

HONEYMOON

Hideaways



BY CINDI R. MACIOLEK

*Y*OU'VE SAID YOUR, 'I DO'S,' TASTED CAKE AND CHAMPAGNE, MAYBE EVEN HAD A LITTLE PAR-TAY...AND, NOW WHAT? NEARLY AS IMPORTANT AS THE DRESS AND THE RING, IS THE QUESTION OF, 'WHERE DO WE SPEND OUR WEDDING NIGHT?' LUCKY FOR US, LAS VEGAS HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE.

What was once the official start of married life – the wedding night – has expanded into a four- or five-day wedding weekend. No longer does the bridal couple expect complete privacy and stay incognito at an undisclosed location. Quite the contrary. Even locals are celebrating far beyond the formal activities, spending several days on the Strip with out-of-town guests before the actual honeymoon begins.

Most hotels offer some sort of romance or wedding package, and prices vary greatly depending on the size of the room and amenities requested. From champagne and strawberries to a rose petal turndown, a bubble bath for two to breakfast in bed -- anything you want can be yours. You can spend several hundred or several thousand dollars to turn your room into the perfect honeymoon suite.

Yet, wedding nights still hold sentimental value, and for one local couple, that led to THEhotel.

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JET' AIME, PARIS

It's hard to think of Paris and not think of romance. And, our fair city does not disappoint. If you can't spend your wedding night in the real thing, take a trip to the Blvd. just south of Flamingo. Close your eyes. Take in the sounds. And, well, you'll still be in Las Vegas, but it's a fair representation.

Ooh-la-la, the Calais Suite has a magnificent view of the Eiffel Tower. After all, why stay in Paris if you can't see it from your room? Although the décor is tres French, it's updated with a brighter, more contemporary color palette. And, the draped crown canopy above the bed is magnifique!

For your first intimate dinner as husband and wife, be sure to reserve the most romantic table in Las Vegas – the corner window table at the Eiffel Tower restaurant. With your backs to the other diners and an unrestricted view of both the Strip and the fountains of Bellagio, you can toast to your new life, and enjoy some fantastic food, too!

Once you've left the room for dinner, take a short stroll through the cobblestone streets over to Bally's and catch a performance of Jubilee! Snuggle up to this old fashioned Vegas spectacular, before heading back to your room of wedded bliss.





MIX AND MORE

“We’ve always loved modern, boutique hotels,” said Tisha, who married fiancé Jim on May 2, 2009. “THEhotel is reminiscent of places we like to stay on the road. But it holds other wonderful memories as well. Jim proposed to me after dinner at Mix, with a silver ring from an artist in Macau.”

Tisha was blindsided by the occasion. They had a fabulous dinner; then, he started his proposal, beginning by addressing her by her full name. “I was so shocked when he called me by my full name, I quit listening. I started thinking, ‘Was something wrong? Did I overspend on my American Express this month?’ It took me awhile before I realized what was happening.”

After enjoying the engagement bliss for over a year, they held their wedding at the Vitruvian Mansion. Since many of their guests were also guests of THEhotel, they decided to join in the fun for four days, taking advantage of all that Mandalay Bay has to offer. In fact, Sunday was spent in private cabanas on a reserved portion of the beach, for a very relaxing way to wind down the weekend.

“We’re not taking an immediate honeymoon, so this allowed us a quick getaway,” said Tisha. “Our wedding night was very special to us, a celebration of our nine years together. At the end of the day, we did what we always do – cuddled up and chitchatted about everything that happened that night. I’m bashful, so that’s all I’m going to say!”



BELLAGIO – THE PERFECT START

It takes a lot to make a great marriage. However, the wedding night experience can really set the tone. Welcome to the Cypress Suites at the Bellagio. When these rooms were being designed, someone very, very smart was in charge.

These suites are in the curved section in the center of the hotel, just behind the fountains. Although the hotel architecture is one of Italian opulence, the rooms are quite contemporary in feel. Surprisingly, you’re greeted with clean, modern lines, with luxury and beauty of utmost importance.

The bed is hidden behind the living room area, with a view of the Strip to the east. Imagine lying in bed, enjoying the quintessential Bellagio fountains with the Eiffel Tower in the background. It’s one

hundred percent romance, romance, romance.

However, the pièce de résistance happens to be inside the room. To the left and to the right is the basis of every happy marriage – separate bathrooms! How positively divine!

Both his and hers are equally elegant and extremely well appointed, his with a large shower and hers with a spa tub. The bathroom windows also offer floor-to-ceiling views of Las Vegas Boulevard, providing the effect of a billion flickering candles for your intimate evening.

Once you’ve enjoyed dinner at your choice of several superb restaurants on property, should you desire to leave this elegant oasis, why not travel a couple of doors down and take in a performance of LOVE at the Mirage? All you need is love, a beautiful sentiment for such a special occasion.



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HAIL, HAIL THE GANG'S ALL HERE

The Venetian Chairman Suite offers 10,000 square feet of options for the bridal couple. This four-bedroom suite is perfect pre-wedding as well. There's plenty of room for you and your friends to enjoy your last single days together, and it's also the perfect place to get ready for the big day. Each bedroom within the suite has its own bathroom with a spa tub overlooking the Strip so there's lots of privacy.

If you're the type of couple who must bring your staff with you, even on your wedding night, there's an office in the master bedroom. Or, if your kids or your parents are joining you to help celebrate the big event, the Chairman Suite is large enough for everyone to have their space.

The eclectic Asian/modern décor is elegant, chic and calming, but it's just the beginning. You never have to leave the confines of the room if you don't want to, because there's definitely plenty to do. For starters, it has its own private media room where you can catch a movie, sing karaoke or dance to the disco lights. Put the massage room to use with a private spa treatment from the Canyon Ranch Spa. A hair stylist or nail technician would be happy to serve you in the attached beauty salon. And, your butler can service you from the pantry area 24/7.

If all else fails, the suite is big enough for you and your betrothed to play a game of touch football, if you know what I mean.



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A HOT TUB WITH A VIEW

A hot tub is definitely romantic. But, how about a hot tub on a private terrace high above the Strip? Now, that's fabulous!

You'll find it at the SKYLOFTS at MGM Grand. Only a couple of the SKYLOFTS offer this spectacular treat, so be sure to specify when you make your reservations.

The SKY lobby recently opened so SKYLOFT guests have their own private entrance to the hotel. Guests also have access to a separate bank of elevators, again, adding to the privacy factor. And, while the butler serving dinner in your suite may be important to you, the Dream Butler may make more of an impact on your stay. It's a selection of 14 different pillows to make sure you sleep as comfortably as possible.

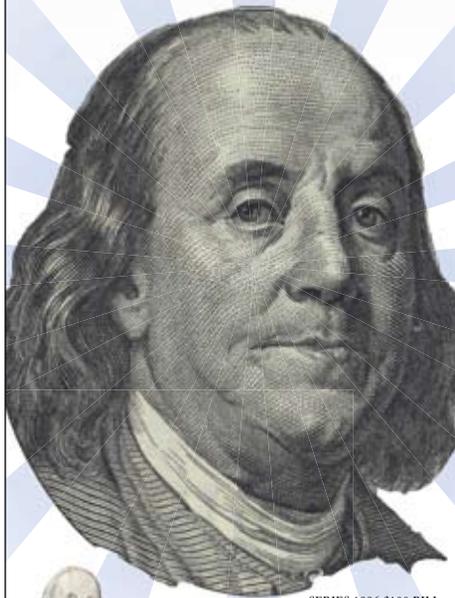
The suites are very modern, open, airy and luxurious. They are fully wired, offering guests the opportunity to adjust everything from the television and lights to temperature from consoles placed throughout the room. The floor-to-ceiling windows provide amazing views, and there are many places to cuddle and watch the changing marquees.

However, the reason you want this suite is to take advantage of the private terrace. During the day, you can catch a few rays, but the nighttime hot tub experience is not to be missed. While the din of the city goes unabated several stories below, you can have the most intimate wedding night.

One more treat reserved for those arriving at the airport... Guests are picked up in a Maybach for their journey to the hotel. If I were you, I'd leave my car at McCarran just for the experience.

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HONEYMOON HIDEAWAYS

CLASSIC PLUS CLASS = CAESARS PALACE

Another local bride and her fiancé treasure their memories of Caesars Palace, so it was a no-brainer to spend their wedding night there.

“Caesars is the best combination of fun and elegance, and we’ve stayed in nearly every type of room they offer,” said Valeria. “However, on our wedding night, we’re staying in the Petite Suite. We’ve never stayed in one before, so it will be very special.”



The ceremony will be held June 20th in Caesars Classico Chapel, the largest indoor wedding chapel on the Strip, with room for 196 guests. “The kindness of the chapel staff really sold us,” said Valeria. “We went up and down the Strip looking for chapels, but really, the entire Caesars’ staff was amazing.”

Valeria and her fiancé Mike plan to spend five days with their guests at the hotel. “It’s definitely not the norm, but we have friends coming in from all over so it will be one grand party,” said Valeria. “Our room is the perfect size for a couple, very elegant, posh and romantic, a great place to celebrate our six years together. I particularly love the bathroom with the walk-thru shower. And, their bedding is the best on the planet. I want to take it home with me!”

“I’m expecting the next morning to be very decadent. I’m definitely planning on room service!” said Valeria.



YOU CAN TAKE IT WITH YOU

Everyone needs a memento of their wedding night. So, what better treasure than your bed?

The Encore home store not only offers the mattresses for purchase, they have a wide selection of room accessories for your own love nest. What a great way to relive those fabulous memories! Once you’ve experienced the utmost in luxury, you will want to take it home with you.

Both the Wynn and Encore have chic, lavish honeymoon suites, to satisfy your every need. The Parlor Suite and the Salon Suite are big enough to be fun, but small enough to be intimate. When it comes to the wedding night, intimate is what it’s all about.

However, if you’re up for a bit more room, the two-story duplex may be the answer. These suites on the end of the building that were once featured in Architectural Digest. Not only do you have up to three bedrooms and 3-1/2 baths, you have your own billiard and media room, two butler pantries, an elevator, a workout and massage room and a shower and tub with a fabulous view.

With such an array of first-class dining available, your butler can serve you a selection of courses from different restaurants on property, all in the intimacy of your suite. After a private couples massage, turn down the lights and, well...sleep. □