

private Necker Island in the BVIs will be welcoming guests back to its Great House from October with its other accommodation due to reopen in 2019.

Bali

A short-haul favourite from Australia, Bali has taken years to regain its popularity among European honeymooners having lost important flight connections, but became the third most popular honeymoon destination last year for luxury Swiss/UK operator Kuoni.

It also has some exciting new product – next year Rosewood will open the World Grand Bali, featuring suites with plunge pools as part of the Pecatu Indah Resort development. The Mulia Bali at Nusa Dua has a new Royal Balinese Wedding package, with traditional blessing, dancing and feasting, while honeymooners can opt for its new Baliscovery Experience combining a sunrise hike to Mount Batur, a blessing from a traditional healer and a lengthy spa session.

Mini-moons

Following the stress and expense of a big bash at home, couples are increasingly opting for short-haul, short duration honeymoons, either as their sole break, or as a precursor to a special long-haul trip at a later date.

For European couples, options include the adult-only MarBella Nido Suite Hotel & Villas that opened on Corfu this May. The property has 70 rooms, including villas with private pools and suites with whirlpool baths on the verandahs.

Winter sun favourite Tenerife has been moving upmarket in recent years and the Croatian island of Vis may see more interest from couples following its role as a location in *Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again*.

Short hop options for Asian couples include The Sarojin at Khao Lak, Thailand, which has launched waterfall weddings to add to its candlelit waterfall dining experience for honeymooners.

The adult-only MarBella Nido Suite Hotel & Villas opened on Corfu this May



An hour's flight from Bali, Ayana Komodo Resort, Waecicu Beach will open this September on the less developed island of Flores, close to Komodo National Park. Ceremony venues at the wedding-focused resort will include a traditional phinisi sailing ship offshore.

Also in phinisi style, super-yacht Prana is being launched in Indonesia by the Atzaro Group, whose Ibiza hotels are a favourite with Hollywood A-listers. It has nine suites and will visit national parks.

US national parks

The buzz around the centenary of US national parks last year is helping entice new international visitors. The destination is already popular for touring honeymooners. Vegas, of course, has a plethora of wedding options – from novelty drive-thru and Elvis ceremonies to showy hotel affairs. The city is popularly combined with a road trip to national parks in neighbouring states, including the Grand Canyon in Arizona, Monument Valley on the Arizona-Utah border, Yosemite in California and Bryce Canyon in Utah.

Weddings in Italy

UK operators report a boom in weddings in Italy as awareness grows of some of the attractive heritage buildings where couples can tie the knot. The elegant town halls of Amalfi, Ravello and Venice – where George Clooney had his civil ceremony – and the medieval St Francis cloister in Sorrento are among favourites.

Twin and multi-centres

With today's younger generation being well travelled, honeymoons are getting more adventurous, with newlyweds seeking more twin or multi-centre itineraries.

Popular wedding destination Sri Lanka is not only great for a touring honeymoon but also easily combined with the Maldives. Flight connections make the Middle East plus Asia or the Indian Ocean a viable contrasting option. Mauritius and the Seychelles also combine well with an African safari.

Among new Middle East honeymoon options is the Jumeirah at Saadiyat Island resort in Abu Dhabi, due to open this November, with villas and panoramic suites among its 293 rooms. A grand Moroccan-style hammam will include a VIP couple's suite with private entrance.

The much-anticipated Louvre Abu Dhabi opened nearby late last year.

In the Maldives, 37-villa Mirihi Island this year introduced themed honeymoon options incorporating private cruises, beach cinema, daily spa treatments, fishing and cooking experiences and

Aruba has successfully courted the honeymoons and weddings market



private whale shark safari. Huvafen Fushi is reopening this autumn following a year's refurbishment, with a new PlayPen grand beach pavilion and Japanese restaurant with sake sommeliers.

On Mauritius, the renovated Heritage Le Chateau, a Michelin-starred restaurant, has launched a luxurious presidential suite. Victoria Beachcomber Resort & Spa has added an adult-only wing with the island's first swim-up suites and Four Seasons is set to open a new beach club.



The Jumeirah at Saadiyat Island will open in Abu Dhabi this November

One of the options at Mirihi Island is a whale shark safari

