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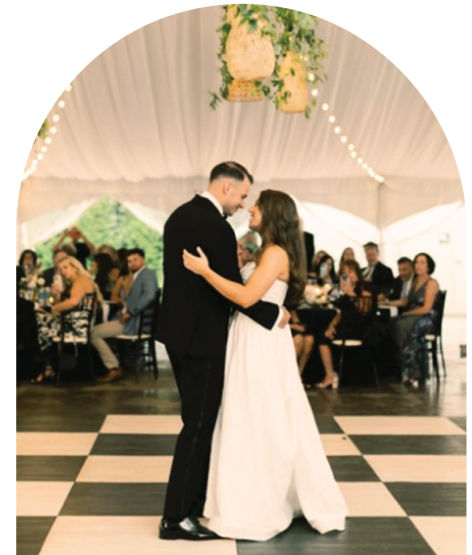
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WHATSUPMAG.COM/WEDDINGS

What's Up? Weddings is published twice a year by What's Up? Media,

900 Bestgate Rd. Ste. 202,
Annapolis, MD 21401

410-266-6287

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Total printed circulation is 8,500 copies with an estimated readership of 35,000 per issue.

6,500 copies are mailed free to brides in the Chesapeake Bay region, with an additional 2,000 copies distributed on regional newsstands, at bridal expos, and to venue locations within Maryland.

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Larissa Retke, L&A Photo and Film



It's been a wedding-filled year and a half! I started editing What's Up? Weddings just a month before we got engaged. So, while I've been writing about weddings and interviewing couples and getting to know local wedding vendors, I've been planning my own behind the scenes. These last few months, I've loved reading the love stories of so many local couples, all with their own meet cutes and sweet memories.

Each wedding has wowed me in its own unique way, and I've been in constant awe of how couples bring their personalities, their creativity, and their thoughtfulness to their special day. And it's been incredible to work with and talk to so many photographers, planners, and wedding professionals who come together to make a beautiful day happen so flawlessly. They've taken time out of their busy schedules to answer interviews and provide photos. Christine McFarlane's insights in this issue on creating a wedding tablescape were so fun to learn about as someone who loves wedding design! (Page 40)

All that said, I have to thank my own vendors who made our wedding day so special. They were as much a part of the wedding day as our family and friends. Our beautiful venue, Fathom Gallery Georgetown, and fabulous planner team, Danielle and Savana from Olive Occasions, worked so hard to bring our vision to life. Larissa, from L&A Photo and Film, captured everything so beautifully; I can't stop looking through the photos. Eleven Courses Catering took all our food and recipe suggestions and turned them into a meal everyone complimented. And DJ Mark DeArcangelis, who kept the party going until the last minute and took song requests no matter how wild.

I've been looking forward to a wedding from growing up watching romantic comedies in the 2000s. But our day was better than any movie could portray, and I know so many couples feel the same. I can't wait to feature more love stories, more meet cutes, and all the creative wedding details!

With love (and for the first time),
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Alexandria Taylor Craig

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*Wedding trends we
can't get enough of*

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Painted Plates

Hand painted and customized, plates have become a fun way to celebrate a couple's love story. Personalized designs feature iconography of a couple's favorite things and significant places. While other plates have a simple design with names and a wedding date. Couples are opting for a pair of plates to eat their wedding meal on or for their wedding cake. And they make a beautiful detail on a sweetheart or head table. After the wedding, these plates are a unique keepsake to display or eat on during anniversaries.

➔ A romantic design with a couple of swans and calla lilies is perfect for an elegant garden wedding.

Designed by Hannah Lawson
Instagram: @hans.pots
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⬆ This doodle design is whimsical and fun, featuring classic wedding iconography and personalized details to a couple.

Designed by Gillian Fisher
Instagram: @paintingwithgillian
Custom plates available at keepjoystudio.com





Lamp Light

Lighting plays a major role in creating the ambiance for your wedding. Most want a warm and welcoming atmosphere for guests to enjoy the meal they spent months planning. Traditionally, a soft golden glow provided by candlelight has been the norm. But cozy table lamps are growing in popularity for receptions. These lighting fixtures create an intimate dinner party feel and add an eclectic detail to the table setting. With a variety of materials and colors to choose from, table lamps add a pop of texture or visual interest that can set a design apart.

◀ Simple and small, these table lamps add a delicate accent to the table design and a golden glow for dinnertime.

Karena Dixon Photography



➔ This whimsical floral shape and sleek glass combination brings so much life to this colorful tablescape.

Urban Row Photography



Dramatic Drapery

Few design elements will provide a dramatic transformation like drapery. A humble sheet pleated, folded, and hung the right way is elegant with a touch of vintage. Soft silk to luxe velvet, timeless white to bold colors, drapery is sure to take your breath away with eye-catching layers of texture. Hang it from ceilings to create a cozy enclave or as a backdrop for the altar. Dramatic drapery is where art, creativity, and timeless trends all meet.

➔ The texture of this draping behind the altar paired with bold florals creates a decadent backdrop for a couple after walking down the aisle.

Urban Row Photography
Draping: The Le Mond Decor



⬆ Warm lighting and textured drapery come together for a romantic, elegant, and vintage-inspired feature to say, "I do!" This piece creates a focal point in a cavernous room.

McKenzie Elizabeth Photography
Drapery: Event Dynamics Inc.



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GET THE LOOK

*Style inspiration
from local couples*

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James and Niqui

NATURAL, CLASSIC, COASTAL

James and Niqui were childhood friends, first meeting at age three on the pre-k playground. They started dating at 18, right before leaving for separate colleges, and stayed together despite the five-hour distance. And after 8 years together, James popped the question.

Sherwood Forest was the neighborhood where they met and first became friends, so getting married at the Sherwood Forest Club was an easy decision. Their October wedding featured a waterfront ceremony and a reception surrounded by lush forest greenery. Niqui and James incorporated elements of the surrounding forest and water into their wedding design with shades of blue, green, and white. Simple with natural elements, these childhood friends' wedding was everything they imagined.



Her Look

When it came to her wedding dress, Niqui knew she wanted it to be strapless. So, she tried on a variety of silhouettes. But when it came to her dress, she fell in love with the neckline; an elegant strapless with a V-shaped cut out and a ruched wrapped bodice. "It seemed both flattering and unique at the same time," Niqui said of her dress.

Every bride is after the illusive comfortable pair of heels for her wedding day and Niqui was no exception. Since she's on the shorter side, she knew she definitely wanted the little bit of extra height. "I had heard great things about Loeffler Randall . . . so I decided to pay a bit extra for the comfort." She chose the iconic Camellia Fabric Bow sandals in a bridal white. Opting to keep it simple, she finished off her look with a sapphire and diamond bracelet borrowed from her mom, a pair of dangling crystal earrings, and wore her sister's veil.

"I had a hard time deciding which style [of earrings] I wanted to wear. [They] ended up being fairly inexpensive. My shoes were my most expensive accessory."

His Look

Wanting to stand out from the guests, James wore a classic black tuxedo. Truly timeless, the look was complete with a crisp white button down, black suspenders, dress shoes, and bowtie. He accessorized with a black and silver watch from Tissot. His white rose boutonniere matched Niqui's bouquet.

Her Second Look

Niqui had planned to change into a second look earlier in the night. However, after getting on the dance floor with friends and family, she didn't want to leave. Towards the end of the reception, she changed into a simple white, strapless mini romper. She switched up her footwear with a pair of blue Dolce Vita kitten heels with a bow detail. "I [loved] leaving [the wedding] in a different, shorter dress."

Their Entourage

For the bridesmaids, Niqui wanted her girls to wear the same dress, "but find one that would be flattering on all different body types." Niqui ordered dresses in a variety of styles and colors from a few websites for her friends to try on. The winner was a one-shoulder matte satin dress in a beautiful sea glass green. The groomsmen wore tuxes that matched the groom with a minor change. Instead of the black bowtie, they wore sea glass green ones that matched the bridesmaids' dresses. The entourage were a natural pop of color alongside the elegant couple.



The bridesmaids wore permanent bracelets that were put on the morning of the wedding while getting ready.



DETAILS:

Bride Gown: Alyne by Rita Vinieris; "Camila", \$3000 (designer), Garnish Boutique (shop) **Veil:** Borrowed from bride's sister, Garnish Boutique **Jewelry:** Earrings, Anthropologie; bracelet: borrowed from bride's mother **Shoes:** Loeffler Randal, Camellia Fabric Bow Ankle Strap Dress Sandal, \$395 **Reception Dress:** Strapless Bethany Romper in Ivory by Amanda Uprichard X Revolve, Revolve, \$238 **Reception Shoes:** Kayli Heels in Light Blue Satin, Dolce Vita, \$130 **Groom Suit:** Notch Lapel Tuxedo, The Black Tux (designer and shop) **Jewelry:** Black leather watch, Tissot, \$350 **Shoes:** Black dress shoes, The Black Tux **Accessories:** Black bow tie, The Black Tux **Bridesmaids Dresses:** Kira Dress in Sea Glass Green, \$105, Birdy Grey (designer and shop) **Jewelry:** Various gold jewelry owned by the bridesmaids **Shoes:** Various nude heels owned by bridesmaids **Other accessories:** Permanent jewelry, In the Sand (pop up provider) **Groomsmen Suit:** Notch Lapel Tuxedo, The Black Tux (designer and shop) **Jewelry:** Various watches, personally owned **Shoes:** Black dress shoes, The Black Tux **Accessories:** Bowtie in Sea Glass Green, Birdy Grey, \$22 (designer and shop) **Other Style-Related Vendors:** **Photographer:** Karena Dixon Photography **Videographer:** Andrew Gilford @filmandflourish **Hair and makeup:** Dorsey Beauty @dorseybeauty **Florist:** Blue Vanada Designs @bluevandadesigns

Mark and Amana

SUMMERY, ELEGANT,
ROMANTIC

Mark and Amana first met towards the end of high school. As they entered the next stages of their lives, they remained close. Amana went to Philadelphia for college and Mark joined the Air Force. Even though they had spent five years apart, it felt like nothing had changed when Amana returned home to Maryland. And their close friendship naturally evolved into a romance.

Their late summer wedding took place on the water at the Chesapeake Bay Beach Club. Surrounded by family and friends, Mark and Amana hosted a warm and inviting evening in shades of soft whites, greens, and yellows. It was a sunny August afternoon with a romantic feel, perfect for celebrating their love story and beautifully captured with their hashtag #WhenLifeGivesYouSimmons.



“My favorite details were the delicate floral appliqués and the structured fit. Once I added the draped sleeves, the whole look just came together beautifully.”

Her Look

Amana was dedicated to the hunt of finding her wedding dress. She visited 12 different bridal shops with her mom across Maryland, DC, and Virginia. “I was still figuring out the style and silhouette I wanted. But once I came across Maggie Sottero’s designs, I knew that was the direction I wanted to go.” Though Amana fell in love with many of Maggie Sottero’s gowns, there was one she saw online that just couldn’t get out of her head.

On a trip to Brooke & June Bridal, Amana almost said ‘yes’ to a different dress. But she couldn’t stop thinking about the Maggie Sottero gown she first fell in love with. After showing a picture, her bridal stylist offered to have it shipped from Pennsylvania. Her dream dress arrived after three weeks. “Tasteful 3D florals, a corset-style bodice, and a touch of sparkle; it checked every box,” Amana says. Along with the long, dramatic train and veil and the addition of the draped, off-the-shoulder sleeves, it was truly Amana’s dream dress.

His Look

When they were considering Mark's suit, they leaned towards either white, black, or a shade of green. He tried on a variety of styles and colors from SuitSupply, which helped focus their vision. They wanted Mark to stand out from the groomsmen. In the end, the pair chose a white suit jacket and black trousers. "We really loved the idea of both of us being the only ones in white. It felt cohesive, elevated, and made the moment feel even more special."

The Accessories

Since she knew she'd be on her feet all day and walking in grass, comfortable chunky heels were a must for the ceremony. So, Amana opted for a pair of platform sandals from Kate Spade that hit all the requirements. Jewelry turned out to be the hardest bridal accessory to find. She wanted pieces that would complement the sparkle and details of her dress. Amana also wanted the pieces to be affordable without looking cheap. A pair of earrings and a hair comb from Dareth Colburn ended up being the right understated accessories for the day. For the reception, both Mark and Amana donned pairs of Louboutin shoes, their biggest style splurge. Amana changed into the Condora pumps and Mark wore a pair of the Dandy Chick.

Their Entourage

Yellow was always part of Mark and Amana's style vision; it was just a matter of finding the right shade. After a search at Bella Bridesmaids, they settled on a soft shade of buttercup yellow. The bridesmaids were able to choose a silhouette they loved and felt confident in, creating a cohesive, yet mix and match look. The vision for the groomsmen was smooth and polished: classic black tuxedos paired with yellow bow ties to match the bridesmaids. Together, a soft and summery entourage that helped the couple shine.



DETAILS:

Bride Gown: Sottero and Midgley - Athlone Lane (\$2,500), Maggie Sottero (designer), Brooke and June Bridal (dress shop) **Veil:** Maggie Sottero - Cathedral Length (\$500) **Bride's jewelry:** Dareth Colburn earrings (\$50) and hair accessories (\$75) **Bride's shoes:** Kate Spade New York Women's Lucie Platform Sandals (\$100) **Other accessories:** Philadelphia Eagles thigh garter (\$25), Le Rose Iris Lace Trim Maxi (\$240), and Slippers (\$33) **Reception dress:** Rosie Etienne Bridal - Isabelle (\$600) **Reception shoes:** Christian Louboutin Condora Strap 85MM Leather Pumps (\$1,095.00) **Groom Suit designer:** Suit Supply (designer and shop), (\$1,500) **Groom's jewelry:** Watch, Orient Stretto Chronograph (\$440) **Groom's shoes:** Christian Louboutin Dandy Chick (\$945.00) **Other accessories:** Cuff Links, Amazon **Bridesmaids** **Bridesmaids' dress designer:** Various styles (Wren, Swayer), color Buttercup, Jenny Yoo (designer) (\$300-350.00), Bella Bridesmaids DC (shop) **Bridesmaids' jewelry:** Mari Set, Dareth Colburn (designer and shop) (\$33) **Bridesmaids' shoes:** Tan shoes, LuLu's (shop) (\$45) **Groomsmen Suit designer:** Men's Warehouse, designer and shop (rented) **Groomsmen jewelry:** Various watches **Groomsmen shoes:** Men's Warehouse **Other Style-Related Vendors:** **Photographer:** Megan Dix Photography **Hair and makeup:** Jaya Bolden, Make Up By Jaya **Florist:** Savannah Midkiff, Bloomin' Wild Florist

Ross and Lauren

SOPHISTICATED,
WARM, TIMELESS

A mutual friend introduced Ross and Lauren. Caskia was Lauren's best friend and Ross's neighbor growing up. The first time they met, the two just clicked. "I think he's cute," Lauren had told Caskia after that initial meeting. In the true sense of "when you know, you know," Ross and Lauren were together ever since.

They wanted to get married somewhere that felt special to them, and the Inn at Perry Cabin checked all their boxes. They loved being on the water; it reminded them of where they live in Cape May. And the charming town of St. Michaels was the perfect setting for their November wedding and a lovely destination weekend for their guests.



Her Look

Lauren knew she wanted her wedding dress to be something simple and timeless. But she still wanted an element of fun, so she had certain parts of the gown custom made at the bridal shop. "We created a matching silk skirt that I wore during the ceremony, then took off for the reception and added sleeves after." The customizations she made created three dresses in one.

For the ceremony, she wore the silk overskirt over a fitted gown and a lacy high-neck topper under the strapless bodice. For the start of the reception, she transformed the dress by removing the overskirt, showing off a high leg slit, and adding off-the-shoulder lacy sleeves. Later, she removed the sleeves altogether.

Jewelry and shoes followed Lauren's simple style. "I love timeless pieces," she says of the accessories she usually wears. Lauren wore a diamond bracelet and necklace from a boutique in Cape May. For shoes, a pair of Jimmy Choo heels accented with a diamond strap added an elegantly understated finish.



Lauren considered wearing a pair of blue Manolo Blahnik heels to show off in the slit but changed her mind and chose the white heels instead. "They were definitely the best choice for the overall look."



His Look

With a wedding design so classic, Ross's attire followed the same inspiration. The traditional black suit was the perfect choice. Finished with a black bowtie and black Christian Dior dress shoes, the look was elegant and simple. The white flower boutonniere tied the look together with the wedding's overall timeless style.

The Second Look

Though Lauren had a few looks throughout the wedding, she did have a major dress change later in the evening. Her second look was a little more playful and glamorous. She opted for a Rachel Gilbert mini dress. "I loved that it still felt chic and elegant, but the sparkles made it feel more celebratory!" The dress was the perfect look for dancing the night away and ending on a high note.

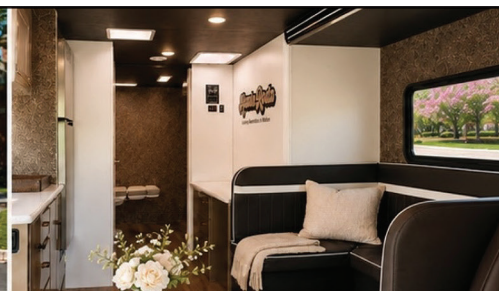
Their Entourage

The bridesmaids were able to choose a dress style they felt most confident in. Lauren only asked that they were long, black, and had no pattern. The girls' choices all flowed together, "while still letting everyone's style show." Groomsmen matched the bridesmaids in classic black suits and black bowties. The simple black styles were still impactful, creating a timeless look with a bit of personality.



DETAILS:

Bride Gown: Free Love Bridal (designer and shop) **Veil:** Free Love Bridal **Bride's jewelry:** Queen May (shop) **Bride's shoes:** Saeda 100, Jimmy Choo (designer and shop) (\$1,295) **Other accessories:** Queen May **Reception dress:** Rosie Mini, Rachel Gilbert (designer and shop) (\$1,895) **Groom Suit:** Suit Supply (designer and shop) **Groom's jewelry:** Queen May **Groom's shoes:** Christian Dior **Other accessories:** Queen May **Reception suit/outfit:** Suit Supply **Reception shoes:** Christian Dior **Bridesmaids' dress:** Various designers and shops **Bridesmaids' jewelry:** Various, personal **Bridesmaids' shoes:** Various, personal **Other accessories:** Various, personal **Groomsmen Suit designer:** SuitShop (designer and shop) **Groomsmen jewelry:** Various, personal **Groomsmen shoes:** Various, personal **Other accessories:** Various, personal **Other Style-Related Vendors:** **Photographer:** Magi Fisher **Hair and makeup:** OliviaLO **Florist:** Floret & Vine



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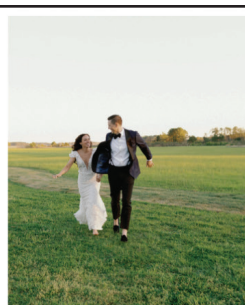
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*How to throw a
superlative wedding*

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SETTING THE TABLE







Pupptials!

Bow Wow Besties
in Your Wedding



BY ALEXANDRIA TAYLOR CRAIG



our fur baby is a part of your family and you can't imagine your wedding day without them. They look adorable with little bows and they're sure to elicit plenty of "Aww's" from the crowd. But having a furry friend attend your ceremony takes a bit more planning than couples might anticipate. Whether they're carrying the rings, flowers, or simply there as a guest of honor, ensuring your pup is well-behaved guarantees everyone has a good time.

Assess Your Pet Before

An adorable dog is sure to be the star of the day. But not every dog is able to handle such an important role. It's important to know and assess your pet before being set on their involvement in the wedding. Consider your dog's personality when deciding if they should attend the wedding and which job might suit them best.

If your dog is sociable and well-behaved, it'll often be easier to have them play a role in the wedding. Unfortunately, not all dogs are up for the task. Some dogs may be anxious around people or overactive and unpredictable. Anxious dogs may also show fear in a new environment. In some cases, they may tremble or pace and others may become reactive. Neither option is great for a lighthearted day or fulfilling their duties.

You may also want to consider the trainability of your dog. If they're well-trained, listen well, and pick up on commands easily, your pup is probably a good candidate for a role in the wedding. On the other hand, pups still learning some obedience might need a little more guidance. You know your pup the best, so you know if they'll be a good fit for a wedding role.



Atalie Day Photography



Don't forget to bring your dog to your rehearsal or walkthrough and go over their part a few times.

Determine Your Pup's Role

There are plenty of ways your pup can be part of your big day. Of course, there's the classic ring bearer or flower pup before you walk down the aisle. They can also be an unofficial best man or maid of honor and stand beside you with the wedding party as you exchange vows. Or, if your pup loves your people, you can have them be the greeter as guests arrive for the ceremony. All of these roles are ideal for sociable, well-trained pups.

Some dogs may be a bit shy or not like being around people, but you still want them to be part of your wedding day. Include them in the aspects where large crowds won't be around, like getting ready with you or being part of your wedding photos. This way, your dog will be more in their comfort zone—around you and your partner. Plus, they won't have to be on their very best behavior all day.

Do A Little Training

With an idea of what your pup's role will be for the big day, it's time to put in a little training. Your wedding will probably have more people around than your dog is used to, so practicing what they have to do will help the day run a little more smoothly. If they're going to have a part of the ceremony, make sure you train them on walking down the aisle, who to go to, and where to stop. You might even want to incorporate a command that prompts them to begin their part and have treats ready for a job well done. If your dog isn't ready for off-leash, make sure they practice on a leash with whoever will be walking them.

You'll also want to rehearse at the venue beforehand. Since this will be a new location for your pup, being able to sniff, walk, and get familiar with the space in advance will lessen day-of surprises. So, don't forget to bring your dog to your rehearsal or walkthrough and go over their part a few times.



Photography: Lauren Swann Photography, Sabrina Jolie Photography, Maddy Williams Photography



It may be better to hire a professional service to take care of your pup on the day.

Plan Your Pup's Care

Most important is knowing who will be in charge of your dog for the day. Coordinate with someone who will walk your dog beforehand, handle them during the ceremony, and take them where they need to go after their role is done for the day. Determining where your dog will spend the rest of the night is also of high priority. Are they staying on property or going to board overnight? The answer typically depends on your dog's needs and your venue and accommodations.

You may opt to designate a friend or family member that can handle their care during the ceremony. However, it may be better to hire a professional service to take care of your pup on the day. This way, a guest can fully enjoy being part of the wedding. Consider services, such as those offered at Dogwood Acres, which features a pet attendant, roundtrip transportation, and discounted lodging services, along with a few add-ons and upgrades. Having a professional take care of your pup the day of the wedding will also take some of the stress off of you, so both you and your dog will be comfortable and enjoy the day.

Prepare for the Ceremony

On the big day, your pup needs to prepare just like you. About an hour before the ceremony, let your dog have a walk or allow them to run around. This will help them get out some of their energy, so they're less likely to have the zoomies in the middle of the ceremony or as guests are arriving. They'll also get the chance to go to the bathroom; you don't want any accidents once the day is in full swing. After they've had their time outside, your pup can start getting ready for the day. Clean up their paws and get them dressed if they're wearing special attire.

Always Have a Backup Plan

Despite your best planning, something is always bound to go awry on your wedding day. And with pets, things can be even more unpredictable. Maybe your flower girl, who was supposed to walk with your dog, is a little more nervous than you realized. Maybe all the excitement is a bit overstimulating for your pup. Plan for a backup in case of any last minute unforeseen circumstances. That might mean a different dog wrangler to walk down the aisle or a place to stash them if they start getting too rowdy. Our best laid plans often require a pivot; even if it's an extra treat to keep the barking at bay.



Photography: Shelby Louise Photography, Sabrina Jolie Photography, Kate Fine Art Photography



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2026 Best of Weddings

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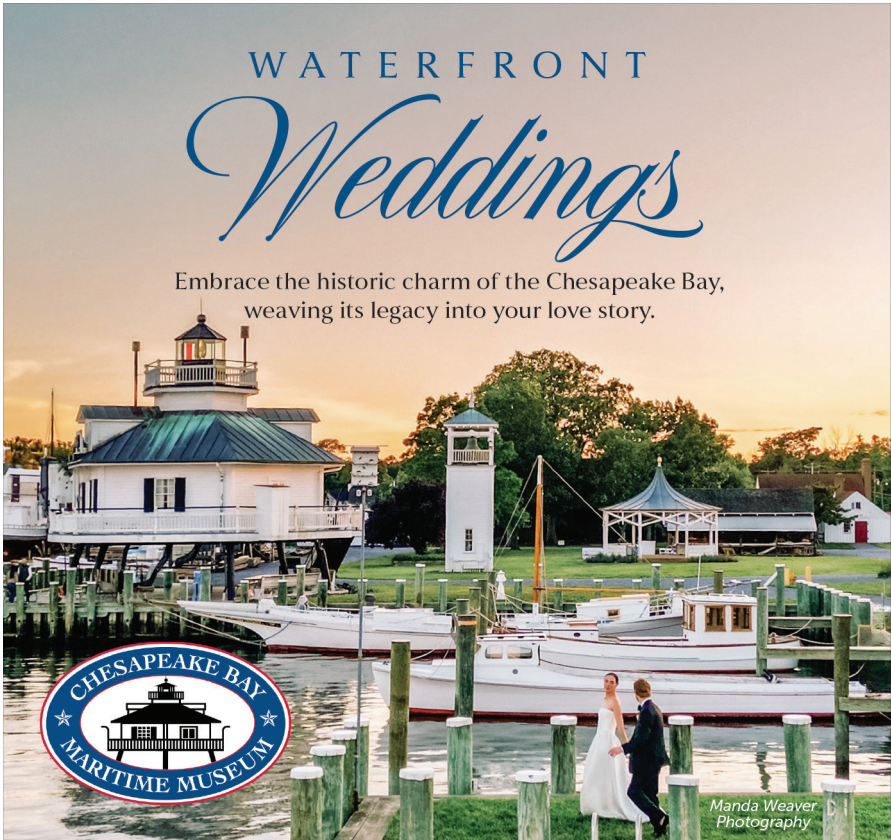
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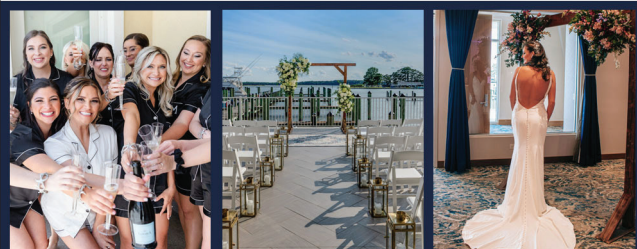
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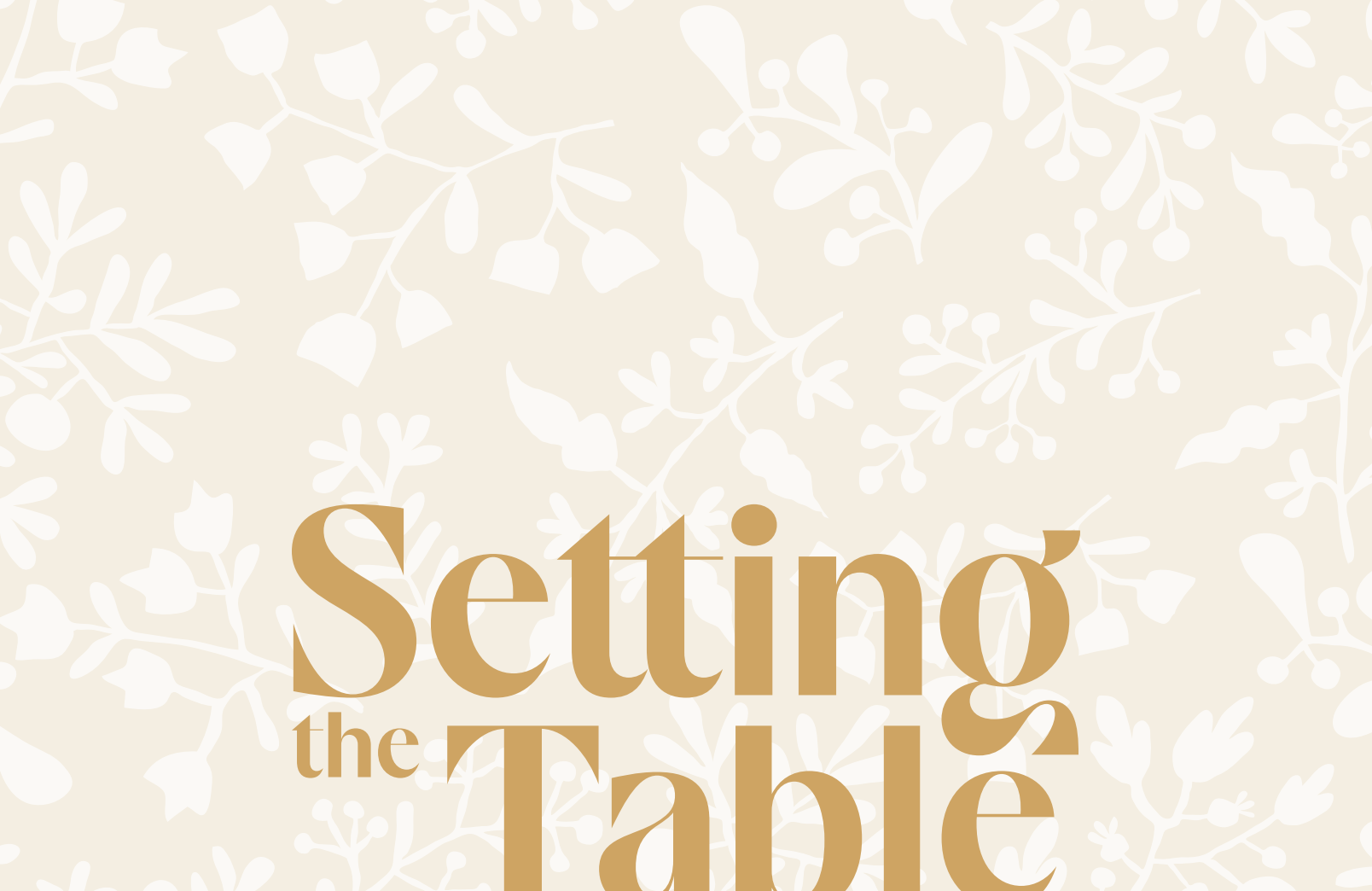


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BY ALEXANDRIA TAYLOR CRAIG

Photography: La Vie En Rose
Design: Christine McFarlane Events



Color Starts It All

Couples often think of their color palette early. After all, that informs everything from bridesmaid dresses to flowers to invitations. So, wedding colors should flow over into a tablescape as well. But Christine McFarlane of Christine McFarlane Events explains that a tablescape should be inspired by the wedding colors rather than matching it exactly. “We develop a wedding color palette in three layers, primary tones, secondary hues, and accent colors, to create depth, dimension, and a richer visual experience.” Layers of color create a more interesting design and allow the eyes to bounce around. Using a variety of shades allows certain accents to pop or for small details to complement each other.

Color also reflects feelings, so McFarlane always takes into consideration how couples want their guests to feel as they sit down to dinner. “From there, we translate that into thoughtful layers of color, texture, and materials.” Consider how a sophisticated and luxurious dinner party style reception may differ in color and texture than a more laid-back family-style meal. The first may use more muted or neutral colors while the latter may be brighter and more vibrant. Allow color to be evocative in feeling while tying into the overall wedding color palette.

Create a Design Framework

Color is just the start of a creating a tablescape; McFarlane suggests creating a design concept to use as a framework for decisions. And inspiration for a design concept can come from anywhere. The couple’s personality and story often are often the first consideration and become the center the design process. But McFarlane also takes inspiration from fashion, architecture, nature, travel, and art. “Even the venue itself” can spark ideas for the table. “I look for recurring themes, colors, textures, and emotions that resonate with the overall vision.”

Creating a design concept helps narrow the focus of choices. Rather than looking at every option, you’re looking for details that fit within that guiding framework. Everything from floral selections, materials, and decorative accents can support the overall concept.

Plate/Napkin Photography: Urban Row Photography
Table Photography: Karena Dixon Photography



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Inspiration by Season

Your wedding season can also be a source of inspiration when it comes to color and concept. And while McFarlane suggests leaning into a seasonal aesthetic, “I don’t believe seasonal design has to be literal.” Instead, seek to capture the feeling the season gives you—a warm and cozy autumn or a vibrant and lively summer. Yes, seasonal inspiration is a great place to start and can help create a cohesive design. It can help guide you as you choose a color palette or tablecloth fabric. However, “seasonal elements should enhance the design, not limit it.”



Balance Out Your Elements

When it comes to actually picking out pieces of the tablescape, it's best to think about where you want the visual focus to be. Choosing one detail to be the standout and the rest to support helps maintain balance. "If the floral design, linens, or stationery are bold and layered, I often keep the china and flatware more classic to avoid overwhelming the table," McFarlane says. But if these larger features have a more minimal aesthetic, then you can go a little bolder with accents like "textured chargers, colored glassware, specialty flatware, or beautifully folded napkins."

Balance is the key to creating a table design that feels intentional. "Not every element needs to have equal visual weight, but each piece should contribute to the overall composition." You can vary heights and textures with elements like candles or floral arrangements. Or pair larger statements pieces with delicate details.

Pan out to the bigger picture and consider balance in the entire reception space as well. Repeating the same colors and materials throughout the room ensures a more cohesive design. Consider nearby tables to help make design decisions and don't be afraid to adjust some details for greater cohesion. "I consider the surrounding environment, using neighboring tables, overhead installations, or standout flooring elements to help distribute visual weight and create an overall balanced reception space."

Table Photography: Jenny Wagner Photography **Design:** Christine McFarlane Events



Photography: Leandra Creative Co.

Now Accents and Layers

The first decor pieces couples may consider for their table are candles and flowers. A mix of both can bring the visual impact a table needs. Flowers are unique in that they can bring a lot of personality to a table scheme, plus plenty of color, texture, and shape, depending on the blooms in your arrangements. Candles, on the other hand, create the atmosphere, adding elegant and intimate vibes to the table setting. “If flowers are the artwork of the table, candles are what bring it to life,” McFarlane explains.

Next to florals and candles, bring in more interesting small accents and decorative objects. “Miniature statues nestled within the centerpiece or small vessels of live produce lining the table . . . can help finish the tablescape.” Another way to bring in visual interest? Layering and thoughtful contrast. McFarlane explains that mixing textures or introducing unexpected color combinations are small details that can go a long way in the overall design.

Photography: La Vie En Rose
Design: Christine McFarlane Events



Namecard Photography:
Urban Row Photography

Finally, The Little Extras

There are some bonus accessories that can bring a little more detail to the design. Consider menus, place cards, and table numbers not only as necessary for a smooth dinner service, but also a fun opportunity to add more color, shape, texture, or pattern. “I think of these as the cherry on top of a tablescape . . . I always encourage couples to have fun with them!” McFarlane says.

You can use these elements to bring in unexpected shapes, think flower or swan-shaped name cards. Or bring in a unique material, like silk or rattan, that can add another layer of texture to the table. These extras are a great way to incorporate a couple’s personality and a feature an intentional or memorable detail that show guests you were thinking of their experience.



**IMPACTFUL TABLESCAPES AREN'T
NECESSARILY THE ONES WITH
THE MOST ELABORATE PIECES
THEY'RE THE ONES WHERE EVERY
ELEMENT FEELS INTENTIONAL
AND WORKS COHESIVELY.**

REAL WEDDINGS

*Stunning weddings of
the Chesapeake Bay region*

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ADAM & IULIA
Kent Island Resort

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PETER & MEG
*First Unitarian Church
and Hotel Revival*





Adam & Iulia

BACK HOME ON THE COAST

Kent Island Resort
Molliner Photography

Adam and Iulia exchanged handwritten notes on the morning of the wedding, delivered by the maid of honor and best man, to read while getting ready. Adam actually wrote three to open at various points in the morning. “I felt surrounded by love and more ready than ever to marry my person.”



MARYLAND TO MIAMI

It was St. Patrick's Day at a Miami bar when a “lucky leprechaun” brought Adam and Iulia together. After being introduced by mutual friends, the pair spent hours talking and realized they had a lot in common. “We grew up 20 minutes apart in Howard County, shared many of the same experiences, from summers in Ocean City to favorite hometown restaurants.” Their lucky streak continued when Adam asked Iulia to be his beer pong partner, leading them to win nine straight games before retiring as undefeated champions. “We were a perfect match from the start.”

Their first date was at a Miami wine bar where they talked all night over a bottle of wine and a charcuterie board about their families, their dogs, their favorite traditions, and holidays. They even talked about their hopes and dreams for the future. “It became clear very quickly that we share the same core values, and even had a lot of commonalities between my Eastern European upbringing and Adam's Jewish family traditions.”

Wedding Date: August 9, 2025

Number of Guests: 188

Special Moment: Grandfather-Granddaughter Dance





ON THE WATERFRONT

Iulia envisioned a “coastal elegant” aesthetic for their summer wedding “with lots of florals, an outdoor ceremony, and an overall light and airy vibe.” Adam and Iulia both grew up spending time on the Eastern Shore and they both loved the idea of hosting a full weekend of events for their guests. Kent Island Resort was everything they wanted. “[It] felt like the perfect coastal estate that captured everything we loved about the area.”



LOVE IS SMOOTH SAILING

Adam planned something special for the second anniversary of their first date, though Iulia tried to get hints under the guise of trying to figure out what to wear. That evening, they went to a marina near their house for a boat ride. After going to the top deck, Adam put on a playlist of songs the pair had listened to or sent each other throughout their relationship. Finally, he played Chris Lane’s “Big, Big Plans” and got down on one knee. “I was so surprised and just beaming with happiness at the beautiful memories and the thought of marrying my best friend.” It was an obvious yes! The surprises weren’t over yet. As they pulled back into the marina, they were met with friends and family holding signs and decorations. Her parents even flew in from Maryland. They all got back on the boat to celebrate while cruising around Miami.

They bought out the property for the weekend and the festivities started Thursday with an intimate dinner for their immediate families and wedding party, who also stayed on-site at the hotel for the weekend. Friday, they had a pool day before hosting a welcome party that night. They leaned into the Maryland charm, serving orange crushes and a Maryland crab cake buffet. Guests played corn hole on custom sets and satisfied their sweet tooth with Smith Island Cake, Berger cookies, and Fisher’s popcorn. Saturday, was, of course, their wedding, with festivities held at different locations on the resort. “[It felt] like our community was truly coming together for more than just the wedding day.”

LOVE AT FIRST TRY

It didn’t take long for Iulia to find *the* dress; it was one of the first ones she tried on. After walking out, her mom, mother-in-law, and two sisters-in-law were all in tears. “It felt so special and true to me.” It was the delicate and dainty embroidered flowers that Iulia fell in love with, creating a romantic and whimsical look. She added a shrug for the ceremony for an extra elegant touch.

THE DETAILS **Planner:** Christine McFarlane Events **Venue:** Kent Island Resort **Photographer:** Molliner Photography
Videographer: Sydney Koerber Films **Caterer:** Kent Island Resort **Desserts:** Blue Crab Cupcakes
DJ/Band: Shortcut Sunny (welcome party); Limelight Event Group/ Julian Ross (wedding) **Florist:** Pretty Little Wedding Co.
Hair: Klover Beauty **Makeup Artist:** Lux by Lily **Officiant:** Adam’s Father **Rentals:** Pretty Little Wedding Co.

Iulia's mom surprised them with a custom-made sailboat that feature lyrics to their first dance song, their names, and their wedding date. "It is such a beautiful piece that perfectly captures the vibe of the weekend and will live in our home for many years to come."

WITH LOVE AND FLOWERS

Prioritizing their must-haves while maintaining the budget is always a challenge when it comes to wedding planning. Adam and Iulia got through it with constant communication about what was most important and where they could spend more or less of their budget. Their biggest splurge? Definitely florals. They had a chuppah covered in summer blooms, along with arrangements featuring some of Iulia's favorite flowers: hydrangeas, garden roses, spray roses, and delphinium. "This was especially meaningful to me because my grandma had the most beautiful garden when I was growing up," Iulia says. "She tended to it year-round and it bloomed so beautifully in the summer. Flowers have always been a meaningful part of my family traditions and a way of expressing love and making others feel welcomed."



CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY

Adam and Iulia's parents helped bring the wedding together, both during the planning and on the big day. "Our moms were heavily involved with everything from the decor to sourcing vendors and meeting with the venue when we couldn't travel up from Miami," Iulia says. "We loved having them bring their unique touches and creative ideas to the weekend."

Having Adam's father officiate the day also made the ceremony more meaningful. His personalized ceremony blended Adam's Jewish traditions with Iulia's Romanian heritage. "It was so special to be married by someone who knows and loves us so deeply." He made them a custom tallit, Jewish prayer shawl, that incorporated symbols representing Iulia's culture, their siblings, and their future family. Their moms also joined them under the chuppah to recite the Seven Blessings. Their siblings were also involved in the ceremony. Adam's brothers served as his best men and Iulia's sisters-in-law were her maid of honor and godmother, a traditional Romanian role for the marriage and future children. The siblings were also involved in the ring exchange and circling ceremony before the wedding. "It was just the most beautiful celebration of love, not just between Adam and I, but with our families and community."

Stationery: Slate & Brush (save the dates and invitations); Christine McFarlane Events (day-of paper goods)

Bride's Attire: Mira Zwillinger, Karlee dress **Shoes:** Bella Belle **Bridesmaid's Attire:** Dessy

Groom's Attire: Suit Supply **Bride & Bridesmaids Getting Ready Attire:** Piyama

Transportation: Thoroughbred **Other Decor:** Friday Night Seating Chart, Paper Garden Co.



Ben & Elise

ANTIQUE SECRET GARDEN

Antrim 1844

Molly McManus Photography

Despite it being bigger than Elise had ever imagined, “it felt incredibly personal and intimate. The details in the planning and design of the day really helped to make it feel like us, not just another beautiful wedding.”

MOMENTS ON AN EVENING WALK

During the summer of 2020, Ben and Elise started talking on Hinge. She thought Ben was sweet and smart, and Ben thought she was very amusing. “We agreed to risk it, this was still Covid quarantine days, after all, and take our dogs for a walk one night in early July.” The plan was to take a quick walk with the pups to get crushes from a restaurant in Elise’s neighborhood. But then the pair went back to Elise’s backyard and spent the night talking, bonding over shared childhood experiences, why they moved to Baltimore, and a love of spicy food. At 10 p.m., they realized they hadn’t eaten dinner and ended the night by ordering Indian food.

A few years later in early October, Ben and Elise took a weekend trip to her family’s cabin in the Catskill Mountains to go leaf peeping. “Over the course of our relationship, it became a special place for us, with Ben growing to love it there as much as I do.” The first night there, they walked to dinner and stopped at a scenic overlook along the Delaware River. “I was looking out at the river and yapping



to Ben about my retirement business idea, a food truck parked next to the river,” Elise says. Meanwhile, Ben had gotten down on one knee and asked Elise to marry him. “It was an immediate yes, followed by lots of hugs and tears with my parents, calls to his parents, and champagne at La Cigogne.”

Wedding Date: October 4, 2025

Number of Guests: 135

Best Bite: Homemade dips from LoverBoards





PARTY IN THE GARDEN

Since Ben and Elise both grew up in Maryland, they knew they wanted to get married in-state and look for a venue that could host guests for a week-end. They wanted a Friday welcome party the night before their Saturday afternoon ceremony. They toured Antrim and fell in love with the antique-filled mansion and gorgeous rose garden. “We’ve always had a shared love of gardens and really wanted our wedding to reflect that.” The pair both love green, so the shade was incorporated into their color scheme along with vibrant flowers to add a burst of color. “We wanted it to feel like the last party of the season in the secret garden.”

UNEXPECTED DRAMA

Looking for a wedding dress, Elise knew she wanted floral elements but she didn’t want a traditional veil. “I was unsure what I wanted for a bit of drama in its place.” She gave her thoughts to the Curvaceous Couture team, who said they had just gotten a dress that was unlike any other and might just be what she’s looking for. It was a multi-layered lace dress with a large bow at the top of the back. “I knew I had found exactly what I was looking for,” Elise says. The dress also featured an overskirt that Elise wore for the ceremony and took off for the reception, allowing for a second look without doing a complete outfit change.



NOT A BRIDEZILLA, BUT A BENZILLA

Elise had never pictured a huge wedding growing up, but rather something small and simple. It was Ben who wanted to go all out. “We had a running joke that our wedding didn’t have a Bridezilla, it had a Benzilla,” Elise says laughing. He took charge of the music for the day: a string quartet for the ceremony and a band for the reception since he likes to dance. Elise took the lead on details and décor, infusing her love of antiques into the day’s design. The escort card display was a gallery wall featuring a collection of their antiques and art. Mementos and antiques were also incorporated into each table design.

THE DETAILS **Planner:** Caitie Hanrahan **Venue:** Antrim 1844 **Photographer:** Molly McManus
Caterer: Antrim 1844; LoverBoards (Charcuterie/Grazing Table) **Desserts:** Peony & Meringue
DJ/Band: The Source (band) Pop Culture Strings (quartet) both via Washington Talent **Florist:** Kate Campbell

DREAM DESIGN TEAM

Balancing their personal schedules with wedding planning was one of the biggest challenges. Elise owns an antique boutique and is always on the go as an antique dealer and Ben is currently in culinary school and working in restaurant kitchens. Their wedding planner, Caitie Hanrahan, helped to keep the planning process on track. “She made sure we didn’t miss any details or deadlines, while also pulling together an incredible design scheme.”

Their florist, Kate Campbell, also helped bring the design concept to life. Elise and Ben splurged on florals to set the tone for the celebration. After all, you couldn’t have a garden party theme without statement blooms. Along with incorporating some of the antiques into her design, Kate also designed a beautiful chuppah for the ceremony. “I don’t know if I’ll ever stop talking about how gorgeous our chuppah was!”



“The cupcakes and cookies from Peony & Meringue were the best sweet bites from the wedding.”



LAUGHS, TEARS, AND A BROKEN CHAIR

Having Elise’s older brother officiate the wedding made the ceremony even more meaningful. Along with Ben and Elise writing their own vows, “every little thing just felt so incredibly personal to ‘us’. We laughed, we cried, we laughed some more.” Elise’s beloved dog was also honored during the ceremony. “Sadly, [he] passed away three months prior to our wedding, so to honor and include him in the celebration, I decoupage a picture of him on to the lectern where a cross had originally been.” It was a sweet way for a pup that had been in the couple’s lives since the first date to enjoy the day too.

Another way Ben and Elise were surrounded by family was during the Horah. It was Elise’s first time being lifted up in the chair, but Ben was “cool as a cucumber.” He assured her it would be a blast and nothing would go wrong. “Then his chair broke, but the celebration didn’t stop. Now we have a commemorative chair back to display next to the photos.”

Hair: NoFilter Glam **Makeup Artist:** NoFilter Glam **Officiant:** Matthew Ruland, Bride’s older brother
Rentals: Select Event Group, DC Rentals, Reverie, The Sourceress **Stationery:** Social on the Weekends
Bride’s Attire: Dany Tabet, Curvaceous Couture **Bridesmaid’s Attire:** Alice & Olivia **Groom’s Attire:** Nordstrom

Griffin & Holly

A BACKYARD FAMILY AFFAIR

Private Residence

Sarah James Photography

Griffin had an outfit change. “He’s a big fan of Crown Royal Whiskey, and he had been saving the velvet bags for years,” Holly explains. “With some donated bags from friends, he ended up having enough for his siblings to make a custom Crown Royal sweatsuit.”



MELTED ICE CREAM

It was the first day of freshman year when Griffin met Holly. The pair became instant friends and spent the four years of high school laughing together, but they never dated. It wasn’t until a few years after high school when they reconnected that something romantic bloomed. On their first date, the pair went to Coldstone Creamery. “I love desserts and ice cream, so, of course, I devoured my ice cream,” Holly says. But as the date went on, Griffin hadn’t really eaten any of his. When Holly asked if he didn’t like his flavor, he replied that he didn’t really like ice cream. “Why did you take me to an ice cream place if you know you don’t like it?” Holly had asked and Griffin simply responded, “Because I knew you liked ice cream.” They spent the rest of the date having a fantastic time talking over melted ice cream.

“I realized in that moment that Griffin is the kind of person to really listen to you and genuinely prioritize you in both big ways and small ways,” Holly says. “It felt so good to be seen and heard.”

Wedding Date: October 19, 2024

Number of Guests: 175

Honeymoon Spot: Japan



A LITTLE CRABBY

Holly and Griffin had planned a crab feast a year before, so Holly didn't think anything of hosting a second one for friends and family. The day of the crab feast, Griffin took Holly to tour a home a family friend was selling on the water near Mayo Beach Park. "To be honest, I really didn't want to tour the house, so I was in a bit of a sour mood." They arrived at the home before the owners, so Griffin suggested walking around the park while they waited.

Down on the beach, near the end of their walk, Holly turned to look at Griffin only to see him bent down on one knee. "I had no idea it was happening that day; I was seriously so shocked. I said yes, cried, and asked about one hundred questions about who we should call and how to tell our families." That was only the first surprise. Both their families were hiding back at the crab feast to surprise the couple. Griffin orchestrated the whole event and convinced 40 people not to spoil the proposal the weeks before the big day.



A BACKYARD FALL BALL

Their engagement wasn't the only backyard celebration; Holly and Griffin got married in the backyard of Griffin's parents' home in Harwood, Maryland. Though they had lived in the home for a few years, they never considered getting married there until Griffin's cousins hosted their wedding in the backyard and it was the most fun they had. Holly and Griffin made their October wedding day their own with a mixed fall color palette. "I love fall and fall colors, so that was very important to me," Holly says. "I had a hard time picking just one color scheme." Their day featured pops of oranges, reds, purples, and pinks among the backyard's lush greenery.



THE DETAILS **Photographer:** Sarah James Photography **Wedding Content Creator:** Jade Li Caro, @Jadelicaro
Caterer: Mission BBQ **Desserts:** Bride's Father **Florist:** Butter Bee Farms, flowers; arrangements by bride and friend
Hair: Lucja Conkle @lucja.bridalstylist and Sophia Lee @solee.beauty

“We had tons of siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends who helped us with the planning and with the set up on the wedding day! We both have huge families, so a backyard wedding just felt right for us!”



FIT FOR A FROLIC

When Holly went searching for her dress, she wanted it to feel like could frolic in the woods in it. But it seems like the dress was meant to be from the very beginning. “I like to draw and paint, and I used to draw dresses when I was younger,” Holly says. The silhouette she always used to draw is the one she ended up picking for her wedding dress. “I guess it’s been with me a while.”

Along with the feeling of frolicking, Holly also wanted off-the-shoulder sleeves. “There’s just something so whimsical and dreamy about that to me.” The whimsical vibe of her dress continued with leaves and floral appliqué. “I knew it was the one when I realized I started to look at myself in the mirror more than the dress. In all the other dresses, it felt like the dress was wearing me. But this one felt like I was wearing the dress.”

SOMETHING SWEET

Holly says the best thing she ate during the wedding was the cake. And it was even more special because her father made it. “My dad’s biggest passion is being a baker, and I’ve always loved helping him bake.” For all her birthdays or special events growing up, he’d make her a custom dessert, so she always knew he would design her wedding cake. “It was a gorgeous vintage style pound cake topped with cherries. “He even picked out our wedding topper.”

HUGE FAMILIES, HUGE HELP

Family and friends helped bring Griffin and Holly’s wedding day to life. Her dad and Griffin built the bars, welcome sign, and seating chart, which Holly painted and decorated. Griffin’s father purchased thousands of string lights to wrap around their favorite tree in the yard. “I really had my heart set on [Christmas lights around the tree] so we could do our last dance under the lights. It was so magical and romantic, and it’s still lit to this day!”

Griffin’s cousin, Alexandra, was their officiant and she took it very seriously. “She came to our house, interviewed us about our story, and created the most beautiful ceremony speech I’ve ever heard. She had us all crying!” Nancy, Holly’s best friend from hair school, did her makeup and helped arrange her florals the two days before the wedding. Holly’s younger sister was her wedding planner and a family friend was their day of coordinator. “It doesn’t get more family-oriented than that.”



Makeup Artist: Nancy Degen @beautybynancyd & Lily Gomez @luxbylily **Officiant:** Alexandra Nelson
Rentals: Dreamers Event Rentals **Bride’s Attire:** Amanda Ritchie Bridal **Bridesmaid’s Attire:** Jenny Yoo, Birdy Gray
Groom’s Attire: Men’s Warehouse **Bathroom Rentals:** Familyfavoritesllc



Lauren & Lauren

“THIS IS SO LAUREN SQUARED”

Rousby Hall

Maddy Williams Photography

“We would not have been able to pull this wedding off without our family and friends. Everyone really pulled together to make this day super special and help us make it happen so quickly.”

A FRIENDSHIP THAT BLOSSOMED

Lauren and Lauren first met as friends online after both had gotten out of previous difficult relationships. Their friendship grew stronger before developing into something more. “We both believe we met at the exact right moment and everything fell into place after that.” Their strong friendship was just the start of a beautiful love story. Their proposal story is unique; each of them proposed separately. Lauren T proposed first on a trip to Solomon’s Island. She went early to fill the house with candles and blue and white hydrangeas, Lauren C’s favorite flowers. The two walked down a pathway to a blanket that read, “Will You Marry Me?” and she popped the question. Their dog, Bella, was also wearing a bandana that said, “My mom said yes!”

Not long after that, Lauren C proposed by decorating the house with red roses, which are Lauren T’s favorite color. The roses led to two pickleball paddles that read “Will You Marry Me?” with the ring hidden in a pickleball that opened. Pickleball had been a sport that brought them together, so the proposal was extra personal. “Both proposals felt very intimate and exactly what each of us wanted.”



Wedding Date: June 14, 2025

Number of Guests: 100

Best Bite: Maryland Crab Cake





REAL WEDDINGS

THREE MONTHS, TWO DRESSES

Their wedding was planned in just three months, so that significantly shortened the timeline when it came to looking for a dress. Lauren C wanted a more princess-y look that was form fitting at the top with full skirt. She found a beautiful A-line dress with a rounded square neckline, buttons down the back, and an embroidered bodice. “I appreciated the little details on my dress,” Lauren C says. “Come to find out, it had similar embroidery to my mom’s wedding dress.”

Lauren T was looking for a dress that “wasn’t too over the top” and something she felt comfortable in. She found a simple sheath dress with a V neckline and low back. A crystal belt accented the waist of the dress. “It felt very me,” Lauren T says of her wedding gown.

“Sounds cliché, but having all of the people who love and care about you in one place at one time is one of the most meaningful parts of a wedding. You can look around the venue and see someone and think of so many ways they have loved and cared for you over the years.”



A SPECIAL PLACE ON THE WATER

Since she was a little girl, Lauren T has spent time visiting Solomon’s Island. And when the pair started dating, she introduced Lauren C to the area and it quickly became a special place. The couple visit often in the summer and they loved the idea of getting married with a water view, so Rousby Hall was the perfect choice for their June nuptials. “We leaned into being right on the water and having beautiful sailboats throughout the day just cruising by.” With a beachy vision, they got married on the banks of the Patuxent River with a sage and gray color palette and peach-colored flowers that added a bright pop to the day’s design.



THE DETAILS **Coordinator:** Kristy Silva, Weddings by Kristy **Venue:** Rousby Hall
Photographer: Maddy Williams Photography **Caterer:** Rouge Catering **Desserts:** SugarBakers
DJ/Band: Mydeejay **Florist:** J. Morris Flowers **Hair:** REFEYEANCE

MOMENTS TO CHERISH

Any couple knows that planning a wedding can be a full time job. But with a short three-month planning timeframe, Lauren and Lauren took it seriously. “We basically worked our 9 to 5 jobs, ate a quick dinner, and were wedding planners from 6- to 10 p.m.” Plus, they managed a move to Richmond during the process. Lauren C often called vendors and Lauren T usually followed up with emails. Luckily, they found wonderful vendors that helped pull the day together.

Finding a photographer they were comfortable with was one of their top priorities. Maddy Williams and her team were standouts. “[They] captured the most beautiful photos from the day and we are so grateful she was available for our wedding.” One of the most meaningful parts of the day was having their dog, Bella, be part of the ceremony. Lauren T had her since she was a puppy and the two had been through a lot together. And once the pair started dating, Lauren C developed a special bond with the pup. Unfortunately, Bella passed away after the wedding, but the photos Maddy captured are ones the couple will forever cherish.

AN ICONIC MARYLAND SUMMER BITE

Lauren and Lauren knew for sure they wanted really good food at their wedding and were happy to find Rouge Catering. Though it was their biggest splurge of the day, it was completely worth it. “They created a wonderful menu for us and the tasting was out of this world.” The two agree that the Maryland crab cake was the best thing they’ve eaten, not just at the wedding, but ever. “All the food was phenomenal but there was just something so yummy about the crab cake and being able to eat it right on the water!” A candy and popcorn bar was also set out during the reception for guests to snack on.



LITTLE BITS OF MAGIC

The two brides decided not to see each other the night before the wedding and to get ready separately. They didn’t see each other until the first look and it made it even more special; the moment felt like magic. “We were both speechless when seeing each other.”

And when they walked down the aisle, the sun was out but raindrops started falling from big, puffy clouds overhead. The rain was just a drizzle, but it ended up being a beautiful moment. A rainbow appeared in the distance, creating another magical detail on the day they said “I do.”

Makeup Artist: Morelia, REFEEYEANCE **Officiant:** Personal friends, John and Sonja Scholla
Rentals: Bailey’s Party Rentals **Stationery:** The Write Note **Bride’s 1 Attire:** The Bridal Room
Bride 2’s Attire: Betsy Robinson Bridal **Bridesmaid’s/Attendants Attire:** Birdy Grey

Mike & Avery

COZY ON THE COAST

The Oaks Waterfront Hotel

Nicole Marie Photography

“I do woodworking as a hobby and I built the ring box from cherry wood from a place special to Avery and I,” Mike says.

DOCKED FOR LOVE

Mike and Avery first saw each other Memorial Day weekend about a year before they were officially introduced by a persistent mutual friend. Avery was having lunch at Pussers when Mike docked his boat with some friends. “I could see the entire dock from where I was, so I saw her well before she saw me,” Mike remembers. “She had the most beautiful blonde hair I had ever seen in my life. Her laugh, smile, enthusiasm for life, self-confidence, her beauty, I was done for.”

After dating virtually for a few weeks due to the pandemic, they had their first in-person date. One April morning in 2020, Avery woke up around 5 a.m. to a missed call and a text from Mike; he had planned a sunrise boat ride. After getting ready in ten minutes, she made her way to City Dock. It was chilly and overcast and the pair barely made it out of the harbor before it started pouring down rain. Though they had to turn the boat around, the day wasn’t a wash; they had their first kiss. “It ended up being one of the best crazy ideas I’ve ever had.”



Mike’s boat continued to be a setting for their love story through the years. The day of the proposal brought choppy waters, so he tied to the ring to his belt loop with clear fishing line so it wouldn’t go overboard. A friend took a photographer on his boat to covertly capture pictures. And their friends and family were waiting on the dock to celebrate with them after Avery said “yes!”

Wedding Date: November 2, 2024

Number of Guests: 165

Unique Vendor: 13-piece Motown Band





WARM ATMOSPHERE

The Oaks Waterfront Hotel felt like it fit right into Avery and Mike's story. They met in Annapolis and spent time together on the Chesapeake Bay, and the venue was close to where their relationship began. "We were drawn to its quiet, intimate atmosphere at the end of Oak Creek and loved the idea of having the entire inn to gather our closest friends and family," Avery says. Being by the water and being surrounded by their loved ones created the perfect backdrop for their November wedding.

Cozy, welcoming, and naturalistic was how they described their day. The decor was rooted in the season with a very subtle western flair. Brought to life with a color palette featuring muted autumn hues, the warm and rich atmosphere was accented with pops of periwinkle and chartreuse. "We allowed the overall mood to guide our decisions and selections more than any rigid design plan," Avery says. "Every detail was chosen to feel personal and authentic." One of the most unique details—and one Avery and Mike were most excited out—was the serpentine head table, where their immediate family and wedding party sat during the reception.

A PLEASANT DRESS SURPRISE

At first, Avery was convinced she would choose a sleek and minimal dress in crepe. It's the style she always gravitated towards. When she went dress shopping with her now sister-in-law and her "Nana," she tried on gowns in styles that were different than what she imagined. She was shocked to find that what she loved most wasn't exactly like her original vision. "I found one that still felt simple, but had more fabric and soft draping," she says of her dress. "The moment I put it on, my eyes filled with tears and I finally felt like a bride."

CUDDLED UP

Celebrating with all of their loved ones was top of the priority list. Making sure all their guests were comfortable was just as high. While planning their November wedding, they hoped to avoid using a tent so they could fully enjoy the environment and sky. Any couple knows that contending with the weather can be a major feat. Luckily, the day wasn't too cold and the wedding had plenty of heaters and blankets to ensure everyone stayed cozy, a thoughtful detail that went a long way with guests.

THE DETAILS **Venue:** The Wildset (welcome party), The Oaks Waterfront Inn (rehearsal dinner, ceremony & reception)
Planner: Caitie Hanrahan **Photographer:** Nicole Plett **Videographer:** A + Jay **Caterer:** The Oaks Waterfront Inn
Desserts: Peony & Meringue **DJ/Band:** Apollo Chamber Music (ceremony), Rhythm 6 (reception)
Florist: The Like-Minded Collective, Wanton Poppies **Hair:** Vintage Veils **Makeup Artist:** Vintage Veils

SURROUNDED BY LOVE

Mike and Avery felt the love of their family and friends from the very start of the day with a ring warming prior to their ceremony. “I lost my mother back in 2008, and she was the oldest of 7,” Avery says. “Having her siblings and our loved ones hold our wedding bands prior to exchanging them during our ceremony was an extremely personal and heartfelt experience.” The rings being infused with so much love made sliding them onto each others’ fingers even more meaningful.

The love continued to flow onto the dance floor. “We had a private teacher and spent a lot of time practicing.” Their first dance was also personal, though the band started playing the wrong song when they came out on the dance floor. “We went with it and within a few seconds, they started our song. We crushed it.” The horah was another highlight of the dance floor. “Holding my husband’s hand and seeing all of our loved ones holding hands around us was truly one of the most heart-warming experiences.”



“Small personal touches were scattered throughout the wedding. They had a Memory Table memorializing friends and family that had passed. During the cocktail hour and the reception, they served special cocktails and had custom napkins named after their dogs. And a station for rolling cigars and custom-branded rolling papers to represent Mike, a cannabis entrepreneur.”



NOT JUST A WEDDING PLANNER

Caitie, their wedding planner, truly went the extra mile. She collaborated with Avery to make the floral design, rentals, and linens. “[Caitie] understood us so well and brought out personalities to life in a way that felt completely natural on our wedding day.” The beautiful decor was certainly a showstopper, but that’s not all she did to make the day special. Caitie and her husband even made tons of chili the week before the wedding, so that she could tie the bean cans to the back of the golf cart for Mike and Avery’s exit. It was a total surprise that had Avery crying with laughter. A sweet way to end the night as they drove into forever.



Officiant: Personal friend, Zach Goldstein **Rentals:** Something Vintage, Pretty Little Wedding Co., Select Event Group, BBJ La Tavola, Honeywood Rentals, Event Dynamics Inc. **Stationery:** Isadore Augustine, Social on Weekends
Bride's Attire: Antonio Gual “LP” Gown, Love Couture Bridal (shop), Toni Federici “Phaedrea” (veil)
Bridesmaid's Attire: Mixed Designers **Groom's Attire:** Ralph Lauren **Groomsmen Attire:** Mixed Designers

Peter & Meg

VINTAGE WITH A VIEW

First Unitarian Church and Hotel Revival

Susan Ly Photography

“I have a strong memory of ordering myself a cocktail at the bar, and just watching all of our loved ones mingle and chat among all the hard work we put into this day. I really cherished that moment I had to myself to take everything in.”



AN (UGLY) CHRISTMAS STORY

It was at an ugly sweater Christmas party in 2018 where Peter and Meg met. Peter was wearing a very loud Christmas vest borrowed from his mom and Meg remember thinking it was hilarious and that Peter had to have “a healthy level of self-confidence.” The pair was introduced by a mutual friend, Rebekah. Rebekah was Peter’s boss at summer camp and Meg’s best friend.

Peter’s first impression after meeting was that Meg was really well-traveled. At the time, Meg had just come back working near the parks in Wyoming and had shared plenty of interesting stories. “I remember being impressed to meet someone who had done so many cool things and knew so well what she wanted!” Peter says. The night ended with them taking a picture together, one that Meg really cherishes now.

Wedding Date: June 14, 2025

Number of Guests: 85

Best Memory: Karaoke after the reception





DIVIDE AND CONQUER

When it came to planning the wedding, Meg and Peter each naturally took on tasks they were best suited for. Meg, a project manager, took on most the logistics. She kept the planning organized and managed the communications with vendors. Peter, a storyboard artist, took the lead on the design. He illustrated the stationary and favors as well as designed and made the felt wedding banner.



Though their roles had naturally divided, the pair butted heads a bit when it came to aesthetics. “We’re both pretty strong-willed people and have different senses of style.” But despite their differences, they were able to choose components of different aesthetics and to create something beautifully unique. “We wanted something that felt definitively ‘us,’” Meg says, “and something that felt different from a lot of other wedding we’d attended. We really leaned towards electric colors and textures, and wanted our day to have a fun, vintage aesthetic.”



SURPRISE AT SUNRISE

Peter and Meg planned to do a sunrise hike on a trip to New Hampshire with friends. They woke up at four in the morning to drive to the trailhead but along the way, realized they didn’t have enough gas. And since it was so early, all the gas stations in the town were closed. Quickly, they pivoted and raced to another, closer spot to watch the sunrise. After racing up the trail, they sat on an overlook to watch the sun come up. “I realized that Peter was wearing cologne, and I distinctly remember thinking ‘why on earth would Peter put on cologne at 4 a.m. to go on a hike?’” Meg says. A couple minutes later, Peter got down on one knee and proposed. “I loved that we were able to be completely alone with this beautiful view for that big moment.”



THE DETAILS **Venue:** First Unitarian Church (Ceremony); Hotel Revival (Reception) **Photographer:** Susan Ly
Caterer: Topside (Hotel Revival) **Desserts:** Sweetheart Cake: Grace Czjakowski, Grace’s Cakes and Comforts;
 Guest Dessert: Yia Yia’s Bakery **DJ/Band:** Ridiculous Entertainment **Florist:** DIYed with flowers from Potomac Floral Wholesale

Peter's grandfather was the officiant. Meg doesn't have living grandparents and Peter's have really felt like her own since Peter and she began dating. "It's special to have someone who has known and loved you for so long actually carry out such a meaningful milestone in your life."

PERSONAL STYLE PERSONIFIED

Meg expected to agonize over choosing her wedding dress; however, it ended up being an easy choice. "I actually went with the very first dress I tried on," she says. She went to an Anthropologie with her mom, sisters, and friends to try on dresses. Immediately, the simple dress with fun texture and a dramatic silhouette stole her heart. Plus, she loved the potential for accessorizing. Peter opted for a fully customized suit from Christopher Schafer with fabric, stitching, and buttons he chose; one of the bigger splurges from the day. "We both wanted to feel and look our best on our wedding day! We both have distinct personal styles and wanted that to come through with what we wore for the wedding."



A BITE AND A VIEW

Getting married in Baltimore was a given. The two had lived there for years and absolutely love the city. "We wanted this to be an opportunity to show it off and share it with the people we love!" They hosted the reception at the rooftop restaurant inside Hotel Revival in the Mt. Vernon neighborhood. The historic architecture and proximity to museums, bars, and restaurants were fun for their guests to explore. They also loved how the hotel's restaurant, Topside, helped them create a menu that stood out. "We specifically focused on bars and restaurants as venues." Paired with the unbeatable views of the city, the venue was an obvious winner. The mini crab cakes during cocktail hour and the pineapple daiquiri were the best things Meg ate that night. Topside, with a bit of their input, created two other signature cocktails: an old fashioned and an espresso martini, which they named after "bad" 80s movies." The references were more of an inside joke, since only Meg and Peter understood them. "To everyone else, the names were just nonsense." Peter, though, really loved the Korean/Soul food spread from their rehearsal dinner at Dutch Courage the night before.

LITTLE DETAILS BROUGHT TO LIFE

Peter tackled a lot of DIY projects to bring the wedding to life, designing and creating the invitations, placemats, and matchbooks that brought in imagery that was personal to him and Meg. "I wanted our wedding to not feel like an exception to our everyday lives, but the truest expression of it," Peter says. The placemats also served as the menu and had a crossword puzzle on it. The biggest DIY for the day, however, were the florals. Meg's friend Rebekah and cousin Julie had some experience arranging flowers and took on the task of creating the arrangements.

Hair: DIY **Makeup Artist:** DIY **Officiant:** Jerrold Foltz, Peter's Grandfather **Rentals:** Allied Event Solutions
Stationery: Illustrated and Printed by Peter Foltz **Bride's Attire:** Anthropologie **Bridesmaid's Attire:** Various
Groom's Attire: Christopher Schafer Clothier **Groomsmen Attire:** Generation Tux

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Wedding Venues

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Please contact the venue directly for specific
information. Due to space constraints, only
venues that advertise are guaranteed a listing.

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Annapolis

Admiral of the Bay

Annapolis; 410-263-5196
Admiralofthebay.com
Max Guest Count: 225

Annapolis Bay Charters

Annapolis; 1-800-991-1776
Annapolisbaycharters.net
Max Guest Count: 120

Annapolis Inn

144 Prince George Street
410-295-5200; Annapolisinn.com
Max Guest Count: 20
Outdoor Location: Yes (garden)
Water View: No

Annapolis Maritime Museum

723 Second Street
410-295-0104;
Amaritime.org/rent-our-venue
Max Guest Count: 170
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: Yes

Annapolis Waterfront Hotel

80 Compromise Street
888-773-0786;
Annapoliswaterfront.com
Max Guest Count: 600
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: Yes

Annapolis Wedding Chapel

1625 Old Generals Highway
410-266-1440;
Annapolisweddingchapel.com
Max Guest Count: 24
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: No

Annapolis Yacht Club

2 Compromise Street
410-263-9279; Annapolisyc.com
Max Guest Count: 200
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: Yes

Banneker-Douglass Museum

84 Franklin Street
410-216-6180; Bdmuseum.com
Max Guest Count: 125
Outdoor Location: No
Water View: No

Best Western

2520 Riva Road
443-837-3602; Bestwestern.com
Max Guest Count: Call for details
Outdoor Location: Call for details
Water View: No

Blackwall Hitch

400 Sixth Street
410-263-3454; Theblackwallhitch.com
Max Guest Count: 45
(Gathering Room); 25 (Deck)
Outdoor Location: Yes (tent available)
Water View: Yes (w/out tent)

Boatyard Bar and Grill

400 4th Street
410-216-6206; Boatyardbarandgrill.com
Max Guest Count: 90 standing
or 40 seated
Outdoor Location: Seasonal
Water View: No

The Byzantium Event Center

2747 Riva Road
240-204-1190; Thebyzantium.org
Max Guest Count: 600
Outdoor Location: No
Water View: No

Carrol's Creek Cafe

410 Severn Avenue
410-263-8102; Carrolscreek.com
Max Guest Count: 250
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: Yes

Chart House Prime

300 Second Street
410-268-7166; Charthouseprime.com
Max Guest Count: 250
Outdoor Location: No
Water View: Yes

Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Philip Merrill Environmental Center

6 Herndon Avenue
410-268-8816; Cbf.org
Max Guest Count: 250
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: Yes

Chronic Sailing

7082 Bembe Beach Road
443-333-9113; chronicsailing.com
Multiple Vessels
Max Guest Count: 12

Crowne Plaza Annapolis Hotel

173 Jennifer Road
410-266-3131; crowneplaza.com
Max Guest Count: 150-350,
depending on ballroom
Outdoor Location: No
Water View: No

Doubletree Annapolis Hotel

210 Holiday Court
410-224-3150; Annapolismetings.com
Max Guest Count: 480-700
Outdoor location: No
Water view: No

Eastport Yacht Club

317 First Street
410-267-0549; Eastportyc.org
Max Guest Count: Indoor/120,
Outdoor/500
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: Yes
Couples must be members or
sponsored by a member.

Governor Calvert House

58 State Circle
410-216-6320;
Historicinnsofannapolis.com
Max Guest Count: 200
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: No

Graduate Annapolis, By Hilton

126 West Street
410-263-777;
graduateannapolis.com
Max Guest Count: 800
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: From Guestrooms

Hornor Maritime Center

613 Third Street
410-990-4460;
Hornormaritime.org
Max Guest Count: 75
Outdoor Location: No
Water View: Yes

Maryland Inn

58 State Circle
410-216-6320;
Historicinnsofannapolis.com
Max Guest Count: 80
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: No

Martins Bo Brooks at the Naval Academy N*Room at the Navy*Marine Corps Memorial Stadium

511 Taylor Avenue
443-221-4051; Bobrooks.com
Max guest count: 530
Outdoor location: No
Water view: No

Podickory Point Yacht and Beach Club

2116 Bay Front Terrace
410-757-8000; Podickorypoint.com
Max Guest Count: Indoor/100,
Outdoor/Varies with tent size
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: Yes

Port Annapolis Marina

7074 Bembe Beach Road
410-269-1990; Portannapolis.com
Max Guest Count: 200
Outdoor location: Yes
Water view: Yes

Prism Annapolis

47 Spa Road
410-271-7271; prismannapolis.com
Max Guest Count: 125
Outdoor Location: No
Water View: No

Quiet Waters Park

600 Quiet Waters Park Road
410-222-1777; Friendsquietwaterspark.org
Max Guest Count: 75
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: Yes

Reynolds Tavern

7 Church Circle
410-295-9555; Reynoldstavern.org
Max Guest Count: 60
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: No

Ruth's Chris Steakhouse

301 Severn Avenue
410-990-0033; Ruthschris.com
Max Guest Count: 160
Outdoor Location: No
Water View: No

🚤 Schooner Liberte

Annapolis; 410-263-8234
Theliberte.com
Max Guest Count: 49

🚤 Schooner Woodwind

Annapolis; 410-263-1981
Schoonerwoodwind.com
Max Guest Count: 48

Severn Inn

993 Baltimore Annapolis Blvd.
410-349-4000; Severninn.com
Max Guest Count: 150
Outdoor location: Yes
Water view: Yes

Soaring Timbers

610 North Bestgate Road
410-919-8393;
soaringtimbers.org
Max Guest Count: 300
Outdoor Location: No
Water View: No

SpringHill Suites by Marriott

189 Admiral Cochrane Drive
443-837-3602; Marriott.com
Max Guest Count: 20
Outdoor Location: No
Water View: No

St. John's College

60 College Avenue
410-626-2547; Sjc.edu
Max Guest Count: 130
Outdoor Location: No
Water View: No

Stanton Community Center

92 West Washington Street
410-295-5519; Annapolis.gov
Max Guest Count: 150
Outdoor Location: No
Water View: No

**USNA Alumni House/
Ogle Hall**

247 King George Street
410-295-4000; Usna.com
Max Guest Count: 300
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: No

**🚤 Watermark Charters/
Wedding on the Bay**

410-268-7601, ext. 100;
Watermarkjourney.com
Max Guest Count: 200
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: Yes

The Westin Annapolis

100 Westgate Circle
410-972-4300;
Westinannapolis.com/weddings
Max Guest Count: 400
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: No

West River Cruises

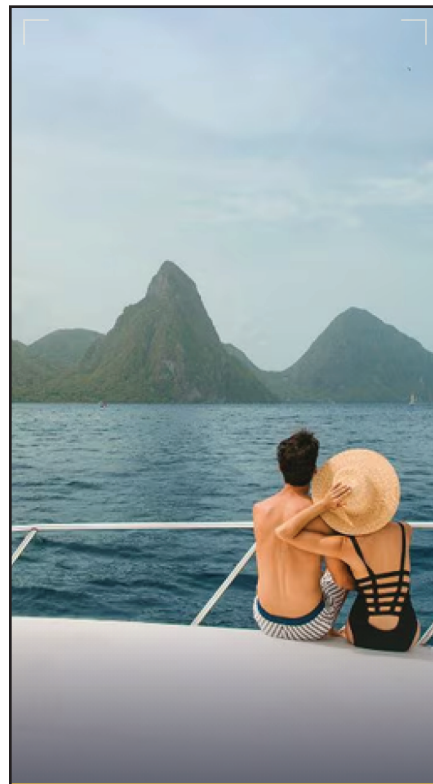
Shady Side; 410-867-6283
Westrivercruises.com
Max Guest Count: 90

Whitehall

1915 Whitehall Road
443-906-3464; Whitehallmd.com
Max Guest Count: Call for details
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: Yes

William Paca House & Gardens

186 Prince George Street
410-990-4538; Annapolis.org
Max Guest Count: 150
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: No



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Anchor Inn

7617 Water Oak Point Road, Pasadena
301-572-7744; Anchorinnmd.com
Max Guest Count: 150
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: Yes

Atlantic Marina and Resort

2010 Knollview Drive, Pasadena
410-437-6926; Atlanticmarinasmd.com
Max Guest Count: 120
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: Yes

The Barn at Pleasant Acres

5415 Mackall Road, Saint Leonard
443-624-3333; Thebarnatpleasantacres.com

The Blackwall Barn & Lodge

329 Gambrills Road, Gambrills
410-891-2090; Barnandlodge.com
Max Guest Count: Call for details
Outdoor Location: No
Water View: No

Café Mezzanotte

760 Ritchie Highway, Severna Park
410-647-1100; Cafemezz.com
Max Guest Count: 120
Outdoor location: Yes
Water view: No

The Cannon Club

699 Marlboro Road, Lothian
410-343-4700; Oldsouthcountryclub.org
Max Guest Count: 350
Outdoor Location: Yes (Tented)
Water View: No

Captain Avery Museum

1418 East West Shady Side Road
410-867-4486; Captainaverymuseum.org
Max Guest Count: 200
Outdoor location: Yes
Water View: Yes

Celebrations at the Bay

2042 Knollview Avenue, Pasadena
410-437-5711; Celebrationsatthebay.com
Max Guest Count: 140 indoors/
240 tented
Outdoor location: Yes
Water view: Yes

Chartwell Golf and Country Club

1 Chartwell Drive, Severna Park
410-987-0400; Chartwellgcc.com
Max Guest Count: Call for details
Outdoor location: Yes
Water view: No

Chesapeake Beach Resort & Spa

4165 Mears Avenue, Chesapeake Beach
410-257-2735; CBResortSpa.com
Max Guest Count: 225
Outdoor location: Yes
Water view: Yes

The Country Club at Woodmore

12320 Pleasant Prospect, Mitchellville
301-249-6100; Ccwoodmore.com
Max Guest Count: 200
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: Yes

Crofton Country Club

1691 Crofton Parkway, Crofton
410-721-3111; Croftonclub.com
Max Guest Count: 230
Outdoor location: Yes
Water view: No

The Golf Club at South River

3451 Solomons Island Road, Edgewater
410-798-5865; Golfclubsr.com
Max Guest Count: 150 outside;
85 inside
Outdoor location: Yes
Water view: Yes

Herrington on the Bay

7151 Lake Shore Drive, North Beach
410-741-5101; HerringtonontheBay.com
Max Guest Count: 350
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: Yes

Hidden View Farm

702 Defense Highway, Crownsville
855-528-9483; Hiddenviewfarm.org
Max Guest Count: 300
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: No

Historic Baldwin Hall

1358 Millersville Road, Millersville
410-923-3438; Baldwinhall.org
Max Guest Count: 150
Outdoor Location: No
Water View: No

Historic London Town and Gardens

839 Londontown Road, Edgewater
410-222-1919; Historiclondontown.org
Max Guest Count: 225
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: Yes

The Hotel at Arundel Preserve

7795 Arundel Mills Blvd., Hanover
410-796-9830; Thehotelarundel.com
Max Guest Count: 500
Outdoor location: No
Water view: No

Kurtz's Beach

2070 Kurtz Avenue, Pasadena
410-255-1280; Kurtzsbeach.com
Max Guest Count: 220
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: Yes

La Fontaine Bleue

7514 Ritchie Highway, Glen Burnie
410-760-4115; Lafontainebleue.com
Max Guest Count: 1,100
Outdoor Location: No
Water View: No

Lake Presidential Golf Course

3151 Presidential Golf Drive,
Upper Marlboro
301-627-8577; Lakepresidential.com
Max Guest Count: 175
Outdoor location: Yes
Water view: Yes

Maryland Sunrise Farms

100 Dairy Lane, Gambrills
410-739-6205; Mdsunrisefarm.com
Max Guest Count: 125
Outdoor Location: No
Water View: No

Maryland Yacht Club

1500 Fairview Beach Road, Pasadena
410-255-4444; Mdyc.org
Max Guest Count: 180
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: Yes

Michael's Eighth Avenue

7220 Grayburn Drive, Glen Burnie
410-768-7901; Michaels8th.com
Max Guest Count: 1,000
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: No

Michael's on the South River/ Mike's Crab House

3027 Riva Road, Riva
410-956-2784;
Michaelsonthesouthriver.com
Max Guest Count: 180
Outdoor Location: No
Water View: Yes

Mount Airy Mansion

9640 Rosaryville Road, Upper Marlboro
301-856-9656
Mountairymansion.org
Max Guest Count: 250
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: No

Newton White Mansion

2708 Enterprise Road,
Mitchellville; 301-249-2004;
PGParks.com
Max Guest Count: 300
Max Guest Count: 150
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: No

Renditions Golf Club

1380 West Central Avenue,
Davidsonville; 410-798-9798;
Renditionsgolf.com
Max Guest Count: 170
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: No

Running Hare Vineyard

150 Adelina Road, Prince
Frederick; 410-414-8486;
Runningharevineyard.com
Max Guest Count: 260
Outdoor location: Yes
Water view: No

The Town of North Beach

8916 Chesapeake Avenue,
North Beach; 301-855-6681;
northbeachmd.org
Max Guest Count: NA
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: Yes

Turf Valley Resort

2700 Turf Valley Road, Ellicott City
410-465-1500; Turfvalley.com
Max Guest Count: Call for details
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: No

Village Commons Community Center

1326 Main Chapel Way, Gambrills
410-451-8801
Outdoor Location: No
Water View: Yes

Walden Country Club

1500 Riedel Road, Crofton
410-721-8268
Waldencountryclub.com
Max Guest Count: 150
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: No

YMCA Camp Letts

4003 Camp Letts Road, Edgewater
410-919-1410; Campletts.org
Max Guest Count: 350
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: Yes



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5667 Augustine Herman
Highway, Earleville
410-275-8700; Theanchorageevents.com
Max Guest Count: Unlimited
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: No

Bohemia Overlook

88 Rivers Edge Road, North East
443-877-6313; Bohemiaoverlook.com
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: Yes

Brampton 1860

25227 Chestertown Road, Chestertown
410-778-1860; Bramptoninn.com
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: No

Brittland Estates

211 Brittland Farm Lane, Chestertown
410-810-7591; Brittlandestates.com
Max Guest Count: 400
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: Yes

Chester River Yacht & Country Club

7738 Quaker Neck Road, Chestertown
410-778-3818; Crycc.org
Max Guest Count: 140
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: Yes

Deep Blue at Kitty Knight Inn

14028 Augustine Herman Highway,
Georgetown; 410-648-5200;
kittyknight.com
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: Yes

Great Oak Manor

10568 Cliff Road, Chestertown
410-778-5943; Greateakmd.com
Max Guest Count: 150
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: Yes

The Inn at Huntingfield Creek

4928 Eastern Neck Road, Rock Hall
410-639-7779; Huntingfield.com
Max Guest Count: 175
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: Yes

The Inn at Mitchell House

8796 Maryland Parkway, Chestertown
410-778-6500;
Innatmitchellhouse.com
Max Guest Count: 100
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: Yes

Kent Island Yacht Club

117 Yacht Club Drive, Chester
410-643-4101; kiyc.org
Max Guest Count: Call for details
Water View: Yes
Outdoor Location: Yes

Osprey Point

20786 Rock Hall Avenue, Rock Hall
410-639-2194; Ospreypoint.com
Max Guest Count: 200
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: Yes

Worsell Manor

555 Worsell Manor Road, Warwick
410-656-4144; worsellmanor.com
Max Guest Count: 190
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: No

Queen Anne's
Centreville
Kent Island**Bay Bridge Marina Yacht Club**

357 Pier One Road, Stevensville
410-643-3162; baybridgemarina.com
Max Guest Count: 100
Outdoor location: yes
Water view: yes

Bridges on Kent Narrows

321 Wells Cove Road, Grasonville
410-827-0282; Bridgesrestaurant.net
Max Guest Count: 150
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: Yes

Chesapeake Bay Beach Club

500 Marina Club Road, Stevensville
410-604-1933; Baybeachclub.com
Max Guest Count: 310
Outdoor location: Yes
Water view: Yes

Fisherman's Crab Deck

3032 Kent Narrow Way South, Grasonville
410-827-6666; Crabdeck.com
Max Guest Count: 200
Outdoor location: Yes
Water view: Yes

Harris Crab House

433 Kent Narrow Way North, Grasonville
410-827-9500;
harriscrabhouse.com
Max Guest Count: 150
Outdoor location: Yes
Water view: Yes

Holiday Inn Express

1020 Kent Narrows Road, Grasonville
1-800-652-3705; Hiexpress.com
Max Guest Count: 125
Outdoor Location: No
Water View: Yes

Hyatt Place Kent Narrows and Marina

3028 Kent Narrow Way South, Grasonville
443-446-6000; hyatt.com
Max Guest Count: 200
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: Yes

The Inn at Chesapeake Bay Beach Club

180 Pier One Road, Stevensville, MD 21666
410-604-5900; Baybeachclub.com
Max Guest Count: 70
Outdoor location: Yes
Water view: No

Kentmorr Restaurant

910 Kentmorr Road, Stevensville
410-643-2263; Kentmorr.com
Max Guest Count: 250
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: Yes

Kent Island Resort

500 Kent Manor Drive, Stevensville
410-643-5757; Kentislandresort.com
Max Guest Count: 300
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: Yes

Maria's Love Point B&B

1710 Love Point Road, Stevensville
410-643-5054; mariaslovepoint.com
Max Guest Count: 275
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: Yes

Prospect Bay Country Club

311A Prospect Bay Drive West, Grasonville
410-827-6950;
Prospectbaycountryclub.com
Max Guest Count: 250
Outdoor location: Yes
Water view: Yes

The River House at Queenstown Harbor

310 Links Lane, Queenstown
800-827-5257; qhgolf.com
Max Guest Count: 65
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: Yes

Silver Swan Bayside & Catering

412 Congressional Drive, Stevensville
443-249-0400; Silverswanbayside.com
Max Guest Count: 300
Water View: Yes
Outdoor Location: Yes

The Wye River Estate

511 Pintail Point Farm Lane,
Queenstown; 443-333-9931
Max Guest Count: Call for details
Water View: Yes
Outdoor Location: Yes

Talbot County St. Michaels Easton Vicinity

Black Walnut Point Inn**Bed and Breakfast**

4417 Black Walnut Point Road, Tilghman
410-886-2452; blackwalnutpointinn.com
Max Guest Count: Call for details
Water View: Yes
Outdoor Location: Yes

Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum

213 N. Talbot Street, St. Michaels
410-745-4944; Cbmm.org
Max Guest Count: 350
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: Yes

Chesapeake Bay Skipjack

Rebecca T. Ruark
Tilghman; 410-829-3976
Skipjack.org
Max Guest Count: 49

The Inn at Perry Cabin

308 Watkins Lane, St. Michaels
410-745-2200; Perrycabin.com
Max Guest Count: 100
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: Yes

Kirkland Manor

300 North Talbot Street, St. Michaels
410-745-5255; Tidewaterwedding.com
Max Guest Count: 400
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: Yes

Knapp's Narrows Marina & Inn

6176 Tilghman Island Road, Tilghman
410-886-2720; Knappsnarrowsmarina.com
Max Guest Count: 100
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: Yes

Lady Patty Sail Charters

Tilghman; 1-888-250-3030
Ladypatty.com
Max Guest Count: 16



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Magnolia Manor

768 Port Street, Easton
410-443-1444; magnoliamanor.md.com
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: Yes

Miles River Yacht Club

24750 Yacht Club Road, St. Michaels
410-745-9511; Milesriveryc.org
Max Guest Count: 150
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water Front: Yes

The Oaks Waterfront Inn

25876 Royal Oak Road, Royal Oak
410-745-5053; The-oaks.com
Max Guest Count: 300
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: Yes

▲ Patriot Cruises

St. Michaels; 410-745-3100
Patriotcruises.com
Max Guest Count: 149

▲ Skipjack H.M. Kretz

St. Michaels; 410-745-6080
Oystercatcher.com

St. Michaels Harbour Inn

101 N. Harbor Road, St. Michaels
410-745-9001; 800-955-9001
Harbourinn.com
Max Guest Count: 115
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: Yes

Tidewater Inn

101 E. Dover Street, Easton
800-237-8775; Tidewaterinn.com
Max Guest Count: 250
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: No

Tilghman Island Inn

21384 Coopertown Road, Tilghman
410-886-2141; Tilghmanislandinn.com
Max Guest Count: 150
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: Yes

Wades Point Inn on the Bay

10090 Wades Point Road, St. Michaels
410-745-2500; Wadespoint.com
Max Guest Count: 125
Outdoor Location: Yes (tenting)
Water View: Yes

The Wildset Hotel

209 N Talbot Street, St. Michaels
410-745-8004; thewildset.com
Outdoor Location: No
Water View: No

Wylder Hotel Tilghman Island

21551 Chesapeake House Drive,
Tilghman; 877-818-1922;
wylderhoteltilghmanisland.com
Max Guest Count: 200
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: Yes

Dorchester County Cambridge Vicinity

Breckenridge Barn

4032 Mill Road, Linkwood
Breckenridgebarn.com
Rustic glam in a white post and beam barn.
Max Guest Count: 250

▲ Choptank Riverboat Cruises

Hurlock; 410-943-4689
Suicide-bridge-restaurant.com
Max Guest Count: 149

Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay

100 Heron Blvd.,
Cambridge; 410-901-1234;
Chesapeakebay.hyatt.com
Max Guest Count: 1,000
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: Yes

▲ Nathan of Dorchester

Cambridge; 410-228-7141
Skipjack-nathan.org
Max Guest Count: 20

▲ St. Michael's Sailing Charters

St. Michael's; 410-849-9864
Stmichaelsailingcharters.com
Various guest options

Suicide Bridge

6304 Suicide Bridge Road,
Hurlock; 410-943-4689;
Suicide-bridge-restaurant.com
Max Guest Count: 300
Outdoor Location: Yes
Water View: Yes

Swan Cove Manor

5441 Ross Neck Road,
Cambridge; 410-600-3450;
swancovemanor.com



Vendors We Love

This information was recorded at the time of publication and is subject to change. Please contact the vendor directly for specific information. For more vendors please visit whatsupmag.com/weddings/vendors.

Accommodations

Brampton 1860

Chestertown, 410-778-1860
bramptoninn.com

Brittland Estates and the Bank

Chestertown, 443-282-0860
brittlandestates.com

Graduate Hotel Annapolis

Annapolis, 410-263-7777
graduatehotels.com/annapolis

Historic Inns of Annapolis

Annapolis, 410-263-2641
historicinnsofannapolis.com

Hyatt Place Kent Narrows and Marina

Grasonville, 443-446-6000

Kent Island Resort

Stevensville, 410-643-5757
kentislandresort.com

Turf Valley Resort

Ellicott City, 410-465-1500
turfvalley.com

Wylder Hotel Tilghman Island

Tilghman, 410-886-2121
wylderhotels.com/tilghman-island

Attire

Amanda Ritchey Bridal Loft of Annapolis

Annapolis, 443-528-1119
amandaritchey.com

Mis 15 & Bridal Boutique

Annapolis, 443-926-3375
mis15bridalboutique.com

One Bridal Annapolis

Annapolis, 410-279-7892
onebridalboutique.com

Cakes & Desserts

Annapolis Ice Cream

Company & Always Ice Cream
Annapolis, 443-714-8674

Caterers

Hambleton House Events and Catering

Easton, 302-219-0106
hambletonhouseevents.com

Main & Market

Annapolis, 410-626-0388
mainandmarket.com

The Narrows Restaurant

Grasonville, 410-827-8113
thenarrowsrestaurant.com

Entertainment

B Real Entertainment

Severna Park, 717-577-4319
bereapro.com

IDJ Entertainment, Hector Ramirez

Easton, 443-359-7929
idj-entertainment.com

Florists & Event Designs

Flower Follies

Deale, 410-212-9689
flowerfollies.com

The Flower Shop - Flowers For You Today

Chester, 410-604-3860
mdeasternshoreflowers.com

Romenta Plants

Annapolis, 203-500-4069
romentaplants.com

Wildly Native Flower Farm

Chestertown, 443-457-8475
wildlynativeflowerfarm.com

Jewelry

TNT Jewelers

Easton, 410-822-53-98
tntjewelers.net

Zachary's Jewelers

Annapolis, 410-266-5555
zacharysjewelers.com

Pet Care

Dogwood Acres

Davidsonville and Kent Island
dogwoodacres.com

Planning

Ren & Co. Wedding and Event Planning

Carroll County, renandco.org

Top Shelf Wedding Planners

Sykesville, 410-507-2775
topshelfweddingplanners.com

Rentals

Party Plus Tents and Events

Glen Burnie, 410-768-1933
tenting.com

Wonderwall Events Co.

Annapolis & Baltimore,
410-917-2177
wonderwalleventco.com

Salons & Beauty

Advanced Dermal Health Aesthetics and Haute Rodz

Columbia, 410-403-9300
advanceddermalhealth.com

Blush Hair Studio Salon

Annapolis, 410-571-5147
blushsalonmd.com

Stationery and Print

Cink Art

Severna Park, 410-647-7637
cinkart.com

Travel Agencies & Tourism

Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum

St. Michaels, 410-745-2916
cbmm.org

Historic Annapolis and William Paca House

Annapolis, 410-267-7619
annapolis.org

Time for Travel

Annapolis, 301-627-8890
timefortravel.com

Venues

Blackwall Barn & Lodge

Gambrills, 443-645-3035
barn&lodge.com

Chesapeake Bay Beach Club

Stevensville, 410-604-5900
baybeachclub.com

Silver Swan Bayside and Queen Anne Marina

Stevensville, 443-249-0400
silverswanbayside.com

Tidewater Inn

Easton, 410-822-1300
tidewaterinn.com

Visit St. Mary's MD, INC

Leonardtown, 240-577-0524
visitstmarysmd.com

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Please Have a Seat

Guide your guests to their spot at the table with a little flair. Seating charts and escort cards with lots of personality are the best way to start the reception. Here are three ideas to get inspired by!

➔ Featuring their wedding location, a simple framed map with seating assignments is personal and on theme. Then, it can become art for your home after the celebration.

Karena Dixon Photography



⬆ A kitschy collection of mugs that guide guests and give them a fun memento of the wedding day. Thrift and find mugs that represent your guests' likes and personality for a customized touch.

Noel & Reverie Photography

⬇ Book checkout cards are such a fun idea for readers and book lovers. Feature your favorite authors and books on top and write your guests' names in the sign out slots.

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