

# Southern Bride<sup>®</sup>

WINTER/SPRING 2021

*Country Singer*  
**ALEX HALL**  
*ties the knot*

*Netflix's LaJoy Cox*  
*& Chef Gabe*  
**SHARE**  
**HOPEFUL ADVICE**

**5** *EXPOSE*  
**FEMALE**  
**DESIGNERS**  
*YOU WANT*  
*TO KNOW*

**FORMER**  
**MISS WORLD TEXAS**  
*finds her shining star*

**ROMANTIC**  
**DESTINATIONS**  
*to visit*

**THE ZIMMERMAN AGENCY**  
(continued)



## CRYSTAL COAST BEACH WEDDINGS

*The Southern Outer Banks · North Carolina*

*By Lynne Leonard*

### GET ACQUAINTED

What is “North Carolina’s Gem”? Atlantic Beach, Beaufort, Emerald Isle, Harkers Island, Cape Lookout, and Morehead City are the popular areas included in this designation. Quaintly nestled on a string of barrier islands, warmed by the Gulf Stream, inhabited by wild horses and once home to pirates and sea captains, these seaside locations attract visitors seeking salty adventures and nautical romance. Emerald Isle Realty and Atlantic Beach Realty full-service staffs book wedding and honeymoon accommodations ranging from cozy beach cottages to luxurious seaside mansions. Both companies expertly connect wedding parties to experienced local providers, event coordinators, and entertainment resources.

### HERE’S THE SCOOP

Consider North Carolina’s Crystal Coast as a prime location for customized beach weddings or dreamy honeymoons. Lush coastal landscapes and quaint in-town architectures provide the perfect backdrop for memorable bridal occasions. Find abundant recreational activities, fine dining or casual bite local restaurants and quaint, eclectic shops. Enjoy North Carolina’s Southern hospitality.

### BIG DAY DETAILS

Last spring, the chic and modern Beaufort Hotel opened and is in high demand for destination weddings and honeymoons. Located on Taylor Creek, the hotel offers sought after water view outdoor venues and spacious reception ballrooms. Upscale contemporary décor embellishes the suites and water-front guest rooms. Searching for a historic venue? Near the Crystal Coast is a 60 acres waterfront estate named, The Octagon House, built in 1855. Also, near the Crystal Coast is Merrell Estate and Gardens recently renovated with exquisite indoor and outdoor space, bridal party accommodations, a spa, and onsite catering.

### GET THE DISH

For handcrafted tapas, local brews and fine wines, make a stopover in Morehead City at Circa 81. Seeking lunch or dinner with dramatic water views? Select Beaufort’s Moonrakers and request a table on the outdoor rooftop terrace overlooking Taylor Creek. Dinner reservations suggested for the popular Beaufort Grocery. Award-winning chefs and a locally sourced seasonal menu keep the locals and visitors as loyal customers. Beaufort’s Latin inspired La Perla’s menu changes every few days. The daily specials sell out quickly, so be prepared to make an alternative selection while enjoying La Perla’s unique custom cocktails. Serving fresh ingredients prepared with artistic presentations is the standard at La Perla.

### WE SIMPLY ADORE

Beach worshippers can see both sunrise and sunset along this stretch of the Atlantic Coast. White historic homes with expansive front porches decorated with fresh flower window boxes are plentiful on Beaufort’s streets. Locally owned restaurants are intertwined with chic shops. Limited high-rise hotels and condominium resorts keep the small-town flavor thriving on these islands. Friendly folks, abundant fresh seafood, and boat-filled waterways are the heart of the Southern Outer Banks. Rent a classic cruising bike from Beaufort’s Hungry Town Tours. Experience the inspirations for Nicholas Sparks setting his famous novels here. You may catch a glimpse of the wild horses on Carrot Island. Exploring from the water by kayaks or paddle boards increases the horse viewing potential as hiking on Carrot Island is permitted. Choose Beaufort Paddle Company for the outfitter as their local knowledge and safety record are respected.

[crystalcoast.com](http://crystalcoast.com)