

Couples look for a 'problem-free' honeymoon

Relaxation comes to mind for many soon-to-be newlyweds when planning that special time of intimacy following the wedding, more commonly known as the "honeymoon."

After the hectic planning and preparation that goes into a wedding, most couples want a honeymoon that is problem-free, says

Kathy Anthony, a travel consultant with Goliger's Travel in Georgetown.

The resorts that offer all-inclusive packages specifically aimed at couples, are the most appealing, she said.

These packages are relatively inexpensive, which is an important consideration for most newly-

married couples, she said. Those offered by resorts down south run from \$700 per person to \$1,400 per person for a week.

With the all-inclusive packages, people know what they're spending before taking the trip. All-inclusive means couples pay up front for their air flight, accommodations, meals, entertainment and that all-

important personal touch: couples are more than likely to find the likes of champagne and flowers in their room, Mrs. Anthony said.

Resort owners are apt at getting people to meet each other. And no matter the type of couple, whether interested in a lot of activities or just taking it easy, the resorts offer a range of activities to meet people's varying needs, Mrs. Anthony said.

A lot of the more popular resorts are in the Caribbean at islands such as Jamaica, the Dominican Republic and St. Kitts, said Mrs. Anthony. For those interested in spending a little more money there are the Greek island, she added.

The Fern Hill Club in Port Antonio, Jamaica, is one resort Mrs. Anthony highly recommends. The couple stays at villa-style accommodations, located on the crest of a cliff, overlooking the ocean. And each has a balcony with a jacuzzi, she said.

For sea-faring island-lovers, couples can take a Caribbean cruise. And speaking from experience, Mrs. Anthony said this honeymoon is very romantic. Peo-

ple immediately think of the Love Boat, she said. It's a great way to see islands. And-speaking from experience, cruising is very romantic, she said.

Although the Caribbean is a popular honeymoon spot, Ontario's Muskoka area also has some attractive couple-oriented resorts. The Deerhurst Inn is a resort Mrs. Anthony highly recommends. These resorts are comparatively inexpensive, she said. An all-inclusive package costs between \$400 and \$700.

Other popular Canadian honeymoon locations include Niagara Falls and of course, Quebec City.

Another popular spot are the Poconos in Pennsylvania. The Poconos' two resorts cater specifically to the honeymooner. One of the highlights is their bedrooms with their heart-shaped beds and champagne glass-shaped bathtubs.

Those interested in spots off the beaten track should be prepared to spend quite a bit. That's why they're off the beaten track, Mrs. Anthony said.

She recommends that couples book their honeymoon three months in advance.



Cathy Anthony (right), a travel consultant with Goliger's Travel in Georgetown, says all inclusive travel packages to the south are the most popular honeymoon trips. Mrs. Anthony and her co-workers Mari Anne Laiter (centre) and Bonnie Roebuck say newlyweds just want to relax after planning, preparing and going through the wedding. (Herald photo)

In the '80s....

Tradition blends with innovation

The bride of today knows what she wants. Whether she walks down a long aisle in an antique Victorian gown, or is married in a tailored suit of her favorite color, she is planning her wedding at a time when couples are expressing whom they are by the way in which they choose to celebrate their marriage.

The weddings of the '80s are unique in that, although there is a trend toward the traditional, at the same time there is a strong tendency to cast convention aside.

It is no longer unusual, for instance, for a bride, being married for the first time at the age of 35, to opt for the large traditional ceremony and long white gown that were once considered appropriate only for a much younger woman.

But today's bride often comes to her marriage with many years of education and career behind her. A lot more savvy and sophisticated than a young bride of 21, her tastes are more mature and her direction more defined.

She may be an investment banker, a doctor or head of her own small business. But whatever her career goals may be, they are most likely as important a consideration in the marriage as those of her husband.

While it is an advantage to have more defined goals before marriage, so that both people have a clearer sense of whom they are and what their needs may be, at the same time, it means that there may be a greater need for compromise.

If it is a two career marriage, chores will need to be shared and perhaps an extra effort made to spend quality time together despite two often-hectic schedules.

It is less and less likely that the bride of today will marry the boy next door, or even a boy from the same town, as was the norm in the past. For, as the average age of brides increases steadily, it is more and more probable that she will meet her husband at college or on the job.

Chances are she's from Iowa and he's from California, an increasingly common situation which has brought about innovative ideas in wedding planning, such as the weekend-wedding. At this sort of wedding, events such as barbecues and sightseeing trips are planned for guests who travel from near and far to celebrate with the bride and groom for an entire weekend!

What this says about the new trend in weddings for the '80s is that more than ever before they are a personal reflection of whom the bride and groom really are, reflecting their tastes, attitudes and dreams.

Today, whether the couple is 19 or 45, there is a new confidence, freedom and

ding in the country, a small intimate ceremony followed by cocktails and elegant hors d'oeuvre, or a big weekend bash, today the choices are endless.

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