Asiate wine cellar

SHETLAND ISLANDS

WHY HERE
Heather-blanketed hills, craggy beaches and secret sea caves, the more than 100 far-flung islands (15 inhabited) off the coast of Scotland are for nature lovers who adore off-the-beaten-path getaways. A 900-mile winding coastline provides mouth-gaping seascapes and wildlife spectacles like Shetland ponies that will capture your heart at every twist and turn. These islands are for escape artist couples who love nothing more than a wooly sweater and nature—oh, and whisky, too.

WHAT TO DO
Adventurous couples will want to check out Eshaness—take the lighthouse road for a walk north to the Holes of Scraada and you'll stumble upon surreal scenery. Or, hike up the rugged path to Shetland’s highest point up Hermaness Hill and take in the brilliant view of Muckle Flugga, a natural reserve. Later, dine on fresh salmon, lamb, fish and chips, fish pie and you can’t go wrong—especially at the Queens Hotel pub with sea views.

WHERE TO STAY
With more than 400 whiskies served at the bar, you’re no doubt in Scotland at the rustic Busta House Hotel (bustahouse.com). A remote location on the Busta Voe shore on mainland Shetland, each of the rooms at this remote hideaway is named for one of the Shetlands.

IBIZA

WHY HERE
Fashionable couples who crave the spotlight and enjoy clubbing until dawn will think they’ve gone to heaven. The trendiest of Europe’s island jewels, the hip island off the coast of Spain is also celebrated for its festivals and A-list visitors.

WHAT TO DO
Wear a little black number and dance until breakfast at one of the first-full of clubs like Privilege and Amnesia. Admire the sunset on the West Coast’s Benirras Beach while listening to drummers who congregate to serenade the sun’s march into the sea. Stroll away from the spotlight on a day trip to Formentera Island, noted for its golden beaches and topless sunbathing. Water sports are also popular here including jet-skiing, water-skiing and kayaking, as is diving. Climb up to the summit of historic Dalt Vila, and peek out over the pretty harbor. Visit Hippy Market for batik wraps, moccasins and jewelry.

WHERE TO STAY
Retreat to sexy Hacienda Na Xanema (hacienda-na-xanema.com), a whitewashed beauty that is located 20 minutes from all the action, so you’ll have the best of both worlds—ibiza’s nightlife and a quiet Zen vibe at day. Located in a nature preserve, soothe your nightlife souls with a massage in a bamboo-thatched hut or thalasso therapy in the outdoor Cascadas Suspendidas.

THEIR’S SUNNY, SANDY & SEXY! WE’RE TALKING ABOUT EUROPE’S BEST-KEPT SECRETS. BY LAURIE BAIN WILSON

Hacienda Na Xanema
**SANTORINI**

**WHY HERE** A glamorous Aegean Sea gem, in the southern Cyclades, mythical Santorini has wooed poets, artists and lovers for centuries to be inspired in its scattered seaside villages. The island’s capital, Fira, is built into the magical Caldera cliffs, as are many of the sugar-white homes and blue-domed churches, and the beaches are elongated stretches of striking black sand (Kamari Beach is special.)

**WHAT TO DO** For nightlife, shopping and magical volcano views, you’ll want to hit Fira; order the stuffed squid and a glass of the local wine at Aigialos. Visit off-the-beaten-path Oia, at the top of Santorini’s northern coast, to discover art galleries, fish taverns (Papagalos is popular), glorified sea captain’s houses and stirring sunsets. Also explore the local vineyards—Domaine Sigalas is a favorite.

**WHERE TO STAY** Settle into Mystique (luxurycollection.com/mystique), a whitewashed hideaway tucked away on a cliff in Oia. With only 22 intimate, cave-style suites (made from local wood and stone) and villas, you’ll fall in love with the aqua Aegean Sea views from terrace or from your villa’s outdoor Jacuzzi. Discreetly sip 150-year-old wine in the hotel’s Secret Wine Cave. Get a rub or wrap in your suite or at the spa. Opa!

**CAPRI**

**WHY HERE** Curvaceous Capri, in the Gulf of Naples, has teased lovers for centuries with tug-at-your-heart scenes (think lemon trees, olive groves, cliffhanger cafes and a brilliant turquoise sea). It was a favorite romantic playground of Roman emperors—and it will be yours, too.

**WHAT TO DO** Take a wooden boat tour of magical Grotto Azurra (Blue Grotto) and you’ll more than satisfy that “something blue” for your wedding. Visit La Piazzetta, a fashionable pizzeria that is the heartbeat of Capri, with open-air cafes—perfect for celebrity sightings; settle into a white-leather banquette and order the thin-crust pizza at Ristorante Aurora, the island’s oldest restaurant, steps from the piazza.

**WHERE TO STAY** The views of the Bay of Naples from elegant Hotel Caesar Augustus (caesar-augustus.com) are as intoxicating as a fine Italian wine. Crowned on a cliff 1,000 feet above the sea, you’ll swim in the heated infinity pool, succumb to an outdoor couple’s massage and nibble on local olives and Mediterranean cuisine at a candlelit table-for-two at Ristorante Aurora, the island’s oldest restaurant, steps from the piazza.

**ARAN ISLANDS**

**WHY HERE** Traditionalist couples will love the remote Aran Islands where life is simple and locals still speak Gaelic Irish, one of the few places in Ireland where it’s still spoken. Composed of three rocky, limestone outposts strewn in Galway Bay, you’ll stumble upon fairytale castles, historic lighthouses and churches, old stone forts, sunning seals and pretty harbors.

**WHAT TO DO** Rent bikes to explore the grassy lanes that show off the islands’ beauty. Inis Meain is the quietest of the three islands and you’ll want to visit the Inis Meain Knitting Company for his and her sweaters. Inis Mor is the largest of the three; visit Dun Aengus, a historic, semi-circular stone fort, one of the largest in Western Europe. Inis Mor is idyllic for sunning on sandy strands and you’ll also want to take a guided walking tour to learn about the islands’ culture and traditions.

**WHERE TO STAY** Your morning porridge at the 18th-century stone Kilmurvey House (kilmurveyhouse.com) is topped off with a splash of whiskey, a perfectly acceptable way to begin a day in Ireland. The 12-room bed and breakfast is located in the shadow of Dun Aengus and Kilmurvey Beach.