



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Say ‘I do’ to a picture-perfect destination wedding at The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel

LEE COUNTY, FL – It is a perfect, magical day for a wedding in this unspoiled island paradise. Getting married in a beautiful beach setting is all about location, and this popular wedding destination offers many choices and packages for a picture-perfect backdrop.

Balmy breezes, endless Gulf beaches and year-round sunshine make southwest Florida’s Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel one of the world’s most romantic wedding destinations. For those seeking a secluded spot for a wedding in paradise, the area offers accommodations and settings to make your special day unforgettable.

With the popularity of destination weddings in tropical locales, area resorts and hotels offer special packages and options. Wedding parties are drawn to the area because of its island feel without traveling outside of the country.

And the best news of all? The Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau (VCB) makes tying the knot on a beautiful beach a reality. A call to the VCB will help you get started with the information you need for planning a stress-free wedding in this tropical destination. Call 1-800-237-6444 or 239-338-3500 and visit www.fortmyers-sanibel.com/weddings.

Who can resist a wedding under a gazebo at Lovers Key? This state park’s secluded Gulf-front setting resulted in recognition from The Travel Channel as Florida’s most romantic beach, and it is a preferred site for weddings and the party that follows. Or sail away on the Sanibel Harbour Princess, a 100-foot luxury yacht for a fairytale ceremony and reception surrounded by the beauty of the Gulf of Mexico. For a riverfront setting steeped in history, the beautiful and tropical landscape

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of the Edison & Ford Winter Estates will make unforgettable memories with a backdrop of royal palms, historic bamboo, orchids and other exotic plants. Or exchange vows at sunset on an island with all the details arranged by the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa. Arrive and depart in grand style with the Heavenly Helicopter Nuptials package at Westin Cape Coral Resort at Marina Village.

The choices are endless depending upon the size and budget of the wedding. There are world-class resorts, restaurants, services and facilities that cater to weddings of all sizes and types. From a simple sunset ceremony on the beach to a formal wedding and a reception in a luxury resort, the area is a popular destination for memorable weddings.

The perfect destination wedding

Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa, Bonita Springs

The Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort has exquisite outdoor and indoor venues that express personal style and allow you to create your wedding day with the help of experienced wedding professionals. Select the perfect ceremony and reception location, bouquets and arrangements, wedding cake and menu selections. Include the important personal details that will make your big day truly yours. As destination wedding specialists, the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort helps to make planning easier with a list of recommended wedding officiants, florists, videographers, photographers, entertainers, décor providers and transportation providers. Overnight guests will enjoy luxurious accommodations and amazing activities including the brand new lazy river and waterslides, beach, spa, golf, resort dining, live entertainment and more. Resort wedding packages, Hyatt Gift Registry, special guestroom rates, and honeymoons are available. Contact the resort's on-site wedding professionals at 239 390-4240 to learn more. Click [here](#) to download the resort's 2017-2018 Wedding Brochure.

Sundial Beach Resort & Spa, Sanibel Island

Overlooking the beautiful Gulf of Mexico, a variety of venue spaces including hibiscus laced lawns, shell strewn sandy beaches, newly decorated ballrooms and waterfront terraces are available. Customize your event or choose from packages ranging from intimate events to grand affairs. Voted Best Event Facilities on Sanibel & Captiva Islands, a team of specialists will help create everlasting memories.

For information, contact wedding specialists Ashley Goldberg, 239-395-6028 or Tiffany Onischuk, 239-395-6009. Visit weddings@sundialresort.com or download a wedding brochure at www.sundialresort.com/events/weddings/wedding-brochure.

West Wind Inn, Sanibel Island

Weddings held at this Gulf front inn have a choice of locations including a beautiful sandy shell beach, lawn or a butterfly garden. The beach is the most popular location and sunset the most coveted time. Reception areas include a conference room, poolside or on the lawn. The Normandie Seaside Café provides catering.

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For more information, contact Brett Gooch at sales@westwindinn.com or call 239-472-1541 or 800-824-0476. Visit www.westwindinn.com.

Island Inn, Sanibel Island

This quaint property features several private Gulf view locations along 10 acres of beachfront. Stunning sunsets will provide the backdrop for a magical wedding ceremony. Award-winning onsite restaurant, bar and lounge provide the reception.

For more information, call 239-472-1561 or 800-851-5088. Also email info@islandinnsanibel.com or visit www.islandinnsanibel.com.

South Seas Island Resort, Captiva Island

Whether planning a beachfront destination wedding on the beach at sunset or a formal black tie reception on the lush King's Crown lawn, South Seas Island Resort delivers an unforgettable experience. With over two miles of indoor and outdoor settings, this island oasis offers the ideal tropical location to bring wedding dreams to reality. Enjoy catering with unique and creative menus in both elegant banquet facilities and island resort settings. An onsite wedding sales manager and entertainment company are available to assist. The resort won the TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence, as well as a Wedding Wire Bride's Choice Award.

For more information, contact a wedding sales manager at weddings@southseas.com, call 800-524-7601 or visit www.southseas.com.

'Tween Waters Inn Island Resort & Spa, Captiva Island

Romantic sunset weddings are created on the shores of the Gulf of Mexico at this charming resort. Rehearsals, weddings and receptions for intimate groups, or up to 165 guests. For more information contact sales@tween-waters.com or call 239-472-5161 or 800-223-5865 or visit www.tween-waters.com.

Captiva Island Inn, Captiva Island

Located in the historic Captiva Village, the pastel and brightly colored cottages with gingerbread and white picket fences provide the charm that appeals to many wedding parties. The Inn, featured in *Southern Living* and *Coastal Living* magazines, is just steps to the beach. Family and friends can stay at the Celebration House where they can mingle together or have their own space. And the penthouse suite is available for the bride and groom.

Newly added, Harbour House of Captiva, a four-bedroom home (plus a sleeping loft with two twin beds), pool and dock in the Historic Village on the back bay. Within close proximity to the Inn, it is perfect for the groom's family. Captiva is known for great fishing and fishing guides will pick up at the dock and can even arrange for a friendly fishing tournament to add to the fun on the island. All the makings for a truly memorable wedding.

For information, call [239-395-0862](tel:239-395-0862) or [800-454-9898](tel:800-454-9898) or visit www.captivaislandinn.com/weddings.

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Sanibel Harbour Marriott Resort & Spa, Fort Myers

Breathtaking island views, spectacular sunsets and a romantic tropical setting combine for the ideal wedding and honeymoon destination at this 85-acre harborside resort, situated on a secluded peninsula overlooking Sanibel and Captiva islands.

For the wedding ceremony, couples may choose a private poolside terrace surrounded by lush foliage and fountains, a magnificent 100-foot luxury yacht, an elegant, newly renovated ballroom or intimate Cove Beach with swaying palms. Rehearsal dinners, welcome receptions, and wedding brunches can be accommodated in any of the award-winning restaurants.

Luxurious receptions are created by the resort's award-winning chefs and catering staff. A favorite location is the Island ballroom, which provides floor-to-ceiling windows and nearly 360 degree water views of the beautiful harbor and its magnificent sunsets. For out of town guests and the wedding party, arrangements may be made for services in the full service Spa. Onsite, Holiday Water Sports provides jet ski rentals and tours, fishing charters, kayaking, paddle boarding and the resort's pontoon boats. Golfing, nature tours, shopping, and other activities are available nearby.

For information, Courtney Kraft, Wedding Sales Manager at 239-466-2192 or courtney.kraft@marriottsales.com or visit www.sanibelmarriott.com.

Tarpon Lodge on Pine Island

This historic lodge provides a romantic, private and serene wedding for up to 135 guests. Rather than compressing all the wedding festivities into a four-hour reception, a couple can relax for an entire weekend with friends and family at this waterfront paradise. Twenty rooms and two cottages provide comfortable accommodations for wedding guests. This unique 1926 property has a true old-Florida feeling with a secluded atmosphere to begin a marriage. For more information: www.tarponlodge.com/weddings or call [239-283-3999](tel:239-283-3999).

Tropical weddings on beautiful Fort Myers Beach

Pink Shell Beach Resort & Marina

From romantic ceremonies on a white sand beach, intimate dining on lushly landscaped pool decks or extravagant receptions in the Captiva and Lido grand ballrooms, this beachfront location offers a variety of settings. Make your dream wedding memorable with the help of a catering and wedding planning staff. In-house professionals offer a variety of menus and packages to meet every taste, style and budget. And will work to customize your wedding ceremony, reception, dinner, brunch, or shower ranging from a small, intimate gathering to a large evening soiree on the beach.

For information, call 239-463-8638 or visit www.pinkshell.com/fort-myers-beach-weddings

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DiamondHead Beach Resort & Spa

At DiamondHead Beach Resort, your special day will be just as romantic as it was in your dreams. With 8,000 square feet of versatile indoor and outdoor event space, on-property spa services, spacious suites, and an event team that knows how to make your special day picture perfect, DiamondHead is the ideal island setting for your beach ceremony, rehearsal dinner, reception, and every special moment in between. For more information, contact Kimberly Gant at [239-765-7654](tel:239-765-7654) or via email at kimberly.gant@sunstream.com, or visit www.diamondheadfl.com/weddings

Outrigger Beach Resort

Imagine exchanging your vows in a picture-perfect setting of vibrant blue sky, swaying palms and warm tropical breezes. If this is the destination wedding of your dreams, the Outrigger Beach Resort is your idyllic location. The sugary white sand beach, paired with affordable, all-inclusive wedding packages, ensures that your day will be special, memorable and completely stress-free.

For information contact The Outrigger Sales Department at 239-463-3131 or 800-211-8441 or visit www.outriggerfmb.com.

Plan a Gulf-front wedding in Florida's most romantic state park

Lovers Key State Park, between Bonita Springs and Fort Myers Beach

Just south of Fort Myers Beach, Lovers Key is Florida's most romantic state park. Overlooking the Gulf of Mexico, the recreation area includes more than 1,600 acres of breathtaking natural habitat and 2.5 miles of beaches that provide a dramatic setting with turn-of-the-century gazebo/pavilion for weddings. The picturesque, open-air structure and the park's secluded Gulf-front setting, have bolstered Lovers Key's recognition as Florida's most romantic state park and made it a preferred site for beachside weddings and the party. Each wedding is planned individually based upon the wishes of the wedding party.

For wedding information, call April Welsh, wedding coordinator, at [239-765-7788](tel:239-765-7788) or april@loverskeyadventures.com or visit loverskeybeachweddings.com. For information on Lovers Key State Park, call [239-463-4588](tel:239-463-4588) or visit www.floridastateparks.org/loverskey.

Waterfront resort in Cape Coral

The Westin Cape Coral Resort at Marina Village

The Westin Cape Coral Resort at Marina Village provides an unforgettable experience. Exchange nuptials in a beautiful waterfront lawn and gazebo with the stunning southwest Florida sun setting on the Gulf of Mexico. The resort accommodates a party of up to 750 in the new, expansive event space. This serene venue is highlighted by natural lighting, beautiful architecture, balconies and more. With 293 all-suite accommodations, The Westin Cape Coral is an attractive wedding destination for the ceremony, reception, rehearsal dinner, private family functions, bridesmaid luncheons and farewell brunches. Put a whole new twist on your wedding with the exclusive Heavenly Helicopter Nuptials package including an arrival or departure for up to two on a private helicopter. Click [here](#) for wedding details. For information, call 239-541-5000 or visit www.WestinCapeCoral.com.

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Romantic weddings in a historic setting

Edison & Ford Winter Estates, Fort Myers

Slip back into old Florida in the enchanting gardens of the historic Edison & Ford Winter Estates. Guests will be surrounded by royal palms, historic bamboo, orchids, countless other tropical plants and old-Florida homes along the Caloosahatchee River. With five unique locations available for ceremonies, it's not difficult to see why the Edison & Ford Winter Estates is a one-of-a-kind wedding site.

For information and pricing, contact Cori Cramsey, Certified Wedding Planner, ccramsey@edisonfordwinterestates.org. Call 239-334-7419 or visit www.edisonfordwinterestates.org.

Gasparilla Inn & Club, Boca Grande

Located on beautiful Gasparilla Island, The Gasparilla Inn & Club is an idyllic southwest Florida wedding venue. A full-service resort offering old-world ambiance since 1913, The Inn is a *Historic Hotel of America* and is on the *National Register of Historic Places*. Whether the bride dreams of walking down a sandy aisle on the beach, or across the lush grass of the croquet lawn, the resort offers many options throughout the 180-acre property for ceremonies, receptions and dinners. For information call 941-964-4576 or visit www.the-gasparilla-inn.com/weddings.

Burroughs Home & Gardens, Historic Fort Myers

Built in 1901, this elegant, historic, Victorian-style mansion features covered verandas, a dancing porch and a grand staircase. With more than two acres of stately gardens and oak trees which shade the lawn on the banks of the Caloosahatchee River, the Burroughs Home is the ideal waterfront setting for an extraordinary private wedding. An open air pavilion seats 300 people for the perfect outdoor venue. Catering and event management available. For information call 239-337-0706 or 239-337-9503, email events@burroughshome.com or visit www.burroughshome.com.

Plan a wedding in Fort Myers

Crowne Plaza Fort Myers

The Crowne Plaza Fort Myers is available for wedding ceremonies and private dining events, including wedding receptions, rehearsal dinners, anniversaries and post wedding brunches. With extraordinary cuisine, miles of nearby white sand beaches and a staff ready to pamper. For information contact at Jennifer Gay at jgay@cooperhotels.com 239-210-2471 or visit www.crowneplaza.com/ftmyersfl

Buckingham Farms, Fort Myers

A casually elegant wedding and reception at the Rustic Barn at Buckingham Farms, is a charming new location with an onsite event coordinator available to assist with all of the details. Visitors find the freshest, locally-grown food in southwest Florida, with a more than 50-acre hydroponic farm and country store that serves the region with vegetables and homemade food. Buckingham Farms takes farm-to-the-table dining to the next level. Located on miles of scenic splendor, everything at Buckingham Farms is naturally grown by a knowledgeable and experienced staff of expert farmers. For information, contact Anna Edmonson at or call 239-641-6425. For details, visit www.buckinghamfarmsonline.com/services

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Useful information for planning a destination wedding

Wedding planners

It's easy for out-of-town visitors to plan a destination wedding. Wedding planners and consultants throughout the area assist with everything from site selection and hotel reservations to flowers and photography. For a list of wedding planners, go to www.fortmyers-sanibel.com/weddings/wedding-venues-services

Marriage license

Getting married in Lee County is easy. Visit the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court to apply for a marriage license. Both parties must have valid photo identification, such as a driver's license and a Social Security number. International visitors who wish to marry in Florida must have a valid passport and a translator, if necessary, who has a valid U.S. driver's license. No blood tests are required for a marriage license, and there is no waiting period unless you are already a Florida resident -- then you must wait three days. Once you have the license, you can get married at any time within the next 60 days. Cost: \$93.50 to be paid in cash only. For details and downloadable forms, visit www.leeclerk.org/

For more information on planning a wedding, honeymoon or a romantic getaway at The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel, call the Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau at 239-338-3500 or visit www.FortMyersSanibel.com.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel in southwest Florida includes: Sanibel Island, Captiva Island, Fort Myers Beach, Fort Myers, Bonita Springs, Estero, Cape Coral, Pine Island, Boca Grande & Outer islands, North Fort Myers, Lehigh Acres. Wedding and romantic-themed images are available upon request. Follow us on Facebook: www.Facebook.com/FtMyersSanibel and Twitter: [@FtMyersSanibel](https://twitter.com/FtMyersSanibel)