



ON THE MOON
OUT OF THIS WORLD HONEYMOONS

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KEY:



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MAXIMOON

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LIFE'S BETTER ON THE MOON

We get our cosmic thrills by sending couples to the moon – no, really. Forget space walks and sachet food, though: our couples can expect celestial massages, starlit dining and earth-shattering service... Because not only do we signpost the universe's most extraordinary hotel experiences, but we ensure the most stylish of landings at the ideal time of year, too. So for an out-of-this-world honeymoon, make contact with Mr & Mrs Smith .

Whether you want a few weeks of long-haul lounging or a minimoon in a romantic city, we can tailor a trip to your tastes, whatever the size of your budget.

It doesn't stop there – the Smith24 team is available around the clock to help prove that anything's possible on the moon.

Here, then, are a few hand-picked favourites – with some true tales from the moon – to begin your exploration.

The moon is closer than you think...

Smith

JANUARY



KEEMALA PHUKET, THAILAND

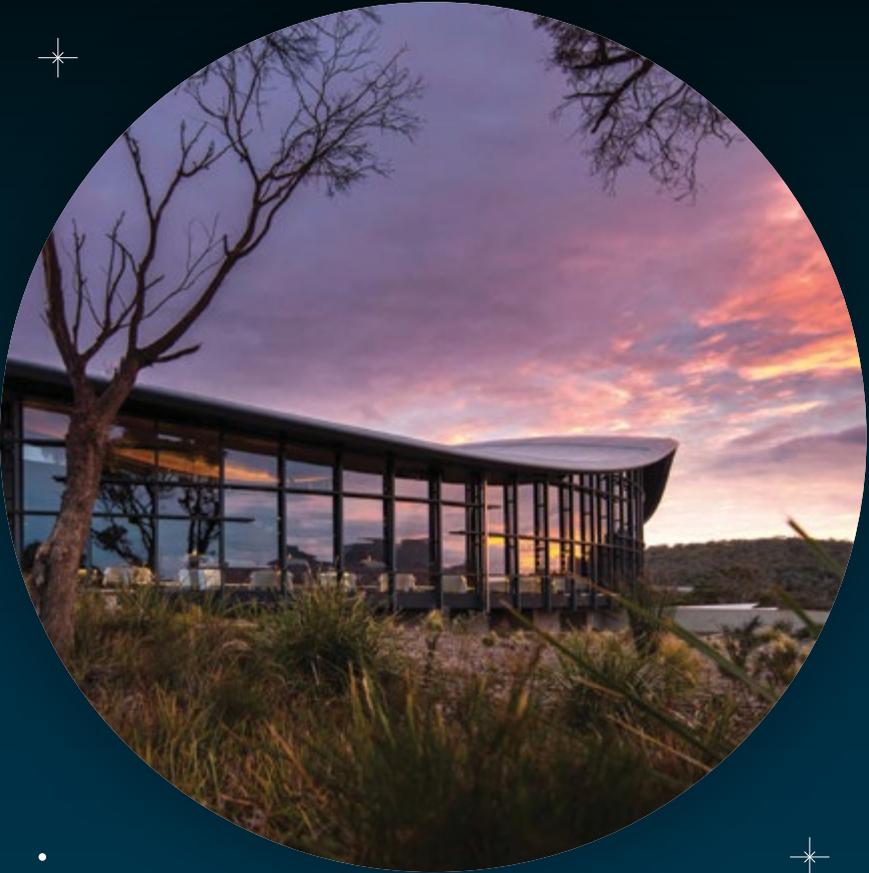
MINIMOON 



Perfect for Village people; wannabe Hobbits; tribes in training.

When to go January in Phuket = very little rainfall and lower humidity. It's sunniest from November to March but warm all year round.

Tales from the moon 'We loved our villa overlooking the rainforest – who wouldn't be wowed by swimming pools on stilts? Keemala's spa is amazing: eight treatment pods among the trees, plus a meditation cave. We had massages and tried raindrop therapies.'



SAFFIRE TASMANIA, AUSTRALIA

FULL MOON ●

Perfect for Wilderness wanderers; good-life gourmets; Instagram addicts.

When to go January is the height of the southern summer, but the sight of snow-topped Mount Wellington in winter (June to August) is one to remember.

Tales from the moon 'We wanted to feel like we were retreating from the world – and we were not disappointed. Saffire is like nowhere else on earth (not least because there can't be many hotels shaped like stingrays).'



AWASI PATAGONIA CHILE

MAXIMOON ●●



Perfect for	Peace-seekers; amateur Attenboroughs.
When to go	December–February is prime Patagonia time; it gets less crowded from late January.
Tales from the moon	'It felt really special to know that people trek for days to see the Torres del Paine, yet we could spy on its dramatic peaks from our bed. Our private trips around the national park were like being guided by a brilliantly knowledgeable friend.'



MATAKAURI LODGE QUEENSTOWN, NEW ZEALAND

MINIMOON 

Perfect for Rugged romantics; Jacuzzi junkies.

When to go In January, Queenstown has a balmy summer glow. Winter (June to September) draws skiers to the icy slopes.

Tales from the moon 'We alternated between bed days and adventure days, trying kayaking, mountain biking and fishing. We loved our personalised tour of Lake Wakatipu on a swish 1930s yacht. Expect delicious food and wine: try truffle risotto and the award-winning pinot noir.'

MARCH



JICARO ISLAND ECOLOGE GRANADA, NICARAGUA

FULL MOON ●

Perfect for Cool-hunting castaways; Tarzans in training; volcanic passion.

When to go Visitors in March can leave their brollies at home – rainy season starts in May. Nicaragua doesn't really do cold.

Tales from the moon 'For a Bond-beating entrance, arrive by boat. We had dinner on the jetty: staff whisk you over, light a fire, serve the finest local fare, then leave you to it. This back-to-nature island base is as honeymoon-worthy as hotels get.'



AMAN VENICE ITALY

MAXIMOON ●●

Perfect for	Directors and their muses; linguine-lovers; canalside canoodlers.
When to go	Skip February's Carnival chaos and come in milder March. Autumn and winter are suited to red wine and polenta consumption.
Tales from the moon	'Our room surveyed the canal, so we could relive our speedboat arrival. The secret garden is perfect for games of hide-and-kiss. Knowing your honeymoon hotel hosted Mr and Mrs Clooney's wedding adds a touch of glamour, too.'

APRIL



COQUI COQUI COBA RESIDENCE YUCATAN, MEXICO

FULL MOON ●

Perfect for	Spa-seekers; romantic recluses; Indiana Jones-ish types.
When to go	Catch the tail-end of high season in April when the sun-worshipping throngs disperse. February is Carnival time in nearby Cozumel.
Tales from the moon	'With its film-set scenery, this retreat-among-the-ruins will have you wondering if someone's going to yell "Cut!" at any moment. Thankfully, there was no such distraction, just lagoon views aplenty, a peaceful spa and plenty of long, lazy ceviche lunches.'

**G ROUGH** ROME, ITALY

FULL MOON ●

Perfect for Ancient wonders; Baroque beauties; flights of Fellini fancy.

When to go The Eternal City's countless treasures are a year-round draw, but swerve crowd-filled summer with a Roman holiday in April.

Tales from the moon 'Our suite balanced Rome's bygone grandeur and artistic modernism beautifully. One evening we were treated to dinner *à deux* at a nearby private palazzo, cooked by a Cordon Bleu-trained chef and taken on a city-surveying terrace – *la dolce vita* indeed!'

MAY



BAROS THE MALDIVES

MINIMOON 



Perfect for	Wannabe Ariels and Neptunes; Jacques Cousteau and co.
When to go	The Easter rush eases off by May; unsurprisingly, there's never a bad time to honeymoon in paradise (aka the Maldives).
Tales from the moon	'Make the most of Baros' expert dive team by spending a day underwater. We loved our Water Pool Villa with its four-poster day bed and steps leading to the lagoon. Don't miss private-island picnics and trips on the glass-bottomed kayak.'



HÔTEL CRILLON LE BRAVE PROVENCE, FRANCE

MAXIMOON ●●

Perfect for	Budding Van Goghs; wine-splashed sybarites
When to go	Spring and autumn are perfect: warm weather; fewer crowds. May is a riot of flowers, and September sees the grape harvest.
Tales from the moon	'Our suite – Room 33 – was honeymoon perfection: lashings of space spread across two levels, plus a pair of roll-top bath tubs for sociable sudsing. We won't forget our indulgent wine- and cheese-tasting sessions in a hurry...'

JUNE



TSALA TREETOP LODGE GARDEN ROUTE, SOUTH AFRICA

MAXIMOON ●●

Perfect for Back-to-nature bliss; among-the-leaves lazing.

When to go Guaranteed rays and verdant valleys – June is postcard perfect. July–November is best for whale-spotting nearby.

Tales from the moon ‘When we did manage to drag ourselves away from our canopy-surveying suite, we visited Knysna Elephant Park and went sampling around the Winelands.’



MONTEVERDI TUSCANY, ITALY

FULL MOON ●

Perfect for Grape love affairs; off-duty farmers; knights & ladies; floral flirtations.

When to go In June, it's not too hot to stomp around the mediaeval village, pausing at the castle. Autumn; winter; spring: all incredible in Tuscany.

Tales from the moon 'You'll want to take chef Giancarla home – her food is delicious (duck with green-apple sorbet, for example). The spa left us smelling like roses; speaking of which, the hotel's garden is dazzling.'

JULY



SIX SENSES DOURO VALLEY SAMODAES, PORTUGAL



FULL MOON ●

Perfect for Grape-smudged smooching; alchemical romances; spiritual highs.

When to go On summer Saturdays, flit between Régua and Tua on a steam train. Autumn and winter are for cycling and hiking (or red wine and fires).

Tales from the moon ‘Stomping grapes was a highlight on our winery tour. Thanks to our wellness workshop at the Alchemy Bar, we’ll be bottling our own lotions and potions back home. Be bold and try aerial yoga.’

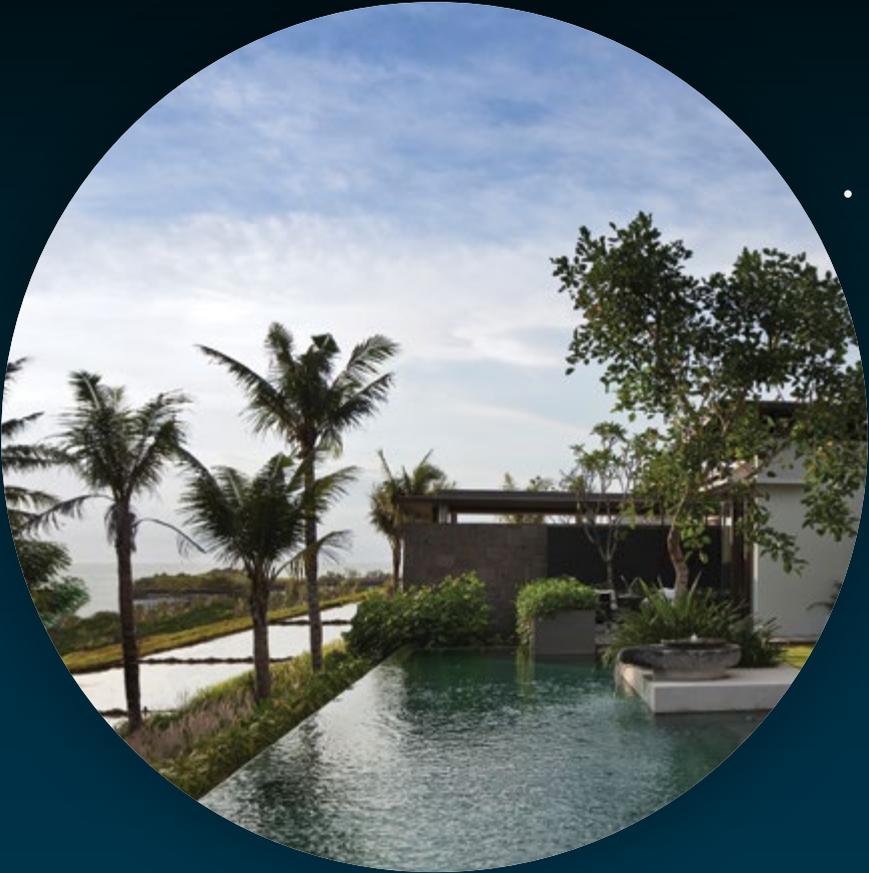


HUKA LODGE LAKE TAUPO, NEW ZEALAND

MINIMOON 

Perfect for	Gollum and the gang; fishy business; chasing waterfalls.
When to go	In July (winter), the North Island's premier slopes beckon, just a hop from Taupo. For sunshine, you can't beat December–February.
Tales from the moon	'Admire Waikato River and Huka Falls at this former fishing lodge, where you can gad about by horse or helicopter, laze in the spa, dine under stars, visit volcanic islands and more.'

AUGUST

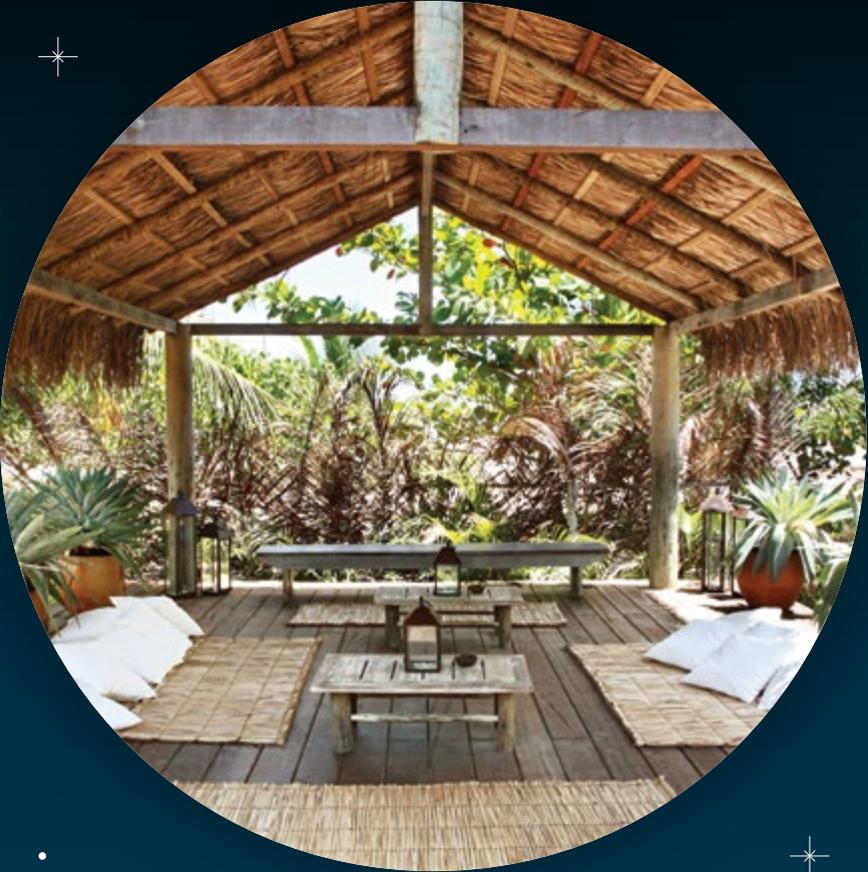


ALILA VILLAS SOORI BALI

MINIMOON 



Perfect for	Sun-kissed sanctuary; temple-touring tranquillity.
When to go	Bali bustles in balmy August but the volcanic-sand shores and jade-green rice paddies of Tabanan offer welcome respite all year.
Tales from the moon	'We were treated to an oh-so-romantic meal on the shores of the black-sand beach, perfectly timed so we caught the evening exodus of local fruit bats in all its glory.'



UXUA CASA BAHIA, BRAZIL

FULL MOON ●

Perfect for	Paradise with personality; boho beach life.
When to go	Bahia's winter is sunny and sedate, and you won't have to jostle for beach space. For Carnival fun, visit December – February.
Tales from the moon	'The treetop Casa da Arvore suite – fringed by jungle, with an outdoor hot tub, hammock and a thatched veranda – might just be the most heart-stealing hideaway on earth.'

SEPTEMBER



POST RANCH INN BIG SUR, CALIFORNIA

FULL MOON ●



Perfect for Rocky romances; fiery nights; spa aaahs.

When to go Big Sur summers are lovely – a bit foggy in the mornings, clearing by the afternoon. Spring and autumn hardly disappoint, mind.

Tales from the moon ‘What better way to kick off married life than by cruising down the single-lane Highway 1 with the top down? It’s one of the country’s most dramatic drives. Don’t skip surf and turf at Post Ranch’s restaurant and floral treatments at the spa.’



101 HOTEL REYKJAVIK, ICELAND

MAXIMOON ●●

Perfect for Alien landscapes; elf encounters; husky-loving heroes and heroines.

When to go You might get lucky and spy the famous Northern Lights in September. Summer means near-eternal sunshine.

Tales from the moon ‘Honeymoons don’t have to involve lying on sand. We went skidooning, husky-sleighting and geyser-watching; we also saw the Northern Lights, which were even more thrilling than we’d hoped. Spend some time in 101’s sci-fi-style restaurant and mini spa.’

OCTOBER



SIX SENSES ZIGHY BAY MUSANDAM, OMAN

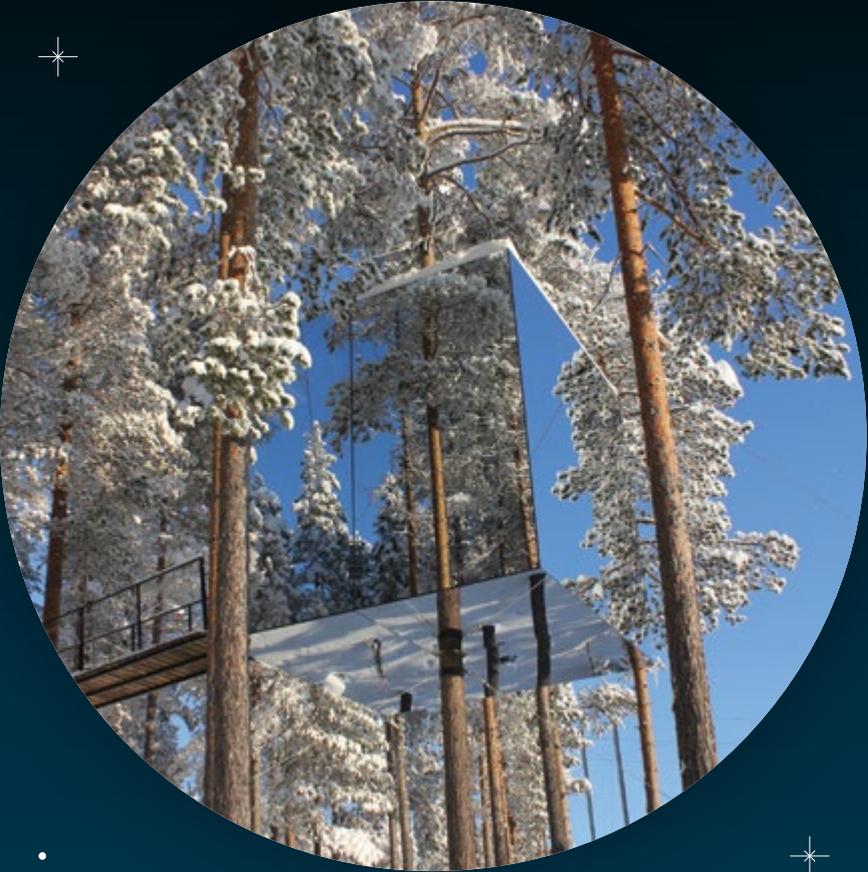


MINIMOON 

Perfect for Adrenalin addicts; off-the-beaten-track-ers.

When to go To make the most of the adventures on offer, you'll want to avoid the height of summer – October to April is the perfect window.

Tales from the moon 'There aren't many places where you can arrive by speedboat, 4x4 or paraglider... Once you've landed, prepare to have your breath taken again and again by the bay-view bedrooms, the cliff-carved restaurant, the private stretch of beach, the countless excursions...'

**TREEHOTEL NORRBOTTEN COUNTY, SWEDEN**

MAXIMOON ●●

Perfect for Big kids; aspiring Ewoks; woodland wanderers.

When to go October gives you a forest full of autumnal hues and you won't need so many thermals. For snow-based fun, aim for winter.

Tales from the moon 'Treks through lush forest, husky-drawn sled rides, rustic Nordic cuisine, a peek at the Northern Lights – all that, and you get to repair to a giant, top-notch treehouse after your exertions. This place is beyond unique and makes for amazing memories.'

NOVEMBER



GOLDENEYE HOTEL & RESORT JAMAICA



FULL MOON ●

Perfect for	Bond villains (and their cats); buffalo soldiers; irie idlers.
When to go	Bypass the end of hurricane season (November) and enjoy calmer skies. Rainy season (May and October) is also a popular time to visit.
Tales from the moon	'Magic moments included galloping on horseback through the waves at Chukka Cove, before cooling off with a refreshing swim and a long, lazy lunch on the sand. Ian Fleming wrote bestsellers here; we were too lazy to lift a pen.'



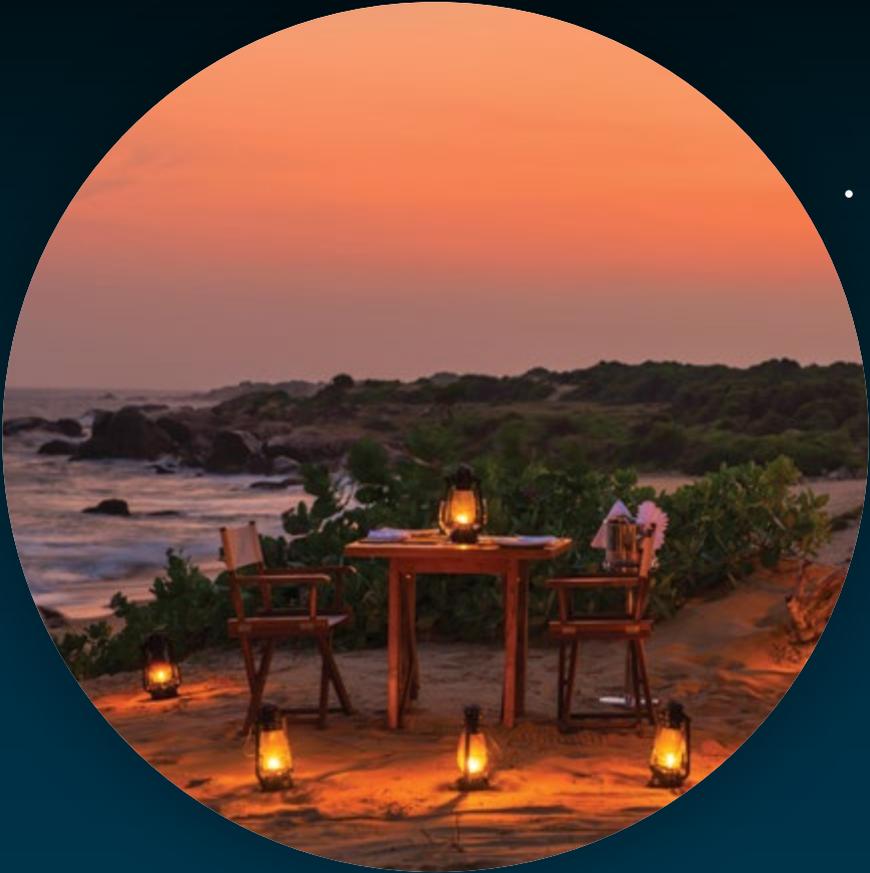
SONEVA FUSHI THE MALDIVES

MINIMOON 

Perfect for Befriending dolphins; inciting Instagram envy.

When to go There's never really a bad time – even in monsoon season (May–October), you shouldn't expect more than a few days' rain.

Tales from the moon 'In a honeymoon full of "best bits", our desert-island picnic stood out. We were dropped off with a hamper; at the touch of a button, staff picked us up. The hotel has telescopes so you can stargaze and spy on Jupiter.'



CHENA HUTS HAMBANTOTA DISTRICT, SRI LANKA ✦

FULL MOON ●

Perfect for Turtles (ninja or not); shepherds shirking duties; warriors (eco); wildings.

When to go December is a great month: dry; not too hot. The rain in November–January results in vivid landscapes – and perfect photographs.

Tales from the moon ‘Forget TV – at Chena Huts, we watched storks and ibises in the lagoon and turtles hatching on the beach. For breakfast, try French toast with caramelised apples. We loved our starlit beach bonfire.’



TWIN FARMS VERMONT, US

FULL MOON ●

Perfect for	Outdoor explorers; artistic temperaments; snow bunnies.
When to go	Ski trails make Twin Farms a winter wonder in December, but canoe trips down the river ensure it's a June contender too.
Tales from the moon	'What a wonderful blend of down-to-earth atmosphere and sky's-the-limit attitude! Days on the slopes, nights by the fire – and the odd trip to the Japanese hot tub.'

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