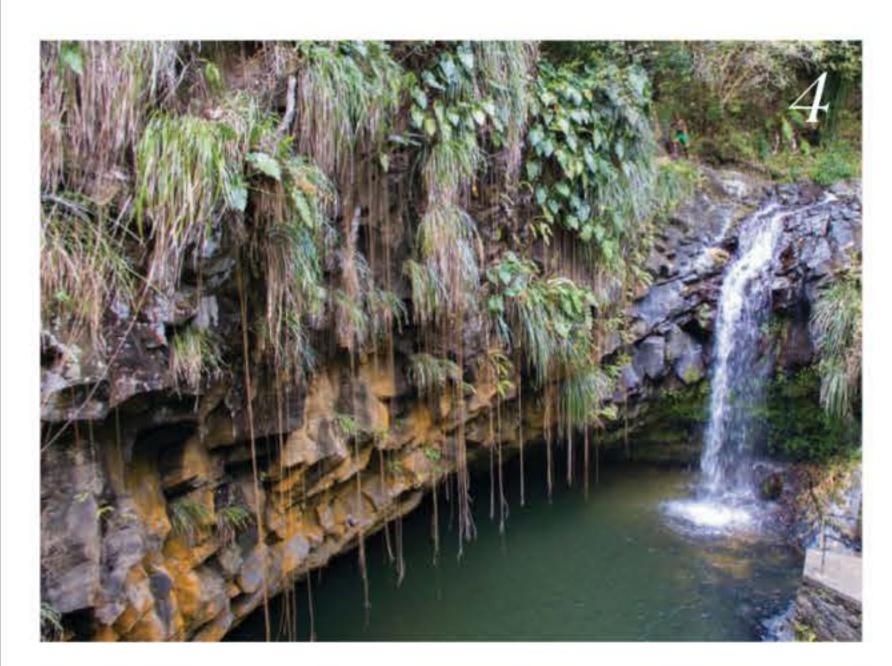






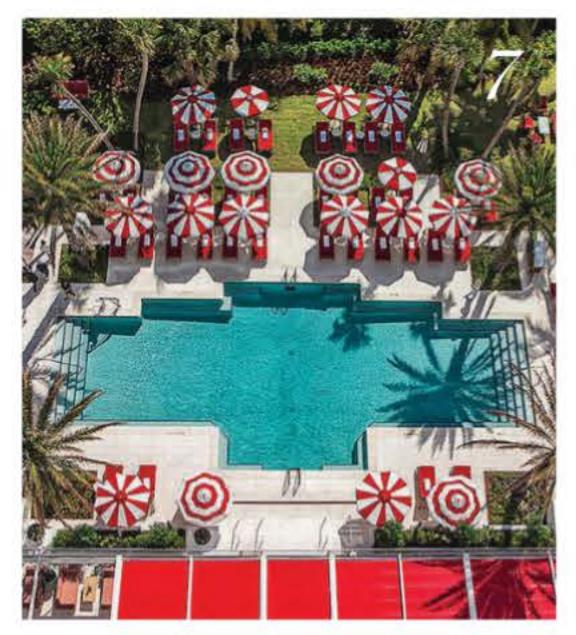
THE NEW BEACH HOT SPOTS

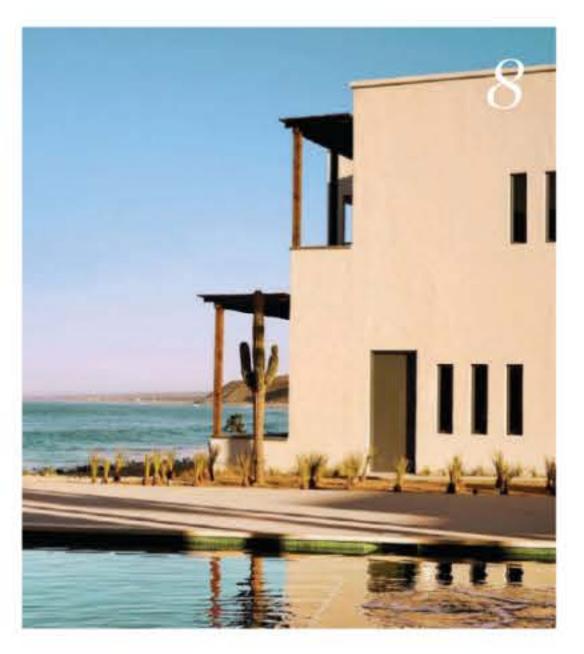
Whether it's far-flung or closer to home, there's a difference between a swath of sand and a honeymoon-worthy beach. We scoured the globe for this year's hottest sun-and-sand destinations, all of which offer unforgettable experiences: road-tripping in California, getting scuba-certified on a private island, touring *Game of Thrones*—style European cities, escaping to a remote tropical paradise, and more. Don't worry, you can still kick back and drink plenty of frozen cocktails along the way.











I FOR ART AFICIONADOS:

With its main city, Valletta, having been named a 2018 European Capital of Culture, this tiny archipelago between Sicily and North Africa has 400-plus events on tap this year. No worries if you miss the fests: From the refreshed Phoenicia Malta (from \$310 per night, campbellgrayhotels.com/ the-phoenicia-malta/), you can see the Baroque St. John's Co-Cathedral and visit prehistoric ruins at the Hagar Qim Temples. Then on to the yellow sands of Golden Bay or the red-hued Ramla il-Hamra beach on sister island Gozo. In less-touristy spring or fall, explore the azure waters and caves of Comino island's Blue Lagoon.

2 SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA

This picturesque city off Highway 1, between the Pacific Ocean and the Santa Ynez Mountains, has newfound cool, thanks to the Funk Zone, a burgeoning neighborhood of artists' studios, tasting rooms, and craft breweries. Check into downtown's Hotel Californian (from \$550 per night, thehotelcalifornian.com), or, later this year, the secluded Rosewood Miramar Beach Montecito (from \$825 per night, rosewoodhotels.com). Browse Waterline, a culinary/retail hub; dine on local uni and black mussels at Bibi Ji (bibijisb.com); and hike to Inspiration Point for goldenhour ocean views.

3 FOR THE WELLNESS OBSESSED: BALI, INDONESIA

With its unspoiled nature and spiritual calm, Bali is the perfect escape. Start at COMO Uma Canggu (from \$250 per night, comohotels.com/uma canggu), with amazing surf breaks and a holistic spa. Then head inland to Ubud, Bali's cultural heart. From Capella Ubud, Bali (opening in July; from \$838 per night, capellaubud .com), you can take in stunning views at Tegalalang Rice Terrace and try acro-yoga at the Yoga Barn (theyoga barn.com). Eat at Locavore (locavore .co.id), a celebrated restaurant that sources local foods-kohlrabi from Payangan, pickled seaweed from Lombok, and short ribs from Java.

4 FOR NATURE LOVERS:

The Caribbean's "Spice Island" has arrived—and in November, so will Silversands Grenada (from \$800 per night, silversands grenada.com), on prized Grand Anse beach. The island is outside the hurricane belt, so it offers year-round paradise with 43 chic minimalist suites, nine villas, a nearly 330-foot pool (the longest in the Caribbean), a locally sourced Thai restaurant, and a private beach club with a low-key resident DJ. Take hikes among waterfalls in Grand Etang National Park and Forest Reserve, scuba dives at the underwater sculpture park, and tours of nutmeg factories and cocoa plantations.

5 FOR SCUBA DIVERS

Known as the soft-coral capital of the world (and the shark-diving capital!), Fiji is a scuba diver's dream. From superluxe Kokomo Private Island (from \$2,500 per night, all-inclusive; kokomoislandfiji.com), spot tuna and dolphin-fish around Great Astrolabe Reef. Get PADI-certified at the renovated Royal Davui (from \$1,000 per night, royaldavuifiji .com), near the Beqa Lagoon's untouched Yanuca Marine Reserve. And at the new Six Senses Fiji (from \$969 per night, sixsenses.com/resorts/fiji/destination), enjoy a Champagne breakfast, then help conservationists restore a coral reef.

6 FOR LUXE-LIFERS:

The new Four Seasons Resort Seychelles at Desroches Island (from \$888 per night, fourseasons.com/ seychellesdesroches) has nine miles of white sands surrounding a coral island, though you may be content simply staying at your villa and private plunge pool. To relax like royalty, book Villa 11 (\$11,885 per night) at the ultraexclusive resort North Island (Presidential Villas from \$7,555 per night, north-island.com), where Will and Kate are said to have honeymooned. The private, vast East Beach location offers diving, snorkeling, deep-sea fishing, and world-class Relais & Châteaux dining.

7 FOR SCENESTERS: MIAMI/MIAMI BEACH

Can't honeymoon without a little action? Explore Miami-beyond South Beach. Tour the Wynwood Arts District (wynwoodmiami.com), with its craft breweries (Wynwood Brewing Company), street art (Wynwood Walls), food hall (1-800-Lucky), and specialty coffee roasters (Panther Coffee). For more flash, check into Instagram-worthy Faena Miami Beach (from \$745 per night, faena.com/miami -beach), then have cocktails at Broken Shaker (freehandhotels.com/miami/ broken-shaker) and dinner at Upland (uplandmiami.com), and take in a cabaret at El Tucán (eltucanmiami.com) in up-and-coming Brickell.

8 FOR ESCAPISTS: TODOS SANTOS, MEXICO

Cabos, Todos Santos is a tiny fishing village that's a world away from its Baja neighbors' resort towns. Get off the grid—and still be pampered—at the 32-room Hotel San Cristóbal (from \$285 per night, sancristobalbaja .com). Drive a rented 4x4 to catch swells on Playa Los Cerritos—get gear from Mario Surf School (mariosurf school.com). Pop into downtown boutiques like Nomad Chic and Étnica before fish tacos and micheladas (spiced beer cocktails) at La Copa Cocina (lacopacocina.com).