

Las Vegas Vows

FIVE SURE BETS FOR WEDDED BLISS.
BY SONA CHARAIPOTRA

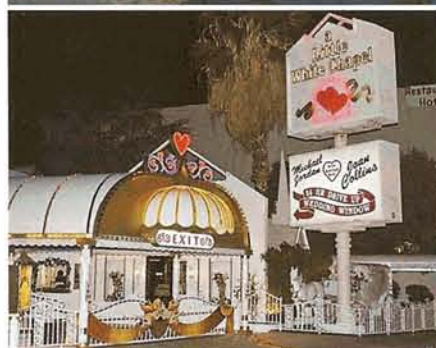
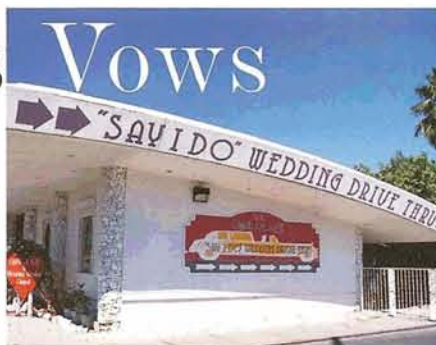
Every year, more than 100,000 couples head to Las Vegas to tie the knot. But with more than 60 chapels to choose from, it's hard to differentiate between the deliciously fun and the downright tacky. Our handy best-of guide will help you choose the right site for your Sin City nuptials. Before saying "I do," you'll need to pick up a \$55 wedding license at the Clark County Courthouse downtown. Then head to one of these choice chapels to make it official.

MOST ELEGANT

Feeling flush? Take a gamble on Bellagio's ultra-luxe \$15,000 Cosa Bella wedding package. Wed in the resort's lovely South Chapel (it holds up to 130 guests), then pose in the lush Botanical Garden or before the signature dancing fountains in your two-hour professional photo shoot. You even get a mini-honeymoon, including two nights in a penthouse suite, spa and show passes, dinner at top-rated Picasso and a bottle of Cristal. Simpler packages are available if you don't want to break the bank. Packages start at \$1,500; by appointment only.

BEST CELEB SPOT

At the Little White Wedding Chapel, Minister Charolette Richards can regale you with the wedding stories of past customers, including Judy Garland, Frank Sinatra, Joan Collins — even Britney Spears, with her blink-and-you-missed-it 2004 marriage to Jason Alexander. There's a \$40 drive-thru super-steal, or upgrade to the \$491 Michael Jordan package (he wed here in 1989), which includes limo service and photography. Packages start at \$40; by appointment or walk-in.



BEST DRIVE-THRU

If you're craving a quickie, cruise over to the "Say I Do" drive-thru at the Las Vegas Chapel of Love. Their \$249 package includes limousine service down the Strip and the minister-led ceremony at the drive-thru. Upgrade to the \$450 Ultimate Cruise and your ride is a 20-passenger stretch Hummer, complete with fully stocked bar, smoke machine and a leather-and-zebra-striped interior. Should you wish to stand, they do chapel weddings as well. Packages start at \$45; by appointment or walk-in.

MOST ROMANTIC

La dolce vita is alive and well at the Venetian Resort Hotel Casino. Board an authentic Italian gondola and recite your vows as you float along the hotel's elaborate canals, or wed in front of up to 10 guests on the beautiful bridge overlooking St. Mark's Square. If you want a larger celebration, the hotel's gilded private chapels can host up to 150 guests. Another plus: The bride and groom receive a 20 percent discount on their hotel room. Packages start at \$750; by appointment only.

BEST ELVIS

Today Elvis is a Vegas wedding staple, but The Graceland Chapel, on the south end of the Strip, claims to have started it all. They have three minister-Elvises (Elvi?) to choose from: the leather-clad '68 Comeback Elvis, the sequined-jumpsuit Vegas Elvis, and our fave, the young rockabilly Elvis, clad in gold lamé, whose silky song stylings will leave your bridesmaids swooning. You'll be in good company: Jon Bon Jovi and Jay Leno both wed here. Elvis packages start at \$200; by appointment or walk-in.

TO CONTACT THE SOURCES MENTIONED IN THIS ARTICLE, SEE RESOURCES, PAGE 105.

FROM TOP: STEVE CRAFT/MASTERFILE; BELLAGIO; GAIL MOONEY/MASTERFILE; FREDERICK M. BROWN/GETTY; GRACELAND CHAPEL