



# *A Seaside Celebration*

*A reception at Bud & Alley's after an intimate ceremony in the Chapel makes for a memorable wedding weekend.*

By Lynn Nesmith  
Photographs by Robby Followell



Destination weddings have never been more popular, and for most couples the beach is the preferred location. Chelsea Dossett and Landon Howell were no exception. But they were also transplanted Southerners living in Seattle, Washington, who wanted to tie the knot on familiar waterfront territory.

Chelsea, a native of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and Landon, who grew up in Jasper, Alabama, met while attending Mississippi College. After graduation, Chelsea moved to Los Angeles and Landon was living in Seattle. Over Christmas 2006, they were both back home for the holidays and reconnected. It wasn't long before Chelsea relocated to Seattle and by the next spring they were engaged.

As they started planning their wedding it was only natural to focus on the beaches of Northwest Florida as their destination. "Growing up in the South, the Destin area was always a frequent vacation location for us and our friends,"

says Chelsea. "We love the nostalgic feelings of the Gulf Coast beaches."

When considering possible locations to start a life together, each immediately thought of the town of Seaside and Bud & Alley's. "One of the first wedding details we agreed upon was that we wanted to keep it personal, simple and sophisticated," Chelsea recalls. "We wanted to share the day with our immediate family and our wedding party, which included our closest friends." Most of their 75 guests were from the south and had spent vacations in the area so the location offered an easy and familiar getaway that everyone could enjoy.

The wedding took place on a perfect October Saturday in the Seaside Chapel and Landon's father, Conrad officiated. Although neither Chelsea nor Landon had actually been to the Chapel, they had both seen photographs. "It turned out to be the exact image of simplicity and modern architecture we desired," says Chelsea.

After the vows, the guests leisurely

headed to a waterfront reception at Bud & Alley's. Chelsea and Landon worked with Kim Estes, Bud & Alley's special events coordinator to transform the gazebo and tented herb garden into magical setting to celebrate the start of their life together. Guests toasted the setting sun over the Gulf of Mexico with champagne. As twilight turned to evening, executive chef Ed Reese set a gracious and delicious buffet drawn from the bounty of the sea and the freshest local offerings. The wedding cake, a simply elegant design by Fatty Patty's Cakes and surrounded by flowers by Bella Flora, anchored a corner of the gazebo.

Well into the night, Chelsea and Landon and guests danced to the sounds of The House Rockers, a favorite band that the couple had frequently seen perform during their college days in Mississippi. "We can honestly say that Bud & Alley's created the perfect setting for our wedding reception: simple yet sophisticated, elegant yet at the same time casual and

comfortable,” says Chelsea.

From the beginning, the couple wanted to make sure the wedding weekend was a vacation for all their guests. Bud & Alley’s congenial atmosphere and Seaside’s close proximity to the Gulf are the perfect environment for a true getaway. “We still hear from our friends and families about what a great time they had... and that’s the best wedding gift for us,” adds Chelsea.

The town’s array of rental cottages and pedestrian-friendly layout suited the bridal party as well. Chelsea’s parents rented a cottage directly across from the chapel, which provided the ideal location to get ready before the ceremony. The bridesmaids and Chelsea stayed in a residence above the shops of Central Square, and the groom and his groomsmen rented a cottage in nearby WaterColor.

Everything about the wedding weekend and reception reflected the couple’s unique personalities and gracious sense of style. However, Chelsea is quick to credit all the folks in Seaside who helped with the planning. “One of the most gratifying experiences of the weekend was the ease of organization on our part due to the amazing staff at Bud & Alley’s. No matter the situation, they could handle it,” maintains Chelsea. “I couldn’t recommend Seaside enough. It was the setting we had hoped for and it exceeded our expectations.” •



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For more than 20 years, Bud & Alley’s has set the highest standards for customized special events right on the Gulf of Mexico in Seaside. Kim Estes, Chef Ed Reese and the entire staff of Bud & Alley’s work together to create an unforgettable event for the bride and groom, as well family and friends. To arrange your own perfect wedding, rehearsal dinner, bridal luncheon, or other special celebration at Bud & Alley’s, contact Kim Estes at 850.865.4780 or [kim@budandalleys.com](mailto:kim@budandalleys.com)

## PICTURE-PERFECT TOUCHES

A wedding is a sacred ceremony and a celebration of the couple’s individuality and sense of grace and style. Photographer Robby Followell, who also attended Mississippi College and had shot many of their friends’ wedding, captured out of the ordinary images throughout the special day. “Not only is Robby an incredible talent; but he and his wife are a perfect team and the job done seemed almost effortless,” says Chelsea. “He is wonderful to work with and while you don’t even know he’s there, he captures the moments even better than you remember.” [robb@followellphotography.com](mailto:robb@followellphotography.com) or [www.followellphotography.com](http://www.followellphotography.com)

