

DESTINATION WEDDINGS & more

25

utterly romantic
spots in the USA

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CALIFORNIA AND MORE



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America's MOST ROMANTIC RESORTS

Whether you favor the beach, the desert or the mountains, these 10 fabulous hideaways across the USA have what it takes for the ultimate honeymoon.

by Jill Fergus





Best Outdoor Luxe THE RESORT AT PAWS UP, GREENOUGH, MONTANA

If bygone memories of camping (i.e., lumpy sleeping bags and dubious bathroom facilities) have rendered you tent-shy, it's time to give it another go. This eco-friendly resort allows couples to experience all they love about the great outdoors — reconnecting with nature, sitting around a blazing campfire, mid-night stargazing — without sacrificing creature comforts. A king feather bed with plush linens? Check. Aromatherapy massages at sundown? Check. An en-suite bathroom with heated floors? Double check.

Located in Greenough (30 miles east of Missoula), Paws Up has 24 luxury canvas tents in four camps, each with a dining pavilion (huckleberry pancakes for breakfast; barbecue-brisket sandwiches and sweet-potato fries for lunch). After your “camping butler” delivers freshly brewed coffee, spend the day exploring the Montana wilderness via horseback riding, fly-fishing, hot-air ballooning or hiking — you can even live out your Wild West fantasies by joining ranch hands for a roatin’-tootin’ cattle drive. On your return, your butler will pop open a bottle of wine so you can toast to a job well done before tucking in to a meal of Rocky Mountain trout or bison pot roast. Late night, roast marshmallows beside the fire — cowboy singalongs optional. *From \$820, including meals and transfers.*

Best Urban Ahhh THE ROOSEVELT, A WALDORF ASTORIA HOTEL, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

Like the Crescent City itself, this 504-room grand dame, rising 14 stories and stretching the length of a city block, is back in a big way. After taking on the Waldorf Astoria moniker, the 1893 landmark underwent a \$170 million renovation in 2009, bringing its Italian-crystal chandeliers, mosaic-tiled floors, gilded columns and wrought-iron detailing back to the glory days when Frank Sinatra, Louis Armstrong and Tennessee Williams frequented its cocktail lounges. The guest rooms, featuring antique-style decor and high ceilings, are some of the city's largest, and the location can't be beat — the hotel is just two blocks from the French Quarter and all of its cultural riches.

People-watch along bawdy Bourbon Street, tap your toes to Dixieland jazz bands, poke into voodoo shops, carouse in watering holes where 18th-century pirates plotted, and savor spicy Cajun cuisine in magnolia-tree-shaded courtyards. Back at the hotel, soak in rays around in the cabana-lined rooftop pool, then hit the elegant Sazerac Bar to sample the city's official cocktail, popularized in the 1920s and '30s by legendary hotel regular, Louisiana governor Huey P. Long. *From \$159.*

