

dkc NEWS from

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BEST HONEYMOONS

43. Dominican Republic

It could be that first glimpse of electric-blue ocean, the gentle swish of waves lulling you to sleep during a beach-front massage or the warmth and passion of its Latin culture, but it's a given that the Dominican Republic will seduce you, sense by sense. Energy pulses through Santo Domingo, the Caribbean's oldest city, where you can merengue all night in clubs set next to 17th-century palaces; miles to the east, on the secluded Samana Peninsula, sip cold Presidente beers on delightfully empty beaches. But it's the resorts in Punta Cana—sleek, sumptuous and a world away from the budget all-inclusives that used to define the DR's lodging options—that are getting all the attention these days. Here, chic boutique hotels and resorts, such as the Oscar de la Renta–designed Tortuga Bay and Indonesian-infused Sivory Punta Cana, will cosset you in gracious style, while sprawling Paradisus Palma Real, the new incarnation of the all-inclusive, is a posh world unto itself. *(For more info, 888/374-6361 or godominicanrepublic.com)* —K.M.