



HAVE A WEDDING “YOUR” WAY IN THE ST. PETERSBURG/CLEARWATER AREA

***From Elegant Ceremonies at Historic Resorts to Tie Dyed Nuptials with a Frisbee Bouquet,
Florida’s Beach Weddings Match Your Style***

Picturesque sunsets, beautiful beaches and year-round sunshine have long made St. Petersburg/Clearwater – Florida’s Beach the ideal setting for weddings large or small. Whether it is a traditional wedding or custom designed to the couples wishes, area coordinators have developed innovative ways to meet any nuptial needs. Area wedding services have arranged everything from a “flower dog,” a Frisbee bouquet and a tie dyed wedding party to a comical groom who jokingly inserted cleaning duties into the vows (don’t worry, the bride didn’t fall for it). For those who want the traditional, to the intimate and even the obscure, the St. Petersburg/Clearwater area is just the right size for your wedding.

The area has a variety of services to help future newlyweds plan their special day. Coordinators provide information ranging from how to set up a unique, personalized wedding; planning an elegant affair at an exclusive resort; scenic locations to hold the event; and how to easily obtain a license. Here are just a few of the services, accommodations, locations, additional services and license information available at Florida’s Beach:

Wedding Services

Weddings on a Whim

Weddings on a Whim coordinates everything from a parasailing ceremony at 1,000 feet or a bikini wedding to more traditional events (including flower dogs and Frisbee bouquets). They perform weddings at beaches, bayside and historic sites throughout St. Petersburg/Clearwater. WoW is dedicated to finding couples a convenient, affordable, stress-free plan for ceremonial programs that turn weddings, elopements, renewal of marriage vows and commitment

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800-822-6461 or 727-464-7200; Fax 727-533-2183; Wit@FloridasBeach.com

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ceremonies into meaningful and memorable occasions. WoW specializes in mini-weddings with ceremony packages beginning at \$200.

727-392-2320; www.weddingsonawhim.com

Allen Wedding Company

Allen Wedding Company can arrange a complete wedding and reception on your own island. Arrive by wave runner or boat and depart by seaplane or helicopter. Or have a sunset ceremony on a private yacht – with anything from 6 to 275 people. Packages include all the arrangements for any size group, the minister, flowers, photos and video, cake and punch and even dinner and dancing. AWC can plan a wedding next year, next month, next weekend or tomorrow.

727-443-0039; www.suncoastwedding.com

A Day to Remember

Whether a wedding involves 50 or 500 people, a traditional wedding in a church or a medieval theme, A Day to Remember can accommodate any newlywed needs. Haven't popped the question yet? A Day to Remember also features unique ideas for proposals.

813-571-9706; www.foradaytoremember.com

Bella Rose

The ideal location, entertainment and the perfect gown are just a few of the overwhelming decisions facing a newly engaged couple. Bella Rose has compiled this information and can refer clients to reliable vendors such as florists, entertainment and caterers. With services to meet individual needs; save time, money and stress.

727-463-7673; www.bellaroseweddings.com

Accommodations

Bed & Breakfast Inns

A Bed and Breakfast is a quaint and intimate place to hold a wedding. The St. Petersburg/Clearwater area is home to nearly 30 of these historic inns. The area features the only AAA-Four Diamond Bed & Breakfast on Florida's West Coast as well as waterfront properties

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and inns with yacht and country club privileges right next door. Visitors may find fine dining, spas and arts all under one roof. Each B&B's personal touch will leave a lasting impression and be a unique and elegant setting for a couple's special day.

888-655-STAY (7829), 727-742-5751; www.spaabbi.com

Bellevue Biltmore Resort & Spa

Built in 1897, the Biltmore rests on a high coastal bluff overlooking the Gulf of Mexico. Today, the 292-room resort holds a position on the National Register of Historic Places and hosts more than 140 weddings a year. With unique indoor-banquet facilities, including the classical, 13,000-square-foot Tiffany Ballroom, as well as beautiful grounds, the highly trained event professionals with assist with every detail. It also features a Donald Ross golf course, a newly renovated 14,000-sq.-ft. spa, tennis facilities, boat dock and a 2 ½-mile off-site, semi-private beach.

25 Bellevue Blvd., Clearwater FL 33756

800-237-8947 or 727-442-6171; www.bellevuebiltmore.com

Don CeSar Beach Resort & Spa

Located on the Gulf of Mexico, The Don CeSar is as rich in luxury as it is in history. Originally opened in 1928, this "pink palace" features Mediterranean and Moorish architecture and includes numerous balconies and terraces. Original owner Thomas Rowe named the 340-room property after a character in the Italian opera *Maritana*. The Don was a favorite of high society including F. Scott Fitzgerald and his wife, Zelda as well as Al Capone and baseball-player Lou Gehrig. A member of the Historic Hotels of North America and the National Register of Historic Places, the Don was also named a historical monument by the National Archives.

The Don CeSar hosts more than 300 weddings per year and their event professionals can assist in everything from an intimate gathering on the beach to 1,000 guests classically attired for a traditional ceremony. The resort's powdery beaches, sweeping staircases and tropical gardens are breathtaking accents for wedding ceremonies and portraits. A comprehensive program at the Don allows brides to arrange either a select few or all wedding details through the resort, from videographers and bands to flowers and cakes. In addition to its white-sand beach, the Don also

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includes a Beach Club & Spa featuring sea salt body scrubs and surfside massages to relax any pre-wedding stress.

3400 Gulf Blvd., St. Pete Beach, FL 33706
727-367-3609; www.don-cesar.com

Renaissance Vinoy Resort & Golf Club

Built in 1925, the Renaissance Vinoy Resort is a 375-room property listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is a member of the Historic Hotels of America. In its heyday, the Mediterranean Revival-style hotel was frequented by Calvin Coolidge, Babe Ruth, Herbert Hoover and numerous celebrities and entertainers. The Vinoy has undergone a \$93 million restoration and expansion adding a tower and recreational facilities including an 18-hole, Ron Garl golf course, 74-slip marina and Mediterranean spa.

The historic Vinoy Resort has an expert staff of event managers that can handle all of the wedding details. Several options for the wedding's location include:

- The Tea Garden, providing a tranquil outdoor setting for an intimate gathering
- Vinoy Grand Ballroom, which holds more than 450 and is designed in a 1920s Mediterranean décor
- The Esplanade offers an outdoor private area with superb views of the bay and marina
- Sunset Ballroom, which is similar in style to the Grand Ballroom but geared more toward intimate gatherings.

501 5th Avenue NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33701
727-894-1000; www.renaissancehotels.com/TPASR

Sirata Beach Resort & Conference Center

Located on St. Pete Beach, the Sirata Beach Resort & Conference Center provides options for traditional and unique wedding services. Couples can wed on the beach, host a poolside cocktail party and share their first dance in a dazzling ballroom, all at one resort. The Royal Palm, popular for wedding receptions, has a magnificent panoramic view of the Gulf of Mexico and the Intercoastal Waterway.

5300 Gulf Blvd., St. Pete Beach, FL 33706
800-344-5999; www.siratabeach.com

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Tradewinds Island Grand

Located on the island of St. Pete Beach, the romantic flagship property, TradeWinds Island Grand, showcases the area's tropical scenery in a number of venues, including the Garden Courtyard Gazebo and the Island Ballroom. Couples looking for a unique getaway can cruise into the sunset aboard a beautiful gondola that meanders through the lush waterways of the TradeWinds Island Grand.

Removed, quiet and inviting, The Sandpiper is the TradeWinds more intimate side. It is the Florida beach experience of relaxed, tropical solitude. The perfect setting for couples looking for a quiet yet elegant event. Brides selecting a wedding reception package at either of the TradeWinds Island Resorts receive a free wedding planner from the Beverly Clark Collection.

5500 Gulf Blvd., St. Pete Beach FL 33706
800-562-1240; www.tradewindsresort.com

Locations

Andrews Memorial Chapel

Located in Hammock Park and constructed in 1888, the chapel is considered a prime example of Victorian architecture in Florida and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The unique setting is a popular wedding location and the chapel hosts more than 150 weddings a year. The chapel is constructed with two foyers with Gothic archways leading into the sanctuary where the original stained glass windows still remain.

1899 San Mateo Drive, Dunedin, FL 34698
727-736-1176; www.andrewsmemorialchapel.com

Egmont Key

Located at the mouth of Tampa Bay south of St. Petersburg, Egmont Key is an undeveloped tropical barrier island accessible only by private charter or aboard excursion vessels. This historic 360-acre island has unique natural and cultural histories including a lighthouse (built in 1858) that is still in operation. The lighthouse continues to operate as Florida's sixth brightest lighthouse. The prime spot for wedding ceremonies is at the base of the lighthouse.

727-893-2627; www.dep.state.fl.us/parks/district4/egmontkey/index.asp

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Harborview Center

The Harborview Center can host an event for 40 to 1,400 people, and can provide all the amenities for the occasion. The 35,000-sq.-ft. conference level includes a 17,000-sq.-ft. ballroom, divisible in halves or quarters that can hold 300 to 450 guests each. The 3,900-sq.-ft. Clearwater Room, with its inviting view of the harbor and beachfront skyline, is an impressive site for a reception or luncheon. Wedding Packages include room rental, dance floor, white linens and napkins, skirted DJ Table, head table for 16, gift table and a cake cutting service. The Harborview Center offers several menu options ranging from large buffet to a simple luncheon.

300 Cleveland St. Clearwater, FL 33755
727-462-6778; www.harborv.com

Mirror Lake Lyceum

Located on the west bank of Mirror Lake in historically-rich downtown St. Petersburg, the former First Christian Church, built in 1926, re-opened in early 2000 as a meeting and special events venue. The three-story structure offers a subtle yet unique elegance from the first-floor entrance foyer and main lobby to the ballroom area. The main floor features the 3,478-sq.-ft. grand hall and 2,720-sq.-ft. ballroom and boasts a capacity of 25 to 800. The 1920s stained glass windows have been entirely restored, and the original hardwood floors and inlaid terrazzo enhance the delicate detail of the hand-carved ornamental plaster moldings. Chandeliers and fixtures made of plaster, crystal and alabaster decorate the grand hall with its 53-foot domed ceiling. Wedding parties can also make use of the Bridal and Groom suites or for the grandest traditional weddings, a Horse Carriage Service.

737 3rd Avenue North, Saint Petersburg, FL 33701
727-821-1926; www.mirrorlakelyceum.net

Starlite Cruises

Starlite Cruises the Starlite Princess Riverboat and Starlite Majest Dining Yacht which both feature elegant decor and first-class service. Each vessel offers plush interiors with large picture windows for unobstructed viewing. Cruises depart from Clearwater and St. Petersburg. More than 300 weddings have been celebrated on the cruises with elegant decor, fine dining, first-rate musicians, and an ever-changing water view on smooth inland waters.

727-462-2628; www.starlitecruises.com

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Sunken Gardens

An exotic collection of more than 50,000 tropical plants and flowers including more than 200 species bloom year-round at this six-acre garden which includes a wedding lawn and a butterfly garden. Owned by the City of St. Petersburg, the Gardens are managed by the Parks Department. The Oak Pavilion and the Butterfly Garden may be used for more intimate gatherings. The gardens are available 7 days a week from 9 a.m. to dusk.

1825 Fourth Street North, St. Petersburg, FL 33704
727-551-3100; www.stpete.org/sunken.htm

The Florida Botanical Gardens at Pinewood Cultural Park

The Florida Botanical Gardens is one of the newest attractions in the area and hosts a Celebration Garden in addition to seven other unique gardens. The Celebration Garden is ideal for outdoor weddings with its formal floral designs, an open grass plaza and a gazebo surrounded by fountains. The Celebration Garden is enclosed with an ivy-covered stone wall to provide privacy for special occasions.

12175 125th Street N, Largo, FL 33774
727-582-2100; www.flbg.org

Additional Services

Wedding Butterfly Release by Monarch Butterfly

In addition to a wide variety of facilities and locations for weddings, St. Petersburg is also home to a unique business that caters to wedding events. The Monarch Butterfly Farm provides Monarch Butterflies as well as a variety of other butterfly species to be released at weddings by guests and the wedding party. They have provided butterflies for hundreds of weddings throughout the United States (Note: The Monarch Butterfly Farm does not distribute to states west of the 100th Meridian (Rocky Mountains). The Farm can provide anywhere from 15 to 200 butterflies and provides a keepsake envelope for the butterfly to be released from for a small additional fee.

727-381-1932; www.floridamonarch.com

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Marriage License Information

A marriage license may be obtained Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court.

Recording Services Department
315 Court Street, Clearwater, Florida 33756
Telephone: 727-464-4876

Both parties of the intended marriage must come into the Clerk's Office. Each party must have valid photo identification such as a driver's license, state identification card, government or military identification card, or a passport. A social security number is required to obtain a marriage license. If either party is from a foreign country and not a U.S. citizen, alien registration documentation, or other proof that contains an alien registration number is acceptable to obtain a marriage license. Blood tests are not required to receive a marriage license. The marriage must be solemnized within 60 days of issuance of the marriage license. The ceremony can be performed anywhere in the State of Florida.

St. Petersburg/Clearwater – Florida's Beach is the leading destination on Florida's Gulf coast, drawing more than 12 million visitors annually including 4.7 million overnight visitors who stay an average of 7 days. The area is best known for 35 miles of spectacular beaches and record-breaking sunshine. A variety of attractions, world-class museums, sporting activities and nature-related experiences are also readily available.

For more information on Florida's Beach, call 1-877-FL-BEACH (352-3224) in the U.S. and Canada, or 1-727-464-7200 internationally. Or take a virtual visit to the area on the Internet at www.FloridasBeach.com.

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*High-resolution photos of the area are available on the Internet, by e-mail or on CD.
Please request them from wit@floridasbeach.com*