



GARDEN Here in sunny South Florida — where lush foliage blooms all year long — garden weddings can be enjoyed in almost any season (except maybe a few chilly days in December and January). And since flowers and weddings go hand in hand, it's easy to incorporate this theme into your special day. You and your bridesmaids can wear wreaths of flowers and carry hand-tied bouquets for a more "garden" look. The cake might be frosted in white or ivory, then draped with fresh flowers to match the bouquets, while table centerpieces may include flower arrangements, flower baskets and a sprinkling of petals on the table. For favors, try seed packets tied with ribbons or small potted plants.

BEACH South Florida is also a natural setting for a beach wedding,

and there are many gorgeous locales up and down the Gold Coast from which to choose. Silk chiffon or mermaid-style dresses, strings of pearls woven into the hair or pearl tiaras all continue the seaside theme, while tiki torches create a dramatic "aisle" for the wedding party to walk up. Have your reception "under the sea," with large conch shells filled with flowers on each table, place cards sitting inside real or faux clam or oyster shells, and a cake adorned with real or candied shells. The reception tables can also be adorned with wooden treasure chests that hold up the table names and each table can be named after a tropical destination. Guests can feast on a seafood buffet or lobster boil, and take home decorative seashell soaps or "hurricane" candle holders with sand and seashells in the bottom and a votive candle on top. A word of warning: Anyone planning an outdoor wedding should have an alternate site waiting in case of rain.

ASIAN Give your celebration a Far East flair with Oriental accessories and colors. Your dress doesn't have to be Asian in appearance — silks and brocades will suggest the Far East, while your hair can be pulled back and fastened with chopsticks or a decorative comb. For your bouquet, orchids, lilies or colorful tropical flowers with bamboo, bear grass and curly willow accents add a touch of Zen. Of course, food and beverage at the reception can include all kinds of Oriental favorites, including teriyaki chicken, wonton soup and hot tea instead of coffee. One thing to remember: In a Chinese-style wedding, white is the color of death, while red and black are the colors of luck and prosperity.

MEDIEVAL Go medieval, or Renaissance, with a gold, silver or wine-colored gown with empire waist and hair worn down, with a circlet of ivy around your head. Invitations might be printed on parchment and include Celtic and Renaissance flourishes, while place cards have a similarly "knightly" style. A bouquet of ivy, heather, white roses, tulips, irises, and sweet smelling herbs like rosemary, sage and dill is straight out of the Middle Ages, but your cake will need some magic from a modern baker; a castle cake, dragon cake or Celtic knot-work cake are some alternatives. Serve mead (a sweet, fermented honey drink), ginger beer or ale at the reception, along with several large roasted chickens sprinkled with fennel. Mutton, venison and quail were also on the medieval menu, along with cheeses, walnuts, fresh fruits, bread, tarts and custards, fruit preserves and mulled wine. Jugglers and minstrels can entertain while your guests enjoy the feast. ♥

