

# TOWN & COUNTRY WEDDINGS

FALL/WINTER 2012

THE 60  
MOST  
STUNNING  
GOWNS

STRAPLESS,  
SHORT,  
SWEEPING &  
MORE

GORGEIOUS  
HAIR  
THAT LASTS  
THROUGH THE  
AFTERPARTY

[PAGE 88]

HOW MUCH  
DOES A  
YEARLONG  
HONEYMOON  
COST?

[PAGE 92]

{ A FASHION  
HEIRESS  
SAYS "I DO" }

[PAGE 16]

&  
GET  
INSPIRED  
SHOES TO DANCE IN  
FANTASY TENTS  
CUSTOM JEWELS

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# STYLE SPY

## The Vow Factor

Getting hitched at a hotel chapel doesn't always mean a trip to Vegas. We break down the best places around the world, where you can go from ceremony to cocktail hour in a matter of minutes.

BY STEPHANIE WU

**ROYAL TREATMENT**  
At the One&Only Palmilla, brides arrive in horse-drawn carriages.

**FUN FACT** › The hotel can arrange a native Mexican wedding ritual—including a shaman—signifying the longevity of love.



LOS CABOS, MEXICO

### ONE&ONLY PALMILLA

**STEAL AWAY TO CABO FOR A BEACH WEDDING ON** the Baja Peninsula, beloved vacation spot of such Hollywood legends as John Wayne and Lucille Ball.

**THE CEREMONY:** Reserve six to eight months in advance; the chapel can accommodate 40 guests inside and 150 more outside.

**THE RECEPTION:** Venues include the resort's outdoor pool deck (up to 250 guests) and the ballroom, with stage (150).

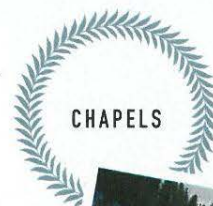
**THE ACCOMMODATIONS:** A one-bedroom suite is the most popular option for the bride to be, as there's ample space to get ready. Guests can stay in the remaining 172 rooms.

**THE FINE PRINT:** The hotel provides all food and beverages, and must sign off on outside vendors, such as photographers and DJs. You'll also need to make your own arrangements (such as a trip to City Hall) to ensure that the marriage is legal in the U.S.

**THE PERKS:** Your very own horse-drawn carriage and footman, and a custom fireworks display.

**THE DOWNTIME:** Snorkeling in the Sea of Cortez. [palmilla.oneandonlyresorts.com](http://palmilla.oneandonlyresorts.com)





CHAPELS

# STYLE & SPY



GEORGIA

## SEA ISLAND

OFF THE GEORGIA coast, this is a favorite for couples who have spent family vacations at the resort.

**THE CEREMONY:** Book the popular Cloister Chapel, which seats 75 people, up to a year in advance.

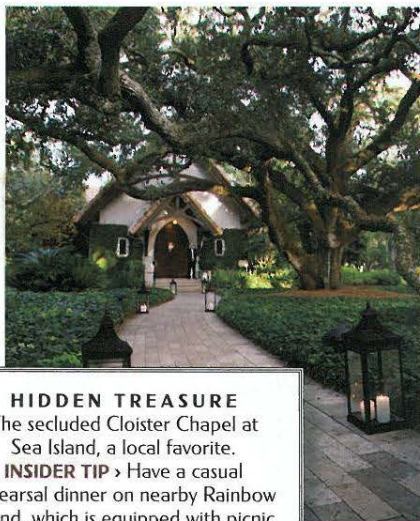
**THE RECEPTION:** Typically held in the hotel ballroom, which can fit 400 guests.

**THE ACCOMMODATIONS:** The wedding package includes a complimentary room for a night—with rose petals and champagne—for the bride and groom.

**THE FINE PRINT:** Thanks to an event design team, everything from table linens to floral arrangements will be taken care of on-site.

**THE PERKS:** Access to Sea Island's famous yacht club, spa, and beach club.

**THE DOWNTIME:** A group trip to nearby St. Simons Island. [seaisland.com](http://seaisland.com)



### HIDDEN TREASURE

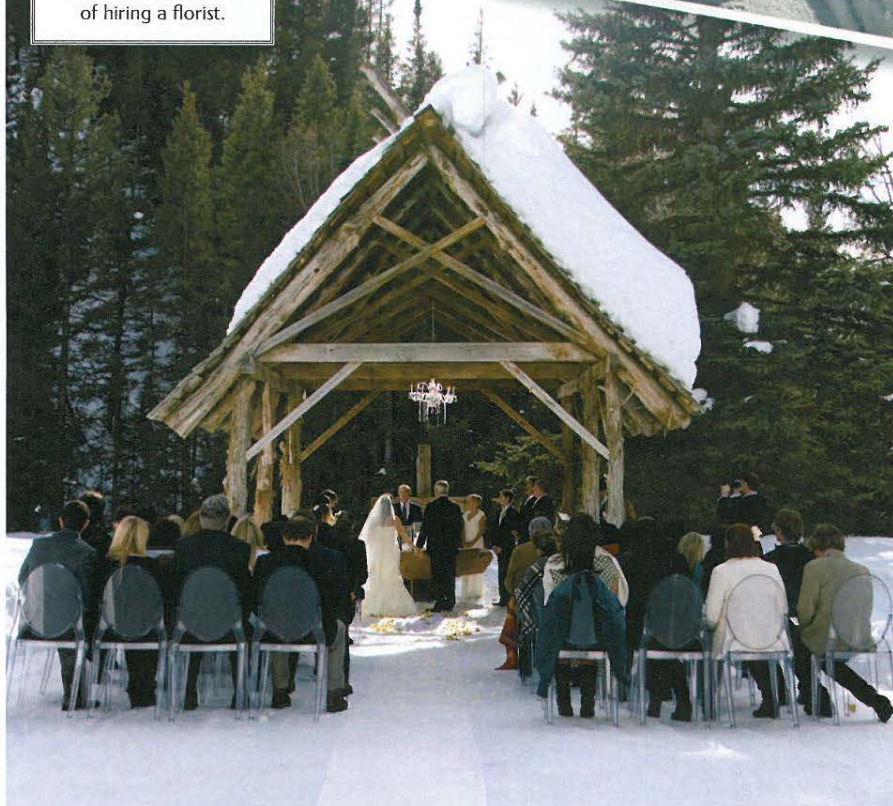
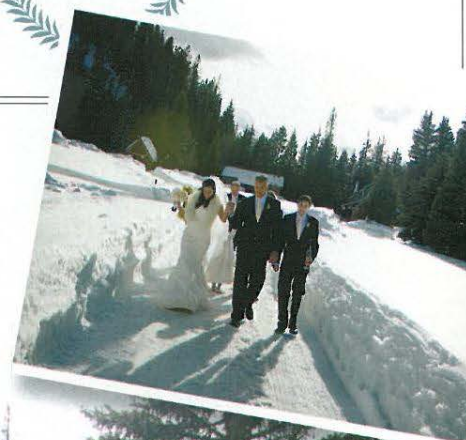
The secluded Cloister Chapel at Sea Island, a local favorite.

**INSIDER TIP** > Have a casual rehearsal dinner on nearby Rainbow Island, which is equipped with picnic tables and an oyster roasting station.

### WINTER WHITES

A couple get married in a snow-covered chapel in Colorado's San Juan Mountains.

**FUN FACT** > During summer, some bridal parties pick flowers in the meadows instead of hiring a florist.



COLORADO

## DUNTON HOT SPRINGS

THIS BARE-BONES SPA RESORT, A former ghost town near Telluride, is a great venue for a rustic gathering.

**THE CEREMONY:** Up to 60 guests can be seated on the outdoor benches and chairs. Pendleton blankets are supplied if the weather gets chilly.

**THE RECEPTION:** Typically held in town at the hotel-owned Saloon and Dance Hall.

**THE ACCOMMODATIONS:** Stay at the

Well House, the only cabin with a private hot springs soaking tub.

**THE FINE PRINT:** Dunton Hot Springs has no vendor restrictions. Brides have booked two years in advance for a buyout, which allows 44 guests to stay overnight.

**THE PERKS:** Colorado lets just about anyone marry you with the right license.

**THE DOWNTIME:** A restorative dip in the springs, of course. [duntonhotsprings.com](http://duntonhotsprings.com)





# STYLE & SPY



## DRAMATIC ENTRANCE

Outside the St. Francis of Assisi chapel. Above: Images of the five-story open-air rotunda staircase at Mission Inn Hotel & Spa. **INSIDER TIP** › Nearly 400 weddings are held at the historic chapel every year. Saturdays are typically booked up a year in advance.

## CALIFORNIA

### MISSION INN HOTEL & SPA

**A WEDDING AT MISSION** Inn, with its stained glass windows and stunning architecture, truly feels like a fairy tale.

**THE CEREMONY:** There's room for 150 in the historic St. Francis of Assisi chapel, an hour outside Los Angeles.

**THE RECEPTION:** Options include the Music Room, which resembles the banquet hall of a castle, and the art gallery.

**THE ACCOMMODATIONS:** Stay in the Alhambra Suite, where Ron and Nancy Reagan started their honeymoon.

**THE FINE PRINT:** You have to pick vendors from Mission's exclusive list.

**THE PERKS:** The Tuscan-inspired spa, which has a eucalyptus steam room, is great for bridal party pampering.

**THE DOWNTIME:** Take a guided tour of the hotel's museum and two chapels. [missioninn.com](http://missioninn.com)

## URUGUAY

### ESTANCIA VIK

**THIS SPANISH COLONIAL-STYLE** resort draws art and food lovers alike.

**THE CEREMONY:** The open-air chapel holds up to 150 guests.

**THE RECEPTION:** Put up a tent almost anywhere on the 4,000-acre property.

**THE ACCOMMODATIONS:** Stay in a master suite (designed by local artists); each has a fireplace and a balcony.

**THE FINE PRINT:** A buyout of the 12-suite resort is required. No vendor restrictions, but you'll have to ensure that the marriage is legal at home.

**THE PERKS:** A complimentary three-night stay on your first anniversary.

**THE DOWNTIME:** Head to beachside sister property Playa Vik for a swim. [vikretreats.com](http://vikretreats.com)



## GRAFFITI ART

Estancia Vik's barbecue room, designed by Marcelo LeGrand. Above: The outdoor chapel. **FUN FACT** › In a nod to the location, one couple arrived at their ceremony in true Uruguayan gaucho fashion: on horseback.

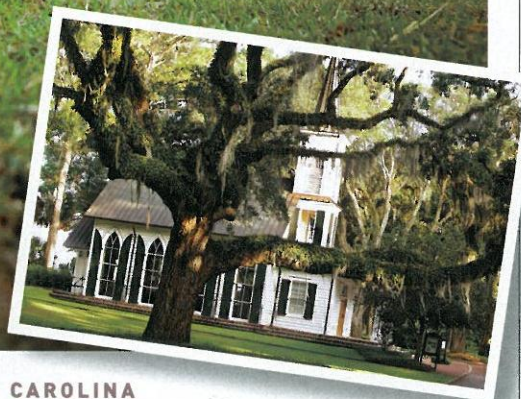


**HAND IN HAND**

The Waterside Chapel at Palmetto Bluff, set among majestic live oaks.

**INSIDER TIP >**

For a real Southern experience, book the 15-member Gullah Choir to perform before the bride walks down the aisle.

**SOUTH CAROLINA****THE INN AT PALMETTO BLUFF**

**EMBRACE SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY** by celebrating in the Lowcountry.

**THE CEREMONY:** The charming Waterside Chapel holds 90 guests. Book a year in advance.

**THE RECEPTION:** Typically at the inn's River House Ballroom, which seats 200. The veranda has views of the May River.

**THE ACCOMMODATIONS:** Fifty cozy guest cottages, including eight suites.

**THE FINE PRINT:** Food and beverages come from the resort. To legally marry, you'll need a South Carolina license, which takes 24 hours to process.

**THE PERKS:** Have your rehearsal dinner in the 4,000-bottle wine cellar.

**THE DOWNTIME:** Canoe or kayak along the river to explore freshwater trails, or take a day trip to Savannah. *palmetto-bluffresort.com* ●

FROM TOP: CHIPPHOTOGRAPHYOFCHARLESTON.COM; ZIELENBACH.COM