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GREAT ESCAPES

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African safari adventure + Luxury Maldivian hideaway

2008's BEST HONEYMOON DESTINATIONS

GREEN AND PLEASANT LAND

For a clean-living honeymoon, nowhere on earth beats New Zealand. Get inspired by our carefully chosen pick of the most romantic hideaways on North and South Islands. By Nicky Adams

✻ WINE AND DINE

Perfect for couples who want to relax and enjoy a day of wine tasting, Black Barn Vineyards in Hawkes Bay, North Island, offers accommodation as well as fine wine. Well known for its divine drop (the rosé is particularly delicious), add the allure of its fabulous bistro, which sits in the heart of the vineyard, and you may well feel as though you've found heaven. Book through Kiwi Collection (kiwicollection.com).

✻ TRUE ROMANCE

If you're around Queenstown, South Island, the 'Picnic on a Peak' excursion is a must-do for lovebirds. Honeymooners are whisked off by helicopter to a secluded alpine location, where they are left to enjoy a gourmet picnic surrounded by breathtaking scenery. When appetites are replete, a call to the pilot will bring the helicopter back for a pick-up. Book through Turquoise Holiday Company (01494 678 400; turquoiseholidays.co.uk).

✻ PURE PAMPERING

Also near Queenstown, honeymooners can discover the ultimate pampering experience at the new Organic Spa at the luxurious Matakauri Lodge. Using natural ingredients – many of which are locally sourced and based on seasonal produce – Matakauri Spa Prescriptives therapies are totally unique. Book through All Ways Pacific (01494 432747; all-ways.co.uk).

✻ LOVE BOAT

Gaze into each other's eyes with a backdrop of turquoise waters and silver sand bays. A new five-day cruise on the *Oceanic Princess* from Auckland to the spectacular Bay of

Main picture: The view from Black Barn Vineyards, Hawkes Bay, North Island *Above:* The Lodge at Tikana, Southlands, South Island *Next page:* Lake Wakatipu, on the doorstep of Matakauri Lodge

Islands is an unforgettable way to see the pristine beaches and abundant marine life of New Zealand. The Northland Coast and Islands Discovery Cruise visits untouched and remote areas – showcasing many of the country's highlights. From £1,281pp. Book through All Ways Pacific (see above).

* SCENIC HAVEN

Edenhouse is a delightful hideaway nestling in the shadows of the Southern Alps, South Island. With the Abel Tasman national park less than half an hour away, Edenhouse is a secluded base for honeymooners and is the ideal launch pad to explore some of New Zealand's most spectacular scenery. Book through the Turquoise Holiday Company (see above).

* CITY OF SAILS

Newly opened, the five-star Westin Auckland overlooks the funky Viaduct Harbour area. Contemporary chic at its best, from the superior comfort beds to the invigorating showers, every detail has been considered. A private marina allows guests to sail into New Zealand's only lock, housed within this luxurious property. Book through Kiwi Collection (see above).

* RURAL RETREAT

The Lodge at Tikana has a claim to be South Island's most romantic hideaway. You get this house of straw (literally, it's built using environmentally friendly straw-bale construction) to yourselves, enjoy personalised menus and a personal spa therapist, and at night can snuggle up by the wood-burning fire, or in the twin bath. Book through Kiwi Collection.

* AND DON'T MISS THESE ROMANTIC SIZZLERS!

Book your own private pool and stargaze by dusk through the retractable roof of the recently opened Onsen Hot Pools in Arthur's Point (onsen.co.nz)... Indulge in a bottle of sparkling Chauvet from central Otago's Quartz Reef winery (quartzreef.co.nz)... Heat up your honeymoon with a dozen New Zealand Bluff oysters... party the night away with cocktails at the Bellini bar, Hilton, Auckland... Flick through the designer labels in Nuffield Street, Newmarket, Auckland – heaven for shopaholics... Learn to perform the Haka at a Creative Tourism workshop (creativetourism.co.nz)... And finally, don't leave NZ without visiting one of the boutique chocolate factories of Makana Confections in Kerikeri and Blenheim (makana.co.nz).

PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN BANAGAN/LONELY PLANET

ITALY
by citalia

Hotel Le Agavi, Positano

The Italy by Citalia brochure includes 3 nights at the Hotel Le Agavi from £598 per person in a twin front sea view room with balcony, based on 2 sharing. Flights with British Airways and transfers included.

Stunning coastline and azure blue sea; the Hotel Le Agavi offers breathtaking views over the Bay of Positano. Relax amongst its verdant landscaped terraces or on its private beach.

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