fittingly, the hotel spills out from the famous Fleming Villa, the former winter home of James Bond author Ian Fleming. He wrote all 14 spy novels from the three-bed lodge and it has been sympathetically repurposed into a self-contained five-room mini resort. As well as the original three bedrooms, the property includes two stand-alone guest cottages, a private cove and tropical garden tended by a dedicated team of staff that includes a butler, housekeeper and cook. It's the ultimate in all-out seclusion. But if that's a bit of a stretch for the budget, don't worry, there's more to come. Follow the cove south and you'll reach the mouth of the resort's lagoon. There are six one-bed cottages scattered along the shore here, and

from each loggia's landing stage, which overlooks its own slice of the creek, you can watch the passing tropical sea life. There are similar seaside cottages with straight-to-sand beach access, but the garden-shaded outdoor showers just give these a more private edge. GoldenEye's owner, Island Records boss Chris Blackwell, has made sure there's no real reason to leave the resort. Everything you need is here – he even curates pre-loaded playlists for the rooms and cottages. But breaking cover on the Caribbean's most charismatic island for a day or two is worth it. Rebel Salute, a reggae festival held in the January peak season, is a 45-minute drive away – and unmissable.

OUR KIND OF LUXE GoldenEye actually has its own island, which is around 20 metres offshore, specifically for utterly secluded sunbathing.

GO GoldenEye (goldeneye.com) offers one-bedroom beach huts from £420 per night, on a room-only basis. For more information about Jamaica, see visitjamaica.com →

