

# PHILLY IN LOVE

PHILADELPHIA BRIDES PLANNING AN AUTUMN WEDDING LOOK TO DRAMATIC VENUES, GORGEOUS GOWNS, AND SPECIAL AMENITIES TO HELP CREATE THEIR PERFECT DAY.

BY JESSICA GREEN

With its colorful leaves and crisp air, fall already boasts a scenic backdrop for a wedding. Whether your vision is full of classic features and traditional touches or you and your to-be desire something more modern and detailed, Philadelphia sets the ultimate scene. And while your venue choice puts your vision in place, it's all the small elements that make your day unforgettable. To enhance that vision, we filled these pages with all those special details—invitations, cake designs, dresses, flowers, and hotels—to make your dream wedding a reality. **PS**

Philadelphia newlyweds steal a loving glance outside Independence Hall.

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## BRIDAL Styles and Settings



Wedding gown, Berta Bridal (\$8,200; detachable train is \$1,100). *The Wedding Factor*, 114 N. 21st St., 267-861-0409; the weddingfactor.com. RIGHT: The wrought-iron Meudon Gate in the Rodin Museum garden is a popular spot for wedding ceremonies.

## All in the Details

A MUSEUM WEDDING IN THE HEART OF THE CITY IS THE IDEAL WAY FOR THE TRENDY BRIDE TO SAY “I DO.”

“Nothing says Philadelphia like a wedding at the Art Museum,” says Angela Malicki of **Angela Malicki Events** (347 Nutt Road, Phoenixville, 267-253-0573; angelamalickievents.com). “The [couple] can host the wedding inside or under a tent to create the ambience [they] dream of.” The main building of the **Philadelphia Museum of Art** (2600 Benjamin Franklin Pkwy., 215-763-8100; philamuseum.org) is the most popular area for weddings, with a seated dinner for 120 guests or a cocktail-style reception for up to 350 guests. Smaller weddings can be held in the Perelman Building, which, according to Camille Focarino, CSEP director of special events at the museum, “provides a contemporary yet classic feel in a sky-lit Art Deco space.” The third venue space is inside the **Rodin Museum** (2154 Benjamin Franklin Pkwy., 215-763-8100; rodinmuseum.org). “Weddings at the Rodin Museum have a more intimate feel,” says Focarino. “It offers a pristine garden and fountain surrounded by romantic sculptures from Auguste Rodin. The centerpiece of the Rodin

Museum is the white alabaster sculpture of lovers in embrace, aptly titled *The Kiss*.” A bonus for all space options: Catering is done exclusively by Stephen Starr Events.

Decorating any of these museum spaces is as simple as romantic up-lighting and tall tree-like centerpieces, says Malicki. “[It] brings the outdoors into an intimate setting—think Rittenhouse Square with the trees blooming.” She also suggests renting furniture and creating a lounge that overlooks the city (from the Art Museum) or the flag-filled Parkway (from the Rodin).

These grand surroundings often evoke the same sense of wonder that brides and grooms experienced there as kids. “Couples that come to the museum are often enamored with its cultural verve, and have childhood memories of being here,” says Focarino. “[A wedding here is] inspiring and sophisticated. The art and architecture offer an unparalleled setting for a special occasion. From the avant-garde to the classical, a couple’s personal style can be tailored with signature cuisine and design.” **PS**



CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT: “Grecian-style” invites, **The Papery**, 1219 Locust St., 215-922-1500; paperyofphilly.com. Embellished necklace, **Maria Elena** (\$712). **The Wedding Shoppe**, 503 Lancaster Ave., Wayne, 610-293-1299; weddingshoppe.com. Wedding band in 14k rose gold with .29-carat round-cut diamonds (\$1,050). **Golden Nugget Jewelry**, 800 Chestnut St., 215-925-2777; goldennuggetjewelry.com. Heel, **Manolo Blahnik** (\$1,125). **Saks Fifth Avenue**, 2 Bala Plaza, Bala Cynwyd, 610-667-1550; saks.com



PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARIE LABBANZ (RODIN); NATALIE PISERCHIO (INVITE)

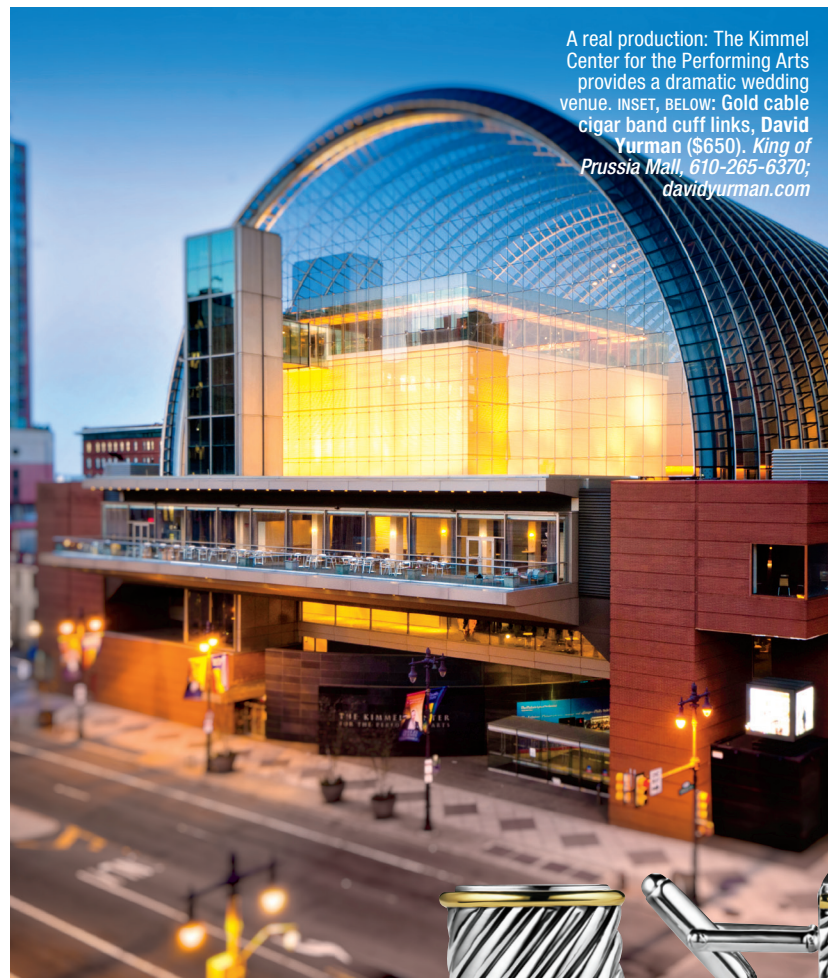


## BRIDAL Styles and Settings

Wedding gown, Theia (\$1,595). *La Belle Mariée*, 14 Summit Square Shopping Center, Langhorne, 215-860-6400; [labellemariebridal.com](http://labellemariebridal.com)



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Pearl clutch, **Judith Leiber** (\$2,295). *Neiman Marcus*, King of Prussia Mall, 610-962-6200; [neimanmarcus.com](http://neimanmarcus.com). Pump, **Christian Louboutin** (\$695). *Saks Fifth Avenue*, 2 Bala Plaza, Bala Cynwyd, 610-667-1550; [saks.com](http://saks.com). 18k white-gold 3.81-carat diamond earrings, **Gabriel & Co.** (\$9,955). *Bernie Robbins Jewelers*, 507 New Road, Somers Point, NJ, 609-927-4848; [bernierobbins.com](http://bernierobbins.com)



A real production: The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts provides a dramatic wedding venue. INSET, BELOW: Gold cable cigar band cuff links, **David Yurman** (\$650). *King of Prussia Mall*, 610-265-6370; [davidyurman.com](http://davidyurman.com)



## Modern Impressions

URBAN COUPLES WILL FIND THE VENUE OF THEIR DREAMS WITHIN THE WALLS OF AN ICONIC PERFORMING ARTS HOUSE.

Home to the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Perelman Theater, and the Academy of Music, the **Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts** (300 S. Broad St., 215-670-2300; [kimmelcenter.org](http://kimmelcenter.org)) is pitch-perfect for the city bride. The Kimmel Center features two venue options: the Perelman Theater, which provides the largest space, with room for 350 for a seated dinner, and the Hamilton Garden on the atrium rooftop. The atrium is a favorite of Christiane Lehman, owner of wedding planning firm **Truly You Events** (1530 Locust St., 610-745-8830; [trulyyouevents.com](http://trulyyouevents.com)). “With floor-to-ceiling windows on three

sides of the space, the natural light pours in on the hardwood floors to create a modern, clean canvas for any special occasion,” she says.

A memorable wedding Lehman helped orchestrate took a cue from the garden feeling of the Atrium. “Eight-foot-tall trees with twinkle lights lined the aisle and warmed up the ceremony space beautifully,” says Lehman. “For the dining tables, we worked with Garces Catering, the exclusive caterer for the Kimmel Center, to create an interesting, modern reception layout with a mix of rectangular and round tables.” The end result was a wedding that mixed city and garden together equally. **PS**



## BRIDAL Styles and Settings



Wedding gown, Nicole Miller (\$2,200). Nicole Miller at the Bellevue, 200 S. Broad St., 215-546-5007; nicolemiller.com



From 60 guests to 600, Valley Forge Casino Resort can accommodate any size wedding.



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Velvet bow-tie, Commonwealth Proper (\$125). 1839 Chestnut St., 267-319-1741; commonwealthproper.com. Floral arrangement, Petit Jardin en Ville. 134 N. Third St., 215-923-1600; petitjardinenville.com. Earrings, Adornia (\$895). Joan Shepp, 1811 Chestnut St., 215-735-2666; joanshepp.com. 16.14-carat pear diamond center cut set in platinum engagement ring, Forevermark (price on request). Morton & Rudolph, 1900 Marlton Pike E., Cherry Hill, NJ, 856-424-1101; mortonandrudolph.com

*“LIGHTING WILL PLAY A HUGE PART IN THE VIBE YOU’RE GOING FOR.”*

—SHANNON WELLINGTON

## A Winning Wedding

TWO BIG OPENINGS ENCOURAGE NONSTOP EXCITEMENT AT A SUBURBAN RESORT.

**Valley Forge Casino Resort** (1160 First Ave., King of Prussia, 610-354-8118; [vfcasino.com](http://vfcasino.com)) is a vacation destination for locals and out-of-towners alike. So it’s no surprise that the large ballrooms and extensive party options also make for a great wedding locale. “Valley Forge Casino Resort offers weddings for any style and budget,” says Jennifer Galle, chief marketing officer of the resort. “What makes us unique is the ability to offer five different ballrooms, overnight accommodations, and entertainment all under one roof.” The ballrooms range from intimate (maximum 125 guests) to grand (up to 590 guests), with each offering elements like a grand staircase in the Venue Ballroom and large windows in the Valley Forge Park Ballroom. Valley Forge has also recently welcomed some changes. Valley Beach Poolside Club, an open-air bar with private cabanas, a beach, and entertainment stage, is ideal for entertaining wedding guests before October. And Luke Palladino’s new steakhouse—LP Steak—will seat up to 205 people

inside the resort, and with a mix of fine dining and to-go menus, it is the ultimate spot for a rehearsal dinner or post-wedding meal.

The resort is also all-inclusive—a feature that Shannon Wellington, owner of **Bottle Pop Party Company** (20 Brandywine St., Chadds Ford; 158 N. Third St., 610-324-3091; [bottlepopparty.com](http://bottlepopparty.com)), a wedding, event planning, and design firm, says is the biggest perk. “We love all-inclusive locations like Valley Forge Casino Resort for the couple that needs convenience and a five-star wedding,” she says. “Your guests can stay at the hotel on site, go crazy at the clubs for your bachelorette party, meet up for dinners, and celebrate your entire wedding day without leaving the resort.” To make the day-of stand out from the rest of the weekend’s activities, Wellington recommends using your individual style. “We suggest getting creative with your color scheme and theme,” she says. “Lighting will also play a huge part in the vibe you’re going for and will make your florals shine.” **PS**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY STUDIO THREE PHOTO (BALLROOM)



## BRIDAL Styles and Settings



Higher ground: The Trump National Golf Club, seen here from the course's 18th hole, boasts panoramic views of the Philadelphia skyline.

# A Tailored Affair

ENDLESS GREENS AND SOARING VIEWS CREATE AN IDYLIC SETTING FOR A WEDDING ATOP A FAMED GOLF COURSE.

An elegant clubhouse wedding with a view of a golf course is sure to pull at the preppy couple's heartstrings. **Trump National Golf Club** (500 West Branch Ave., Pine Hill, NJ, 877-450-8866; [trumpnationalphiladelphia.com](http://trumpnationalphiladelphia.com)), located on the highest point in Southern New Jersey, boasts a ballroom with crystal chandeliers and a view of not only the golf course below but the Philadelphia skyline. "The couple looking for a classic venue will find a sweet spot in this beautiful country club setting," says Phyllis Jablonski, owner and CEO of **Eventricity** (115 Tennis Ave., Glenside; 4700 Drexelbrook Dr., Drexel Hill, 215-886-0202; [eventricity.net](http://eventricity.net)). "Photos on the grounds' indoor and outdoor spaces create a beautiful and welcoming entry."

Trump National offers two main packages that include an hour of hors

d'oeuvres and a list of hot and cold bites (think assorted mini quiches and shrimp cocktail), open bar, Champagne wedding toast, and a dinner selection consisting of options like Tuscan chicken and almond salmon. To decorate the space, Angela Malicki of **Angela Malicki Events** (347 Nutt Road, Phoenixville, 267-253-0573; [angela-malickievents.com](http://angela-malickievents.com)) suggests going big. "[Use] lush, large seasonal arrangements that complement the room [and] fabulous linens and table décor," she says. Jablonski suggests taking advantage of the views by mixing high and low centerpieces. Of course, all these details only add to the biggest feature of the space—the golf course. "[It's] great for the guys who want a golf outing before the big day," says Malicki. After seeing the vast views, we think the bride may want to take a swing, too. **PS**



Wedding gown, Carolina Herrera (\$7,990). Elizabeth Johns, Suburban Square, 46 St. James Pl., Ardmore, 610-649-8100; [elizabethjohns.com](http://elizabethjohns.com)



COUNTERCLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT: Pink ombré cake, **Bredenbeck's Bakery**, 8126 Germantown Ave., 215-247-7374; [bredenbecks.com](http://bredenbecks.com). Fragrance, **Miss Dior** (\$185 for 0.5 oz.). **Saks Fifth Avenue**, 2 Bala Plaza, Bala Cynwyd, 610-667-1550; [saks.com](http://saks.com). .26-carat micro-pavé emerald diamond center quilted engagement ring, **A. Jaffe** (\$2,200). **Benari Jewelers**, 3606 W. Chester Pike, Newtown Square, 610-355-1800; [benarijewelers.com](http://benarijewelers.com)

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF CAROLINA HERRERA (GOWN)