

COUNTRY LIFE®

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EVERY WEEK | MARCH 11, 2020

Blair Castle Torchlight to the Highlands



Pick your own: a year's guide to foraging
101 things you didn't know about Britain
Weddings: the dos and don'ts

Weddings



Buffet breakfast

Capri Palace, Capri, Italy
(www.capripalace.com)

More banquet than buffet, you can easily while away several hours over breakfast. Assemble your own from the selection of fresh produce displayed in large glass jars or at individual, themed stations (including a cheese table and one for sweet treats—the *torta caprese* is not only for tea time).

Mini bar

The Ludlow, New York, US
(www.ahotellife.com)

A lonely tube of Pringles and overpriced vodka simply doesn't cut it anymore. The selection at The Ludlow—one of New York's coolest hotels—includes locally sourced treats, scented candles and everything else one might need for a wild night in for two.

Bed

Hotel Chateau du Grand-Lucé, Loire Valley, France
(www.chateaugrandluce.com)

There's nothing quite like the feeling of fresh sheets—especially if they're from family-run Italian brand Pratesi. At the impossibly romantic Hotel Chateau du Grand-Lucé, all the rooms benefit from the company's soft touch. Ask for the corner king garden-view bedroom; it's my favourite hotel room to date.

Swimming pool

The Other Side, Bahamas
(www.ontheos.com)

Size isn't everything: the pool at The Other Side might err on the side of small, but it appears to float atop the bright blue ocean. The sun-loungers, flush with the deck surround, are wide enough for two (or one if you're feeling selfish).

The top 10

From beautiful buffet breakfasts to Italian bed linen, it's the small things that count. Rosie Paterson selects her top hotels for honeymooners and explains why they stand out

Private beach

Lizard Island, Great Barrier Reef, Australia
(www.lizardisland.com.au)

What's better than one pristine beach? Well, 24 of them, of course. You'll find them all on Lizard Island, just off the Great Barrier Reef.

Spa

Aman Tokyo, Japan
(www.aman.com)

Aman is the doyenne of hotel spa services and its Tokyo outpost is no exception. Japanese showers and hot baths complement jaw-dropping architecture and views.

All-inclusive package

Jumby Bay, Antigua
(www.oetkercollection.com)

Everything and anything is included. Friendly waiters patrol the beach with trays of fruit and delicious ice-cream sandwiches;

you'll find it impossible to tear yourself away from the lobster-roll shack (a crispy fresh lobster wrap with herbs is best served with bubbles). If you mention you're partial to a celebratory gin and tonic, the staff will stock your minibar within minutes.

Bathrooms

The Silo, Cape Town, South Africa
(www.theroyalportfolio.com)

Floor-to-ceiling, triple-aspect windows—that jut outwards from the external walls—dominate the sumptuous bathrooms at The Silo. Free-standing tubs, jewel-toned vanity units and walk-in rain showers big enough for a party mean you'll probably never want to leave.

Barefoot luxury

Pacific Aitutaki, Cook Islands
(www.pacificresort.com)

Pad, barefoot of course, between your room and the tranquil, secluded lagoon. There are only 29 rooms at Pacific Aitutaki, all of which are as close to the water as you can safely get. Interiors are comfy and wonderfully colourful, so you'll have no qualms about putting your (bare) feet up, figuratively and literally.

Turndown

The Berkeley, London
(www.the-berkeley.co.uk)

Thoughtful turndowns are the norm at one of London's most luxurious hotels, The Berkeley. If you leave your laptop out, expect to find a Berkeley-branded screen-cleaning cloth when you return. Booked in during the winter months? Housekeeping will place a cleverly designed, body-length, cylindrical hot-water bottle in your bed. Additional touches include monogrammed silk eye masks. 🐼