

MARTHA STEWART

weddings

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MEXICO WINNER: RIVIERA MAYA

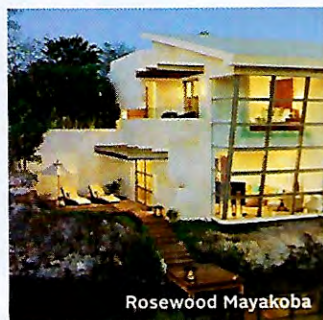
Some honeymooners are ready to start exploring secret beaches and ancient ruins right after clearing customs. Others are content exploring the depths of the infinity pool and spa menu at a luxurious resort. This region and the surrounding area are an ideal destination for both types. Here's how to match your visit to your post-wedding energy level. —Adam Erace

Resort Romance

Stay At Hotel Xcaret Mexico, which opened in December just south of Playa del Carmen (from \$540 per night, all-inclusive; hotelixcaret.com), oceanfront “swim-up” rooms feature private terraces leading right into the pool.

Eat Try *Aquí Me Quedo*, at the Rosewood Mayakoba hotel (rosewoodhotels.com/mayakoba-riviera-maya) for a “throw a cover-up over your suit,” toes-in-the-sand dinner. Think vivid ceviches, Veracruz-style *meme-las*, and *mezcal* cocktails, all served from a vintage truck.

Shop Opened in June, *Salum* marketplace brings bustling shops to the Vidanta Riviera



RUNNERS-UP

LOS CABOS
Rugged desert meets blue ocean at the tip of Baja, where honeymoon-perfect properties from Four Seasons, Ritz-Carlton, the Luxury Collection, and Montage are all debuting this year or next.

CANCÚN
Its grown-up side includes the adults-only Temptation Cancún Resort, which boasts a recent multi-million-dollar renovation, plus a designated pool for partying and another for relaxation.

COZUMEL
Off the coast of Playa del Carmen, this popular cruise port is paradise for divers and snorkelers. Stay on the southwestern shore for quiet beaches away from the cruise terminal, and head inland to explore the Mayan ruins at San Gervasio.

PUERTO VALLARTA
Surrounded by the Sierra Madre, this former mid-century hot spot on the Pacific is getting its groove back with new openings, like the chic 55-room Hotel Amapa in a charming part of town.

Off-Road Romance

Stay Days at *Habitas Tulum* (from \$300 per night, habitas-tulum.com), spent in the sea-front infinity pool, melt into nights of concerts, environmental lectures, energy-cleansing rituals, and family-style dinners. But this is no crunchy commune. Beautifully tented rooms are furnished with leather camp chairs and writing desks.

Eat Herbal cocktails and mocktails abound at the Real Coconut, the bar and restaurant at *Sanará Tulum*, a wellness-centric retreat (sanaratulum.com). Follow them with jalapeño poppers and grilled beef tenderloin.

Shop Load up on woven tapestries, dried chiles, and tamarind confections at the central market in the colorful Yucatán town of Valladolid. Rent a car—it's a straight shot from Tulum.

Spa The spiritually curious can partake in a traditional *temazcal* ceremony at the holistic *Yáan Wellness Energy Spa* (yaan-wellness.com), in Tulum. On new and full-moon nights, the resident healer leads ceremonies in the sacred sweat lodge.

Maya's beachfront (vidanta.com). Pop-ups specialize in art from each Mexican state, from Nayarit's Huichol beadwork to Michoacán's Grenadilla wood carvings.

Spa Wild-rose and clove perfumes fill the Eternal Romance Ritual at the *Andaz Mayakoba Resort Riviera Maya's Naum Wellness & Spa* (mayakoba-andaz.hyatt.com). New for 2018, this 90-minute couples treatment is said to kindle aphrodisiac energy.

See For town culture without venturing far, visit *Mayakoba's El Pueblito* (mayakoba.com/mayakoba-life/el-pueblito). This re-created village has restaurants, boutiques, Indie Gen garments, and the Chapel La Santa Cruz, which hosts lots (and lots) of destination weddings.

See At the *Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve* (visitsiankaan.com), a six-hour “private wedding tour” takes you by boat through canals and mangrove forests to the coral reef for snorkeling. Then explore the Mayan ruins in Múyil, far less crowded than those in Tulum.

