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Landon Jacob Photos

SAYING ‘I DO’ AT THE SEA PINES RESORT COMBINES STORIED TRADITIONS WITH MODERN WEDDING TRENDS

Hilton Head, SC (October 24, 2018) -- There are many wedding traditions that modern brides and grooms want to honor, and [The Sea Pines Resort](http://www.seapinesresort.com) checks off those boxes: the stunning Lowcountry scenery, world-class amenities, unparalleled service, a variety of ceremony and reception venue options, all in a stress-free atmosphere that puts the emphasis on fun and romance.

That said, weddings aren't what they used to be. Weddings Sales Manager Ann Goodman has seen trends come and go (and even return) during her seven years at The Sea Pines Resort. With a new wedding season upon us, Goodman notes the top 10 trends to which today's couples want to say "I do."

- While rehearsal dinners still occur, many brides opt for a more informal meal with a smaller, more intimate group, followed by a "welcome party" open to all and serving up desserts, drinks, and entertainment.
- The actual ceremony has been moved later in the day—sunset is a favorite time—giving the wedding party most of the day to play and pamper. Before the bride and her bridesmaids get their hair and make-up done, they dine at Ocean Lounge (opened especially for them), while the guys play golf, with the Davis Love III-designed Atlantic Dunes course a favorite pre-ring round.
- If guests are asked to sign in it may not be in a book. More likely this bit of memorabilia will be thematic with the wedding, such as a handcrafted boat oar to sign with

attendees offering advice for the couple as they begin navigating their life together. Or with instant film cameras, guests snap a selfie and leave a personal message.

- Drones are attending more weddings, with clever photographers using them to capture unique perspectives on the day's events.
- Along with hiring photographers and videographers, many couples are having artists paint the ceremony, creating a truly one-of-a-kind keepsake.
- Progressive weddings use a variety of venues for the event's many gatherings. At The Sea Pines Resort that might mean pre-ceremony cocktails on Sea Pines Beach, holding the ceremony on the lawn adjacent to the 18th hole of Harbour Town Golf Links overlooking Calibogue Sound, dinner and cake-cutting in Champions Ballroom.
- Some brides trade fancy five-course meals for comfort food at the reception. And what could be more comfortable than Lowcountry barbecue, mac 'n' cheese, gourmet burgers, raw bars, and an oyster roast? The resort specializes in helping couples customize menus to suit their own tastes.
- Multi-tiered wedding cakes are still popular, but so are mini-desserts, individual pies (Key Lime and Pecan are local favorites), doughnut walls and sundae bars. Some couples order a range of smaller cakes in an array of different flavors.
- The ceremony and reception are nice, of course, but what's really hot is the After Party! Late-night food options—pizza, soft pretzels, slider bars—and plenty of liquid courage match the casual mood, which even extends to the bride and groom changing out of their fancy dress so they can celebrate with their friends.
- Send-offs have become very creative, with couples leaving on horseback, in a golf cart, serenaded by minstrels, or in the glow of a fireworks display. Now that's a celebration!

How can you spot a member of the wedding or a guest? Look for the special bag they're carrying. Goodman says attractive, handmade bags (sometimes actually made by the bride's family) are great for taking to the beach, coming packed with a towel, sunscreen, local food items (Heritage shortbread cookies, anyone?), and a resort activity guide. And when the revelers get home, the bags are a lovely, and useful, reminder of an incredible affair.

For additional information about weddings at The Sea Pines Resort or to contact a wedding specialist, call 843/842-1495.

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