

Southern Bride®

SUMMER/FALL 2024

2025

Bridal Fashion
TRENDS

FIND YOUR

*Dream
Destination*

IN IRELAND

49ERS SUPER BOWL
QUARTERBACK

Brock Purdy
& *Jenna Brandt*

THE TEAM BEHIND THE

Maggie Sottero

BRAND

The Youngest Member
of the Grand Old Opry

Lauren Alaina

Marries

Cam Arnold

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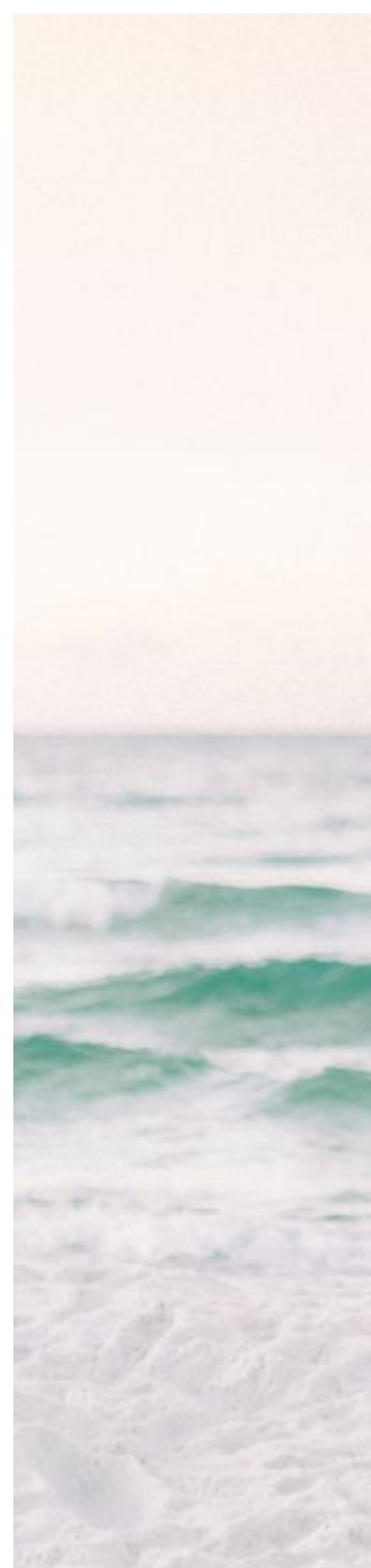
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THE Inspiration ISSUE

Summer is one of the more exciting times of the year with extra sunshine, playtime, travel, and special occasions; it recharges us, invigorates us, and prepares us for the routine that fall brings. Our Summer/Fall 2024 issue strives to reflect that excitement through our pages abundant in the latest wedding design. Southern Bride has had the pleasure of working with some of the top design talents over the last few months to showcase in this issue the latest inspirations from wedding event planners and designers, venues, and honeymoon destinations to bring you a comprehensive bridal guide. The result is a colorful, creative abundance of inspiration to carry you through the planning process. The best part is that creativity is limitless, subjective, and abundant in every aspect of a wedding, and it is yours to create. We are in awe of some of the designs we experienced, from handwritten calligraphy invitations, bigger and more intricate floral arrangements, wedding gowns of various styles, and, of course, venues abound. This season's design aesthetic is a beautiful mix of traditional elements with bold creations opening the space to your personal creativity.

While 2024 opened with an exciting Super Bowl game featuring the San Francisco 49ers quarterback Brock Purdy, the standout moment of his year was undoubtedly his wedding to his college sweetheart Jenna Brandt on March 9, 2024, in Des Moines, Iowa. The couple graciously shared their love story with *Southern Bride Magazine*, and we are thrilled to showcase their elegant and timeless wedding, as much as we look forward to the return of football season in the fall. In addition to the popularity of football, country music is another tradition for many of us, and it brings us great joy to feature Grand Ole Opry member Lauren Alaina's glamorous wedding to Cameron Arnold. The couple exchanged vows in a star-studded ceremony and celebrated in style at the Schermerhorn Symphony Center on February 4, 2024, in Nashville, Tennessee.

Continuing with style in mind, our fashion pages are flooded with the latest in bridal fashion trends, where we see nods to vintage flair with a modern twist. Showcasing six standout fashions from the New York Bridal Fashion Week, there is a style for every bride. We also discuss pearls and their place in bridal jewelry with The Pnina Tornai ONE Perla Collection. Our special fashion feature "Maggie Sottero Designers – Latest Creations and Sustainability Initiatives", explores the brand's future, introducing new talent and an impactful shift toward ethical and environmentally conscious practices.

Shifting from fashion style to The Styled Challenge by Southern Bride, a wedding design competition, where we travel the countryside looking for beautiful venues for local design teams to create their vision of a dream wedding design. Our team packed our bags and traveled to Nashville, Tennessee, Austin, Texas, and Napa Valley, California, showcasing premier wedding venues along the way. The Styled Challenge pages present extraordinary yet realistic designs by expert local wedding vendors in each of these locales.

If you're drawn to The Styled Challenge pages and feel a desire to travel, visit our Romantic Destinations Travel section, where we showcase captivating venues from around the world to assist you in finding your next adventure, regardless of the occasion. Whether you're considering a destination wedding in Ireland or planning a honeymoon, our travel editor, Sherra Meyers, personally explored each of these enchanting locations. If you require expert advice on any destination, our Romantic Destination Travel Advisors are available to assist you. They possess extensive knowledge and cater to travelers globally, staying up to date with the latest travel trends and insights. In our RDT section, we present three honeymoon itineraries that we believe you'll appreciate. If you don't find what you're looking for, feel free to scan any of our itinerary QR codes, and our travel advisors will guide you in the right direction.

As the wedding season commences, we leave you with a quote:

"I love her,
and that's the
beginning
and the end of
everything."

- F. Scott Fitzgerald

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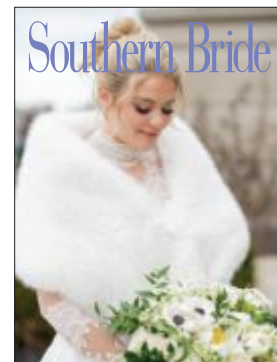
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On the Covers



Summer

From the Real Wedding of
Jenna Brandt and Brock Purdy
Photographer: Ivory + Bliss
ivoryandbliss.com
Cover Gown: Elysee Bridal,
Seraphine elyseebridal.com
Read more on pg 50



Fall

From the Real Wedding of
Lauren Alaina and Cam Arnold
Photographer: Kathy Thomas
kathythomasphotography.com
Cover Gown: Anne Barge Atelier
annebarge.com
Read more on pg 56



Exclusive Interview with
Maggie Sottero Designers:
Latest Creations and Sustainability Initiatives

by Gigi Bors-Koefoed

"We don't necessarily follow trends; instead, we trust our own aesthetics and instincts to create what we would like to see next."

— Mark & Chris Russell

Maggie Sottero bridal gowns have been a staple in the wedding industry for two decades. Originating in Australia, this esteemed bridal fashion brand is renowned for its exquisite attention to detail, intricate lace, delicate tulle, and creative details. With a commitment to providing personalized designs, Maggie Sottero ensures that each bride creates her ideal gown. Looking toward the future, the brand proudly

introduces new designers Mark and Chris Russell, alongside a sustainability initiative spearheaded by former Maggie Sottero designer Patricia DeLaunay, now serving as the Global Sustainability Director. Collaborating with lead designer Edric Woo, the Maggie Sottero team delves into the creative inspirations driving their collections and offers a sneak peek into the exciting evolution of the renowned brand.

Q & A



Mark & Chris Russell

DESIGNERS

Q: Congratulations on joining the Maggie Sottero team. What attracted you to this particular design house?

What attracted us to Maggie Sottero is their unwavering commitment to turning bridal dreams into reality. Their mission goes beyond just creating dresses; they see each gown as a tangible expression of love stories and individuality. Additionally, it is inspiring to design alongside Edric Woo. His lifelong passion for fashion design, coupled with his extensive experience in the bridal industry, ensures that each gown is crafted with impeccable attention to detail and reflects the latest trends in bridal fashion. Overall, the combination of a passionate team, premium quality, and a commitment to celebrating love in all its forms drew us to Maggie.

Q: How do you plan on contributing to the already established bridal brand?

Drawing from our own experiences and inspirations, we aim to bring fresh perspectives and innovative ideas to the design process while respecting and honoring the brand's rich legacy and values.

Q: What are key concepts to keep in mind when shopping for a wedding dress?

Understanding your personal style and envisioning the overall aesthetic you desire for your wedding day sets the foundation for the dress selection process. Whether you gravitate towards classic elegance, modern sophistication, or bohemian romance, having a clear vision helps narrow down options. Additionally, considering the venue and theme of your wedding can provide valuable direction in terms of silhouette, fabric, and embellishments that will complement the overall atmosphere.

Q: Where do you draw inspiration from after two decades in bridal design?

We love to study fashion and decorative arts, and we often look to historical references when creating new styles. From the Modernism of the 20th Century to reaching as far back as Classical Antiquity, we draw inspiration from the most Elegant Shapes and Design Elements of each era.

Q: How do you stay updated on current bridal trends while maintaining your unique aesthetic?

We don't necessarily follow trends; instead, we trust our own aesthetics and instincts to create what we would like to see next.

Q: Can you describe the signature style or design elements that are present in your collections?

Starting with the balance of pure lines and perfect proportions, we combine the design elements that inspire us from each era in new and unique ways each season. Using innovative patternmaking and draping techniques, precise seam placement, and our signature lace placement, we pay particular attention to each detail to ensure that our creations contour, elongate, and enhance each Bride's unique features.

Q: It seems the sleeveless dresses reign supreme, why do you think so many brides find that style so appealing?

Sleeveless designs offer a sense of versatility and modernity that resonates with contemporary brides. They provide a sleek and streamlined silhouette that accentuates the natural curves of the body, creating a flattering and elegant look that never goes out of style.





Q: What steps do you take to ensure ethical sourcing of materials for your bridal gowns and accessories?

We are increasing our use of lower-impact materials with certifications like the Global Recycled Standard (GRS). The GRS sets the criteria for third-party certification of recycled materials and chain of custody. The GRS includes a higher (50%) minimum recycled content percentage and additional social and environmental requirements for processing and chemical use. This is one reason these materials are more expensive than conventional (virgin) polyester.

Q: How do you minimize waste in your production process?

One of the ways we're addressing waste is by decreasing fabric consumption and reducing layers without compromising the fit and quality of our gowns. Our partnership with SuperCircle is a milestone in our waste reduction efforts and is an investment in decreasing garment waste via textile-to-textile recycling. We're also transitioning to post-consumer recycled content shipping supplies, including boxes and bags.

Q: Are your bridal collections made with environmentally friendly materials?

Several gowns from the Spring 2024 and Fall 2024 collections are crafted using outer-shell materials with a lower environmental impact, and most of our legacy gowns in Ivory are transitioning to recycled linings! We're classifying our lower-impact fabrics based on whether they are made from recycled polyester or yarn-dyed textiles (which can be a more resource-efficient method.)

Q: How do you balance the desire for luxury and elegance with sustainability in your designs?

"Balance" is indeed the right word; it's so important for us to embrace next-gen materials (and they're becoming more beautiful and luxurious every season!), but we must balance that while maintaining our fabric performance standards. How does that fabric look, feel, drape, handle seaming, etc.? Our lower-impact fabrics have been tested not only in our studio during multiple fittings but also at development events in stores so that we feel confident in bringing these gowns to market and to our brides.



Q: What spearheaded the change in your role at M.S. from designer to the first Global Sustainability Director/Designer?

Kelly Midgley and I started a conversation about sustainable design some years ago when she was V.P. of Design. When she became C.E.O. in 2020, that conversation accelerated, expanding into a vision for company-wide sustainability efforts!

Q: What sustainable practices or initiatives has your company implemented?

We're working on waste reduction---recycling as much as we can, as efficiently as we can, from bulk shipping waste to diverting stock from landfills and incineration. We are rethinking resource consumption by supporting renewable power projects, reducing our product impact, and investing in a circular supply chain; we're working to become a more regenerative brand.



Q & A



Edric Woo

LEAD DESIGNER



FOR FULL
INTERVIEW
SCAN HERE



Q: How does Maggie Sottero maintain a strong connection with brides amidst the numerous bridal fashion houses in the industry?

Maggie designs with all brides in mind, no matter their style, budget, identification, budget, size, timeline, or wedding vision. Maggie Sottero's commitment to embracing the diversity of brides has been a cornerstone of its enduring success in maintaining strong connections with brides season after season.

Q: What can we look forward to in 2025 from M.S.?

In 2025, you can anticipate seeing a continued emphasis on luxurious fabrics, intricate detailing, and impeccable craftsmanship, which are hallmarks of Maggie Sottero gowns.

Q: Do you have any advice for the brides in search of the perfect dress?

One of the most invaluable pieces of advice for brides is to approach the dress-shopping experience with an open mind. Explore a variety of silhouettes, colors, and styles during your fittings, as you may find that something unexpected truly captivates you! Don't hesitate to lean on your stylist's expertise— they're trained to guide you toward options that complement both your body type and personal style, ensuring you feel absolutely radiant.

EUROPEAN VILLA

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

The Hill House, a beautiful Spanish Colonial Revival mansion situated in downtown Durham, provides a unique setting of an old-world European Villa, meeting the vision of the wedding designers for this styled shoot. Constructed in 1912, Hill House provides couples with a destination wedding experience while remaining rooted in Durham's history.

The Hill House echoes a Mediterranean atmosphere, inspiring the designers to incorporate fruits, olives, deep blues, and lush florals with pops of peach hues to complement the stucco and red roof tile. The result was a cohesive atmosphere that felt both relaxed and formal.

Given the estate's rich family history, the shoot portrays an intimate family wedding highlighting local North Carolina element such as the florals from Comfy Florals that use only locally grown and sustainable materials. The floral arrangements feature blooms sourced from local NC flower farms, providing a chance to showcase the state's colorful springtime flowers.

The exquisite watercolor stationery by a local artist, Bree Ryan, and the vow books, assembled with delicate handmade paper, enhanced the historic feel of the day.

The Hill House offers a charming tea party room, highlighted by the bridal tea party shoot. The designers sourced antique tea sets from Tea Time 2 You, a local vendor offering tea party planning and rentals. S. Richardson Cakes and Pastries by J provided lemon bars, fruit tarts, and a macaron tower, making it a colorful and tasty way to end the day!





Submitted by Event Planner & Designer: *Haines Jones, Significant Events NC* | Photographer: *Danielle Volk Creative*, Venue: *The John Sprunt Hill House*, Florals: *Comfy Florals*, Cake: *S. Richardson Cakes*, Pastries: *Pastries by J*, Stationery: *Breezy Mind and Body*, Event Rentals: *Curated Events Raleigh*, Gown: *Sarvi Formalwear & Bridal*, Makeup: *Peach Cowgirl Beauty*, Tea Set: *Tea Time 2 You*, Jewelry: *Diamonds Direct*, Bridesmaid Dresses: *Bella Bridesmaids*, Bar Cart: *Pop 'n Pour*, Videography: *Cirque 91*

AMONG THE DUNES

PENSACOLA BEACH, FLORIDA

The Gulf Coast is a treasure of natural beauty. White sand dunes and beautiful blue water create an amazing backdrop for so many couples who come to its beaches to get married. The locals, however, have a different perspective from finding hidden beauty in sea oat-covered dunes and little canal waterways where they fished with grandparents.

The Audubon-inspired heron fabric, infused with nature and earth tones, propelled the creation of the styled shoot. The heron's habitat is along the Gulf Coast. It's a stately bird that has an air of graceful demeanor, just like the table design.

This celebrates the love of coastal elements against a backdrop of sun-kissed dunes and timeless sophistication. The tall sea grasses provide rich color options and textures that are incorporated throughout. The table is nestled among the dunes and adorned with loose, organic florals, complete with a mixture of seagrasses and native blooms.

The shoot took place at historic Ft. Pickens in Pensacola, Florida. The texture of the fort walls with the grasslands between them set the perfect backdrop for our couple to celebrate.

In creating an elegant coastal design, the focus is on simplicity and natural elements. Using handmade mulberry paper, wrapped around a favor box and sealed with a heron wax seal to give our guest favor boxes texture. The handmade mulberry paper is reminiscent of the sea oats and other grasses found among the dunes. Designers highlighted this aspect with a custom-designed Escort Wall. With the soft blue hues of the wall and the bud vases that doubled as place cards and favors, the guests would be able to find their place among the dunes. This special touch is not only helpful but also creates an atmosphere where guests feel welcome, allowing them to experience Southern hospitality at its finest.

The color palette draws from the fabric's ethereal tones. The misty blue nods to the heron's plumage and the ever-changing hues of the breathtaking Gulf Coast. The ochre incorporates the warmth of a captivating sunset that lingers at the end of a fall day. And finally, the seagrass brings warm, calming, grassy green tones with a touch of gold. Overall these colors bring a subtle sophistication to this coastal design.







Submitted by Photographer: Jordan West Photo | Designer: Fête + Flora, Videography: PV Cobia, Cake: Kate's Cakes Pensacola, Stationery: Works of Harte, Florals: Fête + Flora, Linens: BBJ Tavola Linens bbjlatavola.com, Rentals: Events Styled by Luxe and Supposey Weddings, Bridal Gown: Margaret Ellen Bridal, Groom Tux: Randall's Formal Wear, Hair & Makeup Artist: Fathom Beauty by Renee, Calligraphy: Scripted Calling

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Co-Host
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Southern Bride Publisher



BEST DESIGN AWARD & LASTING IMPRESSION AWARD

Amanda Landon, Amanda Marie & Co.

Photography Winner: Alyssa Marie Photography

INSPIRATION: AMANDA LANDON

Designer Amanda Landon's vision for The Four Seasons in Nashville was inspired by the location's breathtaking surroundings and the charm of its sister location in Florence, Italy. The ceremony room, with its expansive floor-to-ceiling windows, was transformed into an intimate and cozy space with accents of candlelight warmth and character. As guests moved to the ballroom, they were greeted by layers of flowers, candles, and hanging chandeliers that created a lush and inviting ambiance. At the same time, European elements like urns and romantic taper candlelight gave the space an air of elegance. Potted trees, draping vines, and textured items were used to soften the space and bring it to life, resulting in a glamorous and comfortable space. Amanda's design, which she describes as "European Elegance," evokes a feeling of romance and sophistication, making it a most memorable setting.

VENUE: FOUR SEASONS NASHVILLE

The Four Seasons Nashville is a luxury 5-star hotel that offers an unparalleled experience of comfort and elegance. Located in the heart of downtown Nashville's vibrant SoBro neighborhood, the hotel boasts a beautiful design that is sure to leave a lasting impression. The hotel features a blend of hotel rooms and private residences, catering to the most discerning guests. The hotel's location is unbeatable, being only steps away from the iconic Ryman Auditorium, Bridgestone Arena, and Broadway. The hotel's convenient location provides easy access to the best of Nashville's cultural and entertainment offerings.







Full Feature Here

Photography: Alyssa Marie Photography | Venue: Four Seasons Nashville | Designer: Amanda Landon, Amanda Marie & Co | Florals: Chelsea Carter Events | Rentals: Curated Events Nashville | Lighting: Nashville Event Lighting | Candles: Nashville Candle Rentals | Rigging: Encore Global | Cake: Four Seasons Nashville | Stationery: White Ink Calligraphy | Wedding Gown Shop: The Bride Room | Wedding Gown Designer: Ines Di Santo | Men's Fashion Designer: Allure Bridals | Hair: TFA Photo & Beauty | Make-Up: Alicia Lee | Models: Kelsey & Greg Higgins



History in the Making

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SOUTHERN SOCIALITE AWARD & BEST FLAT LAY AWARD

Sarah Miller, Southern Vine & Co.

Photography Winner: Mondaini Films — Best Cake Design Award: Cakes & Co.

INSPIRATION: SARAH MILLER

Designer Sarah Miller, Southern Vine & Co., showcased her design expertise at CMHF, maximizing the venue's spaciousness with elegant drapery adorning the room divider. She crafted a welcoming ambiance with a family-style dining table adorned with intricate foliage and florals cascading overhead. The addition of a stunning chandelier, featuring antlers adorned with pearls, heightened the cozy and opulent atmosphere. The ceremony space was equally enchanting, with delicate drapery intertwined with floral arrangements. Miller's incorporation of natural elements breathed life into the venue, complimented by the breathtaking floor-to-ceiling windows offering a picturesque view of Nashville, especially during the serene snowfall.

VENUE: COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

Nestled in downtown Nashville, Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum boasts the most extensive array of country music artifacts. Guests can explore decades of history of music through its permanent exhibition "Sing Me Back Home: A Journey Through Country Music." The CMHF offers a grand ballroom bathed in natural light, showcasing breathtaking vistas of the city skyline, ideal for weddings and memorable occasions.





Full Feature Here

Photographer: Lillie Mondaini, Mondaini Films LLC | Designer: Sarah Miller, Southern Vine & Co. | Venue: Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum | Florals: Lauren Marie Atkinson Designs | Stationery: Claire White, White Ink Calligraphy | Lighting & Draping: RENOWNED Event Designs | Rentals: Please Be Seated | Cake: Alison Smith, Cakes + Co. | Bride & Groom Wear: Olia Zavozina | Hairstylist: TFA Photo Beauty | Makeup Artist: Alicia Lee | Models: Ronzell Williams & Alexandra Rae



TRENDSETTER AWARD

Tiffanie Elliot, Elliot Events

Photography Winner: Annie Cooper Photography — Best Floral Design: Bloom615
Best Stationery Award: River & Bridge

INSPIRATION: TIFFANIE ELLIOT

Designer Tiffanie Elliot from Elliot Events created a captivating blend of old-world charm and contemporary sophistication inspired by the historic essence of the hotel, established in 1900. The design aimed to reimagine a modern avant-garde design, seamlessly integrating elements from the past with innovative touches of the present. Evoking the timeless elegance of the early 20th century, Tiffanie along with florist Emily Thrailkill adorned the venue with lush deep florals, vibrant fruits, and rich colors, paying homage to the hotel's storied past while infusing it with a sense of opulence and luxury.

VENUE: THE UNION STATION HOTEL, NASHVILLE YARDS

The Union Station Hotel, Nashville Yards is part of the Marriott Autograph Collection Hotels. Originally built as a central railway station in 1900, this iconic hotel seamlessly blends America's illustrious railroad era with contemporary flair. Following a comprehensive renovation, the hotel meticulously preserves architectural elements from the gilded age. Visitors are afforded an opportunity to immerse themselves in Nashville's rich history while residing in one of the city's most exquisite historic edifices.





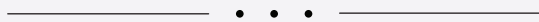
Full Feature Here

Photography: Annie Cooper Photography | Designer: Tiffanie Elliot, Elliott Events | Venue: The Union Station Nashville | Florals: Bloom615 | Rentals: Curated Events Nashville & Quest Events | Linens: Nüage Designs Inc | Stationery: River and Bridge | Wedding Gown Shop: The Bride Room | Wedding Gown Designer: Ines di Santo | Men's Fashion Designer: Allure Bridals | Hair: Trae Howard Hair | Make-Up: Alicia Lee | Models: @iamgentrybledsoe & @peytonwhite



BEST DESIGN & SOUTHERN SOCIALITE AWARD

Caroline Gollner, VOLARE Planning and Design



Photography Winner: Lomonico Photography — **Best Flat Lay:** Aly Am Paperie

Best Cake: Lilac Sugar Cakes

INSPIRATION: CAROLINE GOLLNER

Hill Country Pavilion and Lawn features a spacious, light-filled room overlooking the rolling hills of the Texas countryside. Designer Caroline Gollner, VOLARE Planning and Design, with florist Katherine Hood, Merveille Events, created a cascade of floral arrangements to soften the brick walls and create a focal point of the dining area. Floral hues of yellow, soft pink, and white create a contrast against the white brick wall, enlivening the space. The Lawn hosted the ceremony creation of three abundant floral arches along with beautiful purple velvet chairs complementing the green and yellow flowers.

VENUE: OMNI BARTON CREEK / HILL COUNTRY PAVILION AND LAWN

Omni Barton Creek Resort is a sprawling golf resort on the outskirts of Austin, Texas, surrounded by expansive views of rolling hills sprinkled with native river birch and dessert willow. The resort provides an upscale getaway with four golf courses, seven restaurants, and full amenities. The wedding venue, Hill Country Pavilion and Lawn, is an elegant venue with glass windows that fully open, integrating the indoor/outdoor space.







Full Feature Here

Photography: Christine Scott, Lomonico Photography | Event Planner: Caroline Gollner, VOLARE Planning and Design | Venue: Hill Country Pavilion and Lawn, Omni Barton Creek | Stationery: Aly Am Paperie | Cake: Lilac Sugar Cakes | Decor Rentals & Classic Car: Cat Haus Rentals & Designs | Linens: BBJ La Tavola | Specialty Rentals: Rustic Romance Rentals | Rentals: Bright Event Rentals | Signage: Backstory Backdrops | Wedding Gown: Julian Gold Bridal | Groom Tux: Heights Tuxedo | Hair and Makeup: Mission Style House | Models: Rose McBride and Ryan Foster

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For truly unforgettable weddings, Omni Barton Creek Resort & Spa invites you to cherish every moment while we meticulously plan every detail. Whether you are looking for a stunning Ballroom, an intimate outdoor venue, or an experience that blurs the lines between indoors and outdoors, your guests will be captivated by the breathtaking views that embrace the hilltop property. Our seamless blend of indoor and outdoor spaces makes it the perfect venue for your special day.

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TRENDSETTER AWARD

Jennifer Ashford, Altar Ego Weddings

Photography Winner: Catch Motion Studio — Best Florals Award: Disch Events

INSPIRATION: JENNIFER ASHFORD

Designer Jennifer Ashford and the team at Altar Ego Weddings presents a modern and lively “Bold Garden Party” wedding design for couples who want to celebrate their special day in a resort-style setting but without the formality of a traditional ballroom. The Rock House at Omni Barton Creek in Austin, Texas, is the perfect outdoor location for this picturesque event. The floral concepts and graphic prints incorporate bold, vivid pink and red hues, complemented with blue and white accents. Acrylics and metallics create a striking contrast against the natural green surroundings. The hanging cake display, colorful desserts, and stylish lounge offer an inviting space for guests to enjoy. The bride wears a whimsical dress with floral features, while the groom looks dapper in his custom blue suit and patterned accessories. This wedding design aims to create a warm and joyful atmosphere without being overly formal.

VENUE: THE ROCK HOUSE, OMNI BARTON CREEK

The Rock House at the Omni Barton Creek Resort is nestled in the rolling hills of Fazio Canyon, providing a secluded and picturesque setting next to a babbling brook and expansive Texas sky. Situated on the Omni Barton Creek’s golf course, The Rock House served as a men’s social house and it retains much of its rustic charm, complete with horseshoe pits and a poker table. This unique event space is located just 8 minutes from the Omni Barton Creek Resort, making it a mini oasis amid Austin’s vibrant atmosphere.





Full Feature Here

Photography: Parvinder Singh, Catch Motion Studio | Event Design: Jennifer Ashford, Altar Ego Weddings | Florals: Disch Events | Rentals: Premiere Events, Bee Lavish Rental LLC, Strong Events | Stationery & Signage: Design to Flourish | Cake & Desserts: Rose Haven Bakery & Event Venue/Cake ROCKS!! | Live Artist Work: Vogue Vignette | Jewelry: Benolds Jewelers | Car: ATX Classic Car | Bridal Salon: Blue Bridal Austin | Gown: Made With Love Bridal | Tux: Generation Tux | Hair & Makeup: Mission Style House | Models: Brandis Brinkman & Forestt Randall



LASTING IMPRESSION AWARD

MacKenzie Garcia, Events by MacKenzie

Photography Winner: Nicole Laing Photography

Best Invitation Award: Design to Flourish

INSPIRATION: MACKENZIE GARCIA

Designer Mackenzie Garcia of Events by Mackenzie expertly blended classic garden party elements with earthy tones to create a unique and vibrant look. The use of florals, pastels, lush greenery, warm lavender, green sage, and cinnamon brown gave a pop of color and a twist on the traditional garden party aesthetic. The cohesive look was achieved through the careful placement of purple hues throughout the venue, while the organic feel of the garden backdrop was enhanced by the lush verdant ceremony arch. The bride's soft look complemented the space perfectly. By combining a variety of textures and materials, the designer created an interesting experience for guests and drew attention to the intricate design details.

VENUE: OMNI BARTON CREEK RESORT, ROYAL BALLROOM AND WILDFLOWER ATRIUM

The Wildflower Atrium at the Omni Barton Creek Resort is an inviting venue for intimate weddings. The soft off-white wall is accented by a grand floral plaster cast. The floor-to-ceiling windows provide an abundance of natural light and majestic views of the Texas Hill Country. Adjacent to the Wildflower Atrium is the elegant Royal Ballroom, a spacious venue with the same impressive views and an excellent option for hosting a large wedding reception.





Full Feature Here

Photography: Nicole Laing Photography | Event Designer: Mackenzie Garcia, Events by Mackenzie | Venue: Omni Barton Creek Resort | Stationery and Signage: Design to Flourish | Florals: Daughter Floral | Rentals: Noma Events, Bee Lavish Event Rental LLC | Desserts: The Sophistibaker | Jewelry: Form To Feeling | Linens: BBJ La Tavola | Wedding Gown: Allure Bridals | Groom Tux: Generation Tux | Hair & Makeup: Mission Style House | Models: Sofia Solis and Alex Torres



BEST DESIGN AWARD

Kendall Erlenbusch, Kendall Melissa Events

Photography Winner: Southern & Grace Photography — **Best Florals Award:** H and J Flowers — **Best Stationery Award:** Hyegraph Invitations and Calligraphy

INSPIRATION: KENDALL ERLENBUSCH

Inspired by the historical setting, designer Kendall Erlenbusch created a modern twist on a bygone era. The design heavily relied on shapes, textures, and colors to achieve a continuous design. To modernize the design, the team used colors that would stand out against the natural surroundings, such as romantic lavender and blush hues, paired with bold colors like yellow, orange, and hints of mauve. These bold colors evoke bliss, joy, and a touch of whimsy.

Nature was a key focus, with rounded and circular structures, layouts, and design taking center stage. The vision was to bring lush gardens to the forefront of the ceremony and extend the elements of nature to the al fresco dining tables. Guests could envision themselves dining under a canopy of trailing greenery and hints of blooms peeking out overhead. The goal was to seamlessly integrate nature and the outdoors while creating an elegant tablescape fit for a prince and a princess.

VENUE: BERINGER VINEYARDS

Beringer Vineyards is Napa's oldest continuously operating winery located in St. Helena. Founded in 1876 by German brothers Jacob and Frederick Beringer, the vineyard exemplifies European charm and a standard in winemaking. The expansive estate was recognized as a historic district on the National Register of Historic Places in 2001. Its Rhine House mansion, a replica of the family's home on the Rhine River in Germany, serves as the focal point for Beringer's reserve and library tastings, where visitors can savor a glass of wine while unwinding on the porch with views of the sprawling lawns and lush gardens.







Full Feature Here

Photography: Ashley Piper, Southern & Grace Photography | Event Designer: Kendall Erlenbusch, Kendall Melissa Events | Venue: Beringer Vineyards | Florals: H and J Flowers | Stationery: Hyegraph Invitations and Calligraphy | Bar Signage: The Parched Poppies | Rentals: Standard Event Rentals | Custom Structures: The Tailored Setting | Cake: Baker & A Black Cat | Charcuterie: Brie Mine Charcuterie LLC | Bridal Gown & Accessories: Ellis+Blake | Groom Suit: Allure Bridals | Linens: BBJ La Tavola Linens | Models: Kayla Melish & Gary Herrera

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TRENDSETTER AWARD

Gianna Jackson, West Event Co.

Photography Winner: Michelle Kennaugh Photography

INSPIRATION: GIANNA JACKSON

The concept for the "Viva La Vino" styled shoot was inspired by the essence of Napa Valley - its wine, love, and unparalleled ambiance, capturing the heart of this renowned destination in every detail. Gianna Jackson, the designer with West Event Co., created the shoot with one question in mind: "If Sophia Loren and Frank Sinatra got married, what would that look and feel like?" Based on this idea, the design team blended the timeless aesthetics of the two icons with Italian influences in the florals, colors, and decor, as well as mid-century elements as a nod to Mr. Sinatra in furniture, martini towers, and classic sports cars. The overall vibe is quintessentially Californian, leaving no doubt that Napa was the perfect venue choice.

VENUE: BARDESSONO HOTEL & SPA

Located in the charming town of Yountville, California, in the heart of Napa Valley, Bardessono offers a unique approach to experiencing the good life by embracing and supporting the local community of artisans, chefs, and winemakers. Emphasizing wellness and mindful living, Bardessono embodies hospitality while honoring the rich history of the original Bardessono family farmstead. The property is synonymous with sustainable luxury, offering a tranquil atmosphere, privacy, and exceptional service that inspires guests to embrace a purposeful and mindful approach to luxury living.





Photography: Michelle Kennaugh Photography | Event Designer: Gianna Jackson, West Event Co. | Venue: Bardessono Hotel & Spa | Florals: Floral Luxe | Stationery & Signage: Wild Horse Design | Hair & Makeup: Contour Bridal | Models: Rachel Sanchez and Frankie Pineda | Rentals: Encore Event Rentals | Bridal Gown: Watters Design | Groom Tux: Generation Tux | Hair and Makeup: Contour Bridal



SOUTHERN SOCIALITE AWARD

Lisa McAdams, Lisa McAdams Events



Photography Winner: Happy Out Photography
Best Cake Design Award: Flour & Bloom Cakes — **Best Flat Lay Award:** Blushtype

INSPIRATION: LISA MCADAMS

Designer Lisa McAdams drew inspiration from Taylor Swift’s “*Lover Era*” album to create a unique wedding concept that defies typical conventions for real-life couples. The design incorporated elements like sparkles, butterflies, pastel colors, and an abundance of disco balls. The soft ombre color scheme from the album was seamlessly woven into various floral elements, including the bridal bouquet, aisle flowers, an 8-foot-tall floral arch, centerpieces, and taper candles on the dinner tables.

The model donned a sparkly, flirty corset bodice gown by Allure Bridals, directly inspired by Taylor Swift’s iconic bodysuit from the opening of her Eras Tour concert. The dessert plates featured a colorful butterfly pattern, and the mismatched, vibrant glassware was carefully curated from the designer’s collection. The cake itself was adorned with handmade sugar flowers, including Sweet Peas, Forget-Me-Nots, Garden Roses, and the perfectly ruffled Lisianthus, all in soft pastel shades to harmonize with the overall theme.

VENUE: V. SATTUI WINERY

The V. Sattui Winery is a family-owned estate in beautiful St. Helena, Napa Valley. Established in 1885, it produces over 60 wine varieties, many of which have received a rating of 90 points or higher. The winery is a stunning and popular destination for picnics, weddings, and events, featuring an extensive Cheese Shop with over 200 options, a superb Deli, and a Salumeria. The expansive property features picnic tables shaded by ancient Valley Oak trees, and terraces offering scenic views of verdant gardens and vineyards.





A Perfect Wine Pairing



Full Feature Here

Photography: Katie Kelly, Happy Out Photography | Event Designer: Lisa McAdams, Lisa McAdams Events | Cake: Flour & Bloom Cakes | Florals: Blümhaus Floral Co. | Stationery: Blushtype | Rentals: Bright Event Rentals | Catering: Tre Posti | Linens: Napa Valley Linens | Bridal Accessories: Lovesick Rebel | Hair & Makeup: Rachel Lusk | Signage: Miss Dee Designs | Models: Maddie Costello & Jack O'Brien | Bridal Gowns: Allure Bridal | Groom Suit: Generation Tux



LASTING IMPRESSION AWARD

Brittany Anderson, L'Avventura Events

Photography Winner: Kayla Bri Photography

INSPIRATION: BRITTANY ANDERSON

The iconic CIA Greystone in St. Helena, founded in 1889, is steeped in history, lore, and intrigue, inspiring Brittany Anderson of L'Avventura Events to design a wedding around the enigmatic atmosphere of the property. Drawing inspiration from the large wine casks in the barrel room and the overall ambiance, Brittany and her team opted for a palette of dark and atmospheric tones such as blacks, velvet taupe, and deep emerald green accented by a touch of autumnal orange.

Upon arrival at the Herb Terrace, the guests were welcomed with a wine-tasting table in front of Topanga, the 1970 VW bus iconic to California, before proceeding to the barrel room for dining and immersion in the building's history. The lighting in the dining room enhanced the moody colors, highlighting the textures of the linens and florals.

Inspired by the autumnal vibes of Napa Valley, the color scheme aimed to create a distinctive, moody and immersive wine and culinary experience in one of the world's most stunning locations.

VENUE: THE CULINARY INSTITUTE OF AMERICA AT ST. HELENA, CALIFORNIA

Established as Greystone Cellars, a gravity-flow cooperative, the history of Greystone dates back to 1889. It was renowned as the largest stone winery in the world. In 1950, the Christian Brothers purchased the winery and expanded its production of wines, brandies, and ports under the leadership of Brother Timothy Diener. The CIA took ownership of the Greystone building in 1993, and in 1995, the campus opened its doors to offer culinary classes from professionals across the globe. The rich history of Greystone is evident in its main building, a National Register of Historic Places-listed structure.





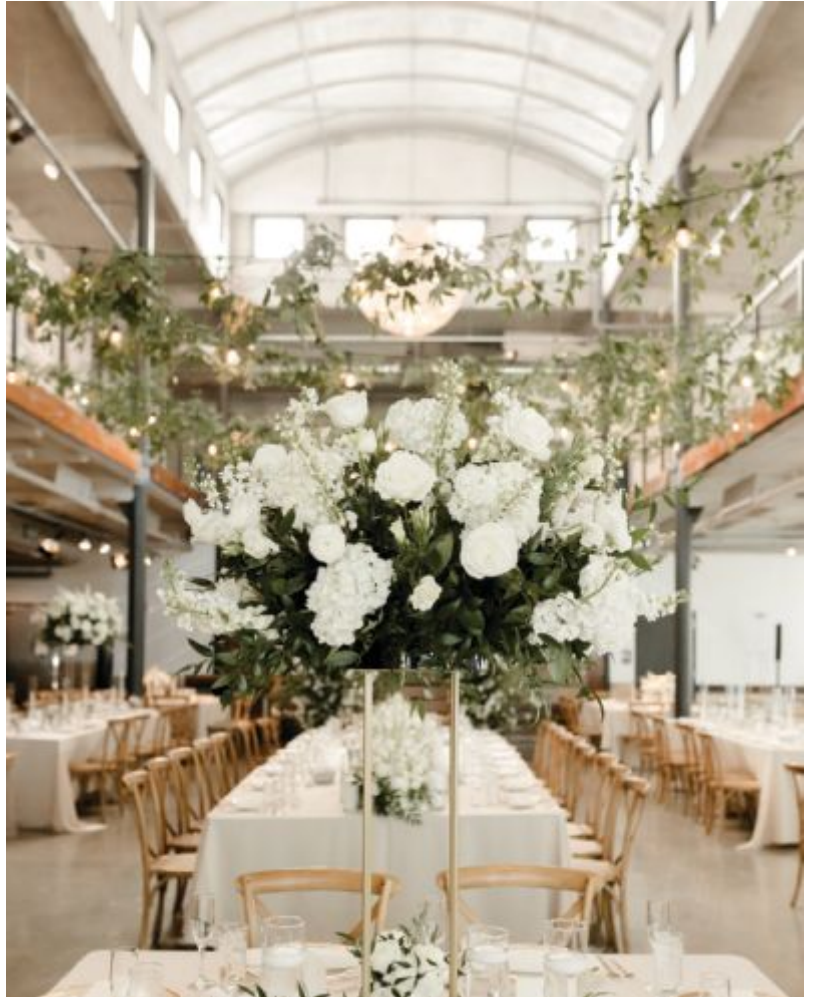
Full Feature Here

Photography: Kayla Bri Photography | Event Designer: Brittany Anderson, L'Avventura Events | Florals: Melody Raye Flowers | Rentals & Linens: Encore Events Rentals | Lighting: Twilight Design | Photographic Lighting: Paul C. Buff, Inc. | Stationery & Signage: Mindted Weddings, Napa Note | Bar Signage: Blushtype | Wine: MTGA Wines, Blaire Payton Wines | Bridal Gown: Allure Bridals | Groom Tux: Generation Tux | Hair & Makeup: Bella Bridal | Model: Erin Bates



JENNA BRANDT
& BROCK PURDY

DES MOINES, IOWA
MARCH 9, 2024

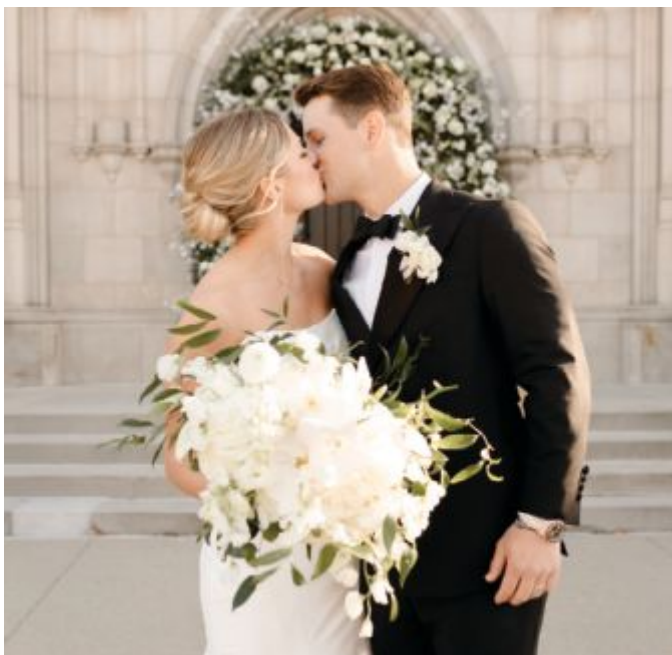


THE PROPOSAL

Jenna and Brock met at Iowa State University during their freshman year. They were casually acquainted through sports, although their mutual friends had a feeling that Jenna and Brock would make a great couple. Brock was drafted into the NFL in May 2022 and moved to California. Not wanting to miss his chance, Brock reached out to Jenna, and the two began a long-distance relationship. A year later, the couple vacationed in St. Cloud, FL. One day, Brock told Jenna that he needed to attend a marketing event with a white dress code. Later, he mentioned they would stop by a friend's house who wanted to show them his lake property before the event. The couple strolled to the lake dock, where Brock surprised Jenna with a proposal. To top off the magical moment, their family came out on a pontoon boat to congratulate the newly engaged couple. Jenna was overwhelmed by the perfect moment.

THE PREPARATION

A month after getting engaged, Jenna began planning the wedding. With strong ties to Iowa, she knew it was the perfect location to exchange vows and celebrate with her loved ones. The couple wanted a venue with character to accommodate their 350 guests. They enlisted the expertise of Event Planner Taylor Boesen and ultimately chose The River Center, a modern and spacious venue flooded with natural light and adorned with exposed brick. The couple's design aesthetic was a classic, timeless look of black and white.





THE BIG DAY

The ceremony took place at the historic Plymouth Church in Des Moines. The beautiful Gothic Revival-style building provided a perfect setting for their union. After the ceremony, the guests were welcomed to the River Center, where a spectacularly decorated event space awaited them. The dinner area was on two floors, with cascading floral arrangements providing a lush setting. The highlight of the evening was the dancing, followed by an impromptu karaoke party exuberantly supplied by the band.

THE RETREAT

The couple enjoyed a glorious week in Turks & Caicos, engaging in water activities and relaxing on the sandy beach.





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- EVENT PLANNER & DESIGNER White Willow Events whitewilloweventsia.com
 PHOTOGRAPHER Ivory+Bliss ivoryandbliss.com
 VIDEOGRAPHER Drew Dau drewdau.com
 CEREMONY VENUE Plymouth Church plymouthchurch.com
 VENUE River Center rivercenterdsm.com
 WELCOME PARTY Hotel Fort Des Moines hotelfortdesmoines.com
 CATERER Trellis trelliscafedsm.com
 CAKE Dore Bakery dorebakerydsm.com
 FLORIST Boesen the Florist boesen.com
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 HAIR Hair Vibes By Allison instagram.com/hairvibesbyallison
 MAKEUP Katy Bruess instagram.com/k_breezy.fit
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 BRIDAL STORE Bridal Extraordinaire bridalextraordinaire.com
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LAUREN ALAINA &
CAM ARNOLD

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE
FEBRUARY 4, 2024



THE PROPOSAL

Lauren and Cam met in magical Mexico through their mutual friend, country star Luke Bryan. They first laid eyes on each other backstage at Luke's annual Crash My Playa party, but it wasn't until the beach party that night that Lauren playfully called out Cam for carrying four drinks on the beach alone. Cam joined Lauren and her friends, and love blossomed. According to the couple, Cam attempted to propose three times, but Lauren unknowingly botched it each time. On one occasion, while the couple was enjoying their first night in their new home, Cam planned a romantic proposal by the fireplace with a bottle of wine. However, there were workers at the home, and Lauren invited them to stay for dinner. After dinner, the workers continued working, and Lauren went to sleep while Cam enjoyed the bottle of wine by himself. To avoid further delays, Cam promptly proposed in the morning, and Lauren said yes!

THE PREPARATION

Lauren and Cam initially had different ideas for their wedding - she wanted a small, intimate affair while Cam envisioned a larger celebration. The couple compromised and hosted a party for 450 of their closest friends and family, feeling incredibly grateful for the support they received. Lauren wanted to showcase exceptional food, drinks, and a great band to provide their guests with the utmost hospitality. The wedding planning hit a snag when they had to find a new wedding planner just a month before the big day. Fortunately, Event Designer Sara Fried, owner of Fête Nashville Luxury Weddings, stepped in to save the day. Sara and her team worked tirelessly to put together a beautiful wedding in such a short time, and their hard work paid off as Lauren and Cam's dream wedding became a reality.



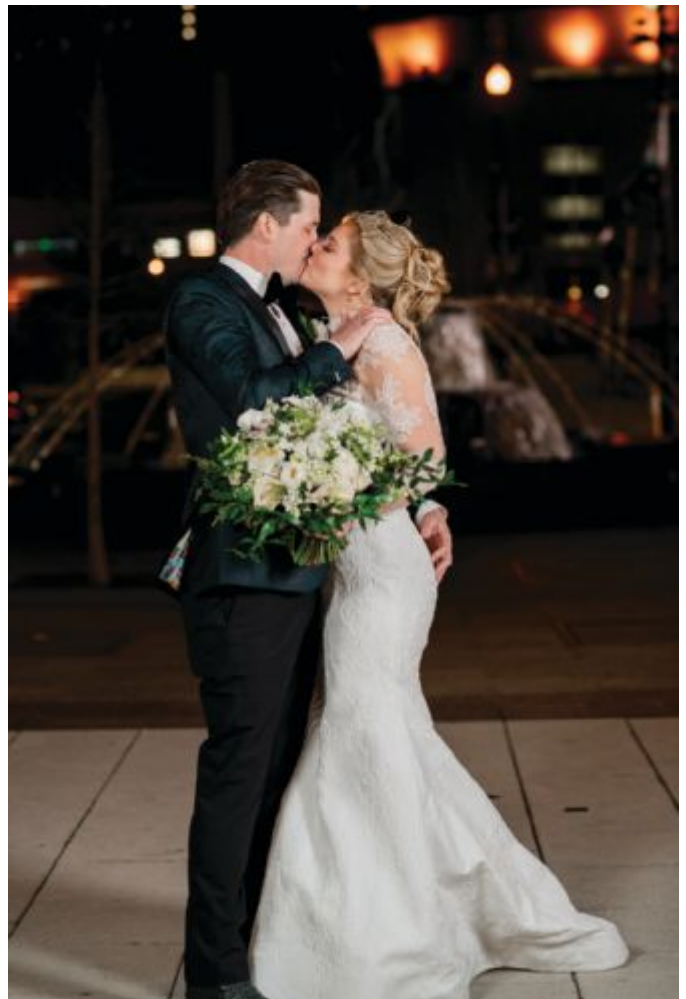


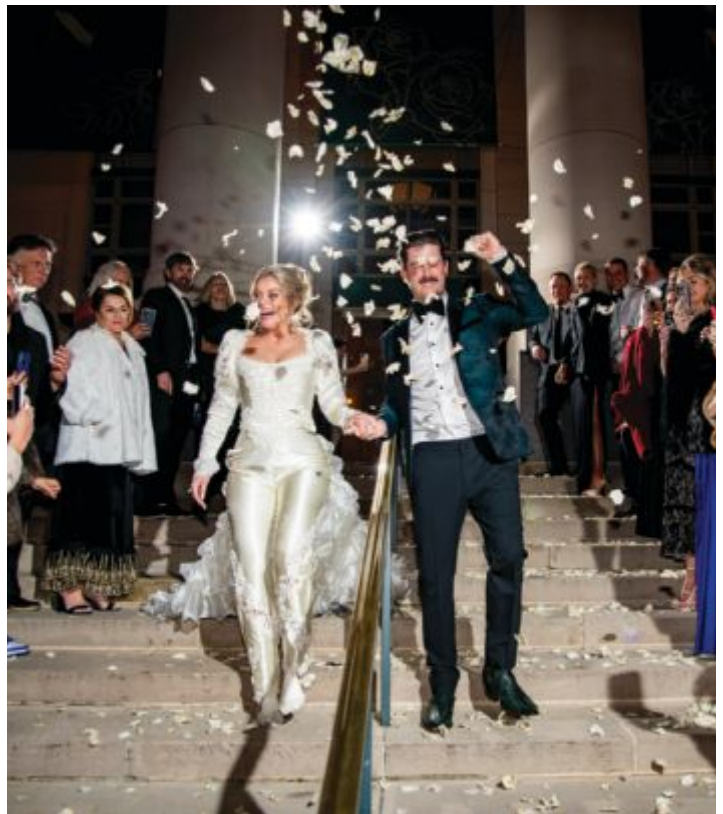
THE BIG DAY

Lauren, originally from Georgia, has called Nashville home for several years. The city plays a big part in Lauren's life, as does country music. It was a natural choice for the couple to host their wedding in Nashville. After viewing a few venues, they decided on the Schermerhorn Symphony Center. Cam playfully claims he chose green and gold as an ode to his high school mascot – the Hornets. Green is Lauren's favorite color, so the couple decided on an elegant decor of emerald green with gold accents. Instead of staging a first look, the couple met at the altar, where the couple's close friend, Henry Valentine Genie, officiated the ceremony; Cam walked down the aisle to an instrumental version of "Neon Moon" by Brooks and Dunn, performed by the couple's friends Ben on cello and Lauren Johnson on violin. Lauren and Ben's instrumental version of Lauren Alaina's song "I Just Wanna Know That You Love Me" accompanied the bridal party procession, followed by an emotional violin version of Lauren Alaina's song "Breaking Up with Single" as the bride walked down the aisle. After the touching ceremony, the guests, some of whom are notable names in country music, were welcomed to the bash at the Schermerhorn Symphony Center, where the newlyweds performed their first dance to "Feet off the Ground" by Brent Cobb, featuring Jade Bird. The guests were treated to delectable food stations highlighting Greek, Mexican, American, and Asian foods. The wedding cake was black with gold accents with miniature treats of the couple's dogs. The doggies played a special role in participating in the ceremony. After the ceremony, the couple exited a blue Bronco.

THE RETREAT

On their first day as man and wife, Lauren and Cam hosted an intimate brunch at Brown's Diner - their first date spot. It is a small diner in Nashville and served as a perfect send-off on their honeymoon. The couple enjoyed a magical two weeks at the Four Seasons Maui, Hawaii.





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

VENUE Schermerhorn Symphony Center nashvillesymphony.org
 PLANNING & DESIGN Fête Nashville Luxury Weddings fetenashville.com
 PHOTOGRAPHER Kathy Thomas Photography kathythomasphotography.com
 VIDEO White Heart Wedding Films whiteheartnashville.com
 FLORIST Forget Me Not Designs forgetmenotdesigns.com
 WEDDING GOWN & FLOWER GIRL DRESSES Custom Anne Barge Atelier annebarge.com
 EXIT OUTFIT Lauren's Mother's Wedding Gown Repurposed into a Pants Suit with a Ruffle Train
 RENTALS Curated Events curatedevents.com AND Please Be Seated pleasebeseated.com
 ENTERTAINMENT 12th South Band 12southband.com
 BRIDESMAIDS HAIR & MAKEUP One10 Beauty one10beauty.com
 LAUREN'S HAIR Amber Guarino amercannonhair.com
 LAUREN'S MAKEUP Meri Fernandes @merigray
 CAKE Nashville Sweets nashvillesweets.com
 STATIONERY Kindly Reply kindlyreplydesigns.com
 LIVE PAINTER Stephanie Hilén Art stephaniehilen.com
 CEREMONY MUSIC Ben & Lauren Johnson (*Friends of Lauren*)

Lauren & Sam



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MADISON LANNOM & REZWAN MUNSHI

SINT MAARTEN, DUTCH WEST INDIES

DECEMBER 8, 2023



EVENT PLANNER
As You Wish Destinations
PHOTOGRAPHER
River + Rae Photography



THE PROPOSAL

After six years together, Rezwan proposed to Madison while on vacation with their siblings in Costa Rica. Madison had her suspicions that it would happen on this trip, but when he still had not popped the question as the week was ending, she felt it wouldn't happen. On their second to last night there, while dining at a restaurant with beautiful views, Rez suggested getting pictures. With their brothers ready to snap photos, he dropped to one knee.

THE PREPARATION

The couple quickly decided on a destination wedding in Sint Maarten, where they met in medical school. They knew that by having it there, they would have a more intimate multicultural experience. Rezwan's Bengali culture typically boasts weddings that last days with hundreds of people, which the couple was not up for. Having lived on the island, they knew Emilio's would be the perfect Western wedding and reception venue. The Morgan Resort & Spa checked all the boxes for the Bengali event. A local wedding planner was a must, and the couple hired As You Wish. Lacey Gray at River + Rae Photography joined the couple for their Caribbean nuptials. Madison found her dream dress designed by Galia Lahav at The Dress Theory Nashville with her mom by her side. After trying on 12 dresses, it was the only gown that made her and her mom cry, so it was the one!



THE BIG DAY

Madison, her bridesmaids, and her mom spent the hours before the Bengali wedding in the bridal suite, sipping champagne and snacking on charcuterie. Lehengas and sarees are challenging, so getting everyone dressed was a team effort. “It was chaos, but so much fun to have everyone there and partaking in a beautiful cultural experience!” Madison said. The ceremony was short and sweet and concluded with the tradition of the groom’s shoes being stolen by Madison’s niece and nephew. He had to bargain to get them back! Guests then dined on delicious Indian food and enjoyed watching choreographed dances performed by the wedding party. The next morning was the Western wedding day. Madison wanted it to be relaxing and peaceful. She let everyone sleep in while she got ready with her mom and one of her bridesmaids. The couple did a first look at their villa and rode to the venue together. At Emilio’s, custom drinks paying homage to the couple’s late dogs greeted guests upon arrival. Madison and Rezwan exchanged vows in front of their nearest and dearest, then took portraits while everyone else savored incredible appetizers to the sounds of a steel drum band. Unforgettable speeches and a fabulous dinner ensued. The dance floor was packed until the party ended.

THE RETREAT

The newlyweds had been daydreaming about a trip to Italy together since their early days of dating, so they knew that had to be their honeymoon destination. They spent a romantic 10 days on the Amalfi Coast, taking in the magical views of the dramatic cliffs and colorful towns by boat, eating their way from Praiano to Positano, horseback riding in a vineyard on Mount Vesuvius, and loading up on ceramics in Ravello. They enjoyed some much-needed R&R after wedding planning and their medical training, and they loved Italy so much that they are hoping to return annually.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- EVENT PLANNER As You Wish Destinations asyouwishxm.com
- PHOTOGRAPHER River + Rae Photography riverraephoto.com
- VENUE The Morgan Resort, Spa + Village themorganresort.com
- CATERER Shiv Shakti Authentic Indian Cuisine facebook.com/shivshaktixm
- FLOREST Mooi Flowers & Plants instagram.com/mooi_flowers_plants
- CAKE Zee Best zeebestrestaurant.com
- INVITATIONS Etsy etsy.com/shop/sarahmariegritty and CatPrint catprint.com
- LEHENGA Chahat Couture chahat.com
- DUPATTA Nim’s Boutique nimsboutique.com
- SHOES Fizzy Goblet global.fizzygoblet.com
- ENGAGEMENT RING & WEDDING BANDS Brilliant Earth brilliantearth.com
- HAIR STYLIST Sabine Martin instagram.com/sabinamartina92
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PHOTOGRAPHER
Greg & Jess Photography
& Videography



**HOLLIE CHARLES
& BEN KOOSTRA**

**BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY
OCTOBER 7, 2023**



THE PROPOSAL

In the heart of Kentucky, where the scent of sycamore and maple fills the air, Hollie and Ben's love story unfolded in the most charming setting - Keeneland. With the hope of finding love and luck on the racetrack, it was a winning day for Ben, as a mutual friend orchestrated an introduction to Hollie on Facebook Messenger, leading to their first date on October 23, 2021, and an inseparable union. One year later, Ben suggested a trip to Nashville to celebrate their first anniversary. Hollie, a planner by nature and profession, planned the itinerary but did not anticipate a surprise when Ben suggested an impromptu trip to the Belle Meade Historic Mansion. He led Hollie through the historic hallways and majestic gardens to a creek bank under the bridge. Hollie noticed a beautiful bouquet, and it was then that Ben fell on one knee and professed his love. As Hollie whispered yes, Ben slid the most exquisite ring on Hollie's finger. A professional photographer captured their charming and timeless union.

THE PREPARATION

Hollie had a unique vision for her wedding that could be described as "English Garden meets Elle Woods." The idea was to combine bright pink hues, vibrant blooms, and touches of sophistication inspired by Elle Woods' timeless charm. This vision perfectly captured Hollie's personality - a blend of elegance, sassiness, playfulness, and a love for life. Hollie and Ben worked together to make every detail of their special day perfect, from selecting the perfect venue to choosing the most exquisite floral arrangements. Hollie's mom, Twilia, played a significant role in planning the wedding, as it had been her dream since Hollie was a little girl. With boundless enthusiasm, Twilia immersed herself in the intricate details, ensuring that every aspect of the celebration reflected the lifelong dreams she had envisioned for her daughter. The ceremony promised to be a visual masterpiece - a tapestry of love and sophistication. From Hollie's gown that captured the essence of whimsical elegance to the carefully curated floral arrangements that adorned every corner, the wedding promised to be a reflection of love, style, and the blending of two beautiful lives. With every detail in place, the stage was set for a wedding that would be remembered not only for its sophistication but also for the enduring love that had grown between Hollie and Ben.



THE BIG DAY

Under the sprawling branches of ancient oak trees and surrounded by the sweet fragrance of magnolias, Hollie and Ben, two hearts entwined, exchanged vows on a day that felt like a chapter from a Southern fairy tale. In the heart of Kentucky, where the dogwoods bloom and love is as sweet as tea, Hollie and Ben's wedding day would be a testament to the timeless beauty of love. The sunbathed the ceremony space in a warm, golden glow, and all eyes were on the couple. Hollie, radiant in her gown, looked every bit the Southern belle, while Ben, with a twinkle in his eye, stood as the embodiment of timeless Southern charm. Friends and family gathered, their smiles reflecting the love that had blossomed between these two extraordinary souls. The heart of the ceremony was beautifully woven together by none other than Hollie's remarkable aunt, Marsha. Serving as the minister, she added an enchanting touch of warmth, tenderness, and personal connection that made the moment unforgettable. Having Aunt Marsha as their minister was not just a choice but an embodiment of family, love, and the cherished bonds that connect the couple.

THE RETREAT

The couple plans to enjoy an Italian honeymoon on their first anniversary.





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

PHOTOGRAPHY Greg & Jess Photography & Videography gregandjess.com
 EVENT PLANNER Events by Allie Coode eventsbyalliecoode.com
 EVENT DESIGNER Ken Warrington, Warrington & Co.
 VENUE Baker Arboretum and Downing Museum jerrybakerfoundation.org
 WEDDING CAKE Dessert Designs by Leland dessertdesignsnashville.com
 WEDDING GOWN B. Bridal bbridalgowns.com
 GROOM TUX Men's Wearhouse menswearhouse.com
 BRIDAL SHOES Manolo Blahnik manoloblahnik.com
 BRIDESMAID DRESSES Adrianna Papell adriannapapell.com
 CATERING Town & Table Catering townandtable.com
 ENTERTAINMENT Snyder Entertainment briansnyderentertainment.com, Trevor Martin Music
 @trevormartinmusic, SoKY Strings @soky.strings
 FLOWERS Jules With The Flowers juleswiththeflowers.com
 ENGAGEMENT RING & WEDDING BANDS Kay Jewelers
 INVITATIONS, PAPER & SIGNAGE White Ink Calligraphy whiteinkcalligraphy.com
 MAKEUP ARTIST Liz Bernard Clark
 HAIR STYLIST Hollie Duvall @hollieduvall_
 RECEPTION DRESS Karen Hendrix Couture karenhendrixcouture.com
 RENTALS & DECOR Curated Events Nashville curatedevents.com, Please Be Seated
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 VEIL The White Dress of Lexington bridalboutiques.us/boutiques/the-white-dress-of-lexington/
 VIDEOGRAPHER Happy Camper Films happycamper.co

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ELISE GARCIA & ADAM VON DER LEITH

TAMPA, FLORIDA

JANUARY 6, 2024

PHOTOGRAPHER
Kaila Jakes, Kartsie Photography



THE PROPOSAL

Elise is a highly sought-after wedding cake designer based in Tampa, Florida. Dating Adam for two years long-distance indicated a deep commitment to each other. After two years of being apart, Adam decided to pack up his truck and move across the country to be with Elise. From being separated by miles, the couple suddenly found themselves housebound by the pandemic, testing even the strongest of relationships. Despite the challenges, the couple thrived in their new environment, leading Adam to propose to Elise on her 35th birthday during a romantic trip to Savannah, Georgia. He popped the question in a classic style, using rose petals and champagne to create a truly memorable moment.

THE PREPARATION

Elise had a clear vision of her wedding design, a “Tim Burton-esque southern glamour.” She sought help from a high school friend, Aleana, a wedding planner with ORO Event Co., to bring her vision to life. Aleana envisioned a southern garden at midnight but indoors. Aleana’s creativity soared, meeting the bride’s expectations, from a black velvet tunnel with low-line fog greeting the guests, building anticipation as they entered the venue. Once inside, the guests were dazzled by a dark room lit by chandeliers, lushly decorated by large trees, and an impressive 7-foot white wedding cake made by the bride.

THE BIG DAY

Guests were dazzled in a historic venue originating in 1910, the Armature Works. Elise and Aleana transformed the brick space into a dark, romantic garden setting with a 350ft green canopy weaved throughout. Trees were gutting out of the tables, chandeliers provided mood lighting, and a custom put-put golf entertained the guests. Highlighting the night was the 7-foot wedding cake that took three weeks to make. Elise’s vision for the cake design was a modern blooming rose with stems of roses flourishing from it. She added shards of sheer pearlescent rice paper to add some lightness & texture. To end the night in style, Elise fused her Louisiana roots by incorporating 2nd line with Tampa’s version called Walk the Plank from the annual Gasparilla festival.

THE RETREAT

Elise and Adam spend a snowy honeymoon in Vale, Colorado.





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- EVENT PLANNER | DESIGNER [ORO Event Co. oroeventco.com](http://oroeventco.com)
 PHOTOGRAPHY [Kaila Jakes, Kartsie Photography kartsie.com](http://kartsie.com)
 WEDDING PLANNER [Aleana Conroy, ORO Event Co. oroeventco.com](http://oroeventco.com)
 VENUE [Armature Works armatureworks.com](http://armatureworks.com)
 WEDDING CAKE [Elise Garcia designercakeart.com](http://designercakeart.com)
 BRIDAL GOWN [Eisen Stein/Mark Ingram eisen-stein.com / markingramatelier.com](http://eisen-stein.com)
 BRIDAL SHOES [Badgley Mishka badgley mishka.com](http://badgley mishka.com)
 CATERING [Good Food Catering goodfoodtampa.com](http://goodfoodtampa.com)
 FLOWERS [Tailored Twig tailoredtwig.com](http://tailoredtwig.com)
 INVITATIONS [AP Design Co. apdesignco.com](http://apdesignco.com)
 HAIR STYLIST [Samantha Landis @samanthalandis](http://samanthalandis.com)
 VIDEOGRAPHER [Jake Rabani and Taylor Daugherty onlywave.net](http://onlywave.net)
 AV AND PRODUCTION [The Production Crew theproductioncrew.com](http://theproductioncrew.com)
 DRAPE [Swag Decor swagdecor.com](http://swagdecor.com)
 FURNITURE RENTAL [Kate Ryan Event Rentals kateryanevents.com](http://kateryanevents.com)
 PHOTOBOOTH [Xpress UrSelf Media xpressurselfmedia.com](http://xpressurselfmedia.com)
 FURNITURE RENTAL [Event Effects eventeffects.com](http://eventeffects.com)
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 PET CARE [Fairytale Pet Care @fairytailpetcare](http://fairytailpetcare.com)
 MAKEUP [Bridal Beauty by Tara bridalbeautybytara.com](http://bridalbeautybytara.com)



Photo: Camille Leigh



Designer: Wells Design Co.

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**MADISON BARR &
CHANCE OSBURN**

**HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS
MAY 11, 2024**





THE PROPOSAL

During a family vacation to Garden City Beach, Chance planned the perfect proposal. He asked Madison to take a walk to the pier, and though it gave Madison pause as Chance is not much for a stroll, they went for a romantic walk. As they made their way back to the beach house, a photographer stopped them and asked to take a few pictures to help her correct the camera settings. As Chance and Madison posed, Madison could feel Chance's heart racing. Before she could figure it out, Chance went down on bended knee and proposed.

THE PREPARATION

Madison instantly knew that The Reserve, conveniently located across the place where she and Chance first crossed paths, was the ideal venue for their wedding, making it the perfect backdrop for the color palette of greens and blues in the month of May. For just shy of a year, Madison, her mother, and planner meticulously crafted the details of the wedding. With Madison's plethora of creative wedding ideas, they honed in on her must-haves and identified common themes to design a day that authentically captured the essence of Madison and Chance as a couple.



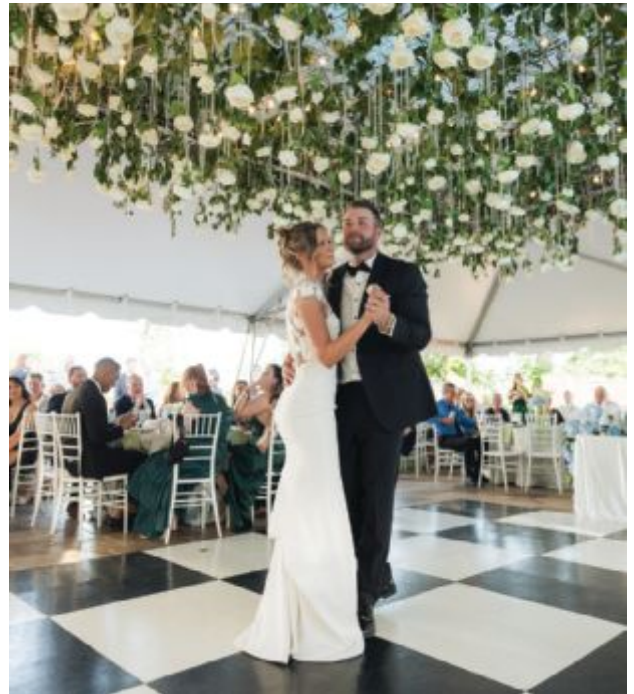
THE BIG DAY

Madison Barr and Chance Osburn's love story came full circle on May 11, 2024, as they exchanged vows at The Reserve at Hot Springs, just a stone's throw away from the very place where their paths first crossed at the Oaklawn Racing Casino Resort in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Despite a week of relentless rain casting doubts on the weather for their special day, May 11th dawned with radiant sunshine and allowed Madison's vision of a Southern charm-infused affair with a contemporary twist to be executed flawlessly. Guest experience was paramount for Madison and Chance and was evident in their thoughtful choices of unique elements to surprise guests throughout the night. From a live wedding painter who crafted one-of-a-kind favors, to "disco dancers" officially opening the dance floor, to opting for two photo booths instead of one, a phone booth that also served as a "confessional" of funny stories about the bride and groom - guests truly were entertained at every turn. They even included pizza as their late-night snack, a personal cuisine that Madison and Chance eat about every week and had on their first date. One of the most striking features of the evening was the breathtaking 12x18 rigging system adorned with lush greenery and cascading roses that elegantly draped over the dance floor. As the night progressed, the floral canopy transformed the space into a fairytale setting, enchanting guests and setting the stage for an unforgettable celebration of love and union.

THE RETREAT

The bride and groom are contemplating between Lake Como or Greece for their delayed honeymoon getaway.





SB ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHER [Lela & Lyla lelaandlyla.com](http://lelaandlyla.com)
- EVENT PLANNER [Katie Gill Weddings kaitiegillweddings.com](http://kaitiegillweddings.com)
- VENUE [The Reserve Hot Springs thereservehotsprings.com](http://thereservehotsprings.com)
- DRESS SHOPPING PHOTOGRAPHY [Count In Threes countinthreephoto.com](http://countinthreephoto.com)
- VIDEOGRAPHY [Weaver Films weaverfilms.com](http://weaverfilms.com)
- FLORALS [Vase & Vine vaseandvinefloral.com](http://vaseandvinefloral.com)
- CAKE [Harps](http://harps.com)
- HAIR & MAKEUP [Whiplash Beauty whiplashbeauty.com](http://whiplashbeauty.com)
- STRING QUARTET & PHONE BOOTH & PHOTO BOOTH & PRODUCTION ELEMENTS [Central Arkansas Entertainment centralarkansasentertainment.com](http://centralarkansasentertainment.com)
- RENTALS [Eventology eventologyus.com](http://eventologyus.com)
- STATIONERY, LIVE WEDDING PAINTER, VINYL DESIGN [Abigail Fowler Designs abigailfowlerdesigns.com](http://abigailfowlerdesigns.com)
- LATE NIGHT SNACK [DeLuca's originaldelucas.com](http://originaldelucas.com)
- CATERING [Crave Catering cravecateringlr.com](http://cravecateringlr.com)
- DJ [Doug Kramer with Central Arkansas Entertainment @dougkramerlive](http://dougkramerlive.com)
- OFFICIANT [Mickey "Stubby" Stumbaugh](http://stubbystumbaugh.com)
- ENTERTAINMENT (DISCO DANCERS) [Arkansas Circus Arts arkansascircusarts.com](http://arkansascircusarts.com)
- DRESS [Tesori tesoribridal.com](http://tesoribridal.com)
- REHEARSAL PHOTOGRAPHER [Bailey Burton Photography baileyburtonphotography.com](http://baileyburtonphotography.com)
- BARTENDER [Southern LIT Mobile Bar southernlitmobilebar.com](http://southernlitmobilebar.com)
- FIELD & CAR ENGAGEMENT PHOTOGRAPHY [Bailey Burton Photography baileyburtonphoto.com](http://baileyburtonphoto.com)
- HOT SPRINGS ENGAGEMENT PHOTOGRAPHY [Count in Threes Photo countinthreephoto.com](http://countinthreephoto.com)
- BRIDE [Madison Barr @madelanebarr](http://madelanebarr.com)
- GROOM [Chance Osborn @chancexxii](http://chancexxii.com)

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KATIE GREDER & WESLEY MURRAY

MAIDEN, NORTH CAROLINA

OCTOBER 14, 2023



THE PROPOSAL

Katie and Wesley attended the same high school but never met. Fate intervened a few years later when the couple worked at the same company. Their coworker had the foresight to encourage Wesley to ask Katie out. The couple took the time to get to know each other, blossoming into their forever story. A few years later, Katie planned a surprise party for Wesley's 31st birthday at the Knights baseball game. Little did she know that with the help of the Knights Mascot, Wesley planned a surprise for Katie. The staff took Katie to the dugout to surprise Wesley, but while the mascot Homer distracted Katie, Wesley got down on one knee and proposed. 20 of their friends and family members watched from the suite above and the evening of baseball turned into an engagement celebration.

THE PREPARATION

Katie, being a gracious host, put all her focus on her guests. She wanted her wedding to be more than just a celebration of her and Wesley, but a celebration for all those in attendance. The wedding had to be memorable and enjoyable, with pizza, southern food, games, and dancing as the main highlights. Every detail of the planning process was personally executed by Katie, with generous help from friends who pitched in with custom builds, painting, and organizing. The team effort and support that Katie and Wesley received made the wedding even more special. The color scheme for the wedding was inspired by the month of October, with the warm and spicy hues of orange and merlot.

THE BIG DAY

Katie and Wesley's marriage celebration was designed by unique and original touches. The guests delighted in the flower dudes' ceremony performance, dined from a pizza food truck at cocktail hour, sat for a caricature artist and more. The couple traded the bouquet toss for a custom t-shirt toss and entertained the guests during dinner with music bingo, resulting in a guest dance-off and much laughter. Of course, the guest of honor, Knights mascot Homer, made an appearance and joined the party on the dance floor. Sadly, Katie's best friend Chelsea tragically passed away before the wedding. To honor her and include her spirit in the ceremony, Katie wore Chelsea's veil as something borrowed. Katie had the most touching idea to include custom signage reserving seats in the ceremony for the loved ones that passed away. Katie reserved a seat for Chelsea next to her at the head table.

THE RETREAT

The couple plans to take a month-long honeymoon exploring Europe.





SB ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

PHOTOGRAPHY Him & Her Photography himandherphotography.com
 EVENT PLANNER Carolina Bride Guide carolinabrideguide.com, Imagine This Events imaginethisevents.com
 VENUE Providence Cotton Mill theprovidencecottonmill.com
 OFFICIANT A Spirited Ceremony aspiritedceremony.com
 BRIDAL GOWN Ever's Bridal Boutique www.eversbridalboutique.com
 GROOM'S TUX Enzo Custom enzocustom.com
 BRIDAL SHOES Nike nike.com
 BRIDESMAIDS DRESSES Revelry shoprevelry.com
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 Momma P Bakery instagram.com/mommapbakery
 ENTERTAINMENT Split Second Sound splitsecondsound.com
 FLOWERS Elle + Co elleandcoeventdesign.com
 HAIRSTYLIST Ashley Jarvis instagram.com/ashjarvishair
 MAKEUP ARTIST Unveiled Beauty unveiledbeautybridal.com
 ENGAGEMENT RING Charles & Colvard charlesandcolvard.com
 WEDDING BANDS Furrer Jacot furrer-jacot.com
 INVITATIONS Truly Engaging trulyengaging.com
 LIVE PAINTING Cody's Caricatures codyscartoons.com
 RECEPTION DRESS Poffie Girls poffiegirls.com
 RENTALS & DECOR Elle + Co elleandcoeventdesign.com, QC Celebrations qccelebrations.com
 BALLOON STYLING The Sisters.Co instagram.com/thesisters.collc
 VIDEOGRAPHER Skyvisions USA skyvisionsusa.com
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EVENT PLANNER
Schuyler Somers, A Little Party Events
PHOTOGRAPHER
Jared Ladia Photography



**JULIA NELLIGAN &
STEWART YATES**

**LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA
JUNE 24, 2023**



THE PROPOSAL

Julia and Stewart met in July 2020 shortly after Julia moved to Atlanta after graduating from The University of Georgia. They became fast friends after Stewart helped Julia and her roommates move into their house and eventually started dating. Stewart proposed to Julia at Smith Mountain Lake, VA, Julia's favorite place in the world. While on a boat ride and a drone following for footage, Stewart proposed with the beautiful mountains as a backdrop. After this, a painting was made of this scene and put on the wedding matchbooks.

THE PREPARATION

Julia always envisioned her reception at her family's manor-style home in Lynchburg, Virginia. In contemplating her wedding, Julia had an exciting idea to utilize their pool as the central focus for the reception – illuminated blue and topped with a clear dance floor under a fabulously lit tent. The family home became the canvas for planning a beautiful fusion of florals, food displays and stations, unbelievable cake, bars, a string quartet, and a high-energy band. Julia embraced the look of a classic, timeless color palette, opting for white and ivory florals throughout both the ceremony and reception spaces. The addition of color came through the navy bridesmaids' dresses and the subtle blue details within her branding, stationery, and stage. Stewart and the groomsmen wore black tuxedos to maintain a classic look.



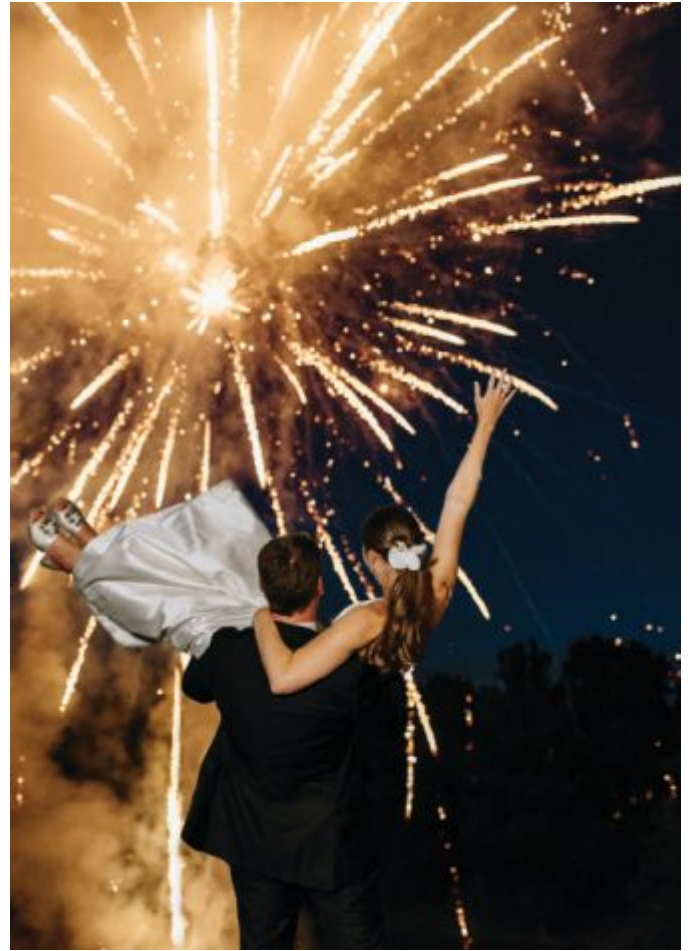
THE BIG DAY

Julia and Stewart's special day was filled with joy and fun surrounded by close family and friends. The day began with Stewart and his groomsmen enjoying brunch and getting dressed at The Virginian in downtown Lynchburg. Meanwhile, Julia and her mother joined her bridesmaids at home for hair and makeup. Julia and Stewart had a sweet first look at the front of the house, followed by a lot of laughter with their bridal party and families. Even the family dogs took a turn for formal photos! The ceremony took place in the timeless setting of the Rivermont Evangelical Presbyterian Church, with a beautiful backdrop of white florals and an organ. After the ceremony, guests arrived at the home where they were greeted with welcome beverages, passed hors d'oeuvres, bars, and a string quartet on the front porch. Cocktail hour was followed by food stations that remained open throughout the night, and the band kicked off the party that did not stop! After the cake cutting, Julia, Stewart, and their guests were invited to enjoy a family signature toast and a surprise dazzling firework show before returning to the dance floor.

THE RETREAT

For her bouquet toss and exit, Julia wore her mother's wedding gown that was expertly reconstructed by Jessica Brown with Mandi Jackson Bridal. Following the wedding, the couple enjoyed their honeymoon at Eden Rock Resort in St. Barths.





SB ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

EVENT PLANNER Schuyler Somers, A Little Party Events alittlepartyevents.com

PHOTOGRAPHY Jared Ladia Photography jaredladia.com

WEDDING GOWN Le Spose di Gio lesposedigio.com/en/ FROM Mandi Jackson Bridal www.mandijacksonbridal.com

RECEPTION EXIT DRESS & VEIL Richard Glasgow *Mother of the Bride's original veil and wedding dress remade for the exit dress*

ALTERATIONS Jessica Brown, Ivy & Aster with Mandi Jackson Bridal instagram.com/jbrownbespoke

BRIDAL SHOES Manolo Blahnik manoloblahnik.com

BRIDESMAID DRESSES Sachin & Babi sachinandbabi.com

BRIDAL HAIRSTYLIST Dana Jackson, Lynchburg, VA

CATERER Avenue Foods Inc. avenuefoods.net

BARTENDING COMPANY Tabby's Bartending tabbysbartending.com

VENUE Rivermont Evangelical Presbyterian Church rivermont.org

PASTOR Reverend Doctor David Weber

RECEPTION VENUE Nelligan Family Home

WEDDING CAKE Cakes by Angela cakesbyangela.net

INVITATIONS Crane & Co. by The Farm Basket crane.com / thefarmbasket.co

COCKTAIL HOUR Melodious Strings melodiousstrings.com

ENTERTAINMENT The Dundies bookthedundies.com

FLOWERS Meg & Beverley Laughon instagram.com/featheryournestdesign

GROOM'S TUX Hickey Freeman, NY by Miller Brothers Ltd. hickeyfreeman.com / millerbrothers.com

GROOM'S SHOES Jimmy Choo jimmychoo.com

BRIDE'S MAKEUP & BRIDAL PARTY MAKEUP ARTIST & HAIR STYLIST Elektric Avenue Salon facebook.com/elektric.ave.va/

ENGAGEMENT RING & WEDDING BANDS Studio Mullins studiomullins.com

SPECIALTY RENTALS Happily Ever After Event Rentals happilyrented.com

TENT/ACRYLIC FLOOR EIS Group eisgroupusa.com

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MOLLIE MALLORY &
ANDREW ARNOLD

TYLER, TEXAS
OCTOBER 28, 2023



THE PROPOSAL

Andrew and Mollie dated for seven years before getting engaged. They first met in college at Baylor University and hit it off immediately. Soon after, they became best friends and started dating. Mollie and Andrew shared many mutual friends and spent most of their time with them. These friends would eventually become their wedding party eight years later. In 2022, Andrew and Mollie knew they were ready to get married. They went to Houston to design Mollie's dream engagement ring. Months later, as the couple was leaving their home to meet friends for drinks, Andrew surprised Mollie in the front yard of her home in Dallas with a proposal. Mollie was surprised and overjoyed. She had no idea that her three best friends were waiting down the street with a bottle of champagne to celebrate with them.

THE PREPARATION

Mollie and Andrew chose Plum Cover Ranch in Troup, Texas as the venue for their wedding day. It's a natural choice as the ranch belongs to Mollie's aunt and uncle, and Tyler, TX is Mollie's family hometown. RSVP Event Planning made the process easy for the couple. Mollie had a clear vision for her big day, desiring it to be a colorful, personal, and unforgettable experience for their guests. The ranch itself was Mollie's inspiration for the wedding, with its charming southern decor. The couple chose rich jewel tones of navy, deep green, light blue, hot pink, and bright orange. The wedding was designed and made possible by small businesses in East Texas. To make it a "wedding weekend" and not just a day, they created multiple events to bring together the people who meant the most to them.



THE BIG DAY

On the morning of their wedding, Andrew enjoyed brunch with his groomsmen at a Tex-Mex restaurant while Mollie and her bridesmaids dressed and enjoyed some champagne and espresso martinis. As they watched the family's ranch transform into a beautiful wedding venue, Mollie and Andrew had a private moment to exchange vows before their big day began. As a string quartet played some of the couple's favorite music, the wedding party walked down the aisle followed by Mollie and her father who walked to Coldplay's "Yellow". The aisle was lined with colorful, tall florals, and Mollie's bouquet was a large collection of vibrant peonies and roses. During the ceremony, guests shared a celebratory champagne toast after Mollie and Andrew said "I do" followed by a cocktail hour. The reception was held in the backyard which was beautifully decorated with an array of colorful florals and mixed-patterned linens. Mollie and Andrew opted for several small cakes, which were set in the center of an old gazebo in the backyard covered in florals that were made by one of Mollie's bridesmaids and best friends. The bars were "Waco themed" and each represented a favorite spot where Andrew and Mollie spent their first years together as a couple. The band played a mix of classic wedding tunes and country hits, and the guests danced the night away with the bride and groom. Finally, Mollie and Andrew drove away in her uncle's dark green Karmann Ghia, marking the end of a beautiful wedding celebration.



THE RETREAT

Mollie and Andrew enjoyed their two-week honeymoon in Ireland and France. They flew to Dublin and then took the Irish rail to Athlone and Galway. After spending a week in Ireland, drinking pints, and listening to Irish tunes, they flew to Paris for the last week of their honeymoon. In Paris, they savored great food, drank good wine, and spent their days exploring the city's rich history and art.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- PHOTOGRAPHY Jen Symes Photography jensymes.com
- VENUE Plum Cover Ranch
- WEDDING PLANNER RSVP Event Planning rsuveventplanning.com
- CATERER Perfect Catering perfectcateringonline.com
- WEDDING CAKE & GROOM CAKE Kismet kismetsatx.com
- WEDDING GOWN Zimmermann zimmermann.com/us
- BRIDAL SHOES Manolo Blahnik manoloblahnik.com
- VEIL Twigs and Honey twigsandhoney.com
- GROOM'S TUX J. Hillburn jhillburn.com
- ENTERTAINMENT Little Wedding Band thelittleweddingband.com
- INVITATIONS, FAVORS & GIFTS Sarah Chance Design Co. sarahchancedesign.com
- FLOWERS Garden Style Florist gardenstylefloraldesign.com
- HAIR STYLIST Casey Taylor Stylist caseytaylorstylist.com
- MAKEUP ARTIST Makeup by Malibu instagram.com/makeupbymalibu
- ENGAGEMENT RING & WEDDING BANDS Jonathan's Fine Jewels jffc.com
- RENTALS & DECOR All American Rentals allamericanpartyandtent.com
- STRING QUARTET Selah Strings selahstrings.com

Just Married

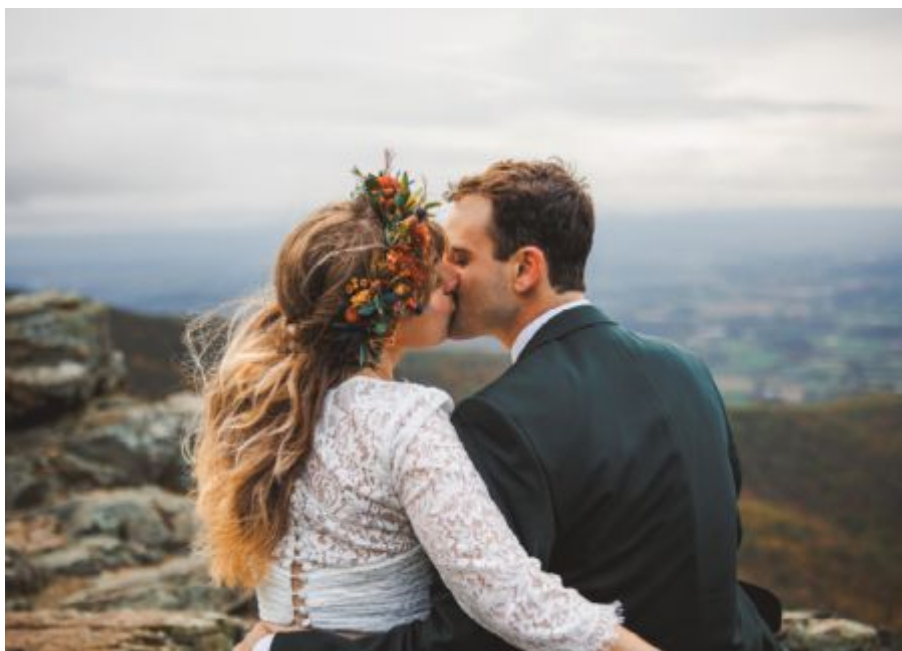
WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENTS



For more information
about how to announce
your wedding visit
southernbride.com

Sarah Hodder & Ryan Kidwiler

October 21, 2023 Stanley, Virginia PHOTOGRAPHER Aaron May Photography



Sarah and Ryan's story began when Sarah worked at a running store. Ryan smitten by Sarah, became a frequent client. Their first date was a hiking trip in the Shenandoah Mountains and in the six years that followed they climbed the Rocky Mountain Region countless times. Naturally, Ryan proposed on a mountain top during their annual winter trip to Vermont. The couple hiked in the snow to their favorite peak. As Sarah was admiring the view, Ryan waited on bended knee. As she turned around, Ryan asked her to marry him and Sarah remembers the moment as pure magic. The couple decided to elope on top of their favorite peak, the Stoney Man, located at the Shenandoah National Park. The following day, Ryan and Sarah invited their closest friends

and family to a reenacted ceremony, followed by a reception at Rivers Bend Ranch in Stanley Virginia just 20 minutes from the park. The couple chose to incorporate an autumn color scheme to complement the foliage. Some unique decor features include the table numbers named after the different peaks in the Shenandoah they've climbed, as well as broken terracotta clay pot pieces with guest names calligraphed on with paint. Ryan and Sarah's vegan lifestyle inspired them to have a vegan charcuterie board for cocktail hour, all the while their love of coffee was highlighted through a staffed coffee bar throughout the reception using thrifted mugs the guests could choose as a wedding favor to take home.

Photography: Aaron May Photography, Event Planner: Forever Moments Wedding Planner, Venue: River Bend Ranch, Caterer: Kelly Farm Kitchen, Wedding Cake: Sage Cakery, Favors & Gifts: Chestnut Ridge Coffee Roasters, Florals: West Virjeni, Rentals & Decor: Sammy's Rental, Bartender: Rusty Barrel Traveling Spirits

Jennifer Bremer and Dustin Owen

January 12, 2024 Round Rock, TX PHOTOGRAPHER Ann Mark Photography



Jennifer and the bridesmaids enjoyed a luxurious treatment by Think Brink Beauty at The Woodbine Mansion where the bridal party bonded over champagne and laughter as they prepared for the ceremony which took place at the couple's church. Following the ceremony, the guests returned to The Woodbine Mansion for the cocktail hour and reception where Jennifer's aunt and uncle, owners of Bouquets of Austin, showcased a spectacular floral arrangement

throughout the venue. The reception tent was turned into a stunning scene, decorated with lush flowers and elegant decor. As the night progressed, the wedding party danced and enjoyed the festive ambiance, featuring glowing cowboy hats and colorful glow sticks. Once the celebration concluded, Jennifer surprised Dustin with a dazzling fireworks exit, capturing Dustin's surprise and delight.

Photographer: Ann Mark Photography, Wedding Venue: St. Mary of the Assumption, Taylor, TX, Reception Venue: Woodbine Mansion, Event Planner: Jennifer Seals, Pearl Events Austin, Florals: Bouquets of Austin, Caterer: The Peached Tortilla, Wedding Cake & Groom Cake: Polkadots Bakery, Entertainment: Greenbelt DJ, Hair & Makeup: Think Brink Beauty, Rentals & Decor: Premiere Events, Luxury Drapery: Unique Design & Events

Marissa Gilbert & Trent Canales

January 23, 2024 San Francisco, California PHOTOGRAPHER Jordan Marie Photography



Marissa and Trent have spent considerable time together in Santa Cruz, California. As the place held a special spot in their lives, Trent planned a surprise proposal during a mini vacation at their favorite beach. Unbeknownst to Marissa, their family and the photographer, Jordan White, were waiting to capture their special moment. Earlier in the day, Jordan decorated their favorite beach spot with a floral arch and a picnic area with plush pillows and decor. Before dinner,

Trent took Marissa for a walk on the beach, got down on his knee and asked Marissa to marry him while the family came out and cheered. Jordan captured those beautiful moments. Marissa and Trent had a romantic elopement to the historic San Francisco City Hall, followed by a romantic boat ride on Stow Lake. To round off their celebrations, Marissa and Trent held a family wedding as well.

Photography: Jordan Marie Photography, Venue: San Francisco City Hall, San Francisco, California, Florals: Flowers by Jordan Marie, Wedding Cake: Molly Baked It, Bridal Gown: Lulus, Hair Stylist: Mane Jayne, Bridal Shoes: Betsey Johnson, Reception Dress Company: Raw Golden Rentals, Bridal Ring: Marrow Fine, Groom's Wedding Band: Shane Co, Groom Tux: Men's Wearhouse

Taylor Brown & Gavin Reynolds

October 28, 2023 Little Rock, AR PHOTOGRAPHER *Julia Stroud Photography*



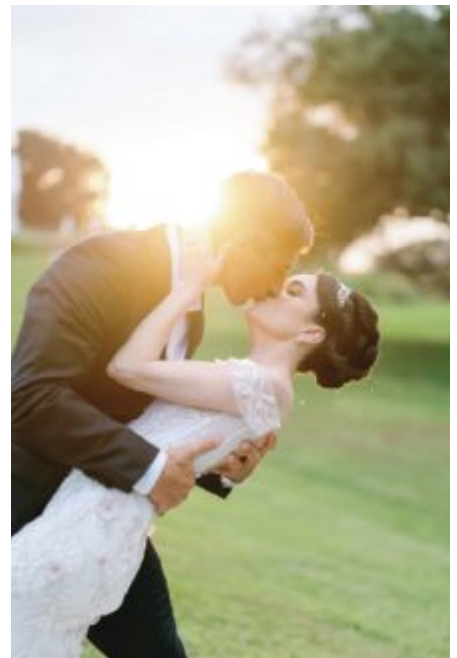
Taylor and Gavin's love story began in the bustling atmosphere of a college concert during their freshman year. Fast forward to a moment that would forever change their lives: Gavin's heartwarming proposal on Taylor's birthday. Set within the enchanting ambiance of a local museum adorned with a mesmerizing light installation, Gavin's proposal was nothing short of magical. Taylor and Gavin's meticulously planned wedding, with the expert guidance of Natalie Scott, unfolded at The Grandeur House in Little Rock, Arkansas. Radiating elegance and warmth, the ceremony, officiated by Devon Arredondo, embraced a classic color palette of black, white, emerald green, beige, and gold. Taylor stunned in a Kleinfeld Bridal gown, escorted by bridesmaids

adorned in Birdy Grey dresses, to join Gavin waiting at the altar. The festivities continued with Sweet Lavender Bakeshop's stunning cake and a culinary feast by Vibrant Occasions Catering, featuring delectable vegan options. Guests joyously danced the night away, even joined by the couple's furry friend, adding an extra layer of happiness to the celebration. Following the wedding, Taylor and Gavin embarked on a romantic European honeymoon, exploring Amsterdam, Brussels, Bruges, and Paris. Their journey epitomized love and adventure, marking the beginning of a lifetime together. In essence, their wedding was a perfect blend of love, timeless elegance, and cherished memories, symbolizing the start of their shared journey.

Photography: Julia Stroud Photography, Venue: The Grandeur House, Event Planner: Natalie Scott Events, Florals: Tipton & Hurst, Officiant: Devon Arredondo, Bridal Gown: Kleinfeld Bridal, Bridesmaid Dresses: Birdy Grey, Caterer: Vibrant Occasions, Wedding Cake: Sweet Lavender Bakeshop, Entertainment: Central Arkansas Entertainment, Makeup Artist & Hairstylist: The Auburn Artist, Rentals & Decor: Party Time Rental & Events, Videographer: Anointed Media, Invitations: Taylor Reynolds, Phone Message: After The Tone

Bridget Stavoy and Josh Frarer

November 25, 2023 Lake Alfred, Florida PHOTOGRAPHER Nate Puhr Photo + Video



Bridget and Josh's story began when their mutual friend and Josh's mother had the wonderful idea to set them up. With a little encouragement, the couple went on a date and the rest is history. After two year of dating, Josh proposed in September of 2022 at The Diplomat Beach Resort, Hollywood Beach, FL. where Josh arranged a private spot, hid a photographer and surprised Bridget with a proposal. Bridget's mother helped plan the Bridgerton-inspired

wedding at the historic Adams Estate. The couple hosted an intimate celebration of close friends and family, serving reception dinner at a single long u-shaped table providing an atmosphere of unity and sharing. With Lake Alfred as their background, the party danced into the night. The next morning, the newlyweds flew to Kauai, Hawaii for their honeymoon at the luxurious The Grand Hyatt where they experienced all the magic Kauai provides.

Photography: Nate Puhr Photo + Video, Venue: Adams Estate, Caterer: Arthur's Catering, Wedding Cake: Lubelle's Cake, Event Planner: Mother of the Bride, Florals: Pixies and Petals, Bridal Gown, Ines Di Santo, The Bridal Finery, Bridal Tiara: Maria Elena Head Pieces, Bridal Shoes: Christian Loboutin, Bridesmaid Dresses: Lulu's, Groom's Tux: Calvin Klein, Bloomingdales, Entertainment: Graingertainment, Hairstylist: Liz Santana Beauty, Engagement Ring: Hogan Fine Jewelry, Wedding bands: Jeweler's Garden, Invitations: Truly Engaging, Reception Dress: Nana Jaqueline, Rentals & Decor: A Chair Affair, Transportation: Ace Luxury Transportation, Videographer: STBR Productions, Signage: Style by Yvonne, Honeymoon Accommodations: The Grand Hyatt Kauai

Aerial Pridgen & Malcom Bakersville

September 30, 2023 Jamestown, North Carolina PHOTOGRAPHER Anslei Foster, Iconic Visual Studios



Aerial and Malcom's story began at The University of North Carolina at Greenboro in 2016. with a simple direct message on Instagram, leading to a meeting at the campus restaurant. From there, their love story blossomed, weaving together shared dreams and aspirations. Malcom proposed to Aerial at a Christmas gathering in Birkdale Village, Huntersville, NC on a wintry December evening, 2022. Surrounded by family and friends, Malcom professed his love beneath a towering Christmas tree, creating a magical moment that forever sealed their bond. Prompted by Malcom's immediate deployment to Mississippi, the couple hosted an intimate ceremony with immediate family at the Botanical Garden in Rockhill, SC, exchanging vows of everlasting love and devotion. Over the course of the year, the couple planned their dream wedding, finding a charming Castle McCulloch in the heart of Greenboro, North Carolina as an ideal setting for their

elegant affair. Fall colors of rustic brown, creamy hues and sunflowers adorned the venue. Aerial was the epitome of bridal elegance and glow. Guided by the tender words of Aerial's aunt, who bestowed upon them her blessings as both a pastor and a cherished member of their family, their hearts were intertwined in a sacred union that would endure the test of time. Aerial and Malcom's wedding was a picturesque affair, infused with rustic charm and adorned in the golden splendor of wildflowers. As the celebration continued into the evening, the rustic charm of the venue seamlessly transitioned into the reception space, where tables adorned with sunflower centerpieces beckoned guests to take their seats. They cut their wedding cake and shared a slice of cake & creme. Surrounded by the love and warmth of her family and friends, Aerial danced the night away, her groom by her side, their love igniting the dance floor.

Photography: Anslei Foster, Iconic Visual Studios, Venue: Castle McCulloch, Caterer: Lady D's Healthy Eats, Entertainment: DJ Dvo Why Not, Event Planner: Y and L Events, Florals: Y and L Events

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UNWRAP JOY: *the ultimate gift guide*



Jazz Lounge by Big Ass Luxuries

A candle for men with notes of spiced clove, tobacco leaf, timber, patchouli, rose, vanilla, amber, musk, oad, and black salt.

bigassluxuries.com

Pressed Posy Haus

Floral preservation is a thoughtful and lasting gift for a bride and groom. By preserving and pressing flowers, you capture the beauty and sentiment of a moment in time. This process transforms wedding flowers into pieces of art making it an ideal gift for a wedding.

pressedposyhaus.com



DigitalDoodlebug

Create personalized wedding favors with this DIY kit! It includes peel-and-stick 3" labels and gusset bags, perfect for favors. Add a personal touch with names and date. Fill the bags with your favorite snack like popcorn, candy, trail mix, chocolate, crackers, or any treat of your choice. Let your guests enjoy a special midnight snack as they celebrate your wedding!

digitaldoodlebug.com





Michael Allen

PHOTOGRAPHY

WWW.MICHAELALLENPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

The Shelbourne - Dublin Ireland

Spring 2025 Bridal Gown Trends

Exciting new looks from the New York Bridal Fashion Week

Southern Bride Magazine highlights six styles that rocked the runways



Ines Di Santo

Dropped Waist

A twist on form-fitting gowns, this look elongates the torso, reflecting 1920s fashion while drawing attention upward to the bride's visage.



Jaclyn WHYTE



The Darby Earrings
taylorscustomrings.com



Anne Barge



Brocade Silk Floral Clutch
garlandbags.com



Nardos

Appliqué

The overstated floral appliqué adorned the gowns making them a work of art.

Mother of the Pearl diamond necklace, Mednikow
mednikow.com



Claire Pettibone



Jaclyn WHYTE



Francesca Miranda



Mira Zwillinger



Prina Tornai Freshwater Cultured Pearl & Diamond Band
jared.com



Allure Bridal

Puff Sleeves

Statement-making puff sleeves enhance the gown design, resulting in a more fashion-forward appearance.



WONA Concept

The Stella Earrings,
Mary K Kendig
marykendig.com



Lihi Hod



Eva Lendel

Round, Pear Drop, &
Center Yellow Diamond
Necklace, YESSAYAN
yessayan.us



Belle of the Ball

A timeless standout, the ballgown never falls out of fashion.



Trish Peng x Amélie George -
Maya – Gold Earrings
trishpeng.com



Madison James



Reem Arca



Lih Hod



Justin Alexander



Pnina Tornai South
Sea Cultured Pearl &
Diamond Ring
jared.com



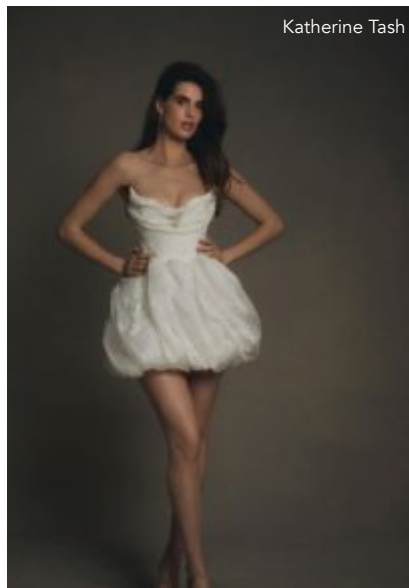
JOVANI

Bubble Hemlines

Reminiscent of the 1980s, the distinctive silhouette of the bubble hemline provides vintage charm.



Danielle Frankel



Katherine Tash

BellaBelle
bellabelleshoes.com



Dauphine Clutch,
Anne Barge
annebarga.com



Monique Lhuillier



Dramatic Drapes

The intricate folds of draped fabric create an enduring look of grace and elegance.



Pronovias Atelier



The Ava Ring
taylorcustomrings.com



Justin Alexander



Jennifer Behr
jenniferbehr.com



Hera Couture



Trish Peng

Wedding Party Trends

Groomsmen

Stepping into the spotlight alongside the bride, the groom takes center stage with these stylish looks.



Tombstone Bow Tie
brackish.com



Generation Tux

Live On Stage Socks
lanskybros.com



Bridesmaids

With these gorgeous gowns that are guaranteed to turn heads, the bridesmaids shine just as brightly as the bride.



Caroline Hill
shopcarolinehill.com



« Revelry



« After Six



« Birdy Grey



« Alfred Sung



Darry Ring by Vivienne Tam
us.darryring.com



BAYBI by Donald Pliner
donaldpliner.com

Pearls as Engagement Rings?

Southern Bride discusses the allure of pearl rings with Ann Grimmett, Vice President of Merchandising at Jared the Galleria of Jewelry, exploring why they hold a special place in the world of jewelry.

By Gigi Bors-Koefoed

Q: What is the allure of pearls? Why would one choose pearls as engagement rings?

Pearls are considered a classic in the jewelry world - they are elegant and a timeless, natural wonder. A pearl possesses a unique iridescent quality unlike any other stone or gem, which makes for a special choice for an engagement ring.

Q: Is this a new trend or a classic option?

A pearl engagement ring is a classic and timeless option for a bride who is open to experimenting with style. The ability to pair the pearl with different stones opens the door to many design possibilities. Pearls have been used since well before diamonds for engagement rings, but have seen a resurgence in the past few years.

Q: What types of pearls are there and how do we choose the right one?

Natural and cultured pearls both come from the same sources and are not artificially created. Cultured pearls come from mollusks that are bred and tended to by farmers in order to create pearls for harvest. Freshwater cultured pearls are the most plentiful and therefore the most affordable of all cultured pearls. The pearls are cultivated from mussels, primarily harvested in China. Each freshwater mussel produces up to 40 pearls while one saltwater mollusk produces only one or two.



Q: Are Pnina Tornai pearls sustainably sourced?

The Pnina Tornai Perla collections feature South Sea and freshwater cultured pearls in captivating pieces that blend chic and classic styles. Yes. Pearls are one of the few Organic gemstones that come from a living organism. Pearls are valued by a few qualities, such as size, color, shape, luster, symmetry and lack of any flaws on the surface. The bigger, whiter, rounder and smoother the pearls are, the higher their quality is.

Q: Do pearls have longevity as diamonds?

Pearls are more delicate than diamonds however, with proper care pearls have incredible longevity and are typically passed down through generations.

Q: Can we wear our pearl rings every day without damaging it?

A pearl engagement ring has an elegant look that is hard to resist but they are much more delicate than other stones - the wearer must be mindful of this.

Q: What should we know about caring for our pearl rings?

Cultured pearls are especially soft and vulnerable. When getting dressed, your cultured pearls should be the last item you put on and the first item you take off. Makeup, hairspray, perfume and other chemicals are very harmful to cultured pearls. It's a good idea to wipe them with a clean, damp cloth after each use to remove the build-up of dirt and oil.

Q: How do we know we are receiving a real pearl from a retailer?

Surface feel - both natural and cultured pearls have textured surface due to their layered nacre structure. They will feel gritty vs imitation pearls which are usually smooth and glassy.



Q: What stones or design best complements the pearl?

We see pearls paired with diamonds quite often which allows for a timeless look.

Q: What advice would you give to those looking for an engagement ring to confidently choose a pearl ring over a diamond?

Pearls are an incredibly alluring choice for an engagement ring and with the appropriate care, a pearl engagement ring would be a classic and timeless option for a bride who is open to experimenting with style.

The Prina Tornai ONE Perla Collection
jared.com



the beach
IS JUST THE beginning.

When a celebration is more than just an event, but *the commencement of a lifetime together*, our elegant venues encapsulate the essence of forever.



photos/ Forever Young Images



Smart Travel Products For Your Next Trip

Top Picks from our Travel Editor



Trackable AirTags

apple.com

Apple AirTags help you keep track of your important items – especially when traveling.

Use in a wallet or purse and luggage and track its location from your phone or stick one to the back of your phone to track it from a separate device.



Luggage Cup Holder

amazon.com

Riemot luggage cup holder for suitcase is ingenious! The drink holder includes 3 pockets. Place your phones, passports, or small items in one back pocket, and two drinks in the front two pockets. Durable and machine washable.



Packing Cubes

target.com

The 7-Piece Packing Cube Set from Open Story™ includes six packing cubes of various sizes, perfect for organizing small clothes and accessories in your suitcase. The set also comes with a shoe bag for convenient packing.



Sustainable Travel Towel

thebeachpeople.com

The Beach People reduce our carbon footprint by rethinking the materials they use. Their theory is to design luxurious, durable, quick-dry towels that will stand the test of time – the longer we use our products, the less waste we all produce = better for our planet.



Travel Jewelry Case

shoppursen.com

PurseN's travel jewelry bag features ten individual compartments with six built-in pouches and four removable pouches to organize small to medium-sized jewelry.



Travel Bags with Panaché

patricianashdesigns.com

Patricia Nash leather and water-resistant Patina coated linen canvas luggage. From luxurious wheeled trolleys to chic weekenders, duffel bags, and totes. Available in other prints.

SEVILLE, ANDALUSIA, COSTA DEL SOL

9 Nights

Trip Includes

- 3 Nights Luxury Accommodations at your Choice of Hotel in Seville
- 3 Nights Luxury Accommodations at your Choice of Hotel in Granada
- 3 Nights Luxury Accommodations at your Choice of Hotel in Malaga
- All Private Airport Transfers
- All Private City to City Transfers
- Private Walking Tour of Seville with a Licensed English-Speaking Guide
- Cordoba Half-day Walking Tour
- Exploration of Alhambra with a Licensed English-Speaking Guide
- Malaga Culture and History Tour
- Private Walking Tour of Ronda with a Licensed English-Speaking Guide
- Breakfast Daily

Itinerary

DAY 1 – Seville

Welcome to Andalusia! Spain's romantic and exotic southern region is famous for its Moorish architecture and the sounds of Flamenco echoing through the narrow streets. Upon arrival, your private driver will wait to transfer you and your spouse to your luxury hotel. Enjoy the remainder of your day at leisure. Please ask your travel consultant for their favorite recommendations for restaurants, cafes, and bars.

DAY 2 – Seville - Seville Walking Tour

Explore the charm and stories of Seville's beautiful city center streets with an expert guide. Wander through the narrow alleys, visit key landmarks such as the Santa Cruz Quarter and the old Jewish Quarter, and marvel at the Cathedral and the Reales Alcazar's interior. The Alcazar is Europe's oldest Royal Palace still in use and was recognized as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1987. The Cathedral, the largest Gothic-style cathedral in the world, is a must-see as well.

DAY 3 – Seville

Enjoy a relaxing day in this charming city, immersing yourself in its vibrant culture and delectable cuisine. In the evening, you might want to experience a traditional Flamenco show and be swept away by the passion of the talented performers showcasing this world-famous dance. You can also ask your travel advisor about the top entertainment and nightlife spots in Seville. Optional: Consider a full-day tour to Jerez de la Frontera, where you can take a unique tour of one of the oldest sherry wineries.

DAY 4 – Seville – Cordoba - Granada

You can stop in Cordoba for a guided tour on your way to Granada. Cordoba was once the capital of Hispania Ulterior under the Roman Empire and the capital of the Umayyad Caliphate. UNESCO has recognized its historical importance, designating it as a World Heritage Site. The Mosque-Cathedral and the Medieval Synagogue are significant historical landmarks in the city.

DAY 5 – Granada – Alhambra Tour

Perched on a rocky hill near the Darro River and surrounded by mountains, the Alhambra is a stunning fortress boasting exquisite Islamic art, including carved cedarwood, stucco work, and beautiful mosaics. Originally a military stronghold, it later became the Royal Court of Ferdinand and Isabella. The complex includes Moorish palaces, the Palace of King Charles V, the Alcazaba fortress, and the Generalife Palace with lush gardens and fountains.





DAY 6 – Granada

Spend a relaxing day and explore the city at your own pace. You can stroll around the labyrinth of streets and Granada's vibrant local culture, walk in the Albaicín neighborhood, and watch a Flamenco show with some tapas in one of the caves. The town offers a myriad of sightseeing options, and its beautiful architecture will captivate you. Optionally, you can choose a unique couples' experience in a traditional Andalusian Arab bath.

DAY 7 – Granada – Malaga

After breakfast, your private driver will take you to your luxury hotel in Malaga. You can spend the afternoon exploring the city at your own pace or choose to stop at the Caminito del Rey gorge.

DAY 8 – Malaga Walking Tour

Explore Malaga's history and culture with a comprehensive city tour. Visit the Central Market, Plaza de la Constitución, the Cathedral, the Alcazaba, the Roman Theatre, Larios street, and the Picasso Museum. The tour concludes with a visit to Picasso's birthplace in Plaza de la Merced.

DAY 9 – Malaga – Ronda Half-Day Tour

The town of Ronda is famous for its unique architecture and stunning photo opportunities. The tour starts at a family-run winery near Ronda, known for its diverse wine range and high-quality wines. You'll take a romantic walk through the winery and vineyards, learn about the wine-making process, and enjoy a tasting of four wines followed by a delicious meal. After the winery visit, you'll head to Ronda, one of the oldest cities in Spain, known for its historic charm, dramatic escarpments, and the famous Puente Nuevo bridge offering stunning views of the Serranía de Ronda Mountains.

DAY 10 – Departure

After breakfast, you will be transferred to Malaga Airport to catch your departure flight.

Meet Michele Schwartz, SB's expert travel advisor! Scan the QR code to email her about receiving special amenities and possible upgrades.



CROATIA

Split, Brac, Hvar, Korcula, Dubrovnik

12 Days

Trip Includes

- 2 Nights Luxury Accommodations at your Choice of Hotel in Split
- 2 Nights Luxury Accommodation at your Choice of Hotel in Brac
- 3 Nights Luxury Accommodation at your Choice of Hotel in Hvar
- 2 Nights Luxury Accommodation at your Choice of Hotel in Korcula
- 3 Nights Luxury Accommodation at your Choice of Hotel in Dubrovnik
- All Private Airport Transfers
- All Ferry/ Hydrofoil Transfers
- Private Split Food and History Tour
- Private Brac Island Hiking Tour
- Private Hvar Sunset Picnic
- Private Korcula Tour
- Private Tour of Kotor Bay in Montenegro

Itinerary

DAY 1 – Split

Upon your arrival at Resnik International Airport, your private driver will transfer you to your luxury hotel in Split. Spend your afternoon relaxing at the hotel or take a walk to the lively old town and seafront promenade (Riva) to explore the vibrant cafes and restaurants with the Diocletian's Palace as your backdrop. Don't hesitate to ask your travel advisor for their favorite spots in the city.

DAY 2 – Split History and Food Tour

Enjoy a 3-hour walking tour in Split with a local guide who loves history and food. Sample local specialties as you explore the 1700-year-old imperial city and visit Diocletian's Palace and surrounding medieval highlights. The tour starts at the Greenmarket, where you'll try traditional Croatian finger foods. You'll also taste seafood specialties and homemade pasta with wine, and end the tour with traditional sweets and gelato from the oldest pastry shop in Split.

DAY 3 – Brac

Welcome to Brac, Croatia, known for its marble and Golden Horn beach. With sunny hills, pine forests, beaches, and traditional towns, it's one of Croatia's most authentic islands. Explore the city on your first day and ask your Travel specialist for dining recommendations.

DAY 4 – Brac Hiking Tour

While on Brac, you can hike Mount Vidova Gora, the highest point in the Adriatic islands, for stunning views of Solta, Hvar, Pakleni Islands, and the Golden Horn beach. Alternatively, you can enjoy a food and wine tour or explore the famous Golden Horn beach in Bol.

DAY 5 – Hvar

After a short hydrofoil ride (or a private boat transfer), you will arrive on the island of Hvar, one of Croatia's most popular destinations. Depending on your hotel selection, you will either stay in Hvar town or have a driver wait close to the port to take you to your chosen resort outside of Hvar town. Spend the day relaxing, exploring the surroundings, and checking out Hvar town's well-known nightlife.

DAY 6 – Sights and Tastes of Hvar

You'll drive along the old lavender road, passing through villages showcasing Hvar's proud lavender tradition. In Dol, you can sample goat cheese and then head to a hidden olive grove near Vrisnik for a delightful picnic lunch or dinner, prepared by the island's best olive oil producer and his wife.





DAY 7 – Day at Leisure

Spend your day enjoying one of the many beaches and beach clubs on the island of Hvar. Alternatively, opt for a full-day boat tour to visit the Pakleni Islands as well as the Blue and Green Caves.

DAY 8 – Korcula

After breakfast, bid farewell to Hvar and make your way to another Croatian island treasure: Korcula. Once you've checked into your hotel, step outside to explore the vibrant streets and immerse yourself in the island's culture, history, and allure.

DAY 9 – Korcula Island Tour

Explore this charming island town with an English-speaking guide, visit museums and historic sites, and learn about Marco Polo, who was supposedly born in Korcula.

DAY 10 – Dubrovnik

In Dubrovnik, your private driver will take you from the port to your luxury hotel. Enjoy exploring the vibrant food scene and nightlife. Ask your Travel specialist for recommendations.

DAY 11 – Dubrovnik Walking and Panoramic Tour

Experience Dubrovnik from a different perspective with a panoramic tour from the New Bridge of Dr. Franjo Tudjman to Srdj Hill. Afterward, explore the city and its historic sights with a knowledgeable guide.

DAY 12 – Tour of Kotor Bay in Montenegro

Your private English-speaking driver will pick you up at the Dubrovnik hotel and head towards the border with Montenegro, making a stop in Perast to explore the town and visit the beautiful islet of "Gospa od Skrpjela" (Our Lady of the Rocks). Next, you'll experience the panoramic ride to Kotor, where you'll have free time to explore the city's historical museum, stroll through the narrow streets, or relax at a local cafe along the boardwalk.

DAY 13 – Departure Day

Your private driver will meet you in the hotel lobby and take you to Dubrovnik Airport for your flight home.



Meet Christine Shepherd, Romantic Destinations Travel Advisor! Scan the QR code to email her about receiving special amenities and possible upgrades.



ROME, AMALFI COAST, ITALY

8 Nights

Trip Includes

- 3 Nights Luxury Accommodations at your Choice of Hotel in Rome
- 5 Nights Luxury Accommodations at your Choice of Hotel in Amalfi Coast
- Private Half-Day Walking Tour in Rome with an English Speaking Licensed Guide
- Private Car Transfer Between Rome and Amalfi Coast
- Private Airport Transfers
- Breakfast Daily

Itinerary

DAY 1 – Rome

Welcome to Italy, the romantic home of world-shaping civilizations and Renaissance masterpieces. Upon arriving at Rome International Airport, your private driver will take you to your five-star luxury hotel. Explore the Eternal City's artistic and architectural masterpieces, ruins, baroque churches, and piazzas. Rome is a treasure trove of two millennia of artistic achievement, offering endless discovery. Ask your travel advisor for recommendations to start your honeymoon in style!

DAY 2 – Rome – Half-Day Walking Tour

After breakfast, your English-speaking guide will meet you at the hotel. You'll visit the Piazza Venezia, the Piazza del Campidoglio with a view of the Roman Forum, and the Colosseum on a romantic private tour.

DAY 3 – Rome

Spend the day relaxing and discovering the city in love, sipping an espresso at one of the numerous cafes, or exploring more of the deep history, culture, and art of Rome. Ask your travel consultant for recommendations of their favorite things to do in the city for you to experience with either your husband or wife.

DAY 4 – Rome, Amalfi Coast

Your private driver will pick you up from your hotel and take you to the Amalfi Coast. On the way, you'll stop at Pompeii for a two-hour private guided tour. The tour will be just for the two of you. Your guide will lead you through the ancient city, which was preserved by volcanic ash. After arriving at your hotel, you can enjoy the breathtaking views of the Amalfi coastline with your partner.

DAYS 5, 6, 7 & 8 – Amalfi Coast

Spend the last days of your honeymoon exploring the stunning Amalfi Coast in Campania, Italy. The coast offers breathtaking views, charming villages clinging to the cliffside, and a rich cultural history. It's the perfect place to rekindle the romance of your relationship.

DAY 9 – Departure

After breakfast, you will be transferred to the Naples Airport to catch your departure flight.

Meet Jessica Frey, Romantic Destinations Travel Advisor! Scan the QR code to email her about receiving special amenities and possible upgrades.



TOAST TO LOVE IN LISBON

*The One Palácio da Anunciada, Lisbon
Lisbon, Portugal*

By Elana Scharff

GET ACQUAINTED

Nestled in the heart of Lisbon, Portugal, The One Palácio da Anunciada is a dreamy palace-turned-hotel that offers couples an enchanting setting for their big day. A historic gem, the property has an intriguing story to tell. Originally built as a palace in the 16th century, it has been lovingly transformed into a luxurious hotel while preserving its regal charm. The moment one steps through its ornate doors, they will feel transported to a world of elegance and history. Intricately designed interiors, adorned with period furniture and exquisite artwork, and an art gallery make this palace exceptionally unique.

HERE'S THE SCOOP

Location is everything when planning a wedding, and The One Palácio da Anunciada excels in this department. While placed in the city center, it remains a quiet oasis wrapped around a lovely 2,500 m² cobblestone courtyard. Couples can seamlessly combine wedding preparations with sightseeing and adventurous activities. A stay at this beguiling hotel is nothing short of magnificent. The rooms are a testament to elegance, with plush king-size beds, exquisite furnishings, and spacious dressing areas ideal for brides and their bridesmaids.

GET THE DISH

The dining options are a highlight for couples seeking culinary excellence. Guests can indulge in a romantic dinner at Condes de Ericeira, where they can savor delectable Portuguese market cuisine with a Mediterranean flair. Located in one of the grand halls, the space is light and airy and boasts a coffered ceiling with hand-painted frescoes. O Jardim Wine Bar serves an amazing breakfast buffet and à la carte dishes prepared to order. Or, sample tapas and the finest of Portuguese wine.

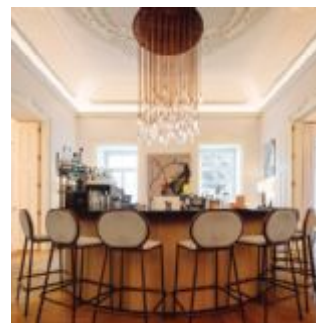
WE SIMPLY ADORE

After exploring Lisbon's charms, guests can relax and rejuvenate in Despacio, the hotel's spa and wellness facility. The spa treatments are a godsend, leaving guests refreshed and ready for the day. The pool, overlooking the hotel's beautiful gardens, is another relaxing spot for unwinding and soaking up the sunshine. Open seasonally, it's complete with inviting daybeds, lounge chairs, and a bar serving signature cocktails.

BIG DAY DETAILS

The most remarkable aspect of The One Palácio de Anunciada is the personalized guest service. Staff are attentive to guests' needs and go above and beyond to make their stay memorable. This level of care is invaluable for couples tying the knot. From the grand lobby with its sweeping staircase to the intimate courtyard garden, every corner seems like a picture-perfect backdrop for the most memorable time of your life. Where history and romance intertwine, The One Palácio da Anunciada is the ultimate celebratory destination for life's most significant milestones.

h10hotels.com/en/lisbon-hotels/the-one-palacio-da-anunciada





FROM “YES” TO “FOREVER”: MAKING MEMORIES AT CARTON HOUSE

Carton House, Fairmont • County Kildare, Ireland

By Sherra Meyers

GET ACQUAINTED

Situated in the lush parklands of County Kildare, Ireland, Carton House, Fairmont is an expansive 18th-century Palladian estate spanning over 1,100 acres for guests to explore. With its historic architecture, the hotel offers 169 luxury guest rooms, divided between the Garden Wing, offering stunning views of the estate gardens, and The House, featuring Palladian style and staterooms adorned with original Victorian furnishings and décor.

BIG DAY DETAILS

The newly built FitzGerald Suite is perfect for intimate weddings of up to 100 guests, with a gorgeous private garden entrance and scenic estate views. For more significant ceremonies or innovative receptions, the Carton Suite has been renovated to preserve the historic venue while adding luxury features such as glittering crystal chandeliers, elegant blue walls, and a garden terrace. The Carton's Wedding Specialist will be with you every step of the way, offering assistance to ensure your big day is exactly as you've imagined.

GET THE DISH

The Morrison Room, Carton House's premier restaurant for over 200 years, boasts grand architecture, crimson pillars, and an exquisite marble fireplace. It is perfect for evening fine

dining and features decadent Irish cuisine. Historically set in the old servant's kitchens, Kathleen's Kitchen transports guests into a modernized setting of the 1700s, with original appliances from the kitchen, charming tables, and windows overlooking the gardens. The Whiskey Library offers a unique experience in Carton House's original library, where guests can enjoy exclusive whiskey tastings tucked away in a hidden library.

OUT AND ABOUT

There are plenty of activities to enjoy in Carton House and Kildare, only 25 minutes from the city center and Dublin Airport. Carton House offers a premier golf experience with the O'Meara course, which winds through the lush forest and along the stunning River Rye, and the Montgomerie course, known for its challenging and unique golfing experience. You can also unwind at the Carton House Spa in an 18th-century mill, where you can indulge in rejuvenating massage treatments and explore a unique collection of luxury body care essentials.

In addition to the activities at Carton House, you can visit Kildare Town, which is rich in history and home to the Kildare Shopping Village, where you can explore a variety of unique boutiques.

www.cartonhouse.com

IRELAND'S MOST LAVISH REGENCY MANSION

Ballyfin • Co. Laois, Ireland

By Sherra Meyers

GET ACQUAINTED

Nestled beneath the majestic rolling hills of Ireland's Slieve Bloom Mountains, Ballyfin is a truly enchanting and secluded country house exuding historic Irish opulence and charm. The hotel offers twenty intricately designed bedrooms, each adorned in classic decor. For those seeking a more secluded retreat, the Gardener's Cottage, a charming private two-story house nestled within the estate, offers an intimate setting. Ballyfin is home to breathtaking reception rooms, including the Golden Drawing Room, adorned with captivating ceiling artwork. With an atmosphere steeped in romance and featuring stunning medieval architecture, the estate provides a rich tapestry of Irish culture, tranquil lakes, and magnificent gardens and grounds waiting to be explored. It is an idyllic escape to the Irish countryside and an ideal setting for intimate destination weddings.

BIG DAY DETAILS

Celebrate your special day with a stunning lakeside or picturesque garden ceremony. For smaller, more intimate weddings, the hidden Conservatory behind the Library bookshelf provides an enchanting setting. If you prefer a traditional church ceremony, the beautiful, nearby Church of St. John the Baptist is an ideal choice. The grand State Dining Room is perfect for hosting rehearsal dinners or receptions for up to 70 guests, while the elegant Ballroom sets the stage for unforgettable reception dances. The attentive Ballyfin team will be by your side every step of the way, working with you to plan your dream wedding and curate a special menu tailored to your ceremony.

GET THE DISH

The restaurant is a magnificent blend of historical elegance and artistic inspiration, featuring antique candelabra adorning the walls alongside captivating Irish art pieces. The culinary experience is defined as using fresh, estate-grown ingredients to craft delectable dishes served throughout the day, from breakfast to lunch and dinner. Guests have the option to savor an exquisite picnic in the lush gardens or indulge in meals on the terrace of the main house. Additionally, the State Dining Room hosts a sophisticated cocktail hour, while the Cellar Bar downstairs offers a more laid-back atmosphere, complete with grill-style dishes and a showcase of remarkable art.

OUT AND ABOUT

Immerse yourself in luxury at our estate with a Vitality Pool and Sauna, The Library, a wine and whiskey-tasting experience in the Cellar, horse-drawn carriage rides, and a small boutique filled with unique finds. Explore the surrounding Birr Castle Gardens, Heywood Gardens, and Kilkenny Town.

www.ballyfin.com



Photo Credit: Jeremy Swanson

IRELAND



Designed by: Olivia Buckley International



Designed by: Olivia Buckley International



AN ELEGANT CELEBRATION OF PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE SINCE 1228

Ashford Castle • Cong, Co. Mayo, Ireland

By Sherra Meyers

GET ACQUAINTED

Situated amid the picturesque landscape of Lough Corrib in Ireland, Ashford Castle presents a regal abode fit for royalty. Boasting 83 luxurious suites and rooms, each space is intricately adorned with antique furnishings and bespoke carpets, providing an immersive experience into the castle's rich 800-year history steeped in Irish heritage. The estate, initially owned by the esteemed Guinness family, offers a charming and meticulously restored retreat. Positioned at the water's edge of Lough Corrib, it offers panoramic views of the lake and the enchanting gardens, creating an ambiance reminiscent of a private oasis. Exquisite decor and rare European pieces from the 20th century further enhance the allure. Ashford Castle also showcases many dining options across its grand drawing rooms and restaurants, indulging guests in various culinary experiences. The estate's grounds abound with diverse activities, while the West of Ireland's surrounding area beckons with an array of attractions and sights waiting to be explored.

BIG DAY DETAILS

Ashford Castle provides a truly enchanting setting for your wedding celebrations. If you envision a more intimate ceremony, the Connaught Room, with its grand windows, exquisitely hand-carved fireplace, and panoramic views of the gardens, fits the bill. The oak walls add a touch of elegance to

this magnificent space. For more significant celebrations, the grounds overlooking the picturesque Lough Corrib offer a breathtaking backdrop. Should you prefer a church ceremony, several charming churches are conveniently located in the nearby village, just a short distance from the castle.

For those seeking a grand affair, the option to reserve Ashford Castle exclusively is available, allowing you and up to 160 guests to revel in the splendor of the castle's rooms and the charming Boathouse, ensuring an unforgettable experience for everyone in attendance. Furthermore, the dedicated wedding coordinator and the team at Ashford Castle are committed to assisting you every step of the way, offering personalized support and guidance, including sample menus and itineraries to tailor your big day celebrations to perfection. (Wedding Designs by Olivia Buckley International)

GET THE DISH

The George V. Dining Room is an exceptional setting for a delightful dinner experience. It boasts a stunning hall with meticulously crafted oak-paneled walls, inviting velvet blue chairs, and breathtaking, glittering chandeliers that create an atmosphere of elegance and sophistication. The menu is a beautiful fusion of Irish culinary delights, carefully curated to delight your taste buds. Additionally, the Head Sommelier has meticulously selected luxury wines to complement the exquisite dishes perfectly.

Moving on to The Dungeon, despite its name, it exudes charm and relaxation with its artfully designed medieval decor. Here, you can explore an extensive menu featuring a rich array of Irish delicacies alongside enticing additions of traditional South African dishes, adding a unique touch to your dining adventure.

For an event within itself, Afternoon Tea in the Connaught Room should be experienced by those who admire the finer details of the pastime. The stunning Connaught Room also doubles as the Wine Dinner dining room. The Drawing Room provides an elegant backdrop for an afternoon lunch, offering captivating views of the picturesque Lough Corrib and the sprawling grounds, enhancing your dining experience with natural beauty.

The Prince of Wales Bar is a must-visit destination, providing a delightful opportunity for craft gin tasting and a glimpse into history, as it is named after the Prince of Wales in 1905. Lastly, for a truly unique Irish dining and entertainment experience, go to Squire Danagher's, where you can savor a thoughtfully curated three-course menu while immersing yourself in the exciting and historically rich Irish detailing, creating a dining experience unlike any other.

OUT AND ABOUT

For outdoor activities, you can enjoy traditional boating on Lough Corrib in hand-crafted boats while admiring the stunning lake. You can ride horseback or cycle through the ancient forest to explore the beautiful foliage. If you're a golf enthusiast, you'll find a stunning 9-hole, par 35 parkland golf course surrounded by rolling hills and picturesque scenery. Additionally, you can visit the cinema to relax and enjoy a show in classic red theatre seats while indulging in fresh popcorn and snacks. If you need to unwind before your big day, you can visit the spa, which offers expert spa treatments and features a beautiful Tree of Life mural surrounding the indoor pool. For a romantic getaway or surprise wedding proposal, consider the Chef's Island Picnic, a special guided 2-and-a-half-hour tour with a breathtaking picnic stop to enjoy delicacies and views of Lough



Corrib. Furthermore, you can enjoy an authentic wine tasting in the castle's original wine cellar. Exploring off the grounds, you can visit Mrs. Tea's Boutique and Bakery for produce and unique Irish gifts. It's filled with enchanting local artisan brands and gifts. If you're interested in history, embark on day trips to visit various historic Irish villages and castles in County Mayo and County Galway in the surrounding West of Ireland.

ashfordcastle.com



THE CROWN JEWEL OF IRELAND

Cashel Palace • Co. Tipperary, Ireland

By Sherra Meyers

GET ACQUAINTED

Cashel Palace is the crown jewel in the charming town of Cashel and a breathtaking testament to Palladian design dating back to 1732. Painstakingly restored with modern comforts, Cashel Palace still radiates the majestic ambiance of ancient Irish royalty. This enchanting manor is a noteworthy choice for an intimate Ireland wedding, offering 42 distinctive suites and rooms, graceful drawing rooms, beautiful gardens, and captivating views of the iconic Rock of Cashel. However, the real gem of this property is its staff. The warm, professional staff care for the hotel and each guest as if they were visiting their home. It's no wonder they are known for their 'notable hospitality.'

BIG DAY DETAILS

The Ireland wedding you've always imagined will become a reality at Cashel Palace. Picture your ceremony against the majestic backdrop of the historic Rock of Cashel, with playful sheep frolicking in the background. Envision celebrating in the opulent ballroom, accommodating up to 200 guests. Breathtaking terraces offer panoramic views of the Rock of Cashel and lush gardens, providing meticulously manicured spaces for your special day. The Spa offers a beautiful Salon for personalized pampering, ensuring every bride's moment is perfectly tailored. With a top-tier wedding team and comprehensive package, Cashel Palace is dedicated to helping you bring your dream wedding to life.

GET THE DISH & DRINK

Immerse yourself in the exceptional dining experiences at Cashel Palace. The Michelin-starred Bishop's Buttery offers a divine dining experience with Irish delicacies, set in the first kitchen of Cashel Palace with original amenities and modern touches.

Experience the regal history of Cashel Palace with Afternoon Tea in the captivating Queen Anne Room or on the Garden Terrace with scenic views of the Rock of Cashel. Mikey Ryan's on Main Street offers casual dining with exquisite lunch and dinner options. You can dine on the outdoor terrace or in the Glass Well, a picturesque private dining area for up to 12 guests. There's also a secret experience hidden in the floorboards!

OUT AND ABOUT

Located in Cashel, surrounded by beautiful hills, Cashel Palace offers various activities for guests. Nearby, visitors can explore historical landmarks such as the Rock of Cashel, Cashel Folk Village, and Cahir Castle. Donoghues Pub is a great place to enjoy Irish whiskey and a Guinness and live music and stories of Irish history. After a day of activities, make time to indulge in the Spa. The state-of-the-art contemporary design offers respite and tranquility with a thermal suite, seaweed baths, and a full menu of services.

www.cashelpalacehotel.ie





THE GRAND DAME OF DUBLIN

The Shelbourne • Dublin, Ireland

By Sherra Meyers

GET ACQUAINTED

Nestled in the heart of Dublin, Ireland, The Shelbourne is an enchanting wedding venue and a captivating destination for couples seeking to exchange vows in a setting steeped in history and beauty. Celebrating 200 years in 2024, The Shelbourne is a 5-star hotel that offers breathtaking vistas of St. Stephen's Green, elegantly modernized rooms and suites, many dining options, and a lavish spa and salon for ultimate relaxation. Situated within strolling distance of Dublin's prominent landmarks, the hotel has been the esteemed host of numerous historic occurrences, including the pivotal drafting of Ireland's inaugural constitution in 1922.

BIG DAY DETAILS

From the intimate and romantic setting of the elegant suites to the grandeur of the spacious ballroom, The Shelbourne offers a diverse array of exquisite wedding venues. Couples are invited to explore the meticulously crafted wedding packages, brimming with luxurious and unique details to captivate and inspire guests on their special day. They also have a dedicated premier wedding manager who takes great care to work closely with each couple, ensuring that every element is tailored to their exact vision and desires.

GET THE DISH & DRINK

No. 27 Bar & Lounge is an authentic Irish establishment with a charming ambiance and sweeping views of Dublin. The Saddle Room offers seasonal Irish dishes in an elegant setting. The Lord Mayor's Lounge provides a unique experience with delightful afternoon high tea overlooking St. Stephen's Green. The

Champagne Terrace is a delightful indoor/outdoor area (open through September 30) where you can have a beautiful afternoon shower with your gals. The Horseshoe Bar is known for its perfect pints, classic cocktails, and colorful patrons from various fields. Exclusively for hotel guests, the 1824 Bar is an elegant room with rich wood paneling that's perfect for pre-dinner drinks and post-evening outings. The bar features unique mural panels by artist Paul Slater, depicting characters from Irish fiction, film, and history, as well as guests from the hotel's last two hundred years.

OUT AND ABOUT

At The Shelbourne, you are just moments away from the lively streets of Dublin's most iconic attractions. Amble through The Temple Bar, a vibrant neighborhood adorned with a diverse collection of art galleries, lively pubs, charming restaurants, and upscale boutiques. Step back in time by visiting the historic Dublin Castle, an architectural marvel dating back to the early 13th century. Delve into its rich history by taking a self-guided or guided tour, available from 9:45 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Indulge in a spot of souvenir shopping on Grafton Street, where you'll be surrounded by storybook Irish buildings and a myriad of boutique shops. Immerse yourself in the beauty of European art at the National Gallery of Ireland, which houses an impressive collection of exquisite art exhibitions.

www.theshelbourne.com



18TH CENTURY GEORGIAN SOPHISTICATION

The Merrion Hotel • Dublin, Ireland

By Sherra Meyers

GET ACQUAINTED

In the lively center of Dublin, The Merrion Hotel merges four Georgian townhouses to create a luxurious experience. With 142 exquisite bedrooms and suites, two historic gardens, and a remarkable art collection, the hotel seamlessly blends modern upgrades with nods to its rich history. It is conveniently located near Grafton Street and offers easy access to shopping, dining, and entertainment. The Merrion is an ideal setting for an Irish wedding and is a proud member of The Leading Hotels of the World.

BIG DAY DETAILS

At The Merrion, weddings are not just events but unforgettable experiences. Held in the exquisite grand salons, the hotel's timeless elegance sets the stage for Dublin weddings as unique as the couples themselves. These grand salons are transformed to reflect the individual vision of each couple, with the expert guidance of The Merrion's dedicated wedding bespoke service. The rooms are adorned with carefully curated fabrics that tell the story of the Georgian era, featuring sweeping private entrances, classic furnishings, and original architectural details.

To complement the indoor celebrations, guests can also revel in the enchanting ambiance of one of the two meticulously maintained historic gardens on the property. Inspired by the 18th century, these gardens offer a picturesque backdrop, with verdant greenery and striking Georgian statues, evoking the romance and grandeur of a bygone era.

GET THE DISH

The Merrion is not just a hotel; it's a culinary journey. Indulge in an array of Irish cuisine, including the renowned 2-star Michelin Restaurant, Restaurant Patrick Guilbald. The hotel also features The Garden Room, a stunning dining space, and The Cellar Bar for a laid-back ambiance with evening cocktails and live music. Furthermore, The Merrion offers the refined tradition of afternoon tea in one of its grand drawing rooms. Guests can bask in the opulence of stunning art pieces dating back to the 19th and 20th centuries while partaking in this timeless ritual.

OUT AND ABOUT

The Merrion Hotel is conveniently situated just moments away from the vibrant Grafton Street, known for its diverse range of boutiques, restaurants, pubs, art galleries, museums, and the I.F.S.C Dublin Convention. The hotel itself offers a wide range of activities to cater to your interests. You can indulge in a rejuvenating experience at the Spa and Health Club, where you can partake in massage treatments, access a luxurious gym, join morning yoga sessions, and visit the salon for some pampering. Furthermore, you can immerse yourself in the rich history of Dublin by exploring the city on Merrion's private bikes, allowing you to discover the beauty and heritage of the Irish capital at your own pace.

www.merrionhotel.com

FAIRYTALE WEDDINGS SAY I DO TO OLD WORLD CHARM

Dromoland Castle • Co. Clare, Ireland

By Sherra Meyers

GET ACQUAINTED

Dromoland Castle is steeped in centuries of rich history, reflected in its captivating storybook architecture. The castle stands as a symbol of regal grandeur, with a notable legacy that includes the residence of High King Brian Boru in 1014. The elegant bedrooms, adorned with magnificent décor, offer guests breathtaking views of the sprawling 500-acre estate fit for a princess, creating an ambiance of timeless charm and sophistication. Furthermore, modern enhancements have elevated the castle's amenities, making it an ideal and enchanting setting for old world weddings, where tradition meets modern day luxury.

BIG DAY DETAILS

The Dromoland Castle offers exquisite wedding venues. The Brian Boru Wing boasts stunning high ceilings, extravagant windows with scenic views of the grounds, and a grand staircase leading to the hall's private entrance, creating the perfect setting for elegant weddings. The Brian Boru Hall includes a private patio and can be customized to meet the couple's specific design preferences. The Walled Garden, adorned with beautiful blossom trees, offers an intimate and romantic setting with the ambiance of a royal garden. Couples have the option to reserve the entire castle for their special day, providing them with a once-in-a-lifetime experience of a private wedding at Dromoland Castle.

GET THE DISH

The Earl of Thomond is a place of marvel, where dazzling chandeliers illuminate sweeping Venetian drapes over picturesque windows that showcase the estate grounds. The Irish cuisine creates a remarkable royal dining experience, while The Gallery serves as an impressive drawing room for afternoon tea or lunch, providing the perfect place to unwind or start your morning. At the Golf and Country Club, the Fig Tree Restaurant awaits, offering a more relaxed setting with decadent Irish meals for lunch or light dinners.

OUT AND ABOUT

Situated in the picturesque hills of County Clare, Ireland, Dromoland Castle stands as a gateway to a world of possibilities. With its renowned par 72 golf course, captivating nature trails, lush gardens, and a myriad of leisure activities, the estate offers a haven for both relaxation and adventure. Whether it's unwinding in the luxurious sauna, taking on the challenge of archery, or immersing oneself in the beauty of the surroundings on a bicycle, Dromoland Castle is a place where every moment is filled with wonder and delight.

www.dromoland.ie



Courtney Davidson Photography



Courtney Davidson Photography



Courtney Davidson Photography





SENSE THE NATURE WHILE NURTURING YOUR SENSES

Ambiente, A Landscape Hotel • Sedona, Arizona

By Monique Jalenak

GET ACQUAINTED

From the moment you step into the lobby and sip from your welcome bubbly, you will sense that this is a very special place. Ambiente Sedona is an adult only resort located in Sedona, Arizona with forty unique atriums with 180-degree views of the majestic Brin Mesa mountain range, resplendent with red rock towers and formations. A restored ancient waterway cools and soothes your senses as it winds peacefully throughout the grounds. Your private, individual atrium-style suite is a casually elegant retreat to allow for your indulgence and relaxation. Custom touches include unique wall scenes, live-edge wood furniture pieces, luxurious Italian linens, and lovely earth-toned textiles. This beautiful nature-focused property also houses an sophisticated pool with zero entry and submerged lounge chairs, the full-service Velvet Spa, and the lovely Restaurant FortyI, serving delicious meals using organic ingredients from the local Verde Valley.

FOR THE ROMANTICS

Each atrium has its own private rooftop deck, with a fire pit and cozy day bed. Perfect for taking in the impressive awesomeness of the 360 degree views of the red rocks surrounding you. The inimitable setting might inspire an evening sunset cocktail hour, late night stargazing, peaceful morning coffee time, or, dare I say it, a surprise engagement! Ambiente Sedona has everything a honeymooning couple might desire- super luxurious private

accommodations, laid back pampering in the pool and spa, and a myriad of outdoor activities in one of the most stunning places on earth.

WE SIMPLY ADORE

Everything about this amazing resort! The atriums are beautifully designed, making it difficult to leave the space, although so many outdoor wonders beckon. We loved the huge bathroom with double shower stations, the fully outfitted pantry complete with pour-over coffee setup and complimentary locally sourced snacks and beverages, and the absolutely delightful comfort of the bed and seating area. Another memorable note- the electronic blackout curtains open to reveal floor to ceiling bronzed windows bringing the wonder of the outside world within.

OUT AND ABOUT

The Coconino National Forest and the surrounding iconic red rock formations is an obvious draw for hikers and bikers from around the world. The wide array of hiking paths is perfectly maintained and so well marked even a novice can find their way. The laid-back town of Sedona boasts dozens of world-class restaurants and plenty of unique shopping and museums to keep any non-hiker busy for as long as desired.

www.ambientesedona.com



A HIDDEN GEM FOR MILESTONE MOMENTS

Hidden Pond • Kennebunkport, Maine

By Madeline Scharff

GET ACQUAINTED

Hidden Pond, an award-winning resort in the serene woods of Kennebunkport, Maine, promises couples an unforgettable wedding experience. Designed by three incredible architecture firms (John Einsiedler, KBS Builders, Peterson Design Group) the property seamlessly blends modern elegance with the rustic allure of its surroundings. It offers unparalleled hospitality, a sanctuary of relaxation less than an hour from Portland, and a quick 10-minute drive to Kennebunkport's charming town center, filled with lobster shacks, local boutiques, and picturesque ocean views.

HERE'S THE SCOOP

Surrounded by 60 acres of mangroves and balsam fir, Hidden Pond is an idyllic setting for exchanging vows and celebrating the weekend away. Inviting accommodations and luxurious amenities are designed to provide guests with a balance of intimacy and comfort. Each of the 56 individually designed cottages, bungalows, and treetop lodges is stylish yet comfortable, some boasting private screened porches perfect for enjoying morning coffee and homemade baked goods delivered right to your door.

GET THE DISH

For those who appreciate fine dining in a relaxed setting, **Earth** at Hidden Pond offers a culinary journey inspired by local, seasonal ingredients. The interior design reflects a rustic elegance with earthy tones, reclaimed wood furnishings, and soft lighting. The atmosphere is always warm and welcoming. Large windows overlook

the gardens, connecting diners to their natural surroundings. For a casual affair, the **Farm Bar** offers handcrafted cocktails and small plates, great for enjoying by the firepit or pool.

BIG DAY DETAILS

Hidden Pond is a hidden gem for celebrating milestone moments, from enchanting forest ceremonies to extravagant receptions under the stars. With a devoted staff committed to creating exceptional events, couples can rest easy knowing their special day will be stress-free. For a one-of-a-kind wedding weekend, buyout the entire property and enjoy the venue as if it were your own home. Partial buyouts are also available for mid-size parties. After saying "I do" in the garden, celebrate in **The Barn**, boasting soothing neutral colors, soaring ceilings, vast windows, and an outdoor patio. Or host a tented reception on the lawn surrounded by beautiful birches.

WE SIMPLY ADORE

Unwind with a variety of indulgent treatments at the **Tree Spa**, where expert therapists ensure a blissful escape from the everyday hustle. Lounge by the adults-only **Serenity Pool**, join a morning yoga class or explore the grounds on a Hidden Pond-branded bicycle. Adventure off property to experience Maine like a local: kayak, walk in the woods, or picnic on the beach. A complimentary shuttle transports guests to **The Tides Beach Club** where more coastal fun awaits.

hiddenpondmaine.com



SAY “I DO” WITH HARBOR VIEWS

InterContinental Boston, an IHG Hotel • Boston, Massachusetts

By Madeline Scharff

GET ACQUAINTED

The InterContinental Boston, nestled along the city’s vibrant waterfront, boasts a prime location with stunning harbor and skyline views. Its aesthetic blends modern luxury with timeless elegance, featuring sleek architecture and sophisticated interiors. The refined and welcoming atmosphere offers guests a tranquil escape amidst the bustling cityscape. Whether enjoying gourmet dining experiences, unwinding in luxurious accommodations, or exploring nearby attractions and cultural landmarks, InterContinental Boston invites guests to experience comfort and refinement in the heart of a historic city.

HERE’S THE SCOOP

Each meticulously crafted guest room at InterContinental Boston offers sweeping views of the city skyline or the serene harbor, adorned with top-of-the-line amenities like Egyptian cotton linens, designer toiletries, and cutting-edge technology. For an unforgettable stay, book the 2,700 sq. ft. Penthouse North Suite, one of the six exclusive suites available. Its central location provides convenient access to Boston’s top attractions, such as Fenway Park and the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum. Indulge in a rejuvenating session at Spa InterContinental, featuring an indoor heated pool, steam rooms, and a fitness center equipped with state-of-the-art equipment.

BIG DAY DETAILS

With thorough attention to detail and unmatched hospitality, InterContinental Boston is the perfect venue to bring wedding dreams to life. From intimate ceremonies to grand receptions, a variety of versatile venues are available to suit every style and

size of celebration. Host a welcome cocktail hour on the outdoor terrace overlooking the water, exchange vows in the elegant Abigail Adams Ballroom, then dance the night away in the Rose Kennedy Ballroom where crystal chandeliers add a touch of old-world charm. This 10,000 sq. ft. space ensures you can book a 12-piece band and invite more than 1,000 of your closest friends and family. The floor-to-ceiling windows offer a stunning view of the historic and charming city.

WE SIMPLY ADORE

The Club InterContinental lounge offers exclusive guests a private space to gather and unwind. Expect stylish seating, a roaring fireplace in the winter months, personalized service, and a dedicated concierge to cater to your every need. Indulge in a delightful array of complimentary offerings, from a gourmet breakfast spread and coffee to cocktails and delicious hors d’oeuvres in the evenings.

NOTE TO SELF

While the talented events team helps to plan your big day, guests will be excited to know that InterContinental Boston’s experienced Les Clefs d’Or Concierges can arrange a curated itinerary for their stay. When they’re not partaking in wedding weekend activities, friends and family can be sure to experience Boston like a local. Grab a coffee and wander through Beacon Hill’s cobblestone roads or the oldest city park in the nation. Enjoy lunch in the North End, stop into the 24-hour Bova’s Bakery, and, depending on the season, catch a baseball game.

www.ihg.com/intercontinental/hotels/us/en/boston/bosha/hoteldetail



5-STAR, 5-DIAMOND LUXURY WEDDING IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS

The Little Nell Hotel • Aspen, Colorado

By Sherra Meyers

GET ACQUAINTED

The Little Nell Hotel in Aspen, Colorado, offers a truly unique experience. It's the only hotel in Aspen to hold a 5-Star and 5-Diamond rating, and it's conveniently located at the base of Aspen's Silver Queen Gondola, offering ski-in/ski-out convenience. The hotel's design is both luxurious and sophisticated, yet it maintains a relaxed atmosphere without pretentiousness. With spacious guest rooms, welcoming common spaces, premier ski routes, a complimentary ski concierge service, a relaxing spa, and a variety of activities, The Little Nell is the perfect destination for those seeking a unique and unforgettable stay.

BIG DAY DETAILS

The Little Nell furnishes an exquisite setting for summer and winter weddings, offering nine unique indoor and outdoor venue spaces. The Wedding Deck, boasting an elevation of 11,212 feet, provides a picturesque outdoor location for ceremonies, with stunning mountain views and a memorable gondola experience for you and your guests. The ASPENX Mountain Club is elegantly designed, lending itself to cocktail receptions and charming dining space, accommodating up to 250 guests. Additionally, the Sundeck seamlessly blends indoor and outdoor spaces, offering breathtaking views of the Elk Mountains, soaring 30-foot ceilings, and a grand rock fireplace, creating an unforgettable setting for your special day.

GET THE DISH

At The Little Nell, dining is an experience in itself. Ajax Tavern, with its stunning views of the mountain slopes, offers a unique casual fine dining experience for lunch and dinner. The restaurant's attractive red booth seating and beautiful bulb lighting create a warm and inviting atmosphere. For a more refined dining experience, Element 47, Little Nell's top Michelin recommended restaurant, offers a fusion of distinctive Colorado dishes complemented by an exceptional wine selection. For those seeking a more intimate dining experience, the Element 47 living room is available for private bookings.

OUT AND ABOUT

Just minutes from the heart of Aspen, The Little Nell resort offers a wide range of activities for guests to enjoy. One of the main attractions is skiing, and the resort provides a full-service ski concierge to guide visitors across four different mountains, catering to both professional and beginner skiers and in the summer months, endless trails of hiking, with a guide, if desired. Additionally, guests can explore the stunning Maroon Bells, which offer breathtaking views of the Maroon Creek Valley. For those interested in the arts, the Aspen Santa Fe Ballet company presents captivating contemporary ballet performances. Visitors can also leisurely stroll through Aspen and explore the luxury boutiques in the area.

www.thelittlenell.com



SNOWMASS HAS A VENUE FOR EVERY SEASON

Snowmass, Colorado

By Rebecca Brooks

VICEROY HOTEL is a luxury five-star lodge resort for your wedding destination in the charming Snowmass Village. This resort is a mountainous escapade in the summer, offering a range of venues with postcard backdrops. The Grand Ballroom, a grandeur personified, is perfect for more significant ceremonies and receptions, featuring stylish furnishings, breathtaking views of the Aspen scenery, and a beautiful outdoor terrace for unforgettable receptions. The guest rooms and suites are designed to feel like home, with full kitchens and modern luxury amenities, all while providing breathtaking views of the Aspen Mountains. Additionally, the Viceroy offers a unique wedding honeymoon package that includes a three-night stay at the luxurious Viceroy Hotel, allowing couples to relax and indulge in luxury, creating memories that will last a lifetime.

www.viceroyhotelsandresorts.com/snowmass

CRESTWOOD CONDOMINIUMS is a luxury resort located conveniently on the slopes of Snowmass Village. It features cozy studio to four-bedroom suites, easy hike-in/hike-out access to the trails, and stunning views of the Colorado Rocky Mountains. www.aspensnowmass.com/visit/loping/properties/the-crestwood-condominiums

STONEBRIDGE INN offers gorgeous mountain scenery and quick access to the town and mountains. Stonebridge sits conveniently beside the Village Express lift, accommodating guests in charming, elegantly designed one- to four-bedroom suites crafted to emulate home in the Snowmass mountains. stonebridgesnowmass.com

SNOWMASS CLUB, a four seasons-accessible secluded retreat atop the stunning Roaring Fork River, offering a range of premier golf courses, relaxing lush spa treatments, and residences for guests looking to enjoy a private lodging experience, all access in a luxury Clubhouse. www.snowmassclub.com

LIMELIGHT HOTEL SNOWMASS, a ski resort for a serene escape, at the heart of the Snowmass Base Village, offers sophisticated suites, and 11 charming residences for guests to enjoy. This resort sits next to the gondola, with a private ice ring, and is a perfect backdrop for summer or winter mountain weddings. www.limelighthotels.com/snowmass

TIMBERLINE CONDOMINIUMS, featuring stunning snowy peaks in the winter, offers luxuriously designed studios, 3-bedroom suites all within easy access to the ski slopes. Just minutes from the Aspen airport, and the heart of Aspen itself, Timberline boasts a range of activities for wedding parties to enjoy. www.thetimberline.com



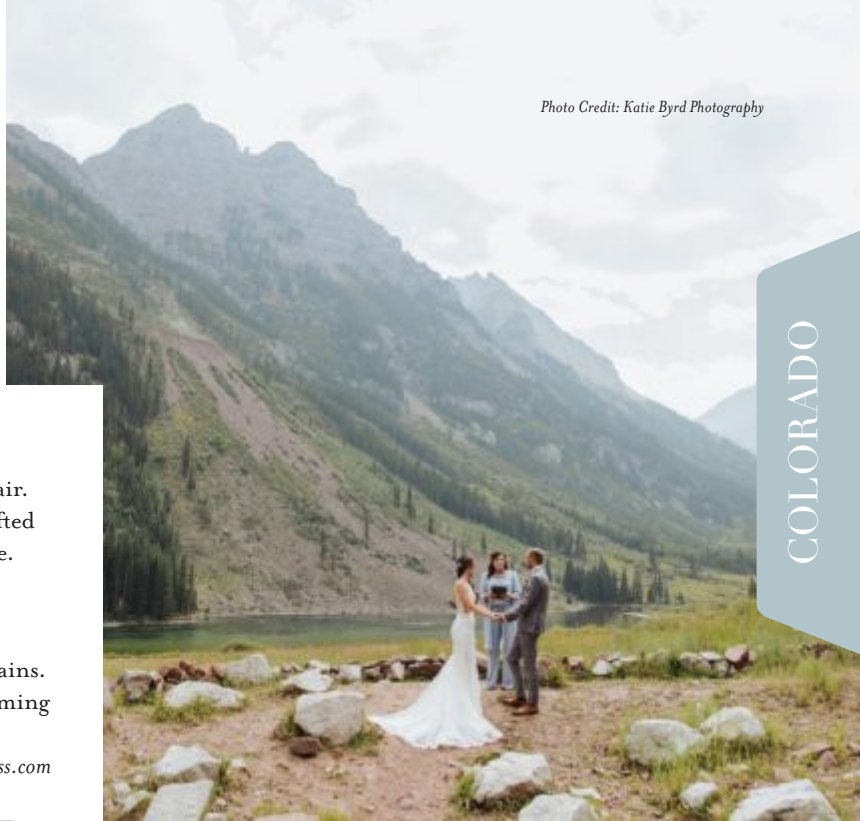
Photo Credit: Becca Smith, Travelfor2photography



Photo Credit: Becca Smith, Travelfor2photography



Photo Credit: Tamara Susa



EDGE RESTAURANT, located in the Timberline Condo, is an elegant blend of Swiss, German, and French flair. Serving gourmet dishes, classic German beers, and handcrafted delicacies and cocktails for a romantic fine dining experience. www.thetimberline.com/restaurant-web-1920

VIEWLINE SNOWMASS, a luxurious, exclusively designed ski resort tucked in the stunning Snowmass mountains. Suites are accommodating with lush 1960s décor, and a charming ambience, accented by easy access to the slopes, and thrilling adventures in the surrounding area. www.viewlineresortsnowmass.com

KEEPING YOU AND YOUR GUESTS ENTERTAINED

SNOWMASS CREEK OUTFITTERS, a breathtaking horseback riding ranch to explore the sights of Snowmass and Aspen. The ranch offers a unique experience for couples to ride through stunning, private mountain ranges for their special engagement accompanied by a photographer, for a 90-minute horseback ride. www.snowmasscreekoutfitters.com

THE SNOWMASS CONCERT SERIES is a unique concert experience in the Snowmass mountains at the Fanny Hill Concert Stage. A summer tradition, the Snowmass Concert Series commences Thursday nights from June to August and features eccentric live bands with striking mountainside views. www.gosnowmass.com/activity/summer-music-series

SNOWMASS RODEO is an exhilarating classic Colorado rodeo experience featuring bull riding, team roping, barrel racing, and more. Barbecue is served before the rodeo, and guests can enjoy live entertainment, a petting zoo, and mechanical bull rides. www.snowmassrodeo.org

MAROON BELLS, located in the tranquility of the Elk Mountains with captivating scenery, is one of five historic wilderness trails in Snowmass. Perfect for fall travel, the Four Pass Loop is a gorgeous backpacking route featuring serene lakes and the rolling peaks of the Elk Range. www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/whiteriver/recarea/?recid=81118

BLAZING ADVENTURES is the go-to for customized adventure experiences for intimate or large groups. Their motor coaches can also provide luxury transportation. Blazing Adventures specializes in river rafting, mountainside jeep tours, sunset dinners, and more. www.blazingadventures.com

For additional information visit www.gosnowmass.com



Photo Credit: Jeremy Swanson



Photo Credit: Tamara Susa



Photo Credit: Tamara Susa



Photo Credit: Sam Ferguson



Photo Credit: Sam Ferguson



SAYING “I DO” TO SUSTAINABILITY

Willows Lodge • Woodinville, Washington

By Sherra Meyers

GET ACQUAINTED

Willows Lodge in Woodinville, Washington, is a secluded retreat on manicured grounds at the edge of the Sammamish River in the heart of Woodinville Wine Country. Surrounded by serene foliage, gardens, and ancient plants, the lodge pays homage to the Northwest experience and rich history. The main structure is constructed using upcycled materials, such as 100-year-old Douglas Fir timbers from the old Port of Portland building, old wine casks for the entry doors, and stained concrete floors for its foundation. The lodge offers spacious luxury suites and rooms, beautiful rustic architecture, and a spa that uses locally sourced ingredients to provide a peaceful and relaxed escape. Additionally, the property features captivating views, providing a beautiful wine-country backdrop for intimate weddings.

BIG DAY DETAILS

Experience the magic of weddings at Willows Lodge, where beautiful garden backdrops and stunning ballroom venues set the stage for your special day. The open-air Garden Gazebo, adorned with a captivating copper awning and surrounded by flowers, offers an intimate outdoor setting with a breathtaking view of the Sammamish landscape. The Sammamish Ballroom epitomizes Pacific Northwest elegance, with floor-to-ceiling windows, warm décor, and seamless access to the garden patio for receptions. The premier wedding planners at Willows Lodge will bring your dream wedding to life precisely as you envision it.

GET THE DISH

Indulge in exquisite dining experiences at Willows Lodge. Barking Frog, the lodge’s main restaurant, offers a sophisticated, rustic setting and elegant ambiance, perfect for enjoying decadent seasonal dishes paired with renowned wines. For a cozy evening, Fireside Lounge provides live entertainment, delicious small plates, and an outdoor patio for cocktails. Experience a nine-course dinner of seasonal dishes and luxury wines at Herbfarm Restaurant, featuring fresh ingredients and a charming Pacific Northwest ambiance.

OUT AND ABOUT

Enjoy an abundance of activities at and around Willows Lodge. Indulge in a unique couple’s itinerary, with options like couple’s massages at The Spa, wine tasting in one of Woodinville’s 130 premier wineries, whale watching on the Puget Sound Express, or a scenic bike ride through charming Woodinville. Discover outdoor adventures, including the Woodinville Farmer’s Market, luxury boutiques in Bellevue, breathtaking hot air balloon rides, and more.

www.willowslodge.com

HOTEL OASIS, WATERFRONT BLISS

Edgewater Hotel • Seattle, Washington

By Sherra Meyers

GET ACQUAINTED

Perched atop Pier 67, the Edgewater Hotel boasts spectacular views of the Olympic Mountains, as well as the shimmering waters of Elliott Bay. Nestled just minutes away from the vibrant Seattle city center, this remarkable hotel has earned a reputation as a music hot spot, having played host to a wide array of musical legends including the Beatles, Led Zeppelin, and more. The hotel offers cozy rooms and suites, each providing guests with the experience of being on a cruise ship, with panoramic views of the stunning open waters or the glittering cityscape. Bordering all the attractions that define Seattle, the Edgewater Hotel is the perfect setting for one-of-a-kind waterfront weddings.

BIG DAY DETAILS

The Forest Room is a charming space designed for intimate ceremonies accommodating up to 24 guests. It boasts warm décor and features sliding glass doors that offer a captivating view of Elliott Bay. For larger ceremonies of up to 220 guests, the Olympic Ballroom is the perfect choice. This elegant ballroom showcases floor-to-ceiling windows that provide an enchanting ocean view of the Puget Sound Islands, Elliott Bay, and the Olympic Mountains. The room is adorned with wood ceilings and glistening chandeliers to create a truly magical ambiance. The Terrace Room, which is attached to the Olympic Ballroom, is an exquisite choice for wedding receptions, offering breathtaking views of the Seattle Skyline.

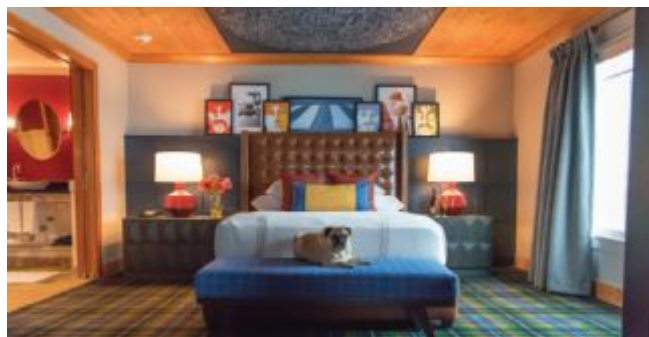
GET THE DISH

The Six Seven Restaurant at the Edgewater Hotel offers a culinary journey through gourmet Pacific Northwestern dishes, paired with a great wine selection. The nautilus-themed ambiance provides stunning Elliott Bay views, creating a dining experience that is truly one-of-a-kind. The Brim offers a cozy setting with Zoka Coffee Roasters and Teas for a delightful coffee experience.

OUT AND ABOUT

In Seattle, the Edgewater Hotel offers a wide range of activities for guests to enjoy, all within easy reach. Visitors can take part in Cocktail Cruising while enjoying the stunning views, and just minutes away is the Seattle Arts Museum, the iconic Pike Place Market, and a must-visit farmer's market. Additionally, guests can explore the Seattle Space Needle, a prominent landmark located at the edge of the Seattle Center, which is surrounded by museums, theme parks, and shops and hosts various summer festivals.

www.edgewaterhotel.com



WASHINGTON



“IT’S KEY WEST. COME AS YOU ARE!” - JIMMY BUFFET

Southernmost Beach Resort • Key West, Florida

By Lynn Walker

GET ACQUAINTED

At the Southernmost Beach Resort, you will be welcomed home in the Southernmost Way and a Key West State of Mind. It is time to relax, push all that stress away, put your toes in the sand and a Margarita in your hand. When planning your Key West wedding this is the location that will check all the boxes for you and your guests. Southernmost Beach Resort is situated on six acres of prime ocean front beaches and lush tropical surroundings. With a recent restoration of the Guesthouses, which consist of four Victorian homes the resort is an eclectic mix of accommodations creating an Island Paradise.

BIG DAY DETAILS

The staff at the Resort are prepared to make your special day relaxing and memorable with four unique and versatile venues to accommodate you and your guests, from two to two hundred!

South Beach — The signature oceanfront venue located on America’s Southernmost Beach with sunsets that will leave your guests in awe.

Sand Bar & Pavilion Oceanfront Beach — An intimate Oceanfront Beach location amongst the palms overlooking the clear blue waters of the Atlantic.

Tranquility Veranda — A poolside tropical paradise surrounded by lush foliage perfect for a small gathering to Chill and just enjoy being together.

Ocean View West Lawn — An expansive green lawn filled, with Royal palms and manicured garden landscaping, with an expansive oceanside view.

GET THE DISH

Southernmost Beach Café — The resorts oceanfront full-service restaurant with spectacular sunset views and delicious

Boat to Table choices of the freshest seafood. Shores Bar and Pineapple Bar are poolside options for lighter fare, signature cocktails and local specialties.

Conch Republic Seafood Company — Originally known as Singleton Fish House and Ice Plant, where the fishermen brought in their bounty for preparation and preservation.

Santiago’s Bodega — Jason Dugan’s labor of love, with Tapas styled cuisine, built from scratch.

Blue Heaven — Located in the heart of Old Key West, is the true meaning of the Key West Vibe with tables under the trees, live music, and unforgettable creative specialties.

OUT AND ABOUT

The island is only four miles long and one mile wide so getting around is very easy. You can rent a bike on property or just take a leisure stroll down Duval St, just outside your door.

(MUST DO Activities to offer your guests)

- The Key West Butterfly & Nature Conservatory, keywestbutterfly.com - less than a block from the resort.
- Island Tales, keywestislandtales.com – Hands down one of the most fun tour experiences with unique Tales about the island and its history.
- Lazy Dog, lazydog.com – paddleboard, kayak tours and boat rentals.

Key West is the place that will wrap you with the warm cozy feeling that you will never want to let go. As the late great Jimmy Buffet said, “Some people fly down here and never go back, this happened to me, and it may happen to you.”

SouthernmostBeachResort.com



FIT FOR A QUEEN AND HER KING

Sandals Royal Bahamian • Nassau, Bahamas

By Sherra Meyers

GET ACQUAINTED

Located in the heart of Nassau, Bahamas, Sandals Royal Bahamian is a breathtaking private island resort that offers an all-inclusive experience. It is an ideal destination for weddings, featuring luxurious Oceanview suites, stunning sky pools, a serene Red Lane spa, and a multitude of island activities to enjoy. Couples planning their wedding should consider the Crystal Lagoon Swim-up Suites, which come with premier butler service, Rolls Royce airport transportation, and private patios that lead to the beautiful Zen Garden pool.

BIG DAY DETAILS

Sandals Resorts are known for their beautiful wedding destinations, and the Royal Bahamian is no exception. They offer luxury wedding packages that can be customized to bring your wedding vision to life. The resort has exciting and romantic venues including:

1. A private island that boasts 360 views from shore to the Atlanta Ocean.
2. Beachfront Wedding: a traditional beach wedding venue set on a unique white sand beach, right at the edge of breathtaking waters. This venue is perfect for both grand and intimate ceremonies.
3. Oceanfront Gazebo: overlooking the stunning Bahama sands, with beautiful marble flooring and white arches.
4. Garden Gazebo: an intimate storybook garden with stunning statues and tropical blossoms leading to a magical white gazebo.

GET THE DISH

Sandals Royal Bahamian is known for its exceptional dining experiences. The resort boasts over ten restaurants, each with a unique decor and an array of decadent dishes from different cuisines including French, Italian, Seafood, British Pub, Mediterranean, and more. Guests are sure to indulge in a luxury culinary experience during their stay at this iconic island resort. If you're looking for off-property dining, Sapodilla is an ideal venue for wedding receptions and ceremonies, offering an elegant ambiance and delicious tasting menus.

OUT AND ABOUT

Sandals resort offers a wide range of activities that guests can enjoy during their stay. These activities include snorkeling, certified scuba diving, and kayaking, as well as lively parties on the beach. For those looking for relaxation, the Red Lane Spa is a great option. It offers Caribbean-style spa treatments, a luxury Yoga studio, and beautiful secluded gardens to lounge in. Besides, the city of Nassau itself offers unique adventures, including the famous Straw Market in downtown Nassau. This market is known for its eclectic range of handmade Bahamian art, such as hats, baskets, bags, jewelry, and much more. It's a perfect place to find specialized wedding party gifts. Additionally, guests can embark on an adventure and explore the 16 islands of the Bahamas via plane or ferry.

www.sandals.com/royal-bahamian



CELEBRATING A MILESTONE EVENT

St. Regis Bermuda Resort • St. George, Bermuda

By Michelle Hope

GET ACQUAINTED

The St. Regis Bermuda Resort is a luxurious oceanfront retreat nestled on Gates Bay in the historic town of St. George. This exclusive resort offers opulent accommodations, exceptional amenities, and outstanding service, all set against the backdrop of the stunning beachfront. Bermuda, a destination reminiscent of paradise, is remarkably accessible from the United States East Coast, just a 90-minute flight from New York. Conveniently, the resort is a mere 7 miles from the airport, ensuring a seamless transfer for you and your guests, whether you are celebrating a special milestone event or anniversary.

WE SIMPLY ADORE

- Experience the ultimate in relaxation with liquid therapy, a luxurious and rejuvenating way to unwind.
- Immerse yourself in a timeless tradition with afternoon tea at St. Regis, where you'll be treated to British charm and impeccable personalized service.
- Don't miss the exclusive Champagne Sabering, a nightly ritual that's unique to St. Regis. As a resort guest, you're invited to join the ceremony and savor a glass of champagne every evening in this special experience.

OUT AND ABOUT

When visiting Bermuda, don't miss out on the chance to explore Fort St. Catherine, an impressive coastal artillery installation that offers breathtaking views of the Atlantic Ocean. Just next door is Achilles Bay then Tobacco Bay, a national park famous for its stunning underwater reefs, making it an ideal spot for snorkeling. Additionally, make sure to visit the awe-inspiring Crystal Caves of Bermuda, one of the largest cave systems on the island, formed during the Ice Age. These captivating caves are located in the capital city of Hamilton Parish, just a short drive from the resort.

HERE'S THE SCOOP

The St. Regis Bermuda Resort offers breathtaking, expansive ocean views that will leave you in awe. The pristine beach is just steps away, and hidden treasures wait to be discovered in the private island coves around the corner. Indulge in luxurious spa treatments when you're ready to unwind, and savor fresh and inspiring cuisine at one of the three unique on-site restaurants. This resort effortlessly captures the warmth and love of the beautiful island, providing an ultimate romantic destination.

www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/bdaxr-the-st-regis-bermuda-resort/



BIRTHPLACE OF THE PINA COLADA

Caribe Hilton • San Juan, Puerto Rico

By Sherra Meyers

GET ACQUAINTED

Nestled in the vibrant heart of San Juan, Puerto Rico, you'll find the enchanting Caribe Hilton. As the first international Hilton brand hotel, this sprawling 17-acre resort offers a selection of luxurious suites boasting picturesque ocean views and lush tropical gardens. Guests can unwind by the serene infinity pool, indulge in a private cabana, and practice yoga in the state-of-the-art fitness center; there's something for everyone. Don't miss the opportunity to swim beneath the cascading waterfall that graces one of the resort's many inviting pools. Caribe Hilton is a true Caribbean haven and is renowned as the birthplace of the iconic Pina Colada cocktail.

BIG DAY DETAILS

The resort offers picturesque storybook gardens and stunning beachfront lawns for enchanting outdoor weddings ideal for intimate ceremonies. For grand celebrations, opulent ballrooms and smaller, more private venue spaces are available for additional gatherings. At Caribe, the dedicated events team can assist with planning every aspect of your wedding. You can also collaborate with local wedding planners and photographers to create a unique and personalized wedding experience.

GET THE DISH

Indulge in a culinary adventure at Caribe Hilton, where you'll find nine unique restaurants and bars to suit any taste. Begin your day at Néctar del Caribe, where you can savor a delightful breakfast buffet accompanied by specialty cocktails. Rustica Ristorante

provides a cozy atmosphere where you can enjoy an eclectic menu of pasta dishes perfectly complemented by a selection of fine wines.

For an authentic taste of Puerto Rican cuisine, immerse yourself in the vibrant surroundings of Lola's Puerto Rican Cuisine. Here, you can relish traditional Puerto Rican dishes amidst lush greenery. As evening falls, treat yourself to an unforgettable fine dining experience at Morton's in San Juan, where you can feast on various classic steakhouse dishes while taking in breathtaking oceanfront views. Bagua Bar is the hotspot if you're in the mood for a refreshing swim and delightful drinks.

OUT AND ABOUT

Immerse yourself in the tranquility of Zen Spa Océano, a serene beachfront retreat offering a range of rejuvenating treatments and a luxurious sauna. Enhance your tennis skills with private lessons at the Monica Puig Tennis Courts, nestled within the resort. Be sure to peruse the activity calendar for the week of your visit to discover the array of thrilling experiences the resort has meticulously planned for guests. Beyond the resort, pedal through the charming streets of old San Juan and uncover the rich history of the Puerto Rican capital. Indulge in the vibrant atmosphere of the Condado beach strip, where lively bars, clubs, and shops await. And for a unique shopping experience, venture to Plaza Las Américas, the Caribbean's largest and most diverse mall.

www.hilton.com/en/hotels/sjnhhh-caribe-hilton/

CELEBRATING LOVE ON THE LOVE BOAT

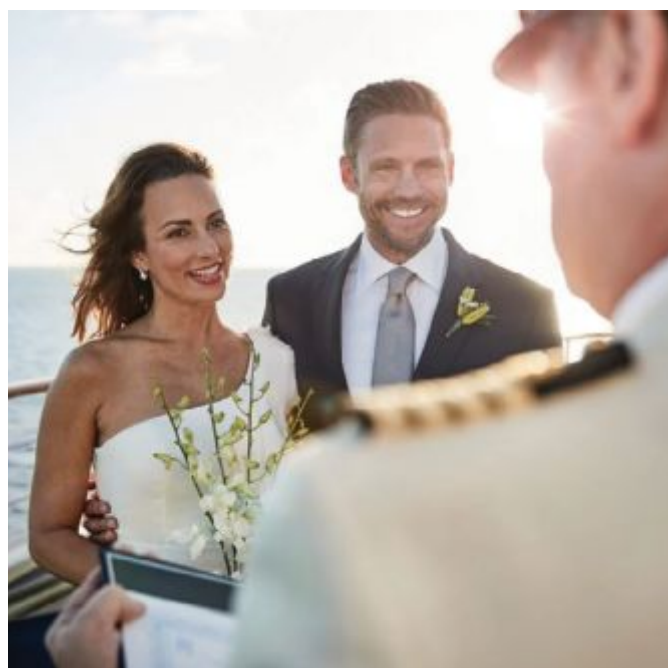
And Randi Fenoli, Princess Cruises Love & Romance Ambassador • Regal Princess

By Sherra Meyers



BIG DAY DETAILS

Twenty-five years ago, Princess set the standard for weddings at sea with “The Love Boat.” Today, experience the magic of destination weddings with Princess Perfect Weddings packages. The Piazza on the ship, inspired by the beauty of European squares, lends itself to large ceremonies, with a spiral staircase for entrance and surrounding views of the breathtaking water beyond. Or get married outside, with the sea at your back. If you’re looking for something intimate, check out the Princess Cruise line’s three wedding packages equipped with stunning wedding day details for small or large ceremonies as 1-18 guests. Later this year, Randy Fenoli, Princess Cruises Romance and Love Ambassador, will introduce a signature package.



GET ACQUAINTED

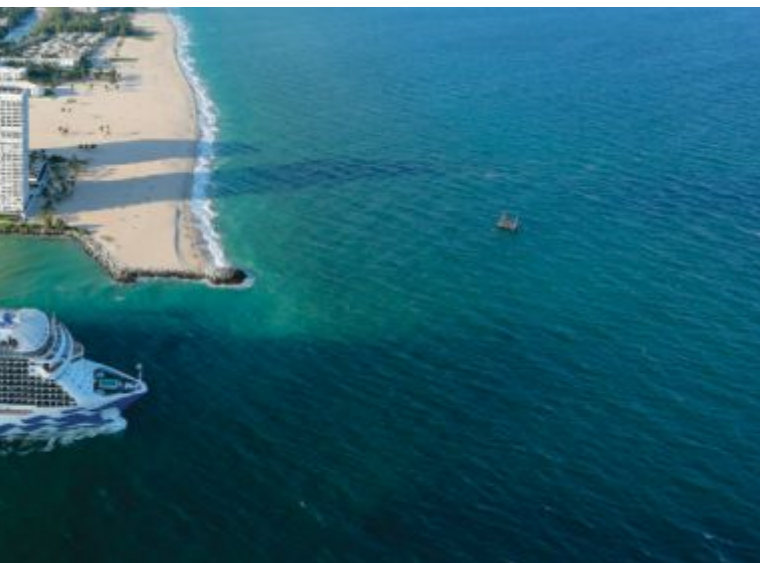
Experience the extraordinary Regal Princess, a 19-deck marvel from the renowned cruise line Princess Cruises. With over 1,400 balconies, you can indulge in a serene journey while enjoying many activities and amenities. Step onto the remarkable SeaWalk, a unique 28-foot glass walkway at the end of the ship offering stunning ocean views. Unwind at the Lotus Spa, offering facials and salon services for the ultimate relaxation. For adults seeking tranquility, the Sanctuary provides a private retreat for drinks and relaxation away from the excitement. Regal Princess boasts captivating, luxurious suites with breathtaking balcony views, making you feel at home. If you require more space, the dazzling Mini-Suite features a separate sitting area with a perfect view of the water from the balcony. Filled with live entertainment, serene spas, world-class restaurants, and incredible views, Regal Princess is the ideal cruise for a destination wedding.

GET THE DISH

When you're at sea and hunger strikes, worry not, for Regal Princess has something for every craving. Indulge in fine Italian dining at Sabatini's Italian Trattoria, where you'll savor authentic Italian flavors, exquisite wines, and decadent desserts in an elegant setting. Crown Grill offers a delightful experience with its theatrical kitchen, delectable seafood, and intimate ambiance. If you're in the mood for poolside dining, Trident Grill serves classic treats like hot dogs, barbecue, and hamburgers right by the water. For a sweet indulgence, head to the International Café. For a truly luxurious dining experience, look no further than Chef's Table Lumiere, complete with sophisticated décor, champagne, and an outstanding multi-course dining experience—a perfect choice for celebratory dinners. With personalized dining options, you can reserve specific dining times at your convenience. Best of all, the dining room is complimentary.



CRUISE



OUT AND ABOUT

Discover an endless array of activities on the Regal Princess, offering something for everyone. Indulge in luxury shopping at the Shops of Princess, take a refreshing swim in the freshwater pools, and enjoy breathtaking views while watching a movie under the stars at the poolside amphitheater. Be captivated by the Princess Watercolor Fantasy Show, savor delicious cocktails and trendy décor at Club 6, and rejuvenate your body and mind at the Lotus Spa Fitness Center or The Enclave.

Venture off the ship to embark on thrilling and unique experiences. Dive into the crystal waters of Roatan, Honduras, with a B.O.S.S. underwater adventure, experience a Segway tour and beach break in Costa Maya, and partake in Mexican cooking classes in Cozumel. Each destination offers a chance to make unforgettable memories that will last a lifetime.

www.princess.com/en-us

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417-438-3322
dogwoodcanyon.org

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hiltonsandestinbeach.com

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