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2024

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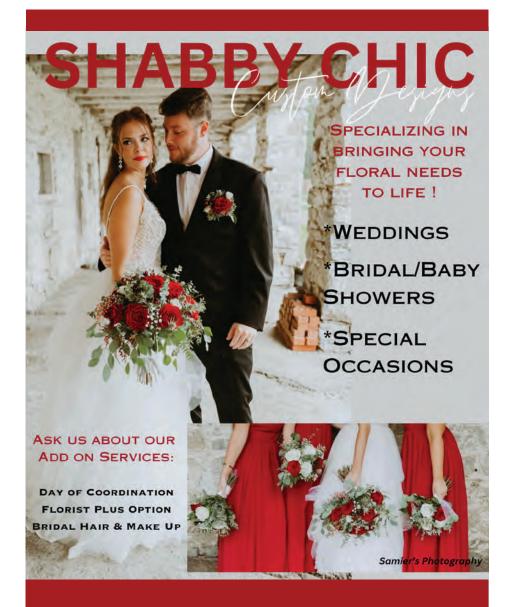
elcome to the first edition of the Ultimate Panhandle Weddings magazine, your go-to resource for everything weddings in the picturesque Panhandle of West Virginia.

Whether you are orchestrating an elaborate affair or an intimate gathering, we can guide you to discovering the finest venues, florists, caterers, stylists, photographers, entertainment services, and much more in the area. Uncover what makes the Panhandle of West Virginia the premier destination for your big day!

Inside, find the best dress styles for your body shape and what is trending this year.

Plus, explore stories of four couples who tied the knot in and around the Panhandle for inspiration on creating your own memorable day.

P.S. Make sure to check out our new social media channel and stay connected all year long @ultimatepanhandleweddings



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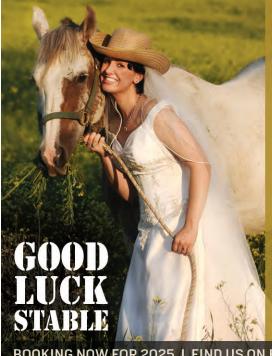
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How to find your perfect wedding venue

Now that you're engaged, it's time to figure out where you want to take the next big step - we're talking the setting for your "I dos".

From all-in-one venues that take care of everything, including the planning, party decor, catering, and more, to some of the more unconventional locations like Grandma's bingo parlor, almost any spot can become your perfect wedding venue. The beginning of a new life together is special and should be an authentic reflection of each unique couple.



Whatever style wedding you prefer, one of the first things you'll want to do is find your perfect wedding venue. With over 100 venue location in the Panhandle of West Virginia, how do you choose? Here are some tips to help you get started:

INDOOR AND OUTDOOR SPACE

Do you want both? If you are planning an outdoor wedding or reception (or both in the same location) – a plan B is always great to have in your back pocket just in case of inclement weather.

Consider the season and average temperatures during that time and location. Your venue may have a backup plan for rentals/events if bad weather does arise

NEARBY ACCOMMODATIONS

If you have guests coming in from out of town, it is helpful to have comfortable accommodations of all budgets available. Consider restaurants, safety of the area and proximity to the airport for people flying in. Even though a remote country location may be gorgeous in the pictures, it may present an extra

challenge for your loved ones to attend the event.

Accessibility for guests with special needs – check on the ADA accessibility for entrances, bathrooms, distance of parking to the venue, seating, etc.

PARKING OPTIONS

Depending on the city vs. country location of your venue, take note on where guests can park, how accessible cabs or ride sharing is, paid parking or potential shuttle options.

BATHROOMS

Consider the location and number of bathrooms in comparison to the size of your event. If you are having an outdoor wedding in a nontraditional location and there are no onsite options, the

location coordinator may have some creative options so your guests can enjoy their time in a comfortable way.

CURFEW AND PRIVACY

Depending on the location and venue, there could be strict rules in place about when you will need to turn off music/ reduce noise, particularly with outdoor locations. Privacy can vary depending on the venue. If a very private event is your preference, you may want to avoid more public locations or shared spaces where someone can watch from afar or wander into the event.

DANCE FLOOR

Some venues have a space for dancing built in, but some do not. If having a space to dance is a top priority, your venue may have additional options that can be included.

SET UP AND BREAKDOWN

A very important detail is who will be responsible for set up and break down of the event and when this will need to be completed. Some venues have multiple weddings in a day, so they may have stricter rules about the time availability of when you can set up and decorate, then tear down. Asking about the rules of the venue can also help you and your wedding planner develop a realistic timeline for the special day.

VIBES AND THEME

Your venue plays a huge part in the overall vibes and energy of your special day. It can be helpful to have a general theme in mind as you begin your venue search so you have the foundation to make your wedding exactly the aesthetic you want.

If you don't have a strong opinion or you truly have no idea where to start to identify the look and feel of your wedding, Pinterest can be incredibly helpful to figure out what you like and don't like.

Your intuition plays a big role in decision making so go with your gut after your site visit. Does the staff have answers to your questions? Do they seem like they will provide the level of support you are looking for? Are they communicative and responsive to emails and phone calls? Feeling comfortable is very important.

REVIEWS AND TESTIMONIALS

Past guests can have the best insight! Read reviews online for an unbiased feel on what people are saving (the venue's website will most likely include only the glowing feedback). Third party sites or reviews on social media are a great place to start. If you want a direct testimonial, you may be able to ask the venue for past clients or wedding planners to ask very specific questions.

DID YOU KNOW?

The average cost of a wedding in the Mountain State is \$16,167.

Your guide to finding the *perfect venue* in the Panhandle



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THE BARNS AT MAPLE VALLEY FARM

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CAPACITY: 150

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BIG CORK VINEYARDS Rohrersville, Maryland

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Martinsburg, West Virginia

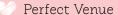
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historicjordansprings.com



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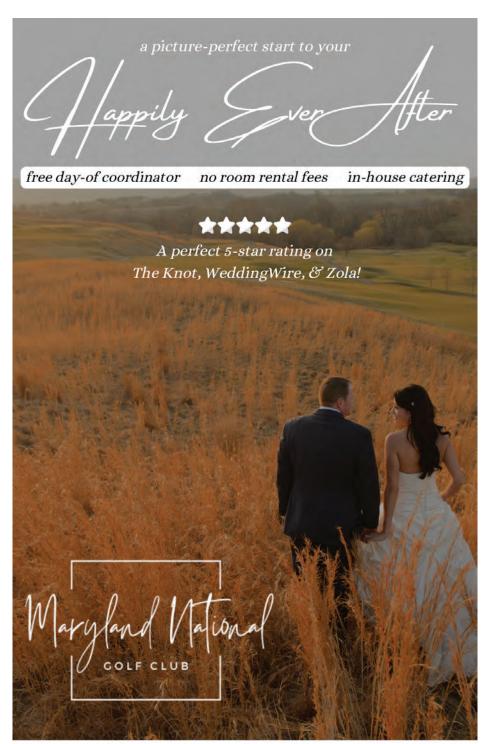
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COLORFUL FLORALS

Gowns with bold blooms will be everywhere this year. While floral motifs and wedding dresses are a classic pairing, colorful prints and splashy embroidery give this established trend a gorgeous refresh. To pull off this fashionforward look in real life, keep your accessories simple and let your gown do all the talking.

PARTY DRESSES

These looks are short on hemline, but big on personality. Whether you're eloping, planning a casual ceremony or looking for a good excuse to show off a killer pair of shoes, this wedding dress trend is for you.

SHADES OF BLUE

Move over blush, there's a new "it" hue on the bridal fashion scene. Blue dresses ranging from pale periwinkle to more vibrant cornflower are a standout trend. This color gives you the best of both worlds: It's simultaneously a stunning nod to the "something blue" tradition and is also a beautiful way to make a fashion-forward statement with your wedding dress.

STRAIGHT NECKLINES

While sleeves were all the rage for several years, the strapless silhouette is back – with some nineties-inspired flavor. This sharply angled bodice high-lights the decollete, neck and shoulders and is a true throwback. While this 2023 wedding dress trend is a blast from the past, straight necklines also work for pretty much every wedding style: Go classic with heavy satin, romantic with glitter tulle or sexy with form-fitting crepe.

BRIDAL SUITING

No gown? No problem. Do you want a look that's less fairy princess but doesn't compromise on the drama? These sleek dress alternatives are comfortable, figure flattering and totally of the moment.

Bonus: It's basically impossible to put on one of these tailored ensembles and not feel like a bad ass. For the 2023 bridal trends, crop tops, oversized bows and tulle trains gave the classic wedding pantsuit and jumpsuit an edgy vibe.

BALL GOWNS

Sometimes more is more. Although barely there slip dresses were all the rage last season, maximalist ball gowns took over the bridal scene. If you're looking to go opulent and over the top with your wedding day look, consider giving this voluminous silhouette a whirl.

HIGH SLITS

Va va voom. If you're looking to show some leg and elongate your frame, this is this year's wedding dress trend for you. Go full femme fatale with a curve-skimming silhouette that dares to bare or go timeless with a twist and opt for a formal ball gown with an unexpected thigh high slit. Wear a delicate strappy sandal to extend your leg line.

THE MOST
POPULAR
STYLE WEDDING
GOWN IS THE
FIT-AND-FLARE,
FLATTERING
ON MANY
DIFFERENT
BODY TYPES.

MOCK NECKS

Yes, queen. This high neckline feels inherently regal, and is a timeless way to give basically any wedding dress silhouette a more modest feel. Take a cue from the likes of Grace Kelly with a ball gown with a mock neck, or add



HOTTEST TREND BRIDES ARE WEARING BLACK.

With weddings back with a vengeance after coronavirus forced the cancellation of indoor events, brides are making their own rules. And what rules is black.

So many brides had to postpone everything during the pandemic. Now they want to break traditions, stand out, be unique and make a statement.

Aside from the dramatic, chic, showstopping unexpected look, black can be more flattering – and practical. If you're spending a lot on a dress, you want to rewear it.

balance to a sultrier silhouette with a more conservative neckline. Another thought? Get in on the cottage-core aesthetic with a ruffled dress with an equally frilly high collar.

OPEN BACKS

This 2023 wedding dress is bringing sexy back – quite literally. The bridal take on the slinky "going out" top, this detail is all about showing as much

skin as possible from the back. Our favorite part about gowns with open backs – they make your exit just as dramatic as your entrance.

THE LITTLE WHITE DRESS

If you have a playful spirit, a daring cocktail dress provides ease of movement so you can kick up your heels. Bridal designers offer an array of white party minidresses embellished with ornate details befitting the classic bridal gown.

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panhandle real weddings















HOW WE MET

Ashley and Chris met through a mutual friend who coached him in football and her in softball. "We got engaged at The Barns at Maple Valley. Our families were there with a small set up.

THE WEDDING

One hundred seventy-five guests, and a 12-person wedding party helped the couple celebrate their September wedding at Crystal View Farm in Martinsburg.







The wedding venue was beautiful with so many unique features to it. "It was the perfect rustic fall wedding venue including a ceremony location outdoors with a waterfall behind the alter." The couple's theme was rustic with accents of terracotta and navy blue.

"Honestly my favorite part of our wedding day was the whole thing. I can't pick a specific part because it all played a role in making the day amazing."

If the couple could give any advice to couples getting married it would be to "take your time and enjoy the process. It will come and go so quickly. It will all come together at the end so try not to stress the little things."

Ashley is a bartender and Chris is an electrician. The couple currently reside in Bunker Hill.

THE MOMENTS

FIRST DANCE SONG: "Forever" by

Chris Brown

HONEYMOON: Pigeon Forge, Tennessee









Honestly my favorite part of our wedding day was the whole thing," the bride shared.



PHOTOGRAPHER Emanuel Marcel-Rene

Photography

CATERER

Toni Milbourne

ENTERTAINMENT

Let The Good Times Roll



















THE PROPOSAL

Anna and Clay met at Shepherd University their freshman year on the tennis team. "We played in a mixed doubles tournament together and the rest is history! We spent every day together at Shepherd University studying, playing tennis, and getting to know each other. We knew we had found each other's soulmate. We have been together eight years and got engaged at Hilton Head, South Carolina on a getaway vacation. Hilton Head was always a traditional spot for us to be since we started dating."

THE WEDDING

One hundred and ten guests, plus a 14-person wedding party helped the couple celebrate their September wedding at Wild Goose Farm in Shepherdstown. "We chose the venue because it is close to Shepherd University and reminded us of where we met. The barn had such a cozy, warm, family feel – exactly what we





envisioned for our big day. We wanted our family and friends to feel comfortable and have an intimate space on our wedding day.

The couple chose fall colors including rustic oranges, mustard yellow, eucalyptus green, rust, and mulberry for the ultimate fall vibes. The colors really popped with the overcast, stormy sky. "We got married during a tropical storm. It was incredible to have a rainy day, but with gaps in the storm for us to run outside and snap intimate and memorable moments. We had so much fun dancing in the rain and taking pictures that will last a lifetime!"

Anna is a first grade elementary school teacher at Marlowe Elementary in Martinsburg. Clay is pursuing a career in mobile app development. They currently reside in Martinsburg.

THE MOMENTS

FIRST DANCE SONG: "You" (Acoustic

Version) by Dan+Shay **HONEYMOON:** Hawaii











We got married during a tropical storm and one of my favorite memories was dancing in the rain during our photographs," the bride shares.



Wild Goose Farm

PLANNER

Sarah Sarro

PHOTOGRAPHER

A Natural Portrayal Photography

CATERING

The Catering Company

SUITS

Ingram's Suits

ENTERTAINMENT

Shew-sical Entertainment Services

















HOW THEY MET

April and Brad met in the Summer of 2017. April's oldest daughter was friends with Brad's son and informed April that his dad was single. "He is going to message you and you need to answer him," she said. April was very hesitant to answer his message and scoped out his Facebook, but after several weeks of chatting back and forth and calling each other they both realized how much in common they had with one another.

After about a month, Brad said he was coming home to take April on a date and if it didn't go well, he was moving back to Myrtle Beach. "We met at our local Mexican restaurant and I was not nervous at all. I felt like I just knew he was the right guy for me." When Brad came to greet April, he opened her door and without hesitation kisses her. "Every July, we go back to eat at the Mexican restaurant to celebrate our dating anniversary. We are so blessed that we listened to our kids and agreed to take the message."









THE PROPOSAL

"A few months before Christmas in 2017, we were in a jewelry store getting something cleaned. He asked me to look at this new designer and I did. I loved her line and the elegance of the diamonds. But that was all, I honestly didn't think much about it. Christmas morning Brad handed me my stocking and said 'Wishes do come true'.

THE WEDDING

One hundred and twenty guests, including a five-person wedding party helped the couple celebrate their October wedding at Greenhill Farm in Sharpsburg, Maryland. "We wanted simple, but elegant." The venue was the perfect spot with so much charm and beauty, yet not your typical "barn" venue.

"I wanted an October wedding where it could still be warm enough to have an outdoor wedding and the sunsets were vibrant and the flowers were still as colorful as the Spring ones." The color scheme was burgundy, navy and khaki.

"I had so many 'favorite' memories from our wedding, but my number one would have to be planning every step with my adult daughters. Having them with me and being as excited for me to get remarried is some thing I will never forget."

It was very important to the couple that they used all local businesses for their wedding. "All the vendors were special to us, whether a close friend or a local business, not just someone we randomly found. We both own businesses and found it incredibly important to support each other."

THE MOMENTS

FIRST DANCE SONG: "Right Down the Line" by Gerry Rafferty

Their song was not a traditional "wedding song", but it was very special to April as Brad chose it based on how he feels about her.







My advice would be ... this is your day ... plan your vision, see your vision and do your vision. It will mean so much more," the bride shared.

VENUE

Green Hill Farm

PHOTOGRAPHER

R and J Photography

HAIR & MAKEUP

Nikki Visions Vol. 1

CATERER

El Ranchero Mexican Restaurant

DESSERT

Little Bees Sweet Shop

CHARCUTERIE BOARD

Boards by Melynda

ATTIRE

J and B Bridals & Formals Men's Wearhouse

DECOR

Kesecker Builders

FLOWERS

Shabby Chic Custom Design

ENTERTAINMENT

DJ Myke Nyce

GUEST BOOK

Making Memories

OFFICIANT

Sara Panek











HOW WE MET

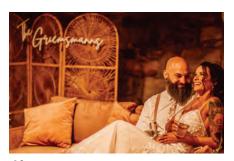
"Well if this isn't the most romantic story of all time ... a real fairytale. Picture this, I was sitting alone at the bar on the biggest party night of the year – Thanksgiving Eve. As I sat there, downing cherry bombs and lemon drops, I was wondering how my life came full circle. From leaving this area behind, living along the coast for years, to coming home, reuniting with old friends, and most certainly, drinking more than necessary. Suddenly, this extremely attractive guy comes up to me, and lays on this line 'we should go to dinner one night ... ever been to Nikkos?' That was it." Breanne laughed at the sub-par pick up and Alecander bought her a drink and walked away. Just enough to spark her interest. "I sought him out, bought him a drink, and we spent the rest of the night dancing, drinking, and laughing. The next morning, I wondered if he would even remember the offer." A few days later they went on their first date and the rest is history.











THE PROPOSAL

On the day of Breanne's parent's wedding anniversary, Alec arranged for a couple's photo shoot in one of her favorite towns. It was storming all morning and they planned to reschedule, but as the clouds cleared away they decided to just go for it. It was misting, cold, windy, and Alec wanted nothing more than to go out on the slippery rocks before the photographer even had her equipment. "Me, being the strong willed and argumentative woman that I am, adamantly refused, confused as to why he wanted to go out there so badly. At this point he just blurted out 'you're getting proposed to – go get on the rocks.' We both laughed at the undeniably "imperfect" situation, but I would say yes, over and over again."

THE WEDDING

One hundred and forty family and friends, including a eight-person wedding party helped the couple celebrate in September at The Goldfish Barn Event Center. The couple chose the venue because they loved the idea of a 'barn' wedding and the view of the mountains made it feel like home.

"There are so many memorable moments from our wedding day, from our first look and private vows, dancing with my dad, the champagne tower, and all the personal touches we were able to include to make the day ours! Not to mention our amazing wedding vendors!"

Bree is a wedding coordinator at Leiters' Fine Catering Inc. and owns Wildflowers + Whimsy LLC event planning and design. Alec is a store manager at AutoZone and a DJ. They currently reside in Hedgesville.

THE MOMENTS

FIRST DANCE SONG: "First Time" (Acoustic) by Seven Lions, Slander & Dabin







We both laughed at the undeniably "imperfect" situation, but I would say yes, over and over again." the bride shares about the proposal.

VENUE

The Goldfish Barn Event Center LLC

COORDINATOR

Peachy Keen Event Rentals & Design

PHOTOGRAPHER

Kristi Lynn Photography

VIDEOGRAPHER

Kevin Myers Films

CATERER

Leiters' Fine Catering, Inc.

CAKE

Urbana's Indulgence

GRAZING TABLE

Graze Ful

ATTIRE

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HAIR & MAKEUP

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ENTERTAINMENT

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INVITATIONS

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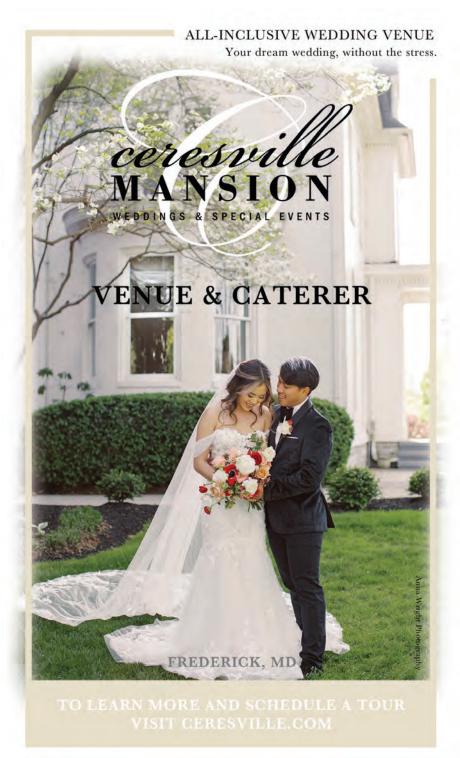


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WEDDING CAKE Rend'S



Besides choosing a style or theme, attire and many other details that come along with planning your big day, at the centerpiece of reception elegance are wedding cakes. Having journeyed from classic white tiers to stunning designs and flavors, wedding cakes tell the tales of couples' love and personalities.



BERRIES & CHERRIES

There's no reason to sacrifice on flavor and design. Combine the two for the perfect fit. A naked cake is the perfect fit for those who don't want as much frosting on their cake. But that doesn't mean it can't be dressed up to fit your color palette! To incorporate some pop of color, consider fresh strawberries and a bold strawberry drip.

A TOUCH OF RED

Make a bold statement with a crimson fondant confection – or take the subtler route and include red accents, like sugar flowers or cherries.

ELEGANCE IN SIMPLICITY: MAKE A FLORAL STATEMENT

Make your wedding cake grow – the allure of a simple white cake never truly fades. But this year, it's the intricate floral details that elevate this classic wedding cake idea. Whether adorned with delicate sugar petals, edible blooms, or cascading real flowers, these cakes embody a minimalist charm, drawing wedding-goers' eyes with understated elegance.



DAZZLE WITH DETAIL: TEXTURED FROSTING

Gone are the days when frosting was just a smooth finish. This year's wedding cake inspiration is all about texture.

Whether it's ruffled, ridged, or patterned in waves, textured frosting brings a tactile allure to cakes, making them as delightful to touch (and photograph) as they are to taste.





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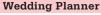
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