Wed in Bliss

Weddings on the beach have never been better than at **Sareeraya Villas & Suites**.

"Where better to tie the knot than in paradise?" A phrase, it seems, that is being uttered more and more these days as an increasing number of couples choose destination weddings.

Turn on any television and you'll come across countless programs covering just that topic. Not only do you get warm weather and gorgeous tropical beachside surrounds at a destination wedding, but you also get your dream day in paradise for just a fraction of the price you'd pay back home – a concept that's appealing to even the most avid of homebodies.

The only downfall? Perhaps that a few of your planned guests will drop out when they hear of the travel aspect. But for many couples that can actually turn out to be a plus point, because those who do end up forking out for the flights are likely to be just your nearest and dearest friends and family, which avoids the over-lengthy invite list, thus bringing the cost down further – and let's be honest, eradicating some of the people you only invited out of politeness!

They always say you should start anything as you mean to go on, so why not begin your life together in paradise, and as far as places that symbolise eternal blissfulness go, Samui is definitely up there! Sareeraya Villas & Suites, known simply as Sareeraya, is located at the quiet, northern end of Chaweng Beach. Its location is a big selling point for those wanting to get married on Samui because it's situated on the world-famous Chaweng Beach – the whitest beach on Samui – but also close to all the restaurants and bars.

The 'Now & Forever Western Wedding' is what most couples marrying at Sareeraya opt for. A personal wedding planner is provided as part of the package, and they really go all out, as you're allowed to personalise every single aspect of the wedding – in fact they encourage it, 'tailor made weddings', they call them. The staff and wedding planners at Sareeraya believe that allowing flexibility is the key to creating the absolutely perfect wedding for every client.

Make-up, photos, cake etc. are taken care of by the hotel. You just choose what you want and the staff make it happen. As part of the package the couple not only get all the standard items but they also have the option of a vast list of other miscellaneous items. Included on this lengthy list are a wide variety of entertainment options, like a wedding DJ & sound system, a cabaret dance show and Thai fire dancers. Or for an extra-special touch they can incorporate an elephant ride, drum dance procession or even 100 butterflies to be released after the 'I dos'.

Billowing white sheets and arches bursting with stunning floral arrangements are set up on the beach for the ceremony. A white aisle scattered with rose petals is laid down between rows of white chairs adorned with large silk bows. One couple that got married at Sareeraya recently not only had the typical great sunny weather that is so common on Samui, but a genuine rainbow on the horizon as a backdrop too!

The format of the ceremony begins with the groom and best man being escorted by the wedding planner to the venue – usually the beach. After the procession where the bridesmaids enter, the bride walks down the aisle with her father and the ceremony officially begins. After the vows are said and the rings exchanged, the officiant will announce the couple as newly-weds, as they turn toward to walk back down the aisle to the sound of the cheers and claps of the wedding party.

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After the ceremony, the whole wedding party move up to the drinks reception by the pool, just a few metres from the beach. Then the dinner is served, usually an international buffet but, as with all the other aspects of a wedding at Sareeraya, the choice is in the hands of the couple.

Sareeraya also offer a Perfect Match wedding package, which is an intimate ceremony for just the bride and groom, who will tie the knot in a open-air gazebo that offers breathtaking sea views. Additionally there is the option of a Thai wedding ceremony, called the Ever After Thai Wedding, and a combined Thai and Western one, called Two Hearts in One.
From the spectacular beach set-up to personalised touches like 100 butterflies being released like magical confetti, the team at Sareeraya really do everything in their power to give you the fairy-tale wedding you've always dreamed of.

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For reservations and further information, telephone 0 7791 4333.
www.sareeraya.com