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ROYAL PALMS RESORT AND SPA SEES TREND IN LUXURIOUS DESTINATION WEDDINGS

PHOENIX — Destination weddings have become a hot trend, and the Royal Palms Resort and Spa, managed by Destination Hotels & Resorts, is a natural choice for couples seeking an experience of pure romance, beauty and a complete celebration for family and friends.

What couples want in a wedding site

According to Royal Palms, couples often choose a site they have never visited. They research on the Internet and seek counsel from well-traveled friends, looking for a location with the weather and ambiance to provide a festive vacation for their guests as well as themselves. Of primary importance in the decision-making process is a resort's reputation for luxury, romance, service and wedding productions.

Royal Palms lends itself to everything true romantics are seeking. The resort has a reputation as the venue for local crème de la crème weddings. With its intimate residential design and ambiance, it naturally provides a romantic, luxurious environment with a desired climate to match.

Wandering the stone-paved walkways of the Royal Palms provides instant romantic appeal. Regal Spanish Colonial I architecture, beautifully sculpted gardens, masterfully decorated rooms, award-winning Mediterranean cuisine and refined, gracious service give members of the wedding party the feeling they are the honored guests of a grand estate.

The intimate, residential feel, combined with the cultured, aesthetic look of the Royal Palms, lends itself perfectly to all functions associated with weddings, including the ceremony, reception, rehearsal dinner, bridal lunch, and showers. Those who prefer the personal feeling of home with the polish of a fine resort often select the Royal Palms. States Jocelyn Kraus, food and beverage director, "The resort and landscaping are so enchanting, we don't have to embellish the property at all, and are able to focus on fulfilling the couple's special requests."

Director of Romance

Overseeing all things romantic is Royal Palms' Director of Romance, Robert Vickrey. Whether it's writing "I love you" in rose petals on a turned-down bed, preparing a bubble bath surrounded by

candlelight and topped with rose petals, arranging a one-of-a-kind engagement or anniversary celebration, Vickrey is the romantic magician that keeps couples returning for more “love memories.”

Personal wedding valet

A personal valet is assigned to the bride and groom for the evening of their wedding and attends to them from the ceremony through the reception by providing such unique services as:

- ✧ Setting up champagne, ice water, and hors d'oeuvres for the bridal party in a secluded area immediately after the ceremony and before the photo session.
- ✧ Take the bride's veil to her room.
- ✧ Just before the bride and groom retire to their room, the valet scatters rose petals all over the floor and the bed, delivers iced champagne and chocolate covered strawberries, and fills the room with lighted candles.

Special wedding services

- ✧ The resort staff will assist the bride and groom with check-in and oversee all details of the three-to-four day stay for all members of the wedding party. Because they are intimately knowledgeable about the resort, they can anticipate and manage the myriad details allowing the bride and groom complete freedom to enjoy their wedding, family and friends.
- ✧ They can provide recommendations on everything from photography, flowers and personalized gifts to on-site bridal hair styling and make-up, and guest activities.
- ✧ The resort has relationships with private homeowners in the area for special events, from brunch to the rehearsal dinner.
- ✧ They can organize festive events such as golf tournaments, cattle drives, formal garden teas, group meditations in the resort's gardens, walking meditations, couples' astrology readings, and in-room or poolside massages for the entire group.

The honeymoon suite

The 900-square-foot Honeymoon Villa was designed to create a very romantic feeling, with light apricot “pearlescent” walls, light gray carpet, and a canopy bed with hand-carved frame, white satin curtains and white silk throw pillows, sham and bedspread. Highlights include a malachite-colored armoire; a leather-covered tea table inscribed with a Spanish phrase that translates to “Give me your hand, Paloma, for this night you will sleep with me;” a patio that spans the living room and bedroom and features a double chaise lounge and fireplace; and, in the bathroom, a glass-enclosed shower with dual shower heads, two vanities and a claw-foot bathtub.

A spa designed for romance

To enter the Alvadora Spa is to experience the sounds, scents and sensations of romance itself. This intimate retreat is adorned with warm wood, rich colors, inviting furniture, aromatic fireplaces, gentle fountains and lush gardens – providing the perfect space for a couple to share a treatment à deux in the signature treatment suite, the Acqua Dolce. Featuring two heated stone tables with overhead showers, the suite opens to a private outdoor patio with a fireplace and waterfall shower. A therapeutic herbal tub and open views of the garden highlight the adjoining Acqua Giardino room. A menu of treatments for two is available when the wedding couple needs to sneak away for some private time. The Spa is the perfect spot to coordinate bridal parties for make-up, hair and nails.

Venues for celebrations

For weddings, the Royal Palms offers several venues from which to select, including the Estrella Salon for dinners of up to 180 and which opens to a patio and garden; the Palmera Salon, a smaller, more intimate room that accommodates 120 for dinner and adjoins a garden and foyer; the Vernadero Lawn, which can accommodate up to 200 for an outdoor reception or 160 for dinner; the uniquely intimate Jardin de Amor for private proposals and intimate weddings up to 40 people; and, most popular, the Alegria Garden, an intimate garden setting with a stone “altar” for ceremonies, seating up to 120.

Divine cuisine and cakes

The Royal Palms is renowned for its exceptional culinary program. Executive Chef Lee Hillson oversees all wedding functions, and all menus are customized and food is served “à la minute” – meals go directly from preparation to the table, restaurant-style, rather than being held in refrigerators or warming ovens. The chef graciously works with special themed events, some of which have included a Russian wedding with a caviar and vodka bar; a Spanish wedding complete with sangria and paella; and a Swedish wedding, serving Aquavit, a specialty liqueur.

For wedding information, call 800-672-6011 extension 5515, or (602) 808-3206, or visit www.royalpalmsresortandspa.com

A member of Historic Hotels of America, Royal Palms Resort and Spa is a AAA Four Diamond resort located at the foot of majestic Camelback Mountain. Combining the graciousness and sophistication of a Mediterranean villa with the intimacy and privacy of a secluded retreat, Royal Palms offers: 119 custom-appointed guest rooms, suites, intimate clusters of casitas and grand villas; regal Spanish Colonial architecture; over 20,000 square feet of estate-like meeting space; Tuscan-style gardens; exquisite tapestries, antiques and stone fireplaces throughout, a Mother-of-Pearl-tiled swimming pool with private cabanas; and a croquet lawn. Designed around the original historic private mansion built in 1929, Royal Palms is home to the award-winning T. Cook’s restaurant and the Mobil Four Star

Alvadora Spa. Just minutes from Scottsdale's shopping, galleries, golf, Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport and the Camelback financial corridor, Royal Palms is an ideal retreat for business, pleasure and special occasions, offering luxury, privacy, romance and convenience.

Royal Palms Resort and Spa is one of more than 30 independent, upscale hotels, resorts and conference centers managed by Destination Hotels & Resorts, which is consistently rated one of the top 10 independent hospitality management companies in the United States. To protect and preserve the unique communities in which the company operates, Destination launched Destination Earth, an environmental sustainability program in 2008. New for 2009 is the 582-room Terranea Resort situated on the Palos Verdes Peninsula in southern California, which opened to the public in June. The 102-acre ocean front resort features a 25,000-square-foot destination spa, three swimming pools, three ocean view restaurants and a Todd Eckenrode-designed par three golf course. In addition to Terranea in the greater Los Angeles area, Destination operates properties in key metropolitan areas and resort markets including Washington, D.C., Denver, San Diego, Santa Fe, Aspen, Palm Springs, Houston and Lake Tahoe. Destination is a subsidiary of Los Angeles-based investment, development and management firm Lowe Enterprises. For more information on the properties in the Destination Hotels & Resorts collection, please visit www.destinationhotels.com or to join the company's loyalty program for the best offers available, visit www.destinationdelivers.com

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