

Morgan and Juan Gomez of Katy got married on the beach in beautiful St. Lucia



# Destination Weddings

## KATY COUPLES TIE THE KNOT IN UNIQUE LOCALES

WRITTEN BY CATHY SZE

*It's a day you will remember and cherish for the rest of your life. The day that you walk down the aisle, take the hands of your soon-to-be-spouse, stare deep into their eyes, and say, "I do," is such a special occasion, it deserves every little bit of planning. From picking out the perfect bouquet arrangements and sampling cakes to creating the guest list and finding the perfect dress, a wedding involves so many details that make it the most memorable day of your life. A beautiful and unique location can add a romantic ambience and extra spark to your momentous occasion. Many Katy couples are deciding to make their big day extra special with a memorable destination wedding.*



Disney's Castaway Cay is a popular wedding destination



Dr. Paige Chumley and Matt Jarvis exchanged vows in picturesque Playa del Carmen, Mexico

### ROMANTIC PARADISE IN PLAYA DEL CARMEN

Mexico's smooth, white sandy beaches glittering before the tranquil ocean provide a picturesque backdrop for any wedding. Katyite, Paige Chumley and her husband, Matt Jarvis knew it would make the perfect setting for their big day. In late May, the couple exchanged vows in Playa del Carmen, Mexico, just 30 minutes south of Cancun. During their engagement in Cabo San Lucas, they saw a group celebrating a wedding, which inspired them to have their own. "We kept thinking how fun it would be to have all of our family and friends for a destination wedding," says Paige. "Neither of us had ever been to Playa, but had heard great things about the beaches and small-town feel and culture."

After researching several different resorts, Paige and Matt finally

decided on Riu Palace. "It was a laid back, vacation feel," says Paige of marrying at the Riu. The couple wed in the afternoon outside in a courtyard gazebo. "It was hot, but thankfully, there was a great breeze off the water that made the day comfortable," she says.

### BREATHTAKING CEREMONIES IN ST. LUCIA

St. Lucia makes a breathtaking destination for a romantic getaway, honeymoon, and wedding. Featured as the engagement location of ABC's last season of *The Bachelor*, the Caribbean island of St. Lucia immediately caught the eye of Katyites, Morgan and Juan Gomez. They knew they wanted to be married in a tropical, beach setting, and Morgan kept falling in love with all of the pictures she saw of St. Lucia. "After seeing how remote it was compared to other locations, it just seemed perfect," Morgan says.

## Far Pavilions

Far From Ordinary...



Furniture



Decoratives



Textiles

**LIVINGGREEN**

where design meets sustainability

20,000 square foot showroom + warehouse:  
20425 Katy Freeway, Katy, TX 77450  
south side feeder btwn Westgreen and Fry in the patio 1 plaza  
281.579.3858 | www.farpavilions.com

Ken and Lindy Alberts of Katy tied the knot overlooking the breathtaking Grand Canyon



In July of 2007, the couple had their marriage ceremony on the tropical beach of Pigeon Island, St. Lucia, away from the island's rain forests. Rain threatened the ceremony, but within 30 minutes of the wedding, it cleared up and the sun quickly came out making for wonderful wedding weather. "With the gorgeous view of the sun setting over the water and the happiness of the day, I couldn't have been more at peace with how it went," says Morgan.

#### PLANNING THE GUEST LIST

Making sure to include everyone during the big day is undoubtedly one of the major dilemmas faced while planning a wedding. Ask any bride-to-be and her mother, and they'll most likely tell you that the guest list just seems to grow and grow. Matt and Paige invited 100 people with only 53 in attendance, which they heard was a larger than normal size for a destination wedding. "But it really was the perfect size," says Paige. "We had a big enough group for an exciting reception, but small enough that we could do group excursions." Morgan and Juan decided to invite less people, with guests including Juan's parents and brothers and Morgan's mother. "We realized people would be limited because of the cost, so we decided to keep it very small and intimate," says Morgan.

*"With the gorgeous view of the sun setting over the water and the happiness of the day, I couldn't have been more at peace with how it went."*

—MORGAN GOMEZ,  
WHO MARRIED HER HUSBAND,  
JUAN IN ST. LUCIA

#### MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR SPECIAL DAY

Preparing for a big event so far away from your home seems like it would take extra time and hard work, but the two married couples discovered that that wasn't the case. "It was actually rather easy," says Morgan. Paige remembers the experience as drama free and hassle free, without any clean-up afterwards. Both Paige and Morgan recommend finding a great wedding planner on the island

**FIVE STAR SPRINKLERS**

- Sprinkler Repair
- Locally Owned and Operated
- Timely, Reliable Service
- We Accept all Major Credit Cards

**BBB MEMBER**

**DAVID EVANS**  
Certified Irrigation Auditor | Certified Backflow Inspector  
(281) 492-0088 • [www.fivestarsprinklers.com](http://www.fivestarsprinklers.com)  
Insured & Licensed Irrigator #7430

**HAND WRIST ELBOW SHOULDER**

- Endoscopic Carpal Tunnel Release
- Endoscopic Cubital Tunnel Release
- Trigger Finger Release
- Sports Injuries
- Wrist Pain
- Wrist Fractures
- Tennis Elbow
- Rotator Cuff Injuries

**Dr. Jeffrey E. Budoff**  
Hand, Wrist, Elbow & Shoulder Specialist  
Board Certified Orthopaedic Surgeon  
CAQ Hand Surgery

**Southwest Orthopedic Group, L.L.P.**

For Appointments Call 713-800-1120  
[www.RearmYourselfTexas.com](http://www.RearmYourselfTexas.com)

**Four Office Locations:**  
Katy • MedCenter • Pearland • Clear Lake

© 2010 Katy Magazine

*Delivering Katy's Future...*



*One baby at a time.*

© 2009 Katy Magazine



**John T. Pappadas, M.D., F.A.C.O.G.**  
*Board Certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology*

*~ 18 Years of Experience*

*~ Attentive, Compassionate  
Patient Care*

*~ Warm, Friendly Office Staff*

**281-579-9056**

**707 South Fry Road, Suite 475**

**Katy, Texas 77450**

*Christus St. Catherine Center*



Jamaica's pristine beaches and golden sunsets make an ideal backdrop for any couple's special day

like the one they used. "I stayed in contact with her through email and she sent me my options for cakes, bouquets, music, etc.," says Morgan. "I sent her a thank you card when we got back simply because she was so amazing and did everything perfectly."

Overall, the two couples agree that having a destination wedding isn't as expensive as many think, but it's definitely not cheap either, says Paige. Morgan says making group reservations, including travel expenses, helps to cut back on the cost. "Most of the travel packs or group activity perks we purchased were all inclusive," she shares. And by keeping the wedding party to a small group of eight people, Juan and Morgan were able to spend extra money on dining out and group activities, many of which had group fees so they could budget in advance.

Even though Paige and Morgan agree that a destination wedding was a lot less stressful than a local wedding would have been, Paige admits that one of the few barriers was communication. "There were some times I wish I could have picked up the phone and talked to a real person instead of waiting a few days for a response," she recalls of her experience communicating through email.

#### MEMORIES THAT LAST A LIFETIME

Looking back, both couples know that with the help of a beautiful setting and their friends and family by their side, they have made memories they will forever remember. "It was truly special to be on vacation with everyone we love, and the fact that we also got married was icing on the cake," says Paige. "We brought home so many great memories."

Those moments and memories are documented in photos that both couples cherish and view again from time to time. "The island setting made for some unforgettable wedding photos that I will still look at and remember how it felt on the beach that day," says Morgan. Soon enough, both couples will get to experience it again. Paige and Matt hope to return to Playa del Carmen next year for their one-year anniversary. And for either their five- or 10-year anniversary, Morgan and Juan are planning to go back to the same house they stayed in while on the honeymoon portion of their wedding at St. Lucia. "I'm hoping for five-year," says Morgan. **KM**

*CATHY SZE is a junior at the University of Texas at Austin, where she is majoring in journalism and earning a certificate from the McCombs School of Business. She would love to one day travel to St. Lucia or Playa del Carmen for her own vacation getaway.*