The Best Venues in America

WE TALKED TO 1,697 RECENT BRIDES TO FIND THE MOST SPECTACULAR RECEPTION SITES FROM COAST TO COAST OFFERING STELLAR VIEWS, CREATIVE CUISINE, AND ABOVE-AND-BEYOND SERVICE

The Northeast

Discover your venue on the shore, in the city, or out in the country

The Mayflower Grace
WASHINGTON, CONNECTICUT
Buy out this charming 30-room escape for great sights and even better service. Photo ops are endless in the Shakespeare Garden, where you’ll exchange vows, as well as inside the resort’s all-white spa. (Hello, bridal portraits.) gracehotels.com.

The Barn at Flanagan Farm
BUXTON, MAINE
Take a 20-minute drive outside Portland to this meticulously restored 19th-century barn, which is open year-round. There’s also a cozy farmhouse perfect for unwinding with your wedding party pre- and post-nuptials. theweddingbarns ofmaine.com.

Boston Public Library
BOSTON
Charm guests with dinner in book-lined Bates Hall, then head to the Abbey Room for a dance sesh overlooking the courtyard. Bonus: The caterer will ensure you eat too, thanks to goodie bags filled with fresh entrées, mini desserts, and bubbly for two. bpl.org.

Chatham Bars Inn
CHATHAM, MASSACHUSETTS
Tie the knot on the private beach before moving to a sailcloth tent or one of the oceanfront dining rooms for a lobster dinner and dancing. Then you’re just steps from the bars on Main Street if you want to continue the party. chathambarsinn.com.
“The staff took care of everything from ordering pizza for the after-party to delivering the vendor tips. They let me enjoy our day.” —MEGAN M., ON BONNET ISLAND ESTATE

Bonnet Island Estate
MANAHAWKIN, NEW JERSEY

Want your own private island? You can have that, as well as an open-air chapel and a rustic ballroom (that looks like the inside of a ship!) overlooking Manahawkin Bay. bonnetislandestate.com.

Jardin de Buis
POTTSVILLE, NEW JERSEY

Give your guests free rein of the estate’s grounds, which feature a barn, two greenhouses, a topiary-lined pool, and an orangery. ajfdesign.com.

Oheka Castle
HUNTINGTON, NEW YORK

You may recognize it from T. Swift’s “Blank Space” video, but this mega mansion has even more to offer, like 23 acres of privacy. oheka.com.

Gramercy Park Hotel
NEW YORK

If you’re dreaming of a garden oasis in the city, look no further than this 18th-floor terrace. It comes with a customizable Danny Meyer menu and a retractable roof. gramercyparkhotel.com.

Rainbow Room
NEW YORK

Take over the 65th floor of famed Rockefeller Center. You’ll be hard-pressed to find another spot with such epic views—or a rotating dance floor. rainbowroom.com.

Blue Hill at Stone Barns
POCANTICO HILLS, NEW YORK

Head to this upscale farm an hour’s drive outside NYC for the freshest fare, impeccable service, and a bucolic backdrop. bluehillfarm.com.

Philadelphia Museum of Art
PHILADELPHIA

This top-notch destination is finally hosting weddings. Choose from the sculpture garden, art-deco Perelman Building, or Rodin Museum, where you can wed in front of The Thinker. philamuseum.org.

Castle Hill Inn
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

Brides rave about the nightly campfire at this nautical landmark, saying it’s the spot for a nightcap by Narragansett Bay. castlehillinn.com.

“Tepees, cabins, tree houses, and places with a summer-camp vibe are going to be hot in 2017,” says Purdy.
The South
Be the belle of the ball in a stunning locale below the Mason-Dixon.

**The Hay-Adams**
WASHINGTON, D.C.
Give your guests the ultimate District experience at the Top of the Hay, where they can sip champs and snap selfies with the White House. hayadams.com.

**Pérez Art Museum Miami**
MIAMI
If you want something unexpected, this is it. Think hanging gardens, views of Biscayne Bay and the city’s skyline, and a modern open-air portico. pamm.org.

**The Breakers Palm Beach**
PALM BEACH, FLORIDA
Everyone raves about the Gatsby-esque ballrooms (they are stunning!), but it’s the resort’s attentive staff—from the pastry chef to the knowledgeable valet—that brides can’t stop gushing about. thebreakers.com.

**The Biltmore Ballrooms**
ATLANTA
In the heart of Midtown, you’ll find this historic landmark, which features an ivy-lined garden and two gilded ballrooms that are over-the-top in the best way possible. novareevents.com.

**The Cloister at Sea Island**
SEA ISLAND, GEORGIA
Choose between a quaint chapel and oak-filled gardens for the vows, then head over to the lawn for an oceanfront reception. seasland.com.

**Race & Religious**
NEW ORLEANS
After poolside cocktails, let your guests explore this historic home and courtyard. Bonus: You can book it overnight for the after-party. raceandreligious.com.

**Fearrington Village**
PITTSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA
Even if cows (with cowbells!) aren’t your thing, you’ll fall for the grazing pastures and barn at this onetime dairy farm turned Relais & Chateaux property. fearrington.com.

**Rosewood Mansion on Turtle Creek**
DALLAS
The service at this historic mansion deserves nothing short of five stars. Brides rave that the staff does its research on you; they even know your cocktail of choice and have it readily available. rosewoodhotels.com.

**Southwind Hills**
GOLDSBY, OKLAHOMA
With a honeymoon cottage and chandelier-filled barn on 130 acres, this all-inclusive venue has it all, including its own photo booth. southwindhills.com.

**Cannon Green**
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA
At this downtown restaurant, the staff creates an original menu for every couple. But no matter how you customize, don’t skip the rosé sangria. cannongreencharleston.com.

**RT Lodge**
MARYVILLE, TENNESSEE
Tell your squad to pack for a full weekend because this Smoky Mountain escape has everything you need for a fancy summer-camp experience. rtlodge.com.

**Pippin Hill Farm & Vineyards**
NORTH GARDEN, VIRGINIA
This beauty is a standout in wine country, thanks to its rustic-meets-chic barn, mountain views, and getting-ready suites for the bride and groom. pippinhillfarm.com.

“*They handle the menu, flowers, decorations, floor plan, and even the cake. It was so nice to have one point person instead of 10!*”

—JESSICA R., ON FEARRINGTON VILLAGE

**Hotel Emma**
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
This new boutique hotel is the talk of the town—and for good reason. Brides love the look of the restored 19th-century brewery almost as much as its entertaining chef. thehotelemma.com.

—Anna Price Olson

**KEY**
- PARTY CAN GO PAST MIDNIGHT
- IN-HOUSE CATERER
- ON-SITE ACCOMMODATIONS
The Midwest
Revel in the heartland at a luxe lodge, city hotel, or modern museum

Chicago Athletic Association Hotel
CHICAGO
This Mag Mile hot spot is perfect for the couple who wants to explore Millennium Park before partying in a 19th-century ballroom. chicagoathletichotel.com.

Chicago Cultural Center
CHICAGO
No additional decor is necessary at this Windy City landmark, thanks to a 41-foot glass dome and mother-of-pearl mosaics. cityofchicago.org.

The Langham, Chicago
CHICAGO
This modern hotel executes the ballroom wedding to perfection and adds perks like personalized robes in the honeymoon suite. langhamhotels.com.

Zingerman’s Cornman Farms
DEXTER, MICHIGAN
It’s all about the food on this 42-acre working farm. From the famous mac and cheese to pulled pork that spent 14 hours smoking, the true farm-to-table fare is sure to win over the crowd. zingermanscornmanfarms.com.

Grand Hotel
MACKINAC ISLAND, MICHIGAN
This resort is known for its front porch, which spans the length of nearly two football fields and overlooks Lake Huron. grandhotel.com.

Planterra Conservatory
WEST BLOOMFIELD, MICHIGAN
At this palm-filled oasis, the star staff will happily tackle your entire to-do list, handling everything from custom cocktails to upgraded rentals. planterraevents.com.

Aria
MINNEAPOLIS
With a flexible open floor plan and four VIP lounges (hello, after-party!), this theater is ready for an A-list celebration. ariampls.com.

Milwaukee Art Museum
MINNEAPOLIS
Book the Quadracci Pavilion, designed by architect Santiago Calatrava, for a setting that looks as cool on the inside as it does out. mam.org.

Big Cedar Lodge
RIDGEDALE, MISSOURI
Take your pick of four wedding chapels, then move on to a cabin with 360 degree views of Table Rock Lake or to the lake itself, where there’s a yacht ready to host 45. bigcedarweddings.com.

Four Seasons Hotel St. Louis
ST. LOUIS
Get hitched on the rooftop terrace, which has unobstructed views of the city’s iconic Gateway Arch. You can’t get more St. Louis than that. fourseasons.com.

Cleveland Museum of Art
CLEVELAND
Pose for photos inside closed galleries filled with works by Picasso, then meet your gang in the glass-enclosed atrium for dinner and dancing under the stars. clevelandart.org.

—Alexandra Leshner

“The downtown location made it easy for guests to explore the city and saved us on transportation since everyone could walk or cab there.”
—SHANNON H., ON ARIA

KEY
PARTY CAN GO PAST MIDNIGHT
IN-HOUSE CATERER
ON-SITE ACCOMMODATIONS

FROM TOP: JANELLE ELISE PHOTOGRAPHY; JILL DEVRIES PHOTOGRAPHY

(continued on page 302)
The West

Go wild for mountain resorts, desert escapes, and big-city charmers

Arizona Biltmore, a Waldorf Astoria Resort
PHOENIX
At this historic landmark, you can lounge in what was Marilyn Monroe’s favorite pool, then watch as guests are stunned by the hands-on service and stunning architecture, co-designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. arizonabiltmore.com.

Korakia Pensione
PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA
You’ll feel transported to another world at this Moroccan-meets-Mediterranean sanctuary featuring a strict no-kids policy and a nightly candle lighting that creates an uber-romantic glow. korakia.com.

The Mission Inn Hotel & Spa
RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA
The property’s gilded chapels and ornate ballrooms attract couples after old-world charm in SoCal. Not to mention, this place has been hosting weddings for more than a century. missioninn.com.

Meadowood Napa Valley
ST. HELENA, CALIFORNIA
Foodies, take note! With a three-star Michelin restaurant and personal relationships with Napa’s greatest vintners, there’s something here to please the most discerning of palates. meadowood.com.

Four Seasons Resort, the Biltmore Santa Barbara
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA
After vows in front of the Santa Ynez Mountains, head to the La Pacifica Terrace for sunset cocktails with views of the Pacific—and pods of leaping dolphins. foursasons.com.

The Little Nell
ASPEN, COLORADO
You’ll be on top of the world, literally, as you wed, dine, and take in panoramic sights of Elk Mountains from the Sundeck, which sits at 11,000 feet. thelittenell.com.

Dunton Hot Springs
DOLORES, COLORADO
Make this restored 1800s ghost town, with 13 cabins, a spa, and hot springs, yours for a weekend of outdoor adventures and epic summer scenery. duntonhotsprings.com.

Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe Resort, Spa, and Casino
INCLINE VILLAGE, NEVADA
Get the best of the shore and the mountains at this lakeside property, where coordinators excel at even the smallest of details, like surprise mid-ceremony mimosas. hyatt.com.

Mandarin Oriental Las Vegas
LAS VEGAS
Find a moment of zen on the Strip at this elegant minimalist property that hosts parties of all sizes, from 25 guests in a luxe top-floor suite to 480 in the Oriental Ballroom. mandarinoriental.com.

Castaway Portland
PORTLAND, OREGON
Make this raw space whatever you like—from an industrial-chic fete in the restored warehouse to a romantic affair in the garden. castawayportland.com.

Stein Eriksen Lodge
DEER VALLEY, UTAH
Come for the ski-in/ski-out access and stay for the lodge’s ability to host an indoor-outdoor event, which brides call a necessity with Utah’s unpredictable weather. steinlodge.com.

Sodo Park
SEATTLE
You’ll feel at home in this massive industrial space, thanks to its award-winning catering and a design studio that masters lighting. herbanfeast.com.

Brush Creek Ranch
SARATOGA, WYOMING
Shoot clays in the morning or relax in the spa before you say “I do” mountainside. Later, party in a wooden barn or out in the open on the 30,000 acres of untouched terrain. brushcreekranch.com.

“Buying out the property’s 26 guest rooms made our wedding guests feel closer, which is what we wanted.” —MARIE V., ON KORAKIA PENSIONE

KEY
PARTY CAN GO PAST MIDNIGHT
IN-HOUSE CATERER
ON-SITE ACCOMMODATIONS