

february + march 2018

# BRIDES

## Serena!

**The  
Biggest  
Love  
Match**

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The  
Secrets  
of a  
**Zero-Drama  
Guest List**

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A  
Wedding  
Pro's  
**Budget  
Hacks**

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+  
The  
Most  
**Perfect  
Dresses**  
of the  
Season





# OK, you know who you're marrying. Now the real question is *where?*

## North-east



The penthouse terrace of the Beekman, a Thompson Hotel, in New York.

Trust us: Choosing the venue is one of the most important decisions you'll make right about now. Seriously, the location affects almost everything else, from how many people you can invite to what kind of flowers go on the table. Chances are, it's also the biggest chunk of change you've put down, like, ever. So whether you're a city girl who wants a rooftop soiree or the complete opposite of that, here are 28 places in the U.S. where you can gather all your people and get down to celebrating.

### **DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum**

*Lincoln, Massachusetts*

This spot—just a half hour from Boston—sits on 30 acres and features more than 60 large-scale art installations. Exchange vows on the sculpture lawn, then head inside for an art-gallery reception. [decordova.org](http://decordova.org).

### **Angel Orensanz Foundation**

*New York City*

The oldest surviving synagogue in Manhattan (built in 1849) is now an opulent event space on the Lower East Side. Showcase its grand Gothic Revival architecture with uplighting on the columned walls and domed ceiling. [orensanzevents.com](http://orensanzevents.com).

### **The Beekman, a Thompson Hotel**

*New York City*

Capture the romantic feeling of old New York with a party at this downtown hotel, in one of the city's first skyscrapers.

Guests rave about the menu (by *Top Chef's* Tom Colicchio), which puts a fresh take on turn-of-the-20th-century dishes like Oysters Rockefeller. [thebeckman.com](http://thebeckman.com).

### Fairmont Park Horticulture Center

*Philadelphia*

Let this botanical space serve as the lush backdrop for your urban wedding. Hold the ceremony in the garden, then have dinner and dancing in a greenhouse filled with succulents. [myphillypark.org](http://myphillypark.org).

### Castle Hill Inn

*Newport, Rhode Island*

At this seaside estate, you'll get classic New England views of sailboats and lighthouses. [castlehillinn.com](http://castlehillinn.com).

# The South

### Vizcaya Museum & Gardens

*Miami*

Step back in time at a century-old mansion with grounds overlooking Biscayne Bay. Tip: Have an afternoon ceremony under the Spanish moss in the garden so you'll catch the sunset during cocktail hour. [vizcaya.org](http://vizcaya.org).

### Barnsley Resort

*Adairsville, Georgia*

At the edge of metro Atlanta, this venue sits on 3,000 acres of Blue Ridge foothills.

Host a casual rehearsal dinner in the outdoor beer garden (complete with string lights and a fire pit!) before classing things up for a celebration amid the ruins of a 19th-century manor house. [barnsleyresort.com](http://barnsleyresort.com).

### Race & Religious

*New Orleans*

Go full-on NOLA style and hire a second-line band. After your vows, have the brass ensemble lead a parade through the Lower Garden District, with a

final march around this spot's central pool. The main event space is between two 1800s homes, and there are lots of opps for dramatic photos. (Be sure to take one on the lantern-lit balcony.) [raceandreligious.com](http://raceandreligious.com).

### Lonesome Valley

*Cashiers, North Carolina*

Many come to this upscale farm for the food—think braised short ribs and fish from nearby Sunburst Trout Farm—but stay for the views of meadows and massive granite cliffs. [lonesomevalley.com](http://lonesomevalley.com).

### Montage Palmetto Bluff

*Bluffton, South Carolina*

Bring out your inner southern belle at this classic low-country resort, where you can marry inside an adorable (and nondenominational) chapel. Afterward, you can pitch a sailcloth tent to party outside on the main village green. Oh, and be sure to make your getaway on *Grace*, the property's antique yacht. [montagehotels.com](http://montagehotels.com).

### The William Aiken House

*Charleston, South Carolina*

A wedding at this grand 18th-century home will feel like the fanciest dinner party ever. Each room is painted a differ-

“The granary was so beautiful, we really only needed flowers and candles,” says bride Stacey Romero about Pippin Hill.

Say hello to hydrangeas at Pippin Hill Farm & Vineyards in Virginia.





ent color and decorated with antiques, while the garden is manicured and ready for a “backyard” ceremony—but on King Street, in the heart of downtown. [pphgcharleston.com](http://pphgcharleston.com).

### **Blackberry Farm**

*Walland, Tennessee*

At this resort nestled in the Great Smoky Mountains, you’ll find natural landscapes and five-star luxury. (Your guests can go fly-fishing and dig into raved-about regional cuisine.) A sister property—Blackberry Mountain—opens later this year. [blackberryfarm.com](http://blackberryfarm.com).

### **The White Sparrow**

*Quinlan, Texas*

Live out your glam barn fantasy at this spot just an hour from Dallas. Chandeliers elevate the interior, while the outside features a tree swing that’s made for cute snapshots with your honey. [thewhitesparrowbarn.com](http://thewhitesparrowbarn.com).

### **Hotel Emma**

*San Antonio, Texas*

Brides like the look of the restored 19th-century brewery (now a boutique hotel) almost as much as they love the showman chef, who will cook in front of an audience of all your guests. [thehotelemma.com](http://thehotelemma.com).

### **Pippin Hill Farm & Vineyards**

*North Garden, Virginia*

This winery venue was designed by event planner Lynn Easton with weddings in mind, so your day will flow easily from ceremony (on the lawn) to drinks (on the veranda) to dinner (in the granary). [pippinhillfarm.com](http://pippinhillfarm.com).



The main room at Aria in Minneapolis is ready for a party of up to 1,000 people.

“As soon as we walked in, we both fell in love with the glamour,” says Gana Berg, who got married at Aria last fall.

## The Midwest

### **Adler Planetarium**

*Chicago*

Give your loved ones the world (and beyond) with a planetarium wedding. You can check out the Chicago skyline from the ceremony—and later on, take a short break to stargaze through a research-quality telescope. [adlerplanetarium.org](http://adlerplanetarium.org).

### **Ford Piquette Avenue Plant**

*Detroit*

Known as the birthplace of Ford’s Model T, this museum by day transforms into a cool warehouse venue at night. We highly recommend dinner and dancing surrounded by the 40-plus antique cars on display. [fordpiquetteavenueplant.org](http://fordpiquetteavenueplant.org).



**Planterra Conservatory**

*West Bloomfield, Michigan*  
Make your own tropical oasis in the Midwest with an event in a greenhouse of fresh flowers and lush plants. The glass walls offer snowy views in the winter and a garden tableau in the spring. [planterraevents.com](http://planterraevents.com).

**Aria**

*Minneapolis*  
Merge this former theater's rustic aesthetic with your own romantic vision by hanging lights from the soaring 30-foot ceilings; it'll totally highlight the exposed brick walls. [ariamples.com](http://ariamples.com).

**Peabody Opera House**

*St. Louis*  
This space dates to 1934 and is certainly fit for a Gatsby-esque celebration. After vows on the grand staircase, grab cocktails on the second-floor balcony, which overlooks the main attraction: a gilded ballroom. [peabodyoperahouse.com](http://peabodyoperahouse.com).

**Cleveland Museum of Art**

*Cleveland*  
Let the 1916 beaux-arts marble facade welcome guests—then host the event in the grand atrium, or outside, next to Rodin's *The Thinker*. [clevelandart.org](http://clevelandart.org).

“After the reception, all our friends went in the hot springs,” says Hannah Barthelme of her Dunton Hot Springs wedding.

# West <sup>The</sup>

**El Chorro**

*Paradise Valley, Arizona*  
This restaurant space is the essence of Arizona's Sonoran desert, with tons of cacti and red-rock Camelback Mountain in the distance. Plus you can rent a cute burro (!) who carries coolers filled with beer. [elchorro.com](http://elchorro.com).

**Ventana Big Sur**

*Big Sur, California*  
Fresh off a multimillion-dollar reno, this central-coast property is back with the addition of 15 safari-style tents (for sleeping in the redwoods) and a 7,000-square-foot event lawn (for partying by the Pacific). [ventanabigsur.com](http://ventanabigsur.com).

**Korakia Pensione**

*Palm Springs, California*  
You get your choice of two totally authentic vibes in this downtown Palm Springs spot: One villa is Mediterranean, and another looks straight out of Morocco (Tangier tiles and all). [korakia.com](http://korakia.com).

**Bear Flag Farm**

*Winters, California*  
Your guests will be winning the Instastory game as they post (many, many) snaps from the lavender field at this Sacramento Valley estate. So in keeping with the venue's theme, get the lavender-garnished champagne for cocktail hour in the Orangerie. [bearflagfarm.com](http://bearflagfarm.com).

**Dunton Hot Springs**

*Dolores, Colorado*  
Completely take over this former ghost town (now a luxe Relais & Chateaux resort) for an all-inclusive mountain weekend with your crew of up to 70. [duntonhotsprings.com](http://duntonhotsprings.com).

**Coopers Hall**

*Portland, Oregon*  
Wine lovers, this one's for you. Say “I do” in the romantically lit industrial tap room, then sip the signature pinot noir as you dine by rows of oak barrels. [coopershall.com](http://coopershall.com).

**Brush Creek Ranch**

*Saratoga, Wyoming*  
Whether you're after a return-to-summer-camp vibe or want everyone to get a real-life Wild West experience, this 30,000-acre cattle ranch is perfect for a destination wedding, complete with clay shooting and yoga classes taught inside a tepee. [brushcreekranch.com](http://brushcreekranch.com).  
—Danielle Deavens, Jessie Mooney, and Anna Price Olson

A river runs through...Colorado's Dunton Hot Springs.

