

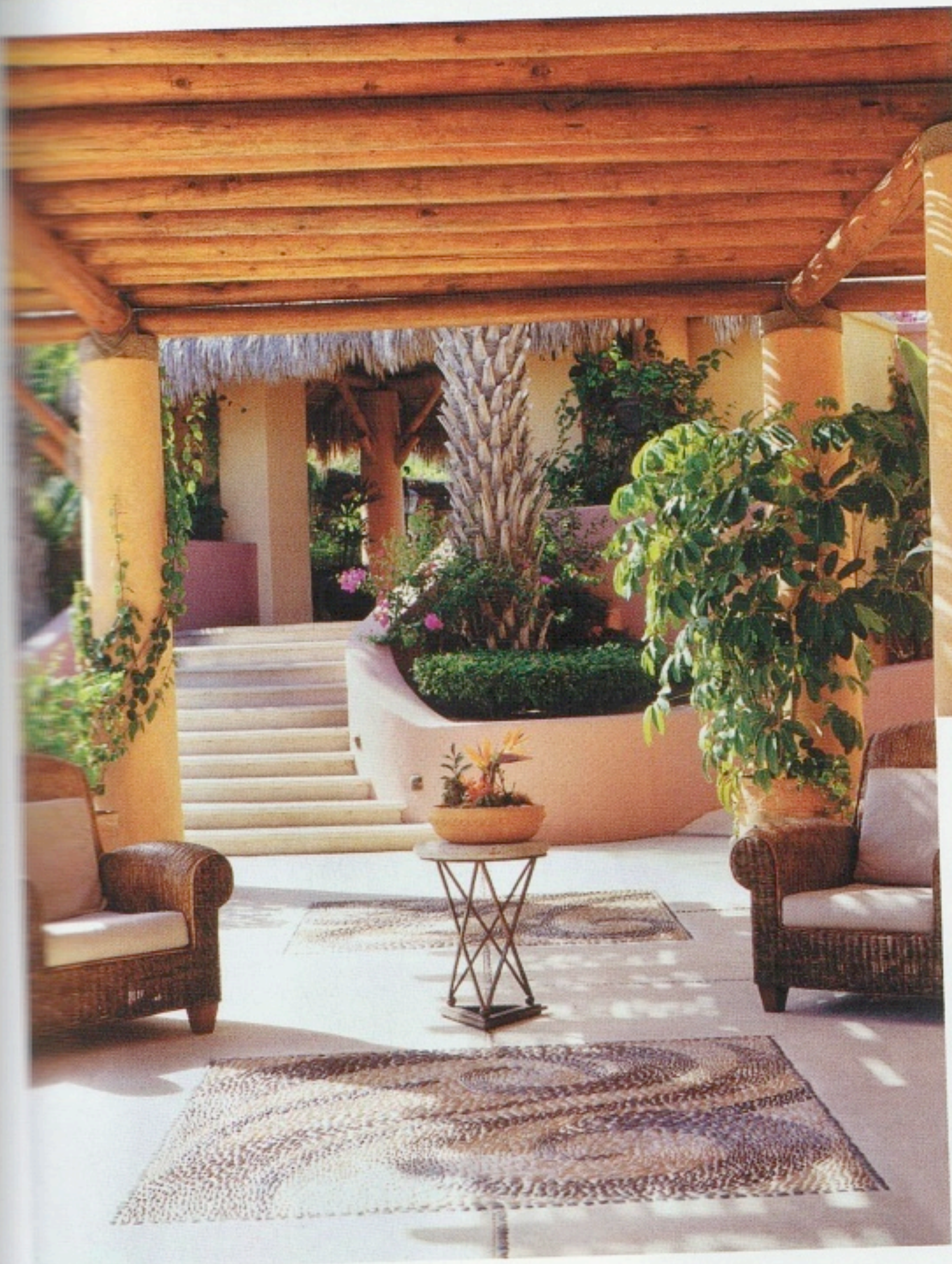


## Four Seasons, Bora Bora

**Bora Bora, French Polynesia**

Officially the final top-end hotel to join the Bora Bora party, it undoubtedly has the island's best views. The overwater villas are thatched and elegant and, boy, the beaches are ker-ching – perfectly manicured white sand ringing the lagoon's waters, which are icy turquoise, the colour of minty-fresh toothpaste.

If you're with a lover, you can drink champagne on a sea of cushions while little fish feed around your feet and Didi the butler juggles fire sticks, but there's also a kids' club, where the tinies can chase down water jets, and a Chill Island for teenagers with a private beach. Head to the soaring spa for volcanic-stone massages and watch the sun set over the magnificent Mount Otemanu. This is serious long-haul loveliness. **Website** [fourseasons.com](http://fourseasons.com). **UK reservations** Turquoise (tel: 01494 678400). **Rates** Double, from £655.



## Esperanza

**Baja, Mexico**

Pack your Rosa Chá bikini for sun-fuelled days lolling on one of the wildly romantic beaches here. Swimming in Baja is famously hazardous due to the pounding surf, but you won't care when you find yourself doing laps next to Jennifer Aniston. This is where Hollywood sucks on Margaritas and gets a pre-Oscar tan. It's where Chris and Gwynnie honeymooned. It's cool, it's fabulous, the perfect combination of local funk and smart. Don't miss the spa, set outside in tropical gardens. Evenings are spent huddled around the dramatic seaside fire pit, wrapped in cashmere ponchos and looking at the stars. **Website** [esperanzaresort.com](http://esperanzaresort.com). **UK reservations** Mexican Tours (tel: 020 8492 0000). **Rates** Double, from £410, including breakfast. ▷