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weddings

Summer 2014

Castaway Brides

Real-life island weddings you'll swoon over

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A recipe for one big, beautiful day

Plus!

Pretty parties, local favors, tips for perfect photos, & more

Easy, Breezy Summer Style

*Warm up to laid-back luxury
in the Lowcountry*



*Fashion shot on location
at Wild Dunes Resort
(see page 100)*

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Open-Air Elegance

CAROLINE MCMAHON & EDWARD TAYLOR
May 11, 2013, Spring Island Tabby Ruins

Caroline McMahon was born in Winnetka, Illinois, but she seems meant to be a Southern belle. Case in point: the first time the Southern Methodist University grad met Clemson student Edward Taylor, she told him she was from Beaufort. "No, you're not," said the native of the sleepy fishing village, "I know every girl in town." Caroline's wishful thinking wasn't pure fiction; she'd grown up visiting nearby Spring Island, and her parents have lived there for years. Add in SMU, and she says she was just trying on her Southern persona. It was a great fit with Edward, and the two were pretty much inseparable after their first encounter. Two weeks later, he picked her up by boat to meet his family, and a year after that, he proposed on his parent's dock. Spring Island had been Caroline's dream wedding spot since girlhood, and "that Edward was born and raised in the area sealed the deal," she says. Aiming for an outdoor wedding in view of the 1850s plantation house tabby ruins there, the couple recruited Katie Huebel of WED to build a tented dining hall and dance club in the otherwise bare fields. "Though it involved a lot of logistics and the anxiety of an entirely outdoor ceremony and reception," says Caroline, "Katie and WED did a phenomenal job of relieving us and our families of any ounce of stress." The final verdict on the day vows were exchanged? "It was beautiful," says Caroline. —Frances Bransen



IMAGES BY Elisabeth Millay
WEDDING DESIGN BY WED

Island: Spring Island
Distance from Charleston: 90 miles south
Personality: Barrier island golf resort
Best Bet to Wed There: Resort membership or sponsorship by a member
Info: SpringIsland.com; (843) 987-2200
Like Spring Island? You'll Also Dig: Kiawah Island Golf Resort (800/654-2924; KiawahResort.com); Runnymede Plantation (843/737-6117; Events@Runnymede.com)



(from left) WELL-SUITED: Caroline wore Legends by Romona Keveza from Maddison Row; Edward wore a tuxedo from Berlin's for Men. LUXE LIFE: The dining hall tent, with its honey-toned wooden floors, mercury-glass drum shades, and gently gathered fabric draping, was an oasis of elegance in the open field.



Tip: The groom's secret weapon for a summertime island wedding? "A planner, a good planner," says Edward.



(clockwise from top left) FIELD OF DREAMS: Simple wooden chairs gathered around the ruins formed a hallowed ceremony site. HB Stems married fresh blooms with driftwood pieces; displaying them in glass took the look from rustic to sophisticated. Tables set outside the tents encouraged guests to explore the site. Wedding Cakes by Jim Smeal's buttercream confection sported a pattern inspired by the table liners. The bird-and-branch fabric runners tied the day's color palette and nature-meets-elegance style together.

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