

DESTINATIONS

GREECE & CYPRUS | WEDDINGS



CYPRUS WEDDING VENUES

Stuck for ideas on where to tie the knot? Let Aphrodite's island offer inspiration, says **Katie McGonagle**



SAY 'I DO' WITH SAND IN YOUR TOES

Nothing beats a beach wedding – waves lapping, sun shining and warm sand beneath your feet – so if that's what your happy couple are looking for, direct them to Thalassines Beach Villas. This Ayia Napa resort was added to Planet Weddings' portfolio last year and has had "huge success" with couples seeking beach weddings. Planet Weddings managing director Mathilde Robert says: "Cyprus is blessed with amazing hotels [but] the most popular option still remains beach weddings."

Book it: Prices start at £770 for a civil ceremony. Agents can also earn commission on extras such as flowers, photography and cakes. planetweddings.co.uk

GET HITCHED FOR FREE

We all know weddings can get pretty pricey – which is half the reason couples opt to tie the knot abroad – so the appeal of a free wedding is obvious. Palm Beach Hotel & Bungalows in Larnaca offers just that, with free venue hire for at least 12 guests and a choice of locations, from the blue-domed St Constantine and St Helena chapel to a beach, garden gazebo or the new 'love hut'.

Book it: Discounts apply for bookings with Planet Weddings, and include free use of the wedding party spa areas and a 10% discount on food and beverages (between May and October 2020) palmbeachhotel.com



CHOOSE A CHAPEL AT SUNSET

Cyprus is awash with quaint chapels tucked away in the Troodos Mountains or in traditional villages, but those aren't always an option for visiting couples. Instead, try the beautiful chapel at Columbia Beach Resort, where a Byzantine-style interior is matched by a stunning exterior with seating for up to 50 guests and the option of evening ceremonies to catch the ocean sunset.

Book it: Weddings at Columbia Beach Resort start at £5,550, including chapel hire, cocktail reception and dinner for 50. columbiaresort.com

PLANT A TREE TO SYMBOLISE YOUR LOVE

What could be more quintessentially Cypriot than an olive tree, planted to mark the occasion of your wedding and bearing fruit for years to come? That's exactly what you could have at Minthis Resort, near Tsada, where couples can say their vows in the shaded cloisters of a medieval monastery or on a lawn overlooking the rolling greens of the golf course.

Book it: Olympic Holidays offers weddings at Minthis Resort from £369, with bookings available for 2020 or 2021. olympicholidays.com



ESCAPE THE CROWDS WITH A COUNTRY WEDDING

Part of the joy of Cyprus is embracing the island's sense of tranquillity, so leave the tourist beaches behind for a wedding in a 16th-century farmstead. One such venue in Kouklia is offered by Ionian Island Weddings, whose owner Jane Palikira says: "This offers the couple a totally exclusive countryside wedding venue with the ceremony and reception all in one place."

Book it: A ceremony and reception for 20 guests costs from £4,695 with barbecue buffet, licence fee, flowers, cake and other fees. ionianweddings.co.uk

