

Secret Celebrity Hideaways

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Where star couples stay—secret hotel hideaways from India to Utah.

From May 2011
By Diane Selkirk

The rumor mill was churning—an A-list celebrity going by the code name “Cherry-Cola” had checked into the newly renovated **Four Seasons Nevis** and was happily installed in a beachside cabana with her love. It turns out Mary Louise Parker, actress and star of Showtime series *Weeds*, and her singer/songwriter beau, Charlie Mars, were indulging in a little together time.

It's no surprise that sometimes paparazzi-plagued celebrities want their hideaways (and trysts) to remain a secret. Whether they're heading off on a honeymoon in the **Maldives** or a romantic Mexican beach weekend with someone who may or may not be their spouse, stars are choosing hotels that offer more than just impeccable service, palatial suites, and sunset views. They want discreet check-ins, private entries, empty beaches—and sealed lips.

“Some of our guests register under an assumed name. They don't want to be identified,” says Mark Kerwin, director of sales and marketing at the super-secretive Las Ventanas al Paraiso resort in **Los Cabos**, which recently hosted Sean Penn and Scarlett Johansson—together. Thanks to the property's reputation, it's become a choice destination for Hollywood types looking to fly under the radar.

But while stars crave privacy, they also want romance. For A-listers, these two things often go hand in hand. “Guests bring their own romantic ideas, but sometimes they need a little help [in making sparks fly]. The Romance Director meets these needs,” says Kerwin of Las Ventanas's unique staff position.

While everyone's idea of romance is different—staff at Las Ventanas have buried a proposal-containing bottle in the sand (and stood nearby to make sure the right woman found it), sent a cowboy in an elaborate silver-studded outfit to read a love poem, and screened private movies on the beach—it's almost always on the hush-hush.

Sometimes however, word leaks out. While Aman Resorts won't confirm or deny that staff at **Aman-i-Khás**, a luxury safari camp in Rajasthan, **India**, organized pop star Katy Perry and actor-comedian Russell Brand's exotic, over-the-top wedding last fall, it did drop a few hints about special moments other unnamed guests have enjoyed—a private “Maharaja-style” dinner by the lake; breakfast near the 1,000-year-old fort; rose-petal baths; and “poojas” (special Hindu blessings).

Read on to discover where the stars stay—and where you can, too.



Courtesy of Sanssouci Collection

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Johnny Depp & Vanessa Paradis — Sanssouci Collection, Marrakesh

Once a year two rumors circulate: Johnny Depp and longtime love Vanessa Paradis will wed, and Depp will reprise his role as Jack Sparrow. There's no word on wedding bells for the couple, who have been together since 1998 and have two kids, but *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides* will be released in May 2011, so one rumor was true.

The Hideaway: Trip to the altar aside, Depp and Paradis know how to plan a romantic escape. They recently visited Marrakesh and stayed in a decadent Sanssouci Collection riad hotel. The boutique property, decorated in traditional Moroccan style with colored tile work, arched doors, and lattice window screens, can host only a few guests at a time. Each riad also comes with its own hammam and spa.



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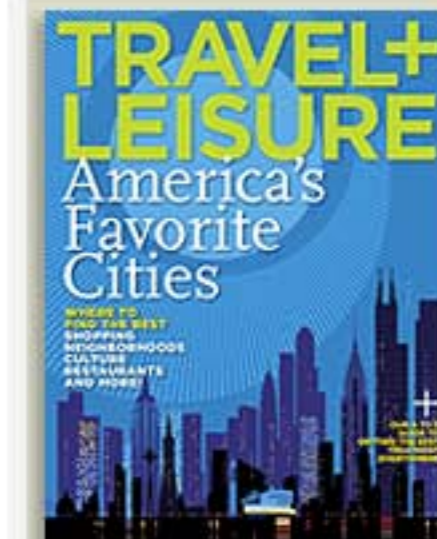
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