



Seduced by the savannah? So were Will and Kate.



ROYAL romance

Not wanting to take any chances when it came to popping the question, Prince William whisked Kate off to Kenya, where the air is so thick with romance you could cut it with a rhino horn. The first stop on their vacation was **Lewa Safari Camp** (cheli.peacock.com, search "Lewa"), created by former guides Stefano Cheli and Liz Peacock, who, 25 years ago, decided to share their love of Africa by building what are now considered the most conservation-minded and exquisite small camps in the country. Situated on a 26,000-hectare wildlife conservancy boasting two endangered species (black rhinos and the world's largest population of Grevy's zebra), each of Lewa's 12 permanent tents has a thatched roof, veranda and an ensuite bathroom. A stay here virtually guarantees sightings of the "big five" (lion, elephant, Cape buffalo, leopard and rhinoceros). The lovebirds also enjoyed **Manda Bay** — an island in the Lamu archipelago off the Kenyan coast where each cottage overlooks the beach (mandabay.com). As for the exact spot where she said, "I do"? It was during their 24-hour idyll at an off-grid log cabin on **Lake Rutundu** (thesafariandconservationcompany.com) overlooking Mount Kenya's northeast face. Wonder where they'll honeymoon...

CUPID'S helper



When your job title is "director of romance," you know love is in the details. Esmeralda Silva, holder of such a moniker at **Las Ventanas al Paraíso** in Los Cabos, Mexico, has introduced "sleeping with the stars." Each love nest is outfitted with a king-size bed on a rooftop terrace overlooking the Sea of Cortez on one side, moonlit mountaintops on the other, with chirping birds as an alarm clock. Candles, a fireplace, a Jacuzzi and a telescope for communing with the constellations make the night out even more heavenly. The hotel's "romance menu" also includes a helicopter marriage proposal, tailored candlelit dinners *à deux* and a private movie theatre on the beach. Should you want to go an extra step, the hotel's preparatory ceremony for brides features a Mayan ritual performed with sage smoke and shaman prayers (lasventanas.com).



BIG APPLE FLING

Close your eyes and imagine the Manhattan skyline as it dances on the water. Now you're stepping into a **windowed boat** to float along the Hudson and East rivers with your beloved past the Statue of Liberty, Brooklyn Bridge and Ellis Island while dining on gourmet cuisine at a private table, listening to a live band and dancing cheek to cheek. Mementoes such as bubbly, champagne flutes and roses enhance the mood (bateauxnewyork.com).

Once docked, the perfect NYC Valentine's night continues at **230 Fifth's** rooftop bar where staff equip you with

martinis and wrap you in red fleece robes for winter stargazing framed by the Empire State Building, which feels close enough to touch. Hey, it worked for Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks (230-fifth.com)!

Your evening ends at **Hotel Gansevoort**, where your amour has slyly signed up for the Naughty but Nice package that includes a chilled bottle of Veuve and fresh strawberries, a Mile-High kit, chocolate body frosting, comp movie, copy of *The Kama Sutra — Book of Erotic Games*, chocolate truffles, breakfast and, of course, late checkout (hotelgansevoort.com).