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COSTA RICA WEDDINGS: PLENTY OF FLASH, EASY ON CASH!

Guanacaste, Costa Rica, January 15, 2010 – At the **Flamingo Beach Resort & Spa**, a popular oceanfront resort on Costa Rica’s northern Pacific Coast, the brides aren’t waiting for traditional June weddings. In the first week of January alone the resort hosted four lovely sunset ceremonies, and at least 20 more nuptial celebrations are in the planning stages for the coming months. In fact, “destination weddings,” a trend on the upswing throughout the last decade, have become even more popular since the economic downturn, especially in locations outside the United States where the dollar often stretches a lot further.

“In Costa Rica, you can have an absolutely gorgeous, one-of-a-kind, unforgettable wedding and reception for thousands of dollars less than the price of a similar package in the U.S.,” explains Pamela Rodriguez, owner of the Flamingo Beach Resort & Spa. “It often becomes a memorable family vacation as well as a special, romantic event for the bride and groom.”

Andrea Crosley and Charles Loskarn of Ocean City, Maryland, celebrated the New Year by tying the knot at the Flamingo Beach Resort & Spa after planning the entire affair by Internet and telephone. Arriving a few days before the wedding to spend some quality time with family and close friends, Andrea said that they were totally thrilled with their



choice of location. “We knew someone who had had their wedding here last year and absolutely loved it, so we trusted them,” Andrea said, explaining that between the amount of photos on the resort’s website and the personal attention from the wedding coordinator, she felt no need to visit the site in advance. “My fiance is a surfer and he’s always wanted to spend time in Costa Rica, so here we are.”

Andrea and Charles opted for a deluxe wedding package that included all the legal paperwork, the beach ceremony set-up, the on-site wedding coordinator, a flowered wedding arch for the ceremony, flowers for the bride and groom, a romantic candlelit dinner for two right on the beach, a relaxing couples message, a bottle of sparkling wine and a wedding cake. Extras included music and decorations and the reception for their 33 guests, which featured signature cocktails, an open bar, yellow orchids on the tables, a DJ, and a five-course buffet dinner. The entire wedding cost the couple around \$5,000, not including accommodations and airfare. Held on a beautiful, starlit tropical night, the event was a spectacular success.

The affordability of a destination such as Costa Rica is the deciding factor for many couples who choose an offshore wedding. When compared with the typical 100-guest church wedding and reception at a banquet hall in the U.S. costing an average of \$25,000 -- which can easily skyrocket to more than \$40-\$50,000 in big cities -- plus a few extra thousand for a honeymoon, it’s easy to see why. To ease the financial burden, many couples opt to travel to a place where they can get married, hold a reception, enjoy a honeymoon, and still have money left over to start their new lives together.

Another plus of a destination wedding is that it’s easier and faster to plan than a traditional wedding ceremony and reception, especially because resorts such as the Flamingo Beach Resort & Spa have full-time wedding coordinators on staff who are



familiar with the country's legal requirements and offer complete wedding packages that take care of all the ceremony essentials. In the right season, destination wedding locales can almost guarantee good weather, and also enable the couple to make their own rules and begin their own traditions. If they want to go barefoot, wear bathing suits or make a grand entrance on horseback, venues such as The Flamingo Beach Resort & Spa are more than happy to help make the couple's dreams come true!

Complete wedding packages are available at the Flamingo Beach Resort & Spa starting at \$1,400 and include a complementary Bridal Suite upgrade for the bride and groom. For more information visit the website at www.resortflamingocom, or call our wedding specialist, Linda Pacheco, at 305-500-9998.

About the Flamingo Beach Resort and Spa

Situated in Costa Rica's Northwest province of Guanacaste, Flamingo Beach Resort & Spa is the only hotel located directly on the white sands of Costa Rica's Playa Flamingo. The 120-room property recently underwent multi-million dollar renovations, with major upgrades to the resort's public areas and guestrooms. The resort features two swimming pools, including an oversized infinity edge pool with swim-up bar, waterfalls, lounging areas and lanes for swimming; a new state-of-the-art Serenity Spa with a myriad of natural treatments for relaxation and renewal; a fitness center and full schedule of recreational and sports activities including yoga classes, water aerobics and salsa dancing; a covered children's pool with adjacent play area; the Flamingo Casino & Bar featuring Blackjack, Poker, Roulette and a wide variety of game machines; the oceanfront Arenas Restaurant under the direction of renowned Chef David Smith, and the modern, open-air Sunset Lounge. Additional amenities include a full-service tour desk, PADI certified diving and water sports center, billiards tables, library, and an



outdoor tennis court with lights for nighttime play. The Flamingo Beach Resort & Spa specializes in weddings and offers 3,264 square feet of event space for all types of celebrations and/or meetings. For more information on our many specials and packages, visit www.resortflamingobeach.com.
