

Palm Springs

by Kristin Banta, Kristin Banta Events



Frank Sinatra, Marilyn Monroe, and Bob Hope all knew: Palm Springs is a special place. Said to be “sprinkled with stardust” because of the waves of celebrities that have made the city their winter playground, it has long been an enclave for those seeking natural glamour to go along with their rest and relaxation. Located a mere two-hour drive from Hollywood, the ease of getting to and enjoying Palm Springs is only one of its many fantastic features.

For me, this has always been the perfect getaway spot. It has the feel of a full destination experience without the logistical madness that comes with international travel. Perhaps that’s why Elvis and Priscilla Presley honeymooned here, or why President Eisenhower and his Mamie leased a house to escape to in the winter. Either way, the mountain ranges, stunning desert landscapes, and nearly perfect weather make reveling in your surroundings easy, whether your plans include a round of golf or nothing more taxing than a few days spent lounging by the pool. And I can hardly imagine a more beautiful setting for a wedding.

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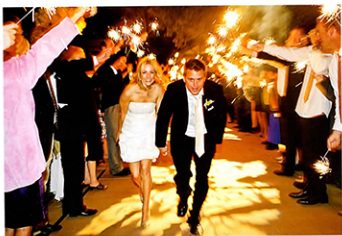


Even though it was established centuries ago by the Agua Caliente Cahuilla Indians and officially incorporated in 1938, Palm Springs maintains the mod, mid-century atmosphere it first became famous for—clean lines, striking architecture, and a sense of simple elegance throughout. The design aesthetic known as Desert Modernism originated here.

Photographs above by Llanes Weddings; right by Memories by Michael

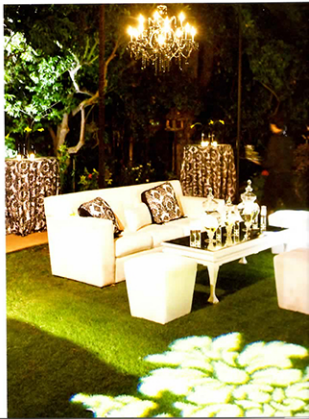
and many homes and buildings constructed in that style still exist. Plenty of hotels and resorts pick up on this vibe, but each manages to remain wonderfully distinctive in its overall atmosphere. The sheer number of venues available in this resort town means that you can always find exactly the one to suit your personality. Each location strives to create





a comprehensive experience, helping you to forget about schedules and focus instead on the people who have gathered together for your wedding. The idea is to nestle in, shut out all the distractions from everyday life, and live your fairytale.

Photographs, top and right by Llanes Weddings; above by Memories by Michael







This ease of planning extends to your vendors as well. Since Palm Springs is so near to Los Angeles, you can still engage all your favorite vendors to create the customized experience you had imagined, or if it's more of a simplified day you are planning, you can always utilize the willing staff at your venue. Since I love to vacation here myself, I've developed close relationships over the years with the experts at several venues, both on a personal and professional level. The pride that everyone holds for the area is evident in the abundant recommendations for tours, restaurants, and other recreational activities. Whether you want to follow

Photographs left by Alex Abercrombie Photographer; below © YourWeddingDay/Alyssa Nicol Photography; bottom left by Yvette Roman Photography; facing page by Kerry Corcoran, David Michael Photography





the Walk of Stars downtown, take in the spectacular desert views from the world's largest cable cars on the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, or simply stick close to your resort; everyone wants to make sure you fully enjoy your time here. The breezy attitude is contagious, too—and that's something that every couple can appreciate. One celebrity wedding I designed here had the feel of a gypsy tent village, with flowing Moroccan fabrics and eclectic nautical treasures scattered about to help set the romantic, bohemian scene. Not only was the effect lush and exotic, but there was a tempered level of glitz that relaxed what, for most, can sometimes teeter on the brink of an overly formal occasion. Instead, the wedding was a serene, sexy event that perfectly reflected its surroundings.

Photographs by Miki & Sonja Photography



Palm Springs may have first gained notoriety thanks to Hollywood's "two-hour rule"—that all actors must remain within a two-hour drive of the studios in case of re-shoots—but today that short distance disguises its most alluring facet: that even though you haven't traveled far, you can still feel like you're a million miles away.

Photographs: right by Niki Delacueva; below by Llanes Weddings; bottom right by Laura Kleinhenz, Docuvitae

