

Marriedmoons

Feel Like Newlyweds Again and Again

This July marks my third wedding anniversary and, would you believe it? We're still planning the honeymoon. In 2003, my husband and I married at a spectacular Santa Barbara resort where our close-knit guests mingled exultantly. Alongside the official photographer, the entire children's table snapped photos with party favor cameras like tiny paparazzi. It was relaxed, elegant, and actually fun. But within 72 hours, the groom was en route to Washington DC for crucial business. No two weeks of R&R. No easing back into the rote practicalities of daily life.

The story could have ended there, but we newlyweds took action. In place of a 14-day extravaganza immediately after our nuptials, in these past three years my husband and I have taken dozens of so-called *marriedmoons*. Hence, we affectionately joke that we'll be planning the honeymoon forever - and so can you.

Marriedmoons are easily planned, mini adventures for all *newlyweds-at-heart* including those married for decades, those deeply committed but not married, or even the recently wedded on a time budget. With a knowledge of travel resources, speedy planning and a sense of adventure - mini getaways are within reach for couples on almost any budget or schedule. Moreover, July is a terrific time for Scottsdale marriedmooners to make plans because exceptional destinations offer seasonal specials. Here are just a few ideas:

- *The 1/2 day Escape:* Why not indulge in a midweek afternoon trip to **Willow Stream**, the spa at **The Fairmont Scottsdale Princess** and a fabulous dinner to follow? Plan ahead and book reservations for treatments at this flagship. In addition to manicures and facials, Willow Stream offers an MVP room for male guests along with innovative pampering. Examples include the PGA-endorsed Golf Performance Treatment Massage and the Power Pedicure. (Estimated time in transit: Less than 30 minutes. Estimated work days missed: 1/2 day)

- *The 1-night Escape:* Think about it: a one night stay or package at a Scottsdale resort in the summer can cost less than dinner, drinks and movie! Right now, **The Hilton Scottsdale Resort & Villas** offers The "Romance Package," which consists of one night deluxe accommodations, champagne or wine served with strawberries upon arrival, rose-petal turndown service and a continental breakfast in room or at Griff's Restaurant (so named for owner Merv Griffin) starting at \$159 based upon occupancy. **Caleo Resort & Spa**, the stylish



Kimpton hotel, keeps it dreamy for couples who bond on the greens. The "Tee it Up" package offers deluxe accommodations and two rounds of golf on either of the lush 18-hole courses at McCormick Ranch Golf Club starting at \$185 per night. Reserve your tee times through the Caleo Resort Concierge and bring your visors! (Estimated time in transit: Less than 30 minutes. Estimated work days missed: 0 if your one night is a Saturday.)

- *The 2-night Escape:* Visit the town that pioneer Theodore Schnebly originally named for his betrothed, Sedona. Set amidst those jaw-dropping red rocks, the charmingly unpretentious (yet four-star) **Sedona Rouge Hotel & Spa** presents the "Andalusia Romance

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Package" – two nights in a premier room offering vaulted ceilings, champagne and chocolate covered strawberries upon arrival and a couples 60-minute massage at the Spa at Sedona Rouge. Also included: A \$100 dining credit at Reds, the hotel's deservedly "as popular with the residents" restaurant - a hip spot that offers a delicious menu from Executive Chef Kyle Evans. This package is priced at \$769 including taxes. (Estimated time in transit: Approximately 2 hours. Estimated work days missed: 1/2 to a full day)

- *3-night Escape:* While most of America is in its highest tourism season, Lake Tahoe enjoys a dazzling window during summer through fall before its slopes become populated. Hold out for a non-stop flight to Reno, Nev. and enjoy travel steals on both the California and Nevada sides of the lake to enjoy dining, sailing, shopping or even gambling. **The PlumpJack Squaw Valley Inn**, an intimate 61-room hotel near the site of the 1960

Winter Olympics, offers deluxe amenities and world-class dining at its American cuisine PlumpJack Cafe. Awarded accolades and glowing press from print and TV for its venerated presence on the culinary scene, the cafe is a destination in its own right. Summer/Fall rates remain in effect through mid December too - which means you may easily check out this gem in the sun or, if you prefer, in the early days of the snow. (Estimated time in transit: 1-hour-and-45-minute flight, approximately 45 minutes by car to North Tahoe, which gets beautifully scenic en route. Estimated work days missed: 1/2 to 2 days)

Just as many of my favorite wedding pictures were snapped by children with \$5 cameras, some of my favorite romantic vacations were those planned at 5 p.m. on the Friday evening before departure. Of course, lengthy sojourns are wonderful too. But sometimes love is what happens when we're busy making other travel plans ...

Willow Stream

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Scottsdale Princess

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