

AAA WORLD

Destination Wedding Fever

The scenery, amenities and affordability help explain why couples like Perrone and Everitt are planning destination weddings at resorts in locations such as the Caribbean (the top spot), Hawaii and Mexico faster than you can pop the question. Industry experts estimate that the number of destination weddings has more than doubled in the past decade. Today 1 out of 10 weddings is a true destination wedding, which means both parties have traveled more than 250 miles from their home. And while not everyone on the guest list will make the journey—hence, fewer guests equals less expense—those who do will most likely have an amazing vacation, too.

From Vows to Vacations

That's what the Marker family of Springfield, Pennsylvania, discovered

when they were invited to a wedding at the Moon Palace in Cancún, Mexico, in July 2008, turning the opportunity into a weeklong family vacation.

"It was perfect—everything from wave running to swimming to comedy shows was there at the resort, and the kids [then ages 9, 7 and 2] loved it," says Bob Marker, who was among the 90 guests attending the wedding. "If my wife and I were to do our wedding over again, we'd have a destination wedding."

Because kids are often on guest lists as well as included in the wedding party—especially for "encore couples" with children from previous marriages—many resorts cater not only to couples but to entire families. And no one accommodates families quite like Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida, where about 1,600 couples get married each year.

