

now  
arriving

2016

## GROUNDBREAKING

NEW HOTELS AND RECENT RENOS MEAN MORE MARRYING OPTIONS FOR JET-SETTING COUPLES.

Hip meets historic at the new **Ace Hotel New Orleans** (below). The 234-room hotel opened March 2016 in a 1928 art deco building, surrounded by the museums and galleries of the Warehouse District. Host an affair in the Barnett Dining Room decked with chandeliers and vintage details.



### ... Mahekal Beach

**Resort** in Playa del Carmen, Mexico, completed a multimillion-dollar revamp in December 2015, adding an open-air, thatch-roof wedding venue, plus 74 palapa-style bungalows, a spa, a third pool and a restaurant. ... **Marriott Coronado**

### Island Resort & Spa

is fresh from a May 2016 reno, debuting 300 re-designed rooms and a spa. The Bayside Lawn and Skyline Terrace (left) both offer prized panoramas of San Diego Bay. ... In addition to upgraded rooms and a new spa, Antigua's **Blue Waters Resort** completed its final phase of a multimillion-dollar renovation in November 2016, unveiling the refreshed Rock Cottage villa



(below). Exchange

vows on the deck (with a brand-new infinity pool) overlooking the sea. — Morgan Cole, Kim Kuhn and Katie McElveen



## Trend Alert

# SECOND LIVES

DON'T CALL IT A COMEBACK: THESE HOTELS WITH INTRIGUING PASTS HAVE BEEN HERE FOR YEARS.

Do you believe in reincarnation? Some of the most swoon-worthy resorts and wedding sites were built for vastly different purposes. Start your future at these hotels with fascinating pasts, and they can stand in as your "something old."

**Religious Conversions** ➤ You don't need to be a believer to appreciate the exquisite Spanish architecture of **Hotel El Convento**, a former 17th-century convent in old San Juan, Puerto Rico. The elegant, art-filled property feels worlds away from the island's laid-back beaches, but don't worry — they're just a few miles down the road. *Rooms from \$175; weddings from \$120 per person.* **Belmond Villa San Michele**, a Renaissance-period monastery born again as a boutique hotel, is one of Tuscany, Italy's most romantic wedding venues. Celebrate



alfresco in the lush hilltop gardens, or step inside the recently added Davanzati Room, overlooking Florence's skyline. *Rooms from \$625; weddings custom.* **Sugar Mills** ➤ For centuries, sugar was the main crop throughout the Caribbean. These days, many of the mills that dot the islands — like **Ottley's Plantation Inn** on St. Kitts — have new lives as hotels. Ottley's sprawling lawn that fronts its charming 18th-century plantation is an especially sweet spot to wed. *Rooms from \$230; weddings from \$1,795.* Another option: say I do at the 400-year-old stone **Sugar Mill Hotel** in the British Virgin Islands; new in 2016 are refreshed rooms, a pool and an all-inclusive plan. *Rooms from \$295; weddings from \$500.* **Private Residences** ➤ At **GoldenEye**, on the north coast of Jamaica, wed at one of the coolest



## Flight Tracker

LIMIT TRAVEL TIME WITH THESE NO-LAYOVER OPTIONS.

**1 FORT LAUDERDALE (FLL) ➤ BARBADOS (BGI)** JetBlue (3 hours, 40 minutes) Launched in April, this new route operates daily, so you and your guests can kick off the wedding weekend at the famed Friday-night fish fry at Oistins.