

THE ULTIMATE ROMANCE ISSUE

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## Southern Grandeur

When Carrie Underwood and pro hockey player Mike Fisher got hitched, they headed to The Ritz-Carlton Lodge, Reynolds Plantation, in Greensboro, Georgia (outside of Atlanta), for an elegant but down-home Southern wedding that appealed to her Oklahoma roots. If a low-key but sophisticated vibe sounds tempting, consider these Southern spots.

### THE INN AT PALMETTO BLUFF, BLUFFTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

With May River views from its arched windows, the onsite chapel at this South Carolina resort, near Savannah, Georgia, is a couple favorite. Sip mint juleps served in Mason jars, then celebrate in the ballroom or the rustic Moreland's Landing pavilion, where folks can enjoy a traditional oyster roast. In lieu of cake, serve peach cobbler or homemade moon pies. Guests can stay in cottage accommodations at the inn, or they can rent out private homes in

the walkable Norman Rockwell-style village. *Rooms from \$355; weddings from \$9,650.*

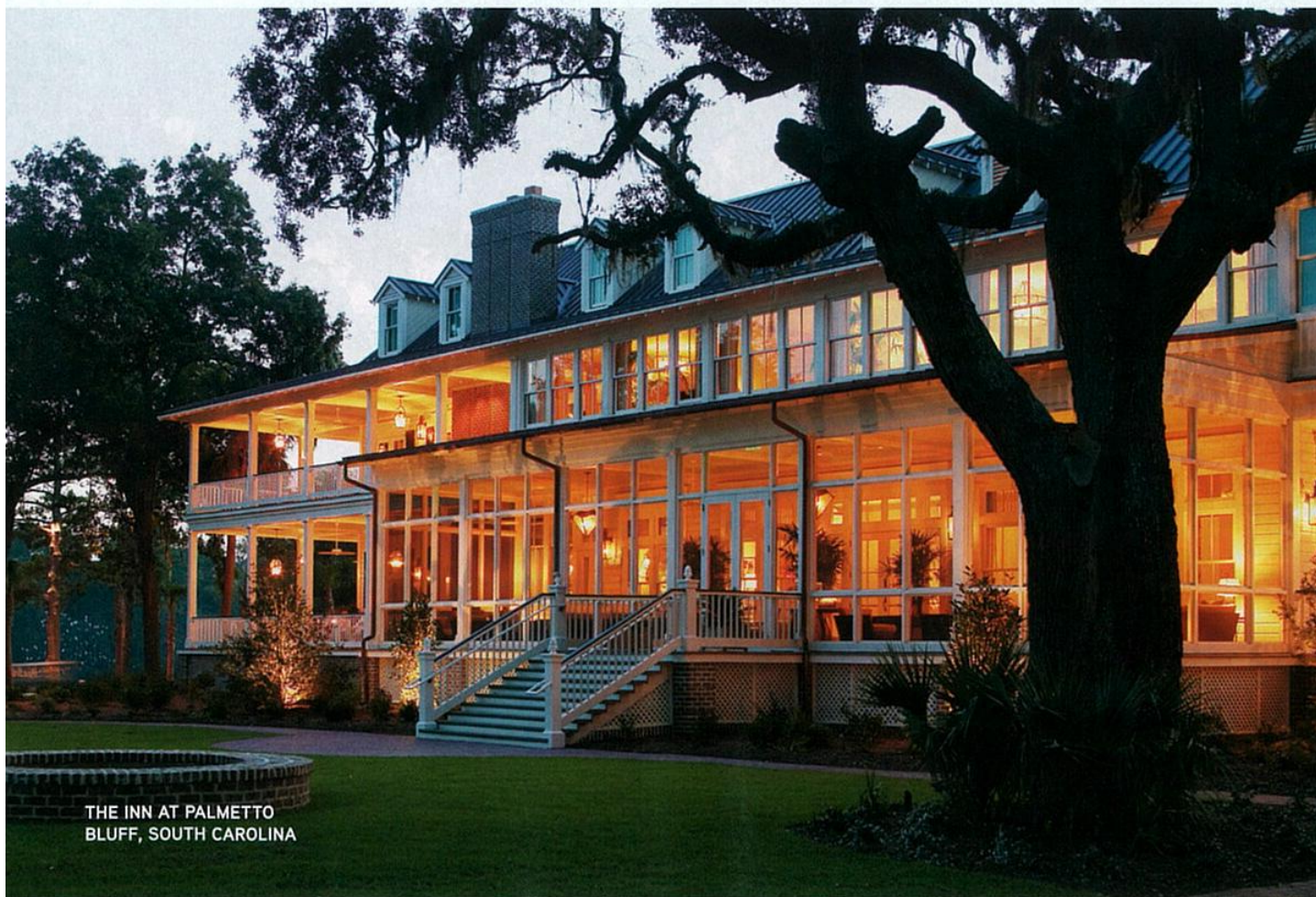
### THE HOMESTEAD, HOT SPRINGS, VIRGINIA

High society originally flocked to this Virginia resort, built in 1766, for its therapeutic mineral springs. Today it's still a first-class retreat on 3,000 acres, with golf, bridle paths and a spa. There's no shortage of top-tier wedding venues: the Casino Lawn, Fishing Pond and Grand Ballroom, to name a few. Customize your menus (perhaps baked Virginia ham and

buttermilk biscuits), and have master pastry chef Michel Finel whip up a yummy cake — red velvet is a perennial fave. *Rooms from \$175; site fees from \$1,500; wedding packages from \$175 per person.*

### BARNSELY GARDENS RESORT, ADAIRSVILLE, GEORGIA

It's hard not to feel swept away in some *Gone With the Wind* fantasy at this resort in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, an hour's drive from Atlanta. An alpine-style chapel and original 19th-century-mansion ruins (beautifully lit at night) make for ultra-romantic venues, and the Rice House, an 1850s farmhouse with two crackling fireplaces, is ideal for a low country feast of spicy Gulf shrimp and Savannah crab cakes. Some packages even come with a complimentary honeymoon night in an Arbor cottage. *Rooms from \$299; weddings from \$5,250.*



THE INN AT PALMETTO BLUFF, SOUTH CAROLINA