



bliss for two

For the couple who have already set up house, a honeymoon registry is a perfect option. Rachael Oakes-Ash talks to Kathleen Cox and Christopher Smith about their honeymoon in the Maldives

Kathleen Cox and Christopher Smith, both 34, had a truly international wedding. They met in Sydney on the eve of the millennium and moved to London six months later. They married there, at the Chelsea Town Hall in July 2006, held a reception at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney and honeymooned in the Maldives.

“Having multiple celebrations seemed the perfect solution. It allowed us to celebrate getting married with all our friends and family,” says Kathleen. “We registered with The Wedding List Company for our gifts and they had just launched a honeymoon registry service which was perfect for us. We already

had all the household essentials so we listed special pieces or honeymoon vouchers. It meant we could have our dream trip and the Wedding List Company helped us choose our destination and book the trip.”

The Maldives sits on the equator and is made up of more than a thousand coral islands with 26 major atolls. Beaches are white and the sea boasts blue, aqua, turquoise and green hues.

“It was the perfect destination – living in London, we missed the sun and water. We wanted seclusion – somewhere we could get five-star service but see no one – a place where you spend all day in your swimmers, eat amazing food, drink champagne and not think about a single thing,” says Kathleen.

The couple chose Coco Palm Dhuni Kolhu Resort & Spa as their honeymoon hideaway and loved every minute of it. “When we arrived at Coco Palm I was blown away,” says Kathleen. “We arrived by sea plane to this tiny island, measuring just 700 metres by 300 metres, and surrounded by crystal clear water. When you picture an island paradise, Coco Palm is it. We had a lagoon villa over the water with a huge four poster canopy that looked out to sea. Each night the room was lit by candles and rose petals were arranged on the bed in the shape of flowers.”

The seclusion and privacy at Coco Palm was something the newlyweds appreciated. “On the deck we had our own private



CLOCKWISE FROM OPPOSITE PAGE: Over-water bungalows are a popular choice with honeymooners. Perfect beaches meet unbelievable crystal clear waters. The newlyweds. Seclusion isn't hard to find at Coco Palms. Romantic dinners are a specialty. The couple's plunge pool and private ocean access.



pool – you couldn't see or hear anyone and no one could see or hear you," says Kathleen. "There were stairs going down from the deck straight into the sea and at night you could see manta rays and fish swimming around the pylons. We got up each morning and walked straight into the sea. Breakfast was delivered to our door and the rest of the day was spent on the deck or in the pool."

There's plenty to do for the honeymooner craving activity including the truly romantic 'Uniquely Coco' experiences. Designed to be enjoyed by two, there are private picnics on deserted islands, dinner under the stars or a private breakfast beneath a pergola.

"One day we took a snorkelling trip to an uninhabited island surrounded by reefs," adds Kathleen. "We had a guide and we snorkelled with sea turtles, swimmer crabs and brightly coloured fish. There's snorkelling, sailing, water skiing on offer so there's plenty to do."

Soothe stressed out wedding bodies with a massage for two in the resort's spa or enjoy the cool sea breeze while being pampered with a private massage on the beach with frangipani, rose and lavender oils. It's all designed for total relaxation. *Coco Palm is a member of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World. For more information see www.slh.com or www.cocopalm.com*

HONEY, LET'S REGISTER

If you are keen to have a gift list that offers guests the option to send you off on the trip of your dreams, you can now include honeymoon vouchers on your wishlist when you register with The Wedding List Company. After the wedding, you redeem the vouchers with Travelscene American Express (recently voted Best Travel Agency Group 2006) and off you go! www.theweddinglistcompany.com.au