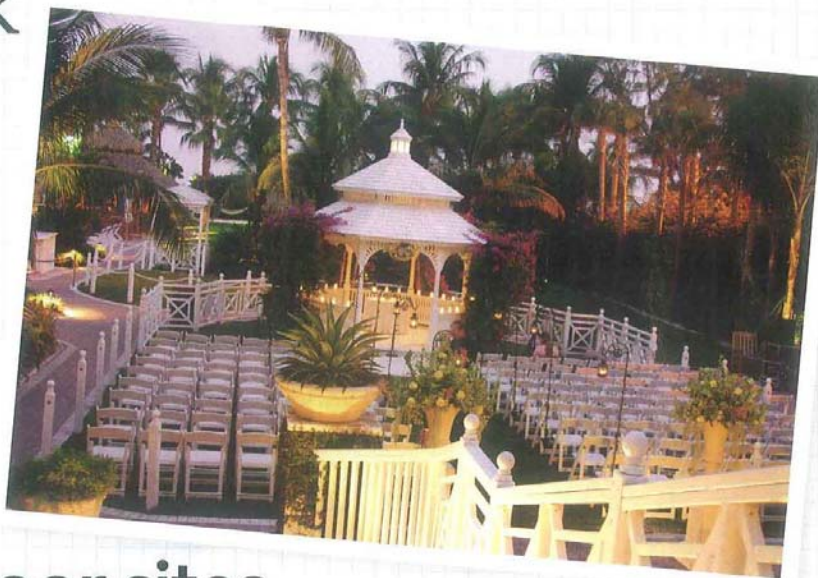


the knot notebook



best outdoor sites

The prettiest places to wed and party under the sun or stars. BY JAYME KLOCK

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1. fairy-tale magic

Fulfill your childhood fantasies at **Walt Disney World** in Orlando. Wed in a pavilion with Cinderella's castle as your backdrop while Disney pals drop by your reception. Not really your thing? You can also host your wedding in the Italian courtyard or Japanese garden at Epcot, just east of Disney's Boardwalk Resort/Sea Breeze Point overlooking Crescent Lake. The Disney caterers will work with you to create a magical menu. (321) 939-4610, DisneyWeddings.Go.com

2. lush lawns

TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach has two premier golf courses, which can make pristine backdrops for your vows. Hold your wedding on the 11,400-square-foot lawn; it has views of a pond, waving palm

trees and the 18th green and can accommodate up to 500 guests for dinner, catered by the facility. Nearby is the massive Mediterranean-style clubhouse. (904) 273-3344, TPC.com

3. tropical escape

The Hyatt Regency Bonaventure Conference Center & Spa in Weston is a chic resort on 23 acres of tropical gardens. The Rainforest Patio holds 250 guests overlooking exotic plants and flowers, a stream, fountains and a pond. Receptions must be catered by the hotel. (954) 349-5778, Bonaventure.Hyatt.com

4. island hideaway

Sitting on the secluded Captiva Island coastline, **South Seas Island Resort** is perfect if you don't want a sandy ceremony but do want Gulf of Mexico views. The East Lawn

overlooks the Yacht Harbor and is filled with palm trees and tropical flowers. Or have your wedding on the West Lawn with a view of the golf course. Take your photos at Sunset Cove, an isolated beachfront right on the gulf. (800) 524-7601, SouthSeas.com

5. luxe inn

The Inn on Fifth in Naples has two outdoor wedding spots. The Rooftop Courtyard can seat 175 guests and features tropical, poolside waterfalls. The Fifth Avenue Terrace has a view of downtown and can seat 80 guests. The inn provides upscale catering and an escape from the busy vacation town. (239) 280-2703, InnOnFifth.com

6. dolphin adventure

Ever dreamt of swimming with dolphins—at your wedding? At **Marineland** in St. Augustine, you

can pose for portraits with the resident sea creatures. Hold your ceremony on the habitat's sloping beach. The site can accommodate up to 400 guests, and in-house catering is available. (877) 933-3401, Marineland.net

7. breathtaking beachfront

Florida's Gulf Coast is known for its white-sand beaches, and **Carillon Beach** is no exception. The patio of the palm-lined pool sits on the banks of Lake Carillon, while the lawns of the Resort Green are spacious enough for larger weddings. Or dance outside under lit palms on the balconies of the Market Street Ballroom. (850) 230-0855, Carillon-Beach.com

8. elegant estate

Ceremonies with up to 250 guests at **the Deering Estate** at **Cutler** in Miami

take place on a palm tree-lined lawn with a view of the Biscayne Bay. The courtyard in front of the Grand Stone House has backlit stone archways and trees, creating a soft glow for your wedding. You choose all of the vendors, making the estate feel like your home for the day! (305) 235-1668 x236, DeeringEstate.com

9. riverfront terrace

Located in the heart of downtown Jacksonville, the **Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront** has outdoor terraces along the St. Johns River. The River Deck Balcony can accommodate up to 600 and looks out onto the Main Street Bridge. The River Terrace has a private balcony that overlooks the four-mile boardwalk lined with palm trees, adding a tropical splash to the city view. (904) 360-8684, Jacksonville.Hyatt.com



10. regal resort

The Palms Hotel & Spa in South Beach has lush gardens and a colonial-style gazebo. The covered **Veranda Terrace** is close to the beach and lets in ocean breezes during your reception (which must be catered by the resort). Living up to its name, the tropical resort is completely covered in palm trees. (305) 534-0505, ThePalmsHotel.com



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