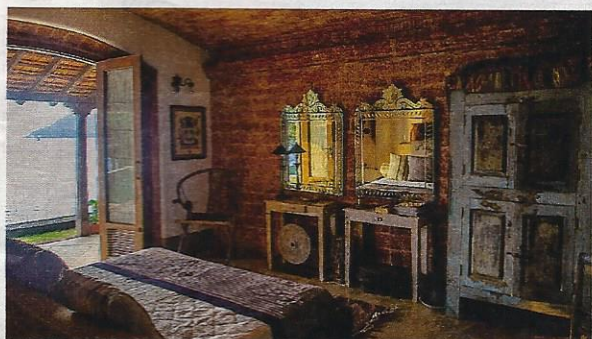


Four of the best Hotels for honeymoons, by Francesca Syz

Alila Villas Uluwatu Bali On a limestone cliff overlooking the Indian Ocean, at the southernmost tip of Bali, Alila Villas Uluwatu is a great option for those looking for seclusion and every imaginable treat. Each room is a spacious villa with a garden, relaxation area, pool and personal butler, so people tend to hang out in their private space, and the two excellent restaurants – one offering a Western take on east-Asian food, the other traditional Balinese – and communal pool feel relaxed at all times. Alila is hot on cultural engagement, so it offers island experiences including walks to local villages, farms and markets. The very good Spa Alila's contemporary treatments incorporate ancient Asian techniques, and the resort has recently launched aerial yoga, which involves doing yogic movements while hanging from a fabric hammock. Do not miss the unmarked poolside path that leads you down 200 steps to a lovely deserted beach. **The details** Ampersand Travel offers seven nights at Alila from £5,215 per person, based on two sharing a one-bedroom villa on a room-only basis, including flights and transfers (020-7819 9770; ampersandtravel.com).



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Ahilya by the Sea Goa Fans of Ahilya Fort in Madhya Pradesh – the private home turned into a boutique hotel by Prince Richard Holkar, the son of the last maharaja of Indore – rejoice! It has a sister hotel in North Goa. When Holkar's daughter married the son of a Goan family, they all got together to turn a family beach house, situated at one end of Coco Beach, into an eight-room hotel, which has just opened. Inhabiting two villas and a tree house, the hotel feels wonderfully welcoming and offers a comfortable, contemporary take on traditional Goan living. Each room, filled with family heirlooms, is named after an artwork by the renowned Indian painter Antonio Xavier Trindade, grandfather of the present owner. The hotel sits next to the sea wall rather than the beach, but it has two outdoor pools, and long stretches of sandy beach are a short drive away. Expect delicious home cooking, from European fusion to Goan curries. **The details** Greaves offers an eight-night tour including five nights at Ahilya by the Sea from £1,700 per person, based on two sharing on a B&B basis, including flights, transfers and sightseeing (020-7487 9111; greavesindia.com).

Avani Seychelles Barbarons Resort & Spa Mahé Who knew that a honeymoon in the Seychelles doesn't have to be eye-poppingly expensive? Avani Seychelles Barbarons is a great four-star hotel on a secluded sandy cove on Mahé's quiet west coast. Though the beach is not officially private, it feels as though it is. With friendly, laidback staff – most notably the charming general manager, Manish – the hotel is unpretentious and effortlessly luxurious, and attracts a good mix of couples and families. It is quite a big resort (124 rooms), but it seems intimate – and with two restaurants that open on to the beach (Elements has a fantastic seafood-laden buffet), two bars (one rooftop) and private dining at the water's edge, it works. There is also a spa offering excellent personalised massages. The best months for snorkelling are April, May and November.

The details If Only offers seven nights at Avani from £1,429 per person, based on two adults sharing a beach-access room on a B&B basis, including flights and transfers (0141-955 4000; ifonly.net). For details of activities and sightseeing trips, visit seychelles.travel.



Peter Island Resort & Spa British Virgin Islands It may take a bit of effort to get to this remote private Caribbean island – international flight to Antigua, internal flight to Tortola and then a 30-minute boat ride to Peter Island – but it's worth it. Owned and run by the same family since the 1970s, the resort, with its 55 rooms and villas, is spread over 300 of the island's 1,800 acres; the rest is left wild. A stay here is about switching off, whether on one of the island's five beaches or enjoying Ayurvedic treatments at the spa, which also has a beachside Jacuzzi. If you feel energetic, let the delightful Jason and Lindsay Geyser take you to the island's best snorkelling spots aboard the resort's sailboat. Other activities on offer include sea kayaking, hiking and classes in traditional meat grilling and smoking. Be sure to try the coconut french toast made by waitress Jean Kelly at the Tradewinds restaurant. **The details** ITC Luxury Travel offers seven nights on Peter Island from £2,665 per person, based on two sharing an ocean-view room on a room-only basis, including flights and transfers (01244-355527; itcluxurytravel.co.uk). **Next week: gothic holiday lets**