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Magazine & Website

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NORTHERN EXPOSURE

Navigating Your Nuptials With A Northern Arizona Wedding

Now that you've decided to have your wedding in *Northern Arizona*, you'll need some insider info on just who to contact to provide your wedding needs. *Arizona Weddings* has assembled a few suggestions and added in a few tips to help you create the perfect Northern Arizona wedding.

TEXT BY *Julie Lemerond*

PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Moments in Film Photography*



The stunning beauty of Northern Arizona can only enhance the joy of your wedding day.

The stunning beauty of Northern Arizona can only enhance the joy of your wedding day. Whether surrounded by the Red Rock glow of Sedona, or with a backdrop of snow-capped San Francisco Peaks in Flagstaff, a wedding in Northern Arizona is sure to amaze your guests with the beauty of the surrounding landscape.

DISCOVER YOUR OPTIONS

A good place to begin looking for vendors for your Northern Arizona wedding is the *Northern Arizona Bridal Expo*. Held each year at the *Radisson Woodlands Hotel* in Flagstaff, the Expo features all sorts of wedding and service vendors who will make themselves available to brides starting the planning process.

With over 50 vendors from Northern Arizona, out-of-town brides can consider this their one-stop shop to start designing the wedding of their dreams. Gina Leingang is the Group Sales Manager at the Radisson Woodlands, and helps to organize this event each year.

"With 75% of our brides coming from out of town, this expo can really help them find the vendors they are looking for," she says.

"We have everything from venues, caterers, event planners, wedding gowns, cake artists, invitations, salons, photographers, honeymoons, and so much more," she finishes.

The expo costs \$10 to attend and attracts brides from not just Northern Arizona, but also Phoenix and Tucson. Leingang stresses that her sales team continually researches the latest trends to ensure that brides have a wide variety of timely and current options to choose from when starting to plan their wedding.

VENUE VISIONS

Not only does the Radisson Woodlands hold the bridal expo each year, but they consider themselves experts in hosting weddings as well. Specializing in both ceremonies and receptions, they offer both outdoor and indoor options. The outdoor gazebo area is popular for sum-

mer and fall wedding ceremonies, and can also be used for a cocktail hour before the reception begins in one of the ballrooms.

Customizing the event to each bride's desire and budget is done with ease. Leingang works with brides to ensure that their day goes off without a hitch and that their every desire and dream is carried out smoothly.

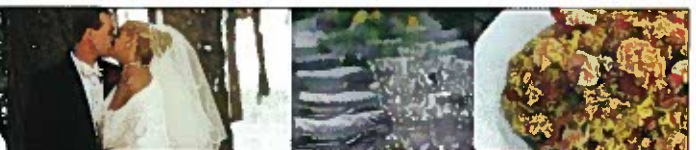
"We will customize each package to fit each bride. We believe each couple is unique and their reception should reflect that, which is why no two of our weddings are alike," she says.

The *High Country Conference Center* in Flagstaff is another popular option for wedding ceremonies and receptions. Accommodating anything from small weddings to upwards of 800 guests, couples enjoy state-of-the-art service and accommodations guaranteed to make their wedding day a success.

Bob Gamez is the Director of Sales and Marketing at the conference center, and says that they can handle all of your wedding needs at



Photos: Cameron + Kelly Studios



The perfect setting — Kiltie Lane

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their facility. "We have a dedicated wedding planner to help with decorations, entertainment, menu selection and all other wedding and reception details," he describes.

He adds that many areas at the center also offer beautiful views of the surrounding mountain ranges, an added bonus (or perhaps necessity?) for your Northern Arizona nuptials.

Just south of Flagstaff, Sedona is perhaps the most sought-after destination for weddings in all of Arizona. The *Sedona Golf Resort* offers spectacular views of red rock scenery with floor-to-ceiling windows in the reception hall. They can accommodate small and large weddings, hosting 20 to 150 people indoors, and up to 250 guests for an outdoor ceremony.

"Magnificent views of Bell Rock and Courthouse Butte provide a beautiful scenic backdrop for your wedding ceremony," says Janelle Sparkman, Event Coordinator at the resort.

"The Sedona Golf Resort Clubhouse is surrounded by waterfalls, panoramic views of the

mystical Sedona red rocks and meticulously manicured greens. It's the perfect location to host your wedding ceremony and reception," she says.

Another Sedona option for blushing brides is the *Sedona Rouge Hotel and Spa*. Specializing in smaller intimate weddings up to 120 people, brides can choose either indoor or outdoor options for the ceremony.

Patti Hunt, Director of Public Relations, describes the beauty of the hotel and how it has grown to become a picture-perfect destination for Northern Arizona weddings:

"Sedona Rouge Hotel & Spa is different from all other hotels and resorts in Northern Arizona because of its beautiful Mediterranean style and design. Guest rooms boast dramatic colors, rich fabrics and sensual Andalusia motifs."

Not only is the hotel a destination in and of itself, but the spa invites couples to indulge in the best of the best for themselves. *The Pas De Deux* entices brides and grooms with a luxurious couples massage followed by a candle-lit

bubble bath for two, sure to leave a lingering memory for the couple.

CATERED TO YOU

For brides seeking a more intimate wedding experience than at a hotel or resort, *Thornager's on Kiltie Lane* is a boutique catering company specializing in weddings and special events in Flagstaff. Ceremonies can be held outdoors surrounded by pine trees in a forest setting, inside the wood-beamed great room, or in front of an intimate wood-burning fireplace.

Owner Karen Sorensen describes the intimate experience couples have when choosing to have their wedding ceremony and reception at their site.

"Our guests always tell us they feel at home in our facility. We only book one wedding per day, which gives our clients privacy and security for their event, as well as allowing them to personalize the space to suite their needs," she says.

Thornager's also offers off-site catering for



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weddings held at private residences or public venues, and they are able to travel throughout Northern Arizona to cater your special event.

PRETTY AS A PICTURE

Michael Bielincki is the owner of *Missing Frame Photography* in Flagstaff. Specializing in edgy, non-traditional photography, couples are able to catch the essence of their personal style with the unique vision of the photographer.

Bielincki got his start in photography by capturing photos of bands, and two years ago started his company catering to weddings and portraits of pregnancy and infants.

The secret to his success? Keeping things simple. He prides himself on having a 'home-town mentality' when doing business. Making things easy for the couple and himself helps keep his business alive.

"The packaging and pricing are as simple as

possible. We give a CD of high-resolution images to the couple, which they can then share with family and friends. Very few photographers give that release," he says.

Bielincki shares his business with his girlfriend Tara. Together they team up to capture all the details of the wedding day.

"Early on the wedding day, when the bride is in one location and the groom is in another, we split up and are able to capture the experience. During the reception, having two photographers ensures moments won't be missed when many things are going on at once," he says.

CREATE YOUR STYLE

To ensure your looks (and your locks) are in tip-top shape for your wedding day, *Carrie's Day Salon* offers a bevy of packages for a busy bride getting ready for her wedding day.

Whether just needing manicure, pedicure, makeup and hair appointments pre-wedding,

indulging in relaxing massages, facials, body wraps and the like to calm your pre-wedding jitters, the stylists at Carrie's will help you look your best for your big day.

Their spacious studio even offers the space to host bridal parties.

Of course, these are just a few suggestions. For a more complete look at all the vendors available in Northern Arizona, plan to visit Northern Arizona in January and attend the Expo. You'll have the opportunity to visit at length with the vendors of your choice, narrow your options and begin planning the Northern Arizona wedding of your dreams. ■

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