

HONEYMOON-BOUND? FLIP TO OUR GUIDE!

# DESTINATION WEDDINGS

h honeymoons



# 25

amazing  
vow locales  
picked by our  
A-List Planners!

your top  
etiquette  
questions  
solved!

spotlight  
seychelles

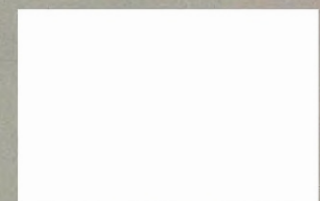
WHY WE LOVE IT

# 10

ways to  
keep your  
bridal party  
happy



REAL  
WEDDINGS  
IN FLORIDA,  
IRELAND,  
MEXICO  
AND MORE





NORTH CAROLINA

## upscale and down-home

For couples seeking a venue that blends high-end luxury with down-home comfort, the FEARRINGTON HOUSE, a century-old dairy farm turned 32-room Relais & Chateaux inn, strikes the perfect balance. Tucked away in Pittsboro, a hamlet 10 minutes from Chapel Hill and 30 minutes out of Raleigh-Durham, the property features five ceremony sites and two reception spaces, including the circa-1927 Barn (above), which can accommodate 100 to 350 for any style fete, from a casual barbecue to an elegant four-course spread. Or opt for the Garden Terrace (seats 100), a sleek indoor-outdoor spot with glass walls and a fireplace. Whatever setting you choose, expect the staff to add a warm personal touch. Brides work hand in hand with an onsite floral studio, one of two wedding planners, and cake designer Jill Leckey, who can even whip up delectable handmade chocolates — a perfect take-away treat for guests. *Rooms from \$299; weddings custom. — Rona Berg*



CALIFORNIA

## hidden valley

The small town of Ojai, nestled in the mountains 90 miles north of Los Angeles, is not only a mecca for artists and nature lovers but also the home of OJAI VALLEY INN & SPA, built in 1923. The Spanish colonial accents lend a cozy vibe to the inn's 308 rooms and suites (including one- to five-bedroom haciendas), while the onsite Artist's Cottage & Apothecary offers custom blending of aromatherapy oils, a creative attendant favor. Ceremony sites include the Herb Garden, the Hacienda Courtyard and the Friendship Tree, decked out with hanging candles. For the reception, choose from ballrooms, lawns and the Big Red Barn — every bit as bucolic as it sounds. In their downtime, guests can lounge at the pool, bike the trails crisscrossing the 220-acre property or visit Spa Ojai, where access is free for overnight visitors. *Rooms from \$325; weddings custom. — Tara Bradley*

MEXICO

## PERFECT MATCH

Want proof that all-inclusives and one-of-a-kind I do's aren't mutually exclusive? Palace Resorts has multiple options along the Mexican Caribbean; here are three standouts.



### BUFF BRIDE

The 777-room **Aventura Spa Palace** is custom-made for fitness-minded couples. In addition to its 100-foot climbing tower and 14-obstacle fitness trail, the resort is equipped with a suite of clay huts for *temazcal*, a ritual Maya detox treatment.

Follow up all that purifying with a gazebo ceremony complete with a quintet of mariachis.



### SPIRITUAL SEEKER

Most couples wanting to hold a traditional Catholic ceremony in Mexico have to go the local-church route, but the 2,434-room **Moon Palace Golf & Spa Resort** carries a special distinction: It houses one of only three officially ordained resort chapels in the country. Bonus: The glass-enclosed altar overlooks the turquoise Caribbean Sea.



### CLUB HOPPER

Every couple wants to feel on top of the world on their wedding day, but the 287-room **Beach Palace** really makes good on that wish. The resort's South Beach-chic rooftop Sky Bar has a weddings-only space with glass walls, an open sky and 360-degree views. *Rooms at all from \$199, all-inclusive; weddings at all from \$1,925. — Liz Ozaist*