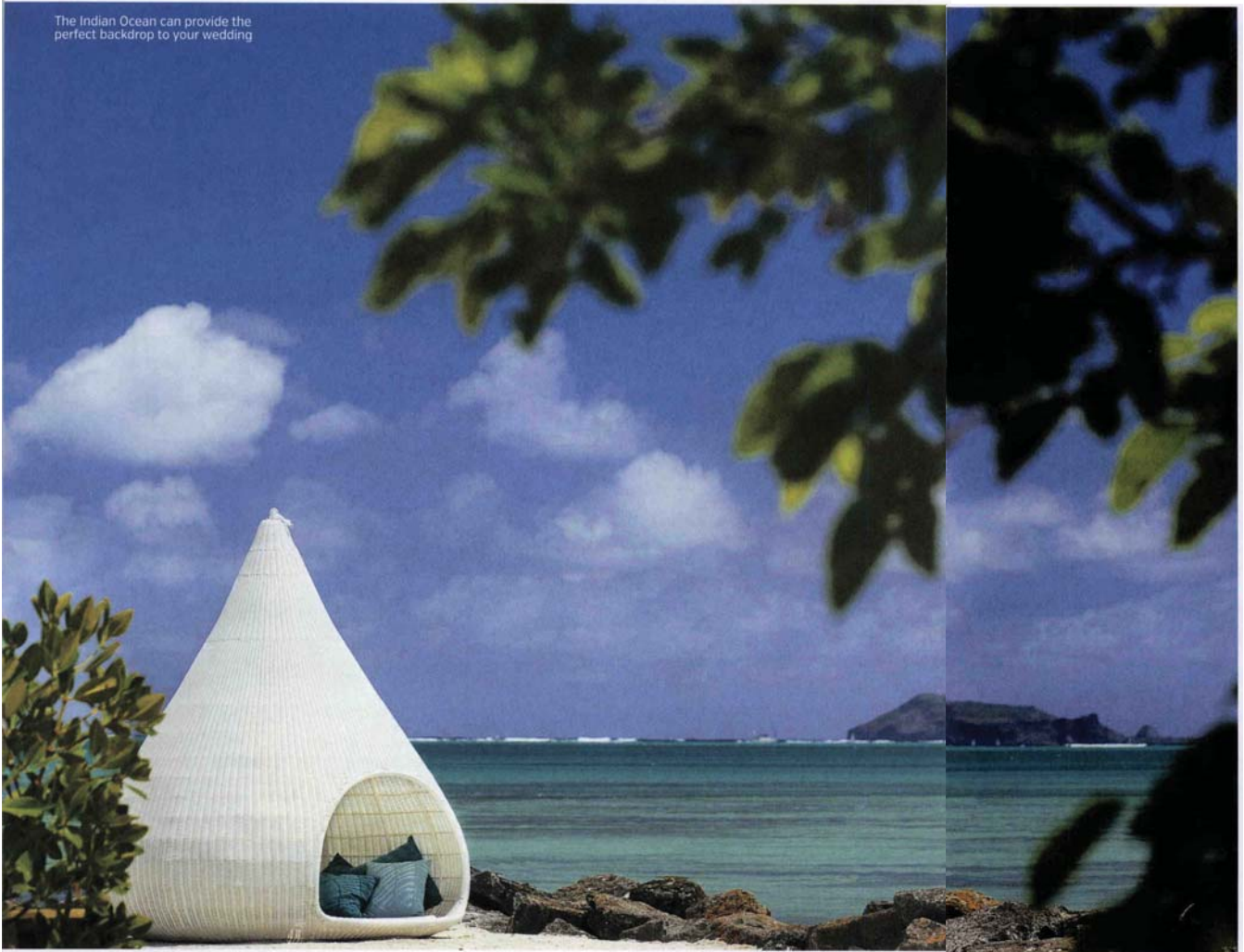


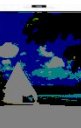
The Indian Ocean can provide the perfect backdrop to your wedding



Say “I Do” in paradise

IF YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT GETTING MARRIED ABROAD, THE INDIAN OCEAN OFFERS THE PERFECT GETAWAY.

Dine outside with friends and family at Heritage The Villas in Mauritius





The luxury tour operator If Only... has been successfully packaging weddings and honeymoons ever since it launched its programme some 17 years ago. The team at Spa Travel work closely with them to create unforgettable weddings, honeymoons, renewal of vows ceremonies and anniversaries.

In recent years the interest in faraway weddings and honeymoons has grown considerably, and as modern families come in every shape and size, the traditional family event at home has become less important.

Couples are marrying at a later age and there are more second marriages, so there has been a growth in demand for more unusual events and romantic celebrations with a difference.

Once a couple have booked an overseas wedding or renewal of vows ceremony, some couples invite friends and family to join them on a coral white beach, in a tropical garden or on deserted island to witness the occasion. It's the best of both worlds – in an exotic and dramatic setting, but with the couple's nearest and dearest there too.

For couples looking for a wedding with a difference, here's some suggestions that might get them saying "We Do" in an exotic location.

When it comes to weddings, **Heritage The Villas** in Mauritius have thought of everything – even the bachelor/bachelorette parties – for the couple who want to invite friends and family along for the whole celebration.

Guests at the five-star **Heritage The Villas** enjoy unlimited access to the two neighbouring luxury hotels, yet retain the exclusivity of their own villa. These two, three and four en-suite bedroom villas with private pools each have indoor/outdoor entertaining spaces with living/dining/kitchen and veranda accommodation, ideal for entertaining and relaxation.

If Only... offers a seven-night stay in September from £1,495 per person – this includes flights, breakfast daily, private car transfers and airport taxes based on four

adults sharing a two-bedroom villa.

In Mauritius, most hotels can add a wedding package supplement to the holiday from only £380 for the couple. Every hotel offers different options but a simple wedding package usually includes all legalities for the bride and groom, transportation of the civil officer, a dedicated wedding coordinator, a private wedding (or semi-private) venue in the hotel's gardens, services of witnesses if required and a range of other romantic touches such as a floral decoration, a wedding cake, sparkling wine and gifts for the happy couple.

Alternatively, add a touch of Bollywood glamour to an Indian Ocean wedding, with a romantic 'Barefoot on the Beach' ceremony at **Saman Villas in Sri Lanka**.

Rose petals form two hearts on a dedicated area of the beach, where the couple can exchange their own vows, choose a religious ceremony or opt for a traditional Sri Lankan wedding complete with drummers, dancers and even an elephant.

Seven nights at the five-star Saman Villas in Sri Lanka, including Emirates flights, breakfast daily, private car transfers and airport taxes is available from £1,899 per person. This also includes a couple's treatment at Sahana Spa, a romantic in-suite breakfast and a candlelit five-course dinner.

Tailor-made wedding packages are available at a supplement.

Many Indian Ocean hotels appreciate that there might be children there as part of the big day and can offer room types to suit a variety of family combinations.

The contemporary "rustic chic" architecture and Mauritian design of the Zilwa Attitude has been inspired by traditional homes and old seaside bungalows. Their deluxe family rooms are 50 m² and open on to a furnished terrace or balcony. They are fitted with a double bed in the main room and twin beds in the second room. They can accommodate two adults and three children (up to 12 years of age) or two adults, two teenagers and one child.