

# Paradise Found: Resorts Offer Specials

for Wedding Luxuries

written by Christine Giordano

## Affordable Wedding Luxuries

Couples can find affordable luxuries in Jamaica, with more than one resort offering quite a few elegant specials for destination weddings. Whether you're hoping for the cool, bamboo-canopied streets of the Mandeville district, the towering, rocky waterfalls of Ocho Rios, or a windswept private beach with soft steel drums, there are many, many resorts in Jamaica that are willing to cater to your every whim.

Here is just a taste of what the island has to offer:

The Ritz-Carlton Golf & Spa Resort & Rose Hall:

([www.ritzcarlton.com](http://www.ritzcarlton.com))

If you book 25 guest rooms or more at this resort for your wedding, the Ritz-Carlton will include a free wedding ceremony, and a chance to celebrate your first anniversary with a free 3 night/4 day stay at any Ritz-Carlton in the Caribbean or Mexico within the year (airfare not included). The complimentary wedding ceremony includes the location, wedding specialist, wedding concierge, minister, bouquet, boutonniere and décor.

The resort carries a Five Diamond, AAA Hotel rating, and is located on 5,000 acres in Jamaica's Rose Hall with elevated panoramic views of the mountainous countryside. Some wedding locations include The White Witch



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restaurant, with evening sunset views over the resort's 18-hole championship golf course, or the intimate East Beach. Pre-wedding bachelorettes and bachelors can kick their heels up at the Cohobas Lounge, decorated in typical old-world style with richly polished wood paneling and rum tasting sessions.

Receptions can also be held at Jerk Centre, overlooking the sea with a signature drink

served in a coconut on arrival by a traditional coconut cutter. Guests can enjoy a Jamaican buffet including jerk chicken, jerk pork, and plantains among other island delicacies, and get into the island mood with a fire dancer music by a steel band.



**Breezes Montego Bay:**  
[www.breezes.com/resorts/montego-bay](http://www.breezes.com/resorts/montego-bay)

Breezes Montego Bay, located on Doctor's Cave Beach in trendy Montego Bay, is an all-inclusive resort with 124 rooms and suites of different sizes -- from rooms without balconies, to oceanfront views. Wedding ceremonies are complimentary for couples and include a wedding cake, champagne, marriage license, non-denominational marriage officer and flowers (government fees and taxes are not included).

To enhance the experience, the resort's a-la-carte wedding amenities include floral arrangements, beauty consultants and dressing attendants, photography packages, and private band or DJ at the reception. Romantic hideaways within the resort, include a rooftop Jacuzzi, a great place to take in ocean views and completely unwind and

hotel pool. Windsurfing, kayaking and Hobie car rides are available; an elevated tennis court with night time lighting and a resident tennis pro.

**Half Moon's Allure:**  
[www.halfmoonweddings.com](http://www.halfmoonweddings.com)

Known for its all-inclusive wedding packages and sprawling 400-acre grounds, Half Moon's Allure provides a complete wedding package, including a wedding planner, marriage officer, marriage license, tropical bouquets and boutonnieres, centerpieces, votive candles, 3-course plated dinner, 3-tiered wedding cake, a musician for the ceremony, disc jockey for the reception, 3 hours of photography, professional makeup and salon for the bride, and 4-hour open bar and post ceremony cocktail hour with Hors D'oeuvres.

If weather turns rainy, the resort has 27,000

square feet of indoor meeting space. It also offers plenty of outdoor activities, including horseback riding, golf and water sports and a spa with traditional Jamaican bush bath with fragrant citrus and mint and other herbs (a wonderful couple activity.) Planning to propose? Arrangements can be made with a trained dolphin to deliver your engagement ring.

**The Ruins At The Falls:**  
[www.ruinsjamaica.com](http://www.ruinsjamaica.com)

The Ruins at the Falls is a setting in Ocho Rios with pure waterfalls streaming from mammoth rocks within a rainforest. It offers weddings and receptions in front of the falls.

Private, gated villas are available at multiple places around the island, including Jamaican Treasures, which has prorated cottages that include a butler, chef and housekeeper, and range from one bedroom (\$1,890 for 7 nights), to 16 bedrooms (\$1950 per week) plus the price of groceries (about \$35 per person, per day.) Villas are located beachfront or hillside and can also be reserved for weddings for 25-percent deposit. You can also find villas through the Jamaica Association of Villas and Apartments: 1-800-845-5276.

**The Jamaica Inn:**  
[www.jamaicainn.com/weddings.htm](http://www.jamaicainn.com/weddings.htm)

The Jamaica Inn has wedding and honeymoon packages with interesting extras. Guests can stay at ocean view verandah suites, have private candle light dinners served on their own verandah, enjoy 30 minutes of couple massage, wade out into knee deep water into Dolphin Cove to touch or kiss a passing dolphin, see the waterfalls with a boat trip to Dunn's River Falls, Dance nightly to a Live Band. The wedding package also includes marriage officers fees (includes license and rites), bouquet and boutonniere, photo album with 36 exposures and the negatives, a complimentary wedding cake for two, and champagne, along with a few other things.

Couples Resorts:  
([www.couples.com](http://www.couples.com))

Known for its four romantic locations, Couples has sunset hour wedding packages from \$890, which include: minister, photographer, wedding cake, champagne for two, photos and marriage certificate signing, 24 printed photos in a Couples Resorts photo album (along with high-resolution images on a CD), two personalized champagne flute, personalized wedding certificate holder, personalized knife and cake server, a "Just Married" breakfast in bed the day after the wedding, and Couples Resorts "Thank You" cards. Different wedding packages are available for more luxury, and include private car airport transfers, sunset cruises on a scuba boat, couples massages, plush matching robes and other amenities.

The four locations are well appointed with amenities and views of the white velvet-sand beaches. Pending on the resort, guests can stroll stone pathways to a secluded Jacuzzi and mineral springs grotto, enjoy a \$30 million renovation, dip in clear Caribbean waters, or wander through tropical gardens.

### Quick Recap:

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Half Moon's Allure:  
([www.halfmoonweddings.com](http://www.halfmoonweddings.com))

The Ruins At The Falls:  
([www.ruinsjamaica.com](http://www.ruinsjamaica.com))

The Jamaican Inn:  
([www.jamaicainn.com/weddings.htm](http://www.jamaicainn.com/weddings.htm))

Couples Resorts:  
([www.couples.com](http://www.couples.com))

