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OceanBayDining@gmail.com



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C.E.C., CCA

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so call now. 501-626-2424

## Why Have an Upper Keys Wedding?

Whether you want a big, traditional wedding with all the bells and whistles or just a quaint ceremony with a few friends, the upper Keys has it all. So, why choose the upper Keys over Key West? Because: Key West is a high priced tourist trap. Throngs of people occupy the beaches, restaurants, hotels and the streets. It is hard to have a romantic moment when tourists are clogging Mallory Square or the spring breaker next to you is lying face up on the bar while the bartender



here. Consider a sunset celebration on the beach at the Lorelei, a gathering overlooking the water at Snook's, or champagne poolside at the Big Chill, or check out Kenny and Monica's yacht the License to Chill. Looking to have a big bash?

### The Wedding Issue



"sail away to Key Largo," not Key West!

Over the years I have attended a variety of weddings and a couple of them were my own. For a quickie you can drop by the courthouse, sign a few papers and step outside in the parking lot for a brief ceremony on your lunch hour. I took my vows next to a garbage can and should have taken that as an omen. A lot of people don't even bother with that, they just call their current squeeze "my old lady or my old man" and life goes on. It saves money on the cost of a lawyer if the relationship doesn't work out. They say in the Keys that you never lose your husband, wife, girlfriend or boyfriend, you just lose your turn.

One wedding where I was the bride was held at an outdoor venue. A pirate wedding including costumes, boats, a caterer, a pig roast and live music. Aaarrgh mateys! Now that was fun! One couple I know who are still married after about 20 years had a biker wedding and after the reception they drove off into the sunset on their Harley while the bride held on to her veil and billowing white gown for dear life in the wind.

Another couple I know hired synchronized swimmers for their shindig. And yet another friend got hitched knee deep in the ocean and the bride carried a clump of seaweed as her bouquet.

Whatever your budget or wildest imagination desires, you can make it happen right



pours rum in her bellybutton so a young man in a wife beater shirt can lick it up. Bellybutton shots! Lord have mercy! If you stay up late enough you are apt to find some satisfied saloon customer passed out in the bushes sleeping it off. You might even find the photo posted on Facebook, as the locals love that stuff.

For romance pick the upper Keys. Bertie Higgins sang



The Elks in Tavernier has a huge indoor venue and a fantastic outdoor sunset patio, full facilities and kitchen.

Don't forget the toast. "May your children be blessed with rich parents" and "To the two secrets to a long-lasting, happy marriage: Here's to a good sense of humor - and a short memory!"

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