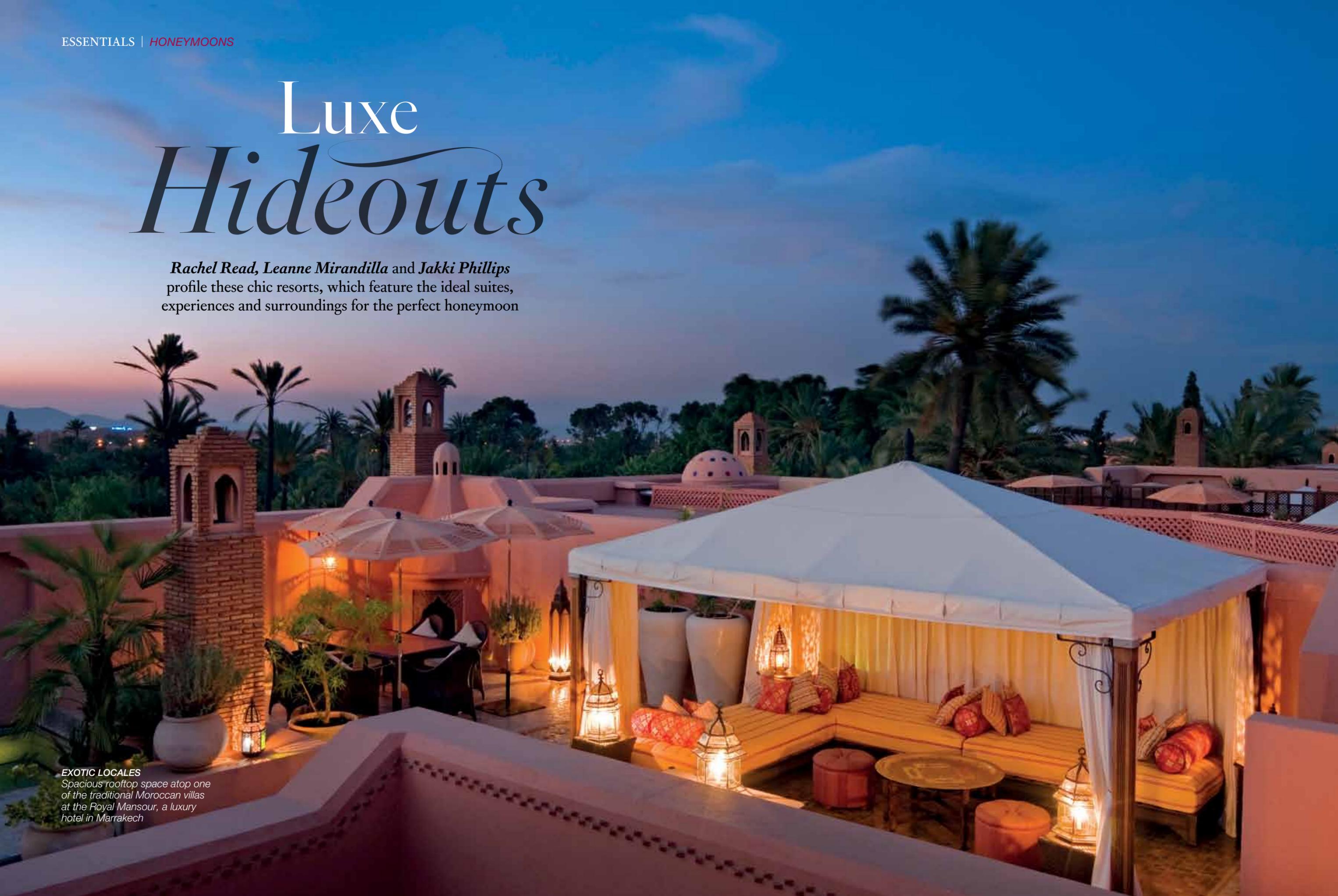


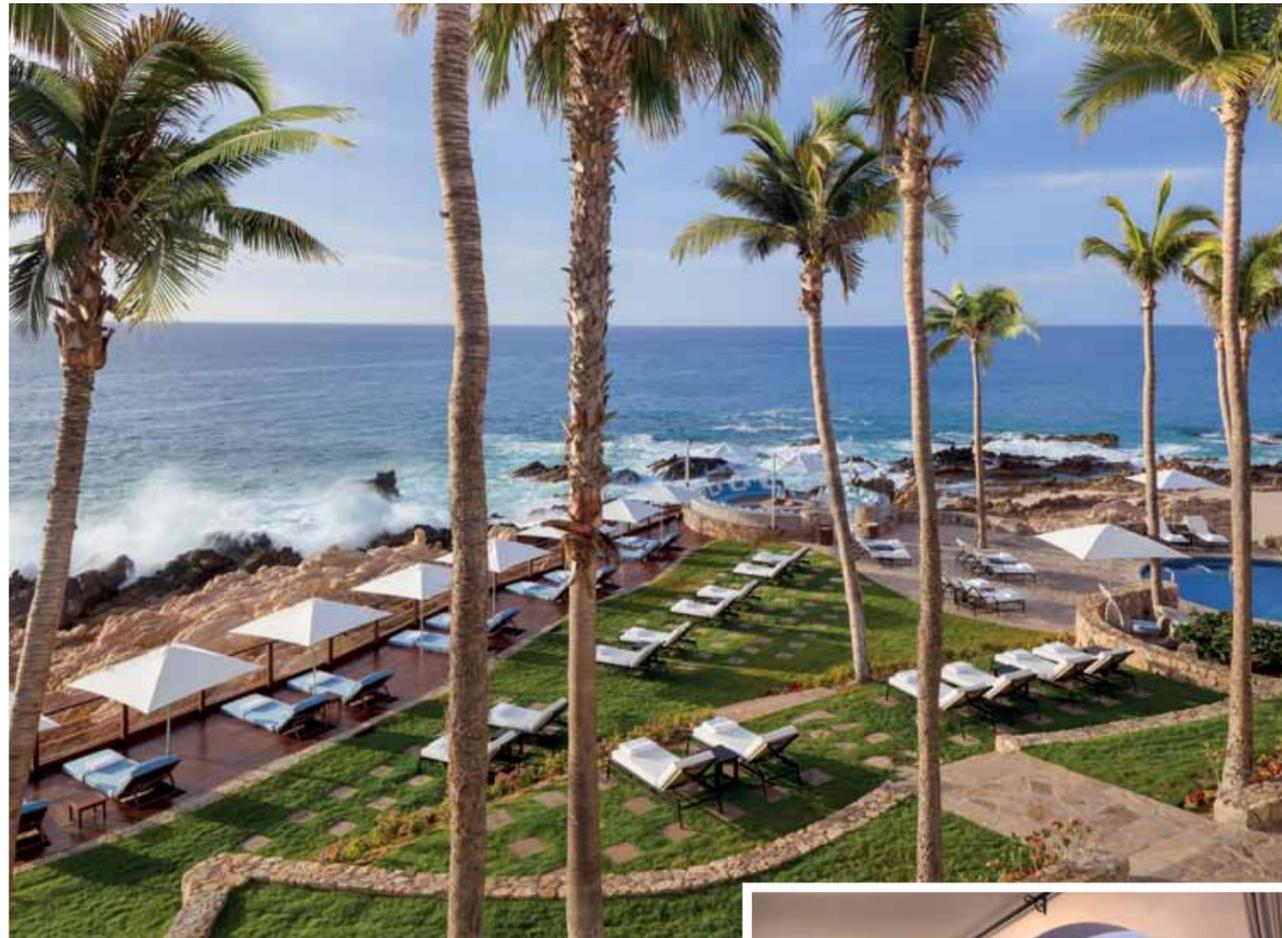
Luxe *Hideouts*

Rachel Read, Leanne Mirandilla and Jakki Phillips
profile these chic resorts, which feature the ideal suites,
experiences and surroundings for the perfect honeymoon

EXOTIC LOCALES

Spacious rooftop space atop one
of the traditional Moroccan villas
at the Royal Mansour, a luxury
hotel in Marrakech





AFTER THE VOWS, THE SPEECHES, THE slices of cake and the flutes of champagne comes the honeymoon—the relaxing coda to the wedding and the start of a new chapter in life. For those seeking less of a city-based experience, these resorts offer the ideal balance of seclusion and customised experiences for honeymooners, all cocooned within idyllic surroundings.

CELEBRITY ENCLAVE

After seven months of renovations and enhancements, the **One&Only Palmilla** in Los Cabos, Mexico reopened in April, making a full recovery from Hurricane Odile, which hit the area in 2014. With an illustrious history dating back to 1956, the property began as an exotic boutique hideaway only accessible by private jet or yacht, which was frequented by Hollywood celebrities. Today, it's a 101-hectare resort with 173 rooms—more than half of which are suites. Designed by luxury interiors firm Anderson/Miller, it continues to boast celebrity guests such as Jennifer Aniston and Simon Cowell.

Each room has a sweeping view of the Sea of Cortez and is housed in a low-rise pavilion surrounded by lush tropical

gardens—a perfect getaway for honeymooning newlyweds in search of romance. Most suites also feature a private plunge pool or outdoor relaxation tub. To truly experience Los Cabos, take a trip to Pelican Beach, one of the few swimmable beaches in the area.

The couple's treatments at the resort's private spa suite are certainly not to be missed; signature treatments include a full-body exfoliation infused with peppermint and apricot kernels. Romantic horseback rides along the beach are also a popular activity, as is a private dinner for two aboard the One&Only Palmilla yacht, with beautiful views of Medano Bay and the city of Cabo San Lucas in the distance. palmilla.oneandonlyresorts.com



TROPICAL DELIGHT

Rain! It's the threat that quite literally hangs over soon-to-wed couples like a big, black storm cloud. That's why the majority of people who choose to get married in the serene, stylish hillside retreat of **Alila Ubud** in Bali opt to hire a Hindu priest, known locally as a "rainstopper", to stage a religious ceremony aimed at chasing away unwanted showers. With your special date blessed by the gods, hopefully only sun umbrellas will be required when your loved ones gather among the ancient totem stones in the resort's peaceful and picturesque sculpture garden to hear you say "I do."

Celebrate your nuptials late into the night with an intimate dinner served by your own private butler in a lantern-lit, flower-adorned poolside cabana or under the stars on the terrace of the resort's Plantation restaurant. Begin your honeymoon with a bride-and-groom spa treatment performed in a secluded garden known as Bale Bengong, which overlooks the lush, tropical valley below, then soak up the panoramic views from the infinity pool.

With your energy restored after months of endless wedding planning, take advantage of the multitude of activities on your doorstep—Balinese cooking classes in the resort's organic garden, or walking tours through the surrounding rice paddies, as you pass temples and meet the inhabitants of neighbouring villages—or more active pursuits such as river rafting, quad biking and horse riding. Alternatively, hide away with some champagne in the Pool Villa, which has an open-air bathtub set in the middle of a lotus pond. For the best weather, try to hold your big day between April and early November, when the monsoon season starts. alilahotels.com/ubud



IMAGE: JONAS PETERSON



THAI HOSPITALITY

Anything is possible at **Iniala Beach House**, a stunning slice of Thai paradise located on Natai Beach just 20 minutes from Phuket's airport. Iniala's three spacious villas (each with three suites) and its spectacular penthouse suite fuse traditional Thai touches with contemporary interiors created by a range of internationally renowned designers—meaning every single bedroom and living space is unique. Each villa comes with its own spa therapist, so there's no excuse not to get pampered, while honeymooners are also guaranteed a complimentary upgrade upon booking, not to mention a surprise gift from one of the artists on display at Iniala Studio. Factor in private dining either on the beach or at Iniala's fine-dining restaurant Aziamendi, helmed by Spanish chef Eneko Atxa of three-Michelin-starred Azurmendi, and you have all the ingredients for unlimited romance.

Exclusive and exceptional experiences are part and parcel of Iniala's charm. Where else could you take a private speedboat with your own butler to Phang Nga Bay or Koh Phi Phi Island to enjoy a picnic arranged by the resort's chefs one day, then a trip to volunteer at a local orphanage the next? With other honeymooner highlights including guided bicycle rides to local temples, day trips to see the elephants at Khao Sok National Park and cookery classes to perfect the art of Thai cuisine, this is the ideal place to start building that scrapbook of cherished memories. iniala.com



MOROCCAN NIGHTS

For a honeymoon fit for a king—quite literally—the palatial **Royal Mansour** takes luxury, intimacy and exotic glamour to a whole new level. Owned by the King of Morocco and situated within the ancient city walls of Marrakech, this beautiful property spreads over 3.5 hectares and took thousands of craftsmen over three years to build—a fact that shows in every single stunning detail, from traditional Moorish architectural touches to the enchanting symmetry of the tree-filled central courtyard.

The hotel's 53 *riads* (traditional Moroccan villas) have been individually designed with handcrafted techniques and custom-made furniture. The premier one-bedroom *riad*

is highly recommended for couples looking to luxuriate in each other's company. Featuring a private roof terrace with a plunge pool, a retractable rooftop to see the stars, an open fireplace and his-and-hers bathrooms, you might never want to leave. Meanwhile, a network of labyrinthine underground tunnels connecting the *riads*, only accessible by staff, ensures the utmost privacy at all times.

If you do manage to tear yourself away from the hotel's delicious fine-dining restaurants or pampering heaven at the Royal Mansour Spa, just say the word and the hotel can arrange extraordinary experiences, including hot-air balloon rides, an "ephemeral dinner" at the Agafay Desert or a visit to a traditional Berber village in the Atlas Mountains. Unlimited opulence awaits. royalmansour.com