

# Wedding venues

LOOK BOOK

# City



# 3 ways to give your wedding 'wow factor'

Clever brides know the devil is in the detail when it comes to taking your wedding to the next level.

## EMMA KRIEGER

Congratulations! Not only have you found yourself a partner to share your life with, you've crossed off one of the trickiest parts of planning a wedding – finding your perfect venue.

Whether it's a rustic barn in one of our quaint country towns, a coastal locale overlooking the Freycinet Peninsula or a winery in the Tamar Valley, Tasmania boasts an abundance of amazing venues to host your celebrations.

Now you've locked-in your chosen space, it's time to theme up, get creative and up the 'wow factor'.

To do this, draw your guests into your narrative with a carefully considered colour scheme, inspire them with unique focal points, and add finishing touches in the form of some unusual twists.

## COLOUR ME HAPPY

White weddings will always be the natural choice for the traditional at heart, but if you want to stand out, colour is one of the simplest ways to make a big impact, while setting the mood of your wedding.

Whether you choose to saturate your decor in a wide palette that uses multiple complementary shades or keep the backdrop clean and light with just pops of one colour, go for hues that speak to your theme.

Blush, coral and lilac are romantic shades perfect for a springtime 'secret garden' affair, while metallics like copper and rose gold will suit an urban high-end event.

Incorporate your chosen colour into the standout items – your flowers, stationery and cake – as well as your table runners, napkins, place settings, and the finer details like *bonbonnière*.

## FANCY FOCAL POINTS

While all eyes will be on you throughout most of your big day, creating a focal point at your venue will make a lasting impression on your wedding guests.

Here are three ideas that will help draw the attention of your guests and communicate your theme:

### Flower walls

After Kim Kardashian and Kanye West exchanged vows in 2014 in front of a towering flower wall, brides everywhere clamoured to create fancy floral backdrops, but you can still make this charming feature your own.

Whether you use real blooms or artificial ones, floral walls can be created to suit your wedding style. For a lush, all-out design, cover your chosen wall completely with closely packed flowers of a single hue.

Opting for understated? Sparsely place vines and flowers to highlight a wall rather than cover it completely; pressed flowers on a white wall can also work beautifully to introduce an old-fashioned vibe for a classically themed wedding.

### Archways

No matter which wedding theme you have selected, an arbor can give your space added colour and structure. Arbors are easy to decorate yourself with flowers and fabrics, and are a great way of personalising the end of your aisle.

Pull inspiration from your theme, season or colour palette, and don't be scared to think outside the box. You could opt for a traditional floral archway or have fun with colourful oversized ribbons and bows, or even balloons, which can be custom made to suit, and given to younger guests to entertain them after the service.

### Signs

One of the simplest focal points you can opt for is a large welcome sign or banner. Use materials such as frayed linen, driftwood, chalkboard, mirrors, canvas, a customised LED lightbox or even a neon sign to welcome guests to your reception.

Seating charts, menus, programs, directions and special poems (or sentiments) are all further ways you can incorporate themed signs into your décor.

## UNEXPECTED ELEMENTS

Thinking outside the box when it comes to your finishing touches will help make your wedding décor memorable.

For a beach theme, consider adding a smattering of spray-painted seashells and empty wine bottles with messages inside them amongst your table settings. Or take it a step further and decorate your arbor to resemble the façade of a colourful beach box for a unique way to frame your nuptials.

Fell in love abroad and channelling a travel vibe? Use stacked vintage suitcases as a cake table, postcards for place settings, and source some map-print napkins and matching table runners.

Have fun thinking of interesting twists to typical wedding traditions, which say something about you. Love macarons? Substitute your cake for a mouth-watering stack of these delightful biscuits in your feature colour (or colours). Amateur photographer? Buy a beautiful frame, have your guests sign the mounting board (instead of a guest book), and choose your favourite photo from the day for the finishing touch. Why not hold the confetti, but have your guests light sparklers for a grand exit at the end of the night?

Cake bars and candy stations are becoming *de rigueur* for receptions, but you can still mix it up with a bubbles bar – complete with varying types of Champagnes and sparkling wines – or run with something else that better suits your culinary passions; an eye-catching spread of fancy cheeses, or fine chocolates would both work well.

## THE LATEST STYLING TRENDS WE LOVE

### Balloon installations

Balloons are undoubtedly having a moment right now. Cascading balloon clouds, balloon walls and balloon table runners are a simple way to add colour to your wedding décor, and for couples on a budget, they can be very cost-effective.



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## Suspended florals

Okay, florals aren't exactly groundbreaking, but using them in innovative ways can be: Suspended florals, hanging installations and super-tall centrepieces are all the rage.

Choose a floral cocktail for your signature drink served at your reception; cherry blossom martinis and lavender-pink peppercorn vodka sodas are both popular choices.

## Transparency

From invitations and menus to seating plans, and even the seats themselves, using lucite, perspex or acrylic materials can create a contemporary feel to delight minimalist tastes.

These transparent elements help to focus attention on your flowers and other colourful design touches, and can also make a small space feel much larger.

## Grazing tables

Suitable for any wedding theme, grazing tables featuring cheeses, fruits and spreads, dips, charcuterie, antipasto and thick crusty bread are a nice way to satisfy hungry guests post-ceremony.

Style up your grazing table with wooden boards in various sizes and thickness for a rustic look, or opt for marble slabs, glass platters and small porcelain bowls for more formal themes.

## Minimalist cakes

The seven-layer wedding cake with ornate pearl piping and cascading sugar flowers is a thing of the past. These days, couples are opting for understated minimally frosted cakes or even 'naked' cakes that are frosting-free.

## Scent

Scent is often overlooked when putting together a wedding, but it can really add that extra 'wow' factor. Think about laying down some lavender or rosemary at the entrance to the church, your ceremony aisle, or reception venue. As your guests walk in and crush the herbs, a beautiful scent will be released filling the whole area.

With a little creativity, you can add 'wow' factor, and make your wedding an event your guests will talk about for years to come. ♥



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(03) 6231 1165 | [info@etties.com.au](mailto:info@etties.com.au)

Jon Gazzignato Photography and Rosie Hastie Photography

