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INAUGURAL
EDITION

*See more of this
idea-laden styled
shoot at Biltmore's
Conservatory on
page 26.*

COMPLIMENTARY
2018 *edition*

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NICOLE ROBERTS OF BOONETOWN STORY



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2018 *edition*

features

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More online



Browse our blog
(and find more
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TheAshevilleWeddingGuide.com

on the cover

Image by Rachael McIntosh Photography. Shot on location at Biltmore. Styling by Alise Taggart Events & Design. Gown from Wildflower Bridal. Bouquet by Floressence Flowers. Beauty by Salon Zhenya (hair) and Blush Asheville (makeup). See story on page 26.



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CR *Timeless style venue.*



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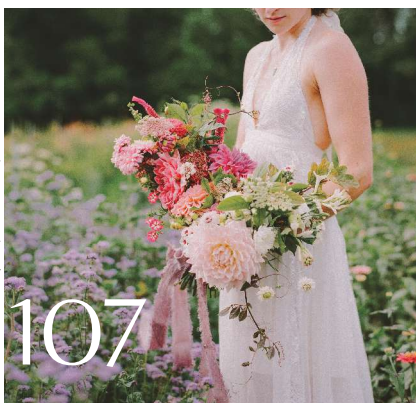
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ASHEVILLE

WEDDING GUIDE™

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Welcome!

Meet *the* wedding guide for North Carolina's hottest city

Since you're most likely picking this guide up in Asheville, we're pretty sure you know you're in the most happening city in North Carolina. From locals marveling at a sunset at Craggy Gardens to tourists recounting the moment they set foot on Biltmore's grounds to travel experts proclaiming it as one of the best U.S. cities to visit, Asheville's on everyone's lips. And here I am, smack dab in the middle of the buzz as editor of *Asheville Wedding Guide*, and here you are, about to get an insider's introduction to the best venues, vendors, and views this area has to offer. It's been a joy to pull together this inaugural issue, and it's an honor to share it with you.

I don't want to give too much away before you—a bride-to-be, a wedding industry pro, or a lover of all things "I do"—flip through the following pages, but know that we've hit up local experts for the best-of-the-best advice, tips, and inspiration for planning a wedding in Asheville proper, in the 828, and throughout the surrounding area. And be sure, too, that we've selected the most gorgeous real-life weddings, portrait sessions, and styled shoots to show you all the possibilities that a Big Day here can yield. Add a venue guide of choice properties, plus our dream-team directory of top vendors to consider, and we're hoping that, with the help of *Asheville Wedding Guide*—and our corresponding wedding blog—your planning jitters give way to that grand, giddy feeling that you get when thinking about your special someone . . . and your very special day.

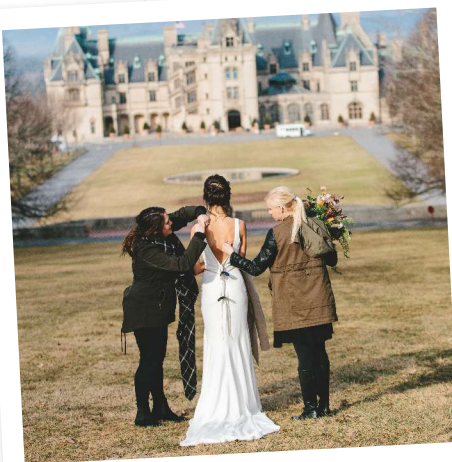
Congratulations,



Hannah Chillag
 editor@theashevilleweddingguide.com



IMAGES (3) BY RACHAEL MCINTOSH PHOTOGRAPHY



BEHIND THE SCENES

You'd never know it from the looks of "Blooming with Inspiration" (page 26), but it was February and 30°F outside (brrr) when our fabulous model, Hannah Gantt (@hannahganttt) posed in front of the Biltmore. To keep her warm, we tucked foot warmers into her boots and I'd throw her wool coat over her shoulders between takes. Oh, and if you've ever wondered how wedding models always wear gowns like a second skin, it's thanks to the same clamps bridal boutiques use when you try on their dresses. Here, Alise of Alise Taggart Events & Design tackles "alterations." Check out the story for gorgeous gowns, stunning tablescapes, and florals. And while the elaborate arrangements show off the amazing talents of the gals behind Floressence Flowers, this shot reminds me that single blooms can be just as magical as big, bountiful bouquets.



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bridal BUZZ

WHAT'S HOT IN ASHEVILLE WEDDINGS NOW



Lacy Little Things

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)

Keep your wedding dress close for years to come with locally made lace-imprinted porcelain

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOE BOLADO

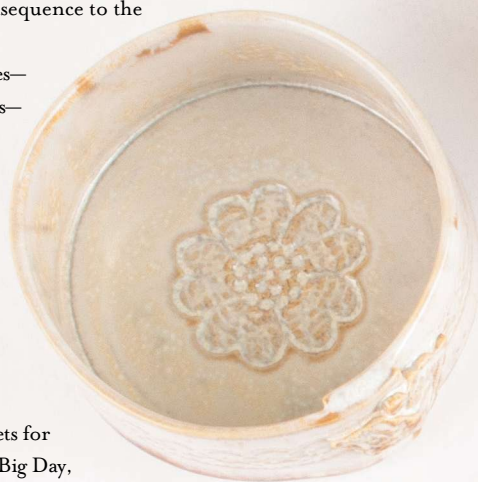
Lacy Little Things

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13)

"Combine lace—a fragile memory of days gone by—with the stone-like strength of porcelain to create objects that will be cherished for generations to come," says self-described fabric-aholic and Asheville River Arts District ceramicist Michael Hofman of **Hofman Studios** (828/232-1401, LiveLifeArtfully.com). Here's how it works: Michael rolls out clay like a piecrust, lays lace atop it, and then applies pressure to transfer the delicately detailed patterns into the porcelain. Hard as it may be to believe, because he removes the fabric immediately, the lace remains as clean as it was before the process. For brides, that means he can preserve your favorite wedding gown accents on any number of dishes, serving pieces, or vases with no consequence to the frock itself.

The made-to-order pieces—available in an array of colors—are ready in about a month but since Michael stays busy during peak season (mid-May through December), he advises couples reach out at least three months or more before setting up a registry, as those entail designing a set instead of an individual piece. He holds sets for up to a year so that after the Big Day, any unsold pieces may still be gifted to the couple. Couples are offered a 10 percent discount if they purchase the remainder of their collection themselves.

Whether you mix the end results with your china, stock your home with a full set, or gift pieces (like catchall bowls) as thank-you's, he promises his creations will live up to everyday life. Porcelain, Michael points out, is the strongest of all clays and as fragile as it may look, it's actually oven-, dishwasher-, and microwave-safe. A dainty yet hardy item that's built for the long haul? Sounds like just the stuff a marriage is built on. —*Jessica Isaacs*



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8

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how many couples
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—BUSINESSINSIDER.COM

October

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—ASHEVILLE REGISTER
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SUGAR & SNOW GELATO

(Asheville; SugarAndSnowGelato.com; 704/616-4140)

Chill out in style with this cutie of a cart (left) that serves up the classic frozen Italian dessert. Request a tasting session, then create a customized menu and decide if you want a sundae bar or just-as-good naked scoops. (Want to go at it alone? Self-serve is an option, too.) Book at least six months in advance—especially if you're saying "I do" in warm weather—as the outfit gets more popular the more temperatures rise.

MOST POPULAR FLAVORS: salted caramel, creamy chocolate, and raspberry sorbet

SUNSHINE SAMMIES

(Asheville; SunshineSammies.com; 828/505-2852)

Give your guests a throwback taste of childhood with these handmade ice cream sandwiches served straight from "Sunny" the vintage ice cream truck or its as-yet-unnamed umbrella cart offshoot. With flavors from chocolate and vanilla to mint chocolate and gooey caramel, the options are sure to charm. Book at least two months in advance to ensure you can reserve the setup of your choice.

MOST POPULAR FLAVORS: cookie dough, salted caramel, and The Origin

Break the (Cake) Mold

On the hunt for a lip-smacking Big Day dessert sure to get everyone talking? Look no further

Cutting—or let's be real, smashing—a cake has been a Big Day tradition for generations. But who says you have to stick to the well-worn wedding path? Choose a creative confection (think sundae bars, Popsicles, pretzels) to grace your dessert table and you've infused a bit of tasty fun into the party. We've rounded up our five favorite cake alternatives (or accompaniments if you want to have your cake and eat it, too) to tempt your taste buds. —Lauryn Higgins





VORTEX DOUGHNUTS

(Asheville; VortexDoughnuts.com; 828/552-3010)

Vortex Doughnuts has been treating Asheville locals and visitors alike to their award-winning delights since 2014. And a bonus for weddings? With options classic (Old Fashion), meaty (Maple Bacon), and vegan (Strawberry Glazed), there's something for every last guest on your list. If you need more than a few dozen, order a month in advance.

MOST POPULAR FLAVORS: salted caramel, Vortex (cinnamon sugar with dark chocolate swirl), all berry glazes



POPPY HAND-CRAFTED POPCORN

(Asheville and Black Mountain; PoppyHandcraftedPopcorn.com; 828/552-3149)

Popcorn isn't just for the movies, people! Whether you're looking for a munchable snack for your rehearsal dinner or wedding reception or you're craving a preciously packaged wedding favor, Poppy Popcorn has more than enough to chew on. Flavors—there are 23 as of press time—range from sweet (like cotton candy) to savory (like olive oil and rosemary), and couples can choose popcorn packed into see-through baggies (clear or novelty style), mini popcorn balls on sticks (AKA "popcorn pops"), popcorn made into edible décor (think sticky, sweet popcorn shaped into a Christmas tree), or order popcorn packed into tins. Order three months or more before your event.

MOST POPULAR FLAVORS: Asheville Mix (white cheddar paired with salted caramel), chocolate-peanut butter, pimiento cheese



FRENCH BROAD CHOCOLATE

(Asheville; FrenchBroadChocolate.com; 828/252-4181)

This is the go-to sweet shop for Asheville locals. While everything is handcrafted, exquisitely made, and divine (expect a massive variety of artisan chocolate bars, caramels, pastries, and cakes), know their decadent—and boy, do we mean decadent—truffles will rival you and your sweetie as the stars of your wedding show. Schedule a tasting to narrow down what flavors you'll tempt guests with.

MOST POPULAR FLAVORS: fresh raspberry, salted honey caramel, Buddha



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Tip
Add color and personality to your wedding portraits when you pose alongside vintage campers.



The Bright Side From vibrant yellow and turquoise to fire-engine red and mint, the campers at JuneBug Retro Resort dot the rustic venue like colorful confetti.

exchange vows on the property, it opened last July.

“Our obsession,” says Charlene, “started with our very first camper—a 1953 Royal Spartanette that we parked in our driveway.” Imagine, she says, that giant silver spaceship just sitting in a north Asheville neighborhood. “When we saw everyone’s reaction,” she says, “we knew that we really had something special.”

She and Tom purchased a 50-acre plot less than 15 minutes from downtown Asheville, and planned their own wedding while simultaneously developing the property for their minor herd of campers. “In true Tom Pagano fashion,” says Charlene, “my knight in stained Carharts pulled through. We installed the playground the day before our wedding so our guests could have the full experience. Despite all the issues beforehand—[permitting mazes, a rainy spring]—our day was perfect. As the event coordinator here now, my goal is to make every bride feel the way I did on my wedding day.”

Encircled by mountains, the site is open May through October. Book the entire property for a wedding, and for 24 hours you have access to the trailers, too. And, in keeping with the retro lifestyle, JuneBug is unplugged—meaning there is no TV or Wi-Fi. For couples looking to escape the everyday hustle and bustle of modern times, that’s the icing on the (wedding) cake for this venue. —Jessica Isaacs

THE PRICE OF TIME TRAVEL

Book a Friday or Saturday wedding and reception, catering and ceremony tents, plus tables, chairs (up to 200), a lighting and sound system, a wedding arbor, a dance floor, and a bonfire are included. Bookings also cover the exclusive use of grounds, one night’s stay in 10 campers for up to 32 guests, and four JuneBug staffers to assist with the wedding day-of. The cost? \$7,500. Book Sunday through Thursday and the price drops to \$5,500. If you aren’t marrying there, JuneBug Retro Resort also offers engagement photo sessions for a fee of \$250.

Happy Campers

Travel back to the fabulous '50s at this vintage-themed wedding venue

Thanks to **JuneBug Retro Resort** (828/208-1979; JuneBugRetroResort.com), a 1950s-inspired retro campsite slash wedding venue in Weaverville, North Carolina, gone are the days when fulfilling that “something old” part of the time-honored tradition meant scouring through your grandmother’s closet or jewelry box.

Home to 10 vintage campers, several ceremony sites, a reception tent, a self-described “upscale bath house trailer,” and a playground dotted with old-school attractions, JuneBug Retro Resort makes for one seriously untraditional wedding getaway for couples (in the area for their vows or honeymooning), their guests, and others. A passion project for owners Tom and Charlene Pagano, the first couple to



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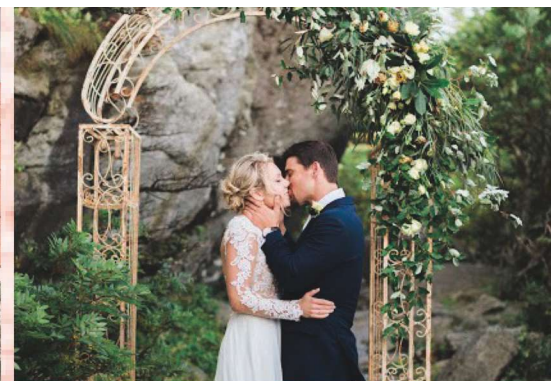
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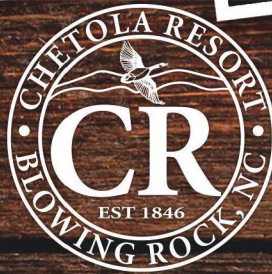
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Photo by Carrie Turner Photography


Blooming with INSPIRATION

Take a turn down a less-treaded path to the Conservatory at Biltmore, where botanicals inform every element of this idea-laden shoot that's sure to kick-start your wedding dreams

IMAGES BY RACHAEL MCINTOSH PHOTOGRAPHY
DESIGN & STYLING BY ALISE TAGGART EVENTS & DESIGN
SHOT ON LOCATION AT BILTMORE



OLIVIA



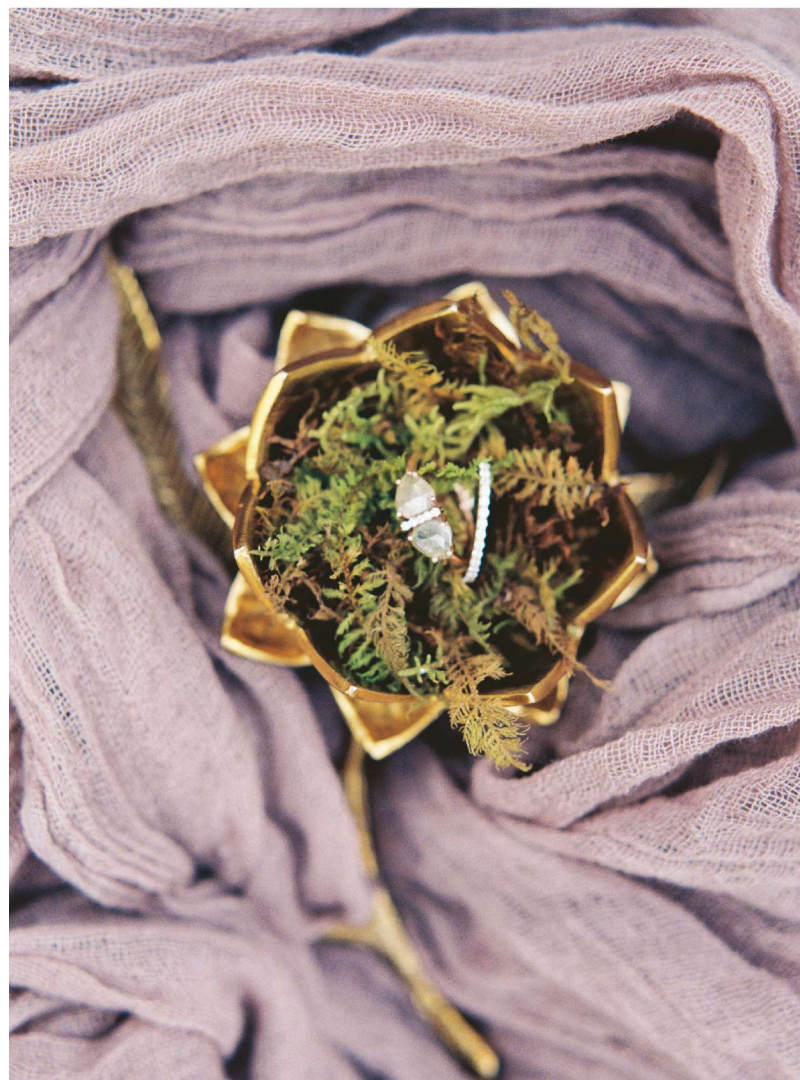
FLORABUNDANCE

With its bateau neckline, open back, and minimalist design, THEIA'S "Devon" gown from Wildflower Bridal makes a perfect blank canvas to accent with bridal accessories. Gown from Wildflower Bridal.



While a sweeping, castle-like view of the 1800s-era, Biltmore House is the typical image that comes to mind when Asheville's most recognizable landmark is mentioned, this February, we at *Asheville Wedding Guide* aimed for the estate's tucked away Conservatory—just one of nine wedding venues on the grounds—for a fashion and tabletop shoot. Why? The glass-roofed Conservatory, built in 1895, never ceases to impress with its stately, arched windows, lush array of exotic plants, outdoor patios, and terraced Butterfly Garden. Plainly put: If you're a bride on the hunt for ambiance à la *The Secret Garden*, this is your nirvana.

Join us for a look at this lesser known corner of the famed estate, and soak up all that Alise from Alise Taggart Events & Design crafted around a botanical theme. From delicately designed paper goods to artfully arranged décor and elegant place settings (not to mention inspired fashion and beauty), we hope you walk away with a vision for your own Big Day. —Hannah Chillag



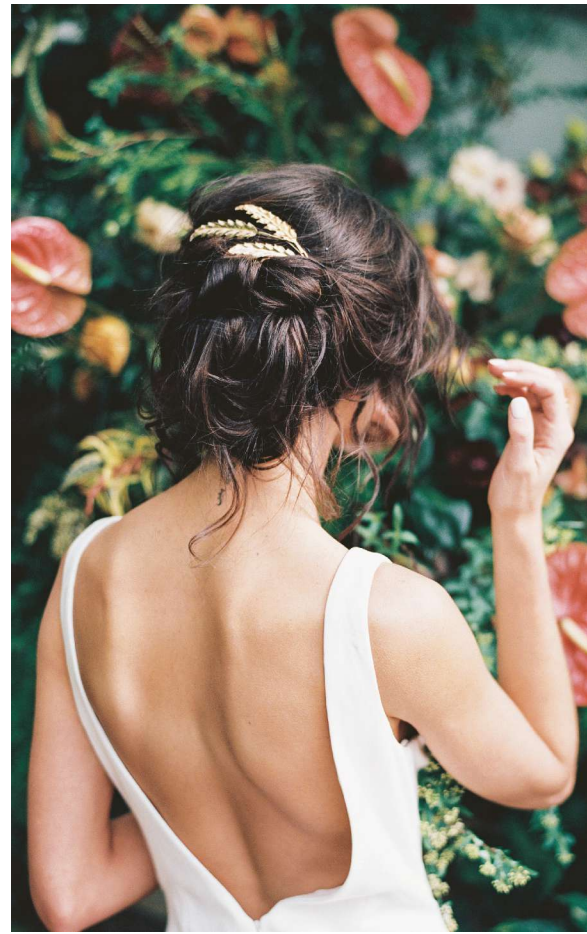
FLOWER POWER (this page, left to right) "Our vision was to design a bouquet with elegant garden florals and then infuse with flora you'd find in a century-old greenhouse like the Conservatory, near the time when it was built," Eatherley Schultz of Floressence Flowers says. "The juxtaposition of the two creates a really unique, organic feel." Anemones, tulips, hellebore, cappuccino-hued roses, Japanese sweet peas, anthurium, and greenery combine to create a sprawling bridal bouquet that's as fragrant as it is fancy. Fox & Beaux Boutique's 14k rose gold "Tulip Ring," with light green pear-cut and pavé diamonds, is traditional with a twist. (opposite page) For an intimate wedding, seating isn't required for all during the ceremony. A few chairs for elders or honored guests will suffice.





JUST DESSERTS (clockwise from right)
Sugar flowers add texture and visual interest to simple cakes. Get your venue's floor plan to best place tables. Gauzy linen table runners soften lengthy banquet-style seating. Save an invitation suite to photograph prior to your wedding date so that during the actual day, your photographer can focus on capturing every moment.





GOLDEN TOUCH (left to right) Low-profile arrangements encourage across-the-table conversation. Add votive holders and single bud vases along the runner to create a statement that is less pricey than elaborate arrangements but just as beautiful. Infuse a dash of glam into your beauty look with a hairpin, like this one from Wildflower Bridal. Bring the hair accessory you plan to wear to your trial hair session so your stylist can work it into your hairdo.





GARDEN PARTY (this page, left to right)

A wispy updo, neutral lip color, and a pop of peach-hued highlight on the cheeks create a timeless look. The Conservatory can host celebrations of up to 75 guests, so intimate weddings and elopements are most common. (opposite page) The Conservatory's temperatures stay cozy year-round, so skin-baring gown styles are comfortable regardless of season.



details

VENUE, CAKE Biltmore

IMAGES Rachael McIntosh Photography

EVENT DESIGNER Alise Taggart Events & Design

FLORALS Floressence Flowers

BRIDE'S ATTIRE Wildflower Bridal (gowns, hair accessory)

JEWELRY Fox & Beaux Boutique

BEAUTY Blush Asheville (makeup); Salon Zhenya (hair)

STATIONERY Baggie Goose

RENTALS Classic Event Rental (furniture, linens, china, flatware, place settings)

MODEL Directions USA Model & Artist Management

A GROOVY *Kind of Love*

How a plastic bench, a mini succulent garden, and an itty-bitty cabbage came together to make this California couple's destination wedding in Leicester so wonderfully them



BRANDY TROXLER & DAN KENNEDY
OCTOBER 14, 2017 • YESTERDAY SPACES

Images by Alicia White Photography

Wedding Design by Party Envy Event Planning & Floral Design

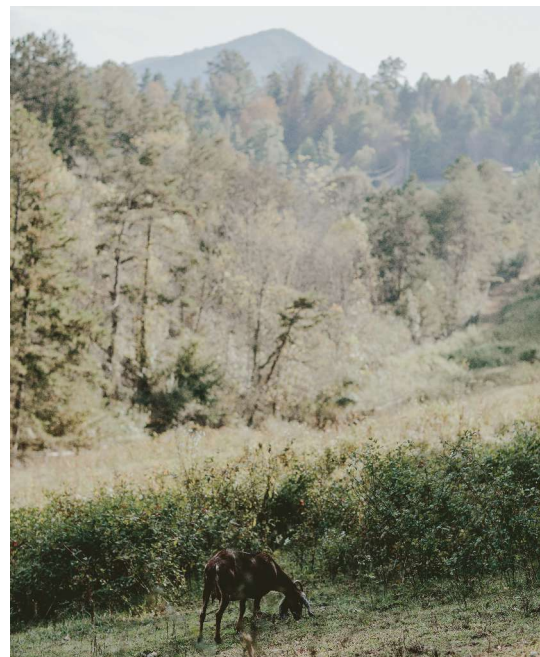
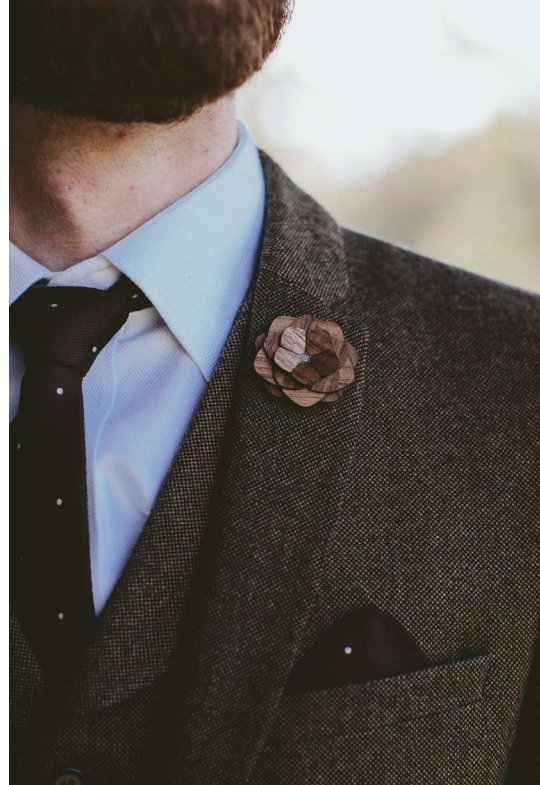


A few days before Daniel “Dan” Kennedy wed his sweetheart, Brandy Troxler, amid the rolling hills of Leicester, just northeast of Asheville, he was scouring the shops of “Ashvegas” for a gold plastic bench.

How now, you ask? Well, let’s back up to October 2011, when Dan walked into Brandy’s house—there via an invite from a mutual pal. By the end of the night, the San Francisco-based pair were inseparable, and the following evening they shared their first smooch on a yellow plastic bench behind said friend’s house. “His weird matches my weird,” says Brandy, “and that’s the best thing that I could ask for.” Fast-forward through five years of dating and Dan was down on bended knee proposing to Brandy while they were on a vacation to Tulum, Mexico.

While the duo is firmly rooted on the West Coast, they both grew up on the East Coast and envisioned a wedding closer to home, so they invited their nearest and dearest to the Blue Ridge for their nuptials. And as for that bench? Dan wanted to surprise his bride with an homage to the special seat where sparks first flew between them. So, on the Big Day, right after Brandy met Dan beneath a towering tree on the grassy grounds of Yesterday Spaces, his buddies carried in a gold-painted plastic bench upon which the couple were invited to sit and recite their vows. “I will never forget the look on Brandy’s face when the bench was unveiled,” recalls Dan.

Afterward, the newlyweds and some 160 guests retreated to the site’s farmhouse, which was rife with autumnal details and sentimental touches thanks to planner and florist Michelle LaCosse of Party Envy Event Planning & Floral Design. Among the charming odes to the lovebirds was a tiny garden that had sprouted on their sweetheart table. Just like their own California Eden, this one was comprised of succulents. “Those little details kept us smiling all day long,” says Brandy. Sounds like just the ingredients a happily ever after calls for. —Molly Ramsey



(clockwise from top left) As they exchanged vows, Brandy and Dan sat on a plastic bench like the one on which they shared their first kiss. (top right) Dan's dapper ensemble included a wooden boutonniere from The Two Guys Bow Ties. (above, right) Dan and Brandy considered a few venues on the East Coast but kept coming back to Asheville. "The city exemplifies who we are as a couple," says Brandy. "We love to go hiking, biking, kayaking—really any outdoor activity." During the cocktail hour, the goats and donkeys at Yesterday Spaces entertained guests. (above, center) "I told Michelle that when Dan gets me flowers, he usually incorporates a cabbage or kale," says Brandy. "When she handed me my bouquet the morning of the wedding, stuck right in the middle was a tiny cabbage." (left) Light pink blooms added depth to the floral palette, which was grounded in greens and rich fall colors.



Tip
Put a playful spin on sweets. My Dream Cakes created rustic cakes with buttercream "birch bark" and woody chocolate swirls in flavors of red velvet cheesecake, chocolate, and apple spice.



(clockwise from top left) The couple skipped the formal cake-cutting tradition and instead sang "Happy Birthday" to three of their guests who had birthdays that day. "They were already super cool, but got extra cool points for that!" says planner Michelle LaCrosse of the pair. (top right) Wooden décor accents—like hollowed out vessels that held table arrangements—looked as if they had been plucked straight from the property. (above) The couple eschewed a traditional guest book in favor of bucket list suggestions that were clothes pinned to twine.

details

PLANNING, FLORALS Party Envy Event Planning & Floral Design

IMAGES Alicia White Photography

VENUE Yesterday Spaces

RENTALS Classic Event Rental (linens, glassware)

STATIONERY, SIGNAGE Emilee Serafine

CATERING Food Experience

BAR SERVICE Golden Girls Events Staffing

SWEETS My Dream Cakes

BRIDE'S ATTIRE Tadashi Shoji (from BHLDN (gown);
TAI Jewelry (earrings); Bryr Clogs (shoes)

GROOM'S ATTIRE Oxford Tailors (suit); ASOS (tie), Clarks
(shoes); ModSock (socks); The Two Guys Bow
Ties (boutonnière)

BEAUTY Stephanie Adamson of TeaZe Styling Studio (hair);
Meredith Robinson (makeup)

TRANSPORTATION Paragon Coach Lines (shuttle buses);
Young Transportation (school buses)

MUSIC DJ Lucas Joy

VIDEOGRAPHY Emily Morgan Creative; Nicole Salmeri



PEAK *Season*

Fancy yourself surrounded by the warm tones of fall atop a mountain vista with cool breezes nipping at your heels

IMAGES & STYLING BY JENNIFER CALLAHAN PHOTOGRAPHY

Shot on Location at The Vineyards at Betty's Creek





When Jennifer of Jennifer Callahan Photography started brainstorming ideas for the ultimate bridal portrait session, “when” and “where” were never in question. “The end of October is when fall colors really pop in the Blue Ridge area,” says Asheville-based Jennifer. And she should know, being a seasoned shutterbug of 10-plus years—and an ace in the 828. The Vineyards at Betty’s Creek, a posh venue in Sylva, North Carolina, won out for the “where,” as its rustic charm yields inevitably romantic imagery. From there, Jennifer partnered with a host of local talent (among them gown designer Angela Kim of Asheville Couture and baker Lex Walton of Layered by Lex) to hatch an autumn-inspired reception in plum purple, fiery red, and amber that complemented the surrounding Great Smoky Mountains.

As for takeaways for brides, Jennifer says start by keeping a fall wedding from being overtly thematic—i.e. stacked pumpkins hither and thither—and select a florist who is “connected with nature,” as she puts it. (For this shoot, that was Sweet Stems Flower Bar florist Lauren Barrington, who’s known for her knack of combining cultivated garden blooms with foraged, wild elements for an organic, seasonal look.) Next, give trust a try. “When vendors feel trusted, they really soar,” says Jennifer. Whether you’re a bride in the final countdown, newly engaged and still deciding on your date, or just a woman daydreaming about your “someday” Big Day, enjoy all the inspiration the cool season—and this shoot that celebrates it—brings. —*Laurn Higgins*



details

VENUE, DÉCOR The Vineyards at Betty’s Creek

IMAGES Jennifer Callahan Photography

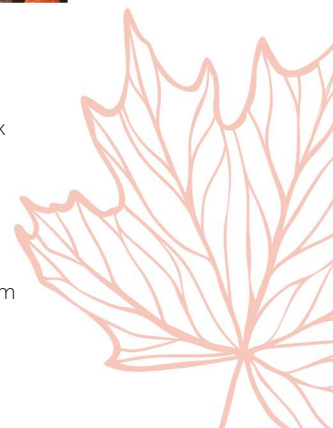
FLORALS Sweet Stems Flower Bar

CAKE Layered by Lex

STATIONERY Mink Letterpress

BRIDAL GOWN Asheville Couture by Angela Kim

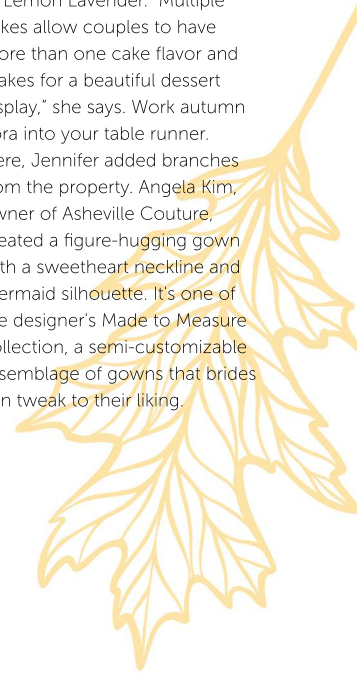
BEAUTY Doll Box Productions





Autumn Enchantment (this page)

Add character to an alfresco reception with mismatched (but coordinated) seating. Align seat backs and the look becomes streamlined. *(opposite page, clockwise from top)* "Having more than one cake is definitely on trend," says Lex Walton of Layered by Lex. Here, a Red Velvet Merlot cake is flanked by one of Mocha Stout and another of Lemon Lavender. "Multiple cakes allow couples to have more than one cake flavor and makes for a beautiful dessert display," she says. Work autumn flora into your table runner. Here, Jennifer added branches from the property. Angela Kim, owner of Asheville Couture, created a figure-hugging gown with a sweetheart neckline and mermaid silhouette. It's one of the designer's Made to Measure collection, a semi-customizable assemblage of gowns that brides can tweak to their liking.



Awash in ROMANCE

Autumn's fiery palette paints Biltmore's grandiose grounds in rich color for this storybook wedding

LAUREN MAYS & TREY CARTER

OCTOBER 14, 2017 • DIANA AT BILTMORE

Wedding Design by Sarah Elizabeth Events

Images by Almond Leaf Studios





Tip
Up the romance factor of your ensemble with an oversized, cascading bouquet. For bride Lauren's stunner, florist Springuine Design used garden roses, chocolate cosmos, jasmine, scabiosa, and greens.



Ask Taylorsville, North Carolina, native Lauren Mays and she'll assure you chivalry is far from dead. For proof, she points to her now-husband, Trey Carter, who pulled out all the gallant stops during the couple's first date in the fall of 2015. "He was the Southern gentleman I had read about in books," she laughs. And nowhere was that more apparent than on one June day in 2016, when Lauren returned home after a morning of running errands to find their pup, Max, in a new Tiffany blue collar. She took a close look at its embroidered message—"Will you marry me?"—and was shocked to find a diamond ring dangling in place of a dog tag.

Clearly flair is in their relationship DNA, so the pair agreed North Carolina's most dramatic, storybook estate (Biltmore, of course) was the place for their vows. Add that they love the colors of autumn, and they picked a woody site on a hill overlooking the mansion with a statue of Diana (for which the location is named). Next, they enlisted Sarah Elizabeth Events to bring Lauren's floral-heavy Pinterest boards to lush life.

Just before sunset on a crisp, sunny day in October, the duo swapped vows amidst the five Fs—family, friends, flowers, and fall foliage. Afterward, everyone retreated to an opulent tent overflowing with stunning arrangements and gilded china. And at the end of the festivities, when all was said and done, Lauren only had one unfulfilled wish: "Never wanting the night to end!" she says. —Molly Ramsey



details

PLANNING: Sarah Elizabeth Events

PHOTOGRAPHY, VIDEOGRAPHY: Almond Leaf Studios

FLORALS: Springvine Design

VENUE: Diana at Biltmore

CATERING, CAKE, WINE & BAR SERVICE: Biltmore

RENTALS: Classic Event Rental (linens, reception lounge furniture, bar, Edison bulb crystal chandeliers); Old South Vintage Rentals (cigar lounge furniture, décor)

STATIONERY, CALLIGRAPHY, SIGNAGE: Hen and Chicken Papers

MUSIC: Split Second Sound

BRIDE'S ATTIRE: Winnie Couture (gown); Badgley Mischka (jewelry, shoes)

BEAUTY: Lola Salon & Gallery

MENSWEAR: Bruce Julian Clothier (suits); The Tie Bar (ties); Allen Edmonds (groom's shoes)

TRANSPORTATION: Grey Line Trolley

GETAWAY CAR: A family friend's



DRESSED TO THE NINES (this page, clockwise from top left) Lauren and her father arrived in a vintage Packard. Branches with persimmons added texture to floral arrangements nestled in brass compotes. Outside the tent, a stogie bar hinted at the groom's love of cigars. The newlyweds exited amongst a sea of sparklers before heading to their honeymoon in Aruba. The four-tiered cake was comprised of layers of almond and hazelnut cake with edible gold leaf accents. (opposite page) A trellis floral installation with exposed Edison bulbs distinguished the head table. Gilded wax seals on place cards and chargers rimmed in the same metallic hue lent a decidedly luxe tone to the reception.



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HIGHLANDS, CASHIERS, ASHEVILLE AND BEYOND

2018 VENUE *guide*

*Asheville's essential resource
for choosing the
perfect venue*



venue key

1. Brahma Ridge Event Center
2. Capella on 9 at AC Hotel
Downtown Asheville
3. Century Room on the Park
4. Chestnut Ridge
5. Diamond Falls Preserve
6. The Farm - A Gathering Place
7. Hemingway's
8. Hidden River Events
9. Isa's Bistro
10. Lady Luck Flower Farm
11. Laurel Ridge Country Club
12. Mountain Magnolia Inn
13. The Ridge
14. The Venue
15. The Yellow House on Plott Creek
16. Yesterday Spaces

**Venue locations are approximate.*

BRAHMA RIDGE EVENT CENTER



IMAGE BY JESSE KITT PHOTOGRAPHY

The perfect natural setting for memorable wedding moments



IMAGES (2) BY TAD MATHEWS

Feel in harmony with the green surroundings. Choose your own caterer, music, flowers and décor, officiant, photographer, and ceremony site in our truly unique DIY venue. Let our staff's twelve years' experience work for you. Enjoy 50-acres bordering Pisgah National Forest for outdoor games, hiking, bonfires, camping, and glamping.

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BrahmaRidgeEventCenter.com

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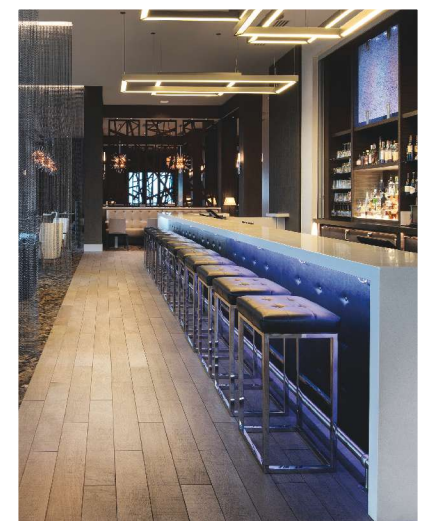
AC HOTEL ASHEVILLE DOWNTOWN

10 Broadway St., 9th Floor

Asheville, N.C.

CapellaOn9.com

(828) 258-2522



CENTURY ROOM ON THE PARK



IMAGE BY MELODY LYNN PHOTOGRAPHY

A beautiful downtown wedding venue



IMAGE BY TWO CENTS PHOTOGRAPHY

If you are looking for a beautifully unique space for your downtown Asheville wedding, the Century Room on the Park's historic elegance has it all. We have a wonderful atmosphere, the perfect selection of food and beverages, excellent service, and a great staff who takes care of every last detail of your Big Day. We have packages for every vision so you can relax and enjoy the occasion.

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Asheville, N.C.

TheCenturyRoom.com

(828) 774-5235



IMAGE BY LISA PRICE PHOTOGRAPHY

CHESTNUT RIDGE



IMAGES (2) BY ANASTASIIA PHOTOGRAPHY

Timeless style venue

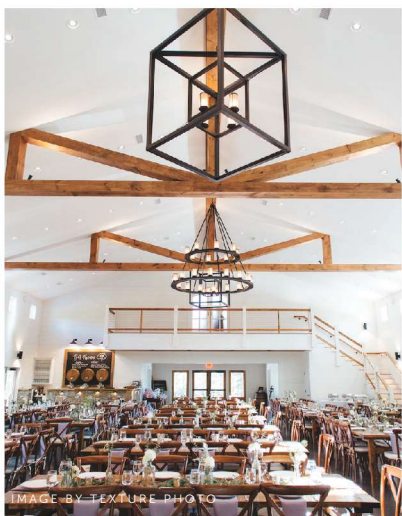
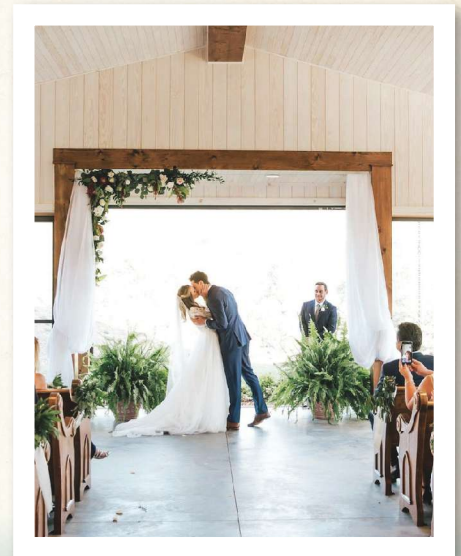


IMAGE BY TEXTURE PHOTO

Chestnut Ridge is an event venue nestled on a family farm with an open-air pavilion and reception barn overlooking the Blue Ridge Mountains. Breathtaking views, meaningful amenities, and the freedom to dream will allow you to transcend the expected.

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ChestnutRidge.Events
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DIAMOND FALLS PRESERVE



IMAGE BY HARTMAN OUTDOOR PHOTOGRAPHY

Natural beauty abounds

Say “I do” in Bat Cave, North Carolina. Whether it is an elopement, a small wedding ceremony, or a celebratory reception, plan your special day on a beautiful 100-acre preserve. Mountain laurel backdrops, rushing mountain streams, and picturesque waterfalls await. Lodging is available for up to 19 guests.



IMAGES (2) COURTESY OF DIAMOND FALLS PRESERVE



DIAMOND FALLS PRESERVE

1608 Edney Inn Rd.

Bat Cave, N.C.

DiamondFallsPreserve.com

(828) 595-4089

THE FARM A GATHERING PLACE



IMAGE BY ANDREW MAY PHOTOGRAPHY

Extraordinary events begin at The Farm



IMAGES 121 BY EYE PHOTOGRAPHY

The Farm embraces the seasons in the Blue Ridge mountains, ensuring stunning weddings. Enjoy the versatile Event Center with wraparound porches, farm-to-table catering, a romantic gazebo, a unique Chef's Table perfect for rehearsal dinners and wedding brunches, beautifully manicured lawns, and distinctive on-site lodging.

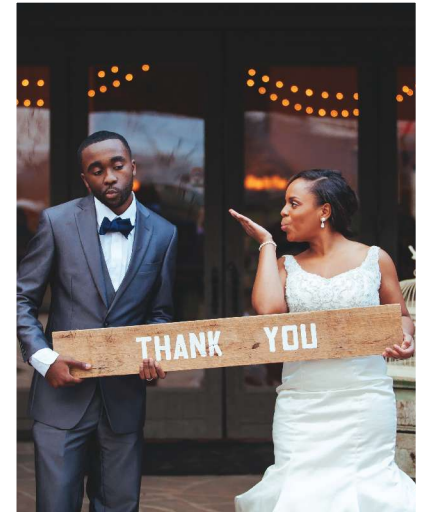
THE FARM - A GATHERING PLACE

215 Justice Ridge Rd.

Candler, N.C.

TheFarmEvents.com

(828) 667-0666



HEMINGWAY'S



IMAGES (2) COURTESY OF CAMBRIA HOTEL DOWNTOWN ASHEVILLE

Modern, upscale event space in historic downtown Asheville



Host your wedding in the heart of historic downtown Asheville at Hemingway's, located on the fourth floor of the Cambria Hotel Downtown Asheville. Offering more than 5,700 square feet of modern, flexible event space, it's perfect for ceremonies, receptions, and rehearsal dinners. Catering services are provided by Hemingway's Cuba, Asheville's authentic Cuban restaurant. All menus can be custom designed to the bride and groom's preferences.

HEMINGWAY'S

15 Page Ave.
Asheville, N.C.

CambriaDowntownAsheville.com
(828) 412-8203



IMAGE COURTESY OF HEMINGWAY'S CUBA

HIDDEN RIVER EVENTS



IMAGE BY CARLYN FRANK PHOTOGRAPHY

Be a guest at your own wedding

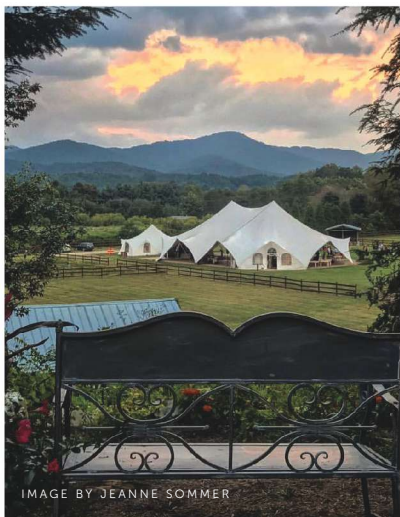


IMAGE BY JEANNE SOMMER

Hidden River Events offers fully customizable wedding packages complete with everything you need to host a truly lovely and memorable event. Our beautifully decorated 6,800 square-foot tent covers all of your reception needs, and our farm provides several gorgeous locations for ceremonies and photos, so every wedding is unique. Tours by appointment only.

HIDDEN RIVER EVENTS

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HiddenRiverEvents.com
(828) 333-3401*

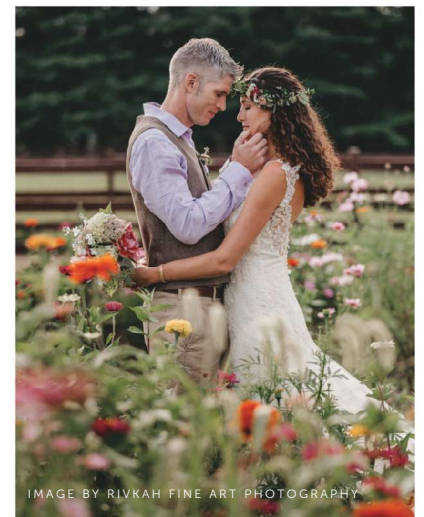


IMAGE BY RIVKAH FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY

ISA'S FRENCH BISTRO



IMAGES (3) COURTESY OF ISA'S FRENCH BISTRO

A magical event space in the heart of downtown Asheville



Isa's French Bistro has a unique variety of special event dining spaces, each one allowing for a world of possibilities depending upon your wedding's specific needs. Elegant and cozy with an open lounge area, a fireplace, a bar, a wine room, and multi-level main dining room, The Cellar at Isa's French Bistro is an excellent venue to host your wedding rehearsal, ceremony, reception, and more. This is *the* Asheville venue in the heart of downtown that turns your special day into a magical event.

ISA'S FRENCH BISTRO

1 Battery Park Ave.
Asheville, N.C.
IsasBistro.com
(828) 412-8203



LADY LUCK FLOWER FARM



IMAGE BY KELLIE MUELLER PHOTOGRAPHY

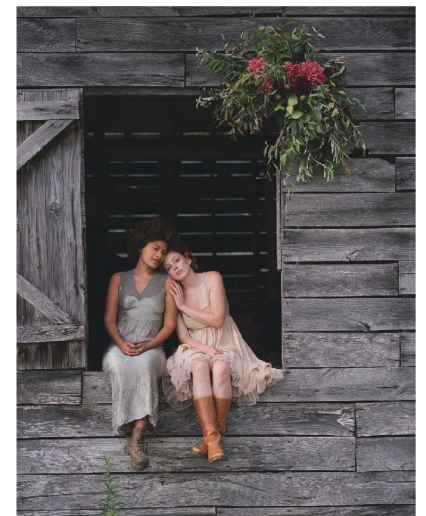
Inspired by the intersection of the wild and cultivated



IMAGES (2) BY NICOLE MCCONVILLE

Surrounded by the Appalachian Mountains, we are an organic family farm and event space, growing flowers, medicinal herbs, pasture raised animals, and a few rows of vegetables. Guests love wandering the fields and taking in the quiet serenity. We offer unique and seasonal floral design, buckets of blooms, and the opportunity to pick your own flowers. Twenty miles from Asheville, we can accommodate up to 150 guests with rainy day options. Our mountain farm is a special and secluded place to tie the knot.

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LAUREL RIDGE COUNTRY CLUB



IMAGE BY MOZINGO PHOTOGRAPHY

Picturesque mountain wedding venue



IMAGE BY TRACY WALDROP PHOTOGRAPHY

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IMAGE BY NICK KING PHOTOGRAPHY

MOUNTAIN MAGNOLIA INN



IMAGE BY DEREK DILUZIO PHOTOGRAPHY

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IMAGE BY BLUE BEND PHOTOGRAPHY

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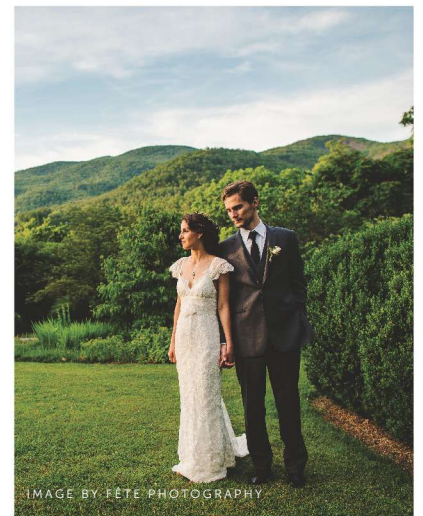


IMAGE BY FÊTE PHOTOGRAPHY

THE VENUE AND THE RIDGE



IMAGES (2) BY JEREMY RUSSELL PHOTOGRAPHY

The best of both worlds



IMAGE BY CONNECTIONS PHOTOGRAPHY

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THE VENUE AND THE RIDGE

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THE YELLOW HOUSE ON PLOTT CREEK



IMAGES (3) COURTESY OF THE YELLOW HOUSE ON PLOTT CREEK

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The Yellow House on Plott Creek B&B, located in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Waynesville, welcomes you to experience the beauty and splendor of yesterday in this elegant home built in 1885. Nestled on over six acres with six ponds and a waterfall, the house features six suites and four rooms, all private and with fireplaces. The Yellow House on Plott Creek B&B is perfect for any elopement or pop-up wedding of up to 100 persons.

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YESTERDAY SPACES



IMAGES (2) BY MORNINGWILD PHOTOGRAPHY

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Located 12 miles from downtown Asheville on a 70-acre working family farm, our ceremony meadow has mountain views in three directions, and the 1800s carriage road makes a magical wedding walk. The historic Dairy Barn is a beautiful backup ceremony option. Our elegant reception hall has large porches, a dressing room, professional kitchens and sound system, and includes china, glasses, flatware, antiques, and décor options.

YESTERDAY SPACES
305 Sluder Branch Rd.
Asheville, N.C.
YesterdaySpaces.com
(828) 777-6948



IMAGE BY MEKENZIE BROWN PHOTOGRAPHY

EVENTS by KIERSA



Award-winning Wedding Planning, Consulting and Design Firm

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828.606.9659

asheville-events.com

VENUE	VENUE CAPACITY	RENTAL RATES	OUTSIDE CATERING PERMITTED	GUEST ROOMS	OTHER AMENITIES
BRAHMA RIDGE EVENT CENTER 84 Brahma Rd. Candler, N.C.	200	\$7,900 maximum	yes	modern lodge sleeps 10 people (2 to a bed); glamping tents sleep 8 people (2 to a bed); conventional campground	Wi-Fi; free camping; hiking; bridal suite on location
CAPELLA ON 9 AT AC HOTEL DOWNTOWN ASHEVILLE 10 Broadway St. Asheville, N.C.	120 seated; 200 standing	\$1,500-\$40,000	no; dessert only	132 rooms	kid-friendly; Wi-Fi; fitness center; rooftop bar and restaurant—Capella on 9 in downtown Asheville; \$15 nightly parking
CENTURY ROOM ON THE PARK 20 S. Spruce St. Asheville, N.C.	50-180 seated; 300 standing	\$5,000-\$27,000	no; dessert only	no	bridal suite; parkside patio space for cocktail receptions; chiavari chairs; décor packages; views of downtown Asheville and Pack's Square Park
CHESTNUT RIDGE 633 Turnpike Rd. Canton, N.C.	200 seated inside; 299 seated inside/outside	\$6,000-\$8,800 (basic package) \$24,575-\$37,300 (all-inclusive package)	yes	no	open-air ceremony pavilion; temperature-controlled reception barn with mountain views inclusive with bridal and groom's suites; tables and chairs; covered porch; patio; fire pit
DIAMOND FALLS PRESERVE 1608 Edney Inn Rd. Bat Cave, N.C.	80	\$2,500-\$3,000	yes	main cabin: 6 bedrooms, sleeps 13; bunkhouse: sleeps an additional 6 guests; additional floor space available	private trails; a trout pond; stone patios with fire pit; wide-open field; overnight stays add \$1,000 per night
THE FARM - A GATHERING PLACE 215 Justice Ridge Rd. Candler, N.C.	100 (winter) 300 (spring, summer, fall)	\$12,000-\$20,000 (100 guests)	no; dessert only	7 distinctive cabins and cottages on the property; accommodate up to 38 guests	minutes from Asheville; year-round views; farm-to-table catering; Chef's Kitchen for rehearsal dinners and pre-wedding brunches; pricing includes event rental, month-of coordinator, custom catering, and The Farm's beer and wine package
HEMINGWAY'S 15 Page Ave. Asheville, N.C.	250	space rentals starting at \$300; catering additional	no; cake only	136 rooms	valet parking; in-house AV; complimentary Wi-Fi; custom menu packages
HIDDEN RIVER EVENTS 30 Hidden River Dr. Swannanoa, N.C.	350+	\$800-\$25,000	yes	4 vacation rental houses; sleep 50+ guests	rental prices are all-inclusive; ceremony site and reception site rental; setup; housing for guests; catering; cake; flowers; DJ; photography; wedding planner; day-of coordinator

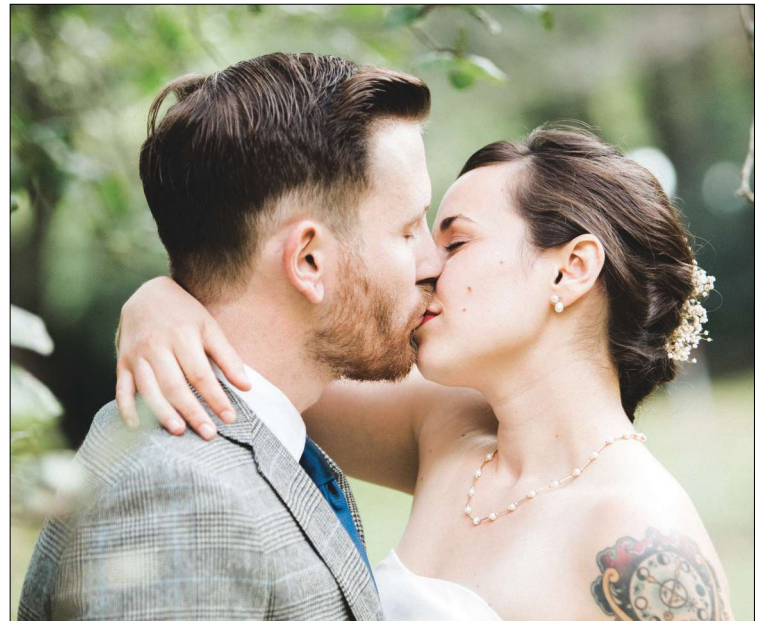
VENUE	VENUE CAPACITY	FACILITY RENTAL RATES	OUTSIDE CATERING PERMITTED	GUEST ROOMS	OTHER AMENITIES
ISA'S BISTRO 1 Battery Park Ave. Asheville, N.C.	120	\$2,900 food and beverage minimum	no; cake only	no	complimentary valet parking; in-house AV; complimentary Wi-Fi; no room rental fee
LADY LUCK FLOWER FARM 55 Lanzi Ledge Rd. Leicester, N.C.	150	\$4,000-\$4,500	yes	lodging available for bride and groom	outdoor venue; pavilion barn in case of rain; prep kitchen; walk-in cooler; dressing room; rustic guest book table; fire pit; farm trailer stage; on-site employees; no outside florists; dressing room available day-of; restrooms with handicap access
LAUREL RIDGE COUNTRY CLUB 49 Cupp Ln. Waynesville, N.C.	350	\$750-\$25,000+	no; cake only	Hideaway at Laurel Ridge: 6 bedrooms, sleeps 12 guests (exclusive rates available); Inn on the Green, overlooking the 1st tee; 4 rooms; sleeps 16	access to spectacular views for bridal portraits; privileges to golf, tennis, fitness, pool, and clubhouse dining
MOUNTAIN MAGNOLIA INN 204 Lawson St. Hot Springs, N.C.	150	\$3,500-\$17,500	no; cake only	15 guest rooms, sleeps up to 35; additional recommended lodging within walking distance	all-inclusive venue; historic inn; large trees; mountain views; wedding coordinator included; on-site catering, on-site lodging; rehearsal dinner and brunch options; bonfire area; full access to venue
THE RIDGE 389 Upper Thomas Branch Rd. Marshall, N.C.	250+ (outdoor seating) 175 (indoor seating)	\$7,000-\$40,000+	yes	3	3,500 square foot residence on site for overnight stays; Wi-Fi; tent coordination; wedding planning; pet-friendly; 360-degree mountain views
THE VENUE 21 N Market St. Asheville, N.C.	250 seated (first level); 125 seated (second level)	\$8,000-\$40,000+	no; cake only	no	event planning; décor upgrades; versatile floor plans; outdoor balcony; Wi-Fi; handicap accessibility; in-house catering
THE YELLOW HOUSE ON PLOTT CREEK 89 Oakview Dr. Waynesville, N.C.	100	\$500-\$20,000	yes	10 guest rooms; accommodate up to 28 people; accommodates 30 people with pull-out beds	6 acres of land, 2 ponds; a waterfall; picnic areas; fire pit; trails; hammocks; butlers pantry; breakfast included, wine and cheese reception each night; evening s'mores
YESTERDAY SPACES 305 Sluder Branch Rd. Asheville, N.C.	300	\$2,000-\$10,000	yes	farmhouse can be rented as whole house; 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms; sleeps up to 13 guests	rain backup spaces; china; glasses; silverware; chairs; tables; arbor; professional sound; antiques; jars; shepherd hooks; no add-on costs



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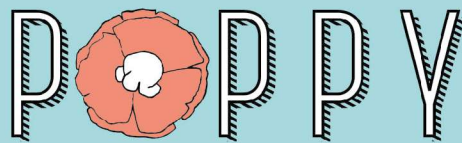
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Carolyn & Jake

MAY 28, 2017 • SHERRILL'S INN • FAIRVIEW

College sweethearts Carolyn Stotts and Jake Gann's love story started with a chance meeting freshmen year at the University of North Carolina. Almost six years of courting later, Jake proposed to Carolyn while atop Black Balsam Knob, southwest of Asheville. The future Mrs. Gann knew something was suspicious that auspicious day when Jake picked her up in a freshly cleaned car and insisted on dining at particular restaurant (he's not known to be a planner). And while the duo describes that evening as the "best night ever,"

it's their spring nuptials that take the (wedding) cake. Relying on her experience documenting Big Days—Carolyn's an Asheville-based shutterbug—the bride says what she wanted most was a happy celebration free of unnecessary stressors. Custom ceremony programs printed on paper bags filled with colorful confetti welcomed all, an in-ground trampoline entertained folks during the cocktail hour, and Beer Quidditch (yep), corn hole, and a spacious dance floor set the stage for a reception that made her wishes come true.



details

VENUE Sherrill's Inn

IMAGES MorningWild Photography and
More Beatty

PLANNER Lucky Penny Creative

FLORALS Urban Farm Girl

CATERING Sow & Harvest Catering Co.

CAKE Made with Love Bakery

BAR SERVICE Asheville Brewing Company

STATIONERY Cate Paper Co. (Etsy)

SIGNAGE, CALLIGRAPHY The bride's sister
RENTALS Classic Event Rental (tent, tables,
chairs); Your Wedding Linen (linens)

BRIDE'S ATTIRE Wildflower Bridal (gown);
Fox & Beaux Boutique (jewelry)

BEAUTY Love, Daisy (hair); Powder Me
Pretty (makeup)

MUSIC The bride's family and friends





Collin & Alexis

AUGUST 26, 2017 • THE FARM - A GATHERING PLACE • CANDLER

What do you get when you combine Appalachian wildflowers, tribal prints, and one beautiful, barefoot bride alongside a dashing groom? Alexis Decosimo and Collin Clark's eclectic, "community-themed" wedding, that's what. This couple met in Washington, D.C., while Alexis was participating in a cyclocross race (in a tutu, no less). That tutu proved its worth as Collin (cute man with a beer, according to Alexis) asked for the sassy cyclist's digits just beyond the finish line. After dating on and off for the next few years, Collin locked it down with a bottle of bubbly, a mountain

view, and his great grandmother's ring. From there, planning a Buncombe County wedding was a no-brainer for these locals who reside in Asheville. They opted for a nontraditional wedding party—a maid of honor, a best man, plus nine more "honored people"—and décor, as they put it, with meaning. Alexis lived in Africa for a stint, so bright, colorful, and patterned swatches of fabric she collected there popped up throughout the setting and wooden spoons she bought there were given as favors. Bravo to these two, who really and truly know how to host a one-of-a-kind Big Day.



details

VENUE The Farm - A Gathering Place

IMAGES Fête Photography

DAY-OF COORDINATOR Bethany Holder, The Farm - A Gathering Place

FLORALS Lady Luck Flower Farm (flowers); Cordial & Craft (arrangements)

CAKE Kali Cakes

STATIONERY Cotton Blossom Press

CALLIGRAPHY The groom's sister

MUSIC Pretty Little Goat String Band (ceremony, cocktail hour); EastCoast Entertainment (reception)

BRIDE'S GOWN Wedding Inspirations Bridal Boutique

BEAUTY ananda hair studio





Kate & Chad

SEPTEMBER 23, 2017 • HAWKESDENE HOUSE • ANDREWS

If the beginning of Kate Hussmann and Chad Barnes's relationship had a theme song, it'd be "Accidentally in Love" by Counting Crows. The two met at a bar in 2011 and later, thanks to an unintended pocket dial from Kate, went out on a date. "I knew he was a keeper when he let me eat the shrimp and grits right off his plate," she says of that first outing. Four years later, the Charlotte, North Carolina, natives found themselves celebrating Chad's graduation from business school by jet-setting to Thailand. After a few days of sightseeing, Chad served up two surprises: first, a traditional Thai cooking class in the

outskirts of Chiang Mai and second, a romantic proposal. (The two were so excited they called their families at 4 a.m. E.S.T. to share the news.) With the help of Shay Brown from Shay Brown Events, their wedding weekend in western North Carolina was a jam-packed three-day celebration starting with a Thursday Lowcountry boil, a Friday rafting trip, and a Saturday alfresco ceremony. After swapping "I do's," and posing for newlywed portraits amid the venue's pack of llamas, they joined guests to party it up inside a reception tent dressed to the nines in greenery and gold and awash in candlelight.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 76)







details

VENUE, CATERING Hawkesdene House

IMAGES Harwell Photography

PLANNER Shay Brown Events

FLORALS Urban Farm Girl (flowers); Shay Brown Events (design)

CAKE Short Street Cakes

STATIONERY Crayton-Heritage printing & finishing

MUSIC Robyn James Ensembles (ceremony); Remix Weddings (reception)

RENTALS Classic Event Rental (furniture); BBJ Linen (linens)

BRIDE'S GOWN Nitsa's Apparel

BEAUTY Katy Barbour (hair); Jenny Le (makeup)

GROOM'S ATTIRE Abbeydale





Colton & Molly

OCTOBER 14, 2017 • BROWN FARM EVENTS • WEAVERVILLE

Molly Wilson first exchanged pleasantries with Colton Renaker while ringing him up for groceries at an Asheville Ingles Market. Whether by happenstance or not, Colton found himself frequenting Molly's line over and over again, learning a bit more about her with each run-in. The acquaintants turned into friends and then into a couple, until four years later Colton was down on one knee proposing during a hike at Graveyard's Field on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Outdoor-lovers through and through, they selected Brown Farm Events as their wedding site and set about planning the details. One

especially noteworthy detail of the Big Day? Molly chose a dusty pink hue for her bridal party dresses in tribute to her mother, who at the time had recently triumphed over breast cancer. The alfresco ceremony was a charming, sentimental affair sprinkled with more sweet touches like Molly wrapping her bouquet in her late grandfather's pocket watch and the unity cross being made by a friend. But fun made its way in, too. "I noticed a stinkbug making its way up the tulle in my gown and without hesitating, pulled up my dress to try and flick it out," says Molly. Sounds like just the roll-with-it attitude that every newlywed needs.



details

VENUE Brown Farm Events

IMAGES Gabrielle von Heyking Photographie

PLANNER The groom's sister

FLORALS Two Buds and a Blossom

CATERING Moe's Southwest Grill

CAKE Dogwood Designs Bakery

SIGNAGE Hobby Lobby

BRIDE'S ATTIRE Wildflower Bridal (gown);
Versona (jewelry)

BEAUTY AE Studios (hair); Sara
Wohleben (makeup)

GROOM'S ATTIRE Best Bride Prom & Tux





Meghan & Forrest

APRIL 29, 2017 • MOUNTAIN MAGNOLIA INN • HOT SPRINGS

Meghan Kelley spotted tall, handsome, and hard-to-miss Forrest Marshall at Asheville's Brewgrass Festival long before he saw her. Two years passed before they were introduced at a music show and before Forrest asked Meghan out on a proper date, but he made up for it in his gentlemanly actions—opening the door for her, footing the bill, and stealing a kiss before the night was over. "We were a couple from the get-go," says Meghan. "I met his dog, he met mine, and everything felt easy." Fast-forward through a sentimental proposal (Forrest had combined diamonds from both his grandmother's and

Meghan's mother's ring to form a brand-new sparkler) and the Tar Heels found themselves swapping handwritten vows at Mountain Magnolia Inn in Hot Springs, North Carolina. The bride walked down the aisle to "Here Comes My Girl" by Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, stepping lightly down an aisle runner of pink Oriental rugs to meet her groom underneath a tumbling floral installation that evoked all the fairy tale feels. And while mismatched seating, multiple lounge setups, and a s'mores pit offered lots of opportunity for merrymaking, it's Meghan and Forrest's love for one another that really stole the show.



details

VENUE, CATERING Mountain Magnolia Inn
 IMAGES Revival Photography
 PLANNER Sashay Creative Events
 FLORALS Flora
 CAKE Ruth & Ranshaw
 RENTALS Farm & Filigree (furniture, décor); Old South Vintage Rentals (furniture, Oriental rugs); Mingle Events & Rentals (furniture, getaway car)
 MUSIC Orange Krush Band
 STATIONERY Cotton Blossom Press
 SIGNAGE The bride's sister
 BRIDE'S GOWN Kelly's Closet
 BEAUTY ananda hair studio
 GROOM'S ATTIRE Jos. A. Bank
 VIDEOGRAPHY Jason Garriss





Lizzie & Wesley

DECEMBER 2, 2017 • CHESTNUT RIDGE • CANTON

Ten years of dating Lizzie Bui gave Lenoir, North Carolina, native Wesley Patterson plenty of time to drum up a dream proposal scenario. So, when the occasion arose, it should come as little surprise that every detail—even down to the location’s name, Bridal Veil Falls—was flawless. Next up? A fabulous shindig at Chestnut Ridge, of course. Caroline McCrory of Mingle Events & Rentals teamed up with North Carolina-born Lizzie to scour the bride’s Pinterest saves and serve up an unforgettable December wedding that both surprised and

delighted. A color palette of burgundy, blush, cream, and navy dressed the day, a seven-course Vietnamese meal (including a lavish lobster dish and fried rice) was a tip of the hat to Lizzie’s cultural background, and the couple’s signature cocktail, “The Patterson Sour,” wet many a whistle. Equal parts whiskey, Sundrop, and sour mix, the libation was a crowd-pleaser and a surefire way to get guests throwing down to the tunes of Split Second Sound. Raise a glass to these two, a host and hostess after our own hearts.



details

VENUE Chestnut Ridge

IMAGES Amber Hatley Photography

PLANNER Mingle Events & Rentals

FLORALS Ray's Florist & Greenhouse

CATERING Canton House

CAKE 50/Fifty

RENTALS Classic Event Rental

MUSIC Split Second Sound

BAR SERVICE Cordial & Craft

BRIDE'S GOWN David's Bridal

BEAUTY Flawless: Airbrush Makeup + Hair Design
(makeup); Jennifer Santolla (hair)





Megan & Chris

JULY 21, 2017 • THE CREST CENTER & PAVILION • ASHEVILLE

Getting married—or even proposing—in the thick of summer can be daunting for some but not for New Yorkers Megan Carlson and Chris Herbst. Chris’ July proposal to Megan in the Big Apple involved the obvious players (a dazzling diamond ring, a reservation at their favorite neighborhood spot), and one surprise cameo considering the temps: Chris’ leather jacket and long pants. After teasing her beau for his questionable wardrobe choices, the joke was on Megan. “He needed a pocket to keep the ring in,” she says, “and

he thought it was uncouth to propose in cargo shorts.” Touché, Chris. A short while later, the pair found themselves returning to Megan’s home state of North Carolina to tie the knot underneath a classic wood arbor decked in greenery and jewel-toned florals like plum-colored hydrangeas and eggplant-hued dahlias. And while the ceremony décor caught our eye, Chris’ pocket square was as innovative as it gets. Designed by Blossoms at Biltmore Park to lay flat against his grey suit, his pocket-full-of-posies was fresh and beyond beautiful—just like this pair of newlyweds.



details

VENUE The Crest Center & Pavilion

IMAGES Julia Wade Photography

PLANNER Wedding Connections

FLORALS Blossoms at Biltmore Park

CAKE Ruth & Ranshaw

MUSIC Dan Keller (ceremony): Dan Keller

Jazz Trio (cocktail hour); EastCoast

Entertainment (reception)

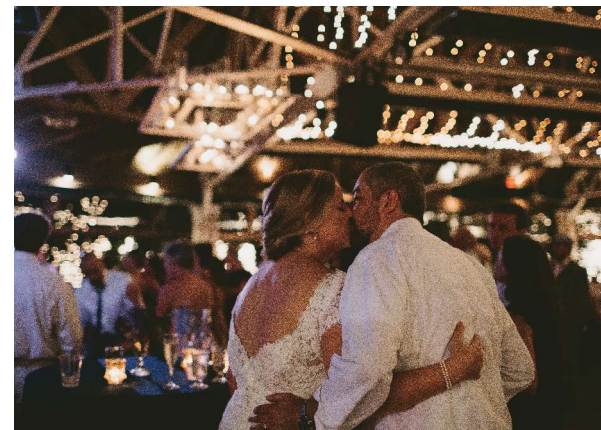
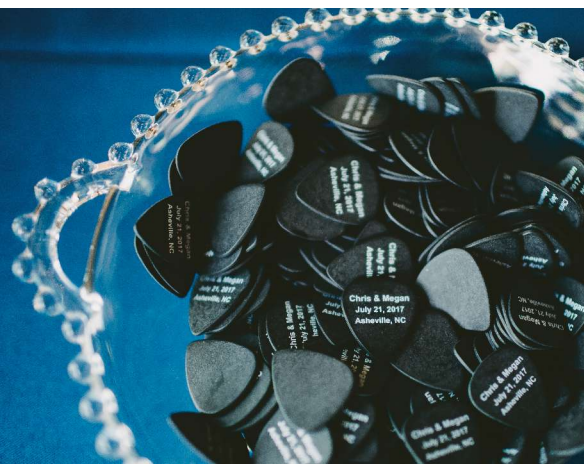
SIGNAGE Amber Hatchett Designs

BRIDE'S GOWN Designer Loft Bridal

BEAUTY Powder Me Pretty (makeup); Salon

Zhenya (hair)

GROOM'S ATTIRE Jos. A. Bank





Reynolds & Nicole

SEPTEMBER 9, 2017 • THE OMNI GROVE PARK INN • ASHEVILLE

It wasn't long after Reynolds McFarlane shared a slow dance with Nicole Jelley at her sweet 16 party in Raleigh, North Carolina, that the two pronounced themselves official. After high school, they dated long-distance while at different universities, until both came together to graduate from Appalachian State University in 2013. From there, they moved to Raleigh, bought a condo, and were ready to settle down for good. So it was that Reynolds proposed with his grandmother Baba's ring (which fit Nicole flawlessly, no resizing needed) on

a moonlit dock on Saint Martin. The duo made sure everything was just as romantic for their September nuptials at The Omni Grove Park Inn by infusing the celebration with glamour galore. Opulent crystal chandeliers graced the canopy of their clear tent and the grandest of touches, an Art Deco-inspired mirror, stood tall as their altar backdrop. And what's the most memorable part of their whole soirée, you ask? As the couple recessed, the stage curtain opened to reveal a band that jumped into "All You Need is Love," (à la *Love Actually*), stealing hearts, one and all.



details

VENUE, CATERING, CAKE The Omni Grove Park Inn

IMAGES Parker J Photo

PLANNER Asheville Event Co.

FLORALS Flora Asheville

RENTALS Classic Event Rental (taupe linens, furniture); Nüage Designs (sequin linens); BBJ Linen (rose-hued linens)

MUSIC EastCoast Entertainment (reception); Carolina Master Musicians (ceremony); Remix Weddings (late-night DJ)

STATIONERY One + Only Paper

BRIDE'S GOWN Kleinfeld Bridal

BEAUTY Salon Zhenya (hair); Samuel Cole Salon (hair); Zack Russell (makeup)

PHOTO BOOTH Massive Booth

TRANSPORTATION Gray Line Trolley





Frank & Katherine

AUGUST 26, 2017 • HIGH HAMPTON RESORT • CASHIERS

Weddings are touted as one of the best places for singles to meet that “someone special” and Katherine Weatherly and Frank Alverson prove that truism. The duo met in first grade—there’s a class photo showing them in matching T-shirts to prove it—but it wasn’t until they were fellow wedding party members in a friend’s Big Day that they fell for one another. Following Frank’s proposal, the Charleston, South Carolina, residents selected Cashiers for their ceremony, as it had played host to many a childhood romp for

each of them (her grandparents had a house there since she was five and his sisters had attended nearby Camp Merrie-Woode). Katherine let her three favorite colors—blush, lavender, and coral—guide décor and while wedding goers consisted mostly of family and friends, the couple’s pooch, Lilah, joined in to pose for portraits along with the maids. As for the llamas—yep, you ready that correctly—those wedding crashers live on site and take guests on mountain hikes. Critters, family, and fun? Talk about a perfect way to wed amidst your childhood haunt.



details

VENUE, PLANNER, CATERING High Hampton Resort
IMAGES Realities Photography
FLORALS Fiddlehead Designs
CAKE Creative Pastries by Sid
RENTALS Professional Party Rentals Inc.
MUSIC Runaway Gin
STATIONERY The Scribbler
CALLIGRAPHY Tumpy Bethea
BRIDE'S GOWN Lovely Bride
BRIDESMAID ATTIRE Bella Bridesmaids
BEAUTY The Spa at High Hampton Resort





Kirsti & Seth

DECEMBER 16, 2017 • THE PROVIDENCE COTTON MILL • MAIDEN

Kirsti Reynolds and Seth Shatley's love knows no bounds—at least geographically speaking. How now? Their courtship blossomed while each lived first in separate cities and then in separate states (her in Tennessee, him in North Carolina). But when it came to their December nuptials, the pair headed to where they'd both grown up—the Tar Heel State—and created a home-for-the-holidays-spin on their wedding with all the good tidings and togetherness the cold season yields. Aside from sealing the deal, the couple's utmost

priority was to make sure guests were as cozy as could be and they certainly delivered. Plush blankets greeted wedding goers at the open-air ceremony, mistletoe hung from an archway to up the romance factor, and a hot chocolate bar warmed hands and brightened spirits. And while the wedding party of 18 looked ever-so-fetching in chocolate-colored suits and crimson dresses, it was the bride in a gown handmade by her grandmother that had guests in awe. Well wishes go out to these two, who, along with friends and family, danced the not-so silent night away.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 92)







details

VENUE The Providence Cotton Mill

IMAGES Amanda Sutton Photography

PLANNER Kimberly Setzer

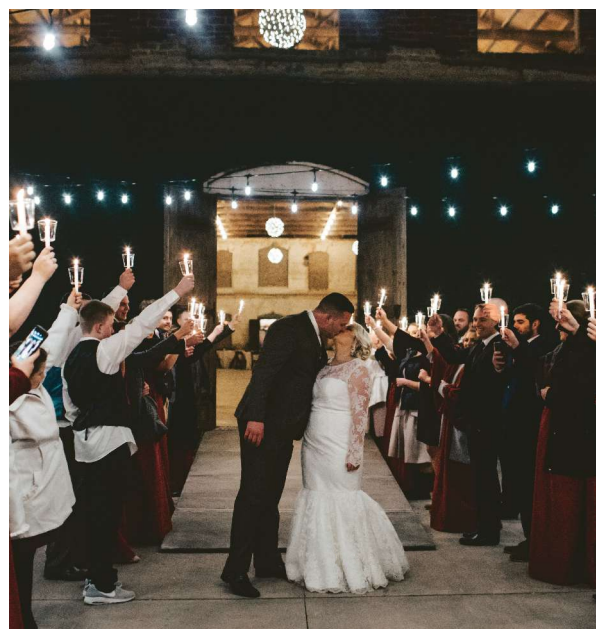
FLORALS Delicate Touch Floral

CATERING Unique Catering

MUSIC Robbie LaCombe

BRIDE'S GOWN The bride's grandmother

BEAUTY Martin & Company Hair Salon (hair);
Morgan & Natalie Manning (makeup)





Samantha & Jeff

SEPTEMBER 10, 2017 • THE CONSERVATORY AT BILTMORE • ASHEVILLE

While California residents Samantha Grzegorzewski and Jeff White have their feet firmly planted on the West Coast, it's the East Coast—North Carolina in particular—that has their hearts. The duo, who were introduced by Jeff's cousin, had been dating two-and-a-half years when they were kayaking out on the Pacific. It was a foggy day, but just as the mist started to lift, Jeff asked Samantha to marry him. In keeping with that wow-factor, the pair secured the historic Biltmore for their nuptials and planned what the bride called a

“slightly bohemian, garden-style, Jane Austen” soirée that was oh-so them. After swapping “I do’s” underneath a grand floral arch (a must for Samantha), and receding up the aisle amid a sea of cascading petals tossed by guests, they joined all inside the Conservatory for a meal aglow with candlelight. From there, it was onto the Butterfly Garden where the groom had a surprise up his sleeve: He serenaded Samantha as she danced under the moonlight with her father. “It was the only part of the day I cried,” she says. And who could blame her?



details

VENUE, FLORALS, CATERING, CAKE Biltmore
PHOTOGRAPHER Michelle Lyerly
PLANNER Honey Darling Events
MUSIC EastCoast Entertainment
RENTALS Classic Event Rental
BRIDE'S GOWN Grace Loves Lace
BEAUTY Bride's Best Friend Bridal Artistry
GROOM'S ATTIRE Tom James





Emily & Elias

NOVEMBER 4, 2017 • THE VENUE • ASHEVILLE

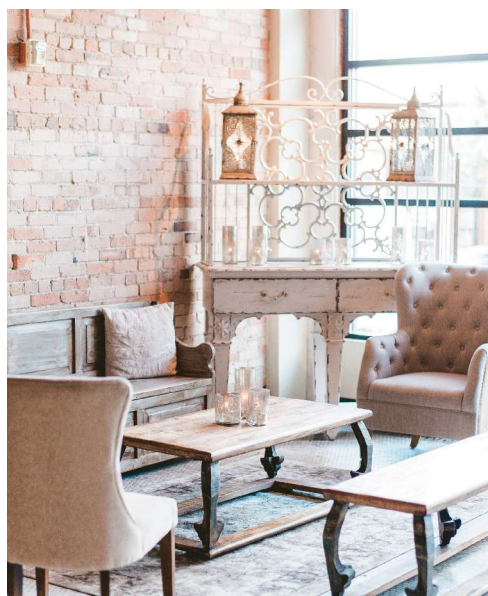
If Emily Drucker had to pinpoint the moment she knew that Elias Fain was “the one,” it would be when she realized that she was no longer embarrassed to belt her heart out in front of him, tone deafness be damned. Years later, when it came time to plan their November nuptials, the University of South Carolina alumni were nothing but in harmony. With the guidance of Sarah Murray from Verge Events, the couple’s vision was transformed into a sophisticated, downtown Asheville wedding with a bit of

a farmhouse style thrown in the mix. White pumpkins lined the aisle and dressed the tabletops and a biscuit station complete with fixings like seasonal jam, local honey, and sausage gravy gave the 160 guests a true taste of Southern hospitality. And if Emily didn’t already exude style with her sleek ponytail and striped, strapless Justin Alexander bridal gown, then her flair for calligraphy (she penned both the invitation envelopes and escort cards) surely wowed.



details

VENUE, CATERING, SIGNAGE The Venue
IMAGES A.J. Dunlap Photography
PLANNER Verge Events
FLORALS Flora
CAKE 50/Fifty
MUSIC EastCoast Entertainment
STATIONERY Minted
CALLIGRAPHY The bride
OFFICIANT Asheville Marriages
BRIDE'S GOWN Evelyn's Bridal & Formal Wear
BEAUTY Blush Asheville (makeup);
 Love, Daisy (hair)
GROOM'S ATTIRE Men's Wearhouse
TRANSPORTATION Gray Line Trolley





Jordan & Kelsey

SEPTEMBER 2, 2017 • BREVARD MUSIC CENTER • BREVARD

Jordan Bates crashed on Kelsey Hastings's couch one Saturday after a boisterous night out on the town in Fort Myers, Florida, with her roommate and friends. The next morning, Kelsey, who had forgone the previous night's goings-on, woke up to find a two-page handwritten note made out to "K" (the two hadn't yet met; Jordan guessed the decorative initial on the living room bookshelf was hers). The note—later dubbed the "Plantifesto" by their wedding officiant—included a detailed education on how she could better care for her houseplants. The manifesto intrigued Kelsey so much that she called the phone number Jordan left on the note and claims she knew the letter

was going to change her life, to say nothing of her plants' lives. She was right and the couple got engaged a little over a year later. For their so-called "non-wedding wedding", planner-bride Kelsey went for casual, opting for DIY signage (the duo stained plywood they purchased), walking down the aisle hand-in-hand with Jordan, and serving "brinner," that is, breakfast for dinner. And while everything didn't go as planned (the reserved aisles stayed empty throughout the ceremony as their families didn't realize they were being held for them), Kelsey doesn't hesitate to say that their ultimate wish—a Big Day that felt like being on vacation with their closest friends and families—was achieved.



details

VENUE Brevard Music Center

IMAGES Rachael McIntosh Photography

PLANNER The bride

FLORALS Floressence Flowers (bouquet, ceremony); Smash Events Inc. (reception)

CATERING, BAR SERVICE Smash Events Inc.

DESSERT Hole Doughnuts

MUSIC DJ Andy Stryf

BRIDE'S GOWN Pure Bridal Boutique

BEAUTY Studio RK Salon





Steve & Heather

SEPTEMBER 30, 2017 • RUMBLING BALD RESORT • LAKE LURE

North Carolina native Heather Stanley and Wales-born Steve Hetherington's relationship sounds like one plucked straight out of a romcom. For starters, their introduction was over a cup of tea, and although Heather immediately noticed Steve's smile, what won her over was his Welsh pronunciation of "banana bread." To compound the cute factor—and much to Heather's initial dismay—her married name is, wait for it, Heather Hetherington. So, yes, this couple is charming, no doubt, but their nuptials at Rumbling Bald Resort were just as so. Need proof? Not only did Heather walk down

the aisle arm-in-arm with both her father and stepfather, but also the couple participated in a "ring warming" ceremony, in which rings were passed around and prayed upon by immediate family sitting in the first rows before being exchanged. As for the reception, it was filled with lush, eucalyptus arrangements, surrounded by amazing mountain views, and, because you can't have a Lake Lure wedding without some dancing (*Dirty Dancing* was partially filmed there, after all), moving and grooving. Cheers to these two who clearly—pun intended—had the time of their lives.



details

VENUE, CATERING Rumbling Bald Resort

IMAGES Anastasiia Photography

PLANNER Firefly Event Company

FLORALS Two Buds and a Blossom

CAKE 50/Fifty

STATIONERY Cute Buttons Gift and Paper Boutique

SIGNAGE The bride's sister

MUSIC Allegro Music (ceremony); Sound Extreme Entertainment (reception)

BRIDE'S GOWN Lana Addison Bridal

BRIDESMAID'S ATTIRE Amsale

BEAUTY Doll Box Productions

GROOM'S ATTIRE Men's Wearhouse





Rachael & John

OCTOBER 14, 2017 • THE FARM AT OLD EDWARDS INN • HIGHLANDS

It's said that all good things come to those who wait, and for Rachael Lickteig and John Connolly, that great thing happened to be each other. Although the duo met in Chicago five years prior to their first date, conflicts (Rachael's career as a busy chef and John being in a relationship) kept them from connecting. But when both had freed up, their paths aligned thanks to a nudge from Rachael's sister. A connection flourished, and two months into their relationship, a shared move to Portugal sealed their fate. The couple aimed stateside for their autumn nuptials, picking North Carolina because Rachael has relatives in nearby

Asheville and John's parents reside in the state, too. The pair went for bold, rich, saturated hues (cue the garnet, emerald, and magenta) to create what Rachael referred to as their "own little world" quaintly nestled in the woods at The Farm at Old Edwards Inn. With fireplaces ablaze and a champagne tower overflowing with the good stuff, it's hard to imagine a celebration any more entertaining. Well, maybe until you hear about the bride and groom stage diving into a crowd full of their nearest and dearest. Here's to newlyweds Rachael and John, who apparently are more than just a little bit rock 'n' roll.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 104)







details

VENUE The Farm at Old Edwards Inn

IMAGES Natalie Watson Photography

PLANNER Lacy Geary

FLORALS Floressence Flowers

RENTALS Professional Party Rentals Inc. (lighting);
CRUSH Event Design (furniture); Old Edwards Inn
and Spa (linens)

CATERING Old Edwards Inn

CAKE Tessa Pinner

STATIONERY Paper Birch Designs

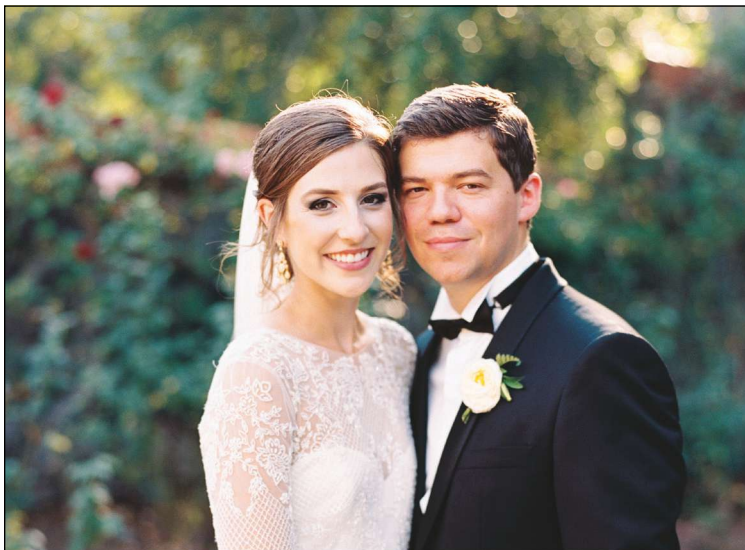
CALLIGRAPHY Calligraphy by Kay

MUSIC The Atlanta Allstars

BRIDE'S GOWN Vera Wang

BEAUTY Hunter Paige by Parlour 3





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WEDDING workbook

Tips and tools to make your Big Day your best day ever



Farm Fresh Florals

Put a lush, local spin on your wedding with petals plucked straight off the farm

IMAGE BY TAKEN BY SARAH PHOTOGRAPHY

Tip

Follow your favorite flower farms on social media to hear of upcoming workshops and classes. Ask about private sessions, as well. "We've hosted bachelorette parties making flower crowns and bridal parties where everyone made her own bouquet to carry in the wedding the following day," says Niki Irving of Flourish Flower Farm in Candler, North Carolina.

Tip

Think outside of the bouquet. "One of my favorite trends right now is floral jewelry," says Niki. "Floral bracelets are very popular, especially with mothers and grandmothers, as they're more comfortable than corsages. And floral necklaces are becoming popular for bridesmaids or maids of honor."



Venue, florals: Flourish Flower Farm **Images:** Taken by Sarah Photography **Bride's attire:** RCB Fashion (gown); Rachel Mae Designs (jewelry) **Beauty:** Hair by Natalie Webb **Ribbon:** Honey Silks & Co.

Farm Fresh Florals

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 107)

Wild or tailored, neutral-hued or colorific, likely you're leaning toward one of these when it comes to your wedding flowers.

But have you pondered where those perfect petals will be grown? Lucky for Asheville brides, this corner of the world is rife with vibrant, prolific flower farms, which means you have easy (and likely less pricey) blooms at your fingertips. And these homegrown offerings not only tend to stay perky longer than those ordered from out-of-town (or even international) growers, but also they tend to be more fragrant. "About 85 percent of the flowers that florists buy come from outside of the U.S.," says Niki Irving of **Flourish Flower Farm** in Candler, North Carolina. "Often that means those flowers were harvested weeks before your wedding to travel thousands of miles." Past the practical bonuses, there's simply something special about dressing your Big Day in blooms snipped within miles of where you swap your vows. Read on for tips to work locally grown flora into your celebration.

Tell your team local is a priority. Many flower farms offer full-service floral design for weddings and team up with outside florists and planners. If you've chosen a vendor unaffiliated with a farm, tell them you want to source flowers and greens locally.

Keep growing seasons in mind. Do you dream of a bridal bouquet filled with peonies grown right down the road? You'll be looking at a springtime wedding then. "May is peak peony season here in Asheville and dahlias are the queen of fall flowers," says Niki. Ask local farmers for a list of blooms typically available in the month you plan to wed.

Understand pricing. While buying local can save dollars ("A peony grown here in May will certainly cost less than a peony imported from across the globe in December," says Niki), don't overestimate the



price cut. "Just because you are getting flowers from a local farm doesn't mean they are cheaper or that you should expect them to be less expensive," she says. "Growing high-quality flowers takes a lot of work and expertise."

Be flexible. For the freshest (and most budget-friendly) flowers, choose a palette or vibe, then hand the reins over to the farmers, who will harvest in-season blooms that suit your vision and accommodate your budget.

Buy in bulk. One guaranteed price buster is to order in bulk and do the arranging yourself. Some farms (such as [Lady Luck Flower Farm](#) and [Full Sun Farm](#)) are U-pick, while others, like [Flourish](#), do the harvesting. "A good rule of thumb is that one of our buckets, which contain 75 to 100 stems, will fill about five to seven quart-size Mason jars," says Niki.

DIY half. To ensure freshness, bulk buckets are typically available for pick up one to three days prior to your event. Translation: Time for arranging is limited. A popular option? Let experts tackle your bouquets, boutonnieres, and so on, then do reception arrangements yourself.

Head to a farm for portraits. Talk about Instagram gold! Many local flower farms welcome photo shoots for a small fee. "Try June through October, when the plants are taller and when dahlias are blooming," says Niki.



local flower farms

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For more farms, visit [CutFlowers.ces.NCSU.edu](#).

Snapshot in Time

Mark an anniversary with a portrait session in Asheville's environs

First comes love, then comes marriage, then comes . . . anniversaries. To celebrate any multiple of the latter, consider commemorating the milestone with a photo shoot rather than the traditional prescribed paper, cotton, or leather present. And if your significant other is camera shy, tell them to take it easy, it's 2018 and this ain't your mama's portrait.

The latest "sittings" actually entail doing the everyday things you normally do as couples. Sample a flight of flavorful beers at Bhramari Brewing Company? You got it. Stroll around placid Lake Lure with your four-legged friend? Sure thing. Or you might follow Caroline and Dominic's path: Share a bottle of vino at Whitewater Farm in Lake Toxaway and take an after-dinner walk to beautiful Mill Shoals Falls. Whether you're local, traded vows here and want to revisit memory lane, or if you're just hankering for a trip to the hills, whatever's snapped of the two of you in Western North Carolina is bound to rival any Hallmark moment. —Hannah Chillag



Everyone looks gorgeous—promise—the hour after sunrise and the hour before sunset. Consider that when scheduling your photo shoot.



Venue: Whitewater Farm **Photographer:** Jordan Maunder **Creative Direction:** Love & Honey
Gown: Lulu's Beauty **Jennifer Abercrombie Beauty Paper Goods:** Alchemy Calligraphy and Design
Videography: Arden Film Co.

How to Pose Like a Pro

Aim this way. Since anniversaries are a celebration of you as a couple (and minus the 150 guests), pull out all the stops and make that mountain weekend you've always imagined a reality. Anniversary shoots are a great option for brides who wed in a convenient location but dreamed of a destination wedding with amazing views. Planning on flying into the 828? Book six weeks in advance to get the most budget-friendly flights.

Hit the spot. Seek out a local pro as master behind the lens. They know the ropes best, after all, and are oftentimes privy to those location "hidden gems" that out-of-towners may not be familiar with.

Dress up or down. There is no dress code for anniversary shoots. Want to wear your wedding gown? (Heck, you own it!) Consider altering it into a "little white dress" and hit the town with your suited up sweetheart. Or opt for something altogether different, like Caroline did with her black gown. The only caveat to remember? Bring two changes of clothes (one upscale and one down-to-earth) for options.

Gather your tribe. For those who want to relive their receptions, book your shoot, then have your nearest and dearest join you afterward for an anniversary party. Later, upload imagery to Shutterfly.com or PaperlessPost.com for holiday cards for years to come.

Timing: Don't want to wait for an anniversary? Try a shoot the day after your Big Day, especially if weather, temps, or timing gets gummed up the day-of.

Say cheese. Want to DIY your session? Grab a selfie stick and get down to it. "We're so fortunate that we have the luxury of iPhone cameras nowadays," says planner Tina Doody of Love & Honey, who suggests couples go mobile to document regular anniversaries and save hiring a pro for major ones. To create specialized shots and infuse extra personality into them, check out Snapchat for personal filters.

Keep your portraits looking natural by incorporating action, whether it be dancing, walking, or snuggling. Movement gives you something to do with your hands.



Kathy Beaver
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Sno-Mance

When the weather outside is frightful, these tips on swapping “I do’s” are so delightful



details

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A Flurry of Facts

- ❄ Asheville averages 13 inches of snowfall per year.
- ❄ January is typically the coldest month of the year with average lows of 28°F.
- ❄ The higher the elevation, the colder it will be. Asheville is considered “lower” elevation at 2,000 feet; sites above that mark can be 10-15 degrees colder.

There is no doubt that Asheville all dressed up in winter is a sight to behold—dreamy snowcapped mountains in the distance, the crackling blaze of toasty fires, and city streets decked in twinkling lights abound. And as blissful as it all may be, it’s also darn cold. We cozied up to Jennifer and Joe Mackey of **JCM Photography** to get the scoop on how a bride can star in her very own winter wonderland wedding while combatting the chill and looking polished all at once. For starters, they suggest a pre-Big Day consultation to hash out fair and foul weather plans. From there, read on for more of their been-there, done-that advice to make yours the merriest of weddings. —Catherine Lowe

Asheville Wedding Guide: What are your three best pieces of advice for winter brides?

JCM Photography: First, contact your wedding planner to discuss any possible schedule adjustments and backup plans if snow looks eminent. Second, make time to get outside for bridal or couple portraits in the snow. It can make beautiful images on your wedding day. And lastly, tread carefully. Snowy weather can create slick conditions, so be careful as you move around outside, even if it’s just going from one point to another.

AWG: Got it. So say it does snow on my wedding day. Anything else I need to keep in mind?

JCM: Plan for things to be behind in terms of timing. When it snows heavily, it can delay guests, vendors, and even the bridal party from arriving on time. Don’t stress and realize that pretty much everyone is going to be in the same boat.

AWG: What if the snow is very deep and you’re not up for photos in the thick of it?

JCM: We offer couples an “adventure” session prior to or after the wedding date. We head somewhere you’d never expect to go in your wedding garb, like a mountain bald or hiking trail. This ensures we have ample time to snap all the beautiful wedding imagery a couple desires. It takes the stress out of photo time (and snow).

AWG: Let’s talk fashion. Do you have any snowy style tips?

JCM: As you can imagine, trying to convince someone in a light dress and open-toed heels to go out into snowy weather can be a challenge. We recommend warm shoes (like boots and something warm for your upper body, such as an elegant cape. If [your wrap] isn’t stylish, you can always take it off for photos when you get outside. And it’s not impossible if you don’t have boots, you’ll just have cold toes.

AWG: Why should a couple choose to get married during the winter months?

JCM: It’s considered the off-season since it’s colder and a lot of venues offer lower rates. Since many of today’s couples are paying for weddings out of their own pockets, this can be a great strategy to save on wedding costs while still being able to afford to get married in a popular area like Asheville.





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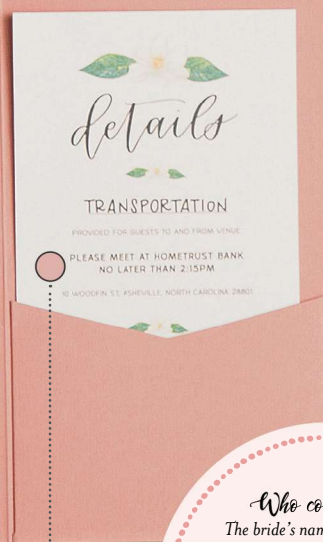
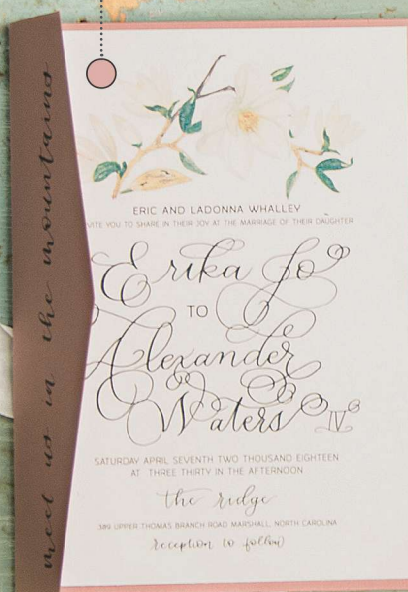
The Suite Life

Asheville letter artist Bethany Thames of Joy Unscripted lays out the ABCs of a proper wedding invitation suite

INVITATION

This principal piece of the suite is often the largest in size. It includes the most pertinent information (i.e. the bride and groom, host parents, wedding date, time, and location). Bethany suggests sending invitations four to six weeks in advance and even earlier for destination weddings or those that align with holidays.

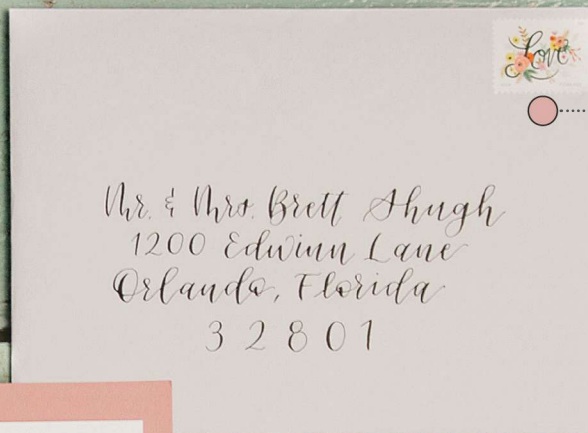
PHOTOGRAPH BY NATALIE MOREAU



Who comes first?
The bride's name should always appear ahead of the groom's name on the invitation. Same-sex couples can take turns on who appears first on save-the-dates, invitations, and ceremony programs. Host parents are usually listed male-female and are typically the bride's parents and/or stepparents.

ENCLOSURE CARD

Also known as the details card, this catchall includes other relevant information regarding the Big Day, like directions, accommodation information, registry locations, and wedding website addresses. Have more to tell guests than one side of the card allows? Print information on the front and back.



OUTER ENVELOPE

This piece, which can have square or pointed flaps, encloses all the components. Bethany recommends Instagrammers order extra suites so they have something pristine to post.



REPLY ENVELOPE

Pre-address and pre-stamp these to help guests RSVP easily.



REPLY CARD

These are used to collect RSVPs. Include a 'reply by' date, usually three to four weeks prior to your wedding date.

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Bethany is a Jill of all trades—she creates custom invitations (like this suite), calligraphs envelopes, pens wedding signage, and even makes specialized aisle runners upon request. The first piece of information she requests from a bride is their wedding date. From there, she creates an individual timeline detailing important deadlines. Bethany's envelope calligraphy ranges from \$1.50 to \$4 per piece.

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Moving Mountains

IMAGE BY FOLK + WAYFARER



MARCH 3, 2018 • MARKEE & DJ • ROAN MOUNTAIN

DJ Newman wears many hats: father, chef, fiancé, and, after hearing the details surrounding his proposal, master planner. When the Ohio native decided to propose to Markee Armentrout, his girlfriend of two years, he called on his high school friend Tessa Woolworth, the Asheville-based wedding photographer behind Folk + Wayfarer, to devise a game plan. Their idea? Con Markee into believing that she and DJ were modeling for Tessa's portfolio in a mock photo session on a mountaintop. Before everything went into motion, though, there was one major piece of the puzzle to put in place. On the Valentine's Day a few weeks prior to The Big Ask, DJ gifted Markee a bracelet etched with what he said were the coordinates of the restaurant where they shared their first date—35.7970°N, 82.9568°W. Fast-forward to the "portfolio session" and the trio headed up to the summit of Roan Mountain. DJ knelt, pulled out a glass terrarium ring "box," and told Markee that the coordinates she was wearing on her wrist were not that of the restaurant, but of here, Roan Mountain, where he was going to propose to her. Melt much? —Caitlan Walzer



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