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The Truth About
The First Year Of Marriage

FUN HOTEL FREEBIES

It's always nice to be greeted with a complimentary fruit basket or glass of champagne, but these days, many resorts are welcoming guests with more original amenities. The Palms, Turks & Caicos lends each visitor an iPod with 1,000 songs; Las Ventanas and One&Only Palmilla, both in Mexico, provide portable DVD players for poolside use; and Little Dix Bay in the British Virgin Islands offers advance copies of novels by best-selling authors. Pet lovers who stay at some Kimpton Hotels (San Francisco, New Orleans and others) can have a goldfish sent to their room, and for any honeymooner who actually wants to be reached, The Four Seasons and Bulgari hotels in Milan will provide a complimentary cell phone for the stay.



mb asks the experts

What's New in Invitations?



Ellen Black, Lehr & Black Invitations, L.A.: Crystal and beading details are huge trends, as is incorporating thoughtful touches. Some examples: personalized response cards that ask guests *Where will you be staying?* and paper pockets to hold all the elements so that nothing gets lost.

Karen Bartolomei, Grapevine, Boston:

Texture—incorporating materials like silk, wood, feathers or rope to give guests a preview of the reception decor. Also, custom hand-drawn maps of the wedding location and surrounding area noting points of interest are an increasingly popular enclosure.



Alyson Bravo, A Papier, L.A.: Hip color combinations are orange and chocolate, garnet and plum, and mango and curry. And we're using personalized wax seals for a romantic or boho feel.



A Sweet Farewell

No wedding guest can resist late-night munchies, even after a four-course meal—and especially not when they're left in a cute package in the hotel room at the end of the night. This is the idea behind celebrity wedding designer Sasha Souza's "happy trails" baskets, which have included sweets like madeleines and doughnuts, Sleepytime Tea with crystallized sugar sticks, and local products such as lavender-infused honey. "It's a fun surprise for guests to find treats after the wedding," Souza says. As an extra-thoughtful touch, she also suggests including a list of sights to see the next day, traffic conditions with airport travel-time estimates, and a parting note thanking everyone for being there.