

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



OHEKA CASTLE
HUNTINGTON, NEW YORK

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. theweddingbarnsofmaine.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.

KEY

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

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.

JEFF TISMAN PHOTOGRAPHY



BONNET ISLAND ESTATE
MANAHAWKIN, NEW JERSEY

“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
POTTERSVILLE, 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](#).

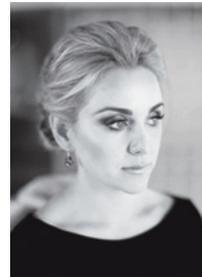
Philadelphia Museum of Art
PHILADELPHIA ●
This top-notch destination is finally hosting weddings. Choose from the sculpture garden, art-deco Perelman Building, or Rodin Museum, where you can wed in front of *The Thinker*. [philamuseum.org](#).

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](#).
—Gabriella Rello

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

PLAN LIKE A PRO **VENUE SCOUT**

Cortnie Purdy, a former wedding planner, founded the Venue Report, a site that helps you find (and book!) the coolest party places on the planet. She shares what you need to know going in.



THINK ABOUT LOCATION Decide whether you want to marry close to home or if you want a destination affair that involves more complicated logistics. **SET YOUR BUDGET FIRST** Knowing what you have to spend helps narrow your initial search. **LOCK IN YOUR HEAD COUNT** Do not fall in love with a place that can't fit your guests. This is one thing a venue can't budge on, no matter how kindly you ask. **PICK A TIME OF YEAR** Select a season and a few dates that work for you within it. Time of year affects whether you can have an indoor or outdoor event, as well as your bill. (Some venues offer discounted rates in the winter and charge more in the summer.) **VISIT IN PERSON** It's often the energy of a place that strikes a chord. You can't get that in photos. **MEET THE STAFF** The team behind the venue is as important as the site itself. You want to work with people you like! **GET RECS** Trust your gut, absolutely, but read online reviews and ask your friends what they know about the places you're considering too. If someone has heard bad things, chances are they're true. **ASK QUESTIONS** Does the venue have bathrooms? Does it allow open flames? Discuss what's important to you in the beginning because if you don't, it will bother you later on. **PUT EVERYTHING IN WRITING** When you're ready to book, work up a contract that includes all the tiny details, like permits, the rain plan, set-up fees, et cetera. Nothing should be left up to interpretation. —As told to Yolanda Crous



TREEHOUSE POINT
ISSAQUAH,
WASHINGTON

“Tepees, cabins, tree houses, and places with a summer-camp vibe are going to be hot in 2017,” says Purdy.

FROM TOP: AH PHOTOGRAPHY; COURTESY OF CORTNIE PURDY, JAGGER PHOTOGRAPHY

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 HAY-ADAMS
WASHINGTON, D.C.



FEARRINGTON VILLAGE
PITTSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

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. seaisland.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.

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.

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.

The White Sparrow Barn

QUINLAN, TEXAS
A beautiful white barn with built-in speakers and vintage rentals? Nadine Ramos Huerta, a wedding photographer, created this spot in 2014 (with space for endless photo ops, obvi!). thewhitesparrowbarn.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.

Pippin Hill Farm & Vineyards

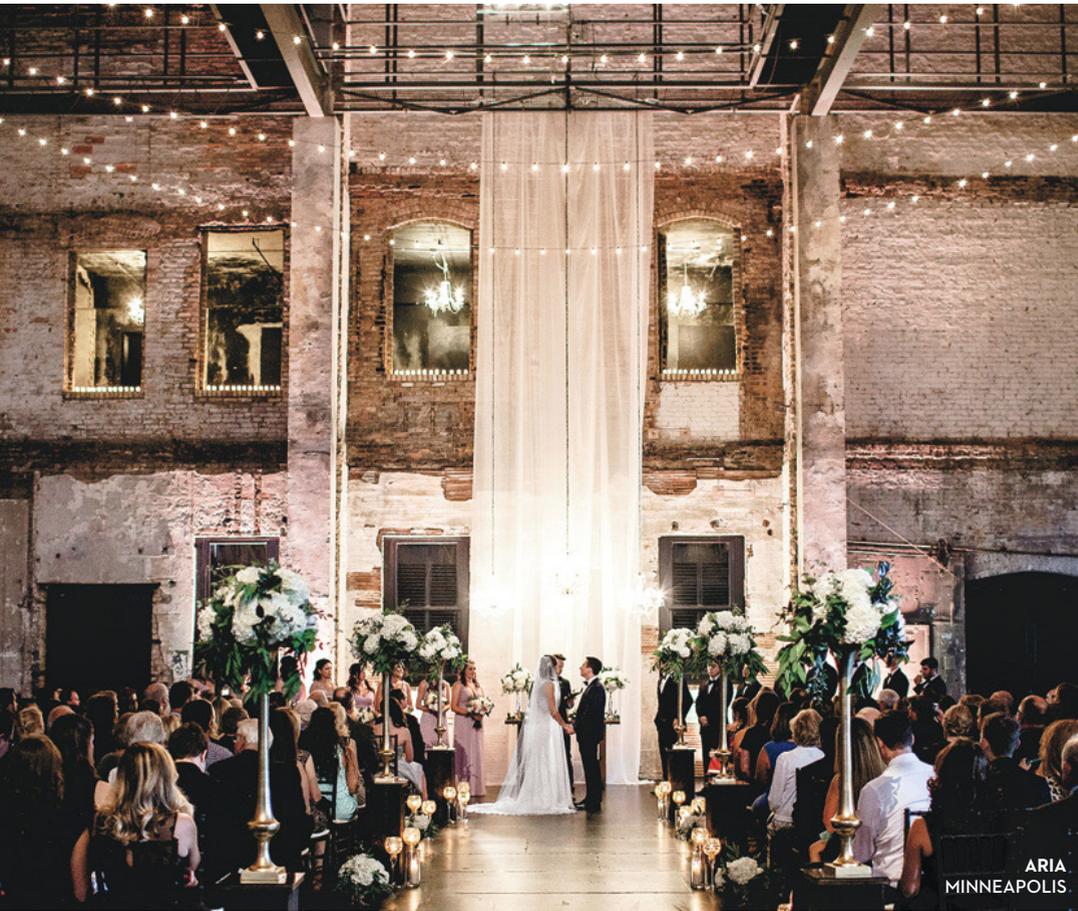
NORTH GARDEN, VIRGINIA ●●●●
This beauty is a standout in wine country, thanks to its rustic-meets-chic barn, mountain views, and getting-ready suites for the bride and groom. pippinhillfarm.com.

—Anna Price Olson

KEY

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

FROM TOP: KRISTAL KAST PHOTOGRAPHY; ABBY JIU PHOTOGRAPHY



(hello, after-party!), this theater is ready for an A-list celebration. ariamples.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 uninterrupted 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

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

“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



FROM TOP: JANELLE ELISE PHOTOGRAPHY; JILL DEVRIES PHOTOGRAPHY

BEST VENUES

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. fourseasons.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. thelittlenell.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 summit scenery. duntonhotsprings.com.

Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe Resort, Spa, and Casino

INCLINE VILLAGE, NEVADA ●●●

Get the best of the shore



KORAKIA PENSIONE
PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

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

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

warehouse to a romantic affair in the garden. castawayportland.com.

Stein Eriksen Lodge Deer Valley

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. —Jaimie Schoen Mackey

KEY

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



STEIN ERIKSEN LODGE
DEER VALLEY
UTAH