

Weddings In Paradise™

Frenchman's Reef & Morning Star Marriott Beach Resort, St. Thomas USVI 2007 FAQS

Planning

How far in advance do I need to get everything planned?

We recommend that you contact us for a contract and to make a deposit as soon as you know your date and which package you want. Once you have booked the Wedding your Wedding Event Manager will contact you and set up a good timeline for you to follow.

Is a deposit required?

Yes, a non-refundable deposit is due at the time of your booking. Your balance will be due 30 days prior to your big day based on estimated charges. Any additional charges incurred at any time during your stay will have to have an approved open credit card.

Can I get a Tropical Wedding package and upgrade (e.g., adding just photography, adding a musician)?

Yes. We can help you customized any package to fit your needs.

What time of year is best to visit?

St.Thomas is beautiful and warm year round. Our high season is **December** through **April**.

Can I save money by marrying during the off-season?

Our wedding package rates remain constant, but our room rates are lower during the off-season.

How do I reserve a block of rooms? Is there a discount?

If you require a block of 10 or more rooms for 3 or more nights, our Weddings in Paradise Sales Manager can prepare a room contract for you to ensure discounted rates for all your guests.

What Honeymoon packages do you have available?

Go to www.marriottfrenchmansreef.com for special packages and the most up-to-date room rates.

Who do I make the check out to?

Marriott Frenchman's Reef

Where can I get my hair, nails and make-up done before the wedding?

For hair and nails, we recommend Jan-Michael's Salon, which is located in the Reef Spa and Health Club on premises. They can be contacted at (340) 776-1151 for appointments. The Reef Spa and Health Club offers a full line of massage, facials, and make-up and can be contacted for appointments at (340) 776-8500 ext. 6803. Please be aware that the Salon will close on April 23, 2007 and re-open May 1, 2007 due to Carnival Week. However, your Wedding Event Manager can make arrangements with an on island stylist if you require one.

I will be on a cruise ship, where do I get dressed for the wedding?

A Hospitality Room can be booked for you based on current rates and availability.

How and when do I reserve a hospitality room?

Your Wedding Event Manager will be more than happy to assist you with rates and availability.

Who is my Wedding Event Manager and what is the best way to contact them concerning my wedding?

Your Wedding Event Manager will contact you via email when they receive your file. Compile any questions you may have and send them to your Wedding Event Manager via email or contact them directly to set up a conference call.

Where and when do we send favors or other items we want to arrive in advance?

We encourage wedding parties to bring their items with them, as mail is sometimes slow in getting to the island. However, you may certainly mail items to our office at: Weddings In Paradise, Marriott Frenchman's Reef and Morningstar Beach Resort, #5 Estate Bakkeroe P.O. Box 7100, St. Thomas, VI 00801-0100. Weddings in Paradise will not be held responsible for non-receipt of shipped items. Items will be stored for 1 week prior to your wedding at no charge and a \$10 per box per day storage fee thereafter.

How many days in advance of the ceremony should I arrive?

If you are staying on property, it is recommended that you arrive at least 2-3 days prior to your wedding day. This ensures that you have plenty of time to pick up the license and touch base with your Wedding Event Manager and your guests. However, this decision is entirely up to you. We have hosted weddings where the bridal party and guests come in on a cruise ship and are only in St. Thomas the day of the event.

Do I have to stay at Marriott to have my wedding there?

No.

Can I get my dress steamed?

Yes, please let your Wedding Event Manager know in advance if you would like to arrange to have your dress steamed. A fee is assessed per hour per complexity of the dress material.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

How do I get a marriage license?

You will need to submit the “Application for Marriage License” and the “License and Certificate of Marriage” to the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands. Mail both documents to the Court well before you plan to arrive, as the Court must receive them no less than 8 days prior to the wedding. No physical examination or blood test are required, however, if either person is divorced, please attach a certified copy of the divorce decree. If either party is widowed, please include a certified copy of the death certificate. You may contact this office for copies of both documents, you may contact the Court at the following address and telephone number listed below, or you may go to www.visuperiorcourt.org.

Is there a residency requirement to get a marriage license?

No.

How much is the marriage license?

The Court charges \$100.00 for the license. A money order in the amount of \$50.00, made out to the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands, must be enclosed with your application. The other \$50.00 can be paid when the license is picked up. It is recommended to enclose the entire \$100.00 amount with the application.

Please be aware that there is an additional \$150 fee for picking up a license on a Sunday or a Holiday and by **appointment only**.

Can I Get Certified Copies?

Yes.

THE CEREMONY

What types of ceremonies are available?

All wedding packages include wedding Officiant and witnesses. The available ceremonies are Civil, Contemporary Christian, Religious Christian, and Jewish. If you would like to review the vows before making a decision, please contact our office, and we will email them to you. Should you desire a local Rabbi, Priest or Minister you are allowed to do so, however this will not reduce the wedding package price. Please make arrangements prior to finalizing your arrangements with Weddings in Paradise.

Can I change the vows to include a special passage or prayer or include my family in the ceremony?

Yes. If there are alterations you wish to make to one of the ceremonies that we offer, please email the changes to your Wedding Event Manager so a copy can be placed in your file and the officiant can be notified.

Can I meet with the officiant before the ceremony?

The officiant generally meets the bridal couple a few minutes before the ceremony. If, however, you would like to meet with the officiant prior to the event, please ask your Wedding Event Manager to make arrangements.

What happens if it rains?

Generally, rain showers are brief in St. Thomas. We usually find that we can wait a few minutes, dry off the chairs and keep going. In the event that the weather truly turns nasty on your big day, then we will make alternate arrangements 2 hours prior to the wedding in one of our indoor venues; however, this option is very rarely necessary.

Can I get married on a beach?

Yes. We suggest that the ceremony take place in our wedding gazebo, which is nestled in a private garden on a cliff over the water and decorated with tropical flowers. However, it is also possible to get married right on the beach. Should you desire chairs on the beach there is a per chair setup fee. An arch decorated with tropical flowers can be erected on the beach for an additional fee.

How many guests can attend the ceremony? Is there a charge for guests to attend?

There is no limit on the number of guests that may attend. However, the maximum seating in the Gazebo Garden is 120 people. There is no per guest fee and no chair fee for the gazebo; however, there is a per chair fee for beach weddings.

Can I have a Sunday or Holiday wedding?

Yes, Sunday weddings incur an additional \$500 charge for arranging for Sunday deliveries from the florist and hiring of the groundskeeper and staff. Holiday weddings incur an additional \$500 (total of \$1000) for holiday pay. In the rare occurrence that a Holiday will fall on a Sunday the charge will remain \$1000.

FLOWERS / DECORATIONS

What are my bouquet options?

We suggest a bright tropical flower bouquet to match the bright blues of our water and sky. A bridal bouquet and boutonniere are included with the Deluxe, Luxury, and Royal packages. Additional bouquets for bride's maids and boutonnieres for groom's men can be ordered. If you have a specific design in mind for the bouquet, we suggest that you email a picture to us and we will obtain a price estimate.

What kinds of flowers are available?

Our florist can order flowers from all over the world. We, of course suggest bright tropical flowers as a fantastic complement to the bright greens and blues of our island. However, we can order practically any type of flower. Traditional choices include: Birds of Paradise, Orchids (Dendrobium and Cymbidium), Stargazer Lilies, Tulips, Ginger, Gerber Daisies, Calla Lilies, Hydrangea and a variety of others that can be found at "www.bloomingthings.net." Please be aware that specially ordered flowers are non-refundable.

What other flowers can I order?

Some people choose to order rose petals for the aisle, corsages for mothers, grandmothers or aunts, hairpieces, cake toppers, or centerpieces.

Can I get my bouquet preserved?

Yes

What types of decorations do you offer?

Most brides chose to decorate with the bright tropical flowers that compliment our blue water and skies. Should you wish to arrange for additional decorations, we can put you in contact with an outside vendor. If you bring you own decorations you will be responsible for making arrangements to have them set up.

MUSIC

What kind of music is available?

Our Royal Wedding Package includes one live musician of your choice (steel pan, harp, guitar and keyboard). For all other packages, additional musicians can be hired at an extra cost. For our Tropical, Deluxe and Luxury weddings we can provide a CD player for a small fee. You may either play a CD you bring or you can choose from a selection of traditional and Caribbean choices we have available. For wedding parties and dinners, you may choose to arrange for either a DJ or a live band through your Wedding Event Manager.

Can I request the music that the live band will play?

Absolutely! Please email any specific music requests to your Wedding Event Manager, and we will make arrangements with the musician(s).

Can I hear tapes of the live entertainment?

Yes, once you decide what type of entertainment you desire, we can arrange for you to hear some of our local musicians. Some of our entertainers have music samples available on their web sites.

PHOTOGRAPHY / VIDEO

When are the photographs taken?

The photographer will meet the groom and groomsmen in the Weddings In Paradise office approximately 30 minutes before the ceremony. Photos of the groom's party will be taken and the groom will take his place for the ceremony. Approximately 15 minutes before the ceremony, the bride will be contacted that her photographer is ready for her. The photographer then will continue shooting throughout the ceremony, the toasts, and the cake cutting. Following the ceremony, group shots and shots of the couple will be taken.

When do I get my Weddings in Paradise commemorative album?

Wedding albums should be picked up from the Weddings In Paradise office during your visit. If you did not get the album, please contact our office with your address so that we may mail one to you.

Can I get Videography of my Wedding?

Absolutely!!! The Luxury and Royal packages come with videography included but you definitely have the option to add video to any of our packages for an additional cost. The video is a wonderful reminder of your beautiful day!!

RECEPTIONS / DINNERS / CAKE

Can I have a special cake made?

Our traditional wedding cake is a two-tier white cake with a light lemon filling and white frosting. Optional fillings include chocolate, raspberry, strawberry, pineapple, mango, and passion fruit. Additional tiers and specialty flowers can also be ordered at an additional price.

What kinds of receptions are available?

We can plan any type of reception you choose. This includes but is not limited to cocktail hours, buffets or sit-down dinners.

What are my menu options?

Please contact the weddings office and we can email you the current menus.

Can I have a cocktail hour?

Certainly.

What venues are available for a reception or banquet?

We aim to fit your needs so whether you want an informal dinner on the beach or a formal dinner we can help you find the venue. Please be advised some venues have a minimum number of people required, some have a required start time and all venues are subject to a venue fee.