

WIN A FREE HONEYMOON! SEE PAGE 113

ISLANDS

weddings & honeymoons

Fall/Winter 2003

“The questionnaire gets them talking about where they want to go, the amenities and activities they want, how much to spend.”

Renée Duane founder of Unforgettable Honeymoons

“They look at the answers and are absolutely amazed,” Renee says. “The bride may have given an 8 to the importance of privacy, where he gave it a 5. He may have said 9 to socializing with other couples, while she, dead set against it, gave it a 1. Sometimes tension sparks when they realize their ideas are so different. But the questionnaire gets them thinking and talking about where they want to go, the amenities and activities they want, how much to spend.”

The personal travel history of the bride and groom may play a big part in their differing dreams. If she has never been out of the country, she may see going to the Bahamas as the trip of a

lifetime. He, if well traveled, may want to stop at nothing short of Bali or Papua New Guinea.

“The honeymoon is an investment in a lifetime of memories,” Renee says. “It’s something the couple will remember their entire lives, so it’s appropriate to put more energy and more time into planning their honeymoon than any other trip.”

Even couples in perfect sync on where to go find communication and compromise important.

Renee gently reminds couples that just because they are going to a beautiful place doesn’t mean they’re automatically guaranteed romantic moments.

“She wants romantic moments, he does too,” she says. “But the reality is that they’ve been traveling, they’re tired, one of them may feel out of sorts. They have to plan for romance: Order breakfast in bed. Arrange for a picnic together on a private island. Bring along mini candles to line the tub and take a bath together. Carry a blanket, candle, and bottle of champagne to the beach at night and watch the stars.”

“A couple’s honeymoon should be nothing less than fabulous,” Beth says.

SHE SAYS

Using a scale of 1–10, rate the importance of the following for your honeymoon. When you’re done, compare the answers to your fiancé’s, page 108. No peeking!

Atmosphere/Amenities

- privacy/seclusion
- adults/couples only
- luxury appointments
- attentive service
- fine dining
- nightlife
- socializing with others
- organized activities
- beach
- water sports
- land sports
- cultural features
- shopping
- spa services

Accommodations

- lots of space
- isolation
- ocean view
- balcony/terrace
- king-size bed
- hammock
- minibar
- kitchen
- whirlpool/hot tub

Nearby Features

- secluded beaches
- shopping/town
- mountains
- other islands

Top 3 Dream Destinations

Budget \$ _____

Questionnaire courtesy of Unforgettable Honeymoons. For a complete survey go to www.unforgettablehoneymoons.com or see Resources, page 114.

HE SAYS

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Unforgettable Honeymoons
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He Says, She Says

A little honeymoon homework goes a long way.

By Shari Mycek



SHE WANTS TO HONEYMOON IN Greece. He prefers Cape Cod. She wants to stay in a luxurious villa. He prefers to drift around the cape for a week, “hitting quaint inns.”

No need to call the whole thing off, says Reneé Duane, founder and president of Unforgettable Honeymoons, an agency based in Portland, Oregon, specializing in romantic travel. In her nine

years as a consultant, Reneé says, she’s never seen any couple totally in sync with their honeymoon expectations. At least not at the beginning.

“I find that very few couples actually sit down and talk about their honeymoon desires and what they’re looking for in a honeymoon destination,” she says. “Typically, one of them suggests a destination because it ‘looks pretty’ or

they know a friend of a friend who went there. It’s interesting—they always assume the other wants exactly the same thing.”

Beth Miller Augerinos agrees. A few years ago, the longtime wedding-honeymoon specialist and president of Perfect Honeymoons & Holidays Travel in Vienna, Virginia, asked the men in a bridal-show audience to

ILLUSTRATION BY CORNEL RUBINO