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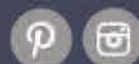
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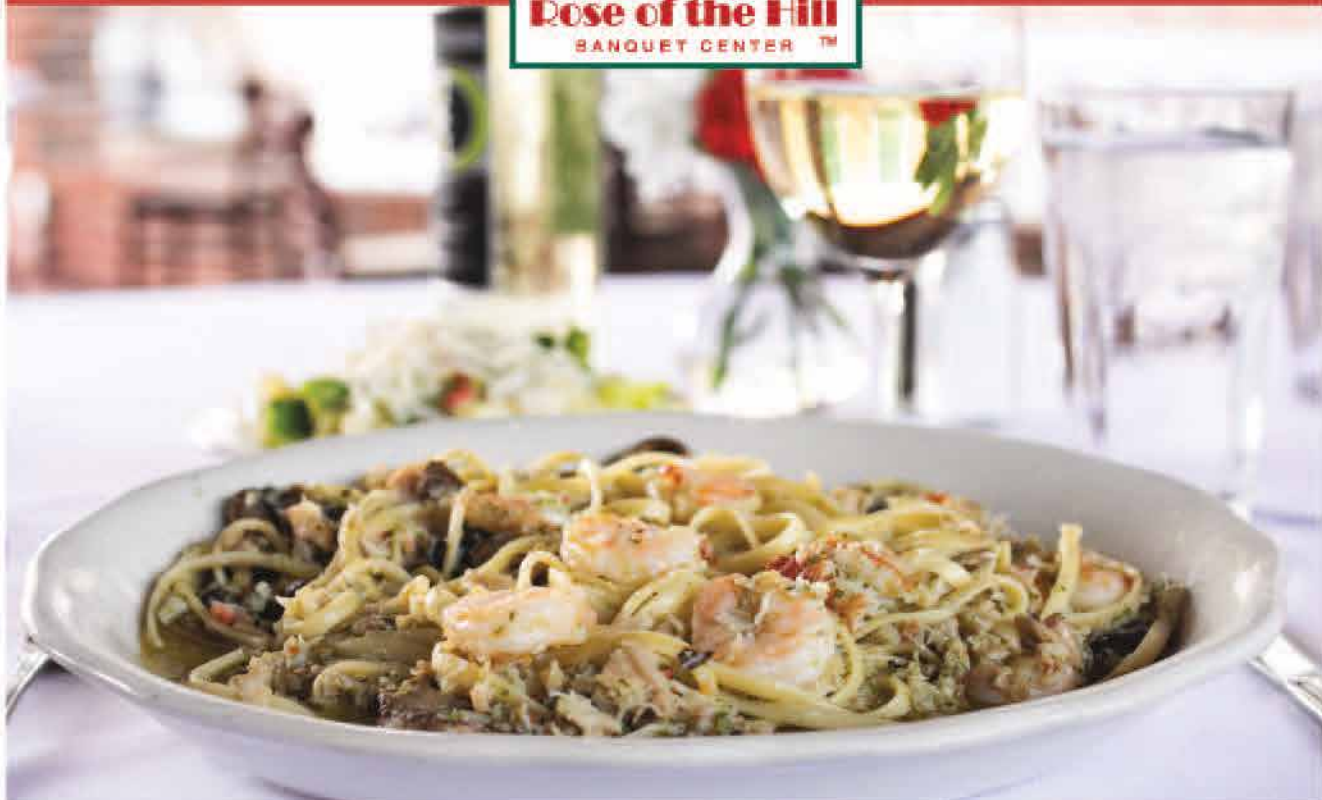
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The pressure is on.

Don't stress. Saint Louis Best Bridal is here to help.

Saint Louis Best Bridal magazine and stlouisbestbridal.com contain the resources you need to plan your dream wedding. Flip through the pictures we carefully compiled from the florists, bakers, clothing designers, photographers, venues and more in the St. Louis area to spark your inspiration and imagination. Read our wedding stories and 'borrow' their cool ideas, traditions and decorations. Feature articles will guide you through the 'must haves' and the 'I wants.'

On behalf of the entire team at Saint Louis Best Bridal, we hope you create the wedding of your dreams.

ON THE COVER



Rachel Warhover and Kyle Schloesser stroll on the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville campus on Oct. 27, 2018, their wedding day.



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Table of contents



WEDDING STORIES

- 25 Blended cultures: Taylor & Alexander
- 31 Hearts in tune: Avianna & Jared
- 37 Over the rainbow: Mallory & Brittany
- 41 Pups and playlists: Olivia & Patrick
- 47 Rain on your wedding day: Stacia & Brendan
- 51 Middle school sweethearts: Kennedi & Malek
- 55 Laid-back love: Katie & Jordan





PROMOTIONS

- 58 Cake dives
- 115 Venue directory
- 128 Destination honeymoon

MUSIC

- 102 Pick your tunes
- 103 Book your band

IDEAS & ESSENTIALS

- 62 The wedding party
- 64 Wedding planning
- 67 Wedding websites
- 68 Get organized
- 70 Sign on the dotted line
- 97 Getting ready for the day





FOOD

- 72 Food & drink trends
- 73 Dessert trends
- 106 Here's to a good toast
- 107 Drink locally. Eat sustainably
- 108 Catering styles
- 109 Course by course

FASHION

- 74 The style that fits
- 76 It's all about the look
- 84 Dressing to the nines
- 96 Bye-bye matchy-matchy

FLOWERS

- 88 Say it with color
- 89 Let your personality bloom





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What's new at SAINT LOUIS BEST BRIDAL

Just like a wedding dress with poofy sleeves, we decided an update was in order for our magazine, website and content. Our makeover so far goes like this:

THE LOOK

Logo: We updated our logo to more of a classic design, and the magazine and website with it.

Website: We redesigned and reorganized our website to make it easier than ever for you to locate the resources you seek. There are now three main sections: **Announcements** that contain your free engagement and wedding announcements; **Trends** contains Food, Fashion and Flower content and photos; Wedding Stories feature local wedding pictorials; Ideas & Essentials have the planning tools and tips you may need to stay organized and be inspired. Visiting the **Events and Promotions** page is a must! You don't want to miss entering our contests and prize giveaways (win a honeymoon!) as well as wedding show and music events. **Promising Partnerships** lists tips and advice from bridal retailers in the area.

Keep an eye out for our **Instagrams of the Week** to see if your friends' weddings are featured in this weekly collection.



THE CONTENT


Social: You'll notice that both the magazine and website contain more photos giving lots of ideas quickly. Visit our Instagram page weekly to see if your wedding or engagement announcement was posted. Friend our Facebook page for inspo and to keep up with all of our events and activities. Scroll through our Pinterest boards to visually create the wedding you've always imagined.

Newsletter: The newsletter makes it easy for you to keep up-to-date on our featured content, photo collections and events and promotions. Sign up and be automatically registered for a weekly prize.

EVENTS AND PROMOS

Events: Our wedding shows are a must for the newly engaged. Get a first-hand look at food, attire, flowers and talk to DJs, photographers and other wedding experts. You will not leave without gaining valuable resources and ideas.

Promotions: Our always-popular cake dive for brides was held on June 9 and the groom's cake dive takes place on Sept 17. In both promotions, ten winners of our photo contest searched face-first inside a giant wedding cake to find an all-inclusive trip, flowers, a tuxedo rental package and more from our generous sponsors. Talk about a sweet reward!

Visit slbestbridal.com for upcoming events and contests. 





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FALL & WINTER 2019

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Wedding STORIES

Counter-clockwise, from top left | Katie and Jordan's family-style wedding and reception checked all the boxes for this easygoing couple. | Taylor and Alexander's wedding called for a colorful and cultural wardrobe change. | Kennedy and Malek met in middle school and sealed their future as adults with their soon-to-be daughter in their hearts. | Olivia and Patrick celebrated their wedding with Beadie the dog and Beatles the band. | Brittany and Mallory created their own rainbow in the midst of a rainy day wedding. | Stacia and Brendan didn't let the unexpected wedding day showers rain on their parade. | Avianna sang her way into Jared's heart during a nine-month long-distance relationship.







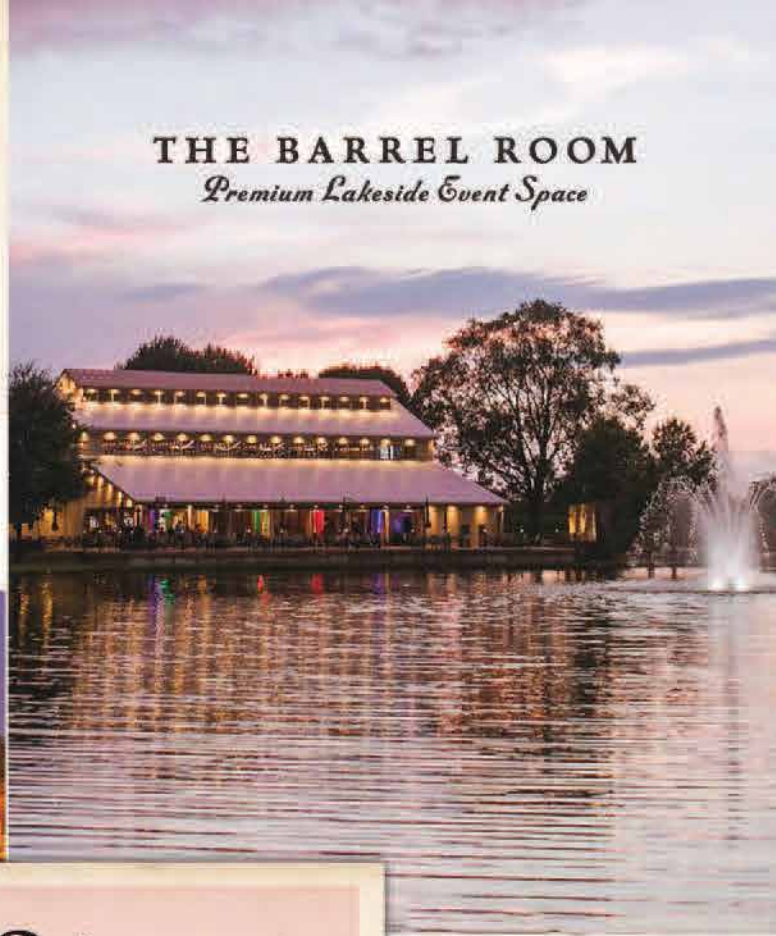
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Taylor & Alexander

NOVEMBER 7, 2015

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHELLE MARIE PHOTOGRAPHIE



Taylor and Alexander met in the operating room, were engaged in front of the Taj Mahal and married in St. Louis where they traded in their scrubs for a multi-cultural wedding which included multiple wardrobe changes.

On the wedding day, the couple blended their cultural backgrounds and their love of country music. For the ceremony, Taylor wore a simple and elegant Ann Taylor gown and Alexander wore an Indian-style suit with cowboy boots. Taylor changed into traditional Indian lehenga for the reception and Alexander wore a Jodhpuri suit. Their favorite country songs indicated table assignments and Johnny Walker Black was the liquor of choice.





CEREMONY: St. Peter Catholic Church | RECEPTION: Stifel Theatre
 REHEARSAL DINNER: Chase Park Plaza | INVITATIONS: Rock Paper Scissors
 BRIDE'S DRESS: DAYTIME CEREMONY: BHLDN; EVENING RECEPTION: Bawrre (Atlanta, GA)
 BRIDESMAID'S DRESSES: DAYTIME CEREMONY: Ann Taylor; EVENING RECEPTION: Image Boutique (Atlanta, GA)
 HAIR & MAKEUP: Chase Park Plaza Salon and Spa | MEN'S ATTIRE: Dhruv Vaish, Jainsons (Delhi, India)
 RINGS: Glenn Betz Jewelers | FLOWERS: Walter Knoll Florist | CAKE/DESSERTS: Lubeley's Bakery
 ENTERTAINMENT: Galaxy Red | PHOTOGRAPHER: Michelle Marie Photographie
 VIDEOGRAPHER: Birdseye Media | HONEYMOON DESTINATION: Mediterranean Cruise



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Cocktail

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4) Wedding Cake

5) Candy Buffet

6) House Center Pieces

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gone) Pretzel Bites with Cheese Sauce and Snack Mix

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Caesar Salad



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Avianna & Jared

SEPTEMBER 1, 2018

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ELIZABETH & GEORGE PHOTOGRAPHY



Two right swipes brought free spirits Avianna and Jared together. They fell in love in the midst of a long-distance relationship as Avianna traveled the globe pursuing her singing career. Thoughts of her blue-eyed man drew her back to St. Louis and they were married in September of 2018 at the Ruins in Tower Grove Park.

The wedding decor centered around green fronds and palms, with a palette of blush, burgundy, ivory and navy blue. At the reception in the Piper Palm House, Avianna serenaded Jared with a song – “Best Part” by Daniel Caesar. “I was fortunate enough that a woman who had traveled the world chose me as her husband,” Jared said.





CEREMONY/RECEPTION: Piper Palm House

REHEARSAL DINNER: Tower Grove Park Carousel Pavilion | **INVITATIONS:** Etsy

BRIDE'S DRESS: Simply Elegant Bridal | **BRIDESMAID'S DRESSES:** Lulus

HAIR: Friends | **MAKEUP:** Michael Shead | **MEN'S ATTIRE:** Jos A Bank

RINGS: Avi Jared's; Jared: Manly Bands | **FLOWERS:** Sisters Floral Design Studio

CAKE: The Sweet Divine | **ENTERTAINMENT:** CEREMONY: Harp Inspirations; RECEPTION: DJ Deks

PHOTOGRAPHER: Elizabeth & George Photography

HONEYMOON DESTINATION: Phuket, Yao Noi, Bangkok, Thailand

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Mallory & Brittany

MAY 19, 2018

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LAURA TUCKER PHOTOGRAPHY

The first date reflected the wedding: rainy. For their first date, Brittany and Mallory attended a Cardinals game, which turned into a downpour which made for an exciting adventure. For their wedding in 2018, May showers blew in and turned their outside wedding into an indoor one, which Brittany remarked is a sign of good luck for their matrimonial future adventures.

Their rustic, lavender-themed wedding was laid-back, complete with a family officiant, an open bar and the presence of their dog, Gracie. They ended their night with sparklers to light the way out and after the wedding took part in the "trashing the dress" trend.

CEREMONY/RECEPTION: Deerfield Lodge
(Cape Girardeau, MO)

REHEARSAL DINNER: Deerfield Lodge

INVITATIONS: Etsy

BRIDE'S & BRIDESMAID'S DRESSES: David's Bridal

HAIR: The Hair Loft Salon & Spa, Mallone Jones

RINGS: Jared

FLOWERS: Shay's Bouquets

CAKE: Lorelei Morris

ENTERTAINMENT: DJ Zigs (New York)

PHOTOGRAPHER: Laura Tucker Photography

VIDEOGRAPHER: Caleb Tucker Videos







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Olivia & Patrick

MAY 12, 2018

PHOTOS BY DREAMING TREE PHOTOGRAPHY

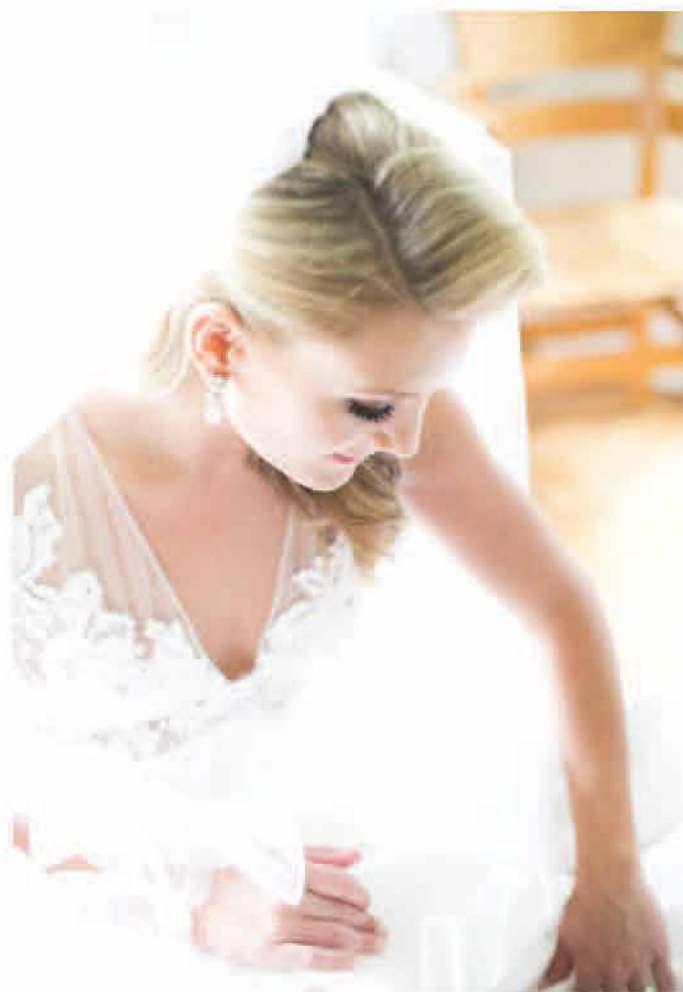


When Patrick and Olivia met on a chance weekend trip, sharing jokes and chili cheese dogs, they had little idea they'd be married years later.

After Patrick proposed with a little help from their dog, Beadie, the couple was married at St. Cecilia Catholic Church in May 2018. Olivia stuck with a theme of white flowers, greenery and gold accents, which gave the event a "fresh, natural and classic" feel.

Their family had a significant role in the wedding's personality. Olivia walked down the aisle to "Here Comes the Sun," a tribute to her biological father's love for the Beatles. A few of Olivia's relatives played music and sang for the happy couple, and small swatches from her mother and grandmother's old wedding gowns were sewn into the inside of Olivia's dress. "Having all of our family and friends there to surround us with love and support that day truly reflected our love and support for each other," Olivia said.





CEREMONY: St. Cecilia Catholic Church | **RECEPTION:** Missouri Athletic Club
REHEARSAL DINNER: Deer Creek Club | **INVITATIONS:** JE Design Studio | **BRIDE'S DRESS:** Rita Vinieris
BRIDESMAID'S DRESSES: Show Me Your Mumu | **HAIR & MAKEUP:** Danielle's style
MEN'S ATTIRE: Vera Wang | **RINGS:** Palecek Diamond Setting Co. | **FLOWERS:** Bloomin' Buckets
CAKE: Missouri Athletic Club | **ENTERTAINMENT:** Fabulous Motown Revue, Fish Eye Fun
PHOTOGRAPHER: Dreaming Tree Photography | **VIDEOGRAPHER:** Kyle Dufendach
HONEYMOON DESTINATION: Hawaii, Maui and Kauai



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Stacia & Brendan

MARCH 30, 2019

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JESS & JEN PHOTOGRAPHY



Fun-loving Brendan and Stacia made the most of their windy, cold and rainy wedding day. They managed to maintain their humor and composure after their outdoor wedding was moved indoors. "Everything was a rainy mess, but it could not have been more perfect to us," said Stacia.

Simplicity was the chosen style. Bridesmaids wore unmatched navy dresses and the groomsmen wore gray suits. Greenery accented the flowers and was used on the table centerpieces to provide a contrast to the crisp, white table linens.

Stacia and Brendan both agreed that being surrounded by family and friends was their favorite part — not a difficult task considering they had a 24-member wedding party!



CEREMONY/RECEPTION: Old Hickory Golf Course
 REHEARSAL DINNER: Vito's in the Valley | INVITATIONS: Natalie Peterson @NPDesignCo
 BRIDE'S DRESS: Juno Bridal | BRIDESMAID'S DRESSES: Azazie
 HAIR AND MAKEUP: STLooks | MEN'S ATTIRE: Brook's Brothers | RINGS: Lord's Diamonds
 FLOWERS: Sheri Young | CAKE: Laurie Cakes | ENTERTAINMENT: Applause Productions
 PHOTOGRAPHERS: Jess and Jenn Photography | VIDEOGRAPHER: Applause Productions
 HONEYMOON DESTINATION: Montego Bay, Jamaica



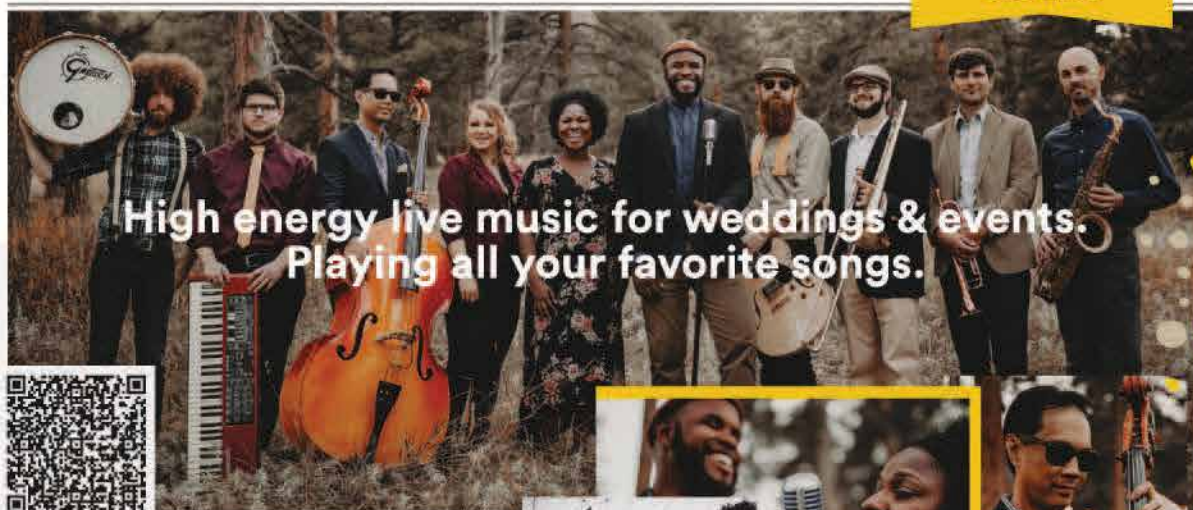
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DIAMOND EMPIRE BAND



Kennedi & Malek

APRIL 21, 2018

PHOTOGRAPHY BY TROTTER PHOTO

Kennedi and Malek met in middle school and grew closer as time went on. Kennedy knew they were meant to be when they spent hours mapping out their future as parents to their unborn daughter. After a public and failed proposal attempt at a local restaurant, Malek proposed in their home. The proposal at home was "a lot more intimate and just as special," remarked Kennedy.

With the Gateway Arch in the background, burgundy, blush pink and ivory with silver accents adorned the ceremony and reception. Kennedy crafted the bouquets, centerpieces and table decorations herself.

Time flew by that day with the exception of their first dance where they finally were able to settle in as husband and wife.

CEREMONY/RECEPTION:

The Hyatt Regency St. Louis at The Arch

REHEARSAL DINNER: Lotawata Creek

INVITATIONS: Handmade - Etsy template

BRIDE'S DRESS: The Ultimate Bride

BRIDESMAID DRESSES: Amazon

HAIR & MAKEUP: Glam by DeNeen

MEN'S ATTIRE: Men's Wearhouse

RINGS: Jared

FLOWERS: Handmade

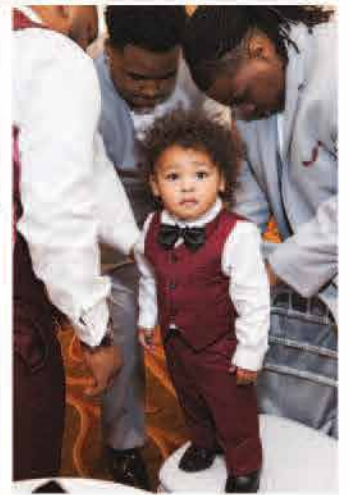
CAKE/DESSERTS: The Hyatt Regency at The Arch

ENTERTAINMENT: DJ Black Pearl

PHOTOGRAPHER/VIDEOGRAPHER: Trotter Photo

HONEYMOON DESTINATION: Maui, Hawaii








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 Mother of the Bride & Groom
 Flower Girls





Katie & Jordan

MAY 18, 2019

PHOTOGRAPHY BY KRISTEN HENDRICKS PHOTOGRAPHY

Katie and Jordan had their first date at Steinburg Ice Rink. They professed their love at a Blues game. Jordan proposed in a restaurant in front of the Arch – talk about hitting all of the hot spots!

The couple wanted their wedding to be as well-rounded as their dating life. Katie's childhood church, St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Godfrey, IL, was the centerpiece of their wedding. It was important to Katie and Jordan to express their faith with a church wedding.

Equally important were Katie and Jordan's families. Katie's bouquet was wrapped with a piece of her mother's wedding dress. And, by moving their head table to the center of the room and having family, wedding party and dates sit with them, they were able to share the celebration in a family-style way.

Dancing and late-night pizza rounded out the evening.

CEREMONY: St. Ambrose Catholic Church

RECEPTION/CATERER/BAR: Heart of St. Charles Ballrooms

BRIDE'S DRESS: Mia Grace Bridal

ALTERATIONS: Phydella's Alterations

MEN'S ATTIRE: Savvi Formalwear

FLOWERS: Patty's Petals

CAKE: Wedding Wonderland Cake Shop

COOKIES: Cookie Factory Bakery

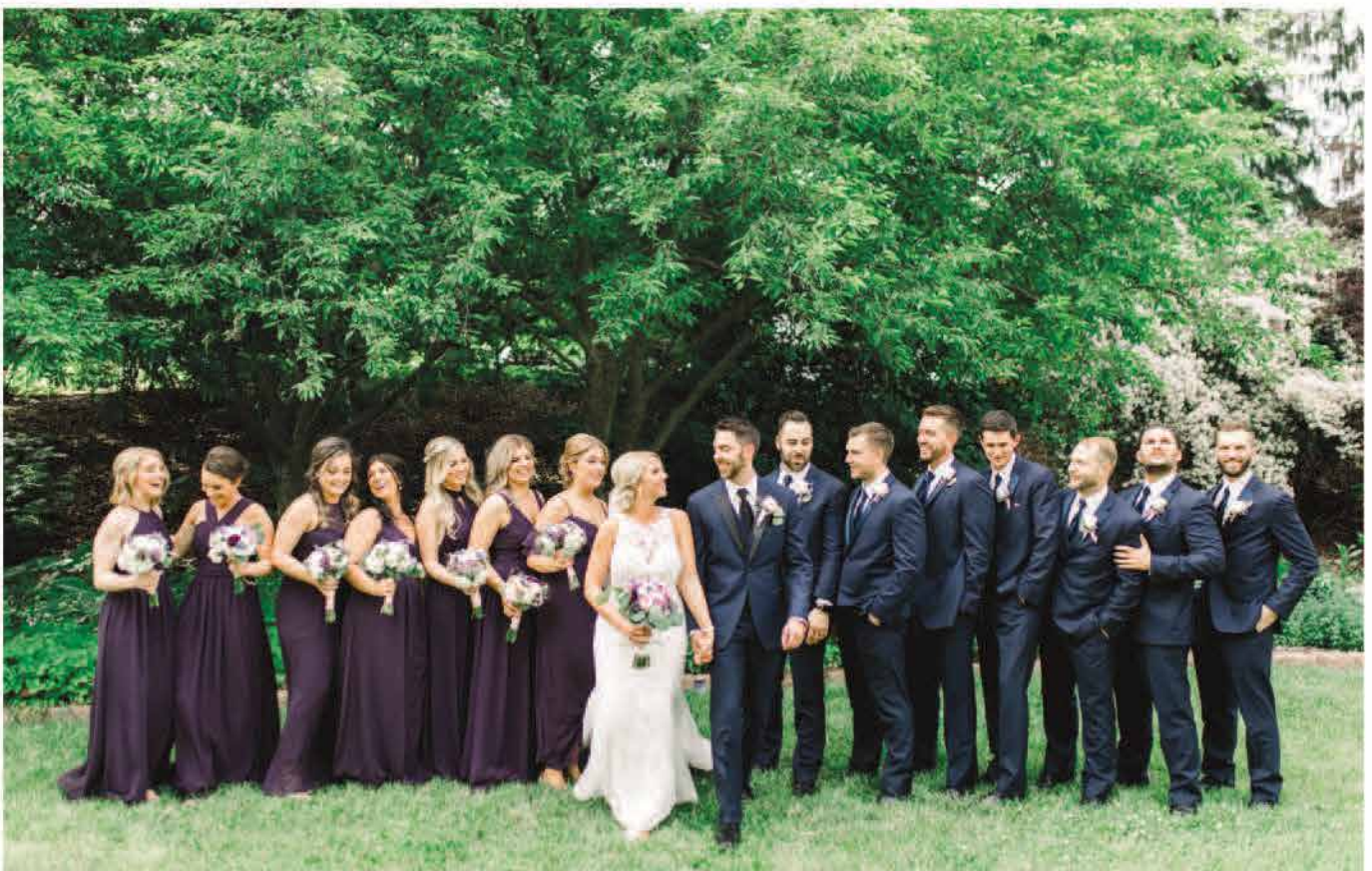
TRANSPORTATION: STL Road Pony

ENTERTAINMENT: Complete Weddings + Events St. Louis

PHOTOGRAPHER: Kristen Hendricks Photography

VIDEOGRAPHER: Mayde with Love Productions





Brides dive face-first



Brides will do just about anything to receive a freebie for their wedding to help their bottom line. Anything includes going face-first into a wedding cake to search for a plastic ring that contains prizes from sponsors! The ten women who received the top number of votes for the couples' photos online at STLToday.com were invited to dive. Visit stlbestbridal.com for more details.



WINNERS RECEIVED:

- All inclusive trip for two to Cancun from Travel Plans
- Wedding gown preservation from American Cleaners
- Wedding gown from the Wedding Gallery
- Wedding meal from Fatazzi's on the Hill
- Buttercream wedding cake from Rovers Catering
- Services or products from Thrift Phone
- Groom's tuxedo package from Savet Formalwear
- Rehearsal dinner at the Saint Charles Convention Center
- Tickets to a St. Louis Cardinals game



Grooms take the cake



2018 WINNERS RECEIVED:

- Trip for two from Travel Haus
- Wedding cake from Russo's Catering
- Wedding meal from Favazza's Rose of the Hill
- Bridal shower at Saint Charles Convention Center
- Wedding tuxedo from Savvi Formalwear
- Wedding bouquet and floral table centers from Walter Knoll Florist
- Photo booth from Trotter Photo
- Engagement video shoot from Strike A Pose
- Rehearsal dinner from Andre's Banquets and Catering
- DJ services from Complete Weddings + Events
- Wedding gown package from Wedding Gallery
- Gown preservation services from American Cleaners



Grooms will always set out to grab giveaways for their wedding; or rather, dig for it with their faces. The group of men, clad in goggles and with their hands behind their backs, will plunge face-first into a multi-tiered wedding cake on Sept. 17, 2019. The goal is to find a plastic ring buried within, containing prizes from our sponsors. Grooms compete for a variety of sweet prizes, in addition to a sweet snack from all that cake. Check out stlbestbridal.com for more details.



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The wedding party

HONOR THOSE WHO LOVE AND CARE ABOUT YOU



On your wedding day, people who surround you should be those you care about and trust. Bridesmaids and groomsmen serve this joyful purpose, so you and your spouse should invite only close relatives, best friends and faithful supporters.

In memory and photograph, these people will always be beside you on your special day. Ask people who you want to spend time with—not only at your wedding but in your future. A thoughtful bride and groom consider options and assets for possible attendants before they invite them to be part of their wedding.

Common sense lines up one to three attendants at a small, intimate wedding. A large, lavish or more formal affair will likely have more—up to 12 for each of you, provided they fit the purpose, site, camera lens and budget.

Most weddings have four to seven attendants. One groomsman per bridesmaid keeps symmetry at the altar and in photos, but there is no rule. Be certain that attendants feel comfortable with your choices for their pairings throughout the day.

Your wedding party can be easily chosen

in the case of a destination wedding: the attendants probably earn a spot at your side if they are willing to make a distant trip for you. If the officiant agrees, an attendant may be someone of the opposite sex.

Groomsmen or other men, as ushers, help seat family and friends, with specific ones honored to seat mothers of the bride and groom. A young family member or close family friend can be flower girl, ring bearer or train bearer. “Juniors” fall in the age gap between flower girl/ring bearer and bridesmaid/groomsman.

MAID OR MATRON OF HONOR

Whether already down the aisle (matron) or not (maid), an honor attendant should be someone dear to the bride's heart and on whom she can depend personally – perhaps a sister or a best friend – while planning and, just as importantly, on the wedding day.

BRIDESMAIDS/GROOMSMEN

A sister, brother, other family member or close friend of either bride or groom usually becomes a bridesmaid, groomsman or usher. They help with wedding errands. Bridesmaids (sometimes groomsmen, too) throw a bridal shower. All are key guests at pre-wedding events.


BEST MAN

The best man should be someone the groom trusts to help with his wedding details and who will also provide moral support during this wonderful, stressful time of his life. Often, the groom asks a brother, close relative or best friend to stand beside him and, literally, get him to the church on time.

FLOWER GIRLS

One or two flower girls, age 4 to 8, walk down the aisle alone or with a ring bearer. A shy flower girl may be paired with a more confident child. Family choice – or the officiant's guidelines – determine if a parent makes the entrance with his or her infant or very young child. As they walk down the aisle before the bride, flower girls may hold a ball of flowers on a ribbon, a basket of rose petals to scatter or baby roses to pass to guests.

RING BEARER

The ring bearer – a young boy of age 4 or 5 – walks down the aisle alone or with the flower girl(s). He carries a decorative pillow or box with real or artificial rings attached with ribbon. To avoid misplacement, the best man may securely hold real ones. 

news⁺

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Wedding PLANNING

**YOU'VE FOUND THE
LOVE OF YOUR LIFE AND
THE TWO OF YOU ARE
GETTING MARRIED!**

NOW WHAT?

Your wedding is one of the most complex events you, your spouse-to-be and your families may ever orchestrate. A solid plan moves the process forward so the anticipation is pleasant. This timeline and checklist help organize details from a chaotic start into the happiest celebration of your lives.

9-12 MONTHS

- ❑ Select a date and time for the wedding
- ❑ Arrange for parents to get together, perhaps at an engagement party or informally over dinner
- ❑ Begin to compile guest list
- ❑ Discuss budget with everyone who may contribute financially; establish priorities, including honeymoon
- ❑ Interview potential wedding planners
- ❑ Select officiant and visit with him or her to discuss wedding preparation and procedures

- ❑ Select catering service if not provided by reception site
- ❑ Visit www.stlouisbestbridal.com to announce – for **free** – your engagement online and in the local St. Louis Post-Dispatch
- ❑ Choose members of the wedding party
- ❑ Research legal rules for marriage license in location where you will wed and immediately add dates to implement them to calendar
- ❑ Narrow down ceremony and reception sites and book them (a popular location may book 18 months in advance or open



reservations only 12 months before date)

- ❑ Close in on style, theme and colors

6-9 MONTHS

- ❑ Book photographer and videographer
- ❑ Book ceremony musicians and reception band or DJ
- ❑ Reserve party rental equipment (tables, chairs, tents, lighting)
- ❑ Shop for and order bridal gown and accessories
- ❑ Select florist



- ❑ Select bridesmaids' dresses
- ❑ Close in on final guest list, addresses
- ❑ Arrange wedding cake tastings, then order a favorite
- ❑ Research honeymoon spots and select travel agent
- ❑ Mail save-the-date cards, especially for destination or holiday wedding
- ❑ Make master to-do list; keep copies only with those who need to know
- ❑ Consider items for registry

4-6 MONTHS

- ❑ Order wedding invitations, thank-you notes and personal stationery (earlier is better)



- ❑ Attend pre-wedding counseling as required or desired
- ❑ Reserve location of rehearsal dinner
- ❑ Arrange lodging for out-of-towners

- ❑ Select and order formalwear for men; schedule fittings
- ❑ Complete registry
- ❑ Reserve wedding-day transportation as needed: to the church, from church to reception, from reception to after-party or where you will spend your wedding night
- ❑ Meet with travel agent to plan honeymoon and make reservations
- ❑ Secure travel documentation; renew/get passports

2-4 MONTHS

- ❑ Finish addressing invitations
- ❑ Meet with caterer to discuss plans for food at the reception



- ❑ Complete honeymoon plans
- ❑ If not already noted on calendars, fill in time for securing marriage license (See 'Sign on the Dotted Line')
- ❑ Set time for any bridal photography beyond the wedding day
- ❑ Select and order wedding rings
- ❑ Set appointments with hairstylist/makeup consultant for rehearsal and wedding day
- ❑ Select gifts for attendants
- ❑ Choose favors and guest book
- ❑ Complete cake order, if necessary
- ❑ Book room for wedding night

4-8 WEEKS

- ❑ Plan menus for rehearsal dinner
- ❑ Pick up wedding rings; arrange for engraving or check for accuracy
- ❑ Have final fitting of wedding gown, make alteration appointment
- ❑ Have run-through of bridal hair (with headpiece, if applicable) and makeup; experiment now, not later

- ❑ Check that bridesmaids have arranged fittings for their gowns, groomsmen for tuxedos and shoes
- ❑ Draw up seating plan for ceremony and reception
- ❑ Submit song lists to ceremony musician and reception band or DJ
- ❑ Finalize plans with every wedding vendor, including photographer



- ❑ Select gifts for parents, attendants and each other
- ❑ Mail invitations six weeks before wedding, earlier if destination wedding or if many travel; design, test-drive map for out-of-towners
- ❑ Decide on insurance policies and name-change documents
- ❑ Write and order programs for ceremony
- ❑ Attend bridal shower(s)

2-4 WEEKS

- ❑ Final gown alteration appointment; bring along maid of honor to learn to bustle it



- ❑ Prepare information to announce wedding after the big day at www.stlouisbestbridal.com
- ❑ Write vows, if desired; write toasts
- ❑ Review guest list and provide caterer with final counts
- ❑ Finalize seating arrangements
- ❑ Finish place cards for reception



- ❑ Provide rehearsal and wedding-day schedules to wedding party
- ❑ Arrange gift transport from reception
- ❑ Bride has last pre-wedding haircut and coloring
- ❑ Be certain names on photo IDs and/or passports match honeymoon plane tickets/reservations
- ❑ Start packing for honeymoon, listing contents as you add items to suitcase
- ❑ Gather items for emergency kit
- ❑ Everyone: Break in shoes

1 WEEK

- ❑ Send out all final payments possible; place fees still due in envelopes
- ❑ Delegate responsibilities for the wedding day to reliable helpers
- ❑ Finalize rehearsal and rehearsal dinner; confirm attending numbers
- ❑ Double-check details with vendors
- ❑ Confirm honeymoon details and finish packing
- ❑ Groom: Have hair trimmed
- ❑ Attend any remaining bachelor/bachelorette party (hold earlier, if possible)
- ❑ Pass along any challenges that pop up at the last minute to those who can resolve them

1-2 DAYS


- ❑ Get massage, manicure, pedicure; purchase and pack extra nail polish in shade you are using for touch-up



- ❑ Pick up remaining rental attire
- ❑ Attend rehearsal and review all details with participants
- ❑ Enjoy rehearsal dinner, greet family and friends; present wedding party and parents with thank-you gifts
- ❑ Get a good night's sleep



YOUR BIG DAY

- ❑ Eat a healthy breakfast and drink lots of water to avoid dehydration from excitement.
- ❑ Try to take at least a little walk; play music or meditate to reduce stress.
- ❑ Double-check that you have all items you need, with backups just in case.
- ❑ Give groom's wedding band to maid of honor and bride's ring to best man.
- ❑ Write down and pass along any last-minute contingency plans that occur to you.
- ❑ Have hair and makeup done according to early plan.
- ❑ Make certain the best man and maid of honor sign the marriage license.
- ❑ Follow schedule written last month.
- ❑ Make extra time to get dressed.
- ❑ Set aside extra time for the unexpected.
- ❑ Allow 50 percent more time for travel.
- ❑ Take advantage of snacks and bottled water in the dressing area.
- ❑ Greet guests by name, be gracious and grateful.
- ❑ Smile and remain calm. Do not let anything slightly amiss interfere with your joy.
- ❑ Cherish each moment of this special day with your new life partner and those gathered to celebrate with you.
- ❑ If you leave early, say goodbye to parents and grandparents. 

Wedding websites ourweddingstory.com

BY NATALIE MACIAS, CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Planning a wedding can be tedious and overwhelming. The task of communicating all of your hard work and detailed plans to your guests is a big part of the stress. Before the digital age, mailing save-the-dates, creating excel spreadsheets and juggling RSVPs required the multi-tasking skill of a professional. If you are planning your wedding and wondering where to start — a wedding website, a bride and groom's ultimate planning and communication tool — just made your life a lot easier.

Some of the most popular wedding websites include The Knot, Zola, Minted, WeddingWire and Wix. All of these services are free, with the exception of premium package upgrades.

Why create a wedding website?

EASY TO SET UP, EASY TO NAVIGATE

Even if you've never worked in InDesign or Photoshop in your entire life, these sites make putting together a website a piece of cake. No knowledge of coding is required to build a site with engaging content for your guests. Simply choose a layout that fits your style (bonus: some even let your website match your save-the-dates and invites), follow the easy-to-navigate steps and your wedding website is ready to share with guests. These websites afford a ton of space to share information that you could not on a traditional invitation and also allow guests the opportunity to learn more about you as a couple.

EASY FOR GUESTS TO NAVIGATE, TOO

Once your website is created, list your URL on your save-the-dates and invites so guests can quickly find your page. Upon searching your URL, guests will enter your awesome new website and find all the details of your big day. From your wedding party and travel information, things to do for out-of-towners to your registry, all the information is in one place. This allows you to easily set expectations for the wedding and add in all those little details that either don't fit on your invite or seem odd to list. Examples can include: attire guidelines, cash bar, a no-alcohol reception or your request for an unplugged wedding.

GUESTS GET TO KNOW YOU (AND YOUR FRIENDS) ON A MORE PERSONAL LEVEL

Wedding websites are a window to the bride and groom's person-




CREATED ON THE KNOT, DESIGNED BY KATE SPADE
NEW YORK FOR PAPERLESS POST

ality as a couple. Couples often upload their engagement photos and tell their love story. They can also profile the wedding party with pictures and descriptions of their closest friends and relatives. These personal touches make guests excited for the event and help increase the likelihood they'll attend. If they know more about you, guests will appreciate and understand the unique touches at your wedding, too.

COST-EFFECTIVE (AND GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT)

The need for a hand-mailed RSVPs can be eliminated altogether. Issuing invitations through your wedding website will save you money on purchasing printed and mailing invites. It's a win-win for both parties involved (and saves a few trees along the way.) Collecting RSVPs through your site also keeps the responses organized and captures details on food choices in a way that's easy to deliver to your caterer.

Remember, your website's goal is to keep guests informed and pumped about the big day. Make sure it's detailed, fun and all-inclusive to make the day a success for yourself and your honored guests. 

TOTAL EXPENSES

(MOST EXPENSIVE TO LEAST)

50%

RECEPTIONS

11-15%

PHOTOGRAPHY

7-10%

ATTIRE

6-8%

FLOWERS

4-6%

MUSIC

4-6%

RINGS

4-5%

REHEARSAL DINNER

2-3%

CEREMONY

2-3%

TRANSPORTATION

2-3%

STATIONERY

2-3%

GIFTS



Get organized

SET PRIORITIES, DECIDE WHO PAYS, LIST TRANSACTIONS.

The process is not magical and heavenly intervention should not be expected. From start to finish, organization is imperative. A few management priorities help keep wedding planning in check and on schedule:

1 TAKE TIME TO THINK

Becoming married takes an "I do." No rule about who pays for what is set in stone. See our traditional lists on the next page to see where your wedding may adapt. →

2 SIT DOWN AND DECIDE

Before setting plans in motion, decide who can pay for what. Whether a couple is established or starting out, financial priorities must be considered as the vision of the wedding unfolds. For smooth planning, there should be give-and-take plus thoughtful consideration in a discussion between a couple and all others who will contribute payment. Couples, particularly older brides and grooms, often pay a major part or all their wedding expenses. Parents may play a less traditional role by paying for an item like flowers or offering a specific amount toward a single or total bill.



TRADITIONAL FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

THE BRIDE AND HER FAMILY

- Clothes for bride and her parents
- Wedding ring and gift for groom, gifts for bridesmaids
- Ceremony site, music, rented equipment such as arch and carpet
- Save-the-dates, invitations, programs, thank-you notes
- Bouquets for bridesmaids, corsages for grandmothers, flowers for ceremony and reception
- Reception expenses: site, decorations, food, drink, music, cake, favors, photo booth
- Transportation of wedding party and others as needed to various sites: preparation, ceremony, photo locations, reception, after-party
- Wedding photography/videography
- Accommodations for special out-of-town relatives/guests

THE GROOM AND HIS FAMILY

- Rehearsal dinner
- Marriage license and officiant fee
- Clothing for groom and his family
- Wedding ring and gift for bride
- Gifts for groomsmen/ushers
- Bride's bouquet, mothers' corsages, boutonnieres for groom, groomsmen, ushers and dads
- Transportation for groom and best man to ceremony
- Honeymoon arrangements


3 MAKE A SPREADSHEET

Organize a spreadsheet with three expense columns: Estimated, Modified, and Actual. Color-code, divide and title it in any way that makes sense to you. Make a commitment to tracking expenses as you go so that if paperwork is misplaced, your budget will stay up-to-date. Use free online tools to create the spreadsheet.

4 LIST EVERY DETAIL

Not knowing what is due and when a bill should be paid disorganizes bride and groom and any other person responsible for making payments. Record each purchase. Note how it was bought – by check, credit or cash. Was it paid online? Extra columns show how much is due, by when and how you expect to pay. Immediately list an expense when incurred and paid even in part, filling in appropriate columns with details.

5 SAVE ALL RECEIPTS

Print out every receipt for the wedding and designate a large envelope to hold them. Knowing where each nickel and dime goes lets you envision the path your budget should follow. Receipts avoid overlooked minor expenses. Even a few dollars misplaced here and there can overrun a careful budget. 

Sign on THE DOTTED LINE

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS TOP 'MUST DO' LIST



Before two people head to the ceremony and run off into matrimonial bliss, they must apply for a marriage license. A legitimate officiant will not marry a couple without one in hand. Rules vary between states, as marriage is considered a civil contract between a state and two people initiating it.

A marriage license should be secured based on where the wedding takes place, and not where the couple lives. If the ceremony destination is not Missouri or Illinois, the website usmarriagelaws.com can be consulted for any other state.

Marriage license requirements can change by state, even between counties, so it is MOST important to verify ALL information with the local marriage license office or county clerk where you will be married before making wedding or travel plans. Each county also directs its own schedule for a courthouse marriage by a judge.

GETTING MARRIED IN THE SHOW-ME STATE

The state of Missouri requires that both parties be single and not blood-related. 2018 legislation raised the minimum age of marriage to 16, and 16- and 17-year-olds must receive parental permission to be married. It also bars a person 21 or older from marrying anyone 18 or younger.

Before the ceremony, even on the same day, a couple must appear together at the recorder of deeds office in any Missouri county or the city of St. Louis. No blood test is required.

Each must show a valid form of government-issued identification, such as a current passport, state ID or driver's license, which lists date of birth. Unless the Social Security number is on the ID, a Social Security card is also required in Missouri. A person without a Social Security number must sign a form of verification.

in Missouri

FRANKLIN COUNTY

636-583-6367

Union

JEFFERSON COUNTY

636-797-5414

Hillsboro

LINCOLN COUNTY

636-528-0325

Troy

ST. CHARLES COUNTY

636-949-7511

St. Charles

ST. LOUIS CITY

314-622-4160

St. Louis

ST. LOUIS COUNTY

314-615-7178

St. Louis

WARREN COUNTY

636-456-9800

Warrenton

The marriage license is valid in any county, but only in Missouri. The ceremony must take place within 30 days of the license being issued. If an individual is divorced, a final decree must be at least 30 days before application, although some counties allow variations.

A cash-only, non-refundable charge of about \$50 must be paid with the application. For an extra fee, a certified certificate may be given as proof of marriage or as a keepsake.

NUPTIALS IN THE LAND OF LINCOLN

Getting married in Illinois differs on some details. A bride- or groom-to-be still needs to be single, not related and at least 18 years old. Sixteen- and 17-year-olds must have parental consent. No one under the age of 16 can marry.

Like its neighbor to the west, Illinois requires a valid form of identification and proof of age for both parties, who must be present at the time of application—but only in the county where they will be married.

Also, a waiting period of 24 hours is required after application. The license, however, is valid for 60 days.

A certified decree of divorce, often within a recent time frame, may be required. Date of divorce or when a spouse died also may be requested.

The fee for a marriage license varies by county. For example, Madison County requires a non-refundable cash fee of \$30.

in Illinois

MADISON COUNTY

618-692-6290
Edwardsville

ST. CLAIR COUNTY

618-277-6600, ext. 2370
Belleville

MONROE COUNTY

618-939-8681, ext. 302
Waterloo

JERSEY COUNTY

618-498-5571
Jerseyville


CLINTON COUNTY

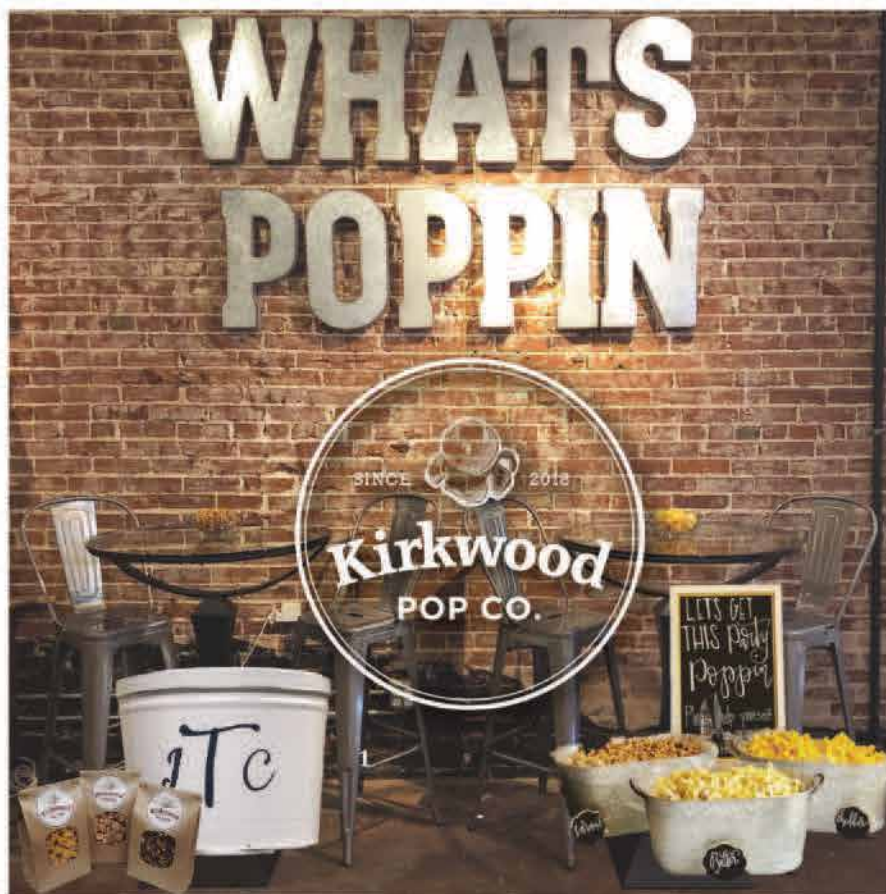
618-594-6620
Carlyle

WHO CAN OFFICIATE THE CEREMONY

Missouri and Illinois also differ in criteria for an officiant to fulfill these duties.

According to the law, marriage in Missouri may be performed by any clergyman, active or retired; a judge, municipal judge; a religious society, institution or organization when either party is a member. Paperwork must be returned within 15 days to the recorder issuing it. In Illinois, an officiant may be an ordained minister, active or retired judge, or public official empowered to perform marriage. The signed license with information filled out should be returned to the recorder of deeds within 90 days of issuance.

If considering someone besides clergy or a public official to take charge, check with the county recorder of deeds where you will be married to assure authorization-for-a-day will be valid. 



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Weddings
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Food & drink

A MODERN SLICE OF ELEGANCE

CONTENT PROVIDED BY GREEN SHOOT MEDIA

There's likely a vision in your head about wedding food, perhaps positively or negatively influenced by past weddings you may have attended.

Maybe it was a buffet or limited-choice meal delivered by waiters. But don't let the past lock you in. There are lots of new choices to consider this year. Here, we've collected a "buffet" of trends happening that will hopefully spark your culinary imagination and kick your own wedding event up a notch.

DRINKS

Stations are in. Instead of a standard bar or roaming waiters, interaction is the keyword for wedding cocktails this year, claims an expert on the website Delish. Flavored syrups, fruits, edible flowers and herbs can be featured for guests to add to their drinks. Signature cocktails never go out of style, says another expert—but plastic straws have. The movement to eliminate single-use plastics is also trending at weddings, where you'll see more paper straws and bamboo stir sticks.

DINNER

Wedding planner Kylie Carlson reports that the popularity of intimate weddings is leading to couples—especially foodies—developing tasting menus featuring six or seven small courses. The trend toward the less formal continues with wedding dinners. Roaming dinners in which guests visit food stations turn the event into an extended cocktail hour. The popularity of healthy, locally sourced ingredients is filling




the choices at those food stations.

DESSERT

The iconic wedding cake also changes with the seasons. Simple cakes have given way to elegance and sophistication with wedding experts seeing more polished creations. To create a fun feel, alternative cakes made of Belgian waffles or pancakes, cinnamon buns and donut cakes are trending options.

LATE-NIGHT SNACKS

If you expect your wedding bash to extend into the wee hours, late-night snacks are an expected (and necessary) final touch to the party. Expect to see the food station and healthy trend extend to these snacks, featuring such items as açai bowls, vegetarian options and cheese and fruit pairings.

For more substantial fare, food trucks continue to dominate in popularity. Look into reserving one. 

LOCAL *ideas*

What better way to showcase local St. Louis cuisine than with late-night apps at your wedding reception? There are plenty of options for your guests to get their very own taste of St. Louis. A few include:

- Gus' pretzel bites
- St. Louis style pizza from Imo's
- Anthonino's Tavern Toasted Ravioli
- Donut holes from World's Fair Doughnuts
- Burnt ends from Pappy's Smokehouse
- White Castle sliders
- Hot dog bar from Steve's Hot Dogs

Desserts

A MODERN SLICE OF ELEGANCE

BY LISA IANNUCCI, CTW FEATURES | PHOTOS BY CONTENT THAT WORKS



ALTERNATIVE DESSERT *ideas*

- Donut wall
- Cupcake towers
- Dessert bar/candy buffet
- Dipped cookies, tartlets, cake pops
- Bundt cakes
- Dessert food trucks

The couple has said their 'I do's,' and now it's time to celebrate with dancing and cake, of course! In the past, wedding cakes were pure white, simple and elegant, but wedding cakes have come a long way baby. Today, while couples are becoming more daring in wedding cake design, decoration and flavor, others have done away with all that pretty decor and just want to serve something a lot simpler — and even a little naked. Here are some of this year's wedding cake trends:

SIMPLE AND CLASSIC

Typically, wedding cakes are lavishly adorned with edible flowers, latticework, and beading and elaborate sugar decorations, but Danielle Rothweiler of Rothweiler Event Design in Verona, New Jersey, says that couples have now asked for wedding cakes that are simple, yet classic. "I am getting requests for cakes that aren't 'too much' and that are just decorated with fresh flowers instead of

sugary designs," she says.

GOLD CAKES

Wedding cakes are worth much more these days because couples are opting for lavish gold touches. "There must be at least one wedding cake a week that wants a gold accent, whether it's an edible 24-karat gold leaf applied to the cake, a solid tier that's decorated in edible gold, or even a gold cake topper," she says. "It goes with every color and adds a bit of elegance to cakes that are more simplified in design."

NAKED CAKES


Say what? No, this is not a wedding cake trend that will make the guests blush. Instead, naked cakes are cakes that are decorated with just a thin coat of buttercream on the outside of the cake, so you can see exactly what you're eating. "It's more of a rustic trend," says Bunce, who thinks that this trend will also die out way before the gold trend will. "The couple typically

puts fresh flowers on the outside of the cake too to make it look a little more sophisticated."

DARING FLAVORS

Wedding cakes aren't just about what they look like, they are about what they taste like too. With tiered wedding cakes, Bunce says that couples are including traditional flavors, such as vanilla and chocolate, in some layers, and more daring flavors on others. "On the smaller tier, they want something funkier, like carrot cake with salted caramel buttercream, or chocolate cake with Oreo buttercream," she says.

WEDDING CAKE ALTERNATIVES

"More couples are going non-traditional, but they are all reluctant to totally ditch the idea of a wedding cake," says Rothweiler. "I've seen alternatives, like cake pops and mini desserts, but over the past year those items have now been served in addition to a traditional wedding cake." 

Gown shapes are as diverse as brides themselves. Multitudes of options balance unique contours for the short, the tall, the lean or curvy, so guests exclaim over how marvelous the bride looks - and she is confident she does!

Start in the gown shop. Try on gowns with someone who is positively objective.

Bring favorite ideas plus an open mind. A professional gown consultant's expertise can pull a matching style for you.

Look in the mirror from all angles. Snap pictures and take notes to sort features that flatter or detract.

Compare these five body shapes with yours. Build a base to discover a gown structured for your desired look and comfort. Each design complements a bride's normal silhouette, but a professional may shape a dream gown into a fit you never thought possible.

The *style* that fits

5 MIRRORED SHAPES TO FIT ANY FIGURE



◀ **HOURLGLASS**

A defined waistline sits between hips and shoulders similar in size. This figure indulges easy enhancement. All necklines seem to work. Glamorize an indented waist and let natural curves contour this figure-hugging silhouette. A mermaid gown delights in the line, a sheath accents it, a cinched waistline on a ball gown puffs into double (or triple) layering of fluffy tulle, crinoline or the like, and a low-flaring style guides an elongated central line. The drop waist features a bodice that fits to the mid hip.

PEAR ▶

Hips, and perhaps thighs, are wider than shoulders. Simple vertical, rather than horizontal, lines evenly shape curves. An off-the-shoulder or "V" neckline frames the face. An A-line gown highlights an indented natural waist so an added detail, such as strudded waistband or flowing sash, accents the top and lets the skirt flow gracefully. A trumpet gown is fitted throughout the bodice and the volume begins at mid-thigh.



◀ **APPLE**

Slimmer thighs counter a fuller chest, broader shoulders and less defined waist. The waistline, wherever drawn, grabs the eye. An empire waist eases lower flow, but a cinched waist slenderizes the silhouette to balance proportion. With or without sheer illusion, a deeply plunging neckline draws attention away from wide horizontal shoulders to flatter the bustline. A wide ribbon, slightly dropped waist, asymmetrical pleating or ruching focuses waistline interest.




RECTANGLE ▶

Straight line extends from shoulders to waist to hips. Exult in a long, lean line or create geometric roundness with an A-line, frothy and flirtatious skirt or elevated empire waist for more skirt flow. Off-the-shoulder styles widen a top tier. Illusion pieces of embroidered lace play peekaboo with what may or may not hide under sheer fabric. A nipped waist artistically balances high and low canvases. New curves flow with soft, breezy fabric. A slit elongates a tall bride's legs and contrasting sash trims a wide middle.



◀ **INVERTED TRIANGLE**

Shoulders are wider than hips. A scoop neckline outlines a lovely neck. Off-shoulder draping minimizes a generous bustline. Popular modesty and illusion pieces balance a slim bodice to move the eye down along neck-to-knee embellishment. A ball gown with a full skirt encourages flow, but a confident bride's short gown or high-low skirt exudes fun with alluring attention to shapely legs and spectacular shoes. 



It's all about *the look*



A fit-and-flare gown. Made-in-USA from the Beau Monde Couture Collection of Wedding Gallery. With its sweetheart neckline, contemporary hand-beaded lace extending over layers of lace with sequins adds to the wispy floral design. A scalloped hem matching the overall lace forms a semi-cathedral train.

GOWN BY WEDDING GALLERY®
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This A-line gown from the Made-in-USA Beau Monde Couture Collection from Wedding Gallery has delicate embroidery lace and is fully embroidered on the straps and sweetheart neckline with a low back. The skirt includes multiple layers of tulle and sequin layer under and has an unfold in a semi-cathedral train.

GOWN BY WEDDING GALLERY
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TWO LOOKS ONE GOWN

A thin lace and beaded strap Martin Thornburg gown from Mia Grace Bridal with a lace and crystal-beaded bodice. Add a second look to the A-line silhouette with a tulle skirt over lace and sequin tulle layer. This gown is trimmed with an edge of detailed crystal-beaded hem lace.

GOWN BY: MIA GRACE
HAIR & MAKEUP BY: BELLEZA BRIDAL AND HAIR SALON
PHOTOGRAPHY BY: TROTTER PHOTO





This Watersfall gown is a lace-trimmed, ethereal style, with thin strap and sweet heart neckline from Mia Grace Bridal made with Adler Lace bodice, Illusion and Conon Tulle over a Stretch Poly Charmeuse.

GOWN BY MIA GRACE
HAIR & MAKEUP BY BELLEZA BRIDAL AND HAIR SALON
PHOTOGRAPHY BY TROTTER PHOTO



A Luxe Satin Ball bridal gown from the Simply Charming Collections. Made-in-USA by Wedding Gallery. A natural waistline, a V-neckline in front and back extends with illusion onto-sleeve wraps, with embroidery-corded beaded lace and beaded train. This gown includes a chapel-length train.

GOWN BY WEDDING GALLERY
 JEWELRY BY SAVVY FORMALWEAR
 HAIR & MAKEUP BY BELLEA BRIDAL AND HAIR SALON
 PHOTOGRAPHY BY TROTTER PHOTO





This Martin Thornburg design is a sleeveless lace and organza ballgown with hand-beaded spaghetti straps, sweetheart neckline gown from Mia Grace Bridal. It has a fully illusion beaded bodice and skirt of organza with floor hair ruffle, that is asymmetrically ruffled.

DOWN BY MIA GRACE
 STYLED BY SAVVI FORMALWEAR
 HAIR & MAKEUP BY BELEZZA BRIDAL AND HAIR SALON
 PHOTOGRAPHY BY TROTTER PHOTO



Combinations

Classic suit, shirt and tie

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When it comes to formalwear, a suit can feel like a uniform—but it doesn't have to. The elements of the outfit can be enhanced in order to achieve a more personalized look.

SHIRT AND TIE COMBOS

It is a best practice to keep a set of traditional colored shirts in your closet at all times. White, light blue and pale pink pair well with almost all ties. But if you are feeling a unique look, patterned shirts are a great option. Our recommendation is to stick to traditional patterns, though, as there is a fine line between stylish and tacky.

PLAIN WHITE SHIRT

A classic, crisp white shirt is a closet staple that provides the fashionable freedom to go whichever style route you desire. **Tie Tips:** Striped, patterned, and even new-to-the-scene textures are all fair game with the interchangeable white shirt.

BLACK SUIT

Because the white shirt is so adaptable, it is no surprise to see it paired with all of the basic suit colors of black, grey, navy and tan. **Tie Tips:** Most tie colors will work, but monochromatic ties work best and offer a more refined look. Tie textures are encouraged to add another dimension to the outfit.

GREY SUIT

The grey suit is also very neutral, so when paired together with a white shirt, consider warmer accent tones to balance the neutrality. **Tie Tip:** Red and dark red



(maroon or burgundy) work great in the warmer months, but light blue and pink are also a good fit. Save the navy, black or even grey for the cooler months.

NAVY SUIT

White and navy have become a quintessential suit and shirt combination, particularly in the corporate world. In order to avoid looking like you just stepped out of the boardroom, experiment with different patterns and textures for your tie choice. **Tie Tip:** Knit ties in colors like pink, green and yellow will add another dimension to your look.

TAN SUIT

Tan and blue go together like PB&J, mainly in the warmer seasons. **Tie Tip:** Lighter colors keep you cool in the heat, so lean towards bright blue ties with the white shirt.

LIGHT BLUE SHIRTS

NAVY SUIT

Since a blue-on-blue combination is rather monotone, it is important to pair with ties that sport different patterns and prints. **Tie Tip:** You can still go with a blue tie, but make sure it has some pizzazz to it in order to keep everything from blending in together.

GREY SUIT

Another timeless combination, the blue shirt and grey suit works for almost any occasion. It is important to not stray too far from the classic powder blue shirt, however,



going too dark will be overly monochromatic. **Tie Tip:** Any color tie beside white or black works best here.

TAN SUIT

When working with a tan suit and blue shirt, it is best to keep it as simple as possible. **Tie Tip:** Navy ties are the best recommendation, but if you want to jazz it up, consider a textured tie with traditional colors.

PINK SHIRTS

NAVY SUIT


With pink shirts, navy suits are the favorable option. They match together perfectly, especially when the shirt is a lighter shade of pink. **Tie Tip:** The safest bet is to roll with a navy tie, but go with a knit one to add some dimension to the overall look.

GREY SUIT

Pink and grey play well off of each other, but to truly bring out the combination, you'll want to pair with a maroon tie, or even a deep violet.

TAN SUIT

This suit and shirt combination should be reserved only for warmer weather events. **Tie Tip:** The warm tones allow for dark brown and navy tie choices.

Whatever the occasion may be, we hope that this guide of shirt, suit and tie combinations has you looking dashing for your special event. 

DRESSING TO THE NINES

TUXEDOS BY SAVVI FORMALWEAR
PHOTOGRAPHY BY TROTTER PHOTO



Classic with a twist, the paisley design gives the charcoal tux a unique flair in the Charcoal Chase Paisley Tuxedo by Couture 1901. Though traditionally paired with white, it can be accented with a brightly colored undershirt or tie to match the wedding theme.






The blue coat from Cobalt Brunswick by Allure Men is sleek and impressionable, perfect for any bride who wants a non-traditional look for her husband-to-be, and perfect for any groom who wants to add a pop of color to his wardrobe. The splash of blue is making a comeback, easily paired with a white or pink shirt. Brown shoes perfectly accent the piece for a stand out look.



Perfect for the palette of a fall or winter wedding, the Hunter Luka Tuxedo by Ike Behar gives the wedding an earthy and elegant feel. It pairs well with black and white and will be a guaranteed showstopper.





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Say it with COLOR

A florist builds a bouquet by tone, texture and style to provide a colorful look you love. Ask which hues of these flowers are available when. In-season blooms generally can be found to match both style and budget, but even unusual requests can be prioritized because of worldwide availability. The list reflects old favorites, perennial blossoms and newer blooms.

PALETTE BLOCKS INDICATE COLORS OFTEN AVAILABLE BY FLOWER

-  Amaryllis
-  Anemone
-  Apple blossom
-  Aster
-  Baby's breath
-  Bachelor's button
-  Bluebell
-  Buttercup
-  Calla lily
-  Carnation
-  Cherry blossom
-  Chinese lantern
-  Chrysanthemum
-  Clematis
-  Cosmos
-  Craspedia (billy balls)
-  Daffodil
-  Dahlia
-  Delphinium
-  Dusty Miller
-  Forget-me-not
-  Forsythia
-  Freesia
-  Fuchsia
-  Gardenia
-  Gerbera daisy
-  Hyacinth
-  Hydrangea
-  Hypericum berries
-  Iris
-  Jasmine
-  Lilac
-  Lily of the valley
-  Leucadendron
-  Orchid
-  Pansy
-  Paperwhite
-  Peony
-  Poppy
-  Protea
-  Queen Anne's lace
-  Ranunculus
-  Rose
-  Scabiosa
-  Seeded eucalyptus
-  Snowdrop
-  Stargazer lily
-  Sunflower
-  Sweet pea
-  Tuberose
-  Tulip
-  Veronica
-  Viburnum
-  Violet
-  Winterberry
-  Yarrow
-  Zinnia

PHOTO PROVIDED BY GETTY IMAGES.

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a bouquet of pink Calla lilies. The bouquet is tied with a white satin ribbon. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white. The text 'Let your personality bloom' is overlaid on the top right of the image.

Let your personality
bloom

Simple

Aptly named, the Simple bouquet is an easy and elegant clutch which uses the mini Calla lily, a flower that offers a spectrum of colors choices. It is finished with an ivory satin ribbon.

BOUQUET BY SCHNUCKS FLORIST & GIFTS
PHOTOGRAPHY BY TROTTER PHOTO



Rustic

This vibrant bouquet with yellow, green and dusty blue colors is the Rustic. It features layers of sunflowers, eyringium, hypericum berry, silver dollar eucalyptus, lily grass and limonium with a hand-tied green-and-white ribbon wrap.

BOUQUET BY SCHNUCKS FLORIST & GIFTS
PHOTOGRAPHY BY TROTTER PHOTO



Vibrant

The show-stopping, hand-tied Vibrant bouquet features fuchsia, purple, dusty blue and green colors. The bouquet is comprised of peonies, roses, waxflower, alstroemeria, button poms, eryngium and salal collar wrapped in dusty blue satin ribbon.

BOUQUET BY SCHNUCKS FLORIST & GIFTS
PHOTOGRAPHY BY TROTTER PHOTO



Classic Round

The Classic Round bouquet features Ivory, green and silver grey colors. These pillowy layers include a flowy collar of silver dollar eucalyptus, mini Calla lily, spray roses, roses, caspia, eyringium, brunia, hydrangea, dusty miller and gems wrapped in silver satin ribbon.

BOUQUET BY SCHNUCKS FLORIST & GIFTS
PHOTOGRAPHY BY TROTTER PHOTO



Structured Elegance

The Structured Elegance bouquet is a modern cascade that features ivory, blush and grey colors. It was designed using curly willow, crystal branches, dusty miller, roses, spray roses, mini Calla lily, wax flower and caspia with birch ribbon accents.

BOUQUET BY SCHNUCKS FLORIST & GIFTS
PHOTOGRAPHY BY TROTTER PHOTO



Chic

The Chic garden bouquet features blush, ivory and blue colors and uses peonies, garden rose, rose, delphinium, limonium and hydrangea wrapped in ivory satin ribbon.

BOUQUET BY SCHNUCKS FLORIST & GIFTS
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Bye-bye matchy-matchy!

THE ERA OF MATCHING DRESSES IS BECOMING A THING OF THE PAST

By Leanne Itale, Associated Press



NEW YORK — Alison Kelly felt she had enough on her plate dealing with her own wedding gown and all the details of her mountain getaway nuptials without micromanaging how her bridal party would dress.

So instead, she asked her maid of honor — her sister — and the rest of her bridal party to choose natural tones to honor the informal Vail, Colorado, location that she and her husband had picked for their Sept. 2 nuptials, and to wear styles that made them feel good.

"I'm surrounded by women who make their own decisions and are strong and independent. There's no way I could tell any of them what to wear. It just wouldn't even work," Kelly laughed. "I know that they know their own bodies."

She was thrilled with the results, a soft mix of rose blush, light red, ivory and taupe that proved the perfect complement to her own white


gown. The bridesmaids wore matching rings of flowers on their heads. The groom's party was also not matchy-matchy. He wore light gray, his best man was in black and the other groomsmen were in darker gray. Identical boutonnieres tied their looks together.

While brides have been giving their stand-up loved ones greater freedom from the constraints of more traditional — often hideous — matching confections, they now seem to be taking the mismatch bridesmaid trend a step further. Matching colors in different silhouettes or identical dye lots for different styles of dresses have given way to completely different cuts, textures and colors.

"They did so well," said Kelly, who lives in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and works as a librarian. "They kept showing me the pictures of what they were thinking. I thought that was

really nice because I was just too busy doing my own thing and planning my own stuff. I trusted them, and it ended up being much better than I imagined."

The trend is well represented on the retail side. David's Bridal, with more than 330 stores in the United States, Canada, Mexico and the United Kingdom, has an online section of mismatched bridesmaids options with advice on how to make the concept work, from using the same color in different styles to choosing wildly different fabrics, lengths, silhouettes, colors, prints and embellishments.

One suggestion from the company: Select different shades of the same color, but include light, medium and dark shades to allow for an ombre gradation. For large wedding parties, mix in some pale neutrals that will offset the overall palette. 



DREAMING TREE PHOTOGRAPHY

Before 'I do,' have a mimosa or two...

GETTING READY FOR THE BIG DAY

The day is here! The dress is altered, tables are set, tuxes pressed, wedding bands sized — now all there is to do is get ready with your crew. It's time for breakfast, cocktails and quality time.

Tips & Tricks

HAVE A PHOTO READY

Although brides typically do trial runs, bridesmaids are a different story. Bringing a photo of your preferred hairstyle ensures that the hairdresser has an idea of what to do with your 'do.

HAVE A STEAMER ON HAND

Wrinkles are inevitable when you are transferring tuxedos and dresses. Having a steamer on hand is important for last minute touch-ups and wrinkle-free photos!

A FEW MIMOSAS ARE OK

Mimosas are totally necessary when getting ready with your bridal party. Just remember, wedding days are marathons, not sprints.

MAKE A FUN PLAYLIST

Music can be one of the best parts of getting ready with your crew. With the right jams, the mood is set for the entire day. Whether it's upbeat, sing-along tunes or just for ambience, you'll be glad you had a playlist on hand.

DON'T FORGET TO EAT

Oftentimes the thought of food slips by the wayside on the big day. Have a plan in place on what you and your bridal party will be eating leading up to the ceremony to make sure no one is passing out (or stomachs aren't growling) at the ceremony.



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Wedding MUSIC

Pick your TUNES

BY NATALIE MACIAS, CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Whether you prefer the Bee Gee's or Beyoncé, music remains one of the most important aspects of your wedding reception. "The most successful events are those that have the guests looking at their clocks and it's 11:30pm and they're not ready to leave because of the music," said Jordan Sweet, a DJ at Complete Weddings + Events St. Louis.

Although you personally choose the songs for the traditional dances like the father-bridal, mother-groom and first dance, the music that follows must be carefully crafted to get people out of their seats and on the dance floor.

PARTY STARTERS

First things first, you must play songs to get people grooving. These are the ones that everyone knows, and everyone secretly loves — guaranteed to get the party started. Here are some of the top classic reception songs to get your guests on the floor:

1. "I Wanna Dance With Somebody (Who Loves Me)" — *Whitney Houston*
2. "Cupid Shuffle" — *Cupid*
3. "September" — *Earth, Wind & Fire*
4. "Sweet Caroline" — *Neil Diamond*
5. "Uptown Funk" — *Bruno Mars*
6. "We Are Family" — *Sister Sledge*
7. "Cha Cha Slide" — *Mr. C The Slide Man*
8. "Footloose" — *Kenny Loggins*
9. "Love Shack" — *The B-52's*
10. "All Night Long" — *Lionel Richie*

LATE-NIGHT JAMS

Late-night music is for the loyal wedding reception guests who are willing to stick around until the very last song has played. When all the little ones and grandparents have left the building, these songs are sure to keep the night owls on their feet. A few end-of-night favorites include:

1. "Yeah!" — *Usher, Lil Jon, Ludacris*
2. "Hot in Herre" — *Nelly*
3. "Baby Got Back" — *Sir Mix A Lot*
4. "Wannabe" — *Spice Girls*
5. "Low (feat. T-Pain)" — *Flo Rida*
6. "Hey Ya!" — *Outkast*
7. "Everybody (Backstreet's Back)" — *Backstreet Boys*
8. "Get Low" — *Lil Jon & Da East Side Boyz*
9. "In Da Club" — *50 Cent*
10. "Pony" — *Genuine*

SLOW SONGS

Slow songs — when the happy couples hit the dance floor and the single people hit the bar. Slow songs are equally as important as the party starters when it comes to having a memorable wedding reception. Some of the go-to slow dance songs include:

1. "Wonderful Tonight" — *Eric Clapton*
2. "At Last" — *Etta James*
3. "Can't Help Falling In Love" — *Elvis Presley*
4. "Let's Stay Together" — *Al Green*
5. "I Don't Want To Miss A Thing" — *Aerosmith*
6. "Unforgettable" — *Nat King Cole & Natalie Cole*
7. "The Way You Look Tonight" — *Frank Sinatra*
8. "Because You Loved Me" — *Celine Dion*
9. "(What A) Wonderful World" — *Sam Cooke*
10. "Thinking Out Loud" — *Ed Sheeran*

Book your BAND

Here's some local musical options to consider for your rehearsal dinner, ceremony, cocktail hour and/or reception needs.

ARVELL & COMPANY | FULL BAND

Arvell & Company play an outstanding musical variety including hits from Motown, popular songs from the '70s, '80s and '90s to current — everything from Frank Sinatra to Bruno Mars. This is a seasoned group of entertainers and musicians who can fulfill almost any musical request. Arvell & Company offers a 4-piece band up to a 16-piece band for a wide range of options to fit your entertainment needs. You name it, Arvell & Company can provide it.

☎ 618-726-7978

✉ arvellandcompany@gmail.com

🌐 arvellandcompany.com



DIAMOND EMPIRE | FULL BAND

The Diamond Empire band are live music experts, wedding enthusiasts and party-starters. They are a premium, customizable 3- to 14-piece band specializing in high-energy, multi-genre music for festivals, weddings, corporate events and private functions at a reasonable price. They infuse every event with energy and fun and pride themselves on filling dance floors.

☎ 314-856-3554

✉ nick@diamondempireband.com

🌐 diamondempireband.com

DUHART | ACOUSTIC DUO

Duhart is St. Louis' beloved father-daughter band, performing acoustic versions of all of your favorite songs as well as original music. Colleen Buntten and Dean Duhart play a variety of instruments and are an easy fit for different atmospheres and venues. If you are looking for a group with a variety of music, beautiful harmonies and a lot of heart, Duhart is the choice for your special day.

☎ 314-566-2050

✉ duhartmusic@gmail.com

🌐 duhartmusic.com



IT TAKES TWO | FULL BAND

It Takes Two is a 6-piece group including both female and male vocalists, two keyboard players, guitar, bass, drums, saxophone and trumpeter. Due to the band member's skill and versatility, they play over 2,000 songs, from cocktail and dinner music to high-energy dance music, the great dance hits of the 50's and 60's, Classic Rock and Motown, 70's and 80's Disco and Rock, 90's dance tunes, Island music, Country, Jazz Standards and even current hits. This interactive and charismatic band is guaranteed to exceed your expectations for your rehearsal dinner or wedding reception.

☎ 636-220-6961

✉ Armusic1@charternet.net / maggie1235@msn.com

🌐 anitarosamond.com/vince-martin.com



JOHNNY CHASE | ACOUSTIC GUITARIST

Johnny Chase is an artist who plays over 300 solo acoustic rock shows per year of all shapes and sizes! He has produced two albums of original songs with placements on hit TV shows HBO's Entourage, Ellen Degeneres, Tyra, CW Now, MTV reality shows and more. Johnny's solo acoustic act is ideal for wedding ceremonies and cocktail hours and he can also DJ your wedding receptions.

☎ 636-734-9220

✉ johnnychase@charternet.net

🌐 johnnychasefabs.com

📱 facebook.com/johnnychasemusic

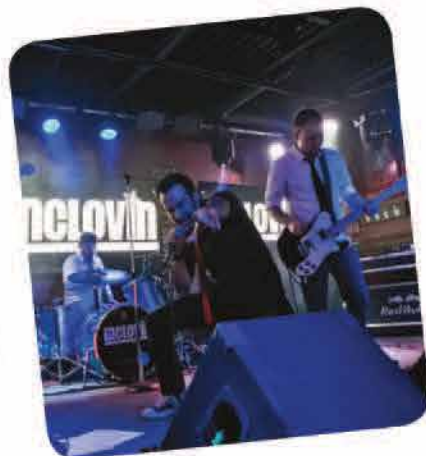
THE MATT MCCALLIE ORCHESTRA | STRING QUARTET

Since 2012, The Matt McCallie Orchestra is your source for everything wedding music-related. Matt McCallie offers live bands, a string quartet, DJ/Emcee services, lights, sound and custom song arrangements and recordings. The Orchestra guarantees a music experience that you and your loved ones will forever cherish.

☎ 1-708-JAZ-ORCH

✉ contact@mattmccallieorchestra.com

🌐 mattmccallieorchestra.com



MCLOVIN | FULL BAND

McLovin is St. Louis' Premier Rock Poppin', Country Rappin', Soul Funkin' groove machine that keeps the dance floor shakin' all night long! Combined with diverse talent, multiple singers, unmatched energetic performances and a huge variety of songs, McLovin is one of the most sought-after party bands for weddings and private events in the Metro St. Louis area and beyond. Playing a variety of hits spanning from the '50s to current hits, McLovin creates a memorable performance that will be the highlight of your event and remembered for years to come.

☎ 314-550-1745

✉ mclovintheband@gmail.com

🌐 mclovintheband.com



MIDLIFE BAND | ACOUSTIC DUO

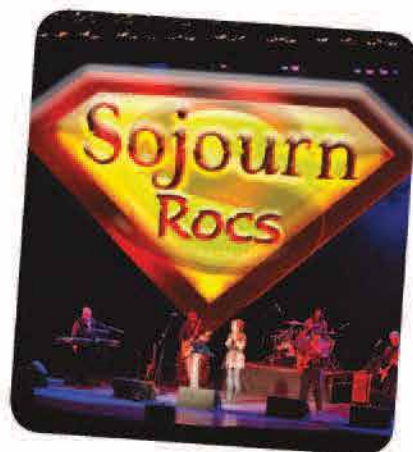
Midlife, the husband and wife acoustic duo of guitarist and vocalist Paul Hurst and lead vocalist Kristic Hurst has performed all across the St. Louis and Metro East since 2014. They play a wide variety of music including Top-40 hits from the '60s through today, as well as pop, rock, country, folk, Americana, alternative and R&B.

☎ 618-444-4898
✉ hurst52@charter.net
🌐 midlife63131.com
📱 facebook.com/midlifeband63131/

SOJOURN ROCS | FULL CLASSIC ROCK/ COUNTRY BAND

Sojourn Rocs is a wedding band that performs classic covers of country, rock and roll and current hits. Sojourn Rocs also provides emcee and recorded dinner service music as well as music during breaks. The band is happy to learn those special songs and dances with moms and dads and will travel to most any location of your choosing. If you want quality music, voices with three-part harmonies and a professional stage presence, Sojourn Rocs is the band for your special event.

☎ 217-294-0137 or 217-254-8873
✉ sojournrocs@gmail.com
🌐 sojournrocs.com



SPECTRUM BAND | FULL BAND

Spectrum Band is a premier 9-piece dance band from Chesterfield, MO with over 20 years of experience in the music industry. Like their name indicates, they play a "spectrum" of Pop, Rock, Motown, Funk, Swing, Jazz, Country and Big Band. Spectrum is a fully-instrumented band with superior lead and background vocalists, 4-piece rhythm section and a powerful 3-piece horn section to authentically perform all music styles. They're also a one-stop provider with absolutely everything needed for weddings including live music for ceremonies and receptions, additional room lighting, ceremony sound systems, and wedding planning services. Spectrum has more awards and reviews than any other band in St. Louis to make them the No. 1 choice for fun entertainment and a guaranteed successful event.

☎ 314-306-4313
✉ spectrumbandstl@gmail.com
🌐 spectrumband.net



WHISKEY RACCOONS | ACOUSTIC DUO

The Whiskey Raccoons are an acoustic Indie Country Folk Rock duet with original songs and the ability to cover hundreds of popular songs from the '60s to today in all genres. They have opened for the likes of Cassidie Pope (winner of the voice), Claire Dunn (Nashville Country Music Star), Jackie Lee (Nashville Country Music Star) and more! The duo will learn new songs that are meaningful for the couple, emcee when needed, and make sure every couple feels like their wedding ceremony/cocktail hour/reception/ rehearsal dinner/etc... is representative of their love and vision.

☎ 501-265-9677
✉ whiskeyraccoons@gmail.com
📱 facebook.com/pg/whiskeyraccoons



Here's to a good TOAST

Whether you are the maid of honor, the best man or the father of the bride, a wedding toast is a gift and a love letter to the special people celebrating their special day. A good toast can make people laugh. It can make people cry. Most importantly, a good toast will bring the attendees together to celebrate the bride and groom, and to create a cherished memory for the happy couple to look back on. While that may seem like a daunting task, it gets easier with the help of the tips below.


GATHER YOUR THOUGHTS

Before you get up to the microphone, have a plan of what you want to say. Rambling will lose the audience's attention. In weeks prior to the wedding, make a bullet point list of what you want to say or stories you want to tell. Having this list in mind while you present will allow the words to flow and make sense, as well as keeping the attendees engaged. However, ensure that it's only a list of topics; reading from a written script will kill the emotion and energy of the room. Have a plan but let the words come from the heart.

BE PERSONAL

An audience loves stories. Think about sharing some light-hearted or meaningful moments you've spent with the bride or groom; this can be a good way to start out the toast. While inside jokes may lose or confuse attendees, they will likely love to hear stories of the first time you met or how you helped the groom ask the bride out on a first date. Avoid inappropriate or embarrassing stories. Don't be afraid to be sappy - there's no such thing as being too sentimental at a wedding - and let your toastee know how much you care for them.

WISH THEM WELL

End your toast with kindness and well-wishing and relay to the audience your hopes for future prosperity. Then raise your glass and take the sip. 

Traditionally, the order of **WEDDING RECEPTION TOASTS** goes like this:

1. The **best man** toasts the bride
2. The **maid/matron of honor** toasts the groom
3. The **wedding host/financier** (typically the father of the bride) toasts the couple
4. Other **parental figures** of the couple toast the couple
5. The **couple** toasts their family and guests



Drink locally. Eat sustainably.

A RECEPTION FOR THE MODERN ERA

By Katherine Lewis, Contributing Writer

Modern couples are taking a holistic approach to wedding planning. Even as they tailor details to reflect their personal taste and style, they are also thinking globally. Sustainability is now a major consideration, one that many St. Louis catering companies recognize by minimizing waste and using locally sourced ingredients. Butler's Pantry calls their approach *Seat to Savor*. "We strive to use every part of the plant, produce and protein," says chef Vince Bommarito Jr., the chief culinary officer at Butler's Pantry. "The trick is to not only use it in familiar ways but also unexpected ways. For instance, we like to use leftover basil, introduce agar-agar and voila! We've created basil 'caviar' to top hors d'oeuvres or add an herbaceous flair to the cocktail menu."

An open bar is one tradition that has remained a constant, but over time their choices have broadened. Offering more than just soda and water for non-drinkers (or guests who might want to take a break) is a thoughtful touch and a chance to get creative. Pressed juices provide a healthy, refreshing option, as do mocktails made with fresh fruit purees, like



mango mules or watermelon margs. "We know our clients are looking for unique, Instagram-worthy food-and-drink experiences, therefore, we consistently try to push the envelope with



the ingredients we choose and how we present them," chef Bommarito says.

Another way to reduce a reception's carbon footprint? Drink locally. The St. Louis area has no shortage of breweries and wineries, and weddings are fantastic opportunities to give out-of-towners a taste of what makes St. Louis special. Markets and liquor stores all over the city offer kegs from the region's most popular microbreweries including Schlafly, 4 Hands, Urban Chestnut, Old Bakery and dozens more. Also, consider using real stemware and eliminating single-use plastic straws and swizzle sticks — they will not be missed.

Guests who have a sweet tooth and a penchant for the unexpected will love a dessert bar or a milkshake station that offers traditional and boozy shakes. Strange Donuts owner Jason Bockman says that it caters to couples who want something a little bit different for their reception — in this case, doughnuts as an alternative to cake — while still referencing classic wedding

traditions. "Wedding cake and strawberries and champagne flavors are always popular, but being from St. Louis, our gooey butter cake doughnut is always on the menu," he says.



Receptions tend to get more laid-back as they progress, and the food should loosen up right along with it. If dinner was the time to use the correct fork for salad, late night is the time to do away with utensils entirely. Bringing in finger foods like pizza, hot dogs, sliders, pretzels and roasted ravioli is a surefire way to keep the party — and the guests — going into the wee hours. 🍷

The pros and cons of 6 catering styles

By Katherine Lewis, Contributing Writer

Here are six catering styles and the advantages and disadvantages of each.

PLATED SIT-DOWN

Pros: A classic and elegant way to serve guests, seated dinners are also a great time for the wedding party to give toasts or for the couple to have their first dance.

Cons: Guests can only choose from a couple of options, which could be problematic for those with allergies or restrictive diets.

Sample menu: Butternut squash soup — Roasted fingerling potatoes — Chicken marsala

SERVED BUFFET

Pros: Buffets are the more casual and often more affordable choices. These feasts are great for large receptions. They bring plenty of options and guests can enjoy second helpings.

Cons: Buffet-style dinners can take a long time, and some guests may not enjoy waiting in line or serving themselves.

Sample menu: Bread basket — Garden salad — Pasta Alfredo — Pork tenderloin

FOOD STATIONS

Pros: Fun and creative, a variety of themed food stations let the couple share a range of their favorite foods with guests. Plus, people are free to grab a bite whenever they like.

Cons: Labor-wise, food stations can be expensive if certain dishes are cooked to order (like pasta) or need to be carved (like prime rib). The stations also take up a lot of floor space.

Sample menu: Charcuterie — Flatbreads — Sushi — Raw bar — Barbecue

FAMILY STYLE

Pros: This way of eating brings an ease and familiarity and it encourages guests to interact with one another.

Cons: Family-style meals often require large serving dishes and appropriately sized tables to accommodate them — both of which could bring added expense.

Sample menu: Couscous — Brussels sprouts — Beef tenderloin



Photo provided by Butler's Pantry

SMALL BITES/HORS D'OEUVRES

Pros: Opting for an assortment of small bites rather than a full meal creates a fun, cocktail-party vibe.

Cons: Some guests may be disappointed or confused about not eating a traditional multicourse dinner.

Sample menu: Bruschetta — Meatballs — Stuffed mushrooms — Bacon-wrapped dates — Mini lobster rolls

FOOD TRUCKS

Pros: Wedding food served from trucks turns tradition on its head. Possible options include just about every kind of cuisine, and guests can hop in line whenever they're ready to eat.

Cons: Bad weather could complicate things. Food trucks' casual nature is part of their charm, but that doesn't necessarily make them less expensive.

Sample menu: Pizza truck — Taco truck — Slider truck

Course by course

SPONSORED CONTENT BY FAVAZZA'S RESTAURANT

Whether you're planning a rehearsal dinner at their ever-popular patio, or a wedding reception buffet at the Rose of the Hill event space, you can't go wrong with Favazza's selection of appetizers, entrees and cocktails.

FOR STARTERS

Stimulate your taste buds and appetite with either the fresh spinach flatbread with creamy mascarpone cheese or the all-time classic toasted ravioli with meat sauce topped with parmigiano cheese. Next, a nice dinner salad and their famous garlic bread to follow.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY TROTTER PHOTO





THE ENTRÉE

The Sicilian chicken is one of the most popular dishes at Favazza's. It's marinated, lightly breaded and charbroiled and topped with virgin olive oil, garlic and fresh lemon. The side of cavatelli is topped with creamy butter, parmigiano cheese sauce and paired with fresh vegetables.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY TROTTER PHOTO



For red meat lovers, steak mudega is a great choice. The lightly breaded 8 oz. filet mignon is charbroiled, topped with cheese and served in white wine sauce with prosciutto and fresh mushrooms. Pair it with a side of fresh vegetables and spaghetti with marinara sauce.



NIGHTCAPS

Favazza's has an awesome selection of beer, wine and liquor. Weddings are a time for new beginnings and to try something - like a new cocktail - out of your comfort zone. Consider the Aperol Spritz, consisting of Prosecco, Aperol and soda water. Or there's the Italian classic - the Negroni, consisting of gin, mixed with Campari and sweet vermouth. Cheers!

PHOTOGRAPHY BY TROTTER PHOTO

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the Loft

SECOND STORY VENUE



Plan your memorable event at our beautiful venue in the heart of historic, riverfront Hermann, Missouri.

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WWW.FERNWEHDISTILLING.COM

FERNWEH
DISTILLING CO.

Pace your party MIND THE TIME

Your one-of-a-kind event is cleared for takeoff. A timetable lets everyone follow your wishes according to a carefully set ETA. This sample of when to eat, dance and inject other amusement helps design your special occasion and inspire unique revisions. Communicate clearly with the DJ or master of ceremonies as well as photographer, videographer and other planners exactly what has been set up so they can keep timely watch over the event and help round up moving parts.



6:30

SIP COCKTAILS

Guests mingle and meet; cocktails and appetizers are served. Music usually starts the party. Bride and groom may arrive unheralded, perhaps after a planned time for posed pictures along the perimeter or lingering at the ceremony site.

7:15

ENTER, TOAST, DINE

When dinner chimes ring, guests pick up place cards and find their tables. The bridal party is announced and seated. Champagne, wine or other bubbly is poured so each guest is ready for toasts before dinner. The father of the bride welcomes guests first. Other members of the bridal party follow. Dinner is served.

8:45

TRADITIONAL DANCES

Bride and groom take center stage for their first dance as a married couple. Father and bride dance, then mother and groom take to the dance floor. At last, the bridal party, paired by plan as bridesmaids and groomsmen, enjoy a dance. A choreographed dance may surprise and be memorable for guests.

9:00

DESSERT IS SERVED

If wedding cake is served, it is cut first, perhaps earlier, then the catering staff serves slices of cake or offer other dessert(s).

9:15

IN THE SWING

Guests follow the tenor of the newlyweds. Work out a music schedule in advance with the DJ or music leader.

9:45

EXTRACURRICULARS

It's your party. Bouquet and garter tosses suggest who marries next. Feel free to line dance, distribute favors, give token gifts to those married longest, serve late-night snacks or toast midnight.

10:45

BON VOYAGE OR NOT

If the newlyweds leave the reception early, guests may gather to wish them farewell as the party does or does not wind down. A popular option: Bride and groom dance the night away, then continue to celebrate with remaining guests at another safe, convenient location.

SAINT LOUIS BEST BRIDAL

Venue directory



FORM LIST OF
TOP 10 SITES
FROM OVER 150
LOCATIONS

SEPARATE SELECTIONS FOR
MISSOURI & ILLINOIS

Colin Cowie's EXPERT TIPS

- Learn about any additional charges that may apply to venue fees.
Taxes? Cleaning fee? Security? Insurance?
- Select a variety of wedding dates you would consider.
The more flexible, the better.
- Draw up a guest list.
Make sure the venue capacity works for both your budget and guest count.
- Inquire about tenting and rainy-day options.
Is your locale of choice prone to unpredictable weather?
- Research the venue's existing décor.
Does it match your overall wedding theme?
- Consider holidays that may clog up nearby hotels.
Guests will need accommodations.
- Consider the season.
Are your preferred flowers in-season?
- Find out which venues offer day-of coordination.
You may need a helping hand for your big day.
- Make sure you know the load-in and load-out rules and restrictions.
Is there an event the day before your wedding date?
- Discuss with your venue any sound curfews that may apply.
Where and when is music allowed? Only inside? Only outside? Both?
- Verify if the venue is exclusive to specific vendors.
Can you bring in food and beverage vendors of your own?
- Ask if catering is included.
If yes, check out what their menu offers. Make sure they have options to satisfy all your guests.
- Double-check the policy on overtime rates.
Don't forget to add this to your "what-if" budget.
- Make sure you know whether or not there are bathrooms on-site.
If not, you may have to rent a temporary restroom.
- Discuss the on-site parking situation.
Lack of venue parking may require you to shuttle guests.
- Learn about options for a bridal suite.
Pre-ceremony comfort is everything for a cool and collected bride, whenever the month and season.
- Visit the venue.
Pictures may be worth a thousand words, but seeing is believing.

SOURCE (bit.ly/Cowie_blog-checklist-venue)



The Caramel Room

A 23 City Blocks Hospitality Property

The Caramel Room offers a balance that no other event space does, making it one of the most sought-after wedding venues in St. Louis. Beaming natural light pours through the windows showing off deep hardwood floors, while crystal chandeliers drip from the exposed steel ceiling, creating a comfortable yet chic atmosphere. Guests belly up to the 60' granite bar with coloring reminiscent of caramel swirls to order handcrafted cocktails done the right way, while the culinary team provides an exceptional meal that will leave your guests wishing your venue was a restaurant. No matter the weather, the outdoor terrace, offering river and skyline views, creates an oasis to retreat to and cozy up by the fire, perhaps enjoying a s'more or two. With a standard of synchronized service adding that perfect touch of class, guests will be wowed from start to finish.

Easily accessed from all directions and offering amenities like no other venue in the region, such as secured and complimentary parking, The Caramel Room's award-winning team stands ready to create a day you will never forget.

SPECIAL FEATURE

We want you to lean on the expertise of The Caramel Room team. We are happy to offer advice and suggestions, mainly because we are just as excited about your wedding as you are.

SEATED CAPACITY
up to 600

ROOM RENTAL FEE
No

INDOOR EVENT SPACE
Yes

OUTDOOR EVENT SPACE
Yes

ON-SITE CATERING
Yes

CEREMONY SITE
Yes

LODGING AVAILABLE
No

HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE
Yes

WIRELESS INTERNET
Yes

LIABILITY INSURANCE
Yes

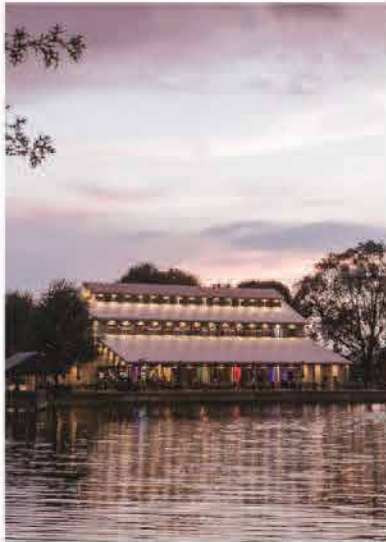
THE CARAMEL ROOM

{ 1600 North Broadway, St. Louis, MO 63102 | (314) 615-2480 | caramelroom.com }

MISSOURI VENUES

BB IS A SYMBOL FOR OUR PARTNERS

VENUE/LOCATION	PHONE/WEBSITE	SEATED CAPACITY	ROOM RENTAL FEE	OUTDOOR PARTY AREA	ON-SITE CATERER	CEREMONY SITE	LODGING AVAILABLE	PARTNER
612North Event Space 612 North 2nd Street, St. Louis	314-899-0612 612north.com	225+			*	*		
9th Street Abbey 1808 S. 9th St., St. Louis	314-621-9598 pattylongcatering.com	210	*	*	*	*	*	
All Occasion Banquet Center 111 Compass Point Drive, St. Charles	636-946-1011 alloccasionbanquetcenter.com	300			*	*	*	
Ameristar Casino Resort Spa One Ameristar Blvd., St. Charles	636-940-4300 ameristarstcharles.com	640		*	*	*	*	
Andre's South 4254 Telegraph Road, St. Louis	314-894-2622 andresbanquet.com	400			*	*		
Andre's West 211 S. Old Hwy. 141, Fenton	314-691-5650 andresbanquet.com	350	*	*	*	*		
Ballwin Golf Club 333 Holloway Road, Ballwin	636-207-2355 ballwin.mo.us/GolfClub	220	*	*				
Barnett on Washington 3207 Washington Ave., St. Louis	844-462-2763 barnettonwashington.com	200	*	*	*	*		
Bear Creek Golf Club 158 Bear Creek Drive, Wentzville	636-332-5018 bearcreekgolf.com	200		*	*	*		
Boo Cat Club 812 N. Union St., St. Louis	314-224-5521 boocatchclub.com	450	*			*		
Busch Stadium Special Events 700 Clark St., St. Louis	314-345-9630 mlb.com/cardinals/ballpark	400+	*	*	*	*		
Big Cedar Lodge 190 Top of the Rock Road, Ridgedale	800-225-6343 bigcedar.com	500	*	*	*	*	*	



Cedar Lake Cellars Winery and Event Venue

Cedar Lake Cellars is a breathtaking venue and ideal atmosphere for your once-in-a-lifetime experience. Surrounded by 370+ acres of gorgeous cosmopolitan countryside and pristine lakes, this hidden gem features a combination of eclectic indoor and outdoor spaces. It is the perfect place for a couple to start their story. Not many locations offer rustic indoor spaces surrounded by a bountiful outdoor paradise. Couples can choose to hold their wedding in the charming Big Red Barn, at our spectacular Barrel Room, by the cascading waterfall, inside a glimmering tent, or in the heart of a charismatic vineyard. From bridal showers and rehearsal dinners to wedding receptions and anniversary parties, Cedar Lake Cellars is an incomparable setting for all celebrations. Award-winning wine and deliciously prepared food guarantee the most magnificent combination for weddings ranging from 20 to 350 guests. Located just 45 minutes west of St. Louis, Cedar Lake Cellars provides a flawless fairy tale backdrop with rustic elegance. Call us today to arrange a tour and see firsthand why we are the destination for so many happily ever afters.

SPECIAL FEATURE

Available amenities include onsite bonfires, fireworks displays, romantic hayrides, carriage rides and much more. The opportunities are endless!

SEATED CAPACITY	400+
ROOM RENTAL FEE	Yes
INDOOR EVENT SPACE	Yes
OUTDOOR EVENT SPACE	Yes
ON-SITE CATERING	Yes
CEREMONY SITE	Yes
LODGING AVAILABLE	No
HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE	Yes
WIRELESS INTERNET	Yes
LIABILITY INSURANCE	Yes
SEE OUR AD	24

CEDAR LAKE CELLARS WINERY AND EVENT VENUE

{ 11008 Schreckengast Rd, Wright City, MO | (636) 745-9500 | www.cedarlakecellars.com }

VENUE/LOCATION	PHONE/WEBSITE	SEATED CAPACITY	ROOM RENTAL FEE	OUTDOOR PARTY AREA	ON-SITE CATERING	CEREMONY SITE	LODGING AVAILABLE	PARTNER
Bogey Hills Country Club 1120 Country Club Road, St. Charles	636-946-6250 bogeyhillsc.com	300	*	*	*	*		
Butterfly House 15193 Olive Blvd, Chesterfield	314-577-0888 missouribotanicalgarden.org	100		*	*	*		
Chabillon-DeMenil 3352 DeMenil Place, St. Louis	314-771-5828 demenil.org	250		*	*	*		
Cave Vineyard 21124 Cave Road, St. Genevieve	314-616-1098 cavevineyard.com	250		*	*	*		
The Caramel Room 1600 N. Broadway, St. Louis	314-615-2480 caramelroom.com	325		*	*	*		BB
The Carriage House at DeMenil 3352 DeMenil Place, St. Louis	314-771-5828 demenil.org	180	*	*	*	*		
Casa Loma Ballroom 3354 Iowa Ave., St. Louis	314-282-2258 casalomaballroom.com	850	*		*	*		
The Cedars 939 Lebanon Drive, St. Louis	314-241-8248 cedarsstl.net	500	*		*	*		BB
Cedar Lake Cellars 11008 Schreckengast Road, Wright City	636-745-9500 cedarlakecellars.com	350	*	*	*	*		BB
Cedar Creek Resort 1401 Olive Road, New Haven	855-778-7222 cedarcreekcenter.com	400+		*	*	*	*	
Chandler Hill Vineyards 596 Defiance Road, Defiance	636-798-2675 chandlerhillvineyards.com	275	*	*	*	*		
Charlie F. Knight Center, Washington U. One Brookings Dr., St. Louis	314-935-4668 olin.wustl.edu	165	*	*	*	*	*	
The Chase Park Plaza 212 N. Kingshighway, St. Louis	314-633-3000 sonesta.com	1300	*	*	*	*	*	



Rose of the Hill by Favazza's showcases Italian hospitality

For a classic taste of Italy in St. Louis, Favazza's Restaurant romances brides and grooms and their guests at its elegant restaurant and full-service Rose of the Hill banquet facility, each located at the gateway to this historic section of the city. After the proposal, make wedding plans at an intimate table on the restaurant's garden patio. Greeter wedding party and out-of-towners after the wedding rehearsal on that same patio or in one of five private rooms. From near or far, guests will delight in the family food and personal service fine-tuned by decades of experience.

On the big day, the single-event facility, named "Rose" for the favorite flower of the Favazza family's mother, becomes the backdrop for as many as 350 people. Often called "popular gourmet," fabulous food like Sicilian Chicken, Steak Mudega and Italian Roast Beef is served sit-down, family style or buffet. Specialty pasta dishes and fresh vegetables appeal to all tastes.

A 35-foot dark wood bar separate from the dining and dancing area offers hospitality. Staff expects to provide real china, linens, glasses and silverware, as well as decorate and check coats. After the bride and groom ceremonially cut the cake, it is sliced and served. The head table enjoys a champagne toast. A private lot provides free parking and convenient access.

SPECIAL FEATURE

Host your event on The Hill! Favazza's Rose of the Hill venue offers all-inclusive packages including authentic Italian cuisine, on-site planner, ample parking, linens, china, cake cutting and more!

SEATED CAPACITY
400

ROOM RENTAL FEE
Yes

INDOOR EVENT SPACE
Yes

OUTDOOR EVENT SPACE
Yes

ON-SITE CATERING
Yes

CEREMONY SITE
Yes

LODGING AVAILABLE
No

HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE
Yes

WIRELESS INTERNET
Yes

LIABILITY INSURANCE
Yes

SEE OUR AD
13

ROSE OF THE HILL BY FAVAZZA'S

[2300 Edwards, St. Louis, MO 63110 | (314) 772-6003 | www.roseofthehill.com]

VENUE/LOCATION	PHONE/WEBSITE	SEATED CAPACITY	ROOM RENTAL FEE	OUTDOOR PARTY AREA	ON-SITE CATERING	CEREMONY SITE	LODGING AVAILABLE	PARTNER
The Christy Banquet Centers, 5856 Christy Blvd., St. Louis	314-287-5263 thechristy.com	350	*		*			
The Christy Banquet Centers, 9000 Veterans Memorial Parkway, O'Fallon	636-266-4123 thechristy.com	500	*		*			
City Museum, 750 North 15th St., St. Louis	314-231-2489 citymuseum.org	300	*	*		*		
Clayton Plaza Hotel, 7750 Carondelet Ave., Clayton	314-726-5400 cpclayton.com	600	*		*		*	
The Conservatory, 1001 South Main St., St. Charles	636-947-0414 gardenwedding.com	100	*	*		*	*	
Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, 3750 Washington Blvd., St. Louis	314-535-4660 camstl.org	225	*	*		*	*	
Crowne Plaza Hotel, 200 N. Fourth St., St. Louis	314-621-8200 ihg.com/crowneplaza	350	*	*	*	*	*	
Cyrano's, 603 E. Lockwood, Webster Groves	314-963-3232 cyranos.com	50	*		*	*		BB
DoubleTree Hotel & Conference Ctr., 16625 Swingley Ridge Road, Chesterfield	314-434-0100 hilton.com/en/doubletree	400		*	*	*	*	
DoubleTree Hotel - Westport, 1973 Craigshire Road, St. Louis	314-434-0100 hilton.com/en/doubletree	450		*	*	*	*	
Drury Inn Union Station - St. Louis, 201 South 20th St., St. Louis	314-231-3900 druryhotels.com	32	*		*	*	*	
Drury Inn & Suites Convention Ctr. - St. Louis, 711 N. Broadway, St. Louis	314-231-8100 druryhotels.com	80	*		*	*	*	
Drury Inn & Suites Forest Park - St. Louis, 2111 Sulphur Ave., St. Louis	314-646-0770 druryhotels.com	150		*	*	*	*	



Old school ambience in historic Soulard

Nestled on a quiet street in one of St. Louis' oldest neighborhoods, The Franklin Room is a mix of old world charm and city vibes. Built in 1905, it boasts 30' ceilings, 10' windows and the original maple wood floors.

With an attentive service staff that's all about you, exceptional cuisine prepared fresh in house, and a wealth of support services and vendors, you have everything under one roof to get the party started.

Add a bit of romance and this beautiful, vintage ballroom is the perfect place to celebrate your wedding day.

SPECIAL FEATURE

Character, elegance and old world charm. Our ballroom is 112 years old with 30' ceilings, 10' windows and original wood floors. We would love to show you The Franklin Room!

SEATED CAPACITY
150-1,000

ROOM RENTAL FEE
No

INDOOR EVENT SPACE
Yes

OUTDOOR EVENT SPACE
No

ON-SITE CATERING
Yes

CEREMONY SITE
Yes

LODGING AVAILABLE
No

HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE
Yes

WIRELESS INTERNET
Yes

LIABILITY INSURANCE
Yes

SEE OUR AD
9

THE FRANKLIN ROOM

{ 816 Allen Ave., St. Louis, MO 63104 | In Historic Soulard | (314) 664-7706 | www.thefranklinroom.net }

VENUE/LOCATION	PHONE/WEBSITE	SEATED CAPACITY	ROOM RENTAL FEE	OUTDOOR PARTY AREA	ON-SITE CATERING	CEREMONY SITE	LODGING AVAILABLE	PARTNER
Drury Plaza Hotel - Chesterfield 355 Chesterfield Center East, St. Louis	636-532-3300 druryhotels.com	160	*			*	*	
Drury Plaza Hotel at the Arch 2 South Fourth St., St. Louis	314-231-3003 druryhotels.com	280	*		*	*	*	
Embassy Suites Hotel & Spa Two Convention Center Plaza, St. Charles	636-946-5544 hilton.com/en/embassy	1,600	*		*		*	
Embassy Suites Hotel - St. Louis Airport 11237 Lone Eagle Drive, Bridgeton	314-739-8929 hilton.com/en/embassy	1,035	*		*		*	
Forest Hills Country Club 36 Forest Club Dr., Chesterfield	636-227-5030 foresthillscc.net	200	*	*	*	*		
Foundry Art Centre 520 N. Main St., St. Charles	636-225-0270 foundryartcentre.org	350	*			*		
Fox Theatre 527 N. Grand Blvd., St. Louis	314-534-1678 fabulousfox.com	370	*	*	*	*	*	
Fox Run, Carriage House 527 N. Grand Blvd., St. Louis	636-938-4653 foxrun-golfclub.com	250	*		*	*		
The Franklin Room 1 Putt Lane, Eureka	636-253-0867 thefranklinroom.net	300			*	*		
GlenMark Farms 3500 Hempstead St., St. Charles	636-255-3276 glenmarkfarms.com	225	*	*	*	*		
Grand Hall on Chouteau 2319 Chouteau Av., St. Louis	314-427-6771 grandhall-stl.com	300+		*	*	*		
Grand Opera House Banquet Ctr. 311 N Main St., St. Charles	314-406-3783 ohbanquets.com	200			*	*		
Heart of St. Charles 1410 S. 5th St., St. Charles	636-947-8270 hearteventsstl.com	400			*	*	*	



Hilton St. Louis Frontenac caters to your every need

Every bride should have the wedding of her dreams. Whether she has imagined every detail as a little girl or is just beginning to imagine, every decision is important. The gown, the music, the flowers, along with hundreds of other details should be perfect. Finding the right venue ties all the details together seamlessly! The Hilton St. Louis Frontenac is that venue.

Personal relationships with the bride and her family are extremely important. We have an experienced catering staff that works with the family from start to finish. This ensures a perfect reception.

The Hilton St. Louis Frontenac offers specifically tailored wedding packages to help with your reception choices. Packages include four hours of open bar, one hour of white-gloved butler passed hors d'oeuvres, a champagne toast, a plated dinner or buffet and wine with dinner. In addition, the wedding cake is served with a signature Hilton chocolate ice cream truffle. Our packages also offer the bride and groom a complimentary suite on their wedding night as well as a complimentary guest room for the bride's parents. Out-of-town guests stay at the hotel at a preferred guest rate.

Whatever options the bride chooses, the Hilton St. Louis Frontenac's goal is to create lasting memories and a perfect wedding reception.

SPECIAL FEATURE

Complimentary suite for the bride and groom included with our wedding packages! Plus, a complimentary guest room for the bride's parents too!

SEATED CAPACITY
150-1,000

ROOM RENTAL FEE
No

INDOOR EVENT SPACE
Yes

OUTDOOR EVENT SPACE
Yes

ON-SITE CATERING
Yes

CEREMONY SITE
Yes

LODGING AVAILABLE
Yes

HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE
Yes

WIRELESS INTERNET
Yes

LIABILITY INSURANCE
Yes

SEE OUR AD
40

HILTON ST. LOUIS FRONTENAC

{ 1335 S. Lindbergh Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63131 | (314)993-1100 | www.stlouisfrontenac.hilton.com }

VENUE/LOCATION	PHONE/WEBSITE	SEATED CAPACITY	ROOM RENTAL FEE	OUTDOOR PARTY AREA	ON-SITE CATERING	CEREMONY SITE	LODGING AVAILABLE	PARTNER
Hermann Hill 165 E Highway 100, Hermann	314-800-3295 hermannmoweddings.com	300	*	*	*	*	*	
Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark 1 S. Broadway St., St. Louis	314-421-1776 hilton.com	175+	*		*	*	*	
Hilton St. Louis Airport Hotel 10330 Natural Bridge Rd., St. Louis	314-426-5500 hilton.com	400			*	*	*	BD
Hilton St. Louis Frontenac 1335 S. Lindbergh Blvd., Frontenac	314-993-1100 hilton.com	500	*	*	*	*	*	
Holiday Inn — St. Louis Airport 4505 Woodson Rd., Bridgeton	314-427-4700 ihg.com/holidayinn	200	*	*	*	*	*	
Holiday Inn Airport West — Earth City 3400 Rider Trail South, St. Louis	314-291-6800 ihg.com/holidayinn	300	*	*	*	*	*	
Holiday Inn — Forest Park 5915 Wilson Ave., St. Louis	314-645-0700 ihg.com/holidayinn	80	*	*	*	*		
Holiday Inn Select - St. Louis Downtown 811 N. 9th St., St. Louis	314-421-4000 ihg.com/holidayinn	400	*		*	*	*	
Holiday Inn — South County Ctr. 6921 S. Lindbergh Blvd., St. Louis	314-892-3600 ihg.com/holidayinn	325			*	*	*	
Holiday Inn St. Louis Airport - Riverport 10709 Watson Road, St. Louis	1-800-652-3705 ihg.com/holidayinn	450	*	*	*	*	*	
Holiday Inn Southwest - Route 66 10709 Watson Road, St. Louis	314-821-6600 ihg.com/holidayinn	400		*	*	*	*	
Hotel Saint Louis 705 Olive St., St. Louis	314-241-4300 hotelsaintlouis.com	325	*	*	*	*	*	
Hyatt Regency St. Louis at The Arch 315 Chestnut St., St. Louis	314-655-1234 hyatt.com	2000	*	*	*	*	*	



Reception venue “Exactly like nothing else”

When looking for wedding venues, Hotel Saint Louis offers so much more than classic elegance. From the contemporary touches of our Historic property and rooftop pool and restaurant to private rooms for bridal showers and brunches we are here to serve you with attention to detail and experienced staff to help you create an event that is unrepeatable. With our flexible meeting space, we are able to accommodate your Wedding Reception with our 4,500 square foot luxurious ballroom, which seats up to 220. Our chic rooftop offers fabulous views for picture taking. Opening December 2018!

SPECIAL FEATURE

The Spa is full service and ready to take care of all your wedding needs. Full day packages available for hair, make up, pedicures, and manicures for you entire Bridal Party. Be pampered and relaxed!

SEATED CAPACITY	220
ROOM RENTAL FEE	Yes
INDOOR EVENT SPACE	Yes
OUTDOOR EVENT SPACE	Yes
ON-SITE CATERING	Yes
CEREMONY SITE	Yes
LODGING AVAILABLE	Yes
HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE	Yes
WIRELESS INTERNET	Yes
LIABILITY INSURANCE	Yes

HOTEL SAINT LOUIS AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION HOTELS

{ 705 Olive St., St. Louis, MO 63101 | (314)241-4300 | www.hotelsaintlouis.com/weddings }

VENUE/LOCATION	PHONE/WEBSITE	SEATED CAPACITY	ROOM RENTAL FEE	OUTDOOR PARTY AREA	ON-SITE CATERING	CEREMONY SITE	LODGING AVAILABLE	PARTNER
Innsbrook Resort & Conference Center 596 Aspen Way Dr., Innsbrook	636-928-3366 innsbrook-resort.com	200	*	*	*	*	*	
Jewel Box 5600 Clayton Avenue, Forest Park, St. Louis	314-531-0080 forestparkmap.org/jewel-box	250	*	*		*		
Kuhs Estate & Farm 13080 Spanish Pond Rd., Spanish Lake	314-226-0709 kuhsfarm.com	400+		*		*		
Landings at Spirit Golf Club 180 N. Eatherton Rd., Chesterfield	636-728-1927 landingsatspirit.com	400		*	*	*	*	
Lemp Grand Hall 1817 Cherokee St., St. Louis	314-664-8024 lempmansion.com/grandhall	300	*	*	*	*	*	
Lemp Mansion 3322 DeMerill Place, St. Louis	314-664-8024 lempmansion.com	260	*	*	*	*	*	
LIUNA Event Center 4532 S. Lindbergh Blvd., Sunset Hills	314-226-1010 liunaeventcenter.com	350			*	*		
The Lodge of Des Peres 1050 Des Peres Rd., Des Peres	314-835-6150 desperesmo.org	165				*		
Lodge at Grant's Trail 4398 Hoffmeister Ave., St. Louis	314-638-3340 lodgeatgrantstrail.com	80		*	*	*	*	
Lumen St. Louis Event Space 2201 Locust St., St. Louis	314-615-2480 lumenstl.com	200			*	*		
Lumière Place Casino and Hotel 999 N. 2nd St., St. Louis	314-881-7777 lumiereplace.com	350	*		*	*	*	
Mad Art Gallery 2727 S. 12th St., St. Louis	314-771-8230 madart.com	230	*	*	*	*		
The Magic House 516 South Kirkwood, St. Louis	314-822-8900 magichouse.org	500	*			*	*	



SPECIAL FEATURE

Go all out with lush floral arrangements or keep it simple with clusters of candles. The space will do the talking either way you fancy.

Lumen St. Louis

A 23 City Blocks Hospitality Property

Originally an old automobile showroom, the bones of Lumen St. Louis are beautiful with gleaming natural hard wood floors, intricate crown molding and wrought iron railings, and of course, a sparkling marble staircase. While floor-to-ceiling windows wash the space in natural light, small silver accents in the chandeliers and Chiavari chairs catch the eye. The environment offers a neutral palette that one can let speak for itself or clients can utilize the state-of-the-art LED light system to transform the venue and personalize the party. The blank canvas appeal paired with the built-in character allow couples to immediately picture their best day ever at Lumen St. Louis.

The only thing more attractive than the space itself is the award-winning culinary team and service staff that come along with it. Select from the farm-to-table, seasonal based menu or work with the team to create a culinary experience tailored to you. Either way, you can't go wrong.

Located in the Packard Lofts building, Lumen St. Louis can host weddings for up to 200 guests with space for ceremonies as well. Lumen's timeless design, crafted culinary and exceptional service evokes the excitement weddings deserve.

SEATED CAPACITY
up to 200

ROOM RENTAL FEE
No

INDOOR EVENT SPACE
Yes

OUTDOOR EVENT SPACE
No

ON-SITE CATERING
Yes

CEREMONY SITE
Yes

LODGING AVAILABLE
No

HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE
Yes

WIRELESS INTERNET
Yes

LIABILITY INSURANCE
Yes

SEE OUR AD
19

LUMEN ST. LOUIS

{ 2201 Locust St., St. Louis, MO 63103 | Located in the Packard Lofts | (314) 615-2480 | lumenstl.com }

VENUE/LOCATION	PHONE/WEBSITE	SEATED CAPACITY	ROOM RENTAL FEE	OUTDOOR PARTY AREA	ON-SITE CATERING	CEREMONY SITE	LODGING AVAILABLE	PARTNER
Magic Chef Mansion 3400 Russell Blvd. St. Louis	314-664-3400 magicchefmansion.com	150	*			*		
The Mahler Ballroom 4915 Washington Blvd. St. Louis	314-361-4411 mahlerballroom.com	150	*	*		*		
Marriott St. Louis Airport 10700 Pear Tree Drive, St. Louis	314-423-9700 marriott.com	500		*	*	*	*	
Marriott St. Louis West 660 Maryville Center Drive, St. Louis	314-878-2747 marriott.com	1,045	*	*	*	*	*	
Missouri Athletic Club 405 Washington Avenue, St. Louis	855-418-6652 mac-stl.org	400	*		*	*	*	
Missouri Bluffs Golf Club 18 Research Park Circle, St. Charles	636-939-6494 mobluffs.com	150	*	*	*	*		
Missouri Botanical Garden 4344 Shaw Blvd. St. Louis	314-577-5100 missouribotanicalgarden.org	300	*	*	*	*		
Missouri History Museum 5700 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis	314-746-4599 mohistory.org/museum	250	*	*	*	*		BD
Mount Pleasant Estate 5634 High St., Augusta	636-482-9463 mountpleasant.com	225	*	*	*	*		
New Town at St. Charles 3331-2 Rue Royale, St. Charles	636-288-7332 newtownstcharles.com	300	*	*		*	*	BD
Old Hickory Golf Club 1 Dye Club Dr., St. Peters	636-477-8960 oldhickorygc.com	550		*	*	*		
Old Stone Chapel 1106 S. Main St., St. Charles	636-947-8270 hearteventsstl.com	200		*	*	*	*	
Oliva On The Hill 4915 Daggett Ave., St. Louis	314-961-7588 olivaonthehill.com	100	*	*	*	*		



SPECIAL FEATURE

Beautiful architectural details in a historic setting combine to create a romantic venue. Give your guests a unique experience by adding our museum exhibits to your rented spaces.

Historic beauty with a modern feel

Located in beautiful Forest Park, the Missouri History Museum is an ideal venue for all of your wedding needs, from wedding showers and rehearsal dinners, to the ceremony and the reception. The building itself, an impeccable combination of architectural beauty, modern amenities and historic significance, offers a variety of unique spaces for your event.

We offer a choice of six preferred caterers to fit a wide range of styles, cuisines and budgets. Our in-house event planner will coordinate the details to ensure that your special day runs smoothly.

Whether you're looking to celebrate your vows in our beautiful Grand Hall, or host your rehearsal dinner in our restaurant featuring sweeping views of Forest Park, you can be sure that your event will be one to remember.

Your big day will go down in history when held at the Missouri History Museum!

SEATED CAPACITY
220

ROOM RENTAL FEE
Yes

INDOOR EVENT SPACE
Yes

OUTDOOR EVENT SPACE
Yes

ON-SITE CATERING
Yes

CEREMONY SITE
Yes

LODGING AVAILABLE
No

HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE
Yes

WIRELESS INTERNET
Yes

LIABILITY INSURANCE
Yes

SEE OUR AD
14

MISSOURI HISTORY MUSEUM

{ 5700 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63112 | (314) 454-3159 | www.mohistory.org }

VENUE/LOCATION	PHONE/WEBSITE	SEATED CAPACITY	ROOM RENTAL FEE	OUTDOOR PARTY AREA	ON-SITE CATERER	CEREMONY SITE	LODGING AVAILABLE	PARTNER
Orlando's Event Centers, South County 4300 Hoffmeister, St. Louis	314-638-6660 orlandogardens.com	900			*	*		BB
Orlando's Event Centers, Maryland Heights 2050 Dorsett Village Plaza	314-453-9000 orlandogardens.com	600			*	*		BB
Palladium St. Louis 1400 Park Place, St. Louis	314-881-4301 palladium-stl.com	400	*	*	*	*		
Stifel Theatre 1400 Market St., St. Louis	314-499-7600 stifeltheatre.com	400	*		*			
Pear Tree Inn St. Louis Union Station 221 Market St., St. Louis	314-241-3200 druryhotels.com	150			*	*	*	
Pevely Farms Golf Club 400 Lewis Rd., Eureka	636-938-7000 pevelyfarms.com	250	*	*	*	*		
Purser Center at Logan College, The 1851 Schoettler Rd., Chesterfield	636-230-1881 logan.edu/purser-center	400	*	*		*		
Randall Gallery 999 North 13th St., St. Louis	314-550-0818 randallgallery.com	300	*	*	*	*		
Marriott St. Louis Grand Hotel 800 Washington Ave., St. Louis	314-621-9600 marriott.com	500	*		*	*	*	
Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel 9801 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis	314-429-1100 marriott.com	650	*		*	*	*	BB
The Ritz-Carlton St. Louis 100 Carondelet Plaza, St. Louis	314-863-6300 ritzcarlton.com	700	*		*	*	*	
The Vineyards at Riverbend Chapel 827 Ming Drive, Washington	636-390-8600 riverbendchapelinc.biz	300	*	*	*	*		
Rose Of The Hill by Favazza's 2300 Edwards St., St. Louis	314-772-6003 roseofthehill.com	350	*	*	*	*		BB



Orlando's Catering creates 50+ years of memories

Since 1967, Orlando's Catering, a third-generation family owned business, has been fulfilling a life-time of memories for wedding couples. We understand that you are busy, so we make the entire process simple and stress free for all our engaged couples.

Orlando's Catering is a preferred caterer at St. Louis' most unique wedding venues, including The World's Fair Pavilion in Forest Park, NEO on Locust, Majorette, The Foundry Art Centre in St. Charles and City Museum to name a few. Please check out our website for a full list of over 40 venues we service.

We are also the exclusive caterer for Villa Antonio Winery.

Orlando's Catering provides one-stop wedding planning services which include helping you secure your venue, food selections, rentals, bar services, transportation, entertainment and more!

The Orlando family also owns Orlando's Event and Conference Centers with two locations in Maryland Heights and South County.

We invite you to meet with one of our bridal consultants to find out why Orlando's is considered the No. 1 caterer and event space in St. Louis and the surrounding areas!

SPECIAL FEATURE

Our services include custom lighting, décor, specialty linens, and centerpieces. We want to reflect YOUR vision to make your wedding an unforgettable experience for your guests!

SEATED CAPACITY
50 - 900

ROOM RENTAL FEE
No

INDOOR EVENT SPACE
Yes

OUTDOOR EVENT SPACE
Yes

ON-SITE CATERING
Yes

CEREMONY SITE
Yes

LODGING AVAILABLE
Call

HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE
Yes

WIRELESS INTERNET
Yes

LIABILITY INSURANCE
Yes

SEE OUR AD
4

ORLANDO'S EVENT CENTERS, CATERING & SPECIAL EVENTS

{ South County (314) 638-6660 | Maryland Heights (314) 453-9000 | www.orlandogardens.com }

VENUE/LOCATION	PHONE/WEBSITE	SEATED CAPACITY	ROOM RENTAL FEE	OUTDOOR PARTY AREA	ON-SITE CATERING	CEREMONY SITE	LODGING AVAILABLE	PARTNER
Saint Charles Convention Center 1 Convention Plaza, St. Charles	636-669-3000 stcharlesconventioncenter.com	1,000	*		*	*	*	BB
St. Louis Art Museum 1 Fine Arts Drive, St. Louis	314-721-0072 slam.org	250	*		*			
St. Louis Artists' Guild and Gallery 12 N. Jackson, Clayton	314-727-6266 stlouisartistsguild.org	110	*	*		*		
St. Louis Science Center 5050 Oakland Ave., St. Louis	314-289-4400 slsc.org	330	*	*	*	*		
St. Louis University Events 221 North Grand Blvd., St. Louis	314-977-6338 slu.edu/events	500	*		*	*		
St. Louis Zoo 1 Government Drive, St. Louis	314-781-0900 stlzoo.org	500	*	*	*	*		BB
The Sheldon Concert Hall & Ballroom 3648 Washington Blvd., St. Louis	314-533-9900 thesheldon.org	500	*		*	*		
Sheraton Clayton Plaza Hotel 7730 Bonhomme Ave., Clayton	314-863-0400 marriott.com	250	*	*	*	*	*	
Sheraton Westport — Chalet Hotel St. Louis 191 Westport Plaza, St. Louis	314-878-1500 marriott.com	800			*	*	*	
Sheraton Westport Plaza Hotel St. Louis 900 Westport Plaza, St. Louis	314-878-1500 marriott.com	300			*	*	*	
Silver Oaks Chateau 1168 Hwy 100, Pacific	314-280-8890 silveroakschateau.com	250	*	*	*	*	*	
Souland Preservation Hall 1921 S. 9th St., St. Louis	314-241-8181 preservationhall.com	150	*	*		*		
Spazio Westport 12031 Lackland Rd., St. Louis	314-576-0400 spaziowestport.com	250	*		*	*	*	



SPECIAL FEATURE

We offer several upgrades in our wedding packages including audio/visual, gobos, up-lighting, staging, draping, décor & more!

Your dream wedding isn't a dream. It's here.

Your wedding experience will be a dream come true at the Saint Charles Convention Center. Our elegant venue can accommodate from 50 to 2,000 wedding guests with its flexible event space including the 16,200-square-foot Grand Ballroom, 6,025-square-foot Junior Ballroom, and 27,600-square-foot Hall.

Planning is a breeze when you take advantage of our in-house services including catering, audio visual, staging, décor, a dedicated event management team and expert wedding coordinator. You'll love our customizable wedding packages allowing you to create a menu and event unique to you. Your guests will appreciate the connected 296 suite, Embassy Suites Hotel, free St. Charles Trolley and easy travel: we're located right off Highway 70 and just 10 minutes from Lambert-St. Louis International Airport.

SEATED CAPACITY
1,000

ROOM RENTAL FEE
Yes

INDOOR EVENT SPACE
Yes

OUTDOOR EVENT SPACE
Yes

ON-SITE CATERING
Yes

CEREMONY SITE
Yes

LODGING AVAILABLE
Yes

HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE
Yes

WIRELESS INTERNET
Yes

LIABILITY INSURANCE
Yes

SEE OUR AD
87

SAINT CHARLES CONVENTION CENTER

{ 1 Convention Center Plaza, St. Charles, MO 63303 | (636) 669-3000 | www.stcharlesconventioncenter.com }

VENUE/LOCATION	PHONE/WEBSITE	SEATED CAPACITY	ROOM RENTAL FEE	OUTDOOR PARTY AREA	ON-SITE CATERING	CEREMONY SITE	LODGING AVAILABLE	PARTNER
Sunset 44 Bistro 118 W. Adams Ave., Kirkwood	314-965-6644 sunset44.com	50	*		*			
Sunset Hills Banquet Center 13366 West Watson Road, Sunset Hills	314-843-3000 sunsethillsgolfcourse.net	250	*	*	*			
Third Degree Glass Factory 5200 Delmar Blvd., St. Louis	314-367-4527 thirddegreeglassfactory.com	250		*	*	*		
University of Missouri - St. Louis I-70 & I-170, St. Louis	314-516-4324 umsl.edu	1600	*		*	*		
Vance Vineyards & Winery 1522 Madison 212, Fredricktown	573-783-8800 vancevineyards.com	100	*	*	*	*		
Villa Antonio Winery 3660 Linhorst, Hillsboro	636-475-5008 villaantoniowinery.com	300	*	*	*	*		
Westin St. Louis, The 811 Spruce St., St. Louis	314-621-2000 marriott.com	275			*	*	*	
Winghaven Country Club 7777 Winghaven Blvd., O'Fallon	636-561-9464 winghavencc.com	250	*	*	*	*		
Whitmoor Country Club 1100 Whitmoor Drive, St. Charles	636-926-9622 whitmoorgolf.com	500	*		*			
Whittemore House at Washington University 6440 Forsyth Blvd., St. Louis	314-935-5210 whittemorehouse.org	110	*	*		*		
Windows On Washington 1601 Washington Ave., St. Louis	314-241-5555 wowbanquets.com	350	*		*	*		
Worlds Fair Pavilion 1904 Concourse Drive, St. Louis	314-289-5344 stlouis-mo.gov	450	*	*		*		
Xavier Grand Ballroom 3628 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis	314-977-7303 sfxcollegechurchweddings.com	300	*		*	*		

ILLINOIS VENUES

'BB' IS A SYMBOL FOR OUR PARTNERS

VENUE/LOCATION	PHONE/WEBSITE	SEATED CAPACITY	ROOM RENTAL FEE	OUTDOOR PARTY AREA	ON-SITE CATERER	CEREMONY SITE	LOADING AVAILABLE	PARTNER
4204 Main Street Brewing Co. 4204 W. Main Street, Belleville	618-234-4903 mainstreetbrewingco.com	450	•	•	•	•		BB
Aerie's Terrace 800 Timber Ridge Drive, Grafton, Ill	618-786-8438 aeriesview.com	700	•	•	•	•	•	
Beall Mansion 407 E. 12 Street, Alton	618-474-9100 beallmansion.com	100	•	•		•	•	
Bellecourt Manor 225 East "A" Street, Belleville	618-233-8490 bellecourtbc.com	350	•		•	•		
Bluff City Grill 424 E Broadway, Alton	618-433-8288 bluff-city-grill.business.site	500	•		•			
Casino Queen Hotel & Casino 200 South Front St., East St. Louis	800-777-0777 casinoqueen.com/stlouis	250		•		•		
Crystal Garden and Event Center 1230 University Drive, Edwardsville	618-655-1170 gccuisine.com	400	•	•	•	•		
DoubleTree Collinsville - St. Louis 1000 Eastport Plaza Drive, Collinsville	618-345-2800 hilton.com/en/doubletree	350	•		•	•	•	
A Fair Barn 3416 Hotze Road, Salem	618-740-1515 afairbarn.com	300+	•	•		•	•	
The Falls Reception & Conference Center 300 Admiral Wienel Blvd., Columbia	618-281-3255 seethefalls.com	550	•	•	•	•	•	
Four Points By Sheraton Fairview Heights 319 Fountains Parkway, Fairview Heights	618-622-9500 marriott.com	500	•		•	•	•	
Gateway Center, The 1 Gateway Drive, Collinsville	800-289-2388 gatewaycenter.com	1,280	•		•		•	
The Grafton Winery 300 W. Main Street, Grafton	618-768-3001 thegraffonwinery.com	350	•	•	•	•	•	
Hidden Lake Winery 10580 Weilen Rd., Aviston	618-228-9111 hiddenlakewinery.com	500	•	•	•	•	•	
The Loading Dock 401 E. Front Street, Grafton	618-786-3494 graftonloadingdock.com	500	•	•	•	•	•	
Lockhaven Golf Club 10872 Lawrence Keller Dr., Godfrey	618-466-2441 lockhavigolfclub.com	300+	•	•	•	•	•	
National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows, The 442 South De Mazenod Drive, Belleville	618-397-6700 snows.org	400		•	•	•	•	
Oak Terrace Resort & Spa 100 Beyers Lake Rd., Pana	800-577-7598 oakterraceresort.com	Call		•	•	•	•	
Orchards Golf Club 1499 Golf Course Drive, Belleville	618-233-8921 orchardsgolfclub.com	125	•		•			
Pere Marquette Lodge 13653 Lodge Boulevard, Grafton	618-786-2331 pmlodge.net	250	•	•		•		
Regency Conference Center, The 400 Regency Park Dr., O'Fallon	618-624-9999 regencyconferencecenter.com	850	•	•	•	•		
Stonewolf Golf Club 1195 Stonewolf Trail, Fairview Heights	618-624-4653 stonewolfgolf.com	350	•	•	•			
Sunset Hills Country Club 2525 Highway 157 S., Edwardsville	618-656-9380 sunsethillscountryclub.com	330	•	•	•			
Tony's Vogue Room 312 Plaza Street, Alton 02	618-462-8384 tonysrestaurant.com	250	•			•	•	
Tuscany Ballroom Regency Conference Center 400 Regency Park Dr., O'Fallon	618-624-9999 regencyconferencecenter.com	750	•		•	•		
Willey Theatre 252 North Main Street, Edwardsville	618-307-2053 willeytheatre.com	325	•			•		
Willoughby Farm 631 Willoughby Lane, Collinsville	618-977-0941 willoughbyfarm.org	175	•	•		•		
Wow Furnishings and Event Center 515 E. 3rd Street, Alton	618-444-7969	250	•		•	•		



International Honeymoons

Content provided by Green Shoot Media

Your honeymoon is the final aspect of your wedding plans. This part is all about celebrating your newfound love together, and many couples desire the romance and adventure of an international honeymoon.

These trips require additional health and safety considerations, so make sure you do your homework.

With a little research and proper planning, you can turn your cross-border honeymoon into a once-in-a-lifetime experience that you'll be talking about throughout your marriage.

SELECTING THE SPOT

Choosing your perfect international location will be a challenge, because you have to consider both

of your interests before you settle on a spot.

Exotic places in paradise locations such as the Caribbean are popular for many reasons. They are breathtakingly beautiful, and they offer many peaceful excursions that can add to the experience.

Some couples prefer adventure over leisure. Others want to visit a piece of their heritage, especially if they share it together. To prepare for an international honeymoon, be aware that all countries require certain documentation and identification, as well as passports. Look into these requirements now; you might need to apply and obtain these things well ahead of time to make sure you can legally make the trip.


SAFETY FACTORS

When you agree on a possible destination, safety is the next priority. There are many things that could compromise your honeymoon, so be vigilant of your location, past crime rates and any unrest that may be happening in the area of your destination.

Check with credible sources on the safety and security of the area. Another option is to ask someone you know who has been there in the past. One of the biggest factors to consider is the weather conditions. Some exotic locations are prone to tropical storms and hurricanes during the fall season. It is especially important to be aware of this while making your plans.

SAFE, EFFECTIVE PLANNING

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, some types of international travel — especially to developing countries and rural areas — have higher health risks. Here are some tips from the CDC:

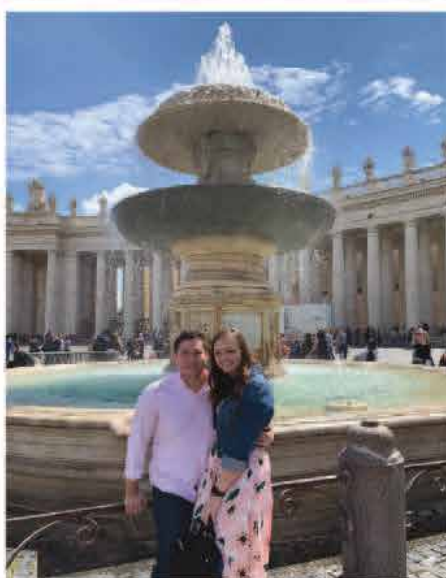
- Ensure that you are up to date on all your routine vaccines, as well as travel vaccines.
- Make appointments with your health care providers four to six weeks before your departure date.
- Be careful what you eat and drink, and use insect repellent.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching animals, especially monkeys, dogs and birds. 

HONEYMOON DESTINATION
TUSCAN WINE COUNTRY

Italy



Suzie & Ale's
HONEYMOON WAS 'MOLTO BENE'



Wanting a honeymoon that was adventure-filled, Suzie and Ale Galatoire chose Italy — a new destination for both of them. Ryan from Travel Haus St. Louis helped the couple navigate their way through Tuscan wine country (with a personal driver and wine expert to boot); to the Isle of Capri to experience the Blue Grotto on the Amalfi Coast; to Florence and the Michelangelo Plaza for more wine and gelato; to Rome to do what Romans did; and to Sorrento on the Bay of Naples — the most relaxing part of the honeymoon, says Suzie. Couples often honeymoon immediately following the wedding, but Suzie and Ale decided to wait until spring since the wedding planning was stressful and they were in the middle of building a house. Plus, the weather in Italy

is better in spring than fall. Due to the sheer amount of planning involved, Suzie highly recommends using an experienced travel agent for international honeymoon travel. "I cannot say enough good things about Travel Haus. We were both under a lot of stress, and planning a honeymoon to a foreign country was yet another stressful thing to add to the list. I reached out to Travel Haus after attempting to plan the trip myself and I was so grateful I did," said Suzie. Suzie and Ale's "trip of a lifetime" was jam-packed with ample amounts of walking, sightseeing, wine and food, but the highlight was 15 days' worth of new memories as husband and wife. But, mostly it was the wine — they even brought back a bottle for an anniversary down the road!

ABC tips from Mike

Mike Schellhase, owner of Travel Haus of St. Louis

A. Why use a travel agent to plan a honeymoon?

Daily relationships with wedding planners, resorts and destinations take care and concern out of worry about timing and details.

B. Where are today's prime destinations from the Midwest?

1. Mexico leads. 2. Jamaica. 3. Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

C. What timing works best?

Set sight on a plan 11 to 14 months before the date, especially in the busy months of October, September and May.

D. What should a couple know for best advice and inspiration?

1. How many will go? Will children attend? This helps match destination and resort.
2. Will the ceremony be symbolic (highest percentage, with legal ceremony in United States) or civil (married under laws of the destination country)?

E. What kind of destination should we choose?

What fits the two of you? Plan like it will be a vacation-for-two.



CALL FOR YOUR FREE CONSULTATION
(314) 842-6000

11229 Concord Village Ave., St. Louis, MO 63123
www.travelhaus.com

A sparkly DEPARTURE!



Leaving the wedding reception and stepping into married life with a shower of sparklers, Luke and Hannah Williams chose small fireworks to light up their send-off. Couples commonly use fireworks as a picturesque way to end their celebrations and they will then be whisked away by their preferred mode of transportation. Limited only by imagination, the couple may choose for an elegant farewell in a horse-drawn carriage or limousine, a golf cart for outdoor occasions, or a school or party bus to keep the fun going after the reception.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JESS AND JENN PHOTO



BREATHTAKING!

At our floral design center, our professional designers are dedicated to bringing your dream wedding to life.

Your floral coordinator will help you with varieties, colors and trends.

From elegant to extravagant, your special day is our top priority!

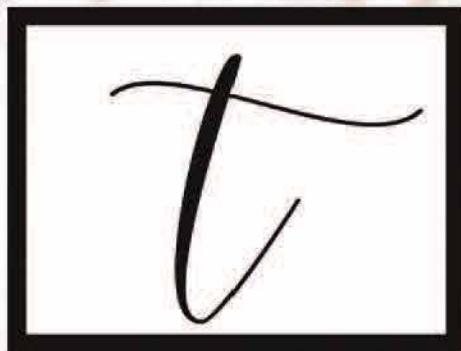
To make an appointment, call (314) 997-2444.



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