



southern new england WEDDINGS

The 2001 wedding and event
guide for Rhode Island and
Southeastern Massachusetts
including Newport, Cape Cod
and Martha's Vineyard

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You Leave Me Breathless

Approximately 60 miles long and from one to 20 miles wide, Cape Cod is a land of rugged scenic beauty and New England country charm. Filled with mansions, inns, gardens, white clapboard churches and village greens, the Cape is an idyllic spot for your destination wedding. Featuring a host of world class amenities and seaside venues, the Cape offers a multitude of choices when planning your special event.

"The classic Cape Cod wedding is stunning in its' simplicity: Crisp navy blazers on the groomsmen, Nantucket baskets overflowing with fresh seasonal flowers, a seashell wedding cake, and the sand at your feet . . . this is a wedding that is always in style," explains Allison Wildes Liset of Elegant Engagements.

TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH A destination wedding on Cape Cod takes some planning. For brides coming in from out of town, a skilled wedding coordinator can make all the difference. Having already done hours of research and footwork, a wedding coordinator saves precious time and reduces the stress associated with planning a wedding and all the other events the wedding weekend may include. "As the majority of brides live out-of-state, many of their guests have never experienced Cape Cod. Creating an ambience of graciousness, the millennium trend is to host a plethora of events surrounding the wedding itself," adds Liset.

Jackie Pasiecznik of Unlimited Affairs confirms that the Cape is a popular wedding destination. "I would say that all the weddings I have done at the Cape have been from people coming in from out of town. Many have spent their summers here or have seen pictures or heard about how beautiful it is. They are looking for clambakes, rehearsal dinners and fun things to do amidst the wonderful natural beauty of this place."

If you are considering a ceremony on the beach, this may take some extra effort on the Cape, where much of the beach front property is privately owned. Says Pasiecznik, "Many people have a certain area in mind when coming to the Cape. Maybe they have visited as children or have family ties here. They want to go back to the area they remember. Sometimes, depending on the tourist season, places aren't always available. There are resorts, but not all are right on the beach. Some towns have certain requirements for how many weddings can be held or permits are required for certain areas." But Pasiecznik doesn't want to discourage, "There are of course a number of houses or private estates that can be rented for beach weddings. It may be a little more work to find those special places but the Cape and The Islands are worth it."

According to Liset, "Silver has become predominant in most Cape weddings. We've used silver in sterling champagne buckets filled with roses for centerpieces, antique silver serving trays, the bridesmaids' gowns, silver monogrammed individual wedding cakes, and seashell pendants and earrings for the maids – silver is everywhere!"

HOW DEEP IS THE OCEAN "Probably the most important consideration for a couple planning a destination wedding is where the guests will stay," says Kelley Nolan of the Popponesset Inn. Choosing a location with all the amenities helps make it easy. "We are located on New Seabury resort which offers villa style accommodations. A rehearsal dinner can be planned at our Beach or Cabana Clubs and after dinner, a cocktail reception for out of town guests. A golf tournament on championship golf courses can be arranged for a day, while others can enjoy the private beach overlooking Martha's Vineyard or escape to our tennis courts. A brunch to bid your guests a safe journey home is always a nice way to say thank you for joining us and making our weekend special," says Nolan.

The most important piece of advice we could give to a couple when it comes to choosing a reception site is to make sure the site fits their personality, style and their vision of how their day will be. Nolan adds, "At The Popponesset Inn, your wedding will take place in a truly unique setting. Overlooking Nantucket Sound, the Poppy Tent is perfect for an elegant yet casual affair. With our site being directly on the beach, it lends itself to simple decor which will complement nature's beauty."

Nolan suggests, "If you are thinking about planning a reception on the Cape you should reserve the date about a year and a half in advance. If you're willing to be flexible about the day of the week, or time of day, a year should suffice."

HOW HIGH IS THE SKY Amy Farrell, Director of Catering at Wequassett Inn Resort and Golf Club, offers this advice: "It is very important to send a 'save the date' card to all invited guests at least six months ahead of time. Be sure to provide a list of places to stay and things to do on Cape Cod."

When it comes to the wedding feast, Farrell likes to go with the flow. "We offer all 'style' wedding receptions. From a formal sit-down dinner to stations or buffet. Each style creates a different type of reception. Couples should give careful consideration to how they want the day or evening to flow. Stations offer a variety of food with guests helping themselves. Formal sit-downs are more traditional and very elegant. Guests can relax and enjoy the conversation without getting up and down. We prefer to 'design' the wedding according to the couples vision of the day. This takes some forethought and planning," says Farrell.

And when it's all over, Farrell adds, "Wequassett Inn offers a 'great escape' from the daytime weddings. Here the bride and groom can depart by motor boat, waving goodbye to their guests as they sip champagne."

SWEET DREAMS A wedding isn't complete without cake. "The most popular flavors here are chocolate and white, but lemon seems to be gaining a presence. One of our signature cakes is carrot. We seem to do a lot of carrot cakes in the fall. On the Cape, with most of the receptions outside, we tend to stay away from cheesecake and mousse cakes in the summer months because they just don't hold up in the hot sun," says Lisa Raffael of Delicious Desserts.

"Groom's cakes are definitely back. I always suggest they be served as dessert at the rehearsal dinner. Generally, the rehearsal dinner is hosted by the groom's family. The groom's cake with its special 'theme' design makes it a special tribute to the husband-to-be. I have also been doing more and more individual cakes, very elegant, very expensive," notes Raffael.

"I'm already booked for October 7, 2001 which is a Sunday," says Raffael. "So, it's never too soon. Booking a baker can be done even if the bride isn't sure what she wants. . . at least she'll have the date reserved."

STARDUST "Though known for its' exclusivity, it is Cape Cod's charming resort-like atmosphere that makes it unique," says Patti Lloyd of the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce. Lloyd urges "Couples to contact the chamber for pertinent and detailed information, regarding reception facilities, restaurants, floral designers, caterers, places of worship, justices of the peace, etc." To reach the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce call (508) 362-3225 or visit their web site at www.capecodchamber.org. The most popular months for a wedding on the Cape are May, June and September. You'll find that most seasonal restaurants and attractions are open from April through mid-October, many open year-round.



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*Countless unseen
details are often
the only
difference between
mediocre and
magnificent!*
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