

UNUSUAL HONEYMOONS

HEY DUDE

Wanted: Lover of fresh air, the smell of a saddle, old boots, wild flowers at the side of a mountain, flannel shirts and cowboy hats. Were you born with a rocky mountain high? Think "Bonanza" was America's greatest contribution to international culture? Have we got a honeymoon for you! Across western states like Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and Arizona, you'll find every cowboy and cowgirl's dream—a dude ranch.

Although it may sound a bit sporty (and it is), a dude ranch honeymoon can provide plenty of tender moments for two. After a leisurely ride through fields of flowers, you decide to stop and let the horses graze a bit while setting down a picnic dinner to enjoy through a golden sunset.

Sporting names like *Lazy K Bar Ranch*, *Spear-O-Wigwam Ranch* and *Peaceful Valley*, a dude ranch offers a step into yesteryear and a modern day taste of the old west. Horseback riding is a staple of a dude ranch holiday, but there's no need to fret if you've never ridden before, lil' darlin', 'cause *all* the ranches welcome greenhorns like you. Ranch fare is hearty, so expect plenty of chili, fried chicken and steak.



Huge logpole lodges—with a cozy fireplace to curl up to at the end of a relaxing day—are a common sight along the range. Rates change according to the ranch you choose, but many will run about \$400 to \$600 per person, per week, including meals.

CONTACT: It would be impossible to list them all, but here are the addresses of two ranches: Lone Mountain Ranch, P.O. Box 69, Big Sky, MT 59716 (406-995-4644) and Heart Six Ranch, P.O. Box 70, Moran, WY 83013 (307-543-2477). For a complete listing, read *Dude Ranches of the American West* by Naomi Black (The Stephen Greene Press, Lexington, MA).

by Lisa Arcella

ALL ABOARD

Picture yourself in a beaded black dress sipping champagne, listening to the musical rhythm of the train along the rails and staring at the passing horizon. Meanwhile, he, donned in black tie, only has eyes for you.

That fantasy can be yours in what may well be described as the most romantic honeymoon ever. Who hasn't dreamed of stepping out of an Agatha Christie novel and into the mystery and romance that is the luxurious Venice-Simplon-Orient-Express?

The most exciting thing about traveling in such a fashion is not the fact that you will be touring the great capitals of Europe like Venice, Istanbul, Athens and Zurich (plus two new destinations—Vienna and Wales), eating well and exploring the unknown, but that you will be doing it in such style.

The carriages that take you from city to city are decorated in the original 1920s elegance that once transported kings. Everyone dresses for dinner, of course—but first, perhaps you'll stop by for a drink at the Art Nouveau bar



and lounge next to the baby grand piano.

There are several routes beyond the well-known London to Venice excursion, but be forewarned—luxury rarely comes without a price tag. After May 1, a traditional seven day trip from London to Venice will cost about \$1,100 per person, including all meals. Air fare to London is separate.

CONTACT: A travel agent or Venice-Simplon-Orient-Express, One World Trade Center, Suite 2565, New York, NY 10048 (800-524-2420).

SHANGHAI SURPRISE

In the film *Inn of the Sixth Happiness*, Ingrid Bergman and Curt Jurgens fall in love in the peaceful Chinese countryside. Ever since that film was first screened, the land holds an irresistible attraction to western lovers. But the dilemma remains: how to experience the true romance of China without falling into typical tourist traps that can be expensive and disillusioning.

When in China, one of the best ways to truly get a feeling for the culture and the people of this exotic land is to tour it the way the natives do—on two wheels. Bicycle tours are becoming popular modes of travel across many countries, helping participants make exciting off the beaten path discoveries and bringing them closer to each country's rural population. China is no exception,

and considering that about 80 percent of the Chinese consider cycling their main form of transport, what better way to get a real taste for the food, culture and people?

For an offbeat approach, a company called China Passage, operating out of New Jersey, visits communes and country villages along its travels. A support van follows in the distance, which carries your luggage—and *you*, whenever you want to stop for a while. Don't worry, though; the pace is relaxed.

The average cost for a bike tour through China is \$2,755 per person and includes all meals, accommodations, and transport in China.

CONTACT: China Passage, 168 State Street, Teaneck, NJ 07666 (201-837-1400) and your travel agent for more operators. ☺