

Fall 2017

# BRIDAL Guide



Supplement to the Mercury and Berks-Mont Newspapers • September 2017

## BRIDAL GUIDE

# Norco Fire Company social hall offers one-stop option

Norco Fire Company's renovated social hall is now booking events. We're located at 144 W. Schuylkill Road in Pottstown, PA 19465, and are available for

weddings, banquets, business functions and other events. The hall can accommodate seating up to 250 or can be subdivided for smaller, more intimate

events.

The hall can also be used to accommodate wedding ceremonies as well as the reception. It's a convenient one-stop option for guests.

Superb sound acoustics and spacious dance floor is perfect for those parties that like to have fun, dancing and listening to music.

A conveniently located

beverage area keeps guests close by to enjoy all the festivities.

Call today at (610) 323-3263 ext. 11 for more info or to reserve the hall for

your special event. Dates are booking quickly.

Please contact the fire company to discuss the details of planning your event at the Norco Fire Company!

## WEDDINGS

## Planning weddings: How to financially prepare for the big day

### Brandpoint

Attending most weddings, with the exception of your creepy uncle's third marriage, is great. You eat free food, get to dance to music and leave without having to take part in the cleanup or the costs.

It gets a little different when you're the one footing the bill. Then you're

confronted with 127 different invitation styles, a guest list that keeps growing and awkward phone calls to cousins to tell them they can't bring their bratty 7-year-old twins.

Falling in love might have been easy and making the decision to spend the rest of your life together was probably a no-brainer. However, celebrating your

love and funneling all that joy into one beautiful ceremony and one memorable party is where things get a little more complicated.

As a leader in creating credit scoring models and educating consumers on credit, VantageScore Solutions shares how important it is for couples to agree on how to manage their finances.

So let's get into it and look at some of the financial topics you and your partner should go over.

### PAYING FOR YOUR WEDDING

No doubt how to pay for your dream wedding will be one of the first conversations you'll have with your loved one. Some people have months, sometimes even more than a year to plan and save up for the big day. Other times you may need to make a deposit or pay for something upfront and you might not have the cash to do it.

### THIS IS WHEN YOU REACH FOR YOUR CREDIT CARD.

Even if you don't plan to use a credit card, it's more than likely you'll have to put some things on credit. This might include just about anything you purchase online, from the cute decorations you find on Etsy or novelty gifts you find on Amazon. In addition, many venues require you to have a credit card on file.

The point is, it's likely that at some point you'll use credit to pay for your wedding. When you do this, both you and your partner need to be aware of the potential perils of racking up debt. Provided you can responsibly manage the debt and have a plan to do so, your credit score won't decline, which can lead to more purchasing opportu-



BRANDPOINT

Attending most weddings, with the exception of your creepy uncle's third marriage, is great.

nities in the future.

But first, you need to talk about credit with your partner.

### THE TALK

Talking about credit might not exactly be a champagne and strawberries moment, but it is probably one of the most important discussions you can have.

Because it might be hard to get started on this topic, many couples find it's easier to start by taking The Credit Score Quiz. This 12-question quiz is easy to take and can do a lot to reveal the knowledge gaps

you and your partner may need to fill.

While the quiz is a great way to get started, resources like The Score, a monthly newsletter from VantageScore Solutions that covers all things credit, can help you continue on your conversation and guide you on your journey.

So while you're debating what shade of off-white is right for your invitations, take the time to talk and use these credit-related resources. After the big day has come and gone, you'll be glad that together, both of you were smart about your finances.

**NORCO FIRE CO.**  
144 W. Schuylkill Rd.  
**POTTSTOWN**  
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**Visit [www.NorcoFireCo.org](http://www.NorcoFireCo.org) for more info**

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- **Banquets**
- **Parties**
- **Business Meetings**

UP TO  
250  
CAPACITY

WEDDINGS

# Financial bliss in your future

*Submitted*

Your wedding is sure to be the happiest day of your life, but marriage stretches well beyond those 24 hours.

Merging your lives as husband and wife starts even before you say your “I do’s” and will require some effort and patience - which will be good practice for your future life together.

The truth of the matter is, financial bliss is only partially connected to the size of one’s bank account. Especially for newlyweds, financial satisfaction and contentment is often found in the uniting of partners’ financial values and goals.

These values, or life priorities if you prefer, can range from security, to service, to status. Alternatively, they might encompass areas such as independence, financial wealth, meaningful work, faith, family or excellence, among others.

Once newlyweds have identified their top values – and have seen the values identified by their mate – they can use this knowledge to create shared goals.

What if he values money and she values friendship? Is conflict sure to follow?

There is “give and take” in every relationship, including a couple’s financial priorities. Once each partner understands the values of his or her mate, it becomes easier to set shared short – and long-term goals. At a minimum, it helps couples understand what drives the other’s thinking.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans provides these 10 basic steps that newlyweds can take to launch their new financial lives:

- Identify your core values.
- Establish your shared needs and short – and long-term goals.
- Create a budget.
- Reduce and eliminate

consumer debt or other loans.

- Start or increase an emergency fund.
- Insure your health, property, income and life through appropriate insurance.
- Save for your retirement.
- Educate yourself about financial issues.
- Meet with a financial professional to help you stay on task.
- Talk regularly about your financial goals and performance.

Following the steps above will not address the “who, what and how” related to paying bills or balancing checkbooks. Frankly, there is no one right formula for determining who does what.

Newlyweds will need to invest time, conversation and experimentation into finding the right fit for their unique circumstances and personalities.

Establishing a regular “money date,” where you set aside uninterrupted time to discuss your finances and measure them against your goals can be a fun way of addressing something otherwise considered “work.”

This date need not be costly or even away from home, but it must be a time without distractions from television, phone calls or friends. This is truly “your time” to study and learn about your finances as a couple.

After “I do,” the work of establishing your new life together begins. By giving regular attention to your values and financial goals, you can enhance the likelihood of living “happily ever after” from a financial viewpoint.

BRIDAL GUIDE

# Keystone Fire Company offers space for all occasions

The Keystone Fire Company, located on North Walnut Street in Boyertown, Pa., offers two social halls for wedding receptions, banquets or parties.

Our Upstairs Social Hall seats up to 150 guests, and our Downstairs Hall seats up to 300 guests.

We have spacious rooms, both upstairs and down, and each halls has a small stage. Dance floors

areas are available for each hall. Two parking lots are available to accommodate all guests. Delicious meals are prepared for a hot/cold buffet or family style and are available with a private full-service bar. We have non-smoking rooms, but have a smoking area outside.

For more information, please call us at 610-367-2200.



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Banquets or  
Parties

**KEYSTONE  
FIRE CO.**  
Boyertown

**For information call  
610-367-2200**

## BRIDAL GUIDE

## For weddings, dinner or a golf outing, Spring Hollow has what you need

Spring Hollow Golf Club is a challenging, 18-hole public golf course with a full-service restaurant and banquet facilities that opened in 1994 in beautiful Chester County.

The golf course was designed by architect John Thompson who created a layout that blends in the features of this one time dairy farm. The frequent elevation changes and multiple sets of tees afford players not only challenging shot selections, but also beautiful views of the surrounding area.

Our staff will assist you with the planning and put you at ease to ensure your day is completely unforgettable. Overlooking our picturesque golf



course, our reception facility is surrounded by a beautifully manicured landscape, patios and an outdoor setting perfect for ceremonies and picture taking. Inside, our beautiful banquet room offers the amenities of a private club. Come discover our commitment to outstanding and memorable service.

The Grille is the full-service restaurant at

Spring Hollow, which is also open to the public. With its comfortable and friendly setting, it is a great place to meet friends after work for cocktails, boast about that hole-in-one you got on number 18 or have a relaxing sit-down dinner with the family. In the warmer months, you can dine outside on the covered deck or on the patio while overlooking the 18th green of the golf course. Whatever your reason, you'll be sure to leave with a smile!

The Grille is open for lunch and dinner Wednesday through Sunday with many different specials. Feel free to call ahead for reservations.

The Banquet facilities



at Spring Hollow can be used for weddings and wedding ceremonies, business meetings, golf outings and many other types of social functions. We offer diverse menus along with personalized menu selections to suit your needs. We look forward to having the opportunity to meet with you to tour our ballroom and assist you with any catering needs you may have. If you have questions, please contact our Director of Catering Amelia Hager.

Our service goes unmatched. This is why for four years we were named "The #1 Banquet Facility in the Tri-County Area." We are also the winners of WeddingWire.com's "2014 Couples' Choice Awards" and "Best Wedding Venue" & the Knot's Best of Wedding 2015. From our professional and experienced wedding planner and banquet manager to our outstanding servers, you will be taken care of every step of the way. Every little detail is just as

important as the big details. Our staff strives for perfection in every aspect. The bridal party will have a private butler for the entire day. The wedding planner will accompany the bridal party and photographer for pictures to show them the best scenic areas.

Spring Hollow Golf Club  
3350 Schuylkill Road,  
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[www.facebook.com/springhollowgolfclub](http://www.facebook.com/springhollowgolfclub)

## BRIDAL GUIDE

# Emily's – where dreams come true



Tucked in a beautiful country setting, Emily's picturesque and unique location creates the perfect wedding venue for your special day.

Experience the magic of exchanging your vows under the canopy of nature's beauty or on a quaint wooden bridge over a babbling stream, and finish your evening dancing under the stars. While dining in our outdoor canopied deck, you'll be treated to outstanding food and exceptional service from Emily's experienced team.

Our historic building dates back to 1827 and was a former post office, hotel and general store throughout its rich history.

Emily's also has one of the most unique bars in Berks County. The décor boasts its pony express heritage, showcasing a backdrop of vintage brass post office boxes – a great area to entertain guests for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. This atmosphere is exclusive to Emily's and will create distinctive memories for years to come.

The possibilities to make your wedding day memorable are endless. Both indoor and outdoor ceremony and reception sites are available. There are many options for any size wedding and reception. Our outdoor deck seats 100 guests, two adjoining upstairs rooms can seat up to 45, the enclosed porch seats 30, the main dining room seats 34 and the intimate back room can seat up to 18.

Emily's is located at 3790 Morgantown Rd. (Rt. 10), Mohnnton, PA 19540.

Contact us today to tour our facilities and make your dreams come true.

610-856-7887, [www.emilysberks.com](http://www.emilysberks.com), and visit us on Facebook.



*Emily's, Where Dreams Come True.*



indoor and outdoor ceremony and reception sites are available.



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**WEDDINGS**

# Making your wedding dessert hour a big hit with a cake buffet

By Sharon Naylor  
Creators.com

“We’re definitely seeing a growing trend this year for wedding dessert buffets featuring a collection of different cakes,” said Anne Heap, owner of Pink Cake Box. “The buffet might include several different flavors of small cakes, and it might also include in addition to these cakes a variety of mini cupcakes, cake pops, macaroons and other desserts.”

Brides and grooms want their guests to enjoy the dessert hour, as well as the wedding itself, and they know that guests look forward to the delicious dessert and pastry options that close out the celebration. Providing multiple types and flavors of cakes allows guests to relish a flavor or flavors of their choice.

The cake buffet is an evolution of the traditional Viennese dessert table, a long buffet of-

fering many different types of desserts, from mousses to tarts to petits fours and other items. Now, the trend includes multiple cakes that may be offered in addition to the grand wedding cake.

Selecting your cakes Heap said that while each cake itself has a different flavor and filling combination, all of the cakes are iced and designed in a coordinating color palette. “If the couple chooses an ivory, blush pink and gold color combination, we create all of the cakes in those hues,” just iced and decorated a bit differently.

The cakes all coordinate and create a cohesive effect, whether it’s all-white cakes or a combination of pastels, bright or even dramatic black-and-white cakes to go with a black-and-white wedding theme. (Of course, the color mix could be red and white or yellow and green — whatever shades you desire.)

As for flavors, Heap said that red velvet is still extremely popular for these cake buffet choices, and “we’re also doing a lot of classics like vanilla and chocolate, and other flavors, such as peanut butter and Oreo cakes.” Other top trends in wedding cake flavors include lemon, berry, rum cake, coconut, caramel and passion fruit.

Jodi Rhoden, owner of Short Street Cakes and author of “Cake Ladies,” said that cakes are being chosen for their regional specialties, like her company’s traditional Southern salted caramel cake, paired with a triple chocolate ganache cake.

Another big trend is to include a flourless cake for your gluten-free guests, and some couples are including gluten-free cupcakes, as well. Guests are tremendously grateful at the bride and groom’s thoughtfulness, so that they can partake in the dessert hour fully.

**CAKE » PAGE 8**



Cake buffets give wedding guests delicious options.

CREATORS.COM/JODI RHODEN

**BRIDAL GUIDE**

# Agnes Edmunds Bridals & Formals offers superior customer service

Agnes Edmunds Bridals & Formals continues with the same great attention to customer service as it has over the past 40-plus years.

Under the new ownership of Bridget Zimmerman since 2015, this is still the same shop where your grandmother or mother got their gown, just with a new fresh look and feel.

One-on-one attention is given to everyone all the time. Here, the customer receives the kind of attention that you just cannot get at the big bridal stores.

The owner and staff at Agnes Edmunds want everyone to have a truly joyful, fun magical experience while in the shop. It’s a happy time!





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## BRIDAL GUIDE

## Leesport Farmer's Market offers perfect venue for every occasion

Leesport Farmer's Market, located at 312 Gernant's Church Road in Leesport, PA 19533, is celebrating our 70-year anniversary!

We are extremely excited and proud to have served the community for 70 years, and we look forward to the next 70 years!

Our Banquet Hall, built in 1987, has been used for a host of different activities over the years, including wedding receptions, public auctions, private parties, dances, class reunions, business meetings and seminars, bingo games and a wide

variety of special interest shows.

The 60-by-180-foot air conditioned hall has a seating capacity of 700 with partitioned areas available for smaller groups. Also available for rental is our Center Court Meeting Room, which can handle groups of up to 100. Perfect for bridal or baby showers!

We have acres of convenient parking!

Catering references are available.

Please contact us at 610-926-1307 for reservations or visit [www.LeesportMarket.com](http://www.LeesportMarket.com) for more information!

## Cake

FROM PAGE 7

While vibrant cakes are a trend, Heap said that she's getting many requests for cake buffet selections that fit in with the currently hot wedding themes of "bohemian, romantic, vintage and Victorian," which entail softer blush colors such as pinks and light greens, with decorative icing to suit those particular soft and feminine themes.

Cake buffets are also a trend at bridal showers, which is where the larger move is to vibrantly colored cakes, cupcakes and desserts, such as hot pinks and bright oranges, sunny yellows, and even zebra stripes and polka dots. Whimsical designs such as cakes with slanted

layers, creating a topsy-turvy effect, are also popular for bridal showers. For weddings themselves, cakes tend to be more classic and in keeping with the style of the wedding cake itself.

Cake buffet display trends

The display of your cakes will impress your guests simply by the appeal of the cakes themselves -- but the way you arrange the cakes on the table adds even more panache. Begin with a high-quality linen tablecloth in a color that coordinates with your chosen cake collection color scheme. For that ivory, blush pink and gold cake variety, the tablecloth may be in any of those colors. Solid colors are best, without stripes or patterns, so that the cakes stand out.

Your cakes may be arranged on uniform-height pedestals or on

pedestals of alternating heights (always with a sturdy base for cutting slices without the pedestal falling over). Beneath and around the cakes, your platters of cupcakes, macaroons or cake pops create a sumptuous display.

A must is to pair each cake, as well as other desserts, with attractively designed, color-coordinated, printed labels identifying the flavors and fillings of each. And it has become more popular to alert guests to the presence of any nuts or nut butters in the cake, filling or frosting. A simple, small mention of, "This cake contains nuts and nut products," on the cake-identification card is a smart and safe service to guests. The same indication may be made for gluten-free cakes.

The final touch for the cake buffet table

is often a lighting effect. Open-flame candles are not advisable, since guests will be reaching across the table to help themselves to the cake slices and other desserts. So create that glow with LED cubes (which don't conduct heat, preventing cakes and desserts from softening) set on the table itself or in vases.

There's no need to decorate this table with flowers, which is a budget-saver and prevents any petals, leaves or especially berries from falling onto or around your desserts.

As a final note, you might choose to have your reception site provide a cake buffet table attendant or two, who can cut cake slices for your guests and keep dessert platters attractive and stocked.



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**BRIDAL GUIDE**

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generations to come! There are over 60 different design options, available in blue green and blue/green mix. Allow six to eight weeks for delivery. Visit us on the web at [Kutztownflorist.com](http://Kutztownflorist.com), or call 610-683-9330.

**BRIDAL GUIDE**

# The Restaurant and Bar at Golden Oaks — Great food. Great drinks. Authentic rustic charm.

Great food. Great drinks. Authentic rustic charm.

That's how we describe The Restaurant and Bar at Golden Oaks.

Our varied menu appeals to both golfers and diners alike. Whether you worked up an appetite out on the course and just want a great burger and fresh cut fries, or you are out on the town and want a four-course meal paired with a favorite wine, The Restaurant and Bar at Golden Oaks can make it happen. And our extensive selection of craft beers — both on tap and in bottles and cans — will impress the serious beer drinkers in the crowd.

The Restaurant and Bar is open daily for lunch and dinner during the golf season (check hours of operation during off season) and offers great outdoor dining

overlooking our award-winning golf course. The Restaurant and Bar at Golden Oaks is an excellent choice for weddings, banquets or corporate dinners.

The "Farmhouse" is a marvelous alternative for smaller, more intimate gatherings and offers three rooms for overnight guests and "stay and play" packages. One visit and you will agree with our motto: Eat. Drink. Play golf.

The Restaurant and Bar at Golden Oaks is the perfect choice for weddings, banquets, rehearsal dinners and bridal showers. Our event coordinator provides personal planning and attention to detail so that your special day will be a celebration that is memorable. Several venues are available to accommodate various size receptions, including space where cou-

ples can be married. Smaller more intimate events can be held in our "Farmhouse," where overnight accommodations are also available.

Golden Oaks is the perfect location for incredible wedding photographs on our award-winning golf course. And finally, flexible, affordable wedding packages are available and can be customized to fit your specific needs.

The Restaurant and Bar at Golden Oaks — Great food. Great drinks. Authentic rustic charm.

The Restaurant & Bar at Golden Oaks — 10 Stonehedge Drive, Fleetwood, PA.

For more information, contact Ri Chan at 610-944-6000 ext. 3011 or email [ri@goldenoaksgolfclub.com](mailto:ri@goldenoaksgolfclub.com). Visit [www.GoldenOaksGolfClub.com](http://www.GoldenOaksGolfClub.com) to view our wedding gallery!

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Open to the Public

For more information, contact Ri Chan at 610.944.6000 ext. 3011 or email: [ri@goldenoaksgolfclub.com](mailto:ri@goldenoaksgolfclub.com) Visit our website [www.goldenoaksgolfclub.com](http://www.goldenoaksgolfclub.com) to view our Wedding Gallery



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## BRIDAL GUIDE

# Making memories with Dice's Creative Cakes

Today's new wedding cake designs have taken a turn; they have more texture and definition! Starting about a year ago, it is the up-to-date look. Sculpting the icing or blading techniques have come on board, creating a large variety of possible looks. The icing is manipulated by hand blading while adding more icing to create stucco, swirl and pattern designs in the icing. The most common one is a basic stucco pattern that makes whips in the icing with a wavy look. There are also horizontal wavy designs, s-swirls and parallel line designs. One of the most recent popular looks is blading the icing in a swirling affect around the cake, giving it a very sleek look. These designs are a perfect background to show



off the floral accent designs. They are a blend of contemporary designs on a traditional tier for an extraordinary finished style. Our new lace overlay design creates a beautiful, elegant finish. Tiers of cupcakes have also come to the forefront

of today's couples' center-piece table. Multiple flavors, colored icing, textured design and polka dots are a few that come to mind. Filled cupcakes are also an option that could be incorporated into the mix. Sometimes a small tier cake or just anniversary cake is accompanying the cupcake tower. These options make accommodating any reception possible with unlimited choices! All details and possibilities would be discussed at your consultation with sample tasting of cake. Call to make your free consultation today. Dates book quickly, so it is best to do nine months to a year in advance, but will do shorter notice as long as the date is still available.

Make your wedding day  
MEMORIES » PAGE 11



## Dice's Creative Cakes

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## BRIDAL GUIDE

# New Rhoads Transportation makes your event special

New Rhoads Transportation, Inc. has a long family history in school bus transportation dating back as far as 1928.

David F. Kutz, Steve and Sally Rhoads' grandfather, started with three buses in 1928, transporting school students in Amity Township, which eventually became a large part of what makes up the Daniel Boone Area School District. David continued in the farming and school bus business until his death in the spring of 1964. At that time, his daughter, Elizabeth, and her husband,

Jay S. Rhoads, purchased the buses and continued to operate and grow the business until 1999.

In 1999, New Rhoads Transportation, Inc. was formed by Steve Rhoads, president, the son of Elizabeth and Jay.

In the early 2000s, Sally Rhoads came on board to help manage the everyday operations. The company continues to grow and expand its services. A sister company, Rhoads Limousine Service, Inc., was added in 2004, so we could better service the varied transportation needs of the surrounding communities.

From weddings, proms, seeing your favorite performer, birthdays, your parent's 50th anniversary or just a night out with the gang — the list is endless. With special packages and vehicles ranging from traditional and party stretch limos to our brand new 18-passenger limo coach, several trolleys, mini-coaches and more, your special event will be just that — special!

Call New Rhoads Transportation, Inc. today at 610-689-4600 so the experience of how you got there will be as memorable as your others.

## Memories

FROM PAGE 10

special with a cake from Dice's Creative Cakes. Create memories for years to come with a distinctive cake from our bakery. We've been told that family members talk about how beautiful and delicious their cake was for years. Choosing a cake is usually one of the couple's favorite things about planning their wedding.

One of the key elements to choosing a design is focal points. I explain and help couples understand how layering focal points is important to the look of the final result. You want focal points to be layered, not competing with each other. For instance, an all-white designed cake with colored ribbon and flowers would be complimenting to each other. You don't want focal points competing with each other.

The demand of a wide selection of styles is apparent as some couples are going back to traditional designs or mixing with updated versions. Sleek and elegant cakes that are stacked on top of each other and square with an offset twisted effect are very popular.

While looking through photos and the display cakes, we will help you choose your own unique design. We will also work with designs you may have. Working on details from design, ribbons, appropriate color and flowers to the delivery and setup, we are the professionals you can have confidence in. The skill from years of experience show in the options and designs today's styles demand.

The flavor of your cake is also very important. Regular flavors consist of yellow, chocolate, half and half, marble and white. We offer an extensive line of specialty flavors, which include raspberry, strawberry, cherry, peach, apple, blueberry, swirl, chocolate chip, banana, carrot, red velvet, lemon and

an assortment of fillings and mousses. Our cakes are a moist fine grain pound cake alone or with a flavor swirled throughout.

Dice's now offers new updated wedding flavors! Now we offer 30 flavors for wedding cakes including orange cream-sicle, lemon twist, mango passion, key lime, piña colada, strawberry kiwi, caramel delight, princess cake, sparkling champagne, hazelnut, chocolate mocha, creme de menthe, pumpkin spice and many more! All are available in cupcakes as well. We still have all our original flavors, as well so whatever your taste, we can please your palette. Mix it up and make your wedding day unique!

Dice's also offers a full line of party cakes for any occasion. We offer a full line of items fresh baked daily, including sticky buns, AP cake, scones, muffins, cookies, brownies and cupcakes.

For more information, call Dice's at 610-367-0107. Log on to [www.DicesCreativeCakes.com](http://www.DicesCreativeCakes.com).

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<sup>1</sup>Rate is per person, based on double occupancy, for check-in on 6/1/18, Resort View – 1 Queen & 1 Double.

<sup>2</sup>Activity voucher does not apply to air/car only bookings.

Unless otherwise indicated: rates quoted are accurate at time of publication, & are per person, based on double occupancy. Airfare, taxes, surcharges, gratuities, transfers & excursions are additional. Advertised rates do not include any applicable daily resort or facility fees payable directly to the hotel at check-out; such fee amounts will be advised at the time of booking. Rates, terms, conditions, availability, itinerary, government taxes, surcharges, deposit, payment, cancellation terms/conditions & policies subject to change without notice at any time. Cruise rates capacity controlled. Other restrictions may apply, including, but not limited to baggage limitations & fees, standby policies & fees, non-refundable tickets & change fees with pre-flight notification deadlines, & blackout dates. Fees & policies vary among airlines. Contact airline directly for any details or questions. Advance reservations through AAA Travel required to obtain Member Benefits & savings which may vary based on departure date. Not responsible for errors or omissions. Pleasant Holidays acts only as an agent for cruise & tour providers listed. CST# 1007939-10. Copyright©2017 Pleasant Holidays, LLC. All Rights Reserved.