

Southern Bride®

A STATE-OF-MIND

Fall In *LOVE*
With Fiji

Stakes Are *HIGH*,
Design
Inspiration is
HIGHER

LAS VEGAS

EXPERT
COMMUNICATION
TIPS FOR A
*Successful
Relationship*

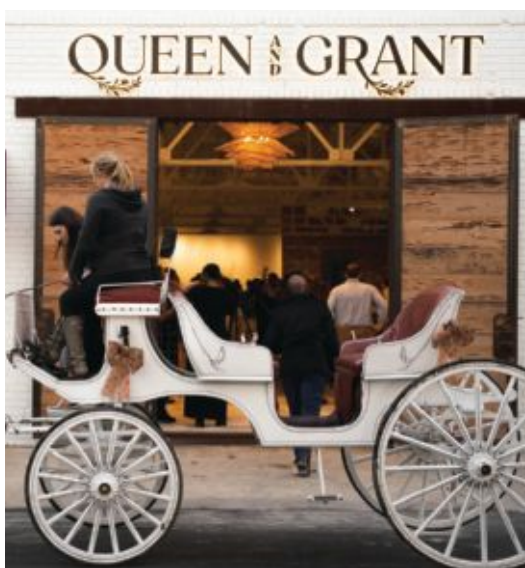
**CHICAGO BEARS
CORNERBACK**

Jaylon Jones
Marries
Jaden Baker

Brides in
BELIZE

HIGH FASHION IN THE HEART OF
THE RAINFOREST

Your forever starts on the Georgia coast...



Discover the refined elegance of our coastal Georgia venues, where the historic charm of downtown Brunswick is just moments from the sandy beaches of Sea Island, St. Simons, and Jekyll Island.

Queen and Grant, a grand hall and lush garden space, accommodates up to 300 guests for a seated affair and up to 500 guests for a strolling reception. The thoughtfully designed property features terrazzo floors and pecky cypress doors. Exposed brick walls and vaulted ceilings showcase the preservation of authentic character, while the romantic courtyard and wedding party suites define modern bridal amenities.

The Reynolds House, a traditional Victorian two-story home, features an abundance of natural light in its cozy interiors and stunning verandas with views of moss-draped live oaks. The property is a classically Southern setting for a magical “First Look” or any intimate occasion for up to 100 guests, including welcome parties, rehearsal dinners, bridal brunches, and more.

Let's begin planning your unforgettable celebration—
contact our dedicated wedding team today.

(912) 766-0571 | events@portcitybwk.com



PORT CITY
PARTNERS



FINLEY *F* FARMS

Surrounded by nature and rich history, a collection of intimate and large-scale venues, along with curated catering options, are available for showers, rehearsal dinners, ceremonies, and receptions for up to 150 guests. Choose from charming indoor and outdoor settings near The Farm or overlooking the Finley River.



Finley Farms | Ozark, MO
FinleyFarmsMO.com
Scan the QR code for more information.







DOGWOOD CANYON

NATURE PARK

Experience the wedding of your dreams surrounded by the great outdoors at
Dogwood Canyon Nature Park. Learn more at:

417.399.0768 | DOGWOODCANYON.ORG





An aerial photograph of a tropical beach scene. On the left, a sandy beach is dotted with several lounge chairs, each with a white towel and a blue beach ball. The water is a vibrant turquoise color. In the center, a long, narrow bamboo raft floats on the water. Two people are on the raft: one is lying down, and the other is sitting up. The raft is made of many thin bamboo poles. The background shows lush green foliage along the shoreline.

YOUR CARIBBEAN WEDDING ON US

Picture your wedding in the Caribbean.

The best part? Maybe it's the ease of having every detail handled by our expert wedding concierge team. Or maybe... it's this: when you book 7 or more nights in a Club or Butler Suite, your wedding is on us. Call it our gift to you.

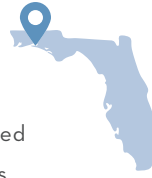
Sandals® Beaches

Sandals.com 1-877-Sandals
or Call Your Travel Advisor

JAMAICA | ANTIGUA | SAINT LUCIA | THE BAHAMAS | GRENADA | BARBADOS
CURAÇAO | SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES | TURKS AND CAICOS

EVERY LITTLE DETAIL

Distinctive venues. Diverse accommodations. South Walton lets you select the exact spaces to match your fairytale vision. You'll have refined amenities at your fingertips, plus services such as planners, caterers, florists, and musicians to help make your big day run smoothly.



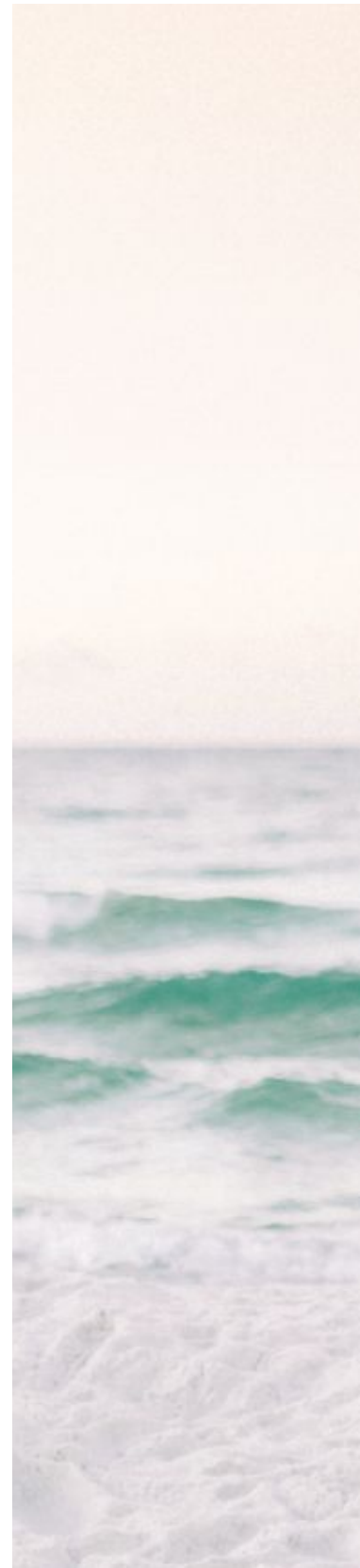
YOUR HONORED GUESTS

From championship golf to award-winning chefs, these 16 beach neighborhoods will create an indelible experience for everyone attending your wedding. There are endless opportunities for exploration in the pristine natural beauty. And it all leads back to the famous sugar-white sand.



Upscale accommodations, five-star service, exceptional amenities and the comforts of Southern hospitality - **WaterColor Inn** is the ultimate beach resort experience for your wedding.

WaterColorResort.com/Groups/Weddings • (888) 739-1836



FROM THIS DAY FORWARD

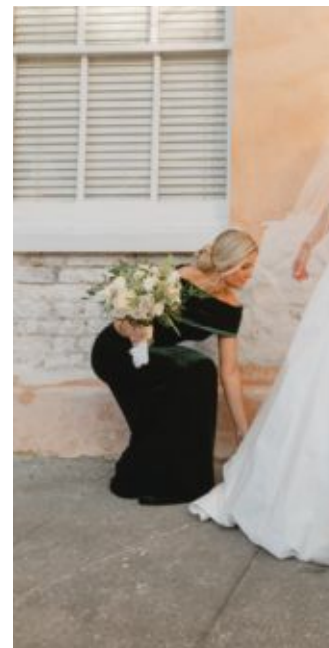
Now that you've found your forever person, you'll need a forever place. South Walton's timeless natural beauty provides a perfect backdrop for your big day and for many memories yet to come. [VisitSouthWalton.com/Weddings](https://www.visitSouthWalton.com/Weddings)



SEASIDE • SEAGROVE • WATERSOUND • SEACREST • ALYS BEACH • ROSEMARY BEACH • INLET BEACH

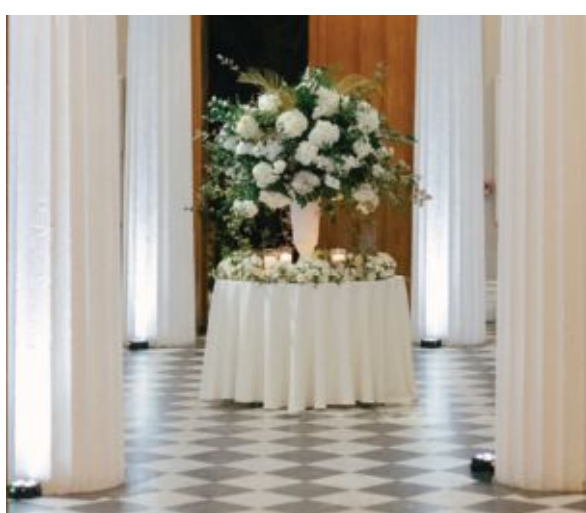


SOUTH WALTON
FLORIDA





Request your free
Charleston Area
Wedding Guide.





CHARLESTON

South Carolina

Start your story here. From full-service resorts to charming bed & breakfasts, the Charleston area offers something for every wedding style.



Explore *Charleston*

CHARLESTONWEDDINGGUIDE.COM | @CHARLESTONWEDDINGGUIDE

This Is What a Wedding

SHOULD LOOK LIKE



At Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort and Villas, weddings make the most of the scenic Texas Hill Country. It starts at Rancher Hall, our new 5,600-square-foot space with vaulted ceilings and exposed wood beams that opens to the outdoors and overlooks a picturesque lagoon. It's made for every kind of celebration. The rest of the resort is just as impressive, with elegant ballrooms, scenic lawns, and open-air pavilions designed for dinners, ceremonies, and receptions of any size. And our new private Villas, each with its own service host, offer your wedding party a retreat all its own.

Now this is what a wedding should look like.

Start planning your 2026 and beyond wedding with one of our wedding specialists at **210 520 4014** or hillcountryweddings@hyatt.com.

Visit hillcountry.regency.hyatt.com to discover more.

HYATT REGENCY HILL COUNTRY RESORT AND VILLAS
9800 Hyatt Resort Dr., San Antonio, TX 78251

The Hyatt trademark and related marks are trademarks of Hyatt Corporation or its affiliates.
© 2026 Hyatt Corporation. All rights reserved.



**HYATT
REGENCY®**
HILL COUNTRY
RESORT AND VILLAS

EXPECT *Extraordinary*

Talk about a wedding worth everyone's weekend. At Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort and Villas, the charm of the Hill Country comes to life at a ranch-turned-resort designed for celebrations. With rolling hills, majestic oaks, and wide-open skies just twenty minutes from downtown San Antonio, it's the kind of place guests won't soon forget.

CELEBRATE IN *Style*

Be one of the first to celebrate at our new Rancher Hall, a 5,600-square-foot indoor-outdoor venue built for picture-perfect gatherings. Inside, it features vaulted ceilings, private bridal-party space, and natural light throughout. Step outdoors to a cocktail patio, ceremonial lawn, and 2.2-acre lagoon that shimmers under sun or stars. Here, Hill Country beauty comes naturally. Elsewhere on the property, expansive ballrooms, grand pavilions, and scenic lawns make it easy to host everything from intimate rehearsal dinners to larger receptions, all with the signature warmth and hospitality the Hill Country is known for.

STAY *Your Way*

You and your wedding party can make the most of the weekend in our all-new Villas. Each 2,330-square-foot residence includes four bedrooms with en suite baths and multiple living areas made for gathering, including a spacious dining room, screened-in patios, and a firepit overlooking the landscape. Every stay includes twice-daily housekeeping and a dedicated service host, so your wedding party can simply relax and enjoy every moment. The same attention to detail extends throughout the resort's recently renovated rooms and suites, where authentic Texas charm meets modern comfort.

MORE THAN *A Weekend*

When the vows are said and the dance floor slows, there's even more to experience. Tee off on our 27-hole championship course designed by Arthur Hills. Spend time at the refreshed Windflower Spa, where rejuvenating treatments await before and after the festivities. Or raise a glass with old and new friends at our new lobby bar, featuring artfully crafted cocktails and chef-driven fare indoors or out on its oak-shaded patio.



PERFECTED BY *Experience*

Our dedicated wedding specialists are there from the first conversation to the final farewell, helping ensure every detail reflects your vision. Plenty of venues can host a wedding. At Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort and Villas, we make you feel like we were made for yours.

Ready to start planning your perfect day?
Contact our wedding specialists at **210 520 4014**
or hillcountryweddings@hyatt.com.



**HYATT
REGENCY®**

HILL COUNTRY
RESORT AND VILLAS



C O N T



special features

- 36 **Before You Say I Do: Two of**
America's leading relationship experts share the conversations, habits, and hard truths every couple needs before marriage.
- 66 **Art in a Glass: Create a Signature**
Cocktail No Other Wedding Will Have
- 69 **Bright Things: Think outside the**
wedding registry box and customize your items with bright, bold designs.
- 78 **Books to Inspire Your**
Wedding Planning

inspiring styles

- 70 **Brides in Belize: High Fashion in the**
Heart of the Rainforest

in every issue

- 14 **Letter from the Editor**
- 15 **On the Cover**
- 96 **Advertiser Directory**



the styled challenge

The Belize Collection

- 18 **The Ranch & Yoga Deck**
- 22 **The Cliff & Humo Restaurant**

Alaia Belize, Autograph Collection

- 24 **The Beach**
- 27 **Vista Rooftop**

the trendsetter series

Las Vegas, Nevada

- 29 **Ghostbar at The Palms Casino Resort**
- 32 **Pioneer Saloon, Goodsprings**
- 34 **Storybook Wedding Chapel**

EVENTS



real weddings

- 38 **Jaylon Jones & Jaden Baker**
Trenton, Georgia
- 44 **Emma Mitchell & Preston Roberts**
Memphis, Tennessee
- 48 **Dr. Glenys Castro & Braden Brooks**
New Orleans, Louisiana
- 51 **Jacquelyn Clark & Eric Schueler**
Fort Worth, Texas
- 54 **Christina Collins & Brian Gardner**
Lake Lure, North Carolina
- 58 **Sydney Adams & Kyle Combs**
Pawley Island, South Carolina
- 62 **Eliza Schwab & Joseph Gordon**
Momi Bay, Nadi, Fiji



romantic destinations travel

- 80 **Fiji:**
Fiji Marriott Resort Momi Bay
Sheraton Resort & Spa, Tokoriki Island
Sheraton Fiji Golf & Beach Resort, Denarau Island
- 83 **St. Lucia:** Secrets St. Lucia Resort & Spa
- 84 **Saint Vincent & The Grenadines:** Sandals Saint Vincent
- 86 **Alabama:** Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa, Point Clear
- 87 **Georgia:** The Alida, Savannah
- 88 **California:** Rancho Valencia, Rancho Santa Fe
- 90 **Florida:** The Breakers Palm Beach
- 92 **Florida:** White Elephant, Palm Beach
- 94 **Mexico:** Grand Velas, Cabo San Lucas

Have Your
Wedding Featured!
Submit on
SouthernBride.com

or use the
QR code!



Lush is the Word

This issue packs a tropical punch, and it begins in the rainforest of Belize. In our The Styled Challenge by Southern Bride pages, local wedding design talent showcases the diverse venues and lush hues of The Belize Collection, while the Alaia Belize, Autograph Collection on the bustling island of San Pedro presents a vibrant beach celebration, and an intimate urban elopement. To round out the wedding inspiration, we took the latest designer bridal styles to Belize, where the rainforest served as the luxuriant romantic backdrop.

From styled weddings to Real Weddings pages, we feature NFL Chicago Bears' Jaylon Jones' wedding to his lovely bride Jaden Baker in a stunning European-inspired wedding in the heart of Georgia. Designed with a romantic palette of blush, ivory, and muted mauve, the wedding exuded softness and elegance while allowing the couple's love story to remain the focal point of the day. Beyond our borders, we are thrilled to feature Eliza Schwab and Joseph Gordon's Fijian oceanfront wedding infused with rich cultural tradition and island elegance at the Fiji Marriott Momi Bay, one of our favorite resorts, also featured in our romantic destination travel pages.

This season, we feature alluring tropical destinations poised to encourage a travel bug beginning with the breathtaking islands of Fiji and its rich, centuries-old traditions, where Marriott properties offer dreamlike tropical weddings infused with Fiji's cultural touches.

Though we loved our stay at the resorts, it was the people of Fiji and their warmth that made the trip unforgettable. Likewise, we were enamored with the recently renovated Sandals Saint Vincent, a secluded tropical escape tucked among the verdant peaks of Buccament Bay (*Pirates of the Caribbean* filming location) and where volcanic cliffs meet the ocean. With magnetic views and a surrounding privacy, this elegant resort is designed for romance.

Beyond the inspirational imagery and wedding day celebrations, we turn to the heart of the matter, the marriage and its longevity. For our "Before You Say I Do" feature, we consulted relationship experts Dr. Patricia Dixon and Dr. Jacquie Del Rosario on communication practices that build a lasting relationship while navigating family challenges.

At Southern Bride, we find inspiration in all places, from breathtaking destinations and cultural traditions to intimate bookstore proposals and handwritten notes. This issue weaves the ornate and the simple, proving that love is all there is, everything else is a celebration.

With Gratitude and Best Wishes,

Gigi Bok



Southern Bride®

SUMMER/FALL 2026
35th Edition Volume 2

Publisher/Travel Editor/Events Producer

Sherra Meyers
sherra.meyers@southernbride.com

Managing Editor/Fashion Stylist

Gigi Bors-Koefoed
gigi.borskoefoed@southernbride.com

Social Media Director

Bailee Ross
bailee.ross@southernbride.com

Events Director

Lindy Sperry
lindy.sperry@southernbride.com

Brand Partnership Managers

CENTRAL
Jeannette Myers
jeannette.myers@southernbride.com

EAST

Nicole Johnston
nicole.johnston@southernbride.com

WEST

Kaitlyn Riggins
kaitlyn.riggins@southernbride.com

Webmaster

Steve Ward
webmaster@southernbride.com

Art Designer

Carley Delgado
carley@southernbride.com

Contributing Writers

Gigi Bors-Koefoed Sherra Meyers
Lynn Walker Bailee Ross

Publisher
Trilogy Marketing, Inc.
info@trilogymarketinginc.com
2095 Exeter Rd., Suite 80-327
Germantown, TN 38138
901.761.1505 / SouthernBride.com

Southern Bride is a bi-annual publication. Copyright 2026. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or part without the written permission of Trilogy Marketing, Inc. is strictly prohibited. Southern Bride cannot be responsible for unsolicited photographs, artwork or manuscripts. All vendor information for Real Wedding features was supplied to Southern Bride by the bride and groom and/or third party. Southern Bride cannot take responsibility for misinformation that was provided. This is not a paid advertisement but simply a courtesy to share as a resource to Southern Bride readers.

Editorial Submissions

Send all correspondence to:

Editorial Department

2095 Exeter Rd., Suite 80-327, Germantown,
TN 38138

Editor@Southernbride.com

Advertising Information

901.761.1505
advertising@southernbride.com

Southern Bride®

Engagement Stories • Real Weddings • Honeymoons

2

YOUR LOVE STORY DESERVES TO BE TOLD.

From "Yes" to "I Do,"
Southern Bride invites
you to share the
moments, memories, and
details that made your
journey uniquely yours.

Become part of the Southern Bride Love Story.

Submit at SouthernBride.com

On the Covers



Summer

Brides in Belize

Photography: Danielle Brown
Photography

Dress: Zara, RISH

Model: Kim Lazic

See more on pg. 70



Fall

Brides in Belize

Photography: Danielle Brown
Photography

Dress: Celeste, Oksana Mukha

Model: Angela Kubai

See more on pg. 70



Say “I Do” *with a* Mountain View

MARSHALL • HOT SPRINGS • MARS HILL (*near Asheville, NC*)
visitmadisoncounty.com

A Wedding Design Competition
unlike anything you have ever seen!

Southern Bride

The Styled Challenge

WITH YOUR HOSTS, BAILEE ROSS (SOCIALS) & SHERRA MEYERS (PRODUCER)

The
TRENDSETTER
SERIES

INSPIRATION FROM THE WORLD'S BEST WEDDING PROFESSIONALS

The Styled Challenge is a luxury wedding design competition featuring top wedding creatives from select cities alongside their professional vendor teams, creating immersive editorial wedding experiences in destinations around the world.

Emerging from The Styled Challenge, **The Trendsetter Series** highlights standout event artisans and their signature styles that are shaping the future of weddings. Watch the designs come to life on YouTube, vote for your favorites on Instagram and Facebook, and discover more at SouthernBride.com.



@SouthernBride



the Belize Collection

Photography: **Danielle Brown Photography**

In the plains of the mountains at The Banks lies the stables, a rustic shelter for the horses with an amazing view surrounded by lush green mountains. This venue was perfect for creating a wedding ceremony capturing the ideal blend of rustic charm and modern elegance. The sleek mirror arch and stage reflect the surrounding nature, drawing the landscape closer. Vibrant red anthuriums, red roses, and red carnations sprouting from green moss were strategically placed to mix the elements and textures found throughout the venue. The aisle is lined with transparent chairs accented by deep red cushions, adding a bold, romantic contrast to the soft earth tones of the gravel and the wooden beams of the stable. Lighted candles in glass vases and carefully placed river stones complement the décor, tying the elegance of the setup back to the raw beauty of the stable setting.







Continuing with the same theme, a banquet-style table setting for 20 guests sits beside the clear, running fresh water, the perfect venue for a very intimate and unique wedding. The sound of flowing water creates a calm and peaceful environment within the lush jungle. Tying in the wood of the stables, barn-style wooden tables were used to carry the ceremony's spirit into the reception. A scenic view of the river amid the tropical jungle complements the choice of red flowers, red satin napkins, and lighted candles, keeping the atmosphere romantic and memorable. The interplay between mirrors and red flowers creates a profound visual dialogue, where the vibrant intensity of the blooms meets the quiet precision of their reflection.

THE DESIGN TEAM — Venue: **The Belize Collection**
 • Event Host: **Styled Shoots by Southern Bride** • Design: **Innovations by Jandroz** • Design Partners: **Alejandro Castaneda and Emir Xiu** • Florals: **Innovations by Jandroz**
 • Furnitures/and Accessories: **Innovations by Jandroz** • Fashion Stylist: **Gigi Bors-Koefoed** • Bridal Dress: **Number Eleven, RISH Bridal** • Bridal Short Dress: **Lia, by Watters** • Groom Tux and Accessories: **Generation Tux** • Hair Stylist: **Janice Allen** • Makeup Artist: **Amanda Taylor, Taylorwood Beauty Wellness** • Models: **Kim and Dario Lazic**

See more from this Inspiration
 at SouthernBride.com



Michael Allen Photography

A new book - 100 Tips for Brides

Discover the Secrets to a Picture-Perfect Wedding!

Michael Allen, Southern Bride Magazine's exclusive editorial photographer for 19 years, brings his unparalleled expertise to brides-to-be in his new book, 100 Tips for Brides.

A celebrated wedding photographer and mentor, Michael shares his insider knowledge to help you plan a stunning wedding through the lens of his seasoned perspective. From intimate garden ceremonies to lavish multi-million-dollar celebrations, Michael has captured it all.

His book reveals simple yet transformative tips to ensure your wedding radiates elegance, romance, and timeless beauty ---Even on a modest budget!

With insights drawn from his illustrious career, Michael guides you through every detail, helping you craft a day filled with unforgettable memories.

Ready to make your wedding dreams a reality?

Let Michael's expertise light the way.

Buy your copy of 100 Tips for Brides today at
www.michaelallenphotography.com/workshops





The Cliff & Humo Restaurant

Photography: **BIG + FUN Photography**

THE CLIFF

The designer's philosophy is rooted in harmony, designing ceremonies where every element enhances the natural environment without overpowering it. At the cliff setting, this intention is felt in every detail. Clean lines and elevated styling set the tone, with white chairs framing the aisle in understated elegance. Circular detailing adds texture and dimension, while locally sourced tropical flowers anchor the space with organic warmth. Nothing was left to chance, each choice was deliberate, allowing the sweeping greenery and the iconic silhouette of the Sleeping Giant to take center stage as nature's own backdrop.





HUMO RESTAURANT

This space was designed to be an elevated tropical tablescape, intentional in every layer, yet effortless in feeling. The eight-foot wooden tables serve as the foundation of the entire aesthetic, grounding the look with natural weight and warmth. For the florals, she worked closely with her florist to build arrangements with vibrant pops of color, while keeping the majority of the base in lush greenery, a deliberate choice to channel the surrounding jungle energy without tipping into excess.

The place settings reflect the same philosophy: clean, tailored, and quietly considered. Soft neutrals and subtle textures carry the eye through the table, with menu details refined just enough to feel personal and curated rather than ornate.

Nestled within an open-air pavilion with exposed wooden beams and an unobstructed view of the Sleeping Giant, the venue itself became part of the design. The intention was never simply to create a beautiful dinner setting, it was to make every guest feel like they were not observers of the environment, but participants in it.

And then there was the light. She knew the warm golden glow would fall across the tablescape in the moments just before sunset. It is the kind of detail that cannot be manufactured, but it can absolutely be planned for.



THE DESIGN TEAM — Venue: The Belize Collection, The Cliff & Humo Restaurant • Event Host: Styled Shoots by Southern Bride • Planning & Design: @exquisiteeventsbz • Rentals - @exquisiterentalsbz • Florals - @blossombelize • Stationery: @ofeliabotella • Fashion Stylist: Gigi Bors-Koefoed • Bridal Dress: Belladonna, Sottero and Midgley • Groom Tux and Accessories: Generation Tux • Makeup Artist: Amanda Taylor, Taylorwood Beauty Wellness • Hair Stylist: Janice Allen • Models: Angela and George Kubai

See more from this Inspiration at SouthernBride.com



Alaia Belize, Autograph Collection

Photography: **Danielle Brown Photography**

This shoot was built around the soul of Belize — its spirit, its warmth, its authenticity. The tropical blooms were chosen with intention, their colors and textures a direct nod to the vibrant, welcoming energy of the Belizean people who make this destination what it is. The culture here is bold, bright, and full of heart, and the florals were meant to carry that same feeling. The goal was a look that felt both romantic and elevated without losing sight of the raw, beautiful authenticity of the Caribbean.





And the backdrop doesn't hurt either. Alaia Belize, Autograph Collection sits alongside one of the most breathtaking natural settings on the planet, the second-largest barrier reef in the world, visible right from the property. Couples can exchange vows on the rooftop with sweeping 360-degree island views, celebrate as the sun melts into the horizon, or say I do barefoot on the beach with the sand between their toes.

At the heart of it all was a simple but powerful intention, to show couples that a dream destination wedding can be deeply personal, and that Belize is the kind of place that stays with you long after you've said your vows.





THE DESIGN TEAM — Venue: Alaia Belize, Autograph Collection · Event Host: Styled Shoots by Southern Bride · Designer: Alaia Events · Florals: Florasol Belize · Fashion Stylist: Gigi Bors-Koefoed · Bridal Dress: Angie, Rebecca Ingram · Groom Suit and Accessories: Generation Tux · Models: Angela and George Kubai · Hairstylist: Janice Allen · Makeup Artist: Amanda Taylor, Taylorwood Beauty Wellness

See more from this Inspiration at [SouthernBride.com](https://www.southernbride.com)





Alaia Belize, Autograph Collection

Photography: **BIG + FUN** Photography



THE DESIGN TEAM — Venue: Vista Rooftop, Alaia Belize, Autograph Collection · Event Host: Styled Shoots by Southern Bride · Designer: Alaia Events · Florals: Florasol Belize · Fashion Stylist: Gigi Bors-Koefoed · Hairstylist: Janice Allen · Makeup Artist: Amanda Taylor, Taylorwood Beauty Wellness · Bridal Dress: Maia, by Watters · Models: Kim and Dario Lazic

See more from this Inspiration
at [SouthernBride.com](https://www.southernbride.com)





Ghostbar, The Palms Casino & Resort

Las Vegas, Nevada

Photography: **AQ Photography**

Perched high above Las Vegas, the design draws from the striking verticality and endless skyline views of GhostBar. Rather than compete with the cityscape, the concept lets it lead, embracing the venue's sleek, self-assured edge while weaving in a moodier, more architectural sense of romance.

Clean lines, sculptural forms, and a refined mix of velvet, stone, glass, and metal reflect the city lights without mimicking them. A restrained palette of greys, charcoal, espresso, and warm neutrals keeps the focus outward. The result feels like an after-hours editorial: intimate, confident, and elevated, where romance lives within the energy of the space, not apart from it.







THE DESIGN TEAM

Venue: **Ghostbar at The Palms Casino and Resort** · Event Design: **Melina Cianella, Starry Eyed Events Las Vegas** · Event Host: **Styled Shoots by Southern Bride** · Cake: **The Palms** · Draping & Specialty Decor: **Byancas Event Rentals & Decor** · Sand Candles: **Luminary Las Vegas** · Tabletop, Linen & Event Rentals: **RSVP Party Rentals** · Chair Vinyls & Custom Details: **QCD Las Vegas** · Floral Design: **Thistle House** · Lighting Design: **LED Unplugged** · Groom Suit: **Friar Tux** · Bridal Gown: **Bowties Bridal Las Vegas** · Hair & Makeup: **Glammed Up** · Content Creation: **BTA Content, BTLENS** · Models: **Ashlee Nelson & Nick Walters**

See more from this Inspiration
at [SouthernBride.com](https://www.southernbride.com)





CHRISTINA AGUERO PHOTOGRAPHY



STEVEN BOULANGER PHOTOGRAPHY

Pioneer Saloon, Goodsprings

Las Vegas, Nevada

Photography: **Christina Aguero Photography & Steven Boulanger Photography**

Tucked into the desert foothills of Goodsprings, just 30 minutes south of Las Vegas, the Pioneer Saloon offers a rustic escape from the city's bright lights. Established in 1913, it is Southern Nevada's oldest bar and a designated historic landmark.

Featured in films, TV shows, music videos, and the Fallout: New Vegas video game, the Pioneer is known for its rich history, classic cherry wood bar, hearty food, and lively music scene. Owner Stephen "Old Man Liver" Staats fosters a welcoming, eclectic atmosphere that draws visitors from around the world, from locals and families to bikers, artists, gamers, and history enthusiasts, all seeking a relaxed and memorable experience.



THE DESIGN TEAM

Venue: **Pioneer Saloon, Goodsprings, NV & Carnival of Rust** ·
 Designer, PR & Marketing: **Allison Alexander Marketing Pro & Erika Rhoads, PS Events** · Event Host: **Styled Shoots by Southern Bride** · Bridal Gown: **Bowties Bridal Las Vegas** · Bride Hat: **Fluffy Sense** · Bride Boots: **Altar'd State** · Hair & Makeup: **Primrose Glam** · Florals: **Gaia Flowers** · Arch: **Rebel Party Rentals** ·
 Yellow Truck, Cars & Minister: **Steve Darnell with Welder Up Vegas** · Dog: **Little Dog** · Rusty Vehicle: **WelderUp "Carnival of Rust"** ·
 Models: **Ashley Watkins and Jory Meyers**

See more from this Inspiration
 at [SouthernBride.com](https://southernbride.com)





MICHAEL ALLEN PHOTOGRAPHY



SMITHALEE WEDDINGS

Storybook Wedding Chapel

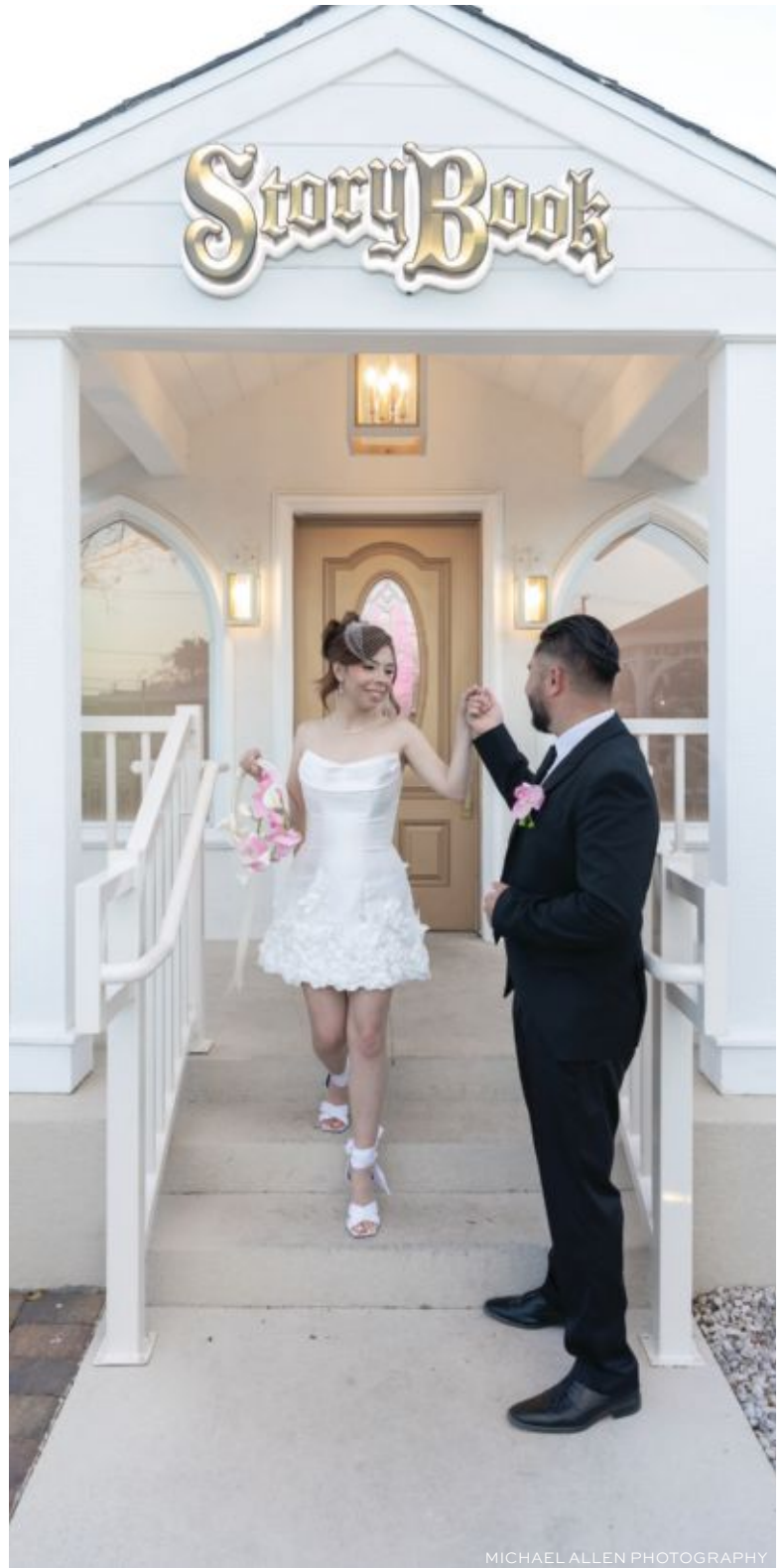
Las Vegas, Nevada

Photography: **Michael Allen Photography
& Smithalee Weddings**

Welcome to Storybook Wedding Chapel, a charming and elegant venue in downtown Las Vegas' Historic District.

Owned by the renowned Graceland Wedding Chapel, this beautifully restored century-old building offers an intimate setting for weddings and vow renewals.

Featuring classic architecture, stained glass windows, and romantic décor, the chapel provides a warm, timeless backdrop for your ceremony. Whether you're saying "I do" or renewing your vows, Storybook Wedding Chapel delivers a magical, storybook experience designed to make every moment unforgettable.



THE DESIGN TEAM

Venue: **Storybook Wedding Chapel** • Event Host: **Styled Shoots by Southern Bride** • Bridal Dress: **Ornament, by Watters** • Headpiece: **Cassidy Crystal Birdcage by Ariel Taub** • Bridal Shoes: **Leonessa Bridal Sandal by Valentina Rangoni** • Floral Handpiece: **Storybook Wedding Chapel** • Bridal Fashion Stylist: **Gigi Bors-Koefoed** • Model Stylist: **Bailee Ross** • Hair & Makeup: **Primrose Glam** • Models: **Kayli Orozco & Jose Orozco**

See more from this Inspiration at [SouthernBride.com](https://southernbride.com)



Before You Say *I Do*

Two of America's leading relationship experts share the conversations, habits, and hard truths every couple needs before marriage.

The wedding takes months to plan. Marriage takes a lifetime. And yet, for most couples, the hours spent choosing florals and finalizing seating charts far outnumber the hours spent preparing for what comes after the last dance. We asked two of the country's most respected voices on love, compatibility, and long-term partnership, Dr. Patricia Dixon and Dr. Jacquie Del Rosario, questions every engaged couple should discuss prior and post the aisle.

Dr. Patricia Dixon

Relationship Therapist & Author

THE CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER MOST

When couples ask Dr. Dixon what they should discuss before marriage, her answer is consistent: start with values. "When couples have shared values," she explains, "large decisions — where to live, how to raise children, how to practice faith — become decisions you make together rather than sources of conflict."

Beyond values, she recommends working through a specific list before the wedding day: where you'll live short and long-term, how careers align with family plans, whether and when to have children, faith backgrounds and how you'll practice them together, financial habits and expectations, extended family dynamics, and parenting styles. "Having these conversations allows you to build a life with a detailed, respectful game plan you both created — one based on shared values rather than assumptions."



Brandie Baird Photography

THE TOPICS COUPLES FORGET

Some of the most consequential conversations, Dr. Dixon notes, are the ones couples never think to have. Aging parents — whether they will ever live with you, how you will care for them. Extended family involvement — how hands-on will they be, and what are your comfort levels. Holiday traditions — whose family, which celebrations, and when to create new ones of your own.

"These lifestyle decisions will affect your day-to-day life and future planning," she says. "Talking through them helps couples reach agreements they both feel comfortable moving forward with."

AFTER THE WEDDING: KEEPING THE FIRE BURNING

Once married, Dr. Dixon's advice is deceptively simple: never stop dating each other. "We thrive on curiosity when we're dating," she says. "Marriage is often viewed as a final destination rather than a journey. You think you know them now, so you stop checking in. Small misunderstandings become bigger problems when you're not talking like you used to."

"You don't need every aspect of your future planned out. But you should have a good understanding of how you'll work together."

— Dr. Patricia Dixon



Her prescription: ask questions every day. Leave room for consistent conversations about feelings, decisions, and the texture of each other's lives. And when conflict arises, remember the goal. "You both want to feel heard and want your needs met. You're not trying to win. You're trying to stay connected."

When asked for the one habit she sees most consistently in strong marriages, her answer is immediate: "A willingness to forgive."

Dr. Jacquie Del Rosario

America's Marriage & Relationship Coach™ · Miami, FL

LOVE IS NOT ENOUGH

Dr. Jacquie Del Rosario opens with a statement that stops most couples short: love alone does not sustain a relationship. Alignment does. Emotional safety does. Intentional growth does. "The engagement season is one of the most revealing and formative phases," she says, "because it exposes not just how you love each

other, but how you handle pressure, expectations, and unresolved parts of yourselves."

Wedding planning, she notes, is one of the most reliable stress tests a couple will face before marriage. "It's rarely about the flowers or the venue. It's about control, communication, and whose voice holds weight in the relationship."

"Avoiding difficult conversations doesn't preserve harmony — it delays conflict."

— Dr. Jacquie Del Rosario

THE FINANCIAL CONVERSATIONS COUPLES AVOID

Dr. Del Rosario is direct about money: surface-level discussions are not enough. Couples must address spending habits versus saving priorities, debt and financial transparency, career ambitions, and expectations around household responsibilities and lifestyle pace. "Avoiding these conversations doesn't preserve harmony," she says plainly. "It delays conflict."

RED FLAGS COUPLES MINIMIZE

Some of the most dangerous warning signs, Dr. Del Rosario explains, are the ones people explain away: consistent emotional invalidation disguised as logic; a pattern of avoiding difficult conversations; values misalignment masked by chemistry; one partner consistently over-functioning while the other under-functions. "Chemistry can distract you from incompatibility if you're not paying attention," she warns.

BEFORE YOU WALK DOWN THE AISLE

Dr. Del Rosario strongly recommends premarital counseling — not as a signal that something is wrong, but as preparation for everything that comes next. "Strong couples prepare. They don't just hope for the best."

And her single piece of advice for every couple approaching the altar? Don't only ask whether you love this person. Ask whether you are compatible. "The more aligned you are, the less relational conflict you will have. The less conflict, the happier you are — and the less wear and tear on the relationship over time."

"A healthy relationship is not two people completing each other — it is two whole individuals choosing each other daily, while continuously growing."

— Dr. Jacquie Del Rosario

THE STRONGEST MARRIAGES

Both experts arrive at the same place from different directions. For Dr. Dixon, it is the daily discipline of curiosity and the willingness to forgive. For Dr. Del Rosario, it is alignment, emotional safety, and the understanding that healing is not a phase you complete before love — it is a lifelong commitment you bring into it.

"The strongest marriages are not perfect," Dr. Del Rosario says. "They are intentional, self-aware, and emotionally safe."

Dr. Patricia Dixon is a relationship therapist and author. Dr. Jacquie Del Rosario is America's Marriage & Relationship Coach™, based in Miami, FL.

For a full interview and additional advice, scan here







the wedding of
Jaden Baker & Jaylon Jones

Blackberry Ridge, Trenton, Georgia · April 25, 2026

THE PROPOSAL

For Jaden and Jaylon, the journey toward “I do” reached a breathtaking milestone on a day already filled with magic: Christmas Day 2023. In the intimate, luxurious setting of the Langham Hotel in Chicago, Jaylon created the private moment Jaden had always dreamed of. Surrounded by the quiet warmth of the holiday, he asked her to spend forever with him. It was a proposal that perfectly reflected their relationship—personal, thoughtful, and deeply connected to the life they’ve built together.

THE PREPARATION

For Jaden and Jaylon, the journey toward their “I do” was an exercise in curated luxury, guided by the discerning eye of Susanna at Lumi Accents. Jaden described hiring Susanna as “the best decision we made for our wedding. She went so far above and beyond for us, and we truly couldn’t have done it without her.” The directive was sophisticated: to transport the architectural romance of the European-inspired estate to the rolling hills of the South. Entrusting their vision to a planner renowned for her “intentional elegance,” the couple enjoyed a planning

experience that was as effortless as it was immersive.

Every element of the weekend was funneled through a high-design lens. Susanna meticulously developed a bespoke aesthetic that balanced a “floral-heavy” opulence with a refined palette of ethereal blushes and nuanced neutrals. This “elevated Italian villa” concept wasn’t merely a theme, but a total sensory environment, carefully orchestrated to ensure every guest touchpoint felt personal, polished, and profoundly “Jaden and Jaylon.”

The pursuit of the perfect bridal look led Jaden to the demi-couture world of Lee Petra Grebenau in New York City. In a masterclass of bridal styling, she selected a strapless mermaid silhouette defined by intricate, hand-sewn beaded lace and hand-placed floral appliqués. To achieve a silhouette that was truly one-of-a-kind, the atelier customized the neckline to a softened sweetheart, flawlessly proportioned for Jaden’s frame. Completed with a classic mantilla veil and crystal-encrusted Jimmy Choo platforms, the ensemble served as the ultimate centerpiece for a wedding weekend where no detail—from the logistics of the professional athlete-filled guest list to the precision of the custom design deck—was left to chance.







THE BIG DAY

On Saturday, April 25, 2026, nearly 2 years after their elopement, they gathered together with 150 of the couple's closest friends and family—including several of Jaylon's Chicago Bears teammates—at The Conservatory at Blackberry Ridge in Trenton, Georgia. The venue's European conservatory and gardens, along with the florals and blush draping, set a romantic, fairytale stage. To tie in their love story, being surrounded by football from Ole Miss to now at the Chicago Bears, a locker room with football-themed merch was designed and produced for guests to embroider on-site and take home as gift favors. Another guest favorite was the custom mini football field-goal escort wall with guest names on a tournament chart, which the Bears players kicked custom footballs with "Jaden & Jaylon" handwritten on them.

The ceremony was a beautiful blend of tradition and personal storytelling. To break the ice and calm their nerves, the couple shared a lighthearted selfie with their officiant before the readings began. They also held space for those watching from above, honoring Jaylon's grandparents with reserved seats.

As the sun set, the celebration shifted to a high-energy party. Guests enjoyed an elevated buffet featuring Grilled New York Strip with pistachio chimichurri and BBQ chicken with peaches, followed by a sweet treat from Whit's Frozen Custard. Between the Coke Zero tower and the late-night McDonald's fries—a nod to the couple's favorite snacks, every detail was designed to be "uniquely Jaden and Jaylon".

THE RETREAT

After a weekend filled with celebration, including a pre-wedding lunch and rehearsal dinner at St. John's Restaurant in Chattanooga, the new Mr. and Mrs. Jones are ready for a different kind of magic. The couple plans to enjoy their honeymoon at the iconic Sugar Beach in St. Lucia. There, amidst the Pitons and turquoise waters, they will begin their next chapter as a family of three, looking forward to a future of growing together with their daughter, London.

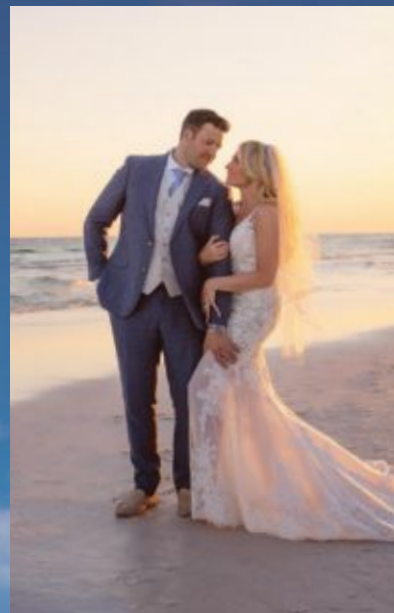


VENDORS

Photography: [@oliviaaversphotography](#) · Design & Planning: [@lumiaccents](#) · Venue: [@theconservatoryblackberryridge](#) · Videography: [@sweetlikehoneyphotos](#) · Florist: [@belfleurflorals](#) · Catering: [@rtablecatering](#) · Cake: [@sweetsbyhaley](#) · Bartending: [@drinkbarcater](#) · Stationery: [@whiteinkcalligraphy](#) · Bridal Makeup: [@makeupby_izabela](#) · Bridal Attire: [@leegrebenau](#) · Bridal Hair: [@hairxbrooke](#) · Caricature: [Caricature Etc](#) · Coffee Cart: [@drinktailwindcoffee](#) · Content Creation: [@cooksbridal](#) · Dance Lessons: [@curtsyballroom](#) · DJ: [@djstayproductions](#) · Dessert: [@whitsfrozencustardhq](#) · Flower Girl Attire: [@dolorispetunia](#) · Embroidery: [@elizabethdavis_designs](#) · Hair Artist: [@hairbykiara_](#) · Magician: [@themagicofcraigmartin_](#) · Makeup Artist: [@jatesaa](#) · Musicians: [@verite_strings](#) · Rentals: [@westerarentals](#) [@bbjlatavola](#) · Stylist: [@tsbstyling](#) · Tanning: [@tannedbysarah_](#) · Tents: [Memorable Events & Beautiful Weddings LLC](#) · Neon Sign: [@getlitneonsignco](#)

the beach IS JUST THE beginning.

When a celebration is more than just an event, but **the commencement of a lifetime together**, our elegant venues encapsulate the essence of forever.



888-519-0048
HiltonSandestinBeach.com
#HiltonSandestin

Hilton
SANDESTIN BEACH
GOLF RESORT & SPA



the wedding of

Emma Mitchell & Preston Roberts

Memphis, TN · January 23, 2026

THE PROPOSAL

Preston's proposal felt as though it had been pulled straight from the pages of a Southern novel, fittingly set in Emma's college town of Oxford at Rowan Oak, the storied home of William Faulkner, on November 16, 2024.

Emma and Preston visit Oxford often, so when he suggested a casual day trip, nothing seemed out of the ordinary. The couple spent the day wandering, shopping, lingering over lunch at The Square, completely unaware that every detail had been carefully orchestrated. Later that afternoon, a family friend called Preston in a panic, saying his dog had gotten loose near Rowan Oak and he needed help. Because Rowan Oak is tucked quietly behind trees on a neighborhood street, pulling in didn't raise a single suspicion. It felt ordinary. Peaceful. Familiar. Until it wasn't.

As they walked the grounds, Preston turned to Emma and then got down on one knee. What she thought was just another sweet afternoon in Oxford became the moment that changed everything.

But he wasn't finished. They drove toward The Square, and as they approached the rooftop of Graduate Oxford, she heard cheering, loud, unmistakable cheering. When she looked up, she saw both of their families and their closest friends, gathered on the rooftop, waving, shouting, and waiting with champagne to celebrate them.

She was completely, utterly shocked — which is saying something, because she is notoriously hard to surprise. Little did she know, they were all staying in Oxford that night, tucked into rooms together to soak

in every second. The celebration continued with dinner at McEwen's, laughter echoing across the table as they replayed every detail of the day. Before the night ended, everyone signed a McEwen's hat — a keepsake covered in the handwriting of the people who witnessed the very first hours of their engagement.

It was thoughtful. It was layered. It was perfectly Preston. And truly, the surprise of the decade.

THE PREPARATION

Emma had always dreamed of a big Memphis wedding. Long before she met Preston, she knew she wanted to be married in the city that shaped her; she just wasn't sure her future groom would share the same roots. As it turned out, he did, making her 'big Memphis wedding' feel even more meant to be.

The couple chose The Cadre for its timeless beauty, warm atmosphere, and central location, especially magical in winter, when everything feels intimate and candlelit.

Emma's fourteen months of wedding planning came together seamlessly with the help of her seasoned wedding designer sister and support from their mom. Emma was clear on the color - pink and more pink. The hue continued to influence Emma's custom-made wedding gown. With experience in fashion design, Emma was excited to create a dress that was a unique reflection of her style. It may not have been for everyone, but it was perfectly, unapologetically her.



THE BIG DAY

The wedding day unfolded differently than planned, and somehow, it became even more beautiful because of it.

Just three days before they were set to say “I do,” a historic ice storm forced them to move all celebrations from Friday and Saturday to Thursday and Friday. Coordinating 22 vendors and notifying 600 guests in mere hours was overwhelming and emotional, but it also clarified what mattered most.

Emma and Preston’s vendors’ dedication was heartwarming as they adjusted the last-minute schedule. Friends and family braved snow and ice to celebrate, making them feel deeply loved. The storm shifted their schedule, but it could not touch the joy surrounding them.

The day itself was a dream realized. As per Emma’s request, the guests wore pink, filling the room with celebration, while her customized Monique Lhuillier gown layered with pink tulle flowers was romantic, whimsical, and unapologetically different. Every detail reflected their story: foam fingers on the dance floor, cocktails inspired by the bar where they met, metallic pom-poms during their exit. Preston stunned the guests by entering in a custom pink velvet tuxedo jacket by Made by Malouf, with the couple’s wedding date stitched inside alongside their engagement photos. It was bold. It was joyful. It was perfect.

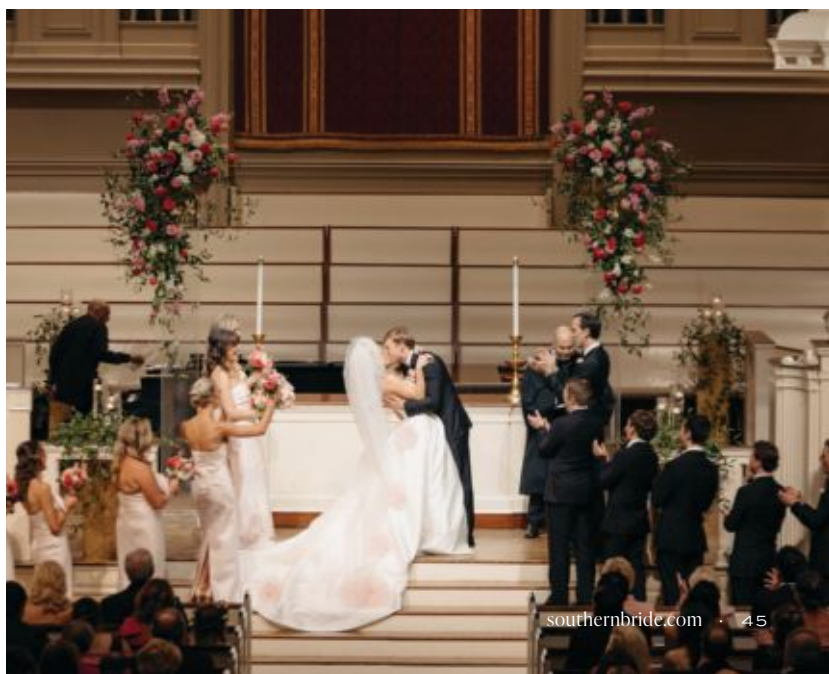
THE RETREAT

For their honeymoon, Emma and Preston escaped to the breathtaking island of Nevis — a destination they knew little about, making it feel like a hidden treasure. The couple desired to vacation in a quietly beautiful setting, and Nevis provided the peaceful shores, endless blue water, and quiet stillness, offering the perfect exhale after their extraordinary week.

In true “them” fashion, getting there was an adventure with five canceled flights and nearly 48 hours of travel. Exhausted but determined, the couple reminded each other they had handled harder things that week.

The experience mirrored their first days of marriage. From storms to travel chaos, they faced every challenge side by side, a reminder that marriage isn’t just about mountaintops but holding hands through the valleys too.

By the time they arrived, it felt less like a vacation and more like a victory lap — a start to their marriage grounded in love, laughter, and the confidence that together, they can get through anything.





OTHER VENDORS

Photographer: **Sam Sikes** · Reception: **Cadre Building** · Ceremony Church: **2nd Presbyterian Church** · Florist: **L & Jay Productions** · Catering: **Pink Flamingo** · Hair: **Tyra Anderson** · Hair Assistants: **Haley Rochelle and Charlotte Vaughn** · Makeup: **Caitlin McGill, Isabella Allen, Savannah Sillyman** · Bridal Dress: **Maggie Louise**, Bridal Designer: **Monique Lhoullier** & Customizations by **Everything Fits U** · Groomsmen Tux: **Black Tux** · Invitations/ Stationery: **Fresh Ink Jackson, MS** · Plate Rentals: **Mahaffey** · Linens: **BBJ La Tavola, Elegant Chair Solutions, White Door Events** · Transportation: **C & L Executive Transportation Limo** · Day of Coordinator: **Missy Scruggs** · Wedding Planner: **Olivia Jamison** · Band: **Party Jammers** · String Quartet: **Listeso Music Group** · Photo Boot: **ILO Photobooth** · Cake: **Kaykes_kay_dragges** · Getaway Car: **901ROLLS** · Alcoholic Beverage Provider: **Poplar Pike Liquor & Wine**



TW

TAYLORWOOD
BEAUTY & WELLNESS



5160 Sanderlin Ave
Suite 7
Memphis, Tennessee 38117
www.taylorwood.co
901-258-5000

@taylorwood_beauty_and_wellness



Celebrating Brides and Bright Futures.

Delivering Women's Healthcare Like No Other



photo by Madeline Rose

WOLFCHASE | MEMPHIS | DESOTO | (901) 843-1500 | MOGAMD.COM



the wedding of

Dr. Glenys Castro & Branden Brooks

New Orleans, LA · November 21, 2025

THE PROPOSAL

Glenys and Branden attended a birthday trip to Hawaii with a few of their closest friends. One day, as they enjoyed an ATV ride through the Kualoa Ranch, laughing and getting covered in dirt, they were slated for a sunset photoshoot that evening. The couple had so much fun at the ranch, they nearly lost track of time. Glenys, not anticipating an evening to remember, suggested rescheduling the shoot. The couple managed to get to the hotel in time to freshen up and attend the beach shoot.

Branden arranged what Glenys believed would be a romantic beach photo shoot, with the golden sunset wrapping them in the most perfect glow. As they stood by the ocean talking, Branden suddenly asked her to dance — completely out of the blue, with no music playing — and she followed his lead, swaying in the sand, lost in the moment. Then, in the middle of that quiet dance, Branden got down on one knee and professed his love for her, sharing his heartfelt desire to make her his wife. In that instant, she realized the trip wasn't just a celebration — it was the beginning of their forever. She said "yes". That night, under the Hawaiian sky, became one of the happiest moments of their lives — a memory forever embedded in their hearts.

THE PREPARATION

Their wedding preparation felt like a dream — filled with excitement, love, and what seemed like a million beautiful decisions. The most important choice was the destination. They wanted a place that truly reflected who they were, their story, and their roots. Glenys suggested New Orleans — a city that had shaped so much of her life. Since migrating from Honduras, she had called New Orleans home from childhood into adulthood. Its culturally rich environment and undeniable uniqueness made it the perfect backdrop, and they knew their guests would fall in love with it just as they had.

When they chose Southern Oaks as their venue, their excitement grew even more. Friends and family traveled from Las Vegas, Germany, California, Washington, and Honduras, all eager to celebrate their union and experience the magic of their love in a city that meant so much to them. The three-day celebration began with a beautiful bridal shower, continued with an intimate welcome dinner, and culminated in their unforgettable wedding day.



THE BIG DAY

The wedding day felt like a true fairytale come to life, beautifully highlighting the union of two families under the blessing of God. The bride arrived in a horse and carriage, welcomed and embraced by the overwhelming love of their guests. As the bride's father walked her down the aisle toward her future husband, the world seemed to fade — she could only see Branden. They exchanged vows before family and friends, sealing their commitment with full hearts. One of the most memorable moments came during Branden's vows when he said, "I will make your happiness my priority." In that instant, the happy tears she had been trying so hard to hold back began to fall, overwhelmed by the depth of his love and sincerity.



The venue was exquisitely transformed, radiating an elegant ambiance adorned with soft pink florals and vintage glam décor. The evening unfolded into a joyful celebration as they danced the night away, and it all concluded with a festive second line exit, surrounded by their guests — the perfect ending to the most unforgettable day of their lives.

THE RETREAT

The couple is planning a honeymoon to either the Maldives or Thailand, a perfect way to begin their new life together.





OTHER VENDORS

Reception Venue + Catering: **Southern Oaks** · Photography: **Shagari Gerard Photography** · Videography: **Dreamwood Films** · Wedding Planner: **Celine Designs** · Florals: **Crystal's Floral & Event Decor** · Cake: **Chasing Wang** · Bridal Gown: **Kleinfeld Bridal** · Dress Designer: **Nicole & Felicia** · Bridal Shoes: **Custom Jimmy Choo** · Bridesmaid Dresses: **Azazie** · Hair: **Nola Beauty** · Makeup: **Beauty By Juji** · Invitations: **Margo Design Store** · Rentals + Decor: **Truly Haute Candles & Decor Company** · Transportation: **Riculfy Livery** · Engagement Ring + Wedding Bands: **Tiffany & Co.** · Reception Dress: **Perla Bridal** · Ceremony Music: **Harry Hardin, Harpist**



the wedding of
Jacquelyn Clark & Eric Schueler

Fort Worth, Texas · June 14, 2025

THE PROPOSAL

Eric is an artist, quiet, thoughtful, and someone who always reminds Jacquelyn to stop and smell the roses. On the day of their engagement, the couple wandered through the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, soaking up the sun and each other's company.

He mentioned receiving a call from a local gallery about helping hang some paintings, so they strolled over. As she admired the sculptures and paintings on display, she turned to find him standing beside one of his works. But it wasn't the still life she had seen him working on. Instead, the painting depicted a bouquet with a ring box, and on a small table below, the real bouquet and ring awaited.

He got down on one knee and spoke from the heart. She had a few quiet moments to take it all in before saying yes. It was a proposal as thoughtful, creative, and perfectly him as anyone could imagine.

THE PREPARATION

The couple knew they wanted to marry in the Fort Worth church where they were officially introduced, though they attended the same Portuguese class at the University of Texas a few years prior. The groom immediately recognized Jacquelyn from that class, probably because she was always the teacher's pet. After completing graduate school, Jacquelyn returned to her home state where she met the love of her life. The couple knew they wanted to plan a wedding filled with summer warmth, artsy elegance, and subtle Western touches.

They chose a palette of peach, green, and light and dark blue, with coral accents. These colors appeared everywhere from roses, hydrangeas, and peonies to the bridesmaids' pajamas, the cake's sprinkles, and even the cocktail choices (hello, peach margaritas!). Handmade chocolate mice traveled all the way from Boston to fit the theme. And because music was non-negotiable for the bride, they booked two full hours of live band and DJ, guaranteeing plenty of dancing.



THE BIG DAY

The bridal party got ready in the historic Hilton suite, where Jacqueline Kennedy once stayed, the perfect spot for feeling elegant and momentous. The couple wanted an elegant and traditional wedding with pops of modern design. The ceremony took place in the cathedral where the couple met, with the soaring organ above their guests and a priest delivering a moving homily.

Following the ceremony, the guests enjoyed a private trolley ride through the city before arriving at a train station, built in 1899, which served as the reception venue. The space combined old-world charm with playful details: rhinestone cowboy hats, tambourines, trains passing by during cocktail hour, a photo station, an audio guestbook, cowhide coasters, handmade chocolate mice, and the bride's favorite wedding topper, sprinkles.

The bride's engagement ring was one of the day's most meaningful details. The vintage lattice-design ring once belonged to her mother, and it was a piece she had admired since childhood, often sneaking it from the jewelry box just to try it on. When her husband asked for her hand in marriage, he also asked for the ring,

transforming it into a cherished family heirloom that Jacquelyn hopes to pass down one day.

The night ended on a high note when the groom joined the band to play drums. Eric performed in bands during college, but Jacquelyn never had the chance to see him perform, so the bride had her long-awaited "fan girl" moment. As the evening concluded, the couple left feeling grateful for a day that was utterly joyful, elegant, and full of love.

THE RETREAT

The couple chose France for their honeymoon, Eric's pick, as his family is French Canadian and he had never had the chance to visit France before. Their journey began in Paris, where they enjoyed the city's rich culture and celebrated its renowned culinary scene. From there, they took the train to Provence, taking in the region's fragrant lavender fields and beautiful countryside. The trip concluded on the French Riviera, where the couple spent their final days shopping, relaxing, and soaking up the glamour of the coast.





OTHER VENDORS

Photographer: **Jamie Park Photo** · Event Planner, Invitations: **Weddings by Stardust** · Venue: **Saint Patrick's Cathedral** · Reception Venue, Caterer: **The Ashton Depot** · Wedding Cake: **Creme de la Creme Cake Company** · Flowers: **Branching Out Events** · Gown: **Lihi Hod** · Bridal Gown Boutique: **Alice in Ivory** · Groom's Tux/Suit: **Mister Tuxedo** · Hair Stylist & Makeup Artist: **Lip Service Makeup** · Wedding Bands: **Fullers Jewelry** · Bridal Shoes: **Bella Belle Shoes** · Bridesmaid Dresses: **Jenny Yoo** · Rentals & Decor: **BBJ La Tavola** · Draping: **Randy Ro Entertainment** · Floors: **Imperial Flooring** · Entertainment: **The Special Edition Band** · DJ: **LeForce Entertainment** · Transportation: **Igport Limos, DFW Vintage Cars**



the wedding of

Christina Collins and Brian Gardner

Lake Lure, North Carolina · October 1, 2025

THE PROPOSAL

Brian and Christina's love story began in the coastal city of Wilmington, where both happened to be living only a short distance from one another, yet their paths had never crossed. Brian, a former Army soldier, had recently retired from military service and relocated from Italy to North Carolina, settling near his native state of Virginia. Christina, a Georgia native, had spent much of her life living throughout North Carolina and had come to call the state home. Though they lived near each other, their lives finally intertwined when they met online.

Their first date took place in a quiet corner of a Starbucks café. What began as a simple meeting over coffee quickly turned into hours of conversation. They talked so effortlessly that neither noticed the time passing until the baristas began preparing to close for the evening. That night marked the beginning of something unmistakably special. The connection between them felt immediate, natural, and deeply genuine — like two lives finally meeting at exactly the right moment.

As the months passed, their relationship grew stronger with every shared experience. They discovered a deep friendship within their love, built on laughter,

conversation, mutual respect, and a shared appreciation for life's meaningful moments. One particularly memorable day brought them to the peaceful shores of Sunset Beach. With the rhythmic sound of waves rolling onto the sand and the vast Atlantic stretching before them, they spent the day walking along the coastline, taking in the quiet beauty of the ocean. Surrounded by the serenity of sea, sky, and sand, they made a heartfelt decision — to commit their lives to one another and to a future built on love, partnership, and adventure.

THE PREPARATION

Christina and Brian's wedding was originally scheduled to take place in 2024, but life presented an unexpected challenge. The devastating destruction caused by Hurricane Helene forced them to postpone their celebration. Though the storm disrupted their plans, it only strengthened their patience and commitment to one another. Rather than feeling discouraged, they chose to see the delay as simply another chapter in their story — one that reminded them that love is not about perfect timelines, but about standing together through the unexpected.





THE BIG DAY

One year later, on October 1, 2025, their long-awaited celebration finally arrived. Surrounded by the vibrant colors of the fall season, crisp mountain air, and the tranquil beauty of a lakeside setting, Brian and Christina chose a private, intimate wedding alone in the mountains of North Carolina, while their loved ones watched virtually. The mountaintop reflected everything their relationship had come to represent — resilience, beauty, and the quiet strength of two people choosing each other through every season of life.

What had once been postponed by a storm became, a year later, a breathtaking moment of joy and gratitude. Beneath the autumn sky, with the lake shimmering nearby and the mountains standing tall around them, Brian and Christina promised forever to one another. Their story — beginning in a small coffee shop,

deepened along the shores of Sunset Beach, and sealed atop a mountain a year later than planned — reminds everyone who hears it that love is not defined by perfect timing, but by enduring devotion.

THE RETREAT

Following their wedding, Christina and Brian spent their wedding night at Rumbling Bald Resort before continuing their honeymoon at the historic Andon-Reid Inn Bed and Breakfast. They stayed in the Library Suite, which provided a cozy and romantic setting for their first days as newlyweds. During their trip, they spent time exploring Bryson City and the surrounding Great Smoky Mountains, even taking a scenic train ride through the mountains — the perfect, peaceful ending to their wedding celebration.



OTHER VENDORS

Photographer: **Meghan Rose Photography** · Venue: **Rumbling Bald Resort** · Wedding Cake: **Ingles Bakery** · Music/Bagpiper: **Gordon Warburton** · Flowers: **Ling's Moment** · Gown: **David's Bridal** · Veil & Bridal Shoes: **JJ's House** · Groom's Attire: **Traditional Scottish Kilt (Groom's Own)** · Hair Stylist: **Southern Couture Salon & Bridal Bar** · Engagement & Wedding Ring: **Brilliant Earth** · Honeymoon Accommodations: **Rumbling Bald Resort, Andon-Reid Inn Bed and Breakfast** · Invitations: **Minted** · Videographer: **Whitlock Events**



Corina Silva Photography



Brooke Christl Photography

Timeless Elegance

Specializing in Destination Weddings

Lavish Four Diamond Resort

Full Service Catering

Luxurious Guest Rooms

Professional Service

Stylish Flexible Venues

Experienced Catering Manager



Lindsay Mar Photography



the wedding of
Sydney Adams & Kyle Combs

Pawleys Island, South Carolina · April 4, 2026

THE PROPOSAL

Kyle proposed in Belize just before sunrise during a quiet morning by the water. What started as a simple walk quickly turned into one of the most unforgettable moments of their relationship. Although he had carefully planned exactly what he wanted to say, his nerves completely took over the moment he got down on one knee. In fact, Kyle and Sydney did not even make it to the sand before the proposal happened, with no one else around except the sound of the ocean and the early morning light.

Sydney immediately noticed how nervous he was, which somehow made the moment feel even more special. Between the peaceful surroundings and the emotion of the moment, everything felt intimate and genuine. Belize will always hold a special place in their hearts as the place where their forever began. You better Belize it!

THE PREPARATION

The months leading up to the wedding were creative, emotional, and filled with thoughtful details. While balancing full time work as a pediatric nurse and attending graduate school to become a nurse practitioner, Sydney spent many late nights hand painting elements to

complement her custom hand painted gown from House of Savin.

For the reception tables, the couple sourced vintage china from Once Upon A Table Inc. so each of their 103 guests dined on a different plate, creating a timeless and elegant tablescape. Guests were gifted homemade jam from the family farm, a detail that honored family tradition and added a warm touch to the weekend. Throughout the celebration, a live watercolor artist captured guests in real time, creating meaningful keepsakes from the wedding weekend.

With loved ones traveling from Minnesota, North Carolina, and across the country to celebrate alongside them, the weekend felt centered around connection, family, and shared memories.

Before the wedding, the groom's family hosted an all white beachside celebration where guests wore white while the bride wore blue with seashell details inspired by the ocean and the role it has played throughout their relationship. Baby photos of the bride and groom were displayed throughout the party, creating a meaningful and personal atmosphere surrounded by the people they love most.



THE BIG DAY

The wedding took place Easter weekend beneath the iconic live oak trees at Caledonia Golf and Fish Club, draped in Spanish moss and blooming azaleas as a live violinist played throughout the ceremony. In a deeply personal touch, both mothers walked the groom down the aisle together before the bride was escorted by her father.

Rather than having a traditional bridal party, the couple chose to center the ceremony around family. Grandparents walked down the aisle as a reminder of the generations of love and commitment that came before them, while both sisters played meaningful roles throughout the day. One of the most emotional moments of the evening was surprising Kyle's mama by incorporating her vintage ring as the bride's wedding band.

Guests were welcomed into a floral inspired black tie evening beginning with signature espresso martinis and

spicy margaritas before transitioning into a candlelit dinner beneath the trees. The night ended with live music, a packed dance floor, and a late night Chick-fil-A spread that felt nostalgic and true to the couple.

THE RETREAT

The couple honeymooned at Sandals Saint Vincent in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the perfect beginning to married life together. From slow mornings overlooking the Caribbean water to snorkeling hand in hand with sea turtles and starfish, every moment felt peaceful and adventurous.

Between quiet beaches, lush green mountains, sailing excursions, and golden sunsets, the honeymoon gave them time to relax, explore, and soak in the beginning of their new chapter together.





OTHER VENDORS

Photography/Videography: **Blažka and Co.** · Venue: **Caledonia Golf and Fish Club** · Event Planner: **CCE Events** · Caterer: **Inlet Affairs** · Wedding Cake: **Publix Bakery** · Favors & Gifts: **Jam Made From Family Farm "Jameson Farms"** · Gown: **House of Savin** · Veil: **Savvy Bride** · Bridal Shoes: **Manolo Blahnik** · Engagement Ring: **Diamonds Direct Charlotte** · Wedding Bands: **Vintage Bands from Groom's Grandmother "Ann Ashe"** · Reception Dress: **Anthropologie Weddings** · Hair Stylist: **The Blushing Bride** · Makeup Artist: **The Blushing Bride** · Groom Tux: **OMJ Weddings** · Invitations: **Minted** · Live Painter: **Nicole Schmitz Studio** · Rentals & Decor: **Event Rents- Grand Stand** · Tableware Rentals: **Once Upon A Table Inc.** · Custom Embroidery: **Marlins Threads** · Entertainment: **Julio & The Saltines** · Violinist: **Christie Bates Violin** · Lighting: **RSG Event Design** · Honeymoon Accommodations: **Sandals Saint Vincent**

CELEBRATE YOUR DAY

A Wandering Creative

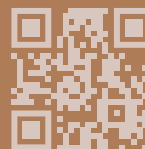
JoLaura Photography



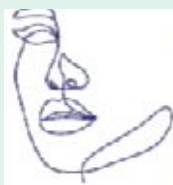
WHERE NATURE'S
BEAUTY MEETS
YOUR LOVE STORY



Memphis Botanic Garden
750 Cherry Road | Memphis, TN, 38117
901-636-4121 | rentals@membg.org
Membg.org/Rentals



Scan to view our
rental spaces



Wallace
Plastic Surgery Group

Tracey Wallace, RN

Enhancing women's natural beauty since 1996, Tracey combines medical expertise with an artistic eye. Her trusted, personalized approach delivers confident, radiant results.

Specializing in non-surgical treatments like Botox and fillers to enhance natural beauty with subtle, effective, no downtime, and confidence-boosting results.

Book Your Appt Today!
901.779.6538

6215 Humphreys Blvd, Suite 201, Memphis, TN 38120





the wedding of

Eliza Schwab and Joseph Gordon

Momi Bay, Fiji · August 1, 2025

THE PROPOSAL

Eliza and Joseph first met in Brisbane in 2016 after Eliza relocated from rural Victoria for university. Working together at Strike Bowling Bar, the pair quickly formed a close friendship that naturally evolved into a lasting relationship.

Joseph planned the proposal after the couple returned from a month-long trip through Europe and the UK. While Eliza expected the proposal to happen overseas, Joseph had something much more personal planned back in Brisbane.

During a birthday weekend surrounded by family and friends, the couple revisited meaningful places from their early relationship, including their former workplace. Later that evening, Joseph led Eliza to a beautifully styled picnic setup overlooking one of Brisbane's scenic locations, where he proposed surrounded by thoughtful details organized with the help of his family.

Following the proposal, the couple celebrated with friends and loved ones who had secretly gathered nearby for the occasion, creating an emotional and joyful ending to the evening.

THE PREPARATION

Choosing Fiji as their wedding destination was an easy and deeply meaningful decision for the couple. Joseph was born in Fiji, where much of his family still resides in Sigatoka, making the destination a place that had always held significance throughout their relationship.

The couple wanted their guests to experience not only the beauty of Fiji, but also the warmth of the culture and the importance it held within their family story. Hosting the wedding at Fiji Marriott Resort Momi Bay allowed everyone to stay together throughout the celebration, transforming the event into an immersive multi-day retreat.

Every detail of the wedding was intentionally selected to reflect both elegance and authenticity. Traditional ceremony attire was custom created by Tabuadra Designs for the bride, groomsmen, flower girl, and page boy, beautifully incorporating elements of Fijian culture into the celebration.

The planning process came together seamlessly with the support of an exceptional vendor team. Fiji Wedding handled the styling and décor, while Elite Design Co designed the invitations, signage, and personalized details throughout the event. Charlene Makeup Artist styled the bridal party, and Nadi Bay Photography captured every unforgettable moment across the wedding weekend.



THE BIG DAY

Set along the stunning shores of Fiji Marriott Resort Momi Bay, Eliza and Joseph's wedding day was filled with emotion, celebration, and unforgettable cultural touches.

Surrounded by eight bridesmaids and eight groomsmen, the couple exchanged vows in a ceremony that beautifully reflected both their personalities and Joseph's Fijian heritage. The ceremony aisle was created through local village connections, adding an even more meaningful and personal element to the day.

As the sun set over the resort, the celebration transitioned into an energetic reception filled with music, dancing, and unforgettable entertainment. Kava flowed throughout the evening, honoring Fijian tradition and creating a warm communal atmosphere for guests.

One of the most memorable moments of the night came when Inside Out Band performed during the reception, filling the celebration with incredible energy and excitement. Guests were also surprised with a personalized dance performance created especially for the occasion, followed by a spectacular fireworks display that lit up the Fiji sky.

The evening perfectly captured the atmosphere the couple had envisioned: relaxed, joyful, emotional, and filled with love.

THE RETREAT

What made Eliza and Joseph's wedding truly unforgettable was the experience shared by everyone across the entire weekend. With more than 130 guests traveling internationally to celebrate alongside them, the event became a destination retreat filled with connection, celebration, and meaningful memories.

Guests spent their days enjoying the beauty of Fiji together, from poolside gatherings and sunset cocktails to cultural experiences and late-night celebrations at the resort. The relaxed atmosphere allowed friends and family from different parts of the world to connect in a way that felt intimate and deeply special.

For Eliza and Joseph, the weekend represented everything they hoped their wedding would be: a celebration centered on love, family, culture, and creating unforgettable experiences with the people who matter most.





OTHER VENDORS

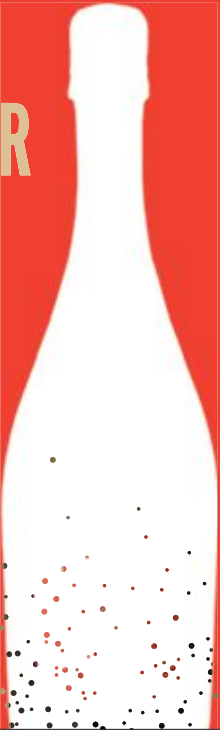
Photography & Videography: **Nadi Bay Photography** · Venue: **Fiji Marriott Resort Momi Bay** · Styling & Décor: **Fiji Wedding** · Ceremony Attire: **Tabuadra Designs** · Hair & Makeup: **Charlene Makeup Artist** · Entertainment: **Inside Out Band** · Signage & Stationery: **Elite Design Co** · Rings: **Novita Diamonds** · Favors/Gifts: **Stubby Holders and Fans** · Social: **@elizaagordon, @itsjoegordon**



FRANCIS
COPPOLA
DIAMOND COLLECTION

Prosecco

**THIS IS YOUR
DIAMOND
MOMENT**



©2026 Francis Ford Coppola Winery, Geyserville, Sonoma County, CA | Enjoy Responsibly | All rights reserved



Janice Allen
Professional Hairstylist Master Colorist

2123 West Street, Suite 122 - Germantown Tn 38138 901.489.1555

Art in a Glass

Create a Signature Cocktail No Other Wedding Will Have

from the expert mixologist Joseph Loli, Cellar & Barrel, Sheraton Fiji Golf & Beach Resort

by Gigi Bors-Koefoed



Exploring Fiji is an incredibly rewarding experience, from succulent fruits picked on-site to lush islands and exotic flora, it provides endless opportunities for exploration. But once the sun sets, it is our natural rhythm to settle in, reflect and raise a coupe of flavour-bursting cocktails to another day in paradise.

I had the pleasure of visiting the only adult speakeasy in Fiji, Cellar & Barrel, at the Sheraton Fiji Golf & Beach Resort, Denarau Island, where each crafted cocktail is an art of balance and flavor. Led by expert mixologist Joseph Lilo, the menu blends Fijian ingredients with international influence, drawing on mythology and folklore to create a bold and original menu to impress any cocktail connoisseur.

“We engineered our cocktail menu to be a storytelling tool. The base spirit used for each cocktail features stories, myths, histories and legends of its origin, incorporated into the description to elevate the guest experience. It was designed by our beverage team here at Sheraton, spearheaded by our property mixologist Ms. Gita Rohmatutardiah, with the assistance of Ms. Venessa Jarechi and myself. This took us about 8–9 months to put together. The aim was for our cocktails to be very flavor-forward but balanced, so we took a lot of inspiration from the flavors of Fiji itself, renowned agricultural products and some good old-fashioned Fijian muscle to bind them together.”



Tuwai

Ratu Signature Rum, Passion Fruit Puree, Fresh Lime Juice, Hazelnut Syrup, Ginger Syrup, Angostura Bitters

From the depths of the Pacific comes a cocktail that is bold. Ratu Signature Rum anchors this drink, while passion fruit, lime, and ginger create a vibrant, fiery wave of flavor. A touch of hazelnut and bitters adds richness and mystery, honoring the guardian of the seas with every sip.



Adelita

Casamigos Mezcal Joven, Jalapeno And Cilantro Cordial, Fresh Lime Juice, Agave Syrup, Orange Bitters

A cocktail! inspired by the courage and passion of a revolutionary icon. Smoky mezcal forms a bold foundation, balanced by the sweet warmth of agave and the zesty brightness of lime. Bitters add a touch of complexity, embodying the bittersweet sacrifices of Adelita's enduring fight for freedom.

“From our list, the two bestsellers are undoubtedly the Tuwai and the Adelita. For the Tuwai, we use Fiji’s own award-winning Ratu Signature 8-Year Blend Rum Liqueur, combined with our house-made passionfruit cordial, ginger syrup, fresh lime juice, and four dashes of Angostura bitters to bind all the flavors together. It’s wonderfully refreshing, bright with citrus and underpinned by deep notes of coffee and chocolate. The Adelita, meanwhile, is built on Casamigos Mezcal, which we marry with agave syrup, a jalapeño and cilantro cordial, fresh lemon juice, and a couple of dashes of orange bitters for aromatics. The spice is beautifully subtle on the first sip, making it an ideal pre-dinner herbaceous and savory cocktail.”

WEDDINGS

“For wedding cocktails, it’s always best to start with something light and refreshing since you’ve got a big reception ahead for both you and your guests. Spritzes are a perfect choice because everyone already knows and loves them, plus they’re incredibly easy to customize with different flavors. All you need is a base spirit, preferably gin or vodka, a citrus element, a fruity or floral syrup, a good sparkling wine, and a splash of soda water finished with a simple garnish, and you’ve got the perfect signature cocktail”.

HOME

“To create a cocktail bar setup at home, you really only need four essentials: a shaker (a two-piece Boston shaker is ideal), a Hawthorne or julep strainer, a fine double strainer (because nobody wants bits floating in their cocktail), and a mixing jar so you can stir up a couple of Old Fashioneds for your dad and granddad. With those basics, you’re all set, and guaranteed to become the go-to host for dinner parties in the neighborhood”.



Odori

Suntory Hibiki, Campari, Umeshu

A cocktail inspired by the Silk Road's rich tapestry of culture and connection. Bold Campari meets the sweet complexity of Umeshu, while Suntory Hibiki Whisky adds smooth depth. Together, they honor the fusion of traditions that shaped civilizations..



Faerie's Kiss

Rosemary Infused Jameson Rosemary Syrup, Apple Cider, Fresh Lemon Juice, Angostura Bitters

A cocktail that bridges the earthly and the ethereal, inspired by ancient Irish lore. Rosemary-infused Jameson provides a herbal warmth, while apple cider adds a touch of sweetness. Rosemary syrup completes this enchanting blend, offering a taste of magic from the unseen world.

“All you need is a base spirit, a citric ingredient, a beautiful syrup, sparkling wine, soda water and a simple garnish, and you’re solid.”

— Joseph Loli, Cellar & Barrel, Sheraton Fiji Golf & Beach Resort



Photo: Camille Leigh

Designer: Wells Design Co.

*Your happily ever after
starts here.....*

www.AvonAcresMemphis.com

901-333-2650



Bright Things

Mustard yellow is our editor's choice for the 2026 Summer/Fall color trend. This happy hue is excellent for carrying summer into fall with home items that bring a little sunshine and a touch of sophistication.

Think outside the wedding registry box and customize your items with bright and bold designs.

DIVINE SAVAGES WHERE THE
WILDFLOWERS GROW 'Mustard'
FRINGED LAMPSHADE
DIVINE SAVAGES

Pair of Murano Whiskey Glasses,
Amber & Chocolate
Rebecca Udall



MINDTHEGAP

EDWARD Ottoman Tufted Bench
MINDTHEGAP



Bees of Kew Double Oven Glove
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew Shop



Annie Sloan Stencils
Paisley Floral Garland
Chest Of Drawers
Annie Sloan



Brides in Belize
High Fashion in the Heart of the Rainforest















Books to *Inspire* Your Wedding Planning



Warren Lane Photography

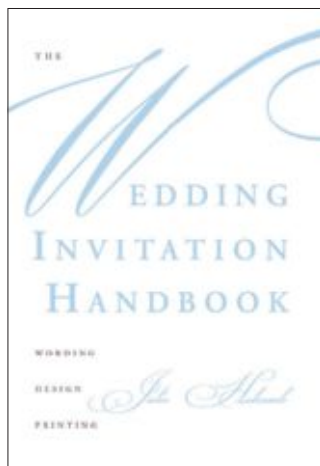
Judith Rosen's ***Bookstore Romance*** offers a charming collection of engagement and wedding stories, all set within the cozy walls of bookstores. Some couples found each other among the shelves, while others returned for romantic date nights or celebrated milestones, ultimately choosing the bookstore as the special place to exchange their vows.

Michael and Paige got engaged at Bart's Books in Ojai, California, on December 2, 2022. "Paige has always loved to read and has her own library at home," says Michael. Her passion for books inspired him to read more, and ultimately convinced him that a bookstore was the right place to propose.

Erin and Kim married at King's Books in Tacoma, Washington, on July 23, 2022. The couple brought creativity to every detail, using bookmarks as save-the-date cards and constructing a book arch as the centerpiece of their ceremony.

Breonna chose Brazos Bookstore in Houston, Texas, as the setting for her wedding portrait. Bypassing traditional venues like gardens or event spaces, she wanted to celebrate in her happiest place. "I've always been into reading. It's always been my jam," she shared.

Julie Holcomb's ***The Wedding Invitation Handbook*** is the perfect guide for couples who appreciate books, tradition, and thoughtful details. Covering every aspect of invitation etiquette, including when to follow the rules and when it's fine to bend them, the book brings both purpose and inspiration to wedding planning. Emphasizing artisan craftsmanship over mass production, Holcomb offers step-by-step advice for crafting exquisite handmade stationery, from reception cards and thank-you notes to envelope addressing and wording.





A Hill Country Setting

UNLIKE THE REST

Some Hill Country venues give you views. Rancher Hall offers a shoreline.

The newest event space at Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort and Villas, Rancher Hall is 5,600 square feet of vaulted ceilings, exposed wood beams, and doors that open directly onto a green ceremonial lawn, all with The Big Spring Lagoon shimmering behind it. It's a setting you won't find anywhere else in Central Texas.

At the center of the property, elegant ballrooms, grand pavilions, and scenic lawns are ready to host multiple celebrations, from the rehearsal dinner to the farewell brunch.

There'll be no rush to leave once the dance floor slows. Tee off on our 27-hole championship course. Book a rejuvenating treatment at the recently refreshed Windflower Spa. Raise a glass to the newlyweds at the freshly opened lobby bar. And when it's time to retire, your wedding party will find the new Villas waiting: 2,330-square-foot homes with four bedrooms and en suite baths and multiple living areas made for gathering.

Just twenty minutes from downtown San Antonio and its airport, this is what a wedding should look like.

Call 210 520 4014 or email hillcountryweddings@hyatt.com to start the planning process with one of our dedicated wedding specialists.

HYATT REGENCY HILL COUNTRY RESORT AND VILLAS
9800 Hyatt Resort Dr., San Antonio, TX 78251

The Hyatt trademark and related marks are trademarks of Hyatt Corporation or its affiliates.
© 2026 Hyatt Corporation. All rights reserved.



**HYATT
REGENCY®**

HILL COUNTRY
RESORT AND VILLAS

Follow Me to *Fiji*

Experience the Momi Bay Mood, Uninhabited Islands and Secluded Beaches of Tokoriki Island, and Denarau Island's World-Class Cuisine

by Gigi-Bors-Koefoed

FIJI MARRIOTT RESORT MOMI BAY

Fiji has long occupied a place on many travellers' 'someday' list, as the ultimate tropical escape. It was for me, so when the opportunity arose for me to visit Marriott Momi Bay and its sister properties, it was a resounding 'yes.' A honeymoon experience in the land of my dreams is now easily accessible with the recent addition of a direct flight from Dallas, TX, to Nadi International Airport on the main island of Viti Levu. The flights are conveniently scheduled overnight, with soft Fijian tunes welcoming passengers aboard and setting the tone for the experience of a lifetime.

The ride to the resort began along a winding road through rolling hills, with grazing ponies dotting the landscape. The resort sits on a secluded corner of the island, welcoming guests with a long curved driveway where anticipation builds around each turn before the open-air lobby finally reveals sweeping views of the much-adored bures (overwater bungalows). It is postcard perfect. Whether you choose a private villa or a hotel room, the experience is equally memorable, as the views are simply exquisite from every corner of the resort. We were provided a beach villa overlooking the bay and the bures, the million-dollar South Pacific view. The resort is strategically laid out with villas along the path between the bay and the ocean for adults/honeymoon couples, while the family section is set across the bay.

Though married for a number of years, my husband and I missed having a honeymoon. Fiji Marriott Momi Bay provided us the opportunity to experience it with their thoughtfully designed itinerary of leisure and learning. During the day, we enjoyed kayaking on the bay, discovering marine life and indulging in fresh papayas. We learned how to make a fish house out of rocks that would be placed in the bay, and assisted in planting 300 mangrove trees with a few volunteers, a feat that placed us in the local newspaper. I absolutely loved the idea that guests can contribute and leave a positive mark on Momi Bay's ecosystem.

The evenings were curated with romance in mind while showcasing the culture and delicacies of Fiji. The renowned Fish Bar, rated 4.9/5 on Trip Advisor, offers a rare hospitality experience where, at 6 p.m. each evening, a Fijian warrior blows the conch and lights the fire pits, signaling the end of the day and easing guests into a tranquil evening. Though primarily a seafood restaurant, Fish Bar consciously caters to all dietary preferences with a full menu option rather than last-minute substitutions. As a vegetarian, I was able to partake in the Salt Menu dinner, where guests are provided with small dishes of flavored salts (lime, chili, hibiscus) paired with each course. The salt is harvested locally from the ocean just outside the resort and seasoned in-house.

Honeymooners are not the only romantics who can enjoy the resort, as full-service wedding packages are available for everything from intimate elopements to large celebrations with a Fijian touch. Couples can enjoy a private beach picnic on Vonu Beach, a sunset ceremony at North Point, or private cabana dinners at Fish Bar complete with butler service. Getting married in Fiji would not require honeymoon travel as one is already in paradise.



Views at Fiji Marriott Resort Momi Bay



View of Sheraton Resort & Spa, Tokoriki Island, Fiji

Since the nation is a secluded cluster of islands, many traditional practices remain preserved, creating a unique opportunity to experience native Fijian culture. Food is sourced locally and seasonally, while cultural traditions are maintained through native Fijian tribal systems. In this globalized world, I found this highly refreshing. Only a fifteen-minute drive from the resort is the village of Tau, where my husband and I were greeted by village elders with a traditional kava ceremony, the national drink made from crushed kava root. A village elder guided us through the lush community, teaching us about its communal systems and rich history before ending with a visit to an elementary school in session. It was an experience I will treasure forever. The warmth and hospitality of the Fijian people is truly one of a kind.

After the village tour, we spoke with our taxi driver Jitendra Sami about the delicious native fruit trees sprouting throughout the island. He invited us to his home, where his wife prepared fresh papaya juice from fruit grown on their property. That experience alone was worth the trip to Fiji.

SHERATON RESORT & SPA, TOKORIKI ISLAND

From the tranquil shores of Momi Bay, we set off on a private speedboat, feeling the salt breeze as we skimmed across the blue water toward Tokoriki Island, nestled within the Mamanuca archipelago. As we arrived, cheerful staff welcomed us ashore with a heartfelt local song, making us feel instantly at home. We were guided to our private villa, perched above the ocean and surrounded by lush greenery. The resort, one of just two on the island, is designed to blend seamlessly into its natural surroundings, creating an intimate, peaceful escape. At Sheraton Resort & Spa, Tokoriki Island, time is not measured but enjoyed. A soft reminder why we came there in the first place.

Sheraton Resort & Spa, Tokoriki Island strikes a perfect balance between adventure and serenity. The lazy days spent in shaded

beach cabanas can be balanced with water adventures. We had the opportunity to experience jet ski snorkeling with the KaiWai Watersports Fiji, where a guide led us a few minutes from the resort to crystal clear waters to snorkel. From there, we kicked our jet skis in the gear and cruised around the neighboring islands, stopping at Modriki island, the location of the movie *Cast Away* with Tom Hanks. Jet skiing is undoubtedly one of the best ways to explore the islands with your partner.

Stay at the Sheraton Resort & Spa, Tokoriki Island provides the best escape from the busy world where the couples can truly take the time to experience each other and enjoy the remote islands of the South Pacific, their 'someday' vacation.



Sheraton Fiji Golf & Beach Resort



Beach Picnic at Fiji Marriott Resort Momi Bay

SHERATON FIJI GOLF & BEACH RESORT, DENARAU ISLAND

Our last stop was the Sheraton Fiji Golf & Beach Resort, Denarau Island in Nadi. This five star award-winning resort boasts luxury amenities and world-class dining. It was slightly jarring coming back to the busy port city after a week of tranquil Momi Bay and Tokoriki's remoteness, but the resort's location on the peninsula provides ample space for quiet island vibes. This resort is ideal for those who enjoy action and entertainment, with nightly fire dancers and live music. Though family-friendly, romantics can still enjoy adult-only time, as the property offers several pools tucked away from the family areas, creating peaceful spaces to unwind. It is also an excellent choice for destination weddings with children in attendance.

Wedding planning is not all about the venue, food is at the forefront and this resort has absolutely wowed us with its culinary achievements. Fiji's award-winning Tatavu Bar & Grill, named after the Fijian phrase for "open fire grill," showcases flame-cooked dishes that blend island flavours and fresh coastal ingredients with subtle South American influences. It was absolutely excellent, and we dined there more than once during our stay.

After dinner, we made our way to Cellar & Barrel, a tucked-away speakeasy that quickly became our favorite spot at the resort. The bar impresses with an extensive collection of over 300 wines, whiskies, and spirits lining its shelves, a serious spread for any enthusiast. The whiskey room steals the show, with a wall of glass lockers where guests can store their purchased, engraved bottles for the next visit. This feature, along with their amazing high tea service, makes Cellar & Barrel a sophisticated venue for pre-wedding celebrations.

Fiji is a sustainable island. One of the resort's unexpected highlights was a tour of its five-acre farm, located in the middle of the golf course to offset the environmental footprint. With farm Manager Shahil Ram leading the tour, we learned about the resort's current farming practices of growing crops seasonally, cassava, soursop, guava, herbs and leafy greens, all while managing to supply food to all six of the resort's restaurants. Guests have an opportunity to dine at the farm with the Farm to Fork dining experience. This was such a unique experience, I loved touring the farm in the hot sun with a fresh open coconut to sip on. Highly recommended.

Sheraton Fiji Golf & Beach Resort, Denarau Island provides a vibrant experience, from entertainment and dining to farm tours and open-air massages at the elegant Westin next door.

Honeymooners looking for an exciting destination will enjoy this world-class resort.

Fiji is a truly special place, where ancient traditions and modern comforts exist side by side in a way that just works. The commitment to sustainability, eco-tourism, and genuine, heartfelt hospitality leaves a lasting impression that is hard to put into words. We're still in touch with the people we met along the way, and getting back to this incredible island nation can't come soon enough.

Marriott Bonvoy marriott.com





WEDDING BACKDROPS WORTH TRAVELING FOR

For destination weddings, honeymoons, or intimate elopements, St. Lucia offers unforgettable backdrops. At Secrets St. Lucia, couples can exchange vows on the beach beside Morgan's Pier or beneath the panoramic views of the Sunset Gazebo. Beyond the resort, **Pigeon Island** offers a more adventurous setting with historic stone ruins, lookout towers, hidden coves, and sweeping coastal views that feel suspended in time.

DINING, COCKTAILS, AND HIDDEN SPEAKEASIES

Food and cocktail culture also shape the experience. Morgan's Pier serves French-Caribbean flavors like garlic butter escargot, fresh grouper, seasoned rice, and local vegetables just steps from the sea. After dark, the resort's hidden speakeasy becomes a guest favorite, featuring locally infused rums with cinnamon, tamarind, and mango alongside the off-menu "PD" cocktail inspired by gummy bear flavors.

ADVENTURE BEYOND THE RESORT

Beyond the resort, catamaran cruises toward Soufrière reveal breathtaking views of the Pitons rising from the sea. Couples snorkel in crystal-clear waters, visit volcanic mud baths, or join the famous Friday night Gros Islet Street Party, where grilled seafood, Piton beer, and dancing fill the streets late into the evening.

WHY COUPLES KEEP COMING BACK

Whether couples come for romance, adventure, relaxation, or celebration, St. Lucia delivers an experience that lingers long after the trip ends.

hyattinclusivecollection.com/en/resorts-hotels/secrets/st-lucia/st-lucia-resort-spa/

The Secret's Out...

Secrets St. Lucia Resort & Spa is
a Hidden Gem in the Caribbean

by Bailee Ross

A FIRST GLIMPSE OF PARADISE

From the moment the clouds part over Saint Lucia's emerald peaks, the island sets a rhythm that quietly pulls couples into its world of romance and adventure. Colorful homes spill down the mountainsides while the iconic Pitons rise dramatically above crystal-blue waters. Winding jungle roads lined with banana trees, cocoa groves, and towering palms lead travelers deeper into the island's vibrant culture long before resort check-in. For a first taste of St. Lucia, locals recommend the island's beloved cheese bread—simple, warm, and often paired with fresh local catch.

LUXURY MEETS ISLAND HOSPITALITY

Opened in June 2025, **Secrets St. Lucia Resort & Spa** blends elevated luxury with genuine island hospitality. Staff greet guests by name, share local recommendations, and create an atmosphere that feels both refined and relaxed. Mornings begin at the Preferred Club Pool overlooking the Caribbean, while afternoons invite couples into the spa's hydrotherapy circuit before sunset cocktails by the water.

THE ISLAND'S UNEXPECTED SOUNDTRACK

One of St. Lucia's most unexpected cultural surprises is its love of country music. While reggae fills beach bars and catamarans, country songs play just as naturally throughout restaurants, nightlife spots, and resort events. At Secrets St. Lucia's Western Night, live performances felt straight out of Nashville. Locals explain that tourism and military influence helped country music become woven into the island's storytelling culture—a reflection of St. Lucia's broader blend of French, British, and Creole heritage.



‘Welcome Home’ to Buccament Bay

A romantic escape at Sandals Saint Vincent

by Gigi Bors-Koefoed

As the boat rounded the last volcanic cliff, Buccament Bay came into full view with majestic ridges cradling the crescent shape of the bay, revealing Sandals Saint Vincent’s private oasis. I enjoy an element of surprise when I travel, so I went blindly but excitedly into this Caribbean country situated just miles off the coast of South America, easily accessible by direct flights from Miami. Exiting the small airport to be welcomed by the warm island air flushing my face, the smell of the ocean and its lull in the marina summoned the vacation butterflies and a desire to explore this beautiful island.

Transport to the resort by boat was a statement introduction, as overwater bungalows came into view. It was evident that its natural environment played an instrumental role in the resort’s aesthetic. It was intentionally designed to blend in and stand out with its winding pathways, private villas, and outstanding landscaping, giving a sense of strolling through a beautiful village, complementing the resort staff’s greeting of ‘welcome home’, a sentiment fitting to our one-bedroom garden villa with a private pool and butler service, providing ultimate privacy and relaxation every honeymooner desires. The villas have a separate butler door to the kitchen, where scrumptious treats awaited us each morning and afternoon. Although it took me a

couple of days to get used to the idea of a butler, the ease of the stay was accentuated by service such as setting the pool chairs early in the morning with towels and a cooler of our preferred drinks, and any reservations on-site. In addition to the beauty of strolling through this ‘private village’ were the free cruisers available around the resort. You just pick one up, ride it, and leave it wherever for the next guest to enjoy, encouraging a sense of playful exploration.

Sandals Saint Vincent is strictly a lovers’ paradise. Romantic packages extend beyond weddings to include anniversaries, proposals, and even babymoos. For a stress-free wedding, the resort offers a comprehensive experience, no matter the size of the wedding party. Each couple is taken care of pre- and post-wedding planning, including marriage paperwork and romantic dinners. During my stay, I had the honor of witnessing an elopement by a beautiful, composed bride in a lace gown walking regally along the path to the picturesque overwater chapel where her groom awaited with a big smile. The white open-air chapel, prominently placed, is a serene venue with a glass aisle and an expansive ocean vista where guests gather for sunset viewing with a cocktail in hand.

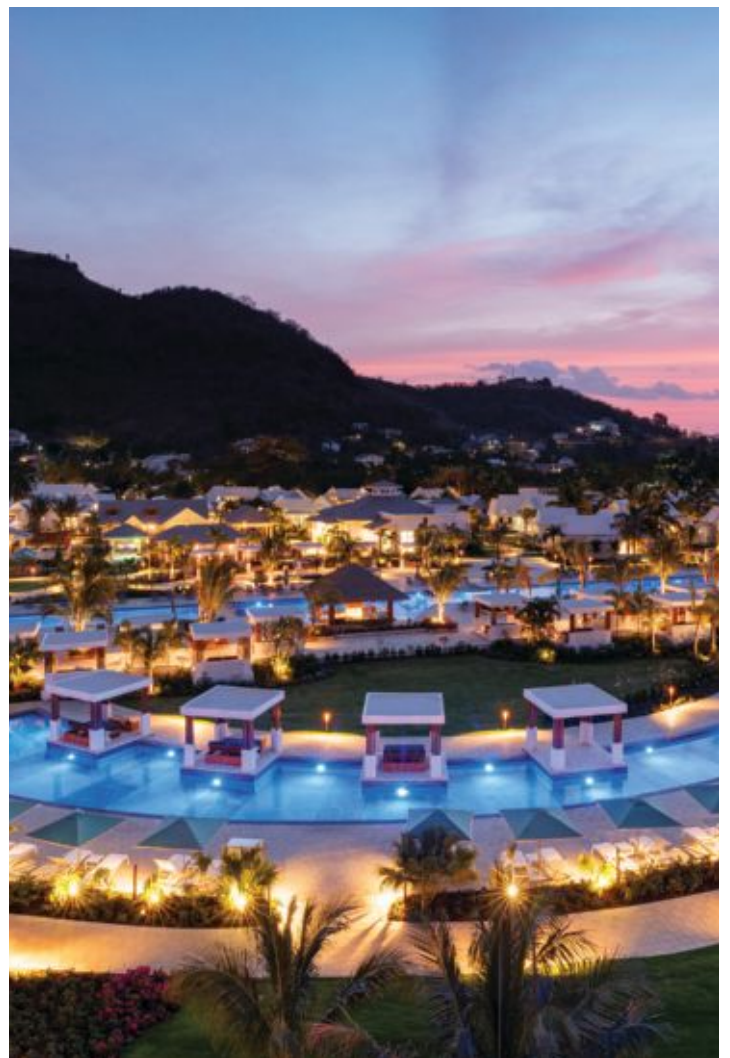


Date nights at the resort are never the same as couples have a choice of twelve restaurants with international flavors. For me, the standout was the local delicacy Buccan, a name that originates from Indigenous South American and Caribbean languages referring to a wooden frame used to slowly roast meat over a fire. The communal dining concept is an adventure in culinary experience, serving guests at a relaxed pace with a variety of locally sourced shareable dishes, where the spices drive the flavor. Each table is supplied with small dishes containing spices such as coconut seasoning and ram spice, making the meal a series of small experiments. It is the most distinctly local experience the resort offers, and the most memorable.

The resort has a way of creating excitement and leisure simultaneously. Its serene environment is calming, while Buccament Bay is a treasure of natural landscape, punctuated by verdant volcanic ridges, towering coastal cliffs, and black sand beaches that simply call for exploration. Luckily, many activities are included in the booking package, and we took the opportunity to snorkel along a barrier reef, which proved to be an exhilarating experience. Beyond the colorful marine life, what truly amazed me was viewing a 30-foot reef drop cradling the cliff, with the vast open ocean just beyond it, creating an impressive visual of earth and the ocean meeting and parting.

Sandals Saint Vincent has mastered the art of delivering an upscale resort experience in a quiet, dignified way. It exudes tranquility and leisure while the beauty of Buccament Bay reenergizes. There was no loud music early in the morning, and each amenity was designed with couples in mind, from leisure and activities to romance. It is possible to visit the resort for five days and feel as though you have escaped for ten. My favorite moments were the quiet afternoon hours while the guests were getting ready for dinner in their villas; I would stand outside and watch the mist lightly cover the top of the ridges while dusk settled in, and marvel at how the resort and its pace complement Buccament Bay. For couples, the resort feels like a luxurious home away from home, making it an especially fitting place to celebrate love.

sandals.com/sandals-saint-vincent



The Allure of Mobile Bay

The Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa, Autograph Collection · Point Clear, Alabama

by Gigi Bors-Koefoed

Ever since I learned that Mobile, Alabama, hosted the first Mardi Gras in 1703, I have been intrigued by the rich history of Mobile Bay. As a maritime port, it played a vital role in colonialism, the blending of cultures, and the creation of the first all-Black town in America, Africatown. As a history buff, this was fascinating, but as a bridal magazine editor, coupled with the charm of The CW's *Hart of Dixie*, I knew Mobile Bay was an alluring destination to explore for both culture and romance.

I set out to find a historic venue for my stay, and the clear choice became The Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa, Autograph Collection, located in Point Clear, a small bay community neighboring the historic, artsy town of Fairhope. Referred to as “The Queen of Southern Resorts”, the hotel has 550 acres of sprawling grounds and shaded pool cabanas for slow afternoons. My husband and I were generously placed in the exquisite Governor's Suite overlooking Mobile Bay. In addition to the suite's grandeur, my favorite moments were the early mornings on the balcony with a cup of coffee, watching the fog lightly veil the bay, creating a soft silhouette of everything it touched.

From our first day, it was evident that time at the resort moves at a relaxed pace, from a leisurely breakfast at



The Grand Hall, to an afternoon glass of wine by the fire accompanied by the daily firing of the Civil War replica cannon at the edge of the bay, just in time for the sunset. For actively inclined guests, the hotel offers two championship courses dotted with lakes, and rolling fairways along Mobile Bay, while those seeking a slower paced activity can enjoy the walking paths winding between the greens and the water, leading to the Grand Spa where a sanctuary of calm awaits. I cannot overstate the quality of my spa experience with the Grand Artisan Signature Massage. An hour of heavenly treatment customized to your needs, even in a couple's massage, will leave your soul elevated and rejuvenated. The unique aspect of The Grand Spa is the offered meditation, taking care of mind, body and soul.

It is easy to see why weddings at The Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa are worth the destination miles. Its expansive grounds covered in Spanish moss and panoramic views of Mobile Bay exude a quintessentially Southern atmosphere. Though ballrooms are available, outdoor ceremonies are the star of the show, from the charming Lagoon Lawn, serving as a garden setting for more intimate affairs, to The Great Lawn, where the romantic mood is set by the aroma of azaleas with the live oaks providing dappled shade, an excellent choice for larger wedding parties. The vows can be followed by a reception at Julep Point, an overlook of Mobile Bay with stunning sunset views during cocktail hour.

The allure of Mobile Bay is not only in its natural beauty, but its connection to nature and community. Only a few minutes drive along the bay leads to the historic Fairhope whose promenade is lined with local boutiques, art galleries, and cozy cafés. It makes for a wonderful day of wandering and discovering. We took our time exploring the Fairhope Museum of History, marveling at the town jail and the area's rich history. Sightseeing makes for a great appetite, and after several strong recommendations, we enjoyed a romantic dinner at the Little Bird, a vibrant restaurant with top-notch cocktails.

Our weekend at The Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa was one of the most serene escapes we've experienced. The charm of the bay itself left a lasting impression as the view kept changing each day, from the morning fog to the golden hour, it was a sight to behold. The guests simply would spend hours watching the bay, a reminder that our connection to nature is intrinsic and that sometimes that is all we need to do, sit and be still. Mobile Bay's quiet, natural romantic setting is a perfect place to celebrate love, whether for a wedding, a honeymoon, or simply being together.



Before the Vows

Why The Alida in Savannah Is the Perfect Pre-Wedding Escape · Savannah, Georgia

by Lynn Walker

There's a particular kind of magic that settles over a couple in the weeks before a wedding, a hum of anticipation, a blur of final decisions, and underneath it all, a quiet longing to simply be together before the celebration begins. That's what Savannah, Georgia, has always done best: slow things down, soften the edges, and remind you what matters. At The Alida, the city's most stylish riverfront boutique hotel, engaged couples are finding the perfect place to exhale.

Nestled on historic River Street in the heart of Savannah's Landmark Historic District, The Alida doesn't compete with the city's Spanish moss-draped squares and antebellum charm; it complements them. It's a hotel that honors history while feeling entirely alive: boutique cool, Southern warmth, and just enough romance to remind you why you said yes.

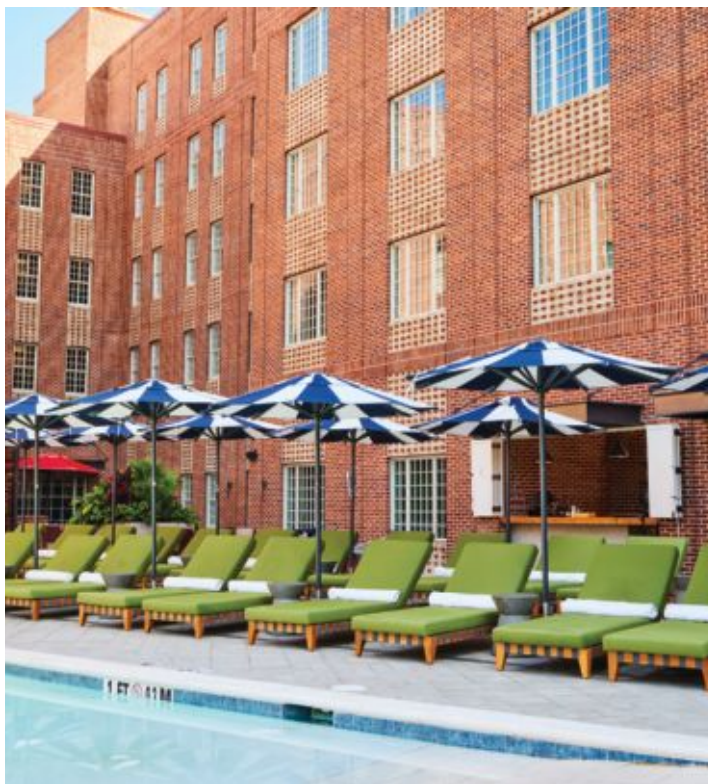
The tone is set before you even unpack. Every detail of a stay at The Alida is curated for comfort, including a daily Sparkling Hour in the lobby from 3–5 pm featuring Chef's Cookies, plus in-room Keurig coffee with locally roasted beans from The Grind. Each of the 173 individually designed rooms and suites features one-of-a-kind elements courtesy of the Savannah College of Art and Design, meaning the space you sleep in is genuinely unlike anywhere else. Gleaming hardwood floors, light-filled mornings, and rainfall showers with Red Flower bath products make lingering in bed feel less like laziness and more like good judgment.

For couples, the days have a natural, unhurried rhythm. Complimentary bicycle rentals, including helmets and locks for two, invite you to explore the city at your own pace, weaving through squares and cobblestone streets with nowhere you have to be. Back at the hotel, the outdoor pool deck with private cabanas offers a sun-soaked afternoon that feels a world away from seating charts and vendor emails. A daily sommelier-hosted wine hour for two is also included, because the pre-wedding season deserves its own toasts.

When evening arrives, head upstairs. The Lost Square, The Alida's rooftop bar, soars above the city, inspired by the sun, bright flavors, fresh ingredients, and al fresco fun, with panoramic views of the Savannah River stretching out below. Down on the lobby level, Rhett, the hotel's signature restaurant and bar, brings a warm, hospitable spirit and dedication to Southern hospitality, open for brunch, dinner, and Happy Hour seven days a week.

Savannah has long been a city for romantics. The Alida just gives you the perfect place to remember why you are one.

marriott.com/en-us/hotels/savtx-the-alida-savannah-a-tribute-portfolio-hotel/



From the Spa to the Altar: One *Unforgettable* Wedding Weekend

Rancho Valencia Resort · Rancho Santa Fe, California

by Sherra Meyers

There are weekends that exist outside of ordinary time, and a destination wedding at Rancho Valencia is exactly that kind of weekend. As the travel editor for Southern Bride, I have walked through some of the most celebrated resort properties in the country. Rancho Valencia — the only Relais & Chateaux resort in Southern California, holder of both a Forbes Five-Star resort and Five-Star spa rating — did not simply earn its place on that list. It reset the standard entirely.

The drive into Rancho Santa Fe shifts something before you arrive. When the private gates open and the property reveals itself — 45 acres of manicured gardens, terracotta pathways, and warm Spanish Colonial architecture — the exhale is involuntary. Bright pink bougainvillea, lantern-lit pathways, and hacienda-style casitas make it feel less like a resort and more like a carefully cultivated neighborhood.

This is the bride who wants her wedding weekend to feel rooted and romantic without being overdone. Think open-beamed rooflines and hand-painted tilework, intimate courtyards with trickling fountains, and pristine lawns with dramatic valley views. If that vision resonates, Rancho Valencia is not simply a venue option. It is the answer.

The 49 all-suite casitas average 1,000 square feet, with custom rustic furnishings, deep soaking tubs, and private patios with fireplaces — generous enough to gather in, personal enough to feel entirely your own. Private villas add full kitchens, multiple bedrooms, and living spaces that become the heart of the weekend,



tended by a dedicated staff that handles every detail before it is noticed. Fresh-squeezed orange juice arrives at every door each morning without being asked — in the context of a wedding weekend, that quiet care means everything.

The day before the wedding sets a pace every bride should experience. The morning belongs to the courts — twelve Plexipave hard courts, three Red European clay courts, three Padel courts, and four Pickleball courts — something for every level and mood. When the last rally winds down, the group gathers at the spa pool for a leisurely lunch in the California sun. The afternoon belongs to The Spa — organic juices, hand-painted tilework, and a stillness that reaches you immediately. Massages, facials, and body rituals restore whatever the week had taken, before the bridal party moves through the hydrotherapy circuit — eucalyptus steam room, cedar dry sauna, cold plunge, tiled whirlpools. Conversations deepen, bonds are reaffirmed, and by the time everyone drifts back poolside the group is glowing and fully present. These are the hours remembered alongside the ceremony itself.

The rehearsal dinner belongs to the Wine Cave — intimate, opulent, and built for up to 22 guests, where stone walls and candlelight create something genuinely rare. The perfect place to raise the first toast of the weekend.





The wedding morning begins in the spa salon — blowouts, color, manicures, pedicures, and Lawless Beauty makeup ensuring every woman is the most luminous version of herself before the ceremony begins.

The ceremony unfolds on the Sunrise Patio, a private courtyard where a bleached-wood trellis adorned with climbing white roses, flowerbeds of bougainvillea and hibiscus, a bubbling fountain, and saltillo tiles create a scene of effortless beauty. As evening arrives, the celebration moves to the Croquet Lawn — a 10,000-square-foot meadow shaded by towering palms and California live oaks — where the reception unfolds beneath a tented canopy or open to the stars. The light turns every photograph into something that already looks like a memory, and dedicated wedding specialists ensure every detail is exactly as the couple imagined.

The morning after arrives gently. Guests gather one last time on the Pony Room terrace for a send-off brunch, and just as it was on that very first morning, a glass of freshly squeezed Valencia orange juice arrives at every place — bright, sweet, and tasting unmistakably of this place. The perfect final note of a weekend that will stay with everyone lucky enough to be part of it.

ranchovalencia.com

A Wedding Weekend, *Beautifully Unfolded*

The Breakers Palm Beach | Flagler Club · Palm Beach, Florida

by Sherra Meyers



There's a rhythm to a wedding weekend at The Breakers Palm Beach—one that begins upon arrival at the 140-acre oceanfront resort and carries you effortlessly through every celebration, every toast, and every quiet pause in between.

The approach is a moment in and of itself. The car turns onto the palm-lined main drive, and suddenly, The Breakers rises into view, grand, iconic, and casually elegant. It's the kind of entrance that immediately signals something meaningful is about to unfold.

FLAGLER CLUB - A REFINED RETREAT

Check-in is seamless, but for those staying at Flagler Club, there's an immediate shift—a tucked-away world within the hotel where guests discover a private-access experience and a quieter ambiance that sets the tone for the entire weekend. Its lounge becomes a natural gathering place for your inner circle, with thoughtful culinary presentations appearing throughout the day, morning breakfast, midday bites, and evening cocktails that feel more like intimate social occasions.

The adjoining terrace offers a different perspective, overlooking the Ocean Course and West Palm Beach skyline. By day, it's sunlit and serene. By evening, it glows softly at dusk, giving the space a warm, residential feel.

THE BREAKERS - A DESTINATION OF SEASIDE GLAMOUR

Throughout your stay, it's easy to slip away for leisure—rejuvenate at The Spa, energize with sports & fitness, or explore The Shops at The Breakers—a courtyard filled with distinctive fashions and accessories, gifts, savories, and more. Guests may also enjoy chauffeured Mercedes-Maybach EQS transportation to other island locations such as Worth Avenue, where designer boutiques and hidden vias invite you to linger before returning to dress for the evening ahead.

Outside the wedding weekend's itinerary, there is also a bounty of dining experiences across The Breakers' 10 restaurants, with cuisines ranging from seafood and Asian fare to American bistro and globally influenced menus. Among them, Flagler Steakhouse, located at the resort's Golf & Racquet Clubhouse, overlooks the fairways with a relaxed yet refined indoor-outdoor setting. Its thoughtfully executed steakhouse menu and the soft glow of sunset create an ideal backdrop for gathering close friends and family—an atmosphere that invites everyone to settle in, connect, and be fully present.

THE SIGNATURES OF A STUNNING WEDDING WEEKEND

As the sun begins to dip on Friday, the weekend gently takes shape. Welcome cocktails are served in a lush courtyard or terrace, where conversation unfolds





effortlessly, and the surroundings do most of the work. From there, the rehearsal dinner becomes the first true anchor of the weekend.

Saturday begins slowly, exactly as it should. There's no rush, only choices.

For the bridal party, the morning often begins in the resort's spa and salon. Hair and makeup can be arranged on the property, allowing everyone to prepare together in a calm and beautiful environment. It becomes less about logistics and more about experience.

Meanwhile, guests find their way to the Beach Club, where the energy is light and celebratory. Private bungalows quickly become the center of the day. These are fully appointed retreats, complete with shaded lounge space, private bathrooms, and a dedicated attendant who anticipates every need. Pools are steps away. Drinks are refreshed before they're empty. Towels and thoughtful touches are handled discreetly. This is where the weekend breathes.

As the afternoon unfolds, the energy subtly shifts. Guests return to their rooms, dressing for the evening ahead. Anticipation builds naturally. By the time guests gather, everything has aligned.

On the Ocean Lawn, vows are exchanged with the Atlantic stretching endlessly on the horizon. The breeze, the light, the sound of the waves—it all becomes part of the moment. It doesn't feel staged. It feels real.

After the ceremony, the celebration flows effortlessly. Cocktail hour transitions into the reception, where spaces like The Circle Ballroom transform into something entirely their own—warm, glowing, and filled with energy. Dinner is served, speeches are shared, and the dance floor begins to fill.

And before you realize it, the evening has taken on a life of its own.

Sunday arrives gently. Guests gather one last time, often over brunch, to share stories from the night before. It's relaxed, unhurried, and filled with a sense of appreciation for everything that just unfolded.

Some linger by the ocean. Others take one final walk through the property. No one is quite ready to leave.

A wedding at The Breakers isn't defined by a single moment. It's defined by how each moment connects.

From the discovery of Flagler Club's ultra-luxe hospitality to the convenience and ease of poolside attendants, who ensure every detail is handled with care—these are the experiences that shape the weekend in ways both subtle and unforgettable.

Because here, it's not just about the wedding. It's about how it all feels.

And long after the final toast, that feeling is what stays with you most.

thebreakers.com

A Weekend Made for *Two*

White Elephant Palm Beach · Palm Beach, Florida

by Sherra Meyers

Some hotels simply offer a room. White Elephant Palm Beach, a reimagined 1924 landmark steps from the Atlantic, offers a feeling. And from the moment you step through the arched entry, past a seven-foot white elephant sculpture standing sentinel at the door, you understand you've arrived somewhere that genuinely thought of everything.

The interiors do something quietly bold: they refuse to be what you expect. Rather than leaning into the pinks and greens that have defined Palm Beach style for a century, the design team at Elkus Manfredi chose a sophisticated palette of soft neutrals, layered textures, and 120 original works of curated art, Rauschenberg, Jennifer Bartlett, a commissioned pop-art focal point in the lobby, and guest room drawings by teenage British phenom Doodle Boy, each one hiding a tiny elephant somewhere in the composition. Bronze elephant door knockers, embroidered pachyderms on fine Italian linens, rattan ceiling fixtures, and marble bathrooms stocked with L'Occitane round out rooms that feel genuinely considered rather than assembled. The whole effect is polished without being precious, gracious with a quiet touch of wit.

The romance begins before you've even unpacked. Through an exclusive BMW partnership, guests can be chauffeured around the island in a luxury courtesy car, to Worth Avenue, to Bradley Park, along A1A at golden hour, or sign out one of the fleet for a few hours and explore on your own. No keys to fight over. No parking to stress about. Just the two of you and the most beautiful island in Florida.



Dinner at Lola 41, White Elephant's signature restaurant born in Nantucket and brought south, is where the evening finds its rhythm. Globally inspired cuisine, spicy scallop rolls, grilled octopus with mint gremolata, perfectly cooked hangar steak, arrives in a setting that's lively but never loud, with generous outdoor seating and the kind of unhurried service that makes a second glass of wine feel inevitable. As the night deepens, the courtyard hums and the energy shifts from an intimate dinner to something more festive. Stay for another cocktail. You're in no hurry.

The next morning, a golf cart whisks you from the property to the beach, where complimentary chairs, towels, umbrellas, and a packed cooler are already waiting. The Atlantic stretches out ahead. And in a detail that feels almost too good to be true, White Elephant never charges resort fees. No surprise charges. No fine print. Just clarity, and the particular luxury of having nothing to think about except the person beside you.

That's the real romance of White Elephant Palm Beach. It doesn't ask you to try. It just makes everything easier, and more beautiful, than you expected.

whiteelephantpalmbeach.com



A new *era* of ELEGANCE in the French Quarter.



LET YOUR FOREVER BEGIN IN LEGENDARY NEW ORLEANS STYLE.

At Omni Royal Orleans, timeless romance finds new expression. Tucked within the heart of the French Quarter, our storied hotel has set the stage for New Orleans' most unforgettable celebrations for generations. Now, with the complete reimagination of our ballroom and event spaces, your forever begins in surroundings as iconic and captivating as the city itself.

Be among the first to celebrate in these newly revived spaces—where history, thoughtful design, and destination come together to create not just a venue, but a setting for the memories you'll treasure forever.



DISCOVER MORE.

OMNI
ROYAL ORLEANS



I Do, Times Three

How Grand Velas Makes Every Moment of a Los Cabos Wedding Unforgettable
· Cabo San Lucas, Mexico

by Sherri Meyers

Where the Pacific Ocean collides with the Sea of Cortez in a shimmer of turquoise and gold, the tip of Baja California has long seduced couples searching for something more than a wedding. They want a world. At Grand Velas in Los Cabos, that world comes in three distinct forms, each a fully realized universe of luxury, romance, and Mexican soul. Together, they give destination wedding couples something rare: a celebration at the grandest scale, followed by an increasingly intimate sanctuary before and after the vows.

GRAND VELAS LOS CABOS: THE GRAND STAGE

The anchor of it all is Grand Velas Los Cabos, the Forbes 5-Star, AAA Five Diamond flagship, where wedding dreams find their biggest canvas. The resort's 307 ocean-view suites, each over 1,100 square feet, with private terraces and many with plunge pools, set the tone the moment guests arrive. The Terraza del Mar, the largest and most impressive wedding venue on the Los Cabos coast, accommodates up to 500 guests for a ceremony with panoramic Sea of Cortez views. For grander celebrations, the Grand Velas Ballroom, adorned with sparkling chandeliers and elegant décor with authentic Mexican influence, holds up to 700. Couples wanting sand beneath their toes exchange vows at Azul Beach, while the lush Azul Garden offers an intimate outdoor setting under the stars.

A certified wedding event planner handles every detail, and the resort hosts no more than one wedding per day. Concessions for the wedding couple include a complimentary one-hour welcome cocktail reception with sparkling wine and passed appetizers, a Honeymoon turndown with sparkling wine and strawberries in the suite, and a nightly \$50 USD spa bonus per adult at the SE Spa.

Dining is its own celebration. Eight distinct restaurants give guests a culinary journey without ever leaving the property, from

fresh ceviches at Cabrilla to haute Mexican cuisine at Frida, Italian at Lucca, and pan-Asian at Sen Lin. The crown jewel is Cocina de Autor, where the creative vision of 2-Michelin-starred Chef Sidney Schutte is executed daily by Mexican Chef Francisco Sixtos, who has earned one MICHELIN star in the inaugural guide to Mexico.

GRAND VELAS BOUTIQUE LOS CABOS: THE INTIMATE COUNTERPOINT

A short drive along the Corridor sits the newest jewel in the Velas family. Grand Velas Boutique Los Cabos is adults-only, with just 79 suites, each over 800 square feet with a private terrace, Jacuzzi, and 24-hour personal concierge. The Pool King Suite adds a private plunge pool, and the Grand Class King Suite delivers nearly 2,000 total square feet with a fire pit terrace, appointed with Molton Brown bath essentials, white goose-down bedding, and electric curtains that open each morning to the sea.

Three ocean-view terraces accommodate every celebration style. Terraza Cielo, the resort's largest, offers panoramic sea views for ceremonies of up to 200 guests. Terraza Luna hosts more intimate gatherings, and Terraza Estrella serves as a stunning welcome setting for up to 80. The Tamayo Ballroom provides 2,745 square feet of elegant indoor space when the occasion calls for it.



Wedding concessions here are exceptionally generous: one complimentary Ambassador Suite for up to three nights during the main wedding dates, a suite upgrade to the Grand Class King for the couple, complimentary setup for a semi-private dinner for up to 15 guests, use of the Bridal Suite for up to six guests on the wedding day, and a nightly \$50 USD spa bonus per adult. Chef Schutte's Loto Robata Grill brings the slow-cooking artistry of Japanese robata cuisine to the wedding weekend table, and Boutique guests enjoy full access to all restaurants and amenities at Grand Velas Los Cabos next door.

MAR DEL CABO BY VELAS RESORTS: THE SOUL OF OLD LOS CABOS

Completing the ecosystem is Mar Del Cabo by Velas Resorts, where old-world Mexican charm, bougainvillea-lined pathways, and four distinct sea-view venues make multigenerational destination weddings genuinely seamless. The Mar del Cabo Beach accommodates up to 150 guests against a golden-sand and Sea of Cortez backdrop; Terraza del Sol offers an oceanfront setting for up to 90; and the elevated Patio del Mar provides sweeping second-level views. Wedding concessions include a bottle of Moët champagne with romantic suite décor on the wedding night, a 20% dining discount at Grand Velas Los Cabos restaurants, and a 20% spa discount at the SE Spa.

THE FULL PICTURE

What Grand Velas has built in Los Cabos is something the destination wedding world rarely sees: a complete ecosystem calibrated to every moment of the experience. Say your vows before 500 guests at the Terraza del Mar. Disappear with your partner to a fire-lit terrace at the Boutique. Send the family to Mar Del Cabo knowing they are wrapped in the same standard of care. The vows are the beginning. At Grand Velas, everything around them is designed to be just as unforgettable.

velasweddings.com



ADVERTISER DIRECTORY

summer/fall 2026

BEVERAGE & BAR SERVICE

DELICATO FAMILY WINES

12001 CA-99,
Manteca, CA 95336
209-824-3501
delicato.com

BRIDAL FASHION

LOW'S BRIDAL

127 W Cedar St
Brinkley, AR 72021
(870) 734-3244
LowsBridal.com

CEREMONY, RECEPTION, DESTINATION WEDDING, & HONEYMOONS

AVON ACRES

4361 Summer Ave
Memphis, TN 38122
(901) 333-2650

BIG CEDAR LODGE

190 Top of the Rock Road
Ridgedale, MO 65739
800-225-6343
BigCedar.com

CHARLESTON CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

423 King St.
Charleston, SC 29403
800-774-0006
CharlestonCVB.com

DOGWOOD CANYON

2038 State Hwy 86
Lampe, MO 65681
417-438-3322
DogwoodCanyon.org

65

96

68

BC

8-9

2-3

FINLEY FARMS

802 Finley Farms Lane
Ozark, MO 65721
417-210-6644
FinleyFarmsMO.com

HYATT REGENCY HILL COUNTRY RESORT & SPA

9800 Hyatt Resort Drive
San Antonio, TX, 78251
210-647-1234
Hyatt.com

MADISON COUNTY

56 South Main Street
Mars Hill, NC 28754
madisoncounty-nc.com

MARINA INN AT GRANDE DUNES

8121 Amalfi Pl
Myrtle Beach, SC 29572
MarinaInnAtGrandeDunes.com

MEMPHIS BOTANIC GARDEN

750 Cherry Rd
Memphis, TN 38117
901-636-4100
MBRentals.com

OMNI ROYAL NEW ORLEANS

36621 St Louis St
New Orleans, LA 70130
504-529-5333
OmniHotels.com/hotels/New-Orleans-Royal-Orleans

QUEEN AND GRANT

1315 Grant Street
Brunswick, GA 31520
(912) 766-0571
queenandgrant.com

RUSSELL LANDS ON LAKE MARTIN

2544 Willow Point Road
Alexander City, AL 35010
256-794-1397
RussellLandsOnLakeMartin.com

10-11 / 79

1

SANDALS RESORTS

1-877-Sandals
Sandals.com

VISIT SOUTH WALTON

25777 U.S. Highway 331 South
Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459
800-822-6877
VisitSouthWalton.com/weddings

HEALTH, WELLNESS, & BEAUTY

16

JANICE ALLEN

Professional Hairstylist Master Colorist
2123 West Street, Ste. 122
Germantown, TN 38138
901-489-1555

57

MEMPHIS OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

901-843-1500
MOGAmd.com

61

TAYLORWOOD SALON & MED SPA

706 S. Mendenhall
Memphis, TN 38117
901-258-5000
taylorwood.co

93

TRACEY WALLACE, R.N.

6215 Humphreys Blvd, Suite 201
Memphis, TN 38120
901-779-6538

IFC

PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOGRAPHY

MICHAEL ALLEN PHOTOGRAPHY

901-489-5237
michaelallenphotography.com

IBC

4-5

6-7

65

47

47

61

21



LOW'S
BRIDAL

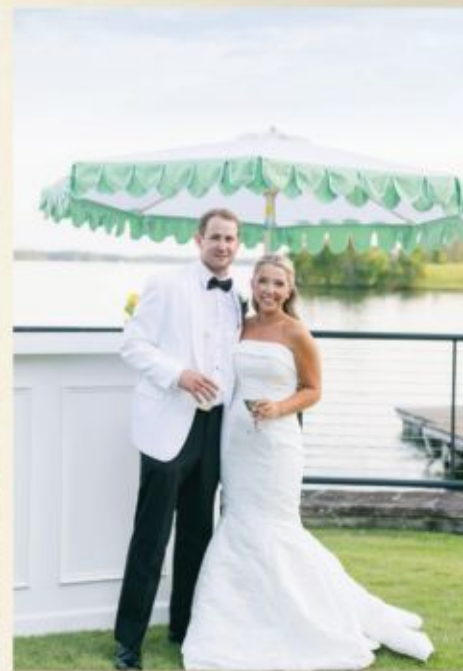
Up to 50% Off Summer Sale
Begins June 20th

Low's Bridal offers the region's most extensive collection (sizes 0-34), now including Martina Liana Luxe and exclusive Milla Nova designs.

Request Your Appointment
www.lowsbridal.com

RUSSELL LANDS ON LAKE MARTIN

WHERE *Love* BECOMES LEGACY



Tucked in the heart of *Lake Martin*, Russell Lands offers an unmatched blend of natural beauty, refined hospitality, and signature Southern style — designed to make your wedding unforgettable.



For more information, contact (256) 212-1431 or visit RussellLands.com



BIG CEDAR[®] LODGE

✦ AMERICA'S PREMIER WILDERNESS RESORT ✦

From enchanting venues and cozy lodging to creative cuisine and a complete range of specialized services and amenities, your wedding at Big Cedar is a memory that will last a lifetime. Choose from over 10 elegant venues throughout our properties, accommodating up to 500 guests, and say "I do" with a spectacular view at America's Premier Wedding Resort. There's no better scenic backdrop for your perfect day than the magnificent Ozarks.



Big Cedar Lodge | Ridgedale, MO
 888.580.6908 | BigCedar.com
 Scan the QR code for more information.

