

CHARMING CHARLESTON • ROMANTIC NAPLES

# SOUTHERN<sup>®</sup> BOATING

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## Is Your Boat Happy At Home?



*Hop On Board!*  
**CUTWATER 30 SPORT TOP  
PRESTIGE 450 FLYBRIDGE**



the / **zimmerman** / agency

(continued)

An aerial photograph of a tropical beach. The beach is sandy and curves along a body of water. A small white boat with a blue stripe is in the shallow water. On the beach, a group of people is sitting under a red umbrella. The background is a dense line of green trees.

DESTINATION  
**NAPLES**  
FLORIDA

# Romantic Naples

*Nestled along Florida's Paradise Coast, Naples is the perfect couples' getaway.*

With colorful sunsets, beautiful sandy beaches, warm Gulf water, and unforgettable dining, Naples offers everything couples need on a cruising weekend to reconnect with each other and share unforgettable moments.

You'll find no shortage of fine public marinas for dockage navigating through Gordon Pass into the Gordon River as well as two luxurious yacht clubs. On the west shore of the Gordon River sits Naples City Dock, Naples Boat Club, Old Naples Seaport, and Naples Yacht Club, which are closest to Fifth Avenue South—the

heart of the upscale shopping, dining, and entertainment district. Stroll through the many well-known, high-end retailers and unique local boutiques—a favorite for resort wear is Back of the Bay. Authentic licensed replicated jewelry from Royalty and Hollywood Jewelry carries pieces inspired by Jacqueline Kennedy, Princess Diana, Marilyn Monroe, and Marlene Dietrich. Another local favorite is Best of Everything boutique, where an expansive collection of faux jewels boasts bargain prices.



LA PLAYA BEACH & GOLF RESORT & CLUB

## *LaPlaya Beach & Golf Resort-Naples*

I've always thought that of all the special occasions people celebrate and recognize by giving gifts, wedding anniversaries warrant much more attention than birthdays. After all, other than being born, what did the birthday celebrant actually do that justifies a present? It's the parents that really deserve the gifts. (Do I hear an "amen" from you moms and dads?) It's wedding anniversaries that should be celebrated in grand style, with all the flourish and fanfare that couples deserve. Regardless of the number of years, every wedding anniversary should be celebrated as "Silver" or "Golden."

On Florida's Gulf Coast in Naples, LaPlaya Beach & Golf Resort should be on every couples' short list of must-do's for special occasion celebrations, especially for those planning their "I do's." There's nothing more romantic than a sunset ceremony on the beach, and LaPlaya's white sand on the Gulf of Mexico is the perfect setting. The resort offers plenty of room for guests, with 189 rooms, 8 of which are Gulf-facing suites.

Before the big event the wedding party can add a suntanned glow at one of the four swimming pools or on the beach. Bridesmaids and groomsmen have their choice of catamarans, parasailing, paddle boards, kayaks, and wave runners. Resort staff deliver food and refreshments right to your beach chair—all you have to do is raise a little flag to signal them. The maid of honor and best man can host a pre-wedding bachelor or bachelorette golf outing at the Robert Cupp-designed 18-hole LaPlaya Championship Golf Course set amid mangroves with rolling fairways and located only a few miles from the resort. Meanwhile, parents of the happy couple can enjoy a massage, facial, body wrap, or any of the numerous services at Spa Terre, the signature spa of all Noble House Hotels & Resorts.

After the ceremony guests will enjoy champagne and hors d'oeuvres on the terrace while wedding photos are taken, after which the reception is held in one of the elegant ballrooms, each with its own terrace that overlooks Vanderbilt Bay and the boat dock.

Years after the wedding, the happy couple are likely to return to LaPlaya Resort and rekindle their romance, like the couple we met while there recently. They were celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, for which the traditional gift is Crystal. It was our 28<sup>th</sup> anniversary—for which there is no traditional gift—but we'll always think of it as our "Sand" Anniversary for our time on the beach at La Playa.