

VACATION VOWS



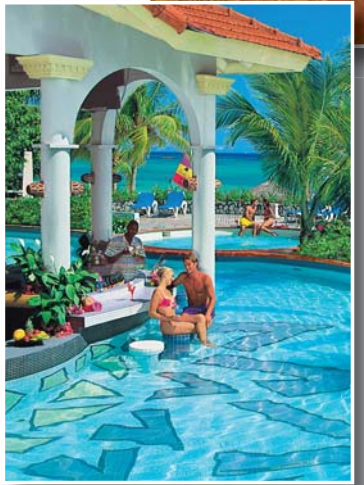
Resort-based weddings offer romantic backdrops, honeymoon amenities

Chabil Mar Villas offers a perfect spot for a wedding on the beach.



Resort honeymoons offer plenty of relaxation/personal time.

Romantic bedrooms in the center of the jungle are offered for the ultimate tropical destination at Maruba Resort & Jungle Spa.



Cool yourself off with a cold drink from the swim-up bar located in the center of the pool at Sandals Resorts



Private dinners along the water add to an already romantic setting at Sandals Resorts.

backdrop of snow-capped mountains, on horseback at a ranch dotted with cacti or underwater in scuba gear surrounded by coral tipped reefs and exotic fish. More and more brides and grooms are forsaking the family church, synagogue or local country club for a site that will reflect their personalities and make their special ceremony just a little more special.

Because a destination wedding is generally an airplane flight away, the guest list can be very small or limited to the bride and groom. It can also be a grand affair with family and friends flying in from all over the world to celebrate with you in a jaw-dropping location and staying on for the honeymoon.

It depends on budget as well as what kind of wedding the bride and groom really want. Most resorts, no matter how small, will be delighted to have an intimate wedding on their grounds. A justice of the peace and two witnesses is really all it takes. However, many destinations have packages that include the help of a professional wedding

coordinator who will take care of each and every detail. And many properties offer free weddings if you spend a required number of days there.

SANDALS RESORTS in Jamaica, Antigua, St. Lucia, Turks & Caicos and the Bahamas have married the wedding and the honeymoon to create the Wedding Moon. It is a free wedding package if you honeymoon at one of their beautiful destinations for a minimum of five nights. Everything from a stunning wedding site to a romantic, candlelight dinner for the bride and groom is included. For more, visit www.sandals.com.

If a world renown rock star, the latest Hollywood heart-throb or Richard Branson himself is not staying at Necker Island, Branson's private paradise in the **BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS**, you can rent this part of heaven for your destination wedding. However, your pockets better be very deep: This breathtaking Balinese villa, which can accommodate up to 26 guests, is exceedingly pricey. The views, food and accommodations are awesome, and the staff will take care of each and every detail. For more, visit

www.sanctuary.com.

Long the favorite destination of divers, archeologists and jungle trekkers, **BELIZE**, a magnificent piece of paradise on the Caribbean coast of Central America and a short two hour flight from Miami, has been luring honeymooners with a sense of adventure and a love of beauty for years.

And now, several of the stunning resorts on the island are hosting weddings. Couples might consider a jungle locale with the lush foliage and tropical flora of the rain forest as a backdrop, a ceremony atop a Mayan temple, a barefoot sun-tanned wedding on the beach, or the ultimate experience for the scuba set; an underwater wedding where the pristine waters are teeming with colorful fish and exotic plant life. Maruba Resort & Jungle Spa as seen on Temptation Island is the ultimate tropical destination for a wedding as well as a luxurious honeymoon. Imagine jungle drums playing, coconut palms swaying and torches lighting the way as natives fan the bride and groom with palm fronds as they take their vows under a breathtaking star-studded tropical sky. This can be followed by a cocktail party and a full gourmet dinner and dancing. Since a wide variety of wedding and honeymoon packages are available that include superb native spa treatments, as well as safari and scuba adventures, any would-be Tarzan and Jane can

have the wedding of their dreams. For more information, visit www.maruba-belize.com.

CHABIL MAR VILLAS on the white sand beaches of Belize's Placencia peninsula is the perfect spot for a wedding on the beach, under a thatched roof on the 180 foot pier or near the beautiful infinity pool. Unlike many of the rustic accommodations in Belize, which offer few amenities, Chabil nods to the 21st century with air-conditioning, phones, TV and Internet access as well as stunning, beautifully furnished two bedroom villas with living rooms and full kitchens. The management can arrange all the details of a wedding including flowers, music, photographers and a minister. For more information, visit www.chabilmarbze.com.

Another good choice is **PORTOFINO**, a small European-influenced resort on Ambergris Caye where a wedding on the white sand beach and a honeymoon in the VIP/Honeymoon suite will guarantee memories that will last a lifetime. For more information, visit www.portofinobelize.com.

If you are thinking about a

destination wedding, check residence and legal requirements for marriage before even considering the destination. Then ask yourself the following questions: Will the people you really want to be at your wedding make the trip? Is the place accessible or must you take two planes, a boat and a donkey to get there? Is it expensive? Too expensive? Do you want an all-inclusive wedding package or do you want to plan everything yourselves? Then check all the hidden extras, taxes, gratuities, etc. Get everything in a written contract specifying what is included such as flowers, champagne, wine and food. Get recent references from several couples who had their wedding at the destination you are considering. Then prepare to have the most wonderful experience of your life. For more information, visit www.HoneymoonOutlet.com.

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