

# destination weddings

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FOR BRIDES AND GROOMS

## & honeymoons

# 25 ROMANTIC FLORIDA RESORTS

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NEW MEXICO

## santa fe chic

Sister to famed Auberge du Soleil (Napa, California) and Esperanza Resort (Cabo San Lucas, Mexico), **ENCANTADO**, the latest property in the **AUBERGE RESORT** collection, embraces five-star luxury while respecting the state's Native American heritage. Villa-style casitas, kitted out with adobe fireplaces, deep soaking tubs, heated bathroom floors and spacious dressing areas, exude comfortable opulence. Auberge is known for world-class spas, and Encantado's is no exception, with a menu of Ayurvedic and traditional Chinese therapies, plus a cool selection of regionally inspired treatments using items like sage, juniper and blue corn. Terra was voted one of *Esquire's* Best New Restaurants 2008, and complimentary shuttles run regularly into downtown Santa Fe, where guests have access to a satellite concierge center. *From \$475. — EF ■*

FOR MORE INFO, SEE THE 411 ON PAGE 123.



RESORTS

## IN THE STARS

Summer means warm weather and open skies — and the best time of the year for watching the stars. Here are five great spots to get a celestial fix during 2009, the United Nations' International Year of Astronomy.

### Kona Village Resort

BIG ISLAND, HAWAII

Hawaii's dark-sky laws make for amazing stargazing. Decipher the skies with the resort's resident astronomer, Jon Lomberg, who conducts a monthly star talk. Or arrange for an excursion to the 14,000-foot summit of Mauna Kea, where 13 telescopes sponsored by 11 countries provide spectacular views. *From \$660, including meals.*

### The Sequoia High Sierra Camp

GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT, CALIFORNIA

Very little separates camping couples from a view of the heavens at this posh 36-tent retreat 8,282 feet in the air. The remote location — it's accessible only via a one-mile hike — means ambient light always leads the way to star-filled views. *Private tents from \$300 per person.*

### Bushmans Kloof Wilderness Reserve & Retreat

WESTERN CAPE, AFRICA

At this idyllic Relais & Châteaux hideaway at the bottom of the

continent, outdoor restaurant Embers' natural sandstone amphitheater allows couples to enjoy the tapestry of stars along with South African cuisine. *Suites from \$280, including meals.*

### Bitter End Yacht Club

VIRGIN GORDA, BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

The Admiral's Island Cruise package offers a five-night resort stay before three without-a-light-in-sight nights aboard your own 45-foot Leopard catamaran, *Jet Stream*, crewed by Capt. Tim Schaaf and chef Marsha McCoskrie. *Call for package pricing.*

### The Observatory Hotel

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

Float on your back in the indoor pool and gaze at a ceiling of twinkling fiber-optic lights resembling the stars of the Southern Hemisphere. (OK, so it's not the real sky, but it's still pretty cool.) Book the Wish Upon a Star package, and you'll receive accommodations, a five-course dinner at Galileo and a visit to the Sydney Observatory, where you can name your own (real) star. *From \$875. — Emma Fox*