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Place: Millennium Centre
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From cruise ships to resorts, Jewish destination weddings mix intrigue and tradition

By Deborah Fineblum

Yaakov and Marsha Motzen were joined in holy matrimony in a ceremony that adhered strictly to the Jewish wedding traditions and kosher laws that they both hold dear. Unlike most religiously observant couples, however, they chose to get married on the open seas.

“Our ketubah (marriage contract) may be the only one in the world to list under location of the wedding, ‘Between Fort Lauderdale and St. Thomas,’” Marsha says of her cruise ship wedding. Since the groom is one of the most famous current cantors and performers of Jewish music, the wedding was destined to melodically fill the ship. In fact, more than a dozen big-name cantors and other musical luminaries were on board to add their voices to this event, including Avraham Fried, Naftali and Natenel Herstik, Binyamin Helfgot and Dudu Fisher, plus Amiran Dvir and his band.

Jewish destination weddings constitute a growing trend, according to those involved in such celebrations. More Jewish couples are opting to exchange vows in gorgeous places around the world – without sacrificing Jewish tradition in the process.

Taking this trend to the next level, a leading kosher cruise and travel company, Kosherica, is now partnering with the Atlantis Paradise Island resort in the Bahamas to create a program for picturesque Jewish destination weddings and other celebrations (such as bar/bat mitzvahs).

Continued on page 7. See “Destination Weddings”.

A Jewish wedding chuppah on a beach. Credit: Maloman Studios.

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Ira Kaye and Ashley Pososki
Married October 8, 2018
Place & Catering: St. Charles Country Club
Rings: Josef Ryan Diamonds
Photographer: Sugar and Soul Photography

Congratulations to all the Newlyweds

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For many couples, the biggest and hardest decision about tying the knot is where you’re going to do it – and where you’re going to celebrate afterward.

A venue built around you

Since it opened, the Club Regent Event Centre has flown under the radar as a wedding venue. Sure, you may have seen a show or stand-up comedy act on its stages, but you probably never noticed something special lies beneath.

It starts with seating. The theatre-style chairs can flip upside down, instantly invisible and out of the way. This leads to the best thing about the room: once the chairs are gone, the terraced floors themselves can collapse downward, forming a level ground capable of hosting large-scale galas, banquets and trade shows.

You can probably imagine what this means for your wedding. A state-of-the-art, built-in mechanical system means you can take your pick from many different seating arrangements in the room. We work hard to make sure your wedding reception at the Event Centre reflects you – and never looks the same as someone else’s.

Our other room, the pre-function area, is perfect for a ceremony or cocktail hour before your guests make their way into your reception to eat, toast and dance the night away.

Make memories

If you’re having someone to take photos or video of your big day, don’t forget – we’re also a world-class music and performance venue. Our stage-quality lighting will keep everyone looking their best, and our professional-calibre acoustics mean your guests – and videographer – won’t miss a single word (or dance move).

Hospitality is our forte

When it comes to food, drink and the guest experience, all your choices matter.

Our expert staff of culinary professionals and event coordinators will work with you to build a customized banquet package that fits your every need. They’ll help you choose a menu, refine your setting and decorate the room according to your exact specifications, ensuring your guests spend their evening happy and go home satisfied.

Be ready for anything

Spring, summer, fall or winter, we’re ready for every wedding. With a complimentary coat check near the event centre and a covered, climate-controlled walkway to and from the parkade – with free, reserved parking spots for you and your wedding party – it won’t matter if it rains (or snows) on your wedding day.

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Kevin Land and Jennifer Ethans
Married August 6, 2018
Place: Jasper, Alberta
Rings: Appelt’s Diamonds
Invitations: Sendsational Cards

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NOAM CARVER
Zach Ostrove and Kristen Patkau
Married October 7, 2018
Flowers: Flowers by Melanie
Limousines: Oak Bluff Limo
Photographer: Manuel F. Sousa Photography
Put More You into Your Wedding Day

(family features) A wedding day is filled with symbolic tradition, from varied religious customs to the never-ending circle reflected in the rings and the types of flowers accentuating the celebration. Even with all the traditional rituals to consider, nearly every bride and groom can find ways to give their special day some unique touches that reflect their personality and love.

Music sets the mood for every wedding, and it's an easy place to put your own spin on the celebration. Whether you forgo the traditional bridal march entirely or simply look for an arrangement that gives an updated twist to the classic version, let guests know this isn't your average wedding by setting the festivities against a soundtrack that lets your true character shine.

The wedding party is intended to be a collection of those nearest and dearest to the bride and groom, who help ensure the day goes off without a hitch and who lead fellow revelers in celebrating the start of the new couple's life together. That being said, there's no reason this group must be limited to women on her side and guys on his, or even that it's limited to humans - a beloved pooch can make for an adorable ring-bearer, after all.

Photography is an essential element of your big day, but think beyond the images you'll capture throughout the wedding and reception. Photos lend a personal touch, no matter what your color scheme or theme. Integrate photos of the two of you at various stages of life, together as a couple and with loved ones (perhaps even some you're honoring in memoriam). You can display these at a table with the guest book, as part of the table centerpieces, or even on the gift table. Or take things digital and load all your images into a slide show set to music.

Make favors meaningful. Forgo more common items like bubbles and chocolate, and instead send a little of yourself home with your guests. Maybe it's a memento from a place with special meaning to you both, or a bottle opener shaped like a bicycle to represent the way you met. Just think about the moments and things that define you as a couple and do some searching online. You'll probably be surprised by how quickly the options pile up.

Serve up a menu that shows guests more about your life together. Your loved ones can order basic beef or chicken anywhere. Instead, give them a glimpse into you. Make your main course the same food you enjoyed on your first date or during another monumental moment in your courting. Or plan the entire menu around a region that you hold close to your heart.

Weddings are filled with traditions, but that doesn't mean you can't put your own touches on the day for a special event filled with memories that are uniquely your own. Find more advice for life's special moments at elizabethday.com.
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Marco Ribeiro and Nancy M. Goncalves
Married November 10, 2018
Lingerie: The Bra Bar & Panterie
Rings: Appelt’s Diamonds
Photographer: Manuel F. Sousa Photography

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Wedding Planning 101

(Family Features) First comes the proposal then comes the wedding planning. There are dozens of decisions that need to be made before it’s time to walk down the aisle, which can be overwhelming for brides and grooms.

To help make it less stressful, these tips from Macy’s can help couples through the entire wedding-planning process, from on-trend apparel and accessories for the entire wedding party to all the essentials to create a perfect registry.

Dressing the Ladies

When it comes to bridesmaid dresses, the mix-and-match approach is trending in popularity. Start by deciding on a color palette, such as lilac, champagne and petal pink. Then have each bridesmaid choose her favorite style within that range of hues. Bring it all together by choosing a uniform look for makeup, shoes and accessories.

There is no better time to thank the ladies than the morning of the big day. A few thoughtful gifts can go a long way, such as matching robes, tumblers to stay hydrated throughout the day and cosmetic cases to stow makeup essentials.

Dressing the Gents

Similar to bridesmaid dresses, groomsmen attire can be dependent on the venue and overall event aesthetic. While a suit can fit the bill for a country club wedding, a city affair may call for the sleek finishes of a tux. Tuxedo accessories, such as cuff links or bow ties, make great groomsmen gifts and are classic pieces they can use time and time again.

Creating the Perfect Registry

When building a registry, it’s never too early to start. People want to give gifts as soon as they know a couple is engaged. Start by taking inventory of what you already have, what you need and what you want to upgrade. It’s also recommended to update the registry regularly so there are enough gifts to choose from, especially if there is an engagement party and bridal shower coming up. To get started, some popular registry items include stand mixers, craft beer glasses, Dutch ovens, bath towels and vacuums. For extra guidance, couples can speak to advisors who can help with the full registry building process at Macy’s stores.

For more wedding ideas and inspiration, and to find the right attire and gifts for your wedding planning, visit macys.com.

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