

AROUND THE WORLD WITH **KATHLEEN TURNER**

The husky-voiced star has romanced the stone with Michael Douglas, vamped up as Jessica Rabbit and cross-dressed in 'Friends', but where does she go for a bit of variety?

Where in the world have you felt happiest?

The South of France. I've had some wonderful times there and it's so beautiful. Being near water is essential to me, but even the towns further inland, such as Grasse, thrill me. I think Château Saint-Martin is one of the most amazing hotels in the world. It's just magical up there, and the food! Oh, the food is unbelievable! Check it out, baby, you gotta go.

Name a place that lived up to the hype

I was urged by some good friends to go to Goldeneye in Jamaica on a quick vacation. I had a little house on a lagoon that opens into the sea and I would go out first thing in the morning and just float for most of the day. It was heaven.

And a place that least lived up to the hype

Marrakech. Last time I went, I really Florence and you go to your left, down the hill a bit, there's this place called Buca dell'Orafo. It's a family-run restaurant with big tables, and it's just everything you'd hope for in Italy, with old waiters shouting at each other, clunking down plates of absolutely delicious food... it's one of those places you dream of finding.

What is the smartest hotel you've ever stayed in?

The Lanesborough. Oh, it's gorgeous. If I really, really need to treat myself, I'll go and book a night there, even if I'm staying in a flat in London. If I'm working too hard I just think, to hell with this, I'm going to The Lanesborough, and it's like being in another world. I feel tremendously well taken care of there.

Sightseeing or sun lounger, barefoot or bling?

Definitely sightsee. I'm not good at sitting around, it's just boring unless I have a fantastic book. So sightseeing, and barefoot if possible, you bet.

'I lost my heart in...'

Paris. A cliché, but true. I went with the man who became my husband [Jay Weiss] and it was a bit of a test, because he'd never been overseas and I thought, well, before I seriously fall for this man,

didn't like it at all. We rented a nice place, but the city was just a mess. There are about 11 pedestrians killed every day, it's just awful.

Which is your favourite city, and why?

New York. It's the best city in the world right now and the energy is wonderful. I just got back from five months in London doing a play, *Bakersfield Mist*, and every time I come home I just go, 'Oh my god I love this place'.

Describe your favourite view

Anything with moving water. I live by the Hudson River and I have a wonderful day bed set up near the window, where I sit and read and watch the river.

What do you pack first?

Walking shoes. It's difficult for me because I've had so many operations on my feet because of arthritis, so I make sure I take a good pair of sneakers.

I need to find out if he can handle the kind of life I intend to have. He did very well, damn it, and we had 22 years together.

'I would never, ever go back to...'

I loathe Vegas! I had to shoot a film there once and just hated it. And I go to LA as little as possible; I really don't care for it.

What's your guilty pleasure

Believe it or not, it's Pizza Express. I love it!

'WHEN I WAS YOUNG I RAN AWAY TO AMSTERDAM. I'VE BEEN BACK SINCE, BUT AS AN ADULT SO I HAVE TO BEHAVE'

Favourite foreign phrase?

I grew up in South America, so I find myself saying '*¿por qué no?*' a lot, but I actually find myself saying 'why not?' a lot in any language.

Most regrettable holiday souvenir?

This stupid clock that a friend gave me. I once took a little apartment in Aix-en-Provence and girlfriends would come and go. One of them came back

Describe a memory from a childhood holiday

On a magical trip, my family and I drove up to Scotland, through the Yorkshire moors – miles and miles of gorse. The road seemed to be going nowhere, but then suddenly we came to this beautiful hotel that used to be a monastery. I can't remember its name now but it was like Brigadoon.

Where did you go on your first holiday without your parents?

Amsterdam. I was living in London then and my brother and I ran away, jumped on a ferry and went to Amsterdam and had a wonderful time. At that age, it was just great. What an adventure. I've been back since, but as an adult so I have to behave.

Tell us about a great little place you know

If you're facing the Ponte Vecchio in from shopping and gave me the ugliest damn clock I've ever seen and made me swear I wouldn't throw it away, so I'm looking at it right now, and every time I see it I think, why can't I break my promise?

Who is the most interesting person you've met on your travels?

Maggie Smith. She's become a great friend; she's so delightful and I have such fun with her. We met when I was in Gstaad staying with some friends one summer, and we went to this luncheon and Maggie was there – and then it ended up that we were back in London and our theatres were side by side, so we carried on! It's been lovely.

What would you most like to find in your mini-bar?

Potato vodka. I try to avoid grains and most vodka contains grain, so if a hotel mini-bar came up with potato vodka, I would go back.

How do you relax?

Reading. I like a lot of science-fiction and fantasy; those books take me to other worlds with different rules.

Kathleen Turner was talking to Francesca Babb. She stars in 'Dumb and Dumber To', released on 19 December

