

# NO VACANCY

Modern full-service resorts have their perks, but there's something special about a boutique historic property where you can have the whole place to yourself. These eight romantic hotels are primed and ready for a complete buyout. BY PAM GROUT

## ➔ Old Town Manor, Key West, Florida

At this 1886 Victorian mansion listed on the National Register of Historic Places, exchange rings under century-old palms in a private ornamental garden with orchids, flowering trees and a fountain. Guests will love the great location near Duval Street. *Rooms from \$105; wedding packages from \$5,500.*

## Montpelier Plantation, Nevis

On this 18th-century former sugar plantation, enjoy your own private beach, spa, wine cellar and 60-foot pool. All 19 hillside rooms have ocean views. Exchange vows in a tent on the beach or in the shade of an African tulip tree, and follow with a candlelit reception in a 300-year-old cut-stone sugar mill. *Rooms from \$275 (based on buyout); wedding packages from \$1,650.*

## ➔ Soniat House, New Orleans, Louisiana

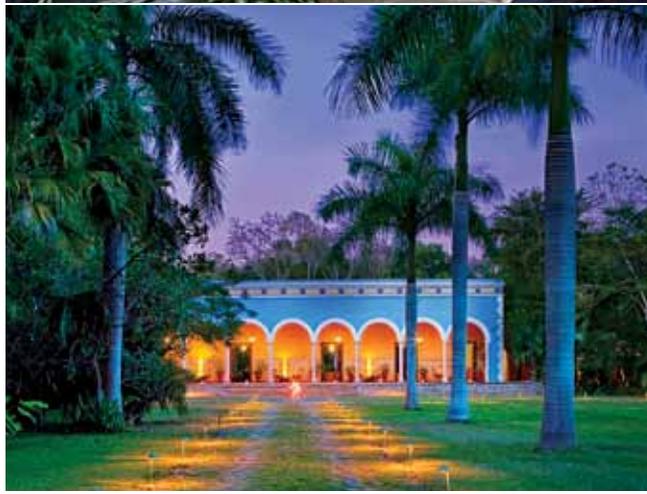
At this 30-room French Quarter hideaway, verandas and spiral staircases lead to secluded, ceremony-ready courtyards, and wrought-iron balconies overlook Jackson Square and Cafe du Monde. Your party can take over one or all three of the historic town houses that make up the property. *Rooms from \$295; weddings packages from \$5,000.*

## Columbia Gorge Hotel, Hood River, Oregon

At this 1921 Columbia River Valley hotel, you'll exchange vows beside a 208-foot waterfall. With 39 rooms, each with a vista of either the gorge or the gardens along Phelps Creek, this elegant property will take care of everything from hair and makeup (at the onsite spa) to photography and a smooth-talking DJ. *Rooms from \$149; wedding packages from \$15,000, all-inclusive.*

## The Manor on Golden Pond, Holderness, New Hampshire

This 1904 English Tudor estate overlooks the White Mountains and Squam Lake — yes, the one featured in the film *On Golden Pond*. In the summer, pontoons can whisk guests to a small island, where you can



exchange vows in an open-air chapel with stone pews. With 24 antique-filled rooms (many with fireplaces), the manor specializes in crafting weekend wedding itineraries with golf tourneys, poolside hors d'oeuvres and even hot-air balloon rides. *Rooms from \$220; wedding packages from \$25,000.*

## Hotel Luna Convento, Amalfi, Italy

This majestic hotel on the cliffs overlooking Amalfi's harbor even has its own chapel — not surprising when you learn it was once a Franciscan cloister, started in 1222 by St. Francis himself. Today it's an intimate 40-room boutique with gardens, terraces and two restaurants, including one in a historic stone watchtower. Gourmet chefs can make custom pizzas for your guests in an outdoor oven. *Rooms from \$253; wedding packages from \$187 per person.*

## Castle on the Hudson, Tarrytown, New York

Invite your subjects (er, guests) to a fairy-tale wedding in a 100-year-old castle turned five-diamond resort overlooking the Hudson River Valley. The hotel comprises 30 lavish rooms and suites, plus 10½ acres of artfully coifed grounds. Indoor photo ops include the Great Hall, with its 40-foot vaulted ceilings and stained-glass windows, and an ornate staircase. *Rooms from \$245; wedding packages from \$66,000, including ceremony, cocktail party, five-course tasting dinner, open top-shelf bar, rooms and breakfast.*

## ➔ Hacienda Uayamon, a Luxury Collection Hotel, Campeche, Mexico

At this 18th-century colonial estate, you and your guests will enjoy spacious terraces and private candlelit gardens in the midst of the Yucatan jungle. Your plantation home away from home provides 12 elegant rooms and suites, a spa with exotic Maya treatments, private plunge pools, convenient wedding packages and access to five archaeological sites. *Rooms from \$200; wedding packages from \$180 per person.*

MIDDLE: GEORGE LONG PHOTOGRAPHY