Florida Keys BRIDAL 2020

Water Weddings

Perfect Venues

Colors with Vision

Dress Trends

Nuptials by Nature

SPRING 2020
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If you truly love nature, you will find beauty everywhere.
— Vincent Van Gogh

[Image of a bride on the beach.]
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When considering the fourth item on that old English rhyme of wedding day good luck charms, more and more creative couples are electing to tie the knot on sparkling teal blue seas aboard a dramatic sailing vessel. Blue water — what a refreshing twist on tradition, made all the more enchanting in the Florida Keys!
The allure of nautical nuptials runs deep, strengthened by romantic scenes from Hollywood movies and classic TV shows like “The Love Boat,” when the ship’s captain gets summoned to perform an impromptu ceremony.

In the real world, although captains are fully responsible for vessels complying with local and international law, in most jurisdictions the power to perform nuptials is limited to ministers and judicial officers. In other words, the ability for boat captains to marry couples is mostly a myth.

However, in Florida, if the captain happens to be a notary public — and the vessel is within three geographic miles from the coastline at the time of the ceremony — all is in order. The reason? The Sunshine State allows notaries to serve as wedding officiants.

If your heart is set on having a uniformed captain perform your service, don’t assume because you chartered a yacht, the officiant will be master of the ship. Be sure to double check with the event planner prior to signing on the dotted line.

The good news is that numerous charter yachts and party boats throughout the Conch Republic are experienced wedding hosts, fully prepared to ensure a magical marriage at sea to your exact specifications. Vessels range from historic schooners to trendy catamarans.

Key West Sailing Adventures spotlights a selection of boats to make weddings a smooth sailing experience. For the two of you, an ideal choice is the three day/two-night wedding and honeymoon combo.

In some cases, pre-set packages include tempting menu items, beverages, cake, flowers, photography, music and celebrant.

For example, Danger Charters on Front Street at the Margaritaville Marina encourages couples to tie the knot
aboard a luxurious 65-foot sailing vessel and leave all the details to their staff of experts. A favorite charter with locals, Danger Charters accommodates weddings from two to 30 guests.

In addition to providing a dedicated wedding planner for custom celebrations, their easy-to-navigate website showcases four all-inclusive packages. This state-of-the-art system is designed to make the big day stress-free. Simply book online and the work is done. How great is that?

According to materials provided by the charter, “Whether eloping or going for an all-out destination wedding, we have personalized wedding packages ranging from simple, intimate officiant services by our Coast Guard licensed Captains to all-inclusive, elegant, full-boat charters for up to 30 guests with customizable options for flowers, music, food, and photography.”

Potential hassles with coordination aside, imagine how much easier it will be to stay in the moment on that special day. Bride, groom and guests simply step aboard, relax, and enjoy the entire experience.

In Key West, whichever on-the-water option you choose, couples are guaranteed a treasure trove of visual backdrops to drink in — and to photograph. The natural setting includes dramatic coastline panoramas, and breathtaking multi-colored sunsets.

A wedding at sea can run the gamut from lavish to ultra-casual but in every case one thing is guaranteed; the stage will be adorned with stunning natural beauty in all directions.

Martha Hooten-Hattingh, co-owner of SV Argo Navis, advised the very first wedding performed aboard the luxury 75-foot, 35-foot beam catamaran on April 1, 2017 featuring a sunrise ceremony followed by brunch. What a unique concept!

Part of the Hindu Charters family, Argo Navis reflects the mystery, glamour and enchantment of
...the stage will be adorned with
Key West. Named for the constellation, Argo is identified in Greek mythology with the ship Jason and the Argonauts sailed in search of the Golden Fleece. It is found near the southern horizon of the Mediterranean sky.

Adding to the romantic essence of Argo Navis, Martha and her husband, Emyl Hattingh, who co-owns and captains the vessel, were married aboard in February of 2018.

Martha shared that her parents were married on a boat in Key West back in 1980. “I never imagined I’d be following that same path,” she reflected with a warm smile. Born and raised in Key West, Martha first met her husband, a native of South Africa, when he sailed in to the Keys several years ago.

Not only was Argo Navis designed and built locally by celebrated boat builder Walter Schurtenberger; it is the last boat to be crafted in Key West and is certified to accommodate up to 90 guests.

“Before we were married, my husband actually helped with the building of the boat,” Martha explained, adding that he later purchased the sleek, comfortably appointed catamaran.

If you get the impression the proprietors of Argo Navis are passionate about providing memorable wedding experiences aboard the very same vessel where they were married two years ago, how right you are!

Additionally, Argo Navis boasts a thoughtful and caring staff of professionals eager to assist in every way. “Our event planner is Ralph Segar,” Martha said. “You can ask for him directly when you call.”

Homeport for Argo Navis is Bight Marina, Margaret St at the Key West Historic Seaport. For more information, go to: www.sailargonavis.com.

Finally, for those wishing to embrace all elements in that rhythmic list of “old, new, borrowed and blue.” The last line is: “... and sixpence in her shoe.”

Since the symbolism is meant to ensure prosperity, perhaps the happy couple might consider the invaluable currency of sunlight on the water looking like sparkling diamonds during their seaworthy celebration. That romantic adaptation is an embarrassment of visual riches, much like a Key West water wonderland wedding.
The Perfect Venue
The No. 1 tourist attraction in Key West is also one of the most sought-after wedding and event venues anywhere. They have hosted hundreds of weddings and many other events, like rehearsal dinners.
The Perfect Venue

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BAKER’S CAY RESORT KEY LARGO
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MARATHON

The Perfect Venue

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KEY WEST
Southernmost Weddings gladly welcomes couples from all walks of life and orientations and we are proud to assist any gay or lesbian couple that wishes to get married. Any of our all-inclusive wedding packages can also be used for Vow Renewals & Commitment Ceremonies in Key West & the Florida Keys.

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The tree-canopied, manicured grounds of the Truman Little White House offer a spacious yet private venue for your romantic wedding ceremony and reception.
A JOURNEY OF A Lifetime

Recipient of the 2019 Travel + Leisure and Conde' Nast Traveler Reader’s Choice Award for One of the Best Hotels in Florida, the 100-room boutique hotel offers an upscale twist on Stock Island’s iconic maritime heritage. Host your friends and family amongst idyllic turquoise waters in laid back luxury, then celebrate your vows with award-winning American coastal comfort food from our fantastic onsite restaurants. Make The Perry Hotel Key West your one-of-a-kind destination wedding getaway today.

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Wedding Colors with 2020 Vision

BY TEDDI DAVIS
"Color! What a deep and mysterious language, the language of dreams." – Paul Gauguin

famed 19th century French artist, Gauguin spoke volumes through his creative use of color. In today’s world, the bridal party fashion canvas is a unique opportunity to speak the language of dreams — and love.

For the year 2020, wedding dreams are clearly focused on Pantone’s Color Institute’s official Color of the Year: Neo-Mint.

Similar to sea foam and mint green, enticing elements of this fresh pastel include Neo-Mint’s gender-neutral appeal and easy-on-the-eye visual harmony with hues ranging from deep green to varying shades of blue — including the No. 2 color of the year: Purist Blue.
Tableware, centerpieces, and even multiple-tiered confections can be beautifully showcased within combinations of Neo-Mint and Purist Blue. What a perfect opportunity to showcase nature’s tropical colorations — and so very Key West!

Another thought: Millennial Pink took the No. 1 Pantone color slot back in 2017 but refuses to fade into the background. In addition to maintaining a special spot in the hearts of savvy wedding fashionistas, Millennial Pink can dance to the music with Neo-Mint, creating a most attractive pastel color combo.

Whether you find inspiration in current color trends or prefer to paint your own unique path, Pantone sets the standard by providing the universal language of color to designers and manufacturers throughout the world.

According to materials provided by the company, “Pantone products and services help define, communicate and control color from inspiration to realization... The Pantone Color Institute provides customized color standards, brand identity and product color consulting as well as trend forecasting including Pantone Color of the Year, Fashion Runway Color Trend Reports, color and more.”

For more than two decades, Pantone has hosted an annual vote to determine preferred colors for the upcoming year. As part of that process, colorist leaders around the globe make presentations and debate the matter prior to selection and announcements.

Another winning Pantone color selection for 2020 is Cassis. Rich in hue, Cassis offers a romantic blend of purple and pink — a thoughtful melding of royalty, subtlety and glamour. Jewel-toned Cassis works well in combination with the deep greens of nature.

Equally appropriate in vintage, formal, or casual settings, even a touch of Cassis can go a long way. When selecting Cassis as an accent color, consider hair ribbons, bracelets, and of course, nail polish.

Also a top color choice for 2020, Mellow Yellow evokes sheer sun-splashed delight, playfully providing an uplifting spirit to fashions, flowers and accessories. Reminiscent of happy times in the tropics, Mellow Yellow is perfect for Key West nuptials, whatever the time of day!
Are you looking for colors that reflect your joy as a creative and thoughtful couple? Consider making a timeless statement with Faded Denim. What could be more perfect when two free spirits become one? The concept works particularly well when the wedding theme is ecologically sensitive. Add lots of natural décor elements and organic textures. Dress the venue up or down to your exact specifications — a picture-perfect concept.

Whatever your chosen color combinations, the most important blending is the love within your hearts.

While there are several new colors as leading choices for a stunning 2020, brides must consider, without question, that selecting the right wedding color must be a reflection of the couple and able to be weaved into the theme and décor of the event.

This consideration makes the process of coordinating invitations, centerpieces, background décor, welcome bags and wedding ensemble that much easier, since a central wedding party color helps set the mood for the unique event and enhances the experience for the couple and guests.

One color that’s also trending for 2020 per Wedding Forward (weddingforward.com) is Dusty Rose:

Dusty Rose is an elegant and soft color, and when combined with burgundy, produces a very rich contrast.

The color is formed with a bright and rich pink that is one step darker than Pink Champagne and less brown than Wild Rose.

This color is versatile and makes a huge impact during virtually any season. It’s perfectly comfortable operating on its own or paired with lavender, green, or gold. The color works well for bridesmaid’s dresses, radiating calm and class. For the groom, it leaves a touch on the tie, cufflinks, or boutonnière.

Creating a dusty rose floral background decor for the ceremony itself can be applied to everything from wall to drapes for interior events or for tents in outdoor events. Pair with lavender or cream roses, greenery, and succulents. Apply this color to your table decor in centerpieces to give a romantic ambiance. It can also be well incorporated into the menu, place cards, and even gift bags.

Dusty rose is magnificent for a bouquet when combined with dahlias and eucalyptus. A cake in dusty rose icing is a sight to behold. Embellish with gold or burgundy berries and leaves for the perfect finish.

Final suggestion: Dusty rose is a hit for an unconventional out of the box destination weddings, which are relatively common in the Florida Keys. It’s a neutral tone that blends with the natural surroundings, sucking in the warmth of its surroundings. While lavender and green helps it stand out, a touch of gold leaves a trail of class.

Florida Keys BRIDAL 2020
Floral Prints

2020 Wedding Dress Trends
2020 WEDDING DRESS TRENDS

Ball Gowns

Puffy Sleeves

Airy

Ruffles
2020 WEDDING DRESS TRENDS

One Shoulder

Tiered Skirts

Sparkly

Pants

Short
Whether you’re looking for an intimate wedding on the beach or a lavish affair with stunning Bay views, Jimmy Johnson’s Big Chill offers a picture-perfect setting for your big day in the Florida Keys.

We will assist you through the entire planning process. From custom designing your menu, suggesting linens, to choosing floral and photography packages, a Big Chill wedding specialist will ensure and coordinate a flawless event.

Your guests will enjoy delicious cuisine prepared by our Award Winning Executive Chef, Dominic Congemi. Our unique and tasty appetizer’s and unforgettable main course dishes are all served with a touch of island flare sure to please every guest.

We offer full service wedding planning, with menu options from pass around appetizer service, to an impressive Bayside buffet or a formal sit down dinner.

So relax and let us plan the wedding of your dreams!

For more information on planning your wedding or event:

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Jami Calvano  Catering Director  954.579.9201   Jcalvano133@aol.com

The Best SUNSETS ~ in Key Largo!
Petals & Vines, located at 901 Simonton St. in Key West, has been creating beautiful floral arrangements for more than 100 years. That’s right – for more than five generations, they’ve been family-owned and operated.

Today, the requests for eco-friendly floral arrangements have increased, as has awareness among the public for eco-friendly solutions.

When asked if she has many requests for eco-friendly arrangements, Andrea said, “Millennials seem to be those that request them the most.” She also stressed that locally sourced flowers are not necessarily cheaper, although undoubtedly better for the environment. Andrea has begun cultivating her own on-site garden to bring her clients the freshest, ‘greenest’ floral options.

Petals and Vines specializes in orchids, ferns, blue flowers, and locally sourced eco-friendly floral crowns that won’t hurt turtles, because everything is biodegradable.

In addition to organizing floral arrangements at Little Palm Island group weddings, Andrea has also been the Bellagio’s floral designer in Las Vegas, and was the only florist to ever have flowers on the cover of Glamour magazine.
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SUNSET GREEN EVENT LAWN
The ease and elegance of weddings set in the natural beauty of the Keys seems ideal, whatever the time of year. Many hotels and restaurants — even yachts and dinner cruises — offer the added assistance of seasoned event and party planners. Think of it. In the Keys, couples have the opportunity to exchange vows, host a stunning reception, and enjoy a thrilling honeymoon — all in one glorious tropical location.

With a bow to incomparable gifts of aqua shorelines, sugar sand beaches, salt air, soft tropical breezes, exotic florals, and swaying palm trees, an ecologically sensitive wedding seems decidedly apropos in such a naturally resplendent setting.

Far more than a noble gesture, consciously limiting the environmental impact of a celebratory gathering can serve as a couple’s first step toward a lifelong commitment to mutual respect for our planet.

According to The Knot, “green or sustainable weddings are the trend for 2020.” A leading global family of brands selected to “inspire, inform and celebrate our communities as they move through life’s biggest milestones,” The Knot Worldwide suggests that in this day and age, it’s more fitting than ever for brides and grooms to “go green.” In other words, invite friends and family to share their joy at a sustainable wedding event.

Botanical invitations are a grand idea. Other considerations range from a selection of reusable wedding favors to living floral arrangements and practical gifts for the wedding party.

As an example when it comes to decorations, rather than fresh cut flowers for the tables, choose potted plants, dried flowers, cactus or perhaps those ever-fascinating air plants.

For a clever approach regarding bouquets and boutonnieres for the wedding party, how about renting silk flowers? Creative enterprises such as Something Borrowed Blooms offer a breathtaking selection of hand picked silk stem flowers — and
seasonal considerations are never an issue. Just as its name implies, the florals arrive in plenty of time for that special day and pre-paid return mailing boxes are the ultimate in total convenience.

For celebratory keepsakes, instead of printing the newlyweds’ names and the date on various kitschy disposables, check out items such as reusable welcome bags, quality shopping bags, bamboo coaster sets, or stainless water canisters. Personalized plantable herb paper wedding favors also are popular “green” gift items. Custom containers filled with fair trade coffee make flavorful touches, as well.

Thoughtful approaches to menu selections might include vegetarian dishes, organic items, locally sourced produce, freshly caught seafood, heritage poultry or grass fed beef.

If you plan to serve adult beverages, it’s worth noting that organic wine and champagne is much easier to come by these days — and prices are more competitive, too.

Reusing, repurposing, and recycling can be reflected on every level from making use of vintage items and family heirlooms to insisting on non-disposable accouterments including linens, plates, glassware and utensils. In other words, make every effort to keep plastics out of the picture all together.

Additionally, after the festivities, consider donating items such as decorations and other accessories to a local charity.

Speaking of festivities, to avoid an out-of-control guest list, an intriguing consideration might be a micro-wedding.

According to a survey by The Knot, in 2017 the average cost of a wedding in the United States was $34,000. Although a big blowout fiesta is fine for some, a widening number of couples are choosing to take the micro wedding route.

While containing all the attractive elements of a traditional ceremony, the scaled-down celebration is a lot more affordable — and some might say, more romantic.

Particularly for couples fortunate enough to be well off financially, the option to register favorite charities or non-profit organizations in lieu of gifts is a selfless way to give thanks.

With regard to treasured family heirlooms, particularly a wedding or engagement ring, although steeped in tradition, the concept — and sometimes the design — does not appeal to everyone. The Knot gives exquisite guidance when dealing with options such as resetting a stone passed down through the generations. Keep in mind that beyond individual tastes and practicality, some gems are considered priceless in the hearts of others.

Ultimately — from the selection of rings, to wedding day festivities and beyond — the most important element in every wedding is love. Happily, more and more couples love the thought of hosting memorable eco-friendly nuptials in the natural splendor found only in Key West.
Jeff’s Gems & Nautical Designs is a well-loved award winning staple in the Florida Keys for more than 30 years. For any last minute needs, repairs or adjustments, Jeff will be more than happy to complete so that your wedding experience is seamless and worry-free.

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Florida Keys BRIDAL 2020
GROOM STYLE
GROOM STYLE
GROOM STYLE
How to get your marriage license in Key West

Getting a Florida marriage license is very easy. Fee is $86.00. There is no waiting period for non-Florida residents. Florida residents have a three-day waiting period. You must obtain your license in Florida. You do not have to get married in the same county in which you obtain your license. Blood tests are not required. Witnesses are not required at the wedding ceremony.

FLORIDA MARRIAGE LICENSE REQUIREMENTS
Applicant must be 18 years old to obtain a marriage license. Sixteen- and 17-year-olds must have both parent’s consent. If you are younger, parent’s consent/consent of a County Judge, and proven pregnancy may apply, depending on the age and situation. Both applicants must appear in person at the time of application.

IDENTIFICATION
Applicants must provide a valid picture-type ID, with date of birth shown. (Driver’s License, passport, student ID Card, Military ID, or Alien Registration Card.) There is no residence or citizenship requirement.

PRIOR MARRIAGES
If either applicant has been previously married, the exact date of the last death, divorce or annulment must be provided.

TIME LIMIT
The license must be used within 60 days from the “effective date.” Below is the effective date criteria:

NON-FLORIDA RESIDENTS
There is NO waiting period.

FLORIDA RESIDENTS
If both parties are Florida residents there is a three-day waiting period (from the date of issue), before the marriage ceremony may take place. Waiting period can be waived both parties attend a premarital class and present certification of the attendance to the clerk at the time of application. This class must be taken thru an authorized provider listed in Monroe County. Original certificate of completion is required at time of application. List of providers is available upon request.
* If only one of the couples is a Florida resident and the Florida resident takes the course, there is no waiting period.

RECORDING FLORIDA MARRIAGE LICENSES
After the marriage, the person who performed the ceremony must return the license within 10 days to the marriage license section, where it will then be recorded in the Official Records. Until that license is received, there is no record of the marriage. After recording, a certified copy will be returned to the newlyweds, by mail. The original license is sent to the Office of Vital Statistics in Jacksonville. The process takes approximately three weeks.

Florida Courthouse Locations for Marriage Licenses

MONROE COUNTY COURTHOUSE—KEY WEST
500 Whitehead St., 305-292-3458
Hours: 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday – Friday (except holidays)

UPPER KEYS GOVERNMENT CENTER
88820 Overseas Highway
(Mile Marker 88.5 gulfside)
305-852-7145

MARATHON BRANCH
3117 Overseas Highway
(Mile Marker 48.5 oceanside)
305-289-6027
Peter Vey

The Gallery on Greene  |  606 Greene St., Key West  |  open daily 10 am - 6 pm

galleryongreene.com  |  305-304-2323
The Cost of a Wedding

In 2019, the average cost of a U.S. wedding was between $29,000 and $31,000 (honeymoon not included).

While there are numerous factors that contribute (such as the region where the wedding is occurring, the season of the year, and the overall style), it accurately portrays what most planning couples are currently spending for their big day. This dollar amount is widely considered a logical indication and baseline for the average budget.

Nearly 50% of all couples will end up exceeding their budget. Roughly 2.6 million weddings are performed each year in the U.S., and almost half will fail to stick to their intended budget. While much of the overspending occurs because the budget was unrealistic or overly conservative in the first place, it also comes from lack of commitment to a plan.
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Islamorada's Reimagined Islander Resort sets a new standard for destination weddings. Our wedding specialists will make all your dreams come to life amidst the natural beauty of the Islander Resort’s 24 tropically landscaped, oceanfront acres. Whatever inspires you and fulfills your heart’s desire will become reality as you celebrate with family and friends, making priceless memories enhanced by gentle, tropical breezes and stunning views of the Atlantic Ocean.

We're only 79 miles from Miami International and 107 miles from Ft. Lauderdale International airports, about halfway between Key West and Miami. With 100,000 square feet of beach and courtyard event space, in addition to the Islander Resort Conference Center ballroom and Great Lawn, we can graciously accommodate ceremonies and receptions for groups of almost any size. Whether you’re planning a wedding or honeymoon, you’ll find Islander Resort the ideal spot to tie the knot and celebrate your new life together.