

Which is the best city in the world for lovers?

We all know about Paris, but for variety, how about one of these cities for a romantic break? **Vote for your favourite** and you could win a trip for two – last year Venice was tops, but where will you choose in 2011?



Bergamo

For years, weekenders have been using the airport to get to Milan, but Bergamo itself is perfect for couples. This exquisite medieval hill town boasts a cute funicular railway, lots of pretty, flower-filled piazzas and is raised up and walled in so that the modern world doesn't interfere too much: the mountain views from the ramparts are spectacular. Along the Via Gombito, the *città alta's* main drag, you'll find dozens of lovely small restaurants to enjoy together, or you can enjoy a day out on nearby Lake Iseo and try the local wines.

Romantic retail: Be prepared to take on daytripping Milanese fashionistas with a Guess Pop Doty Handbag

Chicago

You'd expect the Midwest's economic powerhouse to be an architectural and cultural big-hitter, but its potential for romance might surprise you. After you've taken a view from the top of the John Hancock Centre and seen the American art at the Art Institute of Chicago, go for a walk together along the shores of Lake Michigan, following the gloriously car-free Lakefront Trail. You don't have to do all 20 miles of course, and there are bikes for hire if you want to speed things up. To refuel, have a steak-and-egg dinner at the Hollywood Grill, an all-nighter that could be right out of a movie.

Romantic retail: The Dior Cannage Collection Makeup Palette will keep you beautiful all night, however long you stay smoochin', however gusty it gets out on that lake.

Gothenburg

Gateway to the islands of the Western Archipelago, these days



Romantic Istanbul night

Sweden's second city rivals Stockholm for food, fashion, and coffee shops – spend time together in the warm and convivial Café Kringlan on Haga Nygata, with its homemade cakes and pastries. Afterwards, go for a walk along the docks – or hop on a ferry if you want to feel the wind in your hair – before taking the elevator to a candlelit dinner at panoramic Heaven 23.

Romantic retail: You can pick up all sorts of artisanal sweets here in the city, but take along a box of Godiva chocolates for that special treat emergency.

Istanbul

Istanbul combines a superb modern art gallery, fantastic architecture and one of the world's great cuisines. To take it in, you need to combine a cruise on the Bosphorus – the Dolmabahçe and Beylerbeyi Palaces, Ottoman summer mansions and Ortakoy mosque are especially sublime



seen from the water – with an evening at 360, one of the city's funkier restaurant-cum-clubs. To unwind head for a traditional bathhouse like Çemberlita Hamam.

Romantic retail: Pick up an Eternal Big Heart Bracelet so you have that little bit of bling to stand out at the clubs and cocktail bars.

Salzburg

City of Mozart, skiing, 'The Sound of Music', Baroque architecture and fairytale castles, Salzburg is all things to all lovers. Enjoy a night at the opera – the Großes Festspielhaus is the biggest (in Austria) and has a busy, varied schedule – or have dinner at Brandstätter, which serves local, seasonal produce such as venison and truffles.

Romantic retail: A Mobius Triple Bangle with Rose Gold will glint nicely as you walk into one of the city's opera houses on a snowy night.

Tallinn

Wander hand in hand through the cobbled streets and courtyards of this beautiful historic city, with its

two Old Towns. One of the two European Capitals of Culture for 2011, it is proud to be showing off its many assets this year: don't miss the Fat Margaret Tower, Castrum Danorum and lovely St Catherine's Passage. Many of Tallinn's best restaurants are housed in candle

basements; couples in search of a particularly cosy snug should head for Le Chateau.

Romantic retail: You're in vodka latitudes so pick up a bottle of Pinky vodka for pre-evening cocktail in your hotel suite bath.

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Your chance to win a romantic city break for two...

Next week we'll preview six more great cities for lovers. Go to www.most-romantic-city.co.uk/timeout to vote for your favourite and find out about World Duty Free Valentine's savings for the perfect gift. Every entry is entered into a free draw to win an all-expenses-paid weekend for two to the city that wins the most votes.

Draw closes at midnight on February 19 2011. No purchase necessary. Full Ts & Cs online.