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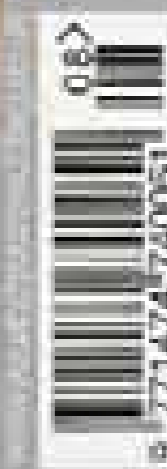
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*We pick the best  
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What comes  
after I Do



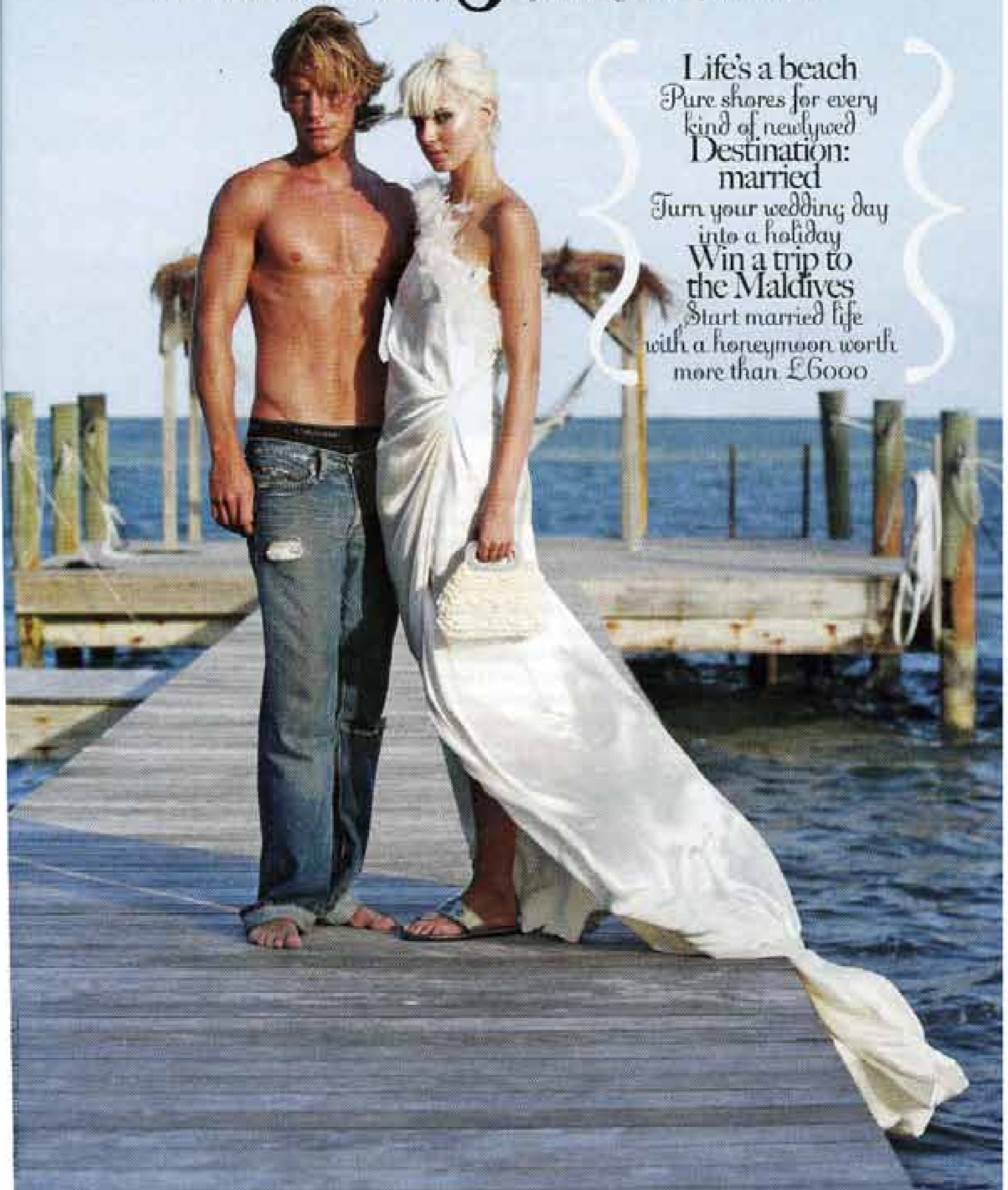
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Turn your wedding day  
into a holiday  
Win a trip to  
the Maldives  
Start married life  
with a honeymoon worth  
more than £6000



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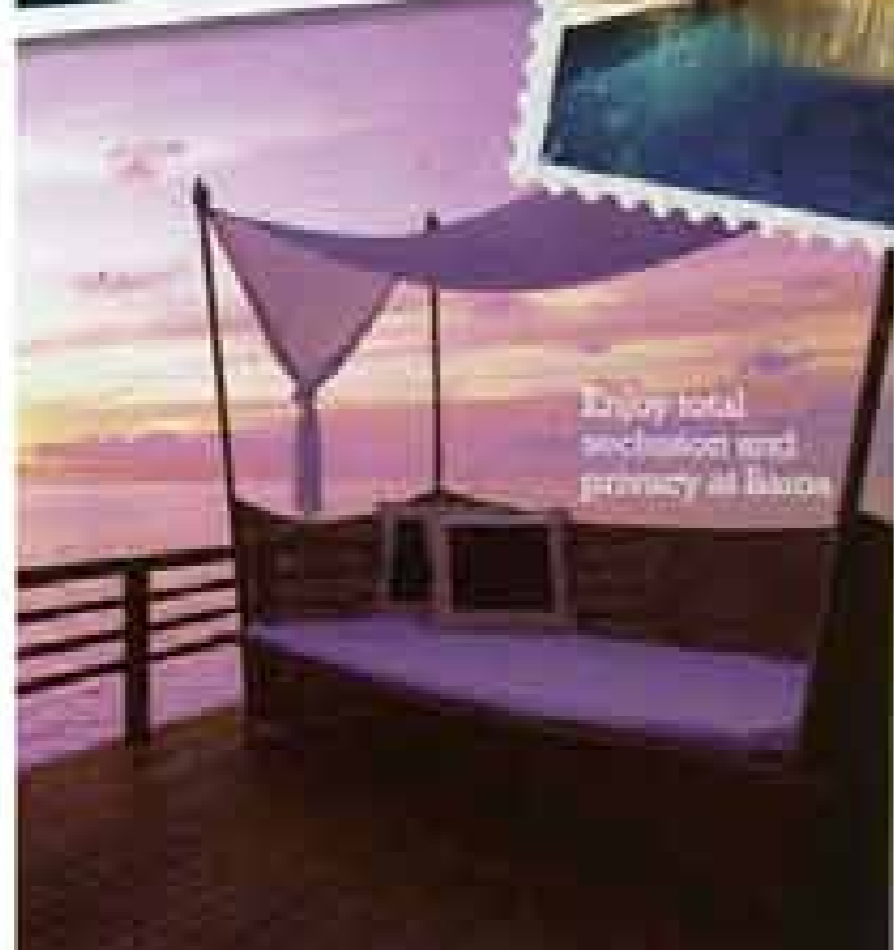
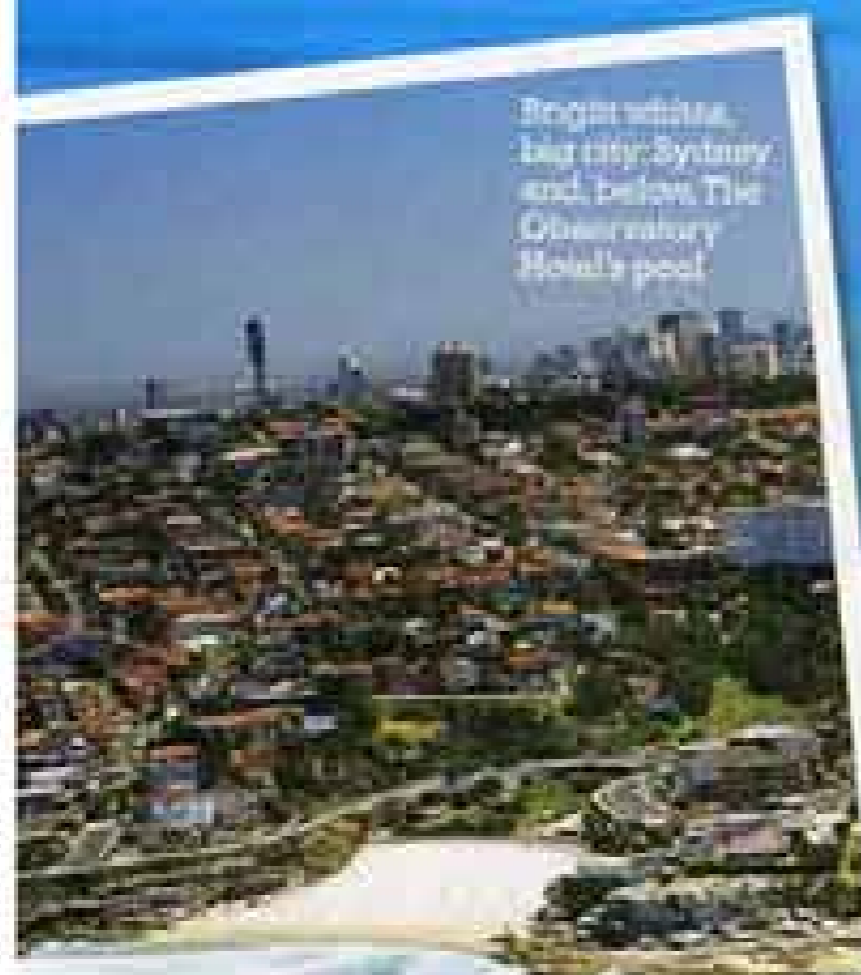
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It's back to  
basic luxury  
in the Maldives

## Life's a beach

Is your perfect beach a hippy hangout or a posh paradise? Gemma Askham finds the hottest honeymoons under the sun

Begin with a  
big city: Sydney,  
and, below, The  
Observatory  
Hotel's pool



Enjoy total  
seclusion and  
privacy at Baros

### MAGICAL MALDIVES

With 1190 islands dotted like mounds of icing sugar in the Indian Ocean, The Maldives is a far-flung paradise guaranteed to melt away leftover wedding stress. If it's seclusion and privacy you're after, The Maldives is every escape artist's dream. As one of the world's top five places for whale and dolphin-watching (there are 20 resident species), taking a diving, sea-life spotting or fishing excursion is an absolute must. And if you can't keep your shopping

cravings in check for a fortnight, head to the capital Male. Stock up on perfume, cosmetics and electrical goods or visit the local market for fruit, nuts and jars of yummy homemade sweets. They'll make the perfect 'thank you' gifts... if there's any room left in your case, that is.

**Where to stay** A 25-minute speedboat ride from Male, the five-star Baros resort on North Male Atoll is bordered by a coral reef just metres from the hotel. For an added dash of romance, take a sunset cruise for two on the resort's traditional Maldivian Dhoni. Kuoni ([kuoniworldclass.co.uk](http://kuoniworldclass.co.uk)) offers seven nights in a Deluxe Villa from £1487pp, including flights, transfers and breakfast.

### CITY-CHIC SYDNEY

Why settle for one beach when you can choose a hot spot with dozens? Brits have traditionally flocked to funky Bondi Beach with its multicoloured cafes and jutting-out-into-the-ocean restaurants, but there are many other sandy shores stretching the length of the city. Learn to surf in vibrant Manly, snorkel in the beautiful marine reserve of Shelly Beach or find a secluded curve of coast to claim as your own. And don't forget to keep an eye out for Nicole's yacht! After sunset, indulge in cutting-edge cuisine (for Vietnamese, you can't beat Red Lantern in Surry Hills), then swap your flip flops for stilettos at Opera Bar, which stands in the shadow of the still-awe-inspiring Opera House. **Where to stay** Sydney's Observatory Hotel has the best of this sleek city on its super-elegant doorstep, and blends urban style with perfect peace. Stop by its world-famous spa for a his 'n' hers forget-everything treatment, or take a dip in the hotel's gorgeous pool under a starry night sky. For a closer look at the heavens, head up to the Observatory, which was built in 1858. Designer shops are just metres away, as is the always busy, bustling harbour. A Deluxe City View Room starts from around £394 per night ([observatoryhotel.com.au](http://observatoryhotel.com.au)).