



The Outpost

KRUGER NATIONAL PARK, SOUTH AFRICA
Choose 24 guests and take over The Outpost, a modern eco-lodge. You will, however, have to share space with the buffalo, elephants, rhinos, and lions who call the place home.

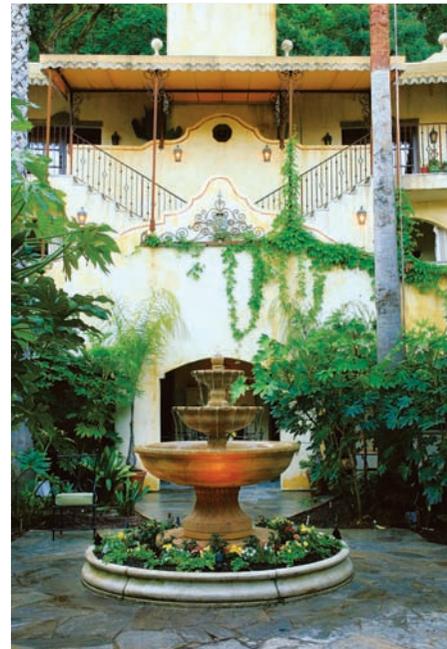
The Outpost is composed of one large main building and 12 smaller living spaces connected by a teak walkway. A member of the prestigious Design Hotels group, the resort has a modern, minimalist design with drop-dead details like remote-controlled retractable screens in guests' suites that offer 180-degree views of the Mozambique and Zimbabwe borders.

Guest Activities: Guests can relax poolside, then head for game-viewing excursions offered twice each day. For a taste of local culture, guests are also encouraged to visit the nearby village of Makuleke.

Wedding 411: Choose from a number of dramatic spots; the staff will help with legal issues and outside vendors.

Fees: \$9,339 per night, two-night minimum; includes all meals and game drives.

designhotels.com/privatespaces



Kenwood Inn and Spa

KENWOOD, CALIFORNIA

World-class wines, mild weather, and a landscape of rolling, vine-covered hills all make Napa and Sonoma counties a favorite getaway. The Kenwood Inn, a 29-room resort set in the romantically named "Valley of the Moon," combines the best of these elements. The inn, designed like a Mediterranean villa, includes a swimming pool, sunning terraces, a steam room, a hot tub, a wine bar, and a dining room. The chef makes good use of local produce, cheeses, wines, and meats in a dining room with a fireplace and a courtyard. Rooms are plush, with fireplaces, featherbeds, and cozy bathrobes.

Guest Activities: Themed winery tours can be arranged: You can visit historic wineries, for example, or wineries of interest to garden lovers.

Wedding 411: Weddings take place at the pool area, on a stone terrace surrounded by gardens, where about 60 guests can be accommodated. For larger groups up to 125, the pool can be covered and tented for an additional fee.

Fees: \$81,200 for two nights; includes chair and table rental, a three-course breakfast for all guests, and twenty-nine 50-minute spa treatments.

kenwoodinn.com

The Sullivan House

BLOCK ISLAND, RHODE ISLAND

The Sullivan House is the beach home you wish you could inherit. A turn-of-the-century landmark, it's set on a hill with expansive views of the island and the sea. The house itself has six bedrooms and is surrounded by five other cottages and beach houses that can also be rented. In all, you can sleep about 50 guests in your own little seashore colony.

Guest Activities: There's something for everyone on the island—beaches, hiking trails, a Victorian-era town, and an active boating scene. Rent a posse of mopeds or bicycles to tour the island, or tour by sea, reserving a private fleet of kayaks or chartering a yacht.

Wedding 411: Weddings are a familiar event here, and the same company that owns the property also owns the island's biggest catering service and party rental business. (Clambakes featuring fresh lobster and the island's famous clam chowder are popular choices.) Set up a tent on the lawn, and weddings up to about 350 guests can be accommodated.

Fees: \$1,425 per night, with a two-night minimum. Additional site fee for weddings: about \$3,000 for a party for 150 guests; includes the china, glassware, and linen rental.

thesullivanhouse.com



Photos, clockwise from top left: Courtesy of Design Hotels; Courtesy of Kenwood Inn and Spa; Courtesy of The Sullivan House

Your Own Private Place

“It’s all yours!” It’s a phrase we like to hear when served dessert, but love to hear when touring potential destination wedding reception sites. Secludedness is next to gorgeousness when it comes to falling for a location: We all want ours to be the only wedding in the world—no randoms wandering through the rehearsal dinner or unfortunate-looking sunbathers showing up in the ceremony photos. Have these stranger-free options all to yourself. **BY LISA CARSE**



Lake Kora

ADIRONDACK PARK, NEW YORK

When the Vanderbilts and the Rockefellers wanted to get away, they headed to their rambling, log-built compounds in the Adirondacks. Lake Kora is one of the few that remain. This ultraprivate retreat with three lakes, a lodge, and several outbuildings sleeps up to 22 guests, while the bride and groom generally opt for a cozy cottage set on a private island accessible only by boat. Much of the Adirondack styled furniture is original, crafted from peeled tree limbs and branches. Expect the best of local fare like grilled trout and fresh blueberry pancakes prepared for you by gourmet chefs.

Guest Activities: Activities at this group-fun-focused resort include bowling, tennis, and softball, plus sailing and mountain biking. The guest concierge can assist with additional amusements.

Wedding 411: The camp’s stone chapel holds 60 guests, and receptions take place in the stone barn or beneath a tent on one of the lawns. Wedding specifics and costs are up to you, but the camp staff is happy to offer vendor suggestions and assist with planning.

Fees: \$18,000 per night, with a three-night minimum.

sanctuary.com



Markree Castle

COUNTY SLIGO, IRELAND

The term “fairy-tale wedding” is overused, but this 14th-century castle is no cliché. The grand stone structure is surrounded by 500 acres that include idyllic gardens, the River Unsin, and a flock of sheep that roam the meadows. The castle sleeps up to 70 guests in spacious rooms with cozy beds covered in duck-down duvets, as well as modern amenities like flat-screen TVs. The kitchen staff prepares Irish specialties like locally made sausage and brown soda bread.

Guest Activities: Clay-pigeon-shooting excursions are a popular diversion and the Markree Riding Stables will set you off on scenic rides in the castle’s parks or along nearby beaches.

Wedding 411: Up to 170 guests can witness your nuptials in the chapel, and then celebrate in the castle’s lounge. Reception menus highlight local fare and include wines supplied by the castle’s own collection.

Fees: From 1,000 euros per night midweek to 2,000 euros on weekends. Guest rooms from 6,000 euros for use of all 30.

markreecastle.ie

Marley Resort & Spa

NASSAU, THE BAHAMAS

This brand-new resort set on Cable Beach is dedicated to some famous former residents: the Marley family, as in related to Bob. Each of the 16 luxurious rooms is named for a famous Bob Marley tune. All rooms have tropical rain showers, flat-screen televisions, and Bose entertainment systems. Details like hand-carved doors, mosaic tiles, and limestone walls show the design’s African and Caribbean influences.

Guest Activities: Besides regular pools and the beach, guests can swim with dolphins, try the Natural Mystic Spa, or visit a music gallery with rarities from the family’s collection. The onsite restaurant offers fresh seafood and organic produce.

Wedding 411: Ceremonies take place on the beach or in the gardens; receptions in the courtyard, featuring reggae music naturally.

Fees: From \$15,000 per night, with a three-night minimum.

marleyresort.com



HONEYMOONS & DESTINATIONS



Borgo Bernardini

LUCCA, ITALY

If you're envisioning "romantic Italian countryside," this Tuscan hideaway less than 10 minutes from the city of Lucca is your spot. The 17th-century villa reflects the grand style of that era—details include fountains, statues, and lush gardens on the grounds, while the main villa hosts a library, a parlor, a drawing room, a music room with a piano, a billiard room, and a wine cellar. Up to 30 guests can dine indoors at the family-style table, or at many of the alfresco spots around the estate. A staff of three tend to housekeeping and prepare breakfast; a private chef is also available.

Guest Activities: Private Italian cooking classes may be arranged for your group, and a professional sommelier is available to perform tastings from the estate's collection.

Wedding 411: There are several romantic spots on the property for a wedding ceremony: two favorites are by the pool, or near the large pond and magnificent fountains. For the reception, guests can enjoy a menu highlighting the region's epicurean specialties. Tuscan Dream, the estate's agent, coordinates all of the wedding details, including facilitating the legal paperwork, for no extra charge.

Fees: From 40,000 euros per week, with a one-week minimum.

tuscandream.com



Dunton Hot Springs

DOLORES, COLORADO

Return to the Old West—in a low-key, not corny, way—at Dunton Hot Springs, a meticulously restored 19th-century ghost town in an alpine valley just across the mountain from Telluride, Colorado. Here, 12 cushy cabins, which sleep up to 42 guests, are clustered around natural hot springs, a dance hall, and a saloon.

Guest Activities: Depending on the season, adventurous guests can go back-country skiing, snowmobiling, fly-fishing in the nine miles of river that pass through Dunton, horseback riding, or hiking. Mellow guests can spend their days enjoying the mineral-rich hot springs or at the spa. The chef prepares meals in an open kitchen at the saloon, and guests dine just like the miners who built the place: at a long antique table. Wine is supplied by Sutcliffe Vineyards, Dunton's private winery.

Wedding 411: Ceremonies take place in the log-hewn chapel set beside a waterfall, while receptions are held in the dance hall, in the saloon, or on the lawn.

Fees: \$15,000 per night Sunday through Thursday; \$17,500 per night Friday and Saturday; includes meals.

duntonhotsprings.com



Guana Island

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Gather everyone you love onto your own private island—this secluded Caribbean atoll. You and your 32 guests, who arrive by private boat, will have Guana's seven pristine beaches and 850 acres all to yourselves. Stay in guest cottages or in the Great House set on a small mountain; all rooms are simply but elegantly furnished. Breakfasts and lunches are served buffet-style; dinners are seated and preceded by cocktails.

Guest Activities: Hiking trails, a tennis court, and all kinds of water sports are available to guests, and the staff can arrange fishing, diving, or snorkeling trips. Several of Guana's undeveloped beaches are accessible by boat or hiking trail.

Wedding 411: Marry on the beach or in the garden overlooking the sea; basic ceremony packages are about \$1,850.

Fees: From \$19,500 per night; includes all meals with wine.

guana.com

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