

# destinations

## HONEYMOON INSPO

Budapest, Scotland, New York and Montreal are four destinations we're currently loving for romantic travel.

### BUDAPEST

This central European city is quite simply a symphony for the senses; a place as charming as it is modern and exciting. With its dazzling architecture and burgeoning food and fashion scenes, Budapest is poised to become the next Paris—minus the pretension.

Nicknamed the spa capital of the world for the hundreds of thermal and mineral springs that run beneath the city feeding its numerous bath houses, relaxation is an integral part of daily life in Budapest. For centuries locals have been “taking the waters” to cure everything from hangovers to arthritis.

Budapest is also a place where derelict buildings are being transformed into trendy ruin bars—another of the city’s claims to fame (hence the aforementioned hangovers!).

FIND A FULL BUDAPEST HONEYMOON ITINERARY AT [WEDDINGBELLS.CA/BUDAPEST](http://WEDDINGBELLS.CA/BUDAPEST)



# destinations

An average summer afternoon might include a trip to the Széchenyi Thermal Bath, one of the largest bath houses in Europe with 21 pools and 11 saunas, followed by lunch at a Michelin-starred restaurant (there are several to choose from) serving modern takes on Hungarian classics like goose liver and goulash, and local wine spritzers on a sun-speckled terrace on the shores of the Danube.

The romance of Budapest is undeniable, and at the heart of this is the city's connection to its musical heritage. Handsome, captivating piano virtuoso and composer Franz Liszt is a national hero (even the international airport bears his name) and, in some ways, Liszt has become a muse for the city, which shares his famous characteristics. Nowhere is this more evident than at the Aria Hotel, a luxury property in the city centre inspired by music. Designed to resemble a lavish Hungarian palace, the property features four wings, each dedicated to one of four major genres of music: classical, opera, contemporary and jazz. The Aria is also situated directly beside the famous St. Stephen's Basilica and offers unparalleled views of the iconic church's dome and bell tower from its rooftop bar. High Note SkyBar is the only year-round full-service rooftop garden terrace in Budapest and boasts creative cocktails and a menu of light bites conceptualized by Gerbeaud, one of Hungary's most famous culinary brands. The hotel even employs a music director to provide guests with advice on current cultural and musical activities in the area.

Whether wandering Budapest's cobblestone streets, touring the bustling market halls or enjoying an evening at the iconic 19th-century opera house, it's easy to lose yourself in the quiet rhythm of this place and almost impossible not to fall in love with what you discover.—Jen O'Brien

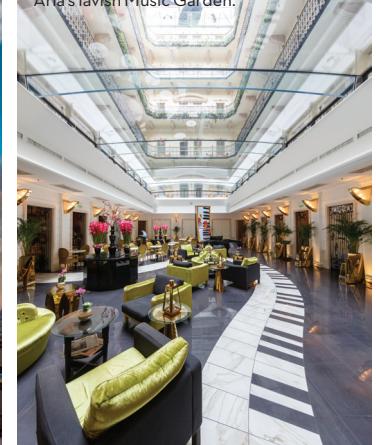
Get a bird's-eye view of the city from High Note SkyBar.



Soak in local culture with a healing dip in the pools at Széchenyi Bath.



Unwind with a glass of wine in the Aria's lavish Music Garden.



SZÉCHENYI BATH PHOTO BY JENO O'BRIEN HOTEL PHOTOS COURTESY OF ARIA HOTEL BUDAPEST