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Fancy-Filled Mexican Weddings

written by Sarah Muñoz | Posted on May 24th, 2012







Wedding day beachside fun at Now Amber Puerto Vallarta.

Well-versed in the art of romance, Mexico's great hotels and resorts roll out the red carpet for brides.

esencia, riviera maya

An old pro at show-stopping nuptials, Esencia perfectly encapsulates the romance of a beachside Mexican wedding. The hotel of 29 rooms, suites and cottages sits right on Xpu-Ha beach between Playa del Carmen and Tulum, with Caribbean Sea breezes, hammocks and tropical flowers as main protagonists.

With beach, garden, pool, cottage, and other onsite settings available here, couples can easily see their vision take shape. Esencia puts together beach weddings, legal and minister-led ceremonies, and a very spiritual Mayan ceremony performed by a shaman that celebrates the region's traditions through cleansing, throwing flowers and seeds into the sea and more. One of the most unique aspects to saying "I do" here is "Inwichaam and Inyataan," a 4-day Mayan spa ritual offered to couples before the big day. Each of the treatments—the welcome, the renewal, the final touch and the new beginning—"flows" into the next and offers both physical and spiritual pampering, with aspects such as a purifying ceremony, soothing bath in milk and flower petals and a steam massage and jacuzzi soak combo taken as a couple.

The all-inclusive Essence of Summer Love package, priced at \$4,365, is a summer wedding package good with a 3-night minimum booking for at least a 30-person group that includes couple's wedding set-up of their choice and the help of the hotel's wedding planner, the justice of peace/minister, an hour-long cocktail party with open bar and hors d'oeuvres after the ceremony, the wedding cake, and special guest rates starting at just \$319 per night. Of course, they can add on to their day with everything from a mariachi band to a full reception dinner.

Why we chose it: Options for traditional and non-traditional ceremonies, full of romantic details.

Contact: (877) 528-3490; hotelesencia.com

las alamandas, costalegre

The private beach at Las Alamandas is just one of the many enticements to marrying in this colorand romance-filled haven in Costalegre, almost halfway between Manzanillo and Puerto Vallarta. With just seven villas and 16 suites with luxurious terraces welcoming no more than 42 guests, the place is built for intimate ceremonies.

Weddings are totally customizable, and given the beauty of the location, there's little need for decor—but brides have plenty of options on everything from music to flowers with expert assistance. Perhaps they'll want to take advantage of the green lawn that spills out onto the beach, or go barefoot in the sand. In addition, any organic ingredients in a wedding dinner will come from the property's orchards. And that first night is filled with flowers and candles, chocolate-dipped strawberries and perhaps a late en-suite breakfast with fresh orange juice mimosas.

Each day here can come with everything from a kayaking excursion to a private picnic by the sea, not to mention an array of spa treatments and all-out nature immersion thanks to the secluded lagoons and tons of wild birds around the property. Signature amenities that come with a stay here include a 1-hour horseback ride and sunset margaritas from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The resort also offers a program called Las Alamandas Exclusively Yours, where clients can buy out the entire place starting at \$11,720 per day. Rates range from \$371 per night for a Garden View Suite to \$1,499 per night for the Presidential Suite.

Why we chose it: Intimate size, beauty of the setting and easy to buy out the entire property.

Contact: alamandas.com

four seasons hotel mexico, d.f. (mexico city)

Elegance and tradition are perfectly wed in Mexico's capital under the Four Seasons flag, and we expect no less. This urban oasis in the center of Mexico City's Paseo de la Reforma hides many posh surprises within its colonial-style building.

Fairy tale weddings are an easy feat here. The hotel is filled with beautiful spaces and provides flexibility for a grand gala or an intimate wedding. There are ballrooms with pre-function areas for pre-wedding celebrations—the Gran Salon is embellished with European style-touches like mirrors, high ceilings and chandeliers—and expansive terraces for civil or religious ceremonies, plus a serene, romantic courtyard with a fountain for great photo ops.

The hotel and its wedding specialists are able to make magic happen with fireworks, butterfly releases, uniquely shaped centerpieces, special themes and exceptional menus for a brunch reception or dinner buffet. Another showstopper here: customized wedding cakes of almost any flavor or style, prepared in-house. And of course, this being Mexico City, the possibilities for offsite excursions for the couple and their guests are limitless.

The resort's current wedding package, available for larger weddings, includes a pre-wedding menu tasting for up to six persons, a 3-course dinner menu, traditional midnight snack of chilaquiles (a traditional Mexican dish typically made with corn tortillas), five hours of live music, next-day breakfast, a suite for the bride and groom, special rates for guests and more; call for pricing. Regular room rates start at \$440 per night.

Why we chose it: Great for bigger groups, name recognition and wonderful location in Mexico City.

Contact: fourseasons.com



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