



'As delightful as the act of love itself is room service'

I have long believed the best and most cost-effective form of relationship maintenance is nothing to do with the therapist's waiting room. No, it involves a very different form of close scrutiny in an enclosed space. I am talking, of course, about the especially sensual benefits of a couple of drinks away in a delightful hotel that – by virtue of its location, furnishings, fresh sheets and solicitous staff – spends starters on your spirits and finds the sort of conversation that appears to have been created by Venus and the design team at Coco de Mer (London's finest erotic cruise) especially as a necessary for the carnivorous lover. The place need not be luxurious or expensive to perform its wooing, but it must have charm, that elusive quality that makes the world's best guest without any need of effort to do so. It should tell you you're the sexiest version of yourself with the second-best food, best views and the best post-coital breakfast in the entire known universe.



pillows or scuffed the surfaces in the no seat, or left rose-scented bath oil, by contrast, hotel rooms are smooth easy and have attributes to put you in the mood. If you've chosen well, there's a bath big enough for two and views that makes rose scents. Perhaps even a B&O and JBL hi-fi system, such spaces slice away distractions and leave you with one clear option: mutual indulgence. And, just as importantly, the space to talk and rediscover the other. A good conversation is a better sex aid than the Harpuz Babbi.

The interiors that look outside the bedroom door are also an essential part of seduction. There's no finer place than a hotel bar to dig out your inner coquette or rake. The best ones are re-creations, with the barman as suave puppet and fellow drinkers as audience. The essential erotic role-play known to lovers-kind is to pretend you and your partner are strangers meeting for the first time so you happen to perch on adjacent bar stools. Your therapist self feels compelled to order exotic cocktails, invent a lurid back-story and

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3 ROYAL MANSOUR, MARRAKECH, MOROCCO

One of the most discreet hotels in the world, with a tangled web of underground tunnels so that staff can cruise across the grounds, sending to guests' wishes without being heard or seen. Few guests feel compelled to leave their rooms, which are in fact mini palaces, with their own inner courtyards and rooftop hammocks and plunge pool, fireplace and books in bed. Though those that do venture out can reserve one of the hotel's beautiful – covered beds in champagne gold. In triple-Michelin starred Youssef Akkari restaurant, waiters serve Moroccan-spiced lobster and truffled lamb. **Rooms from £804**
telegraph.co.uk/royalmansour

2 EROSANTORINI, SANTORINI, GREECE

The blazing white suites are the epitome of cool indulgence: "floating" fireplaces are suspended from the ceilings and angular retro lamps jut out of the walls. Bed heads are tiled with mirrors, and outdoor hot tubs look out to the parakeet-green sea. Thankfully, with only five villas, competition isn't overly fierce for the pool cave, where couples can canoodle over a cocktail away from prying eyes. A V-shaped infinity pool (with underwater music) cascades over three levels. Completing the package are an intimate outdoor cinema lit at night by a bonfire, and seafood lunches aboard a private yacht. **Rooms from £4,300**
telegraph.co.uk/erosantorini



PREPARE TO BE SEDUCED
Clockwise from top: a luxury room in the Ritz Paris; the Lake Palace, India; Royal Mansour in Marrakech; a couple enjoy champagne

3 MORGAN'S ROCK, NICARAGUA

Best suited to romantics, the tiny island, with turquoise and turquoise dip beds and waterfall plunge pools. The top villa are the most secluded, accessible by ziplines suspended in the air. The only sounds are the crackle of parrots and howling of the waves. The most romantic time is sunset, when the sea turns pink. This is a hands-on retreat of those passionate in the form of a beach breakfast, horse ride on the beach, or fish for dinner. A candlelit evening is possible for two adults in the main room. **Rooms from £285**
telegraph.co.uk/morgansrock

4 NIHI SUMBA ISLAND, BALI

Just a few weeks old, and already a favourite choice. This five-villa island features four infinity pools and lined-up four-poster beds. Among the most secluded villas in French, which grip a mountain slope. At sunset, couples can drink champagne flutes in their outdoor hot tubs or lounge around the beach. Exclusive experiences deliver the kind of private opportunities likely to induce serious Instagram envy: Spa before a nature walk across rice fields, breakfast on a catamaran terrace, and a massage for two on a cliff edge. **Rooms from £1,027**
telegraph.co.uk/nihisumba

5 ONE ONLY LE SAINT GERMAN, MAURITIUS

A recent multi-million-pound refurbishment aims to make it a younger market as well as traditional baby boomers – via a new spa, Asian tapas bar and 150 signing first-class seats. Guests can also now enjoy private spa treatments aboard the Lady Lindy yacht and dining rooms at agencies such as the French. The suite features teardrop wall panels, sofas upholstered in slipper grey leather, and custom-made furniture. Local softness are graciously done, with hand-crafted lithographs, and scented oil to the exact colour of Mauritius soil. A recent renovation features a pool alongside the top of the pool deck, surrounded by multi-decked day beds. Those seeking ultimate privacy can book a villa, which comes with a chef and ocean-facing infinity pool. **Rooms from £628**
telegraph.co.uk/le-saint-german

6 IL SERENO, LAKE COMO, ITALY

A great glass of chardonnay seems to escape from the narrow waters. It's a serene retreat against Lake Como's established hotel-design etiquette of marble walkways and brass accents. It's minimalist, not industrial, though with a grand staircase of "floating" vertical steps, vertical gables intertwined with an Italianate facade from the 19th century and an infinity pool that gives the appearance of cascading into the lake. In the glass-walled suite, both seated in the three-tiered glass and the carved brass rail from the 19th century are positioned for maximum views of the mirror-blue

Room 1011 is a classic of The Aesop and a columnist