Florida Keys BRIDAL 2019

Eco Friendly additions for your Special Day
FOR THE UNIQUE BRIDE

the TOP 5 TRENDING LOCATIONS FOR WEDDINGS IN KEY WEST & LIVING CORAL COLOR FOR THE SEASON

The Destination Wedding Magazine
A marriage of luxury, location and laid-back island style.

A wedding at the water's edge... or in the largest and most beautiful ballroom in Key West. Either way, your wedding at Key West Marriott Beachside Hotel promises to be a spellbinding experience.
LEGENDARY BEGINNINGS
SINCE 1946

Meagan Puett Art & Photography

CHEECA LODGE & SPA
ISLAMORADA • FLORIDA KEYS

cheeca.com/weddings
meaganpuett.com
Forever Starts Here

OCEANKEY.COM | 1.800.328.9815
ZERO DUVAL ST, KEY WEST, FL

OCEAN KEY
RESORT & SPA
KEY WEST | A NOBLE HOUSE RESORT

Noble House Hotels & Resorts
TABLE OF CONTENTS

08 WEDDING DESTINATIONS
13 PLAYA LARGO
16 MORADA BAY
19 APPLYING FOR A MARRIAGE LICENSE

20 LIVING CORAL
2019 COLOR TRENDS
30 ECO-CONSCIOUS WEDDING
38 WEDDING ATTIRE
42 DESTINATION WEDDINGS
A wedding in paradise doesn’t have to be far away

Say ‘I Do’ with the ocean by your side and sand under your feet.

At a luxury dream destination unlike anything else in the Keys.

An intimate island wedding with sunsets made for sailing off into.

islabella
BEACH RESORT

Opening Spring 2019
Learn how Publix can help you celebrate life's most memorable moments. publix.com/weddings

This is it.
The one that sends a tingle behind your ear and makes you forget about the what-ifs. The one that lets you know, without a doubt, that you're exactly where you're supposed to be. This is it—the moment you've been waiting for your whole life.
WEDDING DESTINATIONS
Top Wedding Resorts in the Florida Keys

BY KAY HARRIS
Although every hotel and resort in the Florida Keys offers wonderful vistas and options you can’t find anywhere else, a handful of resorts offer the best experiences for weddings, according to customer reviews on TripAdvisor.

Five resorts landed at the top of TripAdvisor’s list, with either a 4.5 or 5 star rating from customers: Sunset Key, Pier House, Ocean Key, Santa Maria and the Marker. Comments on the travel website range from “Perfection for a wedding,” to “They were absolutely wonderful.”

With Key West a prime destination wedding location, couples frequently turn to sites such as TripAdvisor for tips, hints and recommendations, so getting a top ranking is always an honor and a note-worthy accomplishment for any hotel or resort.

**Sunset Key Cottages**

“I attended a beautiful wedding here! It was the picture perfect place for a wedding event. Ceremony on the beach with sailboats sailing by. The food was great and the cottages were like a second home on a private island. The sunset cocktail cruise was breath taking.” Review on TripAdvisor

Located on Sunset Key, an island 500 yards off Key West and just a short ferry ride away, are the Sunset Key Cottages, a private enclave where only overnight guests and those with restaurant reservations can visit.

Hosting numerous celebrities and guests over the years looking for the Key West experience but in a more secluded setting, Sunset Key Cottages is no stranger to ensuring their guests privacy. So when actress Katie Cassidy announced her wedding to Matthew Rodgers in December 2018 with a series of Instagram photos from the couple’s beautiful ceremony, the national media picked up on the story long before anyone locally even knew the famous bride and her family were on the island.

The wedding photos shared by the couple included numerous shots of venues around Sunset Key, including the couples’ sunset ceremony on the beach.

*continued pg 10*
Couples looking to hold their own ceremony at the resort can find a wealth of information on the resort’s website, sunsetkeycottages.com, with details about the various venues, including a catamaran, that they can book for your ceremony along with options for catering, including dining at the famous Latitudes restaurant on the island.

**The Marker**

“We visited Key West in early June for our wedding and decided to stay at the Marker due largely to its proximity to the marina, Duval Street, Mallory Square, and our favorite pizza place (seriously - Duetto's is amazing). Overall we had a great experience.”

Review on TripAdvisor

With packages for intimate ceremonies along with catering packages for large groups, the Marker has a variety of options for weddings. With prices displayed, it takes the guess work out of the planning and budgeting process.

With discounts for staying in one of the Marker’s pool and garden view rooms with balconies and luxurious amenities, the resort is also located close to the waterfront and downtown Duval St. One of the newest resorts in Key West, the Marker offers assistance with all aspects of your special day.

**Santa Maria Suites**

“Our family and friends stayed in 10 suites at Santa Maria during our daughter's wedding weekend, and their accommodating hospitality made everything about the event perfect!”

Review on TripAdvisor

A favorite for members of the wedding party, Santa Maria Suites offers all two-bedroom suites with a ton of special amenities. Kitchens, living rooms, large flat screen TVs and privacy all enhance your Key West experience.

Located close to Duval, the resort features two pools, a fitness center, and beach access. Staff can assist in planning activities for brides, grooms and guests. From pool side treats to dining at the Ambrosia sushi restaurant, Santa Maria offers a full experience. Visit www.santamariasuites.com for more information.
Pier House Resort & Spa

“Absolutely beautiful everywhere. Great drinks. The water is perfect. Prime location. Wonderful staff. Perfection for a wedding. I’m looking forward to going back when I can! I’ll have insanely beautiful memories that will last forever.”
Review on TripAdvisor

The Pier House Resort & Spa has everything a couple needs for their wedding day, including professional wedding planners on staff to assist with all aspects of the ceremony, reception and rehearsal dinner.

Guests can choose to say their vows on the resort’s private beach, in one of the ballrooms, or on the Sunset Terrace, and Pier House also specializes in spa packages for the wedding party as well as catering for the festivities.

The website, www.pierhouse.com, offers a photos, packages and a complete price list to give brides and grooms assistance when planning their special day. Being able to coordinate with an onsite planner is especially helpful for those planning a destination wedding in Key West.
Florida Keys Catering

CATERING...
with a personal touch

Wedding Packages

305.401.7699
103200 Overseas Hwy. Key Largo • MM 103
www.floridakeyscateringonline.com

Florida Keys Catering
Wedding Catering
with a personal touch

Paradise Found...
Make it Yours

Weddings
Private Parties
Special Events

Key West Tropical Forest & Botanical Garden
www.tropicalgardenevents.com
info@keywest.garden
305.296.1504
5210 College Road
Key West, FL 33040

PHANTOM FIREWORKS
OF KEY LARGO

FOR YOUR WEDDING PARTY!
BUY ONE GET ONE FREE
ASSORTMENTS BUY 2 GET 1 FREE

2 FREE WEDDING SPARKLERS

$99 FOR $29 500 GRAM REPEATER

PHANTOM FIREWORKS
OF KEY LARGO

FOR YOUR WEDDING PARTY!
BUY ONE GET ONE FREE
ASSORTMENTS BUY 2 GET 1 FREE

2 FREE WEDDING SPARKLERS

$99 FOR $29 500 GRAM REPEATER

@Blue Eyed Images Photography

106150 Overseas Hwy. MM 106
Key Largo, Florida 33037
305.451.1198

@Blue Eyed Images Photography

106150 Overseas Hwy. MM 106
Key Largo, Florida 33037
305.451.1198
Many Brides & Grooms Say I Do at
Playa Largo Resort

BY JILL ZIMA BORSKI

The relatively new Playa Largo Resort & Spa located at mile marker 97.5 bayside opened in August of 2016 enabling the northernmost key, Key Largo, to add another upscale resort to its amenities. From intimate elopements to celebrations upwards of 300 guests, Playa Largo staff is humbled and grateful to walk alongside brides and grooms in their journey for an event done the Autograph Collection way, according to Kelsey Pfeiderer, senior catering sales manager. Exactly Like Nothing Else is the company’s slogan. Executive Chef Karl Stoehr, head of the award, winning culinary team, oversees all weddings with Pfeiderer, usually wowing “foodies” from all around the globe, she said.

Playa Largo can accommodate weddings of 350 guests. Pfeiderer said the resort is fortunate to house love birds at least once a weekend, sometimes more. “Sunday and Friday are currently trending allowing us to sometimes have a full three-day weekend of back to back ‘big days,’” she said. The resort’s most popular spot to say, “I do” is the event lawn, which measures 86 feet by 129 feet. But, there is also a beach house lawn that is 40 feet by 30 feet.

Some offsite coordination is necessary, so to ensure a truly spectacular experience, all weddings are required to have a wedding planner. Playa Largo provides the bride and groom with a preferred vendor list of local professionals for florals, cakes, fireworks and more.

Throughout the Keys, one of the most magical moments of the day is sunset. Whether engaged couples exchange vows on the sand, an exquisite private beach house or an impressive wedding lawn, gorgeous wow, inducing sunsets will inspire them to live their dream on their most memorable day, said Pfeiderer.

When it is time to move indoors, stylish venues with glamorous lighting can be transformed to reflect desired themes. Playa Largo Resort & Spa is a wonderful option for a paradise wedding beside the spectacular aqua waters of Florida Bay.
Create your memories in a place of endless possibilities...

SUNSET GREEN
EVENT LAWN

3820 N Roosevelt Blvd
Key West, FL 33040
305.928.1093
sales@thekeyscollection.com
thekeyscollection.com
Our dense, tropical flora will enchant you. Overlapping palm fronds cast patterns of dappled light all around. The scent of coconuts, key limes and orchids fill the air. Within, the world seems to fall away.

Behind green leaves stands a white, wood facade. Our all-new resort was built with signature Key West conch architecture that combines Caribbean and Victorian influences, complete with gingerbread moldings and large porches—done right.

Step into every spacious room or suite and the first thing you'll see is a view to die for. When you can tear away your gaze, you'll also find a king/queen bed like a cloud, and thoughtful décor that speaks to the island's nautical history and local artistry.

Right outside your balcony, six turquoise pools twinkle in the Caribbean sun. You'll always find room poolside—just one of the pleasures in our well-appointed resort!

---

$1500 inclusive of service & tax
each additional person over 10 (max. 16 people) will be charged at $100 inclusive per person

For information on room blocks, wedding packages and onsite event planning services, please contact Brianna Birtles, bbirtles@oceansedgekeywest.com.

---

your wedding package includes

♦ Four hour hosted premium open bar
♦ Champagne toast or signature cocktail
♦ A variety of hot and cold hors d'oeuvres passed butler style and/or display (based on 1 hour cocktail reception)
♦ Your choice of a plated, stations or buffet dinner
♦ 60" round dinner tables and high top cocktail tables
♦ Tables for escort cards, welcome, cake and DJ
♦ White padded chairs
♦ Silverware, china, and glassware
♦ Cake cutting services
♦ Poly linens and napkins available in the color of your choice
♦ Complimentary upgrade for your guestroom to the next best view for your entire stay
Picture-perfect weddings may appear effortless in the beautiful Florida Keys but much planning and customization goes into a flawless ceremonial event. Bayside locations, such as Morada Bay in Islamorada, offer a year-round bonus as the sunset is toasted nightly from its sandy beach, and delectable food and enchanting music add to the always festive atmosphere.

Pastel colors of a Keys sunset combined with event planners that aim to meet a bride and groom’s every desire have fulfilled many dreams about a "perfect wedding." Sites such as Morada Bay offer experienced catering and events staff who find ways to say yes to every creative suggestion and customized detail, whether for a once-in-a-lifetime wedding, rehearsal dinner or corporate event.
In the past two decades, many special events have been held at Morada Bay with celebrities, national and international dignitaries, business executives and more in attendance.

With more than 20 years of experience in fine dining and fine-tuning all the specifics of operating an upscale establishment, Morada Bay is uniquely situated to please its clientele. Being located along a curved shoreline enables smooth divisions into three areas: Pierre’s Restaurant and beach, Tiki Beach and the Beach Café. Clients can choose to rent the whole property, especially if expecting 200-500 guests, or choose an intimate venue, or perhaps select a semi-private venue if casual onlookers are acceptable at a less formal wedding.

The executive chef of Pierre’s and Beach Cafe has been turning out exquisite cuisine which keeps guests more than satisfied -- and returning. “Our professional staff has a system and technique that work well,” said Bocognano.

While small intimate weddings are beautiful sights to behold, Bocognano observed that a current trend for Morada Bay is large, private weddings that may have several “very important people” on the guest list. “Certain clients value privacy so they can enjoy the event,” he said. “If security is needed, this request can easily be fulfilled.”

Morada Bay enjoys a large referral network. Stories from happy couples and reviews posted on websites such as the Wedding Wire and The Knot share positive words about the “best wedding ever.”
Diane Richey, Morada Bay catering and events director, said the beachfront site on Upper Matecumbe Key at mile marker 81.6 bayside has something for everyone’s style and budget. If a bride desires elegant orchids above rows of chairs, as one did, she can make it happen. The staff is always willing to go the extra mile.

For a recent kosher wedding, Morada Bay made its kitchen available to a particular kosher catering company from Miami while Morada Bay took care of the rest of the special details.

With no idea too outlandish, an exceptional event is just a phone call away.
A marriage license is required for your marriage to be legally recognized. In Monroe County, the Clerk of Circuit Court is the issuing agent of marriage licenses for the State of Florida. You can register for a marriage license during regular business hours at the courthouses in Key West and Marathon, and at either the Upper Keys government center or the Clerk’s office in Plantation Key.

Regulations vary from state to state. In Florida, applicants must be 18 years old to obtain a marriage license. Younger applicants require parental consent, and in certain instances, the consent of a county judge. No matter what your age, both applicants must appear in person when applying for a marriage license. A picture-type ID, including date of birth, is required. If either party has been previously married, the exact date of the death, divorce or annulment must be provided. Bring a copy of your divorce decree with you at the time of application. The state of Florida has recognized same-sex marriages since June 2015, and the U.S. Supreme Court assured federal recognition of same-sex marriage throughout the country.

The process of completing marriage license paperwork takes about 15 minutes. There is no waiting period for out-of-state residents, or for Florida residents who provide proof of completing an approved premarital class. Otherwise, it is a three day waiting period for Florida residents. A marriage license costs $86 – and there is a discount for Florida residents who provide proof of completing the premarital class ($61.00). A marriage license must be used within 60 days of issuance.

In Florida, regularly ordained clergy, judges, the Clerk, deputy clerks of the Circuit Court, and state of Florida notaries may perform marriages. The person who performs a marriage ceremony must complete and return the marriage license to the Clerk of Court within 10 days, where it will be recorded in the Official Records. A certified copy is returned to the newlyweds by mail, and the original license is maintained in the Office of Vital Statistics in Jacksonville, FL. The process usually takes around three weeks.

For more information:
WWW.CLERK-OF-THE-COURT.COM
Marriage Licenses may be obtained at:
KEY WEST COURTHOUSE (ANNEX)
500 Whitehead Street, (305) 292-3458
MARATHON BRANCH COURTHOUSE
3117 Overseas Hwy, (305) 289-6027
UPPER KEYS GOVT CENTER
88820 Overseas Hwy
Plantation Key, (305) 852-7145
CLERK OF COURT’S OFFICE
50 High Point Road
Plantation Key, (305) 852-7124
COLOR REPORT

Coral

Coral, Taupe & Coral
The light hue matches perfectly with any other shade of Coral

Headpiece by www.caprilite.com

© Freas Photography

© Rachel Ligon

© Rachel Ligon

© Freas Photography

Try these Color Combos

2019 Color Trends for Weddings

By Kay Harris
Based on current trends, including influences from the entertainment industry, artists, fashion designers, influencers, and interior designers, Pantone’s Color Institute has named Living Coral as the Color of the Year for 2019.

What does that mean for brides and grooms? It means that you will see this vibrant color everywhere you look for inspiration for your bridesmaid dress designs, cakes, invitations, flowers, boutonnieres and wedding themes. And for Keys’ weddings, what better way to incorporate the local environment and honor the beautiful, living coral reefs surrounding the islands, than to choose Living Coral as an integral part of your celebrations!

“PANTONE Living Coral emits the desired, familiar, and energizing aspects of color found in nature. In its glorious, yet unfortunately more elusive, display beneath the sea, this vivifying and effervescent color mesmerizes the eye and mind. Lying at the center of our naturally vivid and chromatic ecosystem … Living Coral is evocative of how coral reefs provide shelter to a diverse kaleidoscope of color,” states the official Pantone website.

For years, Keys’ weddings have gone against some of the more traditional trends in favor of incorporating the natural beauty and elements of the islands into the ceremonies, which are typically held on the beach, on boats, in gardens or at some of the historic venues and beautiful resorts throughout the Keys.

Right now, on pretty much every wedding website and Pinterest board, you’ll find ideas for coral bridesmaid dresses, flowers, grooms’ ties, etc. but for non-traditional brides who want to use the beautiful color in other ways, there are also a number of suggestions. Think about using coral on your nails, in hair accessories, on your reception and buffet tables, bridal jewelry, or even with your makeup – lipstick and eye color shades of coral are beautiful on any skin tone!

Do you want to be trendy but traditional at the same time? Try incorporating coral with various shades of blues and greens, and of course, with traditional white and black colors. If the Living Coral shade is a bit too bright for you, try taking it a shade or two lighter, which still gives you the “pop” factor but in a more sedate tone.
COLOR REPORT

Of course, for those who want their Keys’ wedding to stand out, coral should be an integral shade in any beach-themed or ocean-side wedding. Try pairing coral with sky blue, teal and ivory to reflect the waves and sky. Or add a medium green shade, lilac and a muted yellow to mimic the Keys’ fabulous sunsets. Or you can always go big and bold, using the brightest coral hue mixed with a deep eggplant shade, a bright marigold, a vibrant sky blue or periwinkle and a soft champagne or blush to tie them together.

Once you have your overall theme and colors selected, then you can decide how much or how little of each you want, what tones and shades, and how best to use them to highlight the wedding party and enhance your chosen venue.

Sky Blue, Teal, Ivory

THE LIGHT HUE MATCHES PERFECTLY WITH ANY OTHER SHADE OF CORAL

TRY THESE COLOR COMBOS
Blush
THE SOFT PINK AS A VINTAGE TOUCH

TRY THESE COLOR COMBOS

Blush
THE SOFT PINK AS A VINTAGE TOUCH

Blush
THE SOFT PINK AS A VINTAGE TOUCH

Blush
THE SOFT PINK AS A VINTAGE TOUCH

Blush
THE SOFT PINK AS A VINTAGE TOUCH

Blush
THE SOFT PINK AS A VINTAGE TOUCH

Blush
THE SOFT PINK AS A VINTAGE TOUCH

Blush
THE SOFT PINK AS A VINTAGE TOUCH

Blush
THE SOFT PINK AS A VINTAGE TOUCH

Blush
THE SOFT PINK AS A VINTAGE TOUCH

Blush
THE SOFT PINK AS A VINTAGE TOUCH

Blush
THE SOFT PINK AS A VINTAGE TOUCH

Blush
THE SOFT PINK AS A VINTAGE TOUCH

Blush
THE SOFT PINK AS A VINTAGE TOUCH

Blush
THE SOFT PINK AS A VINTAGE TOUCH

Blush
THE SOFT PINK AS A VINTAGE TOUCH

Blush
THE SOFT PINK AS A VINTAGE TOUCH

Blush
THE SOFT PINK AS A VINTAGE TOUCH

Blush
THE SOFT PINK AS A VINTAGE TOUCH

Blush
THE SOFT PINK AS A VINTAGE TOUCH

Blush
THE SOFT PINK AS A VINTAGE TOUCH

Blush
THE SOFT PINK AS A VINTAGE TOUCH

Blush
THE SOFT PINK AS A VINTAGE TOUCH

Blush
THE SOFT PINK AS A VINTAGE TOUCH

Blush
THE SOFT PINK AS A VINTAGE TOUCH

Blush
THE SOFT PINK AS A VINTAGE TOUCH

Blush
THE SOFT PINK AS A VINTAGE TOUCH

Blush
THE SOFT PINK AS A VINTAGE TOUCH

Blush
THE SOFT PINK AS A VINTAGE TOUCH

Blush
THE SOFT PINK AS A VINTAGE TOUCH

Blush
THE SOFT PINK AS A VINTAGE TOUCH

Blush
THE SOFT PINK AS A VINTAGE TOUCH

Blush
THE SOFT PINK AS A VINTAGE TOUCH

Blush
THE SOFT PINK AS A VINTAGE TOUCH

Blush
THE SOFT PINK AS A VINTAGE TOUCH

Blush
THE SOFT PINK AS A VINTAGE TOUCH

Blush
THE SOFT PINK AS A VINTAGE TOUCH

Blush
THE SOFT PINK AS A VINTAGE TOUCH

Blush
THE SOFT PINK AS A VINTAGE TOUCH

Blush
THE SOFT PINK AS A VINTAGE TOUCH

Blush
THE SOFT PINK AS A VINTAGE TOUCH
THE KEY WEST GARDEN CLUB @ WEST MARTELLO TOWER
LOCATED @ 1100 ATLANTIC BOULEVARD ON HIGGS BEACH
305.294.3210 • KEYWESTGARDENCLUB.COM

FREE TO VISIT THE GARDENS

KEY LARGO CHOCOLATES & ICE CREAM
MM 100 1/2 BAYSIDE
KEYLARGOCHOCOLATES.COM • 305-453-6613

UNIQUE WEDDING CAKES, FAVORS & CHOCOLATES
ICE CREAM CART AVAILABLE

©FREAS PHOTOGRAPHY

FROM CORPORATE EVENTS TO WHIMСICAL WEDDINGS
IS HERE FOR ALL YOUR EVENT NEEDS.
305.998.4685
WWW.KAPRENTALS.COM • INFO@KEYSAUDIO.COM

+1-305-896-6314
INFO@FOTOBYFREAS.COM
WWW.FOTOBYFREAS.COM
From Corporate Events to Whimsical Weddings

Keys Audio Party Rentals

is here for all your event needs.

305.998.4685

www.kaprentals.com • info@keysaudio.com
Let KAP bring your vision to life for your next event!

We give our clients an edge in having the most expansive array of rentals in the area. Based in Key Largo, the company is centrally located to easily accommodate all of South Florida.

CHAIRS & TABLES  •  TENTS & STRUCTURES  
LIGHTING & AUDIO  •  DANCE FLOORS  
DECOR & ARBORS  

WEDDINGS  •  PARTIES  
CORPORATE EVENTS  •  FLORIDA KEYS  

AND MORE!

Make planning stress free with our recommended event teams.
We give our clients an edge in having the most expansive array of rentals in the area. Based in Key Largo, the company is centrally located to easily accommodate all of South Florida.

CHAIRS & TABLES • TENTS & STRUCTURES
LIGHTING & AUDIO • DANCE FLOORS
DECOR & ARBORS

WEDDINGS • PARTIES
CORPORATE EVENTS • FLORIDA KEYS
...AND MORE!

Make planning stress free with our recommended event teams.
Keys Audio Party Rentals is located in Tavernier, FL at MM 91.6 behind the Florida Keys Electric Cooperative.
“For All Your Special Occasions”

IT’S YOUR BIG DAY...
A day you’ve dreamed about since you met the person of your dreams… You & your someone special and your family and friends having a blast in a limo and leave the driving to us, we get you to where you’re going in safety and comfort for an enjoyable & memorable time.

From passenger sedans to 14 passenger SUV limousines, and everything in between. Party busses (up to 24 passenger upon request).

AAA LIMO
305.731.4340
www.AAALimoFL.com • email: aaalimogr@gmail.com
Located in Key West – Serving the Florida Keys
We are licensed and permitted for all airports from Key West to Ft. Lauderdale and Miami International Airports.

We Love Events!
Call Us to Help Create Yours

HNO PRODUCTIONS
305.383.8245
101425 Overseas Highway #166 • Key Largo
info@hnoproductions.com • www.hnoproductions.com
Mention this ad and get a 10% discount on any rentals.

Ocean Breeze Party Rentals
786.286.2314 OceanBreezePartyRentals.com
TENTS | ARCHES, PIPES AND DRAPING | BARS & TABLES | CHAIRS
LINENS & PLACE SETTINGS | CONCESSIONS | FURNITURE | DANCE FLOORS
WEDDING PLANNING / COORDINATOR SERVICES
quality equipment, quality service
fully licensed and insured, satisfaction guaranteed
While colors, dress styles and even flower choices for weddings are trendy, changing from season to season, traditions can also fade away over time, to be replaced with new traditions.

Years ago, white was the mainstay color for bridal gowns, dogs would never have been incorporated into a ceremony, and nearly all couples were married in churches or at the courthouse. Today, although white is still popular, brides can wear any color; dogs and other pets are frequently a part of weddings; and couples get married in all kinds of places, even hot air balloons and sky diving!

When traditions change, it’s typically due to a shift in values and lifestyles over time. Things that are important to couples today were never even on their parents’ or grandparents’ radar, and one of the biggest changes in recent years is the shift towards eco-conscious weddings. “A lot of people are more conscious now, especially in Key West, about the harmful effects of plastic, plastic straws, sun screen, etc.,” says Margot Griffin of Inky Fingers Calligraphy in Key West. “Green and sustainable weddings aren’t just a trend, they’re more a part of our lifestyle.” Griffin offers a variety of services to her clients, including wedding invitations and more, and always tries to reuse and recycle items for everything from signage to place cards to banners.

“I love writing on leaves with paint pens,” she says. “The last wedding I did, we used them as place cards. I get them from local florists and they add an elegant yet earthy feeling.”

Griffin sometimes finds objects that others have cast aside and repurposes them, such as a window screen that she used as the backdrop for a seating chart, or a glass window pane transformed into a sign. “For the couple, it’s interesting to look at, and it’s not a manufactured sign from China.”

BY KAY HARRIS

Eco-Conscious Weddings

a Lifestyle Choice

BY KAY HARRIS
Other ideas for making a wedding eco-conscious:
-- incorporate vintage items, especially family heirlooms, for dresses, rings and even table settings;
-- consider using potted plants or organic and dried flowers instead of fresh flowers;
-- use nondisposable linens, plates, glassware and utensils;
-- donate leftovers from the reception and wedding celebrations to the local food bank;
-- place recycling containers for guests to use, and a compost bin for food scraps.

And in the Keys, especially in Key West, offering transportation to your guests to minimize the number of cars on the road and the need for parking is always a great idea. Several companies offer trolleys, carts, limo’s and the like to help ferry your guests around the islands. Protecting the environment is becoming a tradition, and is now easier than ever, thanks to the many options couples have today.
A JOURNEY OF A Lifetime

Begin your journey amidst turquoise waters, idyllic boat docks, and plenty of thoughtful, handcrafted touches. A truly original setting for your Key West wedding, The Perry Hotel offers unforgettable unique venues, delectable onsite catering, personalized entertainment options, and more. The wedding of your dreams awaits!
A SPECIAL DAY in a UNIQUE SETTING

Located on the beautiful bayside in the heart of Islamorada, Morada Bay is an idyllic island setting for your dream wedding. Morada Bay has a dedicated full-time Events & Catering team with the resources and imagination to create and host unforgettable events. In addition to providing a stunning backdrop for a unique and memorable day, our property has the space, the staff and the amenities to host large groups and intimate gatherings. Get in touch! Events-Catering@MoradaBay.com (305) 664 8414

MORADA BAY, 81600 OVERSEAS HIGHWAY, ISLAMORADA, FL 33036 | MORADABAY.COM
There is a rise in the number of couples honoring their faith and ethnicity during weddings. Celebrities Nick Jonas and Priyanka Chopra garnered worldwide attention for performing both Christian and Hindu ceremonies when they wed.

Throughout the Florida Keys, more and more engaged couples are deciding to include two ethnicities or religions by celebrating elements of each during their wedding day. Cuban customs are popular in South Florida and Jewish, Indian, Russian, Uzbek and Ukrainian populations are designing elaborate and unique wedding ceremonies in the Keys as well.

According to photographer Jannette De Llanos of Islamorada who photographs 100 weddings a year, fusion weddings are the term for events with mixed religion or ethnicities. She recalled a Jewish wedding in which the guests were seated and the groom came in on a horse, but she has also seen the groom enter on a hoverboard and emerge from a Ferrari. Then, while the bride is getting ready, the Jewish groom does a traditional dance and greets the bride’s family and is fed fancy desserts. The dancing continues and soon the groom, or bride and groom, are encircled or circle around one another. This symbolizes a magical wall of protection from evil spirits, temptation and the glances of other admirers and creating a new family circle.

“Our, the bride and the groom can circle together or around each other, demonstrating independent and complementary orbits,” according to brides.com.
De Llanos recalled a fusion American-Indian wedding held at the Key West Hyatt in which there were two separate ceremonies: Hindu followed by an American-style reception. De Llanos said Indian weddings are a colorful treat for any photographer. Bright colors are encouraged at Indian weddings, but red should be avoided as this is the color brides tend to wear. A ceremony in which the bride and groom circle numerous times carries various symbolic meanings comprising morality, prosperity, personal gratification and spirituality.

The wedding photographer also noticed the jewelry, especially bangles that flashed and added bling to Indian weddings. They are said to signify the long life of the husband and good fortune and prosperity.

With the ever-expanding varieties of ethnicities in Key West, one particular Mediterranean-themed restaurant and caterer is filling a niche for international dishes. Atajan Allaberdiyev is from Turkmenistan in Central Asia. Two years ago, he opened his business, Oasis, on White Street after a visit to see a friend in Key West. Adjusting from four seasons to a tropical climate has turned out well for him. In 2017, Oasis was named one of the top three best ethnic restaurants in the Keys in a newspaper contest.

Oasis patrons are delighted with Allaberdiyev’s homemade pastas and noodles, as well as international homemade breads with roots in places such as Uzbekistan, and the variety of spices that enhance his cuisine. His kabobs are made with chicken, lamb or beef, and spices from Turkish and Turkmenistan cooking include different cinnamons, paprika, cardamom and more. For desserts, homemade Napoleons and honey cakes are Oasis specialties. When wedding planners seek ethnic cuisine, Allaberdiyev is pleased to create the orders.

Nancy Davila of Unique D’Lites Custom Cakes in Islamorada is of Cuban heritage and enjoyed describing a Cuban wedding as a huge family affair in which the mother of the bride wants to control the details, there is always a fight, and the mother cries the whole day of the wedding. Her description created visuals like scenes from the movie, “My Big Fat Greek Wedding.”

Cuban men’s preferred wedding attire is any color guayabera (shirt) other than white, which is reserved for the bride. The bride’s dress is picked out en masse. All the ladies go to help make the selection, Davila said.

Music at the wedding likely is to include Cuban crooners such as Willie Cherino and Celia Cruz, and perhaps Gloria Estefan. Salsa and merengue music aims to keep the dance floor busy. The song, “Mi Tierra,” speaks with pride of the Cuban homeland and there usually are Cuban cigars and other party favors to mark the special occasion.
The dollar dance or money dance is traditional at a Cuban wedding. The bride, or sometimes groom and bride, will dance with guests as they pin money onto the bride’s gown or clothes of the groom. While the guests take turn “paying” to spend time with the esteemed couple, they know they are helping the couple pay for enjoyable times during their honeymoon, a downpayment on a house, or the myriad of items a new couple needs when setting out together in their new life.

Davila opened her cake business four years ago, and segued her degree in fashion design and illustration into unique cake designs which clients can’t find anywhere else. While she offers many flavors of cake and icings, and tastings for clients to choose their favorites, her particular favorite flavor of cake is amaretto with an expresso filling. Through the years, she has created an “art gallery” of artistic creations such as cakes in the image of a handsome groom, fish such as snook and dolphin, a firefighter’s helmet, and chandelier and hanging cakes such as one that hung from a tree at a Bohemian wedding in Key Largo. “The more challenging, the better,” said Davila.

But, don’t think a Cuban wedding is over after the cake has been served. “Even if a venue has been reserved for four hours” and the guests are shooed out, “everyone will hang out in the parking lot talking and having fun for another two hours,” she said.

Planning for a couple’s special day can be specially scripted to make it everything the couple dreams it will be, but making that day look effortless took a variety of experts who specialize in making dreams come true.
A memorable Uzbek wedding was hosted at the Key West Marriott Beachside Hotel complete with a traditional Uzbek band brought down from New York. The band played typical Uzbek musical instruments such as the favorite percussion instrument of the Uzbeks, the doira. The music and Uzbek cuisine enabled the couple to begin their life in America while honoring their past.

One side of a doira’s wooden rim, with a diameter up to fifty centimeters, is covered with a tight leather membrane, and 60 metal rings are fixed on the other side. With fingers of both hands, a musician beats on the tightly-stretched leather and at the same time shakes the doira. The rhythmic sound melds with a melodic chime of the rings. A virtuoso doira-player can produce tender sounds resembling rustling of the wind or loud drumming like thunder.

Mindy McKenzie, Marriott Beachside Hotel’s sales manager, said the Uzbek wedding was a fun and amazing event. The mother of the bride, Nora Ilkhamova, arranged with Marriott staff to make Uzbek cuisine for the wedding, from salads to desserts. On the culinary staff was a woman from Kazakhstan who was familiar with Uzbek recipes.

Uzbek brides wear white dresses, just like American brides. Ilkhamova’s daughter was born in Uzbekistan and came to the United States in 2012. She met her Uzbek husband-to-be in 2015 while working at the Starbucks at the La Concha Hotel, where he was working as a night auditor. It’s traditional in their native country to ask the parents for approval in dating their daughter. The young man did that and two months later they got married. Now, they have two daughters, said the proud grandmother.
Wedding Attire 2019

BY KAY HARRIS

What’s “In” for 2019

For couples marrying in the Keys, simple and elegant styles have long been favored for wedding gowns, bridesmaid and bridegroom attire, and for grooms. Not all wedding parties eschew the latest trends from designers, typically unveiled to the world in the international spring and fall fashion weeks, but traditional selections tend to dominate in Keys weddings.

Non-traditional brides might want to take a look, however, at fashion powerhouse Chanel’s latest creation, unveiled during the January 2019 Paris Fashion Week, which featured a model wearing a bridal bathing suit with sequins and cut-outs and a swim cap in its Mediterranean-inspired wedding line.

Other trends spotted this year include oversize bows, geometric patterns, and puffed sleeves along with the pant suit styles popularized several years ago.
Glamorous rather than outrageous is more the style for most Keys’ brides and grooms, who want to be gorgeous on their special day.

Whether a traditional or same-sex ceremony, brides have a lot of leeway in selecting their perfect “I do” dress. Long, white gowns with lace details, ruffles and embroidery are frequently seen in the Keys, along with the perennial strapless or back-baring styles.

Although it may seem as if styles for grooms are more limited, they’re not, as everything from rainbow bowties with traditional tuxes for same-sex marriages are often seen, while many men opt for the linen tropical vibe with white shirts and pants.
The sky is the limit for the wedding party, as long or short dresses for bridesmaids in pastel and bright colors are both popular, with groomsmen wearing either a tux or a more relaxed look with colorful boutonnieres, ties and pocket squares.

The one aspect that’s a bit different in the Keys for wedding attire is footwear. Outdoor and beach weddings lend themselves to sandals or bare feet, and if you plan on dipping your toes in the ocean for a photo or walking in the sand, you might want to leave the high heels at home!
Exceptional Diamonds. Curated by Sotheby’s.

Sotby’s Big Diamonds

LONDON HONG KONG NEW YORK. SOTHEBYSDIAMONDS.COM
The Do's and Don'ts of Destination Weddings

Tips for Planning Your Dream Wedding in the Florida Keys

Nearly a quarter of all weddings today are destination weddings, with the ceremony taking place somewhere other than the couples’ hometown, and the Florida Keys are one of the most popular destinations for couples. The Keys has all the benefits of a tropical locale without the need for a passport and expensive airfare.

Whether it's a second (or more) marriage, a mature couple with grown children, or a young couple looking for an adventurous venue for their big day, destination weddings can be simple, especially for those who do their homework first.

Planning is the key to a successful wedding, regardless of the venue, so make sure you have plenty of time set aside to do everything on your list. Otherwise, you risk running out of time, and changing key elements, especially from a distance, is not easy.

Following are some helpful tips for planning the wedding of your dreams in the Keys:

1. Venue.
   There are many ideal locations in the Keys, ranging from high-end, all-inclusive resorts to more budget-conscious locations. Questions to decide before you make your choice include cost, location- Key West? Marathon? Key Largo? - transportation for you and your guests, etc. Do you want to be married on the beach? Or in a lush garden? A tropical setting? Or a historic setting? Once you’ve made up your mind on the “where,” you can make decisions on pretty much everything else.

2. Picking dates.
   Don’t send out any save-the-date cards before you check with the venue on availability- yes, even beaches. In the Keys, unless they are privately owned, most beaches require permits, etc. for wedding parties. Check calendars to see if there are any big events that conflict with your selected date, and most of all, make sure that the ones you want most at your wedding are able to attend on the dates you choose. It’s at least a few days commitment for family and friends, if not a week or more, so be certain that everyone is on the same page and you ask far enough in advance to

3. Guest list
   Statistics show that only about half of those invited to destination weddings actually attend, most often due to cost and distance. Keep a tight rein on your guest list and make sure that you reserve a block of rooms for them at a discounted price. And for your closest loved ones, consider footing the bill!

4. Hiring a coordinator.
   Planning a wedding at a distance is difficult at best, and nearly impossible without someone on the other end helping you. All of the resorts have coordinators on staff to help guide you through your special day or you can hire a local wedding planner. You will be happy you did!

5. Use local vendors.
   The more you try to bring to the destination, the more expense you will incur in shipping and the more difficult you will make it on yourself. Using local vendors with locally sourced foods, flowers, decorations, etc. will make your life much easier, and your wedding will be all the lovelier for embracing the location.

Most importantly, in planning your beautiful Keys wedding, you need to make time to enjoy the weather, the sand, the sun, the blue water and the gorgeous sunsets and everything else the islands have to offer!
From weddings and corporate functions to event planning and catering, Pilot House Restaurant, Glass Bottom Bar & Marina offers a combination of quality from-scratch foods, artful presentations, and personalized service second to none. This Key Largo landmark, featured on Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives, on the Food Network and in the Netflix series “Bloodlines,” offers spectacular views, fresh local seafood, cold beer, and the best cocktails in the Keys!

MILE MARKER 99.5 | OCEAN SIDE, 13 SEAGATE BOULEVARD | KEY LARGO
305.451.3142 • www.pilothousemarina.com
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:

**MM 104 Bayside, Key Largo**

305.453.9066 • www.jjsbigchill.com

Jami Calvano  Catering Director  954.579.9201   Jcalvano133@aol.com

Mention this ad when booking with us and receive a free gift package.
GROOM STYLE
WEDDING FASHION TRENDS

GREY

NAVY

© FREAS PHOTOGRAPHY
The HOTTEST Dancers in the Keys!

Distinctive and Tasteful Florida’s Most Beautiful Women

Private Table Dances Available

Full Liquor & Food Served ’til Close

KEYS HOTTEST HAPPY HOUR
2-4-1 Dances
2-4-1 Drinks
½ Price Appetizers

Open ’til 4am!
Couples Welcome!
Bachelor & Bachelorette Parties!

MM 82 • 664-4335

TODAY'S

© RACHEL E LIGON

© BLUEEYE IMAGES

© BLUEEYE IMAGES
Ideas for Favors
Ideas for Favors

www.etsy.com/shop/ClementineWeddings

www.etsy.com/shop/MaySilk

@Blue Eyed Images Photography
Island Resort

ROMANCE REDEFINED

Island Resort'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.

MM 82.1 | 82100 Overseas Highway, Islamorada, FL | 305.664.2031 | 800.753.6002 | sales@islanderfloridakeys.com

ISLANDERFLORIDAKEYS.COM