

Special Wedding Supplement

**FREE BRIDAL SHOW WITH VENDORS, FOOD AND GIVEAWAYS - SUNDAY, MARCH 10 AT
THE GARRISON, 12 NOON – 3 P.M. 2015 RT. 9, GARRISON**

Pre-register to win trips and more: Garrisonbridalshow@gmail.com





845-787-2509
www.pioneerpd.com



Photography and Video
Aerial coverage
Live streaming
Photo booth

Great giveaways top list for show at The Garrison



The River and Hudson Rooms at The Garrison are bright and spacious – ideal for your entry and complete wedding event. Photo by DelConte Photography

You can win any one of a variety of valuable prize giveaways at this year's Bridal Show Spectacular at The Garrison on Sunday, March 10, from 12 Noon – 3 p.m.

The staff at The Garrison will present a one-night stay at the Inn at The Garrison and dinner for two in the Valley Restaurant. Local hotel groups will present additional giveaways as will other vendors, including The Pastry Garden, local florists and the Bridal Registry.

Over 50 vendors will be present to plan every facet of your wedding, plus great food choices from the chefs at The Garrison and The Pastry Garden.

The setting at The Garrison is exquisite – incredible views of the Hudson River and surrounding mountains, plus elegant and spacious gath-

ering rooms.

You must sign up prior to the show to be eligible to win prizes. It's easy –just send an email to GarrisonBridalShow@gmail.com. You will receive a confirming response.

But that is just the beginning of the prize list. The Garrison will also be offering a gift package, as will other vendors.

The Garrison is located at 2015 Rt. 9, just 10 minutes south of the I-84 exchange.

It's going to be a fantastic afternoon – with prizes, food and more. For more information, check out the Southern Dutchess News page on Facebook and pre-register by sending an e-mail to GarrisonBridalShow@gmail.com.

We'll see you at the show!

Your Special Day... Our Special Place...

Weddings, Receptions, Parties, Group Events—Newly renovated Banquet Hall to serve our community's needs!



Red Hook VFW Post 7765

30 Elizabeth Street • PO Box 293 • Red Hook, NY 12571 • 845-758-6212

Call for an appointment to visit our facility. More hall rental information available on www.vfw7765.org and Facebook @vfwpost7765

Three trendy ‘Wedding Vibes’ you need to know about in 2024

Courtesy of The Knot

All weddings, from the grandest ballroom galas to the simplest elopements, begin with a vision. Sometimes, that vision is called a theme, a style, an aesthetic or even a vibe, but what’s the difference?

There’s a lot of talk about wedding vibes right now, as proven by our 2024 wedding trends, which reveal that couples are shifting away from distinct wedding themes in favor of events that are hyper-focused on creating unique experiences and core memories.

This experience-first approach is less about optics and more about evoking a feeling that will leave a lasting impression on guests. But in a world where wedding planning can feel like checking a lot of boxes off your to-do list, choosing a wedding day vibe is a little more ambiguous. Let us walk you through the meaning of wedding vibes and how to find yours, along with three trending wedding vibes we have our eye on for 2024.

What Is a Wedding Vibe?

In simplest terms, the wedding vibe is a way to describe how your wedding day feels and looks. Your wedding vibe is influenced by all of the little details you choose, from the setting and the time of day to the smells, decorations, food, music, guest list, dress code and more.

Think of the word “vibe” in relation to how you’d talk about the energy of a space or a person. You know that feeling when you walk into a room, like a hotel or restaurant, and you feel like it was made for you? Or you strike up a conversation that just flows effortlessly? Those are vibes (good ones).

A wedding vibe is similar to an aesthetic in the sense that they’re both focused on the bigger picture of how a space feels and flows. But a wedding vibe is different from a wedding theme in a few ways. Most wedding themes are very focused on the visual details, and they need distinct decorations and color palettes in order to be done successfully. A lot of wedding themes also align with specific seasons, like beach-themed weddings for summer and rustic weddings for fall.

On the other hand, a wedding vibe is much more fluid and open to interpretation. You could say that your wedding vibe is “a fancy night out with friends at a swanky rooftop bar” and you immediately see the vision without feeling tied to specific stylistic details. When you’re experimenting with different wedding day vibes, the most important piece of advice we can give you is to first think about how you want your wedding to feel, not how you want it to look (those decisions will come later!).



The Garrison offers this scenic venue for outdoor ceremonies with plenty of seating space for guests. Photo by DelConte Photography

Vibe Descriptions

Your wedding vibe can be as broad or as specific as you’d like. Maybe you have a vision of hosting a nighttime garden soiree under the stars, or maybe all you know so far is that you want your wedding reception to feel like the best party you’ve ever been to. Either way, the great thing about different wedding day vibes is that they’re ultimately whatever you want them to be—and your unique viewpoint is what will make your wedding one of a kind. Start by choosing a few descriptive adjectives and words that resonate with you. Here are a few wedding vibe examples and other

buzzwords to spark your imagination.

Select Your Wedding Vibe

You can start thinking about what you want your wedding vibe to be as soon as you’re ready to begin planning. Zeroing in on a wedding vibe early in the process will help guide the rest of your planning decisions, from the venue to the entertainment and beyond. Our favorite way to brainstorm your wedding vibe is by making a vision board that’s filled with all of your potential ideas.

Don’t worry too much about finalizing things on the first try—cast a wide net by saving anything and everything

continued on page 4

Save The Date
Annual Bridal Show



March 3rd, 2024
NOON – 3:00PM

1155 Route 9
Wappingers Falls, NY

845-298-0011

Presented By:



DURANT'S
PARTY RENTALS

www.durantsparty.com



Embassy Travel
For ALL of your travel needs
Embassy@frontiernet.net
845-221-5000

Wedding vibe

Continued from page 3

that speaks to you. Then, work backwards to find your wedding vibe by eliminating things that feel redundant or aren't cohesive with the rest of your ideas.

Not sure where to start for inspiration? Turn to Pinterest, The Knot Magazine or our wedding vibe quiz to see what speaks to you. Once the gears start turning, you'll have a better idea of which direction you want your wedding vibe to go in.

Communicate Your Wedding Vibe

You don't need to tell your guests everything about your wedding vibe ahead of time, but sharing a few clues can help set expectations. Add a quick note to your wedding website or wedding invitation inserts explaining the overall vibe (like, "Come prepared for a night of dancing and live music!") to tease what you have in store. Your stationery design and website theme will also convey the vibe through their colors, fonts and decorative details.

2024 Wedding Vibes

Want to know the types of wedding vibes we're into right now? Here are our top three favorite ideas.

1. Dinner Party

Introducing our favorite wedding vibe for 2024. As the year's trendiest vibe, a dinner party wedding is inspired by a night at home with your best friends: good food, hilarious conversations, music to set the mood and, of course, plenty of wine and

bubbly. For this wedding vibe, aim for decor and details that are curated but not perfect. Imagine long tables, mismatched chairs, petite centerpieces, handwritten menu cards and taper candles that drip and melt as the night goes on.

2. Something Old, Something New

This wedding day vibe is all about breathing new life into classic details. Think of it as a combination of quiet luxury meets your favorite rom-com brought to life—it's romantic and whimsical while also being elevated, modern and super chic. Our vision board for this vibe would include satin bows and ribbons, monogrammed cocktail napkins, black-tie attire, a jazz band, coupe glasses and grainy black-and-white photography inspired by vintage movies.

3. Dancing All Night

Bring on the outfit changes, after-party snacks and disco ball decor for this high-energy wedding vibe. Pulling inspiration from the old-school nightlife and club scene (think Studio 54 or The Viper Room), this vibe is all about showing your guests a good time and making your wedding the place to be—even into the early hours of the morning. You'll want to go all out with entertainment, so invest in a talented DJ to keep the dance floor packed, or surprise guests with a live performer who interacts with the crowd.

A Perfect Blend ENTERTAINMENT



At APB, we let the music do the talking and are experts at finding the right blend of music and interaction to help you create the best wedding reception ever. From our first meeting till when we say good night, our goal is to provide you with the perfect wedding DJ experience.

914-941-0536

www.apbentertainment.com



Motor Coaches ~School Buses

- Dinner Parties
- Wine Excursions
- Bridal Parties
- Bar/Bat Mitzvahs
- Theatre Trips to NYC
- Airport/Cruise Shuttles

West Point Tours inc. Motor Coaches & School Buses

www.WestPointTours.com
845-561-2971
LetsGo@WestPointTours.com



Best of Times Video Productions

Setting the Standard in Event Videography Since 1989

Offering Full Day Multi-Camera Event Coverage

Packages Starting at \$995.00

845-561-0915

Wedding budget – breaking down the percentages

Courtesy of The Knot

When creating your wedding budget, it can be helpful to use a sample as a guide. And if you're a visual learner, seeing wedding budget percentages will help you understand exactly where to allocate various dollar amounts.

Here, we've compiled a complete wedding budget checklist, which highlights the top expenses and vendors to include in your list. This wedding budget breakdown also indicates the general percentage each element should contribute to your overall spend, which we've calculated using our data.

It's important to note, though, that this wedding cost breakdown is based on national averages and should simply be used as a starting point. You might also notice that the percentages don't add up to 100%—and that's on purpose! Your final wedding cost breakdown ultimately depends on a number of factors, like how much money you and your S.O. have to spend, the location and time of year you're getting married, and your top priorities. This will inform which expenses you ultimately include in your budget... which will be different for every couple. This wedding budget breakdown is simply to be used as a starting point to give you a general understanding of how to allocate your funds.

Venue: 37%

Unsurprisingly, the biggest chunk of your wedding budget will go to the biggest investment, which is often the venue. Our study found that couples typically spend about 37% of their overall budget on the setting of their nuptials.

Catering: 29%

Catering is another big-ticket item, taking up about 29% of the average wedding budget. (This is the cost-per-head for food items at your reception.) Depending on packages offered by your venue, this element may include alcohol and a cake. Some couples, though, opt to budget for those separately.

Band: 13%

Live entertainment will make your wedding day that much more memorable. Couples who choose to have a live band typically allocate 13%

of their wedding budget breakdown to their performers.

Wedding Rings: 9%

Don't forget to include rings in your wedding budget checklist. Excluding the engagement ring, we found that couples usually spend about 9% of their budget on wedding bands.

Photography: 9%

Photography is one of the best investments for your wedding. Great photos will last a lifetime and become prized keepsakes from the big day, making this a splurge-worthy purchase. To-be-weds usually spend about 9% of their wedding budget on their photographer.

Alcohol/Liquor: 8%

If your wedding venue package doesn't cover alcohol and you're planning on incorporating it into your nuptials, we recommend slotting about 8% of your budget toward this expense.

Flowers: 8%

Flowers can completely transform the look of your wedding. Plus, many couples opt to carry bouquets or wear boutonnieres too. We found that, on average, 8% of the wedding budget is dedicated to florals.

Videography: 7%

Much like pictures, a video will also memorialize your wedding day. We're big proponents of investing in a wedding videographer, because nothing will bring back your favorite wedding memories quite like a short film. If your wedding budget planning allows, we recommend setting aside about 7% for a videographer.

Couples Attire (Dress & Suit): 7%

Your outfits are key components of your overall wedding budget. Our data shows that couples typically slot 7% of their budget on their attire. This percentage should include the cost of the wedding dress and/or suit, along with shoes and any accessories, such as jewelry or cufflinks.

Wedding Planner: 6%

A wedding planner can make all the difference when it comes to your special day. After all, you can rest easy knowing that your celebration will go off without a hitch when you have a great professional taking

care of all the details. Save 6% of your total budget to cover the cost of a wedding planner.

Event Rentals: 6%

Event rentals, which includes everything from tables and chairs to dishes, silverware and drinking classes, are an often-overlooked expense—but not a small one. Your event rentals may be included in your venue rental fee or catering package, or you may have to hire a separate rentals company. Either

way, you can expect to spend about 6% of your total budget on your event rentals.

Lighting & Decor: 6%

In addition to flowers, lighting and decor are impactful ways to personalize the look of your wedding. This includes everything from candles to statement lighting installations, as well as signage, table displays, non-floral centerpieces, and other decorative elements. Use about 6% of your budget on these accents.

DIGITAL WEDDINGS

EXPERTS IN THE ART OF STORYTELLING



ELEGANT CREATIVE WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY
4K VIDEO - PHOTOBOOTHs - DJ ENTERTAINMENT
FISHKILL NY - 845.765.2328



Gourmet Bakery
-POUGHKEEPSIE-



845-473-5220

thepastrygarden.com



How to host a casual wedding

Weddings tend to be formal affairs, but there are no laws prohibiting happy couples from hosting more casual affairs. In fact, many couples confronted with the rising costs of tying the knot are doing just that.

According to The Knot 2023 Real Weddings Study, the average cost of a wedding in 2023 exceeded \$35,000, and that price tag does not even include couples' honeymoons. Some couples may not have the means to finance such lavish affairs, while others may want to save for larger expenses, such as a house, while still being able to celebrate their nuptials with family and friends.

Casual weddings can provide that opportunity. However, while casual weddings are less formal, couples will still need to keep some things in mind to make their ceremonies and receptions both fun and memorable.

Let guests know the wedding will be casual. Perhaps the most important thing couples can do when hosting a casual wedding is inform their guests that the ceremony and reception will not be formal affairs. Be as specific as possible regarding the dress code so guests don't feel embarrassed if they overdress.

Don't abandon tradition entirely. Couples hosting casual weddings may not feel beholden to all the traditions associated with more formal affairs, but that does not mean tradition should be abandoned entirely.

For example, fathers-of-the-bride may still hope to share a spotlight dance with their daughters, while siblings or friends may still hope to serve as bridesmaids or groomsmen. Just because a wedding is less formal does not mean it has to be completely void of tradition, especially those traditions that can let couples' closest loved ones know how much they are loved and appreciated.

Create your own traditions. Embracing some tradition does not mean couples cannot simultaneously create their own wedding traditions.

Guests at casual weddings will

likely be expecting something different than they're used to, so couples should not hesitate to provide that. Couples should strive to keep things tasteful but not shy away from unique ideas that fit into the casual theme.

Plan to feed guests. While couples having casual weddings may choose to have their receptions somewhere other than banquet halls, they should still plan to feed their guests.

Some guests may be traveling and staying in hotels to attend the wedding, and it's a nice gesture to show appreciation for their efforts by providing them with a meal. A meal also

offers a great chance for guests to mingle with the married couple and fellow guests. Something simple like a backyard barbecue or a catered meal at home fits nicely with a casual setting.

Don't overlook logistics. Small details, like transportation, parking and lodging will still need to be arranged. If hosting guests at home after the ceremony, make sure guests will have ample places to park their vehicles. In addition, make the same efforts regarding lodging for guests that you would if planning a formal wedding, as out-of-town guests will still need a place to sleep.



On our cover and special thanks



The Garrison provides fabulous settings for your wedding – plus fantastic food choices and the best in planning and service. Plan your wedding at The Garrison.
Cover photo courtesy of DelConte Photography

Special thanks to the staff at **The Garrison, Studio 6 Agency, Durants Party Rentals, The Pastry Garden, A Perfect Blend Entertainment, Embassy Travel and National Registry Direct.**
Photos courtesy of **DelConte Photography**
Flowers courtesy of **Peony Design Studio**
Magazine design and production by **Southern Dutchess News Group**

“When nothing short of perfection will do.”

THE HUDSON VALLEY
EVENT GROUP

The Hudson Valley Event Group embraces a tradition of producing exceptional and distinctive events. Our unmatched attention to detail provides for a fun and memorable experience. With a talented and dedicated team of industry professionals, we will listen to your desires, develop the perfect plan, and simply guide you through with a stress-free process. Our value is a promise to create the event you have always dreamed of.

Let's craft your dream into reality.

A Unique Experience

An Extraordinary Event

The Perfect Wedding



CALL US: 845.782.3259

 @hveventgroup 

VISIT: hveventgroup.com

If you're hosting a bridal shower, read this

Courtesy of The Knot

Anyone tasked with hosting a shower for the bride (or couple) will naturally encounter a few etiquette and planning questions along the way, whether it's their first or fifth time doing the honors. Here are the handiest tips and answers to common bridal shower etiquette questions that every good host should know.

Who's actually supposed to host?

Traditionally, the maid of honor, entire wedding party, a family friend or the in-laws were expected to play host. It was originally thought to appear gift-grabby if members of the bride's immediate family, like her mom, planned and hosted—but that's not really a thing anymore. However, since the mother of the bride might be up to her ears in wedding details, she might prefer to take on a supporting role. Really, it comes down to who wants to throw the shower—the bride's aunts, in-laws, family friends, college roommates or even coworkers—as well as who lives where.

Who gets an invitation?

As for the guest list, the only rule you need to adhere to is this: Anyone invited to the shower should also be invited to the wedding. After that, the bridal shower guest list can derive from the bride's preferred vibe and the host's budget.

Small, intimate and ladies only? Invite her wedding party, closest friends and relatives, and her partner's female relatives. For a couple's

or coed shower, this circle can obviously be widened to accommodate the couple's ideal group. Also, it's totally normal to have multiple bridal showers as well to include loved ones in different states or locations.

Should the bride be involved in the planning process?

Unless the bride specifically says, "Surprise me," you can safely assume she has at least some sort of opinion on the matter. While whoever's hosting will ultimately take the reins, discuss key points with her like the logistics (date, time and place) and atmosphere (mid-afternoon tea with the ladies or a coed dinner in a private room?). She might prefer to celebrate with some sort of theme—or be strictly averse to themes of any kind. In short, you won't know until you ask her, and once you do, you'll have a solid jumping-off point.

Does the bride need to bring a thank-you gift for the host?

A nice, handwritten thank-you note would be perfectly acceptable, but many brides also choose to show their gratitude with a small gift, like a flower arrangement, box of treats, or lunch out on the town.

If dining out, who should pay?

Let's say two friends of the bride are cohosting a bridal shower meal at a restaurant. Should the two of them foot the bill, or should the rest of the party (excluding the bride) cover their share as well? This isn't quite like the bachelorette party where guests pay their own way and even chip in for the



The Garrison can accommodate your bridal or couples shower with elegant spaces. Photo by DelConte Photography

bride's expenses too. The polite thing for the cohosts to do is pay for it. If an entire meal is biting off more than they can chew (which is totally understandable), consider a pared down event like a light tea, wine and apps, cake and prosecco or a self-catered event at someone's home.

What happens if the bride doesn't want a shower?

As the maid of honor (or other close loved one) it's your job to be there for the bride, listen to her wishes and act accordingly. After making sure she's really sure about nixing the shower thing, move on and consider it a blessing—one less thing on your to-do list! But, we get it, it's completely natural to want to do something nice for her. Maybe suggest mani-pedis, dinner and drinks, or a fun brunch for two as a way to celebrate without all the pomp and circumstance.

When's the best time to have it?

You should try to plan for the bridal shower to fall anywhere from five months to two weeks before the couple's wedding date (that's roughly based on a 12-month engagement timeline—but your couple's schedule may differ). The shower is meant to get the bride and her entourage geared up for the main event with, well, a shower of love and gifts. Anything too close to the engagement could feel premature—the bride may not have asked her wedding party yet or fully processed her to-be-wed status. Logistically, whoever's hosting needs enough time to budget, plan and curate the perfect guest list, while guests need time to RSVP, travel and find gifts. Anything too close to the wedding could add extra stress to an already hectic schedule, so it's smart to allow breathing room between these events.

A Remodeled Bathtub in as Little as One Day!

BEFORE

AFTER

- * Our seamless walls offer you peace of mind
- * Tub-to-shower conversions available
- * Fast installations by Bath Fitter installers
- * Lifetime warranty for as long as you own your home

Turning Your Dreams Into Masterpieces!

Peony Design Studio

Our inspiration comes from you. We tell the story of your romance through your personal style creating a memorable experience for you and for your guests.

Let's get started. Contact us today. We can't wait to hear from you!

@peonydesignstudiollc
 /peonydesignstudiollc

845-464-5554

www.PeonyDesignStudio.com

10 beauty dates to make before your wedding day

For the record, we think you'll look beautiful no matter what—but here are some appointments you may not want to skip.

1. Dermatologist - No matter what your skin issues might be, visiting your dermatologist will help ensure your skin's on track before your wedding. Whether you're dealing with adult acne, psoriasis or just plain, old dull combination skin, your doctor can work with you to determine the best skincare routine for your skin type. A trusted derm can also be the one you call to zap the zit with a cortisone shot if an unexpected blemish pops up the day before your wedding.

2. Laser Hair Removal - Laser hair removal is a splurge, but the thought of never having to shave again is probably worth it. Plan accordingly and get it far enough in advance before your wedding—it takes about four to six treatments for the procedures to be effective—and you'll be hair free on your honeymoon.

3. Dentist - It sounds cliché, we know, but your smile really is your best accessory on your wedding day. Schedule an appointment with your dentist for a quick teeth whitening and deep clean.

4. Hair Colorist - If you're highlighting or coloring your hair before your wedding, it's important to start early. Book a hair consultation three to six months before your wedding to talk to your colorist about your vision. It's also a good idea to bring any examples of hair accessories you plan on wearing so your colorist can determine the best spot to place highlights.

5. Hairstylist - Obviously, there are tons of options when it comes to your day-of hairstyle. and your stylist can walk you through all of them. It's customary to visit your stylist for a hair trial a few month before your wedding, but for even better results, you can

take it a step further. Visit your stylist twice—once for a cut and once for a style. It'll give your stylist the chance to familiarize themselves with your hair type and help you brainstorm the best style for you.

6. Facialist - This one isn't exactly a beauty necessity, but a nice facial is a prewedding ritual (and treat) we highly recommend. Schedule an appointment for two or three weeks before your wedding if you plan on getting something for the first time (since you won't know how your skin will react) or something harsh like microdermabrasion (since it tends to leave your face red for a few days). If you're just planning on a soothing treatment that you've gotten before, the week of is fine.

7. Makeup Trial - It can take a few tries before your makeup artist totally nails your ideal beauty look, so don't be discouraged. Make sure you set aside a few hours with them and bring lots of beauty inspiration to look at together. It's also important that you're specific: matte or dewy? Bronzy or smoky eye? Don't leave anything out—and if it doesn't look right, speak up. They'd rather you be honest so they can fix it.

8. Hair Extensions - Want to give your updo a little bit of something extra on your wedding day? Extensions could be for you. First, do your research to determine which type you want—clip-ins, tape or keratin bonds. Then call your salon to see if they offer extension services and actual extensions or if you have to provide your own. If you do have to provide your own, it's a good idea to bring them to your other hair appointments so your stylist or colorist can get familiar with them.

9. Tanning Salon - To tan or not to tan? It's totally up to you, but a subtle glow on your wedding day might be



From the polished stairway to the attractive rooms, The Garrison provides ideal amenities for brides. Photo by DelConte Photography

just what you're looking for. (Just picture how gorgeous your glow will look against your white gown.) You can make an appointment at a salon for a spray tan with an aesthetician—they'll know how to give your body the perfect coat of bronze that doesn't look

orange, streaky or fake.

10. Manicurist - Save this particular salon visit for a day or two before your wedding—your options run the gamut, and you want to make sure they look as fresh as possible on your wedding day.

HUDSON VALLEY FLORAL
845-489-8110

CONTACT THE SALES TEAM FOR ASSISTANCE WITH ROOMS BLOCKS AND MANY EVENTS WE CAN HELP PLAN FOR A MEMORABLE WEDDING WEEKEND!

CONTACT US
SALES OFFICE:
845.450.3950
845.653.4490

VISIT US
500 WESTAGE BUSINESS CENTER DR,
FISHKILL, NY 12524



Spacious rooms and elegant settings await couples and guests at The Garrison. Photo by DelConte Photography

How to handle seating of your wedding guests

Receptions may be big or small, lavish or casual. But regardless of their size or style, receptions all share a common element: They will require couples set up seating arrangement for guests.

Even though assigned seating isn't mandatory, selecting seats for a sit-down dinner makes things simpler and reduces confusion. Some reception venues may even require assigned seating so that catering staff can service tables accordingly.

Seating guests can be tricky, but employing a few strategies can make the process go quickly and smoothly.

- Use a seating chart. A seating chart, whether it's venue-specific or

one couples make themselves, is essential. If you using a self-made chart, inquire with the venue about the shape of tables, how many guests each table can seat, and the location of tables around the space.

- Start with the wedding party table. Couples can ease themselves into the task of seating by doing the easy tables first. The primary one is the wedding party table. This traditionally can be a dais or a sweetheart table flanked by the wedding party. According to Martha Stewart Weddings, the table should be centrally located and the wedding couple should sit in the middle. A male-female pattern follows on either side

of the couple, consisting of the ushers, bridesmaids, best man, and maid of honor. If much of the wedding party is already married, couples may opt to have the wedding party sit with their spouses instead of at the dais.

- Organize family tables. Tables for parents, grandparents and immediate family members of the bride and groom also are high priority. Both families can be combined at one table, or they can be separated into two tables. These tables should be the closest to the bride and groom.

- Consider mobility issues. Next, seat guests who have specific needs at tables. Elderly guests may want to be away from the band, deejay or

speakers. Guests in wheelchairs may need an accessible seat near the exit.

- Get some help. Enlist the help of parents to seat their friends and extended family members. Parents may know best who gets along and who should be separated.

- Seat dancers near the dance floor. To encourage dancing, place guests who tend to be lively close to the dance floor so others can see them getting up to dance and join in.

Couples can use apps, lists or self-made charts to plot their reception seating arrangements. Create place cards or a central chart so guests can find their seats promptly and easily.



ADAMSFARMS.COM

POUGHKEEPSIE
ROUTE 44
845-454-4330

KINGSTON
ROUTE 9W
845-336-6300

NEWBURGH
ROUTE 300
845-569-0303

WAPPINGER
ROUTE 9
845-632-9955

UPLIFT PHOTOGRAPHY

FOREVER BEGINS HERE

MODERN CHIC AT THE GARRISON

Hosting your wedding at The Garrison means building a trusting relationship with one of our dedicated event managers as they will be by your side throughout the entire planning process. Bridget Bell and Annie Rozycki are wedding experts who work closely with our couples turning their vision into reality. “We provide a unique, one-on-one relationship that begins the very first time you visit The Garrison!” Bridget explains. “We work with couples for a year, sometimes longer, because we are committed to bringing your vision to life,” notes Annie. “We want you to remember your wedding day at The Garrison as one of the best days of your life!”

The Garrison’s event spaces are tastefully designed by the award-winning minimalistic designer, Tony Chi, to encompass simple elegance. While our couples are always the center of attention, our phenomenal panoramic views of The Hudson River and Western Hudson Highlands Mountains are sure to leave your guests awe-inspired. Our outdoor garden is the perfect place to hold your ceremony and will give you a backdrop that is one-of-a-kind in the Hudson Valley. Make it even more special with the stars as your witness and exchange a romantic kiss under the heavens.

From initial contact to your special day, you’ll enjoy a level of service from our dedicated staff that is unsurpassed. We are committed to making your reception an unforgettable day that reflects your unique style.



UPLIFT PHOTOGRAPHY

UPLIFT PHOTOGRAPHY

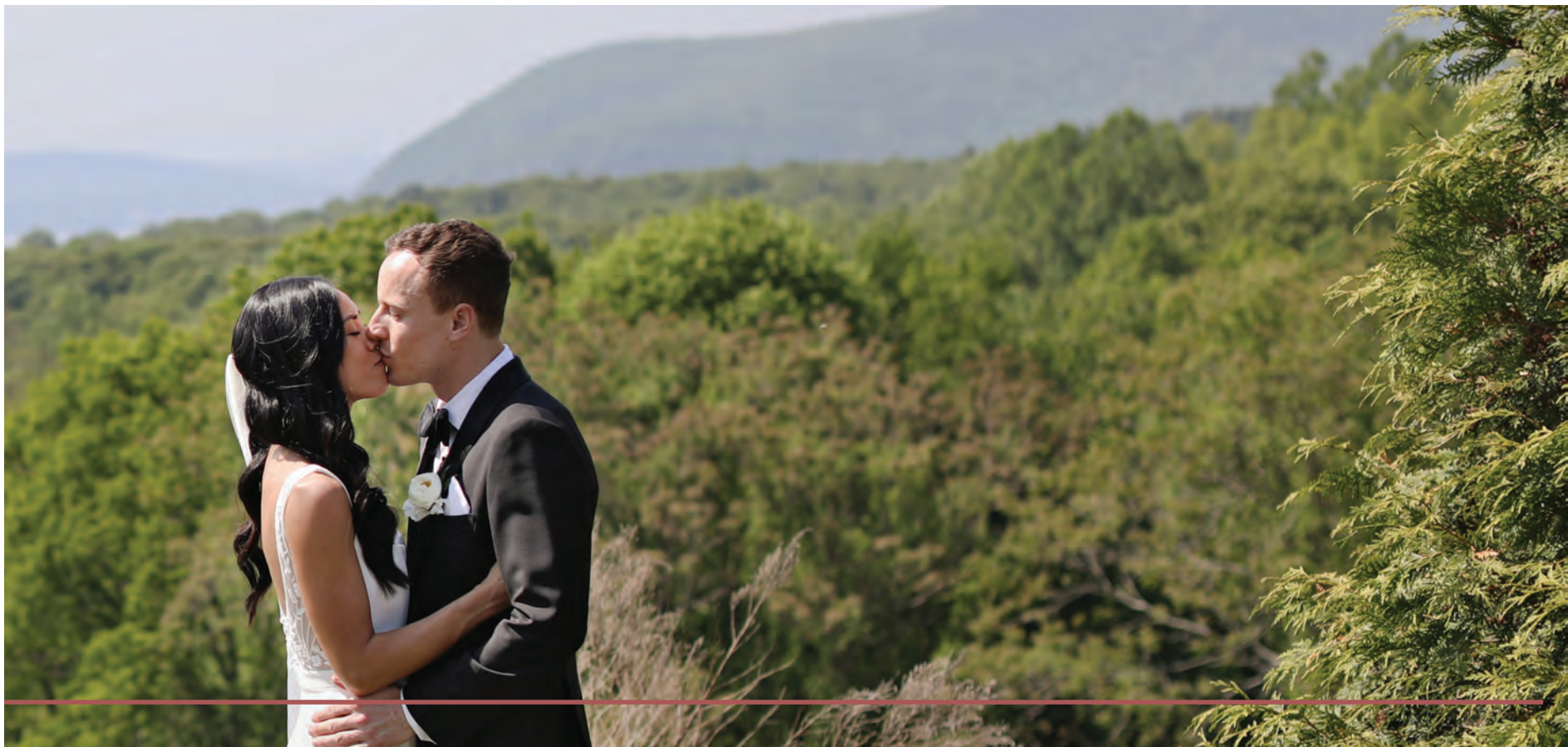


EMMA CLEARY PHOTOGRAPHY



YOUR WEDDING, TASTEFULLY PREPARED

In addition to the extraordinary views offered at The Garrison, its award winning cuisine will also set your wedding apart. Our elite culinary team is comprised of specially trained professionals who are committed to utilizing only the freshest locally-sourced ingredients. The spotlight shines on our Chef de Cuisine, Seth Knapp, who has led the Culinary Wedding Team at The Garrison for over 10 years. Our team is able to effortlessly pair one-of-a-kind wines and spirits to your custom-tailored menu. You will receive beginning-to-end support from one of our event managers, and classically designed event spaces that lend themselves to various colors, styles and visions. Hosting only one wedding per day, The Garrison makes your wedding its top priority!



SPECIAL EVENTS

Special is definitely an understatement - the event spaces offered at the Garrison lend themselves to legendary parties. Whether you are welcoming a new addition to the family, celebrating a soon-to-be bride, or honoring one of life's milestones, our events begin and end with personalized attention to detail and exceptional service. Your event with us will be meaningful and create lasting memories for years to come. Locally-sourced food prepared by our professional culinary team is backed by a venue that can host anywhere from 25-200 guests in an intimate setting - custom tailored to your personal taste. What we encompass is truly exceptional.



WINTER WEDDINGS

What could be more romantic than watching the snow fall outside while you say "I Do" to your significant other? Planning a winter wedding is more than magical. That's why we promise to provide a spectacular setting that will make any couple glisten in the glittery snow. So, carve memories into the ivory hillsides and make your wedding as special as you are.



THE GARRISON

2015 US 9 - GARRISON, NY 10524 - 845.424.3604 - THEGARRISON.COM

Tips on sending wedding invitations

Courtesy of The Knot

A lot of the decisions you make while wedding planning are completely up to you—there's no set rule for which flowers to choose or what your color palette should be. That said, there are a few planning tasks that have guidelines, including when to send wedding invitations.

Sending out your invites after determining who to invite to your wedding is one of the most exciting steps in your planning journey. As guests receive their mail and the RSVPs begin flowing in, expect your celebration to start feeling very real. So now you're wondering exactly how far in advance to send wedding invitations, right?

When to Send Wedding Invitations - Ideally, the proper wedding invitation timeline is six to eight weeks before the wedding. This doesn't just give your guests lots of time to clear their schedules, but it also means that you can **request your wedding guests' RSVPs** sooner while staying in line with proper wedding invitation etiquette. This will allow you to get a final head count, **invite guests on your B list** if needed and complete your seating charts before the week-of-the-wedding crunch.

So the sweet spot of when to send out wedding invitations falls around

two months, but if the question: "Is three months too early to send out wedding invitations?" is knocking around in your head, the answer is no, it's not too early in certain circumstances.

At the very latest, guests should receive formal invitations around a month and a half in advance, and you should request responses around one month before the big day depending on how long before your wedding you send invitations, though six weeks is preferable. Also, if you've got specific questions about when do you send out wedding invitations with a paper RSVP attached, this is the right time-line to go by.


When to Send Wedding Invitations Without Save-the-Dates

- If you choose to skip save-the-dates and have a standard engagement length, you should send wedding invitations around six months in advance. For couples who are only engaged a few months before tying the knot, how soon you send out wedding invitations changes slightly: Aim for two to three months before the wedding.

Generally, it's good save-the-date etiquette to give guests a timely heads-up that'll make planning to attend a smooth process (and ultimately boost the number of positive RSVPs you get later). That said, while

continued on page 13

ROGAN & CO.



Stacey Rogan

Rogan & Co.

WEDDINGS | EVENTS

845.264.1867

www.roganandcoevents.com





M.C. FISH
ENTERTAINMENT, INC.

800.634.7460 — www.fishparty.com





(845) 797-2222

eidphotography.com



eid photography

Wedding invitations

continued from page 12

sending save-the-dates is advised, they technically aren't a requirement. In that case, If you and your S.O. are closer to the average length of an engagement (that's 16 months, according to our data), we recommend sticking to the typical wedding invitation timeline (including abiding by the guidelines for when to mail wedding invitations and sending save-the-dates).

When to Send Wedding Invitations to Out-of-Town Guests - If you're inviting out-of-town or out-of-state guests, it's customary to send out wedding invitations around eight weeks before the big day. We advise sending all of your invites at the same time, regardless of how many guests live out of town. Eight weeks before the wedding is still typical timing when it comes to how early to send wedding invites, so it makes sense to keep things simple and send them all at once.

How long before a wedding should invitations be sent to guests from outside the US? It's an exception—around nine to 10 weeks in advance is a good time to mail those particular invitations if possible.

The extra week or two will allow for the extended shipping and delivery time needed to get those invites safely into your loved ones' hands. Keep in mind: When it comes to wedding invitations, when to send them is ultimately determined to account for the right amount of RSVP time. Give interna-

tional guests the option to RSVP digitally, so you're not waiting for their responses to travel through the mail.

When to Send Wedding Invitations Digitally - While digital invites do get to your guests faster, it's wise to keep with the traditional six to eight week wedding invitation timeline regardless. A wedding invitation is still a formal bid and a big commitment, so you should give potential attendees ample time to RSVP.

Why it's Important to Send Your Invitations at the Right Time - Knowing the answer to the, "How soon do you send out wedding invitations?" question is a lot more important than you might think. If you mail them too late, you run the risk of not giving your loved ones enough notice to take time off work, book accommodations or make travel arrangements. Sending your invites out too early might mean that your wedding isn't at the top of guests' minds as the day draws closer. You want to hit that sweet spot in between that gives everyone plenty of time to make plans (but not enough time to lose track of that all-important date). Also important is giving them enough time to let you know if they're attending, whether it's by **mail-in RSVP** or **online RSVP**. Creating a **wedding website** can help you easily collect and track RSVPs, too, so it's easy to get that final headcount and **send thank-you notes** when the time comes.



Photo by DelConte Photography

You set the table and

We'll set the mood

Our Company Features the very best In Fine China, Crystal, Tableware and Health Products.

www.BridalRegistryinc.com

maple field floral

PROVIDING FLORAL DESIGN, RENTALS, DECOR FOR WEDDINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS

SERVICING; WESTCHESTER, CT, NYC, NJ & THE HUDSON VALLEY

maple field floral

the knot BEST OF WEDDINGS HALL OF FAME

WEDDINGWIRE COUPLES' CHOICE AWARDS 2022

the knot BEST OF WEDDINGS 2022

(718) 775-5919
MAPLEFIELDFLORAL@GMAIL.COM
MAPLEFIELDFLORAL.COM

The Music Boutique
Live Music Concierge

Violin/Cello | String Groups
Saxophone | Jazz Groups
Piano | Band / DJ

WEDDING | CORPORATE | PRIVATE EVENT

musicboutiquenyc.com



Custom Cakes • Wedding Cakes

Cupcakes • Custom Cookies

and Cake • Pops

1004 MAIN STREET
FISHKILL, NEW YORK, 12524

845-202-7281

thecakeryfishkill@gmail.com

www.thecakeryfishkill.com



/thecakeryfishkill



@thecakeryfishkill



Even in the rain, couples discover picturesque locations for strolls at The Garrison.
Photo by DelConte Photography



NEW BRIDAL ARRIVALS

Shop our extensive bridal collection with complete confidence, knowing your diamond bridal jewelry has been designed and manufactured at the highest level of quality and industry standards.



Hannoush Jewelers
1655 Route 9
Wappingers Falls, NY
845-298-8599
www.hannoush.com



Makeup Artist specializing in
Eye Artistry
(845) 339-3368
www.LaVbeauty.com

Kidding or no kidding: Children at Your Wedding

This is an issue which requires a great deal of thought and planning. If having children at a wedding is viewed and addressed as a problem, it will probably become one. It's up to the bride, the groom and their families to carefully think about the issue, discuss it and come to a conclusion that will make as many people as possible happy with the decision.

There are without doubt, certain wedding styles in which may not be appropriate, nor practical for children to attend. A very formal wedding will most likely be seriously boring for almost any age child, while a less formal, more relaxed wedding styles might accommodate children nicely. Should you decide that having children at your wedding is a priority, then that decision should play a role in your determining the kind of wedding you plan. It's not impossible to have even an ultra-formal wedding with children participating, but it requires a great deal of planning before the wedding and careful execution and assistance at the wedding.

The style of the wedding is not the major factor to be considered in making your decision. Most couples have a budget under which they are operating. The smaller the budget, generally means the shorter the guest list. As a result, selecting the guest list becomes more difficult. Only the bride, groom and their respective families can decide who "must" attend their wedding and who won't make the cut.

Yet another factor to consider is precedent. Have your children (or those of other couples) been at most of your families' and friends' weddings? Is it traditional in your circle or community to invite children? If children attended every wedding you have attended, not inviting them to your wedding is likely to cause lots of ill feelings.

Should you decide to have children on your guest list, you certainly can



Children can add their own special touches to a wedding. It's up to the bride and groom to appropriately plan for the children who are invited and to integrate them properly into the wedding day. Photo by DelConte Photography

limit their numbers by "closing the circle." Invite only children of immediate family, or widen the circle to include nieces and nephews. Open the circle to include children only over a certain age . . . and so on until you're comfortable with the diameter of the circle you have drawn.

Once you have determined what children will be on your guest list, make sure that your invitation wording makes your preferences absolutely clear. If the children of a couple are not being invited, address the invitation only to the adults.

If you have decided against having children at your wedding and are concerned that your invited guests may not "get it," you may add "Adult Reception" at the bottom of the reception card. You can try to nip hurt feelings in the bud by calling people who might be assuming that their children are included in the invitation, in advance of sending out your invita-

tions. Be honest. Explain your feelings and just hope they'll understand your exclusion of their children.

Out-of-town guests who need to bring their children along, pose a special problem. You might consider providing them with a baby-sitter list or even of providing and paying for baby-sitting services.

If your decision is to have children present and/or participate in your wedding there are several ideas which will make things easier and run more smoothly. Provide kid food for the youngsters. Hamburgers, french fries and pizza will suit their palates much better than filet mignon and will be far less expensive. Most caterers can

arrange a special menu of food more suited to children. Those meals are almost always charged at a lower rate than adult meals. Where possible include the children in the festivities. Where appropriate assign honors or tasks to keep them involved and out of harm's way.

Children can add their own special touches to a wedding. It's up to the bride and groom to appropriately plan for the children who are invited and to integrate them properly into the wedding day. In that way the children, their parents, the couple, and the guests will remember the presence of children pleasantly.



ALLAN E. LEVINE
PHOTOGRAPHY

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.
CALL TODAY TO SCHEDULE A PRIVATE VIEWING.
845.896.4177
WWW.AELPHOTO.COM

EVENT PHOTOGRAPHY • ALBUM DESIGN • ON LOCATION PORTRAITURE



From "Yes" to "I do", your life together begins here!

"As a priest, celebrant, officiant and chaplain I really love what I do, and you can be sure that I will always put your needs and wishes first and help you develop the ceremony you want."



I will always put your needs and wishes first and help you develop the ceremony you want.

FATHER JIM ROONEY
376 ROUTE 9D
BEACON NY 12508
PHONE: 917 880 0791
www.revjimrooney.com

Nine essential tips for making your guest list



The outdoor spaces at The Garrison offer a variety of opportunities for large gatherings. Photo by DelConte Photography

Courtesy of The Knot
Drafting and cutting your guest list might not be quite as fun as tasting cake flavors, but follow these essential tips and it'll go way more smoothly than you think.

1. Decide how you'll divvy up the list—before accepting financial help.

We won't tiptoe around the truth: Making a guest list can get messy, especially if one or both sets of parents are involved in the planning or contributing financially. That's why you should be clear about your expectations before you accept help from them. Even if you're paying for the wedding yourselves, it's a good idea to get the families together and talk about the guest list so there are no surprises. Once you've started putting down deposits with

someone else's money, you're in a bind, whereas before you start spending, you can still negotiate or choose to decline.

Tip: Traditionally the couple gets half the guest list, and each set of parents gets a quarter of the guest list. So if you're planning to invite 200 people, you'd get 100 guests, your parents would get 50 and your fiancé's parents would also get 50. The most drama-free approach is to split the list evenly three ways.

2. Use a system that's collaborative - There are a lot of different ways you can build your guest list, but it's best to use a system that's collaborative so anyone with input can make edits in real time and see the most up-to-date version.

Tip: Don't delete any names once you get going. When the time comes to start

dividing the yeses from the maybes (and the nos) you can use several color-coded tabs, or make a separate document for names you're unsure about. You might discover that you do have extra space, but if you erase the names completely, you'll have no idea who you might want to invite.


3. Design your dream list - When you start building your list, jot down the names of everyone you could ever imagine attending your wedding, from old camp friends to that funny third cousin you met once at a family reunion. Just for this part, take your budget and venue out of the equation. You'll have to do some trimming later on, but for now, think big.

Tip: If you're tempted to invite even more people on a whim later, go back to this list as a reality check. If they were

never on your dream list, are they really crucial now?

4. Be realistic about the number of guests to avoid stress later on - Crunching the numbers isn't the most glamorous part of wedding planning, but there is a figure you really can't avoid: your guest list count. Your budget and the venue size are the main factors that should play into this decision. Each guest adds to the number of plates your caterer will prepare, favors, chair rentals and how much cake you'll need. Choose a number that's larger than your venue's capacity and you'll be holding your breath every time you open an RSVP. It's much better to keep your number on the conservative side. If there's room in the budget or you end up having more space than you thought you would, add

continued on page 17



ROCK
ENTERTAINMENT
MUSIC FOR ALL OCCASIONS
845-820-3873
DJ • PHOTOBOOTH
GREEN SCREEN • PHOTOGRAPHY
VIDEOGRAPHY

We offer a variety of packages for all different occasions! It doesn't matter if it is small or big we can handle it.



Hudson Valley Ceremonies
Wedding Officiant & Planning Services
www.HudsonValleyCeremonies.com
HVCeremonies@gmail.com
845-244-1482
Male and Female Officiants
Civil, Non-Denominational and Interfaith
Full & Partial Planning, Day of Coordination
and Virtual Wedding Planner
Wedding Wire Couples Choice Award Winner
6 years in a row
*"Laughter, tears of joy and the perfect vows,
is how we unite our couples in marriage"*

Nine essential tips

continued from page 16

later on.

5. Make some cutting rules (and actually follow them) - It's time to return to reality and start trimming that dream list until you reach your real number. The easiest way to cut the list is to come up with rules and actually stick to them. We promise it'll be easier in the long run and you'll avoid potential drama down the line. What do we mean by "rules"? Here are a few common ones:

Rule 1: If neither of you has spoken to or met them or heard their name before, don't invite them. Rule 2: Not crazy about inviting children to your party? Don't feel bad about having an adults-only wedding. Rule 3: If neither of you has spoken to them in three years and they're not related to you, don't invite them.

Rule 4: If there's anyone who's on the list because you feel guilty about leaving them off (maybe because you were invited to their wedding or they're friends with lots of people who are invited), don't invite them.

6. Make an A-list and a B-list - We'll keep this little secret between us. Having two lists is how you'll be able to invite the most people without raising your budget or having to find a larger venue. Here's how it works: Your A-list consists of the must-have invites you couldn't imagine not having at your wedding, like your family and close friends. They'll receive your first round of invitations. Your B-list is made up of guests you still really want to be there, so don't put just anyone on it. If you start getting RSVPs and it turns out you have enough "regrets," then you'll start sending invites to your B-list (in order of importance).

7. Include names on the response cards - Yours wouldn't be the first wedding where a guest crams two (or three or four) names onto one line, even though the invitation was made out to one person. The way to avoid this problem is to print the guests' names onto the RSVP card. Do this, and there's almost no way anyone can force an invite on you.

8. Don't let the parents (yours and your in-laws) wear you down - Boundaries—set them and stick to them. When it comes down to it, this is your wedding. If budget is the issue, then the solution could be as simple as having whoever wants more guests chip in extra to pay for the overflow. In many cases, the venue caps the guest list. That means if your mom insists on inviting her entire spin class, either you or your fiancé's family will have to forfeit some of your guests. First, try to compromise. Why not invite just one and put the rest on the B-list? If that doesn't work, don't waver. It won't be easy, but bend now and you're going to end up with even more requests down the line.

9. Avoid last-minute add-ons - Whether or not you spread the word yourself, you're probably going to get one or two awkward comments along the lines of, "I can't wait to come to your wedding!" from someone you're not so sure about inviting. In the moment, it can seem like an easy out to respond, "Me too!" But do this and you'll either end up having to add them to the list or having an even more uncomfortable conversation that's basically akin to disinviting them. The best thing you can do is steer clear of wedding specifics while you're still in the early planning stages.

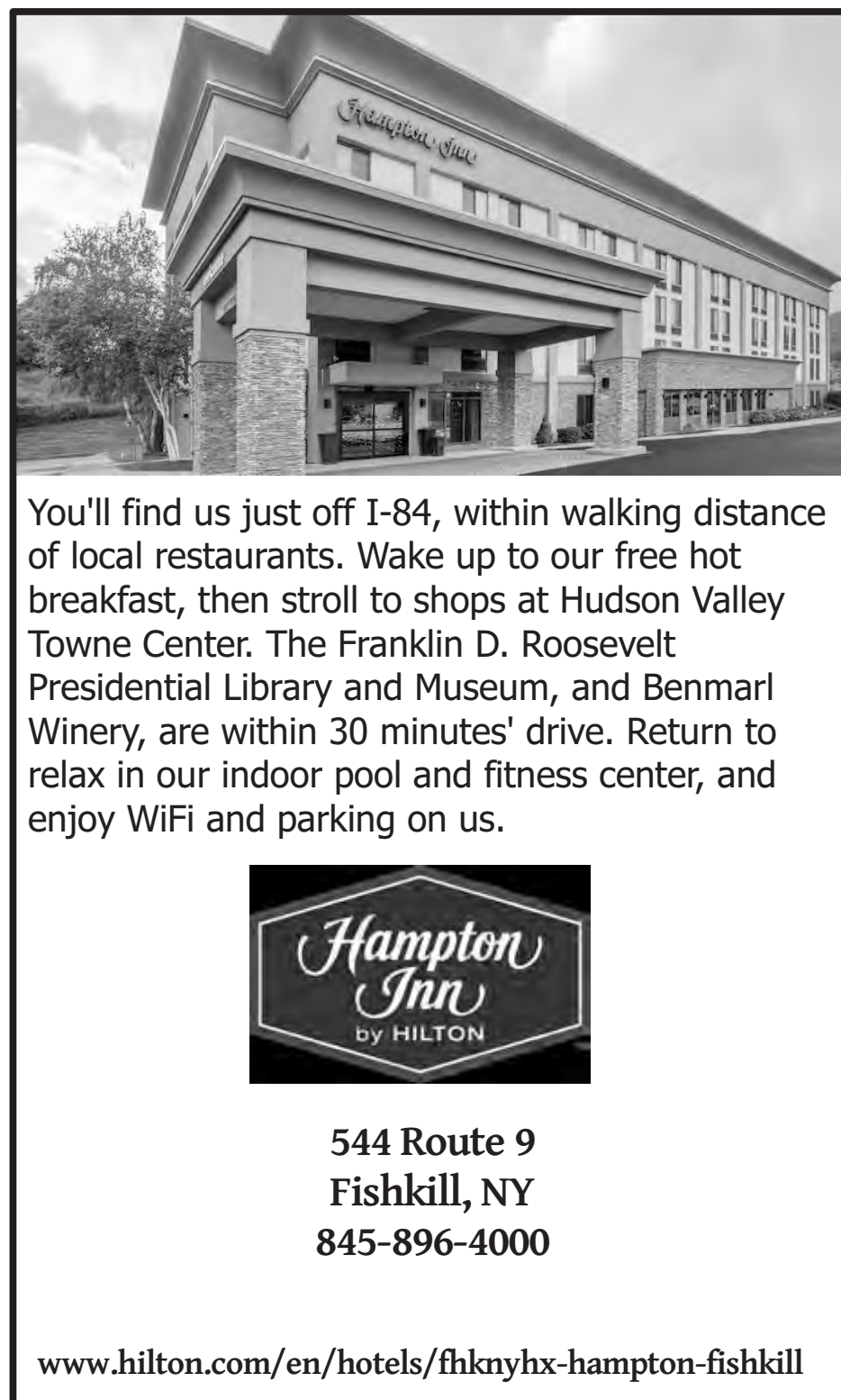


GIANNETTA
SALON & SPA
Owner Janet Ruggiero

Is For Brides...

Airbrush Make-Up,
Traditional Make-Up,
Bridal Updos & Blowouts,
Spa Packages, Massages, Facials,
Body Wraps, Scrubs, & Muds
Awe Inspiring Cuts & Colors,
Manicures, Pedicures,
& Specialty Waxing,
Specialty pricing for large parties

1158 North Ave, Beacon NY 12508
(845)831-2421//Giannettasalonandspa.com

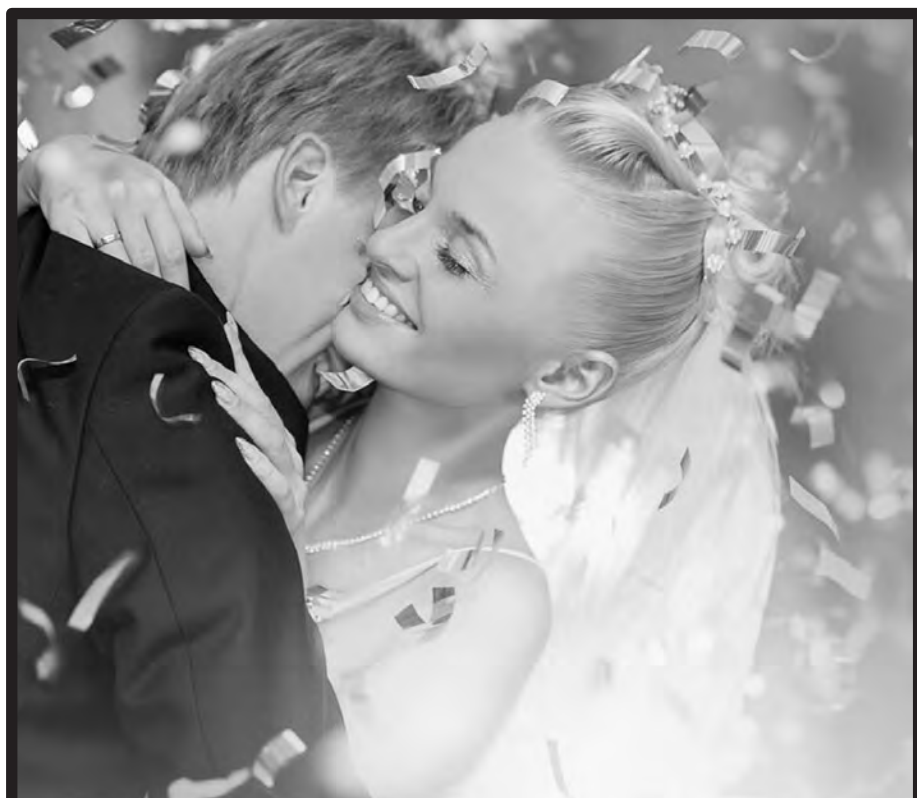


You'll find us just off I-84, within walking distance of local restaurants. Wake up to our free hot breakfast, then stroll to shops at Hudson Valley Towne Center. The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, and Benmarl Winery, are within 30 minutes' drive. Return to relax in our indoor pool and fitness center, and enjoy WiFi and parking on us.

Hampton Inn
by HILTON

544 Route 9
Fishkill, NY
845-896-4000

www.hilton.com/en/hotels/fhknyhx-hampton-fishkill



1 FREE LESSON
CALL US TO SCHEDULE!
(845) 424-6353

* Valid at Cold Spring Location Only

A Dance to Remember
FRED ASTAIRE
FRANCHISED DANCE STUDIOS

It’s time to normalize the fun – non-alcoholic drinks at weddings

Courtesy of The Knot

When you picture a wedding, what comes to mind? Perhaps a white dress, a couple exchanging vows, a tiered cake, a romantic first dance. Do you envision alcohol? Maybe an open bar, or a champagne toast?

Weddings look different for every couple, but one of the most common elements is alcohol. For what seems like centuries, celebratory events and alcoholic beverages have gone hand in hand. These days, guests love to joke about open bars at wedding receptions, with memes and social media discourses running rampant about how alcohol is a necessary component of any gathering. And although beverages can (and should!) be enjoyed by those who want, it’s also time to shift the narrative to include “mocktails” too.

In 2024, more people are re-evaluating their consumption habits as the conversation about wellness becomes more nuanced and intricate than ever before. While alcohol will continue to play a role in weddings, it’s also important for couples to consider offering non-alcoholic beverages too, particularly for guests looking to abstain from drinking for any reason. Because while it may seem like water, juice or soda are acceptable dry options, taking care of your sober guests goes far beyond the surface level. Here, experts break down exactly why it’s time to normalize mocktails at weddings.

Inside the Rise of “Damp” and “Sober Curious” Lifestyles - If you’ve spent any time on social media recently, you may have noticed an uptick of

people talking about “damp” or “sober curious” lifestyles. (On TikTok, the hashtag #sobercurious has been viewed over 83 million times.) Of course, this concept of abstaining from alcohol isn’t new, and it’s much different than full-fledged sobriety. Challenges like “Dry January” have been around for years, prompting people to abstain from alcohol for a period of time. But experts say that there’s been a shift in relationships with beverages, and it’s likely a lingering effect of the pandemic.

“People are reconsidering their alcohol consumption post-pandemic,” says Hilary Sheinbaum, author of ‘The Dry Challenge.’ “In 2020, because so many people were home and feeling the stress of pandemic life and being quarantined, they turned to alcohol as a way to pass the time, to relieve stress, or to socialize with friends over a Zoom happy hour. People were able to access their bar carts a lot more frequently and easily.”

Now that social events (especially weddings) are ramping up again, Sheinbaum says that many are recognizing how alcohol impacts their overall health—and some are ready to take a step back. “People are more conscious about what they’re putting in their bodies, and that includes beverages,” she says.

It helps that the mocktail industry has blossomed in recent months. According to Sam Kasten, founder of Virginia-based non-alcoholic beverage distributing company Umbrella Dry Drinks, this newfound interest in mocktails is growing because people are more mindful about their overall

wellness, and they’re becoming aware of how many dry options are out there. “In the past year, we have seen this industry explode because there’s such a need for it,” she explains. “If alcohol isn’t serving you, there are so many options that make you feel sophisticated, fun, and like you’re included in the party.”

Couples Can Help All Guests Feel Included With Mocktail Options - As you plan your wedding, it’s important to make all guests feel welcomed and taken care of, whether they’re fully sober, or even if they just don’t want to drink alcohol. In fact, going the extra mile to offer a special, celebratory non-alcoholic drink will make your big day thoughtfully inclusive of all—particularly for those who don’t feel comfortable explaining why they aren’t drinking. “Having beverages that go beyond water and soda is important, especially because there are dry wines, beers, and spirits that can help your non-drinking guests feel just as welcome to the bar as any other guests,” Sheinbaum says.

Kasten, who began her own sobriety journey in 2018, confirms this sentiment. “There’s nothing more boring than drinking water or a soda when everyone else around you is having a fun, festive drink,” she shares. “We’re so aware of people’s allergy restrictions and dietary preferences, but it seems like alcohol is still the one component that’s not quite there. When people do have sophisticated non-alcoholic options, it feels like a win.”

Ultimately, this shift toward intentional consumption will change the way couples, guests and vendors

approach alcohol’s relationship with weddings. “It’s absolutely time to normalize the mindset that you don’t have to drink to have a good time,” Sheinbaum adds. “Weddings are really about celebrating love and the couple’s partnership; they’re not about getting wasted. While drinking has been a big component of weddings, especially when there are speeches and toasts, weddings are about two people coming together, and you want to remember those moments. When there’s an opportunity to be fully present and enjoy yourself, you can’t go wrong.”

The Best Non-Alcoholic Drinks to Order For Your Wedding - Although it may seem like adding mocktails to your bar menu will hike up the price, that’s not necessarily the case. The first thing Sheinbaum suggests couples do is touch base with their venue or serving staff to inquire about including mocktail options within the beverage package. If you’re planning on having a signature cocktail, for example, ask if it’s possible to put an alcohol-free version on the menu too. “It doesn’t necessarily take much effort to ask in advance what kind of ingredients they have behind the bar, and it can really go a long way and make a huge difference when it comes to your non-drinking guests,” she recommends.

Another option for offering non-alcoholic wedding drinks is to provide your own. You should always talk to your venue before bringing outside beverages, as this isn’t always permitted. But, if your vendors approve, consider stocking the bar with a few of non-alcoholic drinks for weddings.



Sink-in comforts await in our spacious, residentially inspired suites.



Our comfortable spaces and inviting places are designed with your everyday needs in mind.



To the generous welcome that makes our house a Hyatt, and the spaces and places that make our guests feel more like residents. Relax in your suite or come down to enjoy our comfy spaces and inviting places that let your real-life routines roll on, even on the road. At HYATT house, you’re more than just a guest. Come on inside.




You’re not just a guest. You’re a welcome resident.




Fishkill/Poughkeepsie
100 Westage Business Center Dr.
Fishkill, NY 12524
845 897 5757
hyatthousefishkill.com

WE’RE BRINGING THE FUN TO YOUR PARTY WITH OUR GIF BOOTH.



Hudson Valley GIF Booth is an open air photo booth that makes any party more fun! Step in front of the booth, enter your phone number and get started taking your photo. Your GIF will be texted to you directly!



845-590-4453
INFO@HUDSONVALLEYGIFBOOTH.COM
www.hudsonvalleygifbooth.com

Fool-proof tips for penning perfect ‘Thank You’ notes

Courtesy of The Knot

You can't put it off any longer. The last slice of cake has been eaten, and you've even unpacked your honeymoon suitcases. It's time to tackle those wedding thank-you notes. The task of writing a personal wedding thank-you note to 100-plus guests is definitely daunting, but doable.

Your guests may have a year to send a wedding gift, but you, unfortunately, don't have that kind of time. For all gifts received before the wedding, thank-you notes should be sent within two weeks of their arrival.

For all gifts received on or after your wedding, you have three months to show your gratitude with a thank-you card. We've got a complete wedding thank-you note survival guide—think of it as a friendly handhold for every

step of the way—from wedding thank-you etiquette to how to write a thank-you note.

Wedding thank-you note prep starts months before you unwrap that first gift. Remember that guest list your whole family weighed in on?

Do yourself a favor and make a copy of it. Add a column for gifts and wedding thank-you notes. This allows you to keep a record of which registry gifts you've received (and from whom) while logging your note progress as you go.

Who doesn't love checking something off a list? It's easy to think you've already sent a thank-you for your wedding gift when you're penning so many notes—trust us. Best of all, you won't have to hunt for your cousin's mailing address.

Easy ways to make your guests happy

Courtesy of The Knot

Guests will undoubtedly gush over your gown, be amazed by your centerpieces and snap photos of the wedding cake.

But give them a charging station for when their phones hit 3 percent battery power or blister Band-Aids in the bathroom for when their heels start hurting, and your wedding will go down in history with the greats.



So our advice: Think about the small things that'll really allow guests to enjoy and celebrate the

day with you. Use these ideas below to impress them with that extra little touch.

- Pamper Them With a Welcome Bag
- Quench Their Thirst With Pre-Ceremony Refreshments
- Warm Them Up With Blankets
- Shield Their Eyes With Sunglasses
- Thank Them With a Note at Their Seat
- Feed Them Late Night Treats






Romantic walks on the grounds are just one of many amenities at The Garrison. Photo by DelConte Photography





what we do

wedding dj
charismatic MCs
intelligent lighting
dancing on the clouds
high end sound system
unlimited music library
customizable playlists
percussionists
vocalists
custom monograms

venue uplighting
mirror photo booth
open-air photo booth
360 video booth
award winning cinematography
drone videography
same day edits
LOVE letters
sparklers
co2 cannons



westchester | putnam | dutchess | rockland | nyc | ct
info@empiresounddj.com | 845.204.8511
www.empiresounddj.com



E & B Dance Academy

845-635-3341
www.everythingballroom.com

SAY I DO AT THE GARRISON

VOTED BEST WEDDING VENUE OF THE HUDSON VALLEY



THE GARRISON

Discover The Garrison, nestled in the heart of the scenic Hudson Valley. Our venue sets the stage for your dream wedding with breathtaking indoor and outdoor spaces, ensuring every moment is picture-perfect for your special day.

CALL NOW TO PLAN YOUR DREAM WEDDING | 845.424.3604 | WWW.THEGARRISON.COM