

## SUNDAY MONEY: SPENDING; Skip the Toasters. Help Us Pay for a Trip to Italy.

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Photo: Jonathan Heiliger and Germaine Yokoyama went to Venice on their honeymoon, which was paid for by their wedding guests. (Photo by Jonathan Heiliger)

WHEN they married this year, Brooke and Curt Hinkle of Fort Worth honeymooned for eight days in an oceanfront room at the Mauna Lani Resort on the Big Island of Hawaii. They enjoyed spa treatments, a helicopter tour and a private, candlelit dinner near the beach.

Mrs. Hinkle, who is 30 and the owner of a yoga studio, said that she and her husband, 36 and a dentist, would never have been able to afford this luxurious trip on their own.

Their benefactors were, in fact, their wedding guests, who underwrote 80 percent of the trip's cost, excluding air fare, through Distinctive Honeymoons, an online honeymoon registry. (Another guest gave them the plane tickets, acquired with frequent-flier miles.) "Because it was the second marriage for us both, we didn't really need material items, so we just preferred to take a trip instead," Mrs. Hinkle said.

The Hinkles are among a growing number of couples who are choosing to honeymoon courtesy of their guests, with the help of Internet-based registries.

Wedding registries, particularly for traditional gifts like silver, crystal and china, have been around for many years. But the Internet has revolutionized the business. In a customer survey in 2001 by WeddingChannel.com, 71 percent of couples said they registered for gifts; the number climbed to 89 percent last year.