

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SARASOTA VALENTINES

Celebrate Valentine's Day in paradise as Sarasota offers romantic settings and special deals on the beach and beyond

SARASOTA, Fla. (January, 2011) --It's a new year and this Valentine's Day should be more than a box chocolates and a Hallmark greeting. Plan a getaway, say "I do (again)" and find new, creative ways to impress your loved ones right here in Sarasota.

Say "I Do" Again

This Valentine's Day, squeeze in a vow renewal before your dinner reservations. Couples can renew wedding vows on beautiful Siesta Key Beach on Monday, **February 14, 2011** from 6-7 p.m.

For years, hundreds of couples have flocked to Siesta Key to participate in "Say 'I Do' Again," an annual marriage renewal ceremony and local tradition.

The non-denominational service is performed by Judge Becky Titus, who also participated in the ceremony with her husband last year. For just \$5 per couple, you and your loved one can re-declare your love under the Sarasota sunset.

The ceremony will take place at the Siesta Key Beach Pavilion, located at 948 Beach Rd. Light refreshments will be provided.

In order to participate, couples must pre-register by **February 10**. Call (941) 861-5000 for more information.

Valentine Stroll

Romance will be in the air before the 14th, especially at the annual **Siesta Key Village Valentine Stroll**. "Everyone gets a Kiss" on Friday, **February 11, 2011** from 5-8 p.m.

The Village will be filled with Valentine's Day spirit. Peruse the shops and grab drinks at the bars and restaurants while taking in the live music and munching on the candy kisses handed out by the local merchants. If you're in need of some extra loving, donate a dollar for a hug or get a free kiss at the Gazebo. Face painting is available for the kids and flowers will also be for sale. Participating merchants will fly red and pink balloons outside of their businesses.

To help with parking, there will be a free Trolley service from the Siesta Public Beach parking lot to the Village from 4:30-8:30 p.m., thanks to the Siesta Island Trolley and the Daiquiri Deck.

For more details, visit www.siestakeyville.org or call (941) 685-2274.

Sail Away

Few things are more romantic than going sailing at sunset. **Kathleen D Sailing Catamarans** offers peaceful, intimate sailing cruises for couples looking for a special night out on the water. Couples are encouraged to bring a bottle of wine to enjoy while watching the sunset.

All cruises depart from the Twin Dolphin Marina in nearby Bradenton. For more information, visit www.kathleend.net, call (732) 610-4081 or e-mail kathleendsailing@gmail.com.

Wine, Dine and Learn to Cook

Renowned romantic restaurant **Euphemia Haye** is holding winter and spring cooking classes, running **January 28-May 11, 2011**. Chef Raymond Arpke will present the Lesson Luncheon cooking classes at the lovely Longboat Key dining destination from 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. on the scheduled dates. Classes include wine pairings, banana bread and signature coffee, as well as cooking instructions, copies of the menu and the meal itself.

The cost is \$60 per person and reservations are required. For reservations and details, call (941) 383-3633 between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Both amateur cooks and experienced chefs are welcome.

The menu for the Lesson Luncheon on February 9, 2011, the date closest to Valentine's Day, includes empanadas de Horno with jalapeno salsa fresca, poached salmon with grain mustard beurre blanc and steamed asparagus and fresh strawberries with Sabayon custard.

Euphemia Haye is located at 5540 Gulf of Mexico Dr., Longboat Key.

On Valentine's Day, February 14, 2011, **Vernona** at the **Ritz-Carlton Sarasota** is offering a romantic four-course dinner, which includes a glass of Dom Perignon champagne, for \$125. For the menu and reservation, call (941) 309-2008.

Also at the Ritz on Valentine's Day, dig into a chocolate buffet including chocolate cookies, cakes, candies and an extravagant chocolate fountain. The cost is \$21 per person.

The Ritz-Carlton Sarasota is located at 1111 Ritz-Carlton Dr., Sarasota.

Other local restaurants running Valentine's Day specials include **Sam Snead's** (1860 S. Osprey Ave., #100) and the **Polo Grill** (10670 Boardwalk Loop) in Lakewood Ranch. At Sam Snead's, enjoy a special menu in addition to the regular menu for \$39.95 per person. Dine from the prix fixe menu from February 11-14, 2011 and receive \$20 toward your next meal. At the Polo Grill, spend \$100 for two and get a bottle of wine.

Hotel and Spa Specials

The **Longboat Key Club and Resort** will help you and your significant other bring some romance and relaxation into your lives this season with its spa package. The Island Pace and Time package includes suite accommodations, welcome amenities, daily breakfast in any of the resort's restaurants, including room service (up to a \$22 value), your choice of two 50-minute spa treatments and a 15% off discount on all Shoppe at Island House purchases. Prices start at \$430 per night for two people (two night minimum).

For details, visit www.longboatkeyclub.com or call (941) 383-1512.