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Wedding Bells Ring out in Picturesque Ojai – A Popular Place for Destination Weddings

Ojai, CA – A wedding day is one of the most important days of a bride's life. While many travel to offshore destinations for this celebration, there is a magical option located right in southern California. Ojai, just 90 minutes north of Los Angeles, is nestled in a romantic valley with charming inns, intimate venues and inviting photo opportunities around every bend.

Located within Ojai's charming village center are two boutique hotels that have formed a relationship to provide a memorable wedding experience. **The Lavender Inn** and **Su Nido Inn**, within just one block of each other, provide cozy accommodations for the bride and groom, out of town guests, and on-site options for ceremony and or reception.

The Lavender Inn can accommodate wedding parties up to 100 people or create an intimate wedding in their cottage and garden for 20 or less. An historic bed & breakfast property, The Lavender Inn contains an expansive lawn with gardens, fountains, a pond, veranda, gazebo, majestic oaks and an abundance of flowers. Also on location is a spa cottage, a favorite for the bridal party as they prepare for the main event. The inn is also home to Ojai's Culinary Cooking School where guests can participate in cooking classes as part of their wedding getaway experience. Custom packages can also be created and guests have the option to rent out the entire Inn, coupling that special day with an unforgettable vacation experience.

Su Nido Inn is a Mission Revival style boutique inn with tastefully-appointed suites surrounding a picturesque center courtyard. Couples can be married under the beautiful arched entrance while guests enjoy the peaceful melody of the courtyard fountain. This venue is ideally suited for wedding ceremonies of up to 50 guests, and can easily accommodate twelve couples for the weekend in the luxurious, home-style suites complete with balconies, living rooms, and kitchenettes. Additional guests can stay just a block away at The Lavender Inn. A special website, www.yourojaiwedding.com, has been created by the Lavender Inn & Su Nido to help guests easily plan their wedding destination. The site contains information on vendors, accommodations, vacation ideas and more.

The Ojai Valley Inn & Spa, a luxurious five diamond resort, is the ideal location for the ultimate destination wedding experience. The Inn is situated on 220 acres shaded by giant oak trees with intimate outdoor courtyards, lush lawns, herb gardens and private villas. Brides can choose from many outdoor options for the ceremony and the reception. Or opt for the Casa Blanca, a private courtyard that can house the entire wedding

party in the buildings that surround the ceremony site. Custom wedding packages are also available at the Ojai Valley Inn & Spa creating vacation opportunities.

Set on a five-acre hilltop property, the **Ojai Retreat** provides a special setting for wedding parties up to 100 people. Guests can take in the breathtaking and panoramic vistas of the Ojai Valley and choose a ceremony in the Waterfall Garden or ShangriLa Garden setting. The Ojai Retreat has 12 guestrooms for the wedding party.

Tucked against a hillside on the outskirts of Ojai, **The Ranch House** is a popular choice for both local weddings and destination celebrations. Upon entering through the Ranch House gate, the lush, peaceful environs are instantly soothing. Guests can sample hors d'oeuvres or dance on the circular brick patio, completely enclosed and lined by shaded oak trees and bordered by eucalyptus trees and an ivy-colored hillside. Most wedding ceremonies take place in the rose garden located on a sunny expanse of lawn at the far end of the restaurant. In the center of the village, **Suzanne's Cuisine** - Ojai's most highly rated restaurant - features French-Italian cuisine and offers a beautiful patio setting for receptions. Wedding guests can stay nearby at one of Ojai's cozy B & B's or family-friendly inns.

Prefer something more casual? **Azu** offers an eclectic California Spanish menu with Mediterranean cuisine inspired by fresh local ingredients. The private garden room and bar can accommodate up to 50 people inside, while the adjacent outdoor patio can accommodate up to 20 for a total seating of 70. For a casual country setting, **Boccali's Restaurant** on the outskirts of town can accommodate groups of 100 or more. The expansive lawn area can be utilized for both the ceremony and reception.

Extending the wedding into a great getaway is easy in Ojai with its many attractions and activities. For the adventurous, there are a number of opportunities to be out in the great outdoors including hiking, bicycling, horseback riding or even back-country jeep tours. The Ojai village is filled with one-of-a-kind shops, restaurants, art galleries, spas and wine tasting rooms. Nearby Lake Casitas is a scenic setting for fishing, boating, kayaking and simply enjoying nature at its best.

Ojai is an easy 90-minute drive north of Los Angeles and 50 minutes south of Santa Barbara. The closest airports are in Santa Barbara (45 miles), Burbank (70 miles), and Los Angeles (85 miles). Ojai is just a 20-minute drive from U.S. 101 via California Highway 33. Ample, free parking is available throughout the city.

For more information on Ojai as a wedding destination, visit www.ojaivisitors.com or call the Ojai Visitors Bureau **1-888-OJAI NOW**.

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