

# Boston

# THE BEST of BOSTON

The Best of Everything—More Than 350 Winners

WHY THIS IS THE FUNNIEST CITY IN AMERICA

PAGE 148

**PLUS:** Denis Leary, Conan O'Brien, and Jay Leno on the Bulgers, the Sox, and the City's Best Onion Rings

The Biggest Goofs, Gaffes, and Blunders in Politics, Media, Sports, and More

**AND:** Catch Him If You Can—The Epic Crime Spree of a Master Identity Thief



## Seaside Soiree

Maybe you used to vacation on Cape Cod or Nantucket as a child. Perhaps you have taken romantic trips there as a couple. Whatever the draw, Cape Cod and the nearby islands—with their windswept beaches, scenic vistas, and laid-back atmosphere—are idyllic settings for a wedding.

Imagine walking down an aisle of rose petals to a candlelit altar on the beach, surrounded by friends and family barefoot in the sand. The mood is casual but elegant, right down to the wedding party's attire. The men are probably wearing preppy navy blazers and khakis; the bridesmaids are in summery, tea-length dresses.

After the ceremony you move to a deck overlooking the ocean for hors d'oeuvres and cocktails. The waitstaff glides through with trays of Cape Codders, the cranberry juice and vodka cocktail named for the Cape. The main culinary attraction: a dingy filled with ice to create a nautical raw bar, brimming with shrimp, clams, oysters, and crab claws.

The décor should be simple, seemingly effortless—tiki torches, natural-colored linens, candles, seashells, and Nantucket baskets overflowing with hydrangea blossoms. Instead of place cards, guests find sand dollars inscribed with their names that direct them to their dinner table. Instead of numbers, each table is named for a local beach or lighthouse. At the end of the reception, loved ones gather to see you off as you make your departure by sailboat.



Photo by: Shawn Tomkinson



Photo by: Shawn Tomkinson

"People who come to Cape Cod for a wedding have vacation on their minds as opposed to formality," says Allison Wildes Liset of Elegant Engagements in Sandwich Village on the Cape, who has been planning Cape weddings for more than eight years.

**"People who come to Cape Cod for a wedding have vacation on their minds as opposed to formality"**

For wedding ceremonies on the beach, Liset recommends having guests stand instead of setting up chairs in the uneven sand. Most beaches on Cape Cod are open to the public so weddings may wind up competing with public crowds. To avoid being knocked in the head by a Frisbee, Liset advises starting a beach ceremony in the early evening when most beachgoers have left the beach. Even on a public beach, a \$15 to \$25 permit is usually necessary, so be sure to check with the city well in advance of your event to learn whether you will need a permit.

It is also critically important to consider the season of your wedding. Times to avoid: late July and early August when the heat and horseflies will make guests at a beach wedding feel like contestants on *Survivor*.

For couples in search of a more formal setting, Cape Cod offers countless hotels, restaurants, and clubs with spectacular ocean views. Some even have private docks where couples can arrive and depart by boat. With the right location, decorations can be minimal. "The ocean view is your décor," Liset says, "You don't want to compete with it."