

World's Most Romantic Hotels 2007

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Let's face it: Even the lap of luxury can look lackluster if you can't stand the company - and a bus terminal can seem romantic if you're with the one you love.

Still, there's nothing like the perfect room for two to stoke a new romance or revive an old spark. A cozy setting, some peace and quiet, and ample cossetting are tried-and-true ways to burnish a romance.



'People forget that a relationship has to be taken care of,' says Susan Hendrick, a couples therapist and professor of psychology at Texas Tech University. 'A weekend away can rekindle passion, romance and sexual interest, but also communication.'

'Though Valentine's Day is a great impetus for scheduling a trip,' Hendrick says, 'they can also be planned throughout the year.' Quarterly is her personal ideal. Planning a trip lets both partners know they're worth making the time for, even amid family obligations and a hectic work schedule. Of course, it doesn't count if you don't give your lover your undivided attention.

'Leave the laptop, the BlackBerry, the cellphone at home,' Hendrick says.

Pre-Trip Preparations

But where to go? 'Before you pick a resort you've got to decide what is romantic for you,' says Katharine Dyson, author of 100 Best Romantic Resorts of the World. 'One person's romantic retreat could be another's nightmare.' So even if you're feeling carried away on the wings of love, be sure to ask your honey if he or she loves the nightlife as much as you do before dialing Ibiza.

In Dyson's view, a romantic retreat should be 'the best of its kind.' That means that whether you choose the jungle or the city, the amenities and service should be top notch. 'I like unobtrusive, friendly, knowledgeable service,' she says. Maintenance and management must be polished, and, of course, beds are key. 'I look for really good beds. King-sized, and a good thread count on the sheets.'

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