

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.