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RELEASE AT WILL

THE ISLAND OF ROMANCE

The Four Preps immortalized Catalina Island with their 1950s hit *26 Miles*:

*"26 miles across the sea
Santa Catalina is a-waitin' for me
Santa Catalina, the island of romance."*

And well before then, in 1920, Al Jolson waxed romantically about the island when he sang:

*"I found my love in Avalon
Beside the bay."*

The island, indeed, is ideally suited for romance. It may lie only 22 miles off the Los Angeles/Long Beach coast – and is easily accessible by a speedy Catalina Express boat – but visitors often feel as if they are on a far-away island. The charming town of Avalon is only one square mile in size, surrounded by rugged hillsides. The clear blue water, quaint shops, restaurants, accommodations and friendly people provide a sense of what California must have been like before the big cities emerged on the mainland.

Lovers continue to find enchantment on the island. It is an ideal setting for a wedding and/or honeymoon, and Catalina Island is warmly welcoming to love-struck couples. The Catalina Island Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau website – www.catalinachamber.com – even devotes a button on the home page to weddings. There, couples can choose from among nine wedding planners based on the island, who can arrange parties of from 2 to 200. The island provides an exotic range of

locations for the ceremony – a beach, an overlook, a secluded cove reached via boat, a rugged setting in the interior, a sunset view on the west side of the island, or even the lavish Casino Ballroom. Packages that incorporate an island honeymoon into the event are particularly popular. The Chamber website also features listings for caterers, musicians, DJ's, dancers and photographers.

Don't be surprised if someone in the wedding party spontaneously breaks into song:

“Water all around it everywhere

Tropical trees and salty air

But for me the thing that's a-waitin' there – romance!”

About Catalina Island and Catalina Express

Located 22 miles off the coast of Southern California, Catalina Island is accessible by boat from three ports via Catalina Express: San Pedro, Long Beach and Dana Point. Catalina Express offers up to 30 daily departures and year-round service to Avalon and Two Harbors, transporting nearly one million passengers annually. It offers comfortable airline-style seats and grouped table seating. Traveling to Catalina Island in as little as one hour, each vessel was designed and built/purchased specifically for comfort and speed. Catalina Express is an unparalleled resource in Southern California, and one of the world's most respected ferry fleets. For information and reservations, call 800-429-4601, or visit [Catalina Express](#).

[Catalina Island's](#) clear blue waters and Mediterranean climate and ambiance are a Shangri-La. This laid-back island town is chock full of places to eat, drink, shop. Catalina has a wealth of natural and cultural resources, unique animals and plants found nowhere else on earth. Sightseeing opportunities are numerous and varied from escorted tours around town, adventure rides into the interior, jeep eco tours, hummer rides, to zip lines, rock climbing and undersea adventures. Independent activities are plentiful, camping, hiking, snub, diving, snorkeling, kayaking, spa treatments, beach lounging, golf, motor boating, parasailing, fishing, boat rides down the coastline and more.

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