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JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2018

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Fantasy Getaways

Honeymoon like royalty in French Polynesia, book into Mexico's most luxurious suites and reach romantic highs at some cool mountain destinations. Plus, where to swap vows in Florida and an insider look at the charming state of Maine.



PHOTOGRAPHY: (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP) JUSTIN TALLUS/BEA POOL/GETTY IMAGES; THE BRANDO

The Brando

Want to honeymoon where the celebs do? In each issue, we take a peek at a star-studded hideaway.



PIPPA MIDDLETON & JAMES MATTHEWS

For the sister of a bona fide princess, life is a fairy tale come true. In an exquisite storybook wedding complete with adorable young royal attendants, **Pippa Middleton** swapped vows with former race car driver, current hedge fund manager and heir to a Scottish title, **James Matthews**. After two receptions (a morning event and a black-tie party at night), the

couple jetted off to an equally realized fantasy-on-earth honeymoon hideaway, **The Brando** in French Polynesia.

Fifty miles north of the island of Tahiti, this ultra-posh property is accessible only via an 8-passenger plane. The private island resort sprawls over Tetairoa, a collection of 12 *motus* (small islands) that were home to the Academy-Award winning actor of the same name, who first visited the site while filming "Mutiny on the Bounty." Today, the coconut-palmed expanse is fringed with sugar sands and is home to 35 private villas, fashioned in the traditional Tahitian design. All are positioned facing the crystalline lagoon and have indoor/outdoor lounging spaces, outdoor tubs and personal plunge pools. There are two restaurants, the breezy Beachcomber Café and Les Mutinés, a two-Michelin star eatery that hosts just 20 diners a night. Activities include tours of the resort's gardens, where you can see the beekeeper gathering honey for cocktails and pastries; naturalist-guided walks through the atolls and native trees; and all manner of water sports from outrigger canoeing to snorkeling. Make like Pippa and go stand-up paddleboarding and take long walks on the pristine beaches—make sure you pack your Kate Spade dresses! (Room rates start at about \$3,500 a night. All inclusive packages are available; thebrando.com) —*Jenna Mahoney*



Au naturel in the reception area.



A look at the spa.



Spa-ing sands abound.



An aerial vantage of the entire island.