

# WEDDINGS

## HONEYMOONS

## Sun, Sea and

shhh...

*Danielle Wilkins* discovers the perfect mix of invigorating adventure and relaxation in two of the French Riviera's dreamiest five-star hotspots

From picture-postcard views to watersports, everything you could want in a two-tone honeymoon lies on the breathtaking Cote d'Azur. Tranquil coastal town with a side of excitement coming right up.

### THE A-LIST RETREAT: HOTEL DU CAP-EDEN-ROC

The warm afternoon sun is shimmering over the glistening turquoise sea, sipping on a glass of Provençal rosé so deliciously pale, it could almost pass as water. We've just checked into one of the most luxurious addresses on the Cote d'Azur, and I can't deny, it feels like I'm having a bit of a movie star moment as I sit back on the terrace of the Eden-Roc Grill and focus on those glittering views beyond. And I'm in good company, it would seem – from Madonna to Kate Moss, Greta Garbo to Marlene Dietrich, Hotel du Cap-Eden-Roc has seen its fair share of celebrity guests over its 150 brilliant years, and it's easy to see why. The amazing service makes this palatial property feel like home (seriously, your every wish is their command – an afternoon of jet-skiing followed by freshly barbecued shrimp in your private cabana at lunch? Yes please!) and the old-school glamour vibe feels relaxed and private, and the pace unhurried.

The rooms are spacious and feel equally lavish, with floral prints in chalky pastel hues and antique furnishings. There are all the little luxuries you'd expect, including generously sized Bamford toiletries in the marble bathroom, super-soft robes and Nespresso machines. Fling open your French doors leading to the balcony, and you'll feel as though you've been transported back to a vintage classic film. When you're not soaking up the views from your balcony or people-watching by the saltwater infinity pool carved out of rock, the grounds are a joy to explore. Create some serious Insta-envy with selfies by the wisteria-clad pergolas, pine forests and colourful flowerbeds, or on the trapeze overhanging the glittering Baie de Cannes (we're not saying you're going to get 1.6 million likes a la Kendall Jenner, but a girl can dream).

And the food? Exemplary. Even a simple tuna niçoise on the terrace is something to rave about. Dinner at the Michelin-starred Louroc Restaurant is a night you'll never forget, with perfectly cooked seafood, vintage wines and Mediterranean views as far as the eye can see – the kind of experience that the most romantic honeymoons are made of.

Rooms from €650 per night, including breakfast, tax and service  
[oetziercollection.com/hotels/hotel-du-cap-eden-roc](http://oetziercollection.com/hotels/hotel-du-cap-eden-roc)



**THE ULTRA-LUXE HIDEAWAY:  
CHÂTEAU SAINT-MARTIN & SPA**

This revamped Provençal retreat, built on 12th century castle ruins, is the epitome of romance – if by 'romance' you mean poolside cabanas to cosy up in, olive groves to lose yourself in and verdant views of the surrounding mountains and the Mediterranean coastline beyond.

And it has style in spades. Tucked away in the hills of Vence, Château Saint-Martin feels a million miles away from civilisation when in fact, the scenic postcard village of St Paul is just a 10-minute drive, and Vence even closer. We arrive to the warmest of welcomes – a hint of lavender and pine in the air – and are shown to our room, a beautifully light and spacious suite with parquet floors and a luxurious sunken bath. Throughout our stay, we spend much of our time relaxing on the south-facing balcony – after all, what could be more soothing than being lulled by birdsong as you sip on an exceedingly good bottle of Châteauneuf du Pape on a balmy evening?

The intimate Michelin-starred restaurant and spacious patio bar are the heart of the hotel. Dinner can be served inside or out on the terrace with panoramic views that stretch towards Nice. In

the Summer, the hotel's rustic dining space L'Oliveraie opens for wood-fired pizzas and barbecue. It was closed during our stay, but if the food was anything like what we had experienced in Le Saint-Martin, I can only imagine how wonderful it would be to chow down on fresh grilled fish and zesty salads amongst the olive and lemon trees. Breakfast is also something of a fine art here and is best enjoyed on your balcony at least once during your stay.

It's not just the culinary choices that leave us feeling spoilt for choice. Alongside romantic walks in the grounds and dips in the pool, there are so many other ways to pass the time. Ease yourself in with a signature couple's treatment in the La Prairie spa – you can even enjoy a massage beneath the hotel's jasmine-clad pergola as you soak up more of those #nofilter views and let the memories sink in.

It's certainly paradise – and it's available for more than just your honeymoon if a fairytale chateau wedding is on the cards. Couples can say their vows and dine alfresco on the lawns, enveloped by olive trees and citrus blossom.

Rooms from €350 per night

[etkercollection.com/hotels/chateau-saint-martin](http://etkercollection.com/hotels/chateau-saint-martin). **WTF**

