

To Have & To Hold

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A publication of
Southern Lakes
Newspapers
WINTER
2023



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POPULAR & LASTING

wedding traditions

Weddings are steeped in tradition. Some of those traditions may be exclusive to particular families, but many others are embraced by families of various backgrounds.

Couples needn't feel beholden to popular wedding traditions, but some may feel that these customs make their weddings more fun and serve as a great way to connect their ceremonies with those of their parents, grandparents and possibly even their ancestors.

Old, new, borrowed, blue

The rhyme "something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue" is likely familiar to people about to get married. This traditional rhyme has existed for centuries and refers to items a bride should wear and keep with her on her wedding day.

The old alludes to a bride's past, the new refers to her future, the borrowed is intended to be something borrowed from a married couple or bride, and the blue is a symbol of purity, love and fidelity. These

items are traditionally given to the bride-to-be by family members or female friends who are already married.

Bridal veil

It's now up to brides if they want to wear a veil on their wedding day, but it was once a tradition all brides adhered to. Some trace the tradition back to ancient Greece, while others suggest the tradition began in the days of the Roman Empire. Veils were believed to shield brides from evil spirits on her wedding day, thus paving the way for a healthy and happy future.

Many brides still wear veils today, though likely due more to their aesthetic appeal than out of a belief that the veil will ward off evil spirits. Some brides still use veils to cover their face as they walk up the aisle, while others flip the veil over their heads.

Gifting knives

Perhaps one of the lesser known superstitions surrounding weddings, giving knives as a wedding gift is a no-no for some people. The origins of this

superstition are uncertain, but people who abide by this tradition feel that knives are symbolic of a broken relationship. That would likely come as a surprise to the many engaged couples who have a set of knives on their wedding registries.

Carrying the bride over the threshold

Historians trace this tradition, which Hollywood has undoubtedly helped to keep alive, all the way back to medieval Europe. Also inspired by a bride's perceived vulnerability to evil spirits, the tradition of a groom carrying his bride over the threshold into their new home was believed to keep the spirits from entering the home through the soles of the bride's feet.

Breaking glass

Couples break glass for different reasons on their wedding days. Within the Jewish faith, one member of the couple

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

TO HAVE and to hold

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On the cover: Photo courtesy of Rau Salon in Twin Lakes.



Did you know?

Getting engaged is an exciting moment in the lives of a couple. One might think that excitement would lead to couples hurrying their way down the aisle to tie the knot, but studies have shown that couples spend a significant amount of time between getting engaged and saying, "I do."

According to The Knot 2021 Real Weddings Study, the average engagement length among couples in the United States is 16 months.

Though those figures are likely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, which undoubtedly contributed to longer engagements as couples waited to get married until large gatherings were deemed safe, it's worth noting that lengthy engagements are not specifically a COVID-related phenomenon. In fact, The Knot reports that the average length of engagement in 2019 was 14 months.

Taking more time to get to know one another also seems to be a popular approach among modern couples, as The Knot Jewelry and Engagement Study found that three-quarters of all couples who wed in 2021 had dated for two or more years prior to getting engaged.

(METRO CREATIVE)



WEDDING TRADITIONS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

will stomp on a carefully wrapped glass to serve as a reminder of the destruction of the Jewish temples and to inspire reflection among those in attendance.

Italian newlyweds also may smash glass, but they'll do it with a little more gusto. Local tradition in Italy dictated that, at the end of the wedding, the newly married couple would smash a wine glass.

Folklore suggests that the number of pieces the glass breaks into indicates how many years the couple will stay together.

Tradition is part and parcel of many weddings. Some traditions are more solemn than others, but all can add something meaningful, dramatic and even a little fun to the ceremony.

(METRO CREATIVE)

Here to help

Local wedding venues and vendors create your perfect day

Planning a wedding can be a stressful endeavor for couples. Finding the right venue, caterer and theme are anything but easy. And doing it under budget is almost always impossible.

However, the Geneva Lakes Area is well-stocked with all the logistics needed to provide couples with the tools they need to create that perfect wedding.

The Geneva Lakes area offers a wealth of choices for weddings – from intimate to epic. Whether it’s an outdoor setting or an indoor event for 300, the area offers some of the best venues and services that will leave a lasting memory long after the “I dos” are uttered.

Read on for a closer look at a few of Spirit magazine’s preferred wedding vendors:

Venues

ABBEY SPRINGS

While there are several amenities that draw couples to Abbey Springs to celebrate their wedding, it is the lakefront wedding space that entices many.

Being part of a golf course community the grounds are impeccably groomed. The grass is green and weed free while decorative flowers, bushes and trees add to the beauty and serenity of the space.

The main clubhouse banquet room, on a hill across the street from the lakefront ceremony platform, will hold up to 200 guests and has a dance floor for the reception.

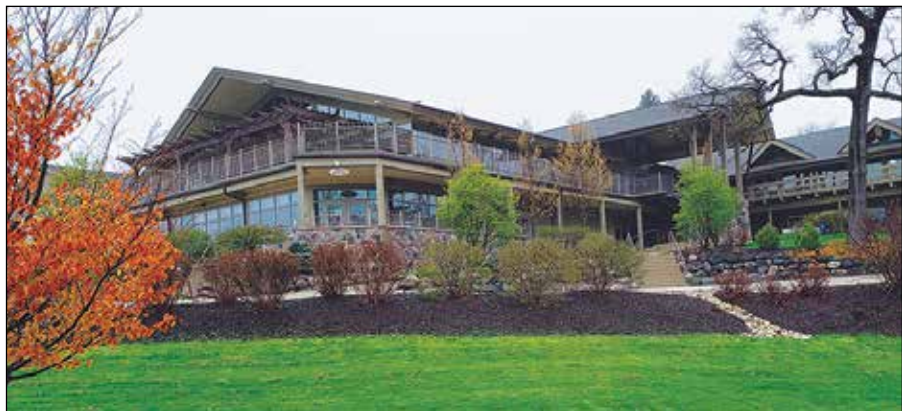
The elegant wooden bar, built specifically for this room covers an entire wall and adds to the ambience of the room. With its long bar, it will easily accommodate those ordering drinks.

Depending on the size of the event, it may be held at the waterfront in the white tent or in the ballroom. For smaller events the Yacht Club dining room may be just the right size.

Abbey Springs is at 1 Country Club Lane



COURTESY OF HAWKS VIEW Bridal Guide



SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ Bridal Guide

in Fontana. Reach them by telephone at 262-275-6113 or visit abbeysprings.org for a preview of the facility.

EVERGREEN GOLF CLUB

Evergreen Golf Club, just north of Elkhorn on Highway 12, has the amenities for the perfect wedding.

The main clubhouse is set on a beautifully landscaped hill surrounded by manicured lawns and plantings of perennial flowers and prairie grasses. Entering the reception area of the building, the view into the main banquet room reveals a spacious room with 15-foot ceilings and beautiful chandeliers. It is reminiscent of Frank Lloyd Wright’s Prairie style.

Many wedding ceremonies are held on the stone patio against a background of lush landscaping and a gently flowing waterfall. An indoor ceremony can be held right in front of the windows, taking

advantage of the landscaping in the background.

The reception room can hold up to 290. Evergreen offers both plated and buffet dining options.

Appetizers can be ordered to be butler-passed or to have stationary platters. Many of the butler-passed items are hot appetizers while the stationary platters include cheeses, vegetables, dips and bruschetta.

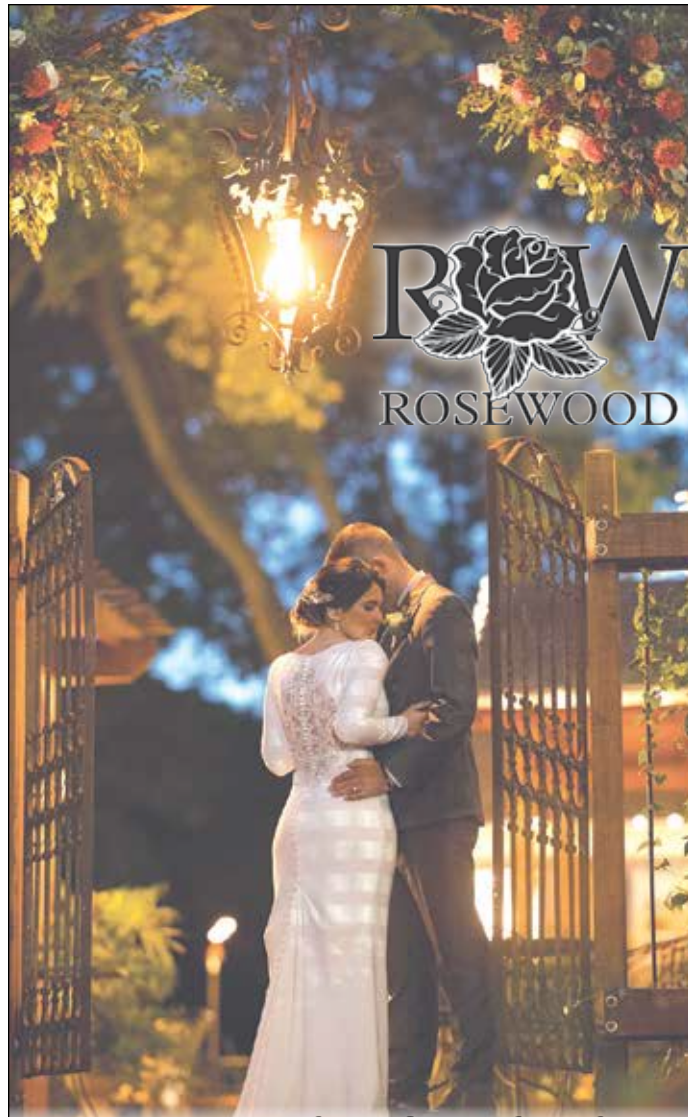
Evergreen Golf Club is at N6246 Highway 12, three miles north of Elkhorn. The telephone number is (262) 723-5722 or visit their website www.evergreengolfclub.com.

HAWKS VIEW

Because it is situated on such a vast, scenic landscape, Hawk’s View Golf Course serves as a picturesque spot for

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

top: The beautiful covered bridge at Hawk’s View is a favorite place to gather for formal photos of the bridal party or family.
bottom: The beautiful Abbey Springs Clubhouse is perched high on the hill providing a beautiful view of the golf course.



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WEDDING VENUES AND VENDORS

• CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

wedding ceremonies and receptions.

Among the amenities offered at the facility are:

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- Experienced on-site wedding consultant

One of Hawk's View's popular amenities is a 15-passenger shuttle bus that is available to transport guests for weddings and other functions.

Hawk's View Golf Club is located at 7377 Krueger Road, Lake Geneva.

For more details, visit Hawk's View's website at www.hawksviewgolfclub.com or call (262) 348-9900.

top: A group gathers in the vineyard to celebrate the upcoming marriage of one of their friends. The Staller vineyard makes a beautiful background for a bachelorette party. **bottom:** A special spot for a wedding ceremony is outdoors near the vineyards at Staller Estate Winery. Chairs with decorative red sashes are arranged to create an elegant ceremony venue.

COURTESY OF STALLER ESTATE WINERY *Bridal Guide*



STALLER ESTATE WINERY

If you are looking for a special place to hold a bridal shower, bachelorette party or a small wedding overlooking rows of grape vines in the Wisconsin countryside, the quaint and rustic vistas of Staller Estate Winery may be the location of your dreams.

Staller Estate is a small winery owned by Joe and Wendy Staller along Highway A in Delavan. The winery was started by the Staller family more than 10 years ago and has grown to become a special place to hold a special event.

The large sunroom and attached gazebo provide the perfect place to hold a

bachelorette party or a wedding for up to 120 people. These can also be held outside among the grape vines for a real outdoor vineyard experience.

Couples may choose an outdoor wine and appetizer reception or one served in the gazebo. For a more formal meal, the bridal party may choose their own caterer or be referred to the Black Sheep Restaurant where Chef Tyler Salisbery will arrange the perfect meal for you and your guests.

Staller Estate Winery is at W8896 Highway A, Delavan. Contact them at 608-883-2100 or visit www.stallerestate.com

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



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Caterers

STOWELL'S CATERING

While Stowell's Catering offers a very large menu, they will work with couples to put together a menu that is unique to them. If there is a special request, they will do their best to provide it.

Among the meats offered in their packages are beef tips with mushrooms and onions, roast or barbecue beef, ham, meatballs, chicken prepared in a variety of ways, turkey and polish sausage with kraut. Their basic package provides two meats and six sides for the buffet dinner but additional sides or meats can be added along with hors d'oeuvres for an additional charge.

With more than 40 salads, 10 potato choices and numerous appetizers, along with a variety of entrees, it would be hard not to find preferred foods on the menu. All of the items are made fresh onsite at Stowell's kitchen.

Stowell's is at W1127 Spring Prairie Rd., Burlington. Visit Stowellscatering.com or call for more information at 262-763-8316.

GINO'S EAST

Known for its Chicago-style pizza and array of Italian foods, Gino's East of Lake Geneva offers perfect solutions for rehearsal dinners, wedding day lunches and late-night pizza parties at the tail end of a reception.

Gino's also offers a private banquet room with space for up to 60 people to accommodate rehearsal dinners, bachelor/bachelorette parties and other gatherings.

The restaurant caters to a variety of venues in the Lake Geneva area, but its facility offers a lake view in the heart of the city.

Gino's East is at 300 Wrigley Dr., Lake



COURTESY OF STALLER ESTATE WINERY *Bridal Guide*

above: Sumptuous catered meals make a wedding at Staller Estate Winery special. **below:** The Red Tail Room is the main ballroom for large weddings. It can be set up to accommodate the needs of the wedding party. Here the head table is set up against a background of beautiful white drapery that can be up lighted in the color of the bride's choice.

Geneva. Contact them at 262-248-2525 or visit ginoseastlakegeneva.com.

Beverages

THE BOTTLE SHOP

The Bottle Shop features an event room to accommodate showers and rehearsal dinners.

It also includes a wine bar, offers regular wine tasting events and periodic live entertainment.

Couples are encouraged to book a guided wine tour as they set out to select the appropriate drinks for their

wedding.

The Bottle Shop is at 617 W. Main St., Lake Geneva. For additional information, call 262-348-9463 or visit thebottleshoplakegeneva.com.

BRUNO'S LIQUORS

Known as the largest liquor store in Lake Geneva, Bruno's has the variety and inventory to satisfy most tastes.

Its wine selection has few rivals in the area.

Celebrating a wedding or other special event? Perhaps a higher end bottle of wine is the right choice. A complete line of champagnes is also available.

A walk through the fine wine selections is like a walk through the wineries of the world as bottles of fine wines from around the globe can be found on the shelves.

Bruno's offers catering to weddings and special events and also provides a full selection of beer and premium cigars.

Bruno's Liquors is at 524 Broad St., Lake Geneva. For questions call (262) 248-6407 or visit www.brunosliquors.com.

Hair and Makeup

RAU SALON

Rau Salon has been caring for hair for the past 15 years. The salon is a full-service stop offering the latest in hair care, professional makeup applications, and nail care. The salon has multiple stylists available to provide services for an entire



COURTESY OF HAWKS VIEW *Bridal Guide*

wedding party.

At Rau Salon, high-quality professional makeup is used to help the members of the wedding party look fresh throughout the long day. Manicures and pedicures are usually scheduled the day before the wedding.

The salon can service up to 15 members of the bridal party at one time.

To add to the fun, the bridal party may bring in snacks and beverages, such as mimosas, to enjoy during their services. The salon will set up a table for the snacks.

Rau Salon is at 316 N. Lake Avenue, #A, Twin Lakes, 262-877-2188. Visit their website rausalon.com.

Jewelry

THE JEWELRY CENTER

The Jewelry Center in Burlington offers a full selection of wedding and engagement rings – including custom engagement rings and the largest selection of wedding bands in the area.

The store touts more than 300 years

combined customer-service experience in the jewelry industry and has been voted as “Milwaukee’s Top Jewelry Store” by the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel and the public for four consecutive years.

The Jewelry Center carries a variety of brands including LeVian, Swarovski, Pandora, Alex and Ani, Citizen, Movado, Lafonn, Triton and Lashbrook.

The Jewelry Center’s Burlington store is at 348 N. Pine St. For more information, visit shoptjc.com or call 262-763-8685.

Other services

PAT’S SERVICES

If you’re planning an outdoor reception, providing needed comfort for your guests in a must.

Pat’s Services offers the portable restrooms and washing stations your guests deserve at a wedding or other special event at an outdoor location.

Pat’s Services is at 38331 60th St., Burlington. Call 262-534-4988 or visit patsservice.com.

The banquet room at Evergreen Country Club can accommodate as many as 290 guests in a room that provides ample windows overlooking the lush golf course.

COURTESY OF EVERGREEN GOLF COURSE *Bridal Guide*



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How to build a wedding budget without breaking the bank

Wedding planning is a unique experience unlike any endeavor most couples will ever encounter. Much effort goes into planning a wedding, and that includes building a budget that ensures the big day will be fun without breaking the bank.

Most couples planning a wedding have never tied the knot before, so it can be difficult to determine a reasonable amount to spend. It's easy to go overboard when planning a wedding, and couples may find their list of wants and, consequently, their expenses, growing as they get into the weeds of wedding planning. Though it might require some difficult decisions, couples can keep these tips in mind so they can build a wedding budget that won't land them in debt after saying, "I do."

Determine funding

The days when a bride's parents would finance the wedding entirely on their own are largely a thing of the past. According to a recent WeddingWire Newlywed Report, parents now pay for 52% of wedding expenses.

As couples begin establishing a wedding budget, it's imperative that they first determine who, if anyone, will be helping them finance the big day. Fifty-two percent of wedding expenses is a significant amount of money, but in that scenario, couples will still need to come

up with roughly half of the money needed to fund their weddings. Couples without substantial savings may be forced to cut back in order to avoid beginning their life as a married couple in debt.

Make a list

Create a list of potential expenses. Location will be a significant factor when determining potential expenses.

For example, a 2022 ValuePenguin analysis of data from The Wedding Report found that the average wedding in Massachusetts cost roughly \$30,500 in 2020, while couples tying the knot in Arkansas spent around \$12,500 on their weddings. With such wild fluctuations, it's important that couples get an accurate estimate of how much it may cost them to get married in a given city.

Couples who met in a city and still live in a city but grew up in a suburb might save a considerable sum by getting married in their hometowns. Compare and contrast prices in locales you're considering, and then build your budget accordingly. This can help you avoid sticker shock and going over budget.

Notable expenses to budget include the venue, attire (i.e., wedding dress and tuxedo rental), hairstyle and makeup, entertainment, photography, and transportation, among others.

Decide what's important

Make a list of what's most important. Most couples will have to compromise in order to avoid taking on debt to finance their weddings.

An earnest discussion about what's most important to each person can ensure you both get what you want. Each person can make a list of their priorities, ranking them from most important to least important.

Once lists are shared, couples can see where their priorities converge and where they diverge. Any items that rank low on each person's list of priorities can be afforded less funding, while those that are high on each list can take up more of the budget, if necessary.

Set a limit

Commit to a limit before spending a dime. Committing to a limit before spending a dime can help couples keep wedding costs more manageable. Once that number is defined, couples can then work within its parameters, which can make potentially difficult decisions a little easier by narrowing options at a time when options can seem endless.

A well-planned budget can be just what couples need to begin married life on strong financial footing.

(METRO CREATIVE)



Giving brides 'yes' the best in saying

By **Jennifer Eisenbart**
STAFF WRITER

As customers walk into the second-floor space of Bon Bon Belle Bridal in downtown Burlington, they can't help but notice the open space, the abundant lighting – and the wall of wedding dressings for sale.

"We pride ourselves on really finding quality dresses," general manager Lindsay Webster said, in her second year in the job. "It's the most important garment that someone ever buys, really."

Webster said she joined the staff after having her own wedding at The Merchantile.

"I said, 'I want to be a part of that family,'" said Webster. "Two weeks after my wedding, I started."

Located at 425 N. Pine St. #202, Burlington – on the second floor of The Merchantile building – Bon Bon Belle has evolved over the years. Originally Christy's Bridal in a small store at 489

Milwaukee Ave., the store transitioned to The Merchantile space in August of 2017 after the former Schuette Daniel's furniture store burned. Shad Branen bought the space and turned it into a wedding venue.

"Our business skyrocketed," Webster said about the move. "We wanted more of that downtown loft kind of feel. We're finding that more brides want that experience."

The wide-open space on the second floor has six different dressing rooms, including ones with doors for those who want a more private and intimate experience. There are even two side-by-side spaces, which can and have been used for same-sex couples to purchase dresses without seeing what the other is wearing.

"We have them both going at the same time," Webster said. "We can see them, but they can't see each other."

The store is inclusive in other ways.

Dresses range from petite size 2 all the way to plus-size 34. Most dresses can be ordered in any size, and Webster suggests starting to shop for a gown nine months ahead of the wedding. A gown can take 3-4 months to come in.

The store does not handle alterations in store, but suggests a two-month window to allow for them to be done.

"Our motto is, 'everyone fits here,'" Webster said, who added that she had some trouble finding a plus-size dress for herself for her wedding. "It was a big thing for me when I started, that we had that inclusivity."

And the options are there. Trends with dresses vary, as Webster explained.

"It definitely goes in waves," she said. "Show off as much as possible ... and then everybody wants more of a flowy, boho look. You get the people who want to be more trendy, and then

Bon Bon Belle Bridal, at 425 N. Pine St. 202, in Burlington, takes advantage of a second floor, loft-style space with natural lighting so brides can enjoy searching for what general manager Lindsay Webster calls "the most important garment someone ever buys."

JENNIFER EISENBART *Bridal Guide*

the people who want to be more relaxed.”

The store has several lines that it trusts – so much so that Webster said they are really not being affected by supply chain issues. Among those is Essence Designs, which has several umbrella brands under them – and Bon Bon Belle carries all of them.

Most of the stores operate out of the United States, but the dresses are sewn in other countries to reduce the cost of labor.

The price points on the dress vary, ranging from \$1,500 to just under \$4,000. There are also trunk sales and the store’s semi-annual blowout sales to help brides who are on a budget.

If the bride says yes to a dress from the store, she gets a free gift and a champagne toast at Bon Bon Belle’s new “Bubbly Bar.” There are non-alcoholic options available for those who don’t want champagne. There are no service fees or cancellations for appointments during regular hours, and private bookings are available for a fee.



With weddings now coming pretty much year round – it’s more than just May to September, Webster explained – the goal is to cater to everyone’s diverse needs.

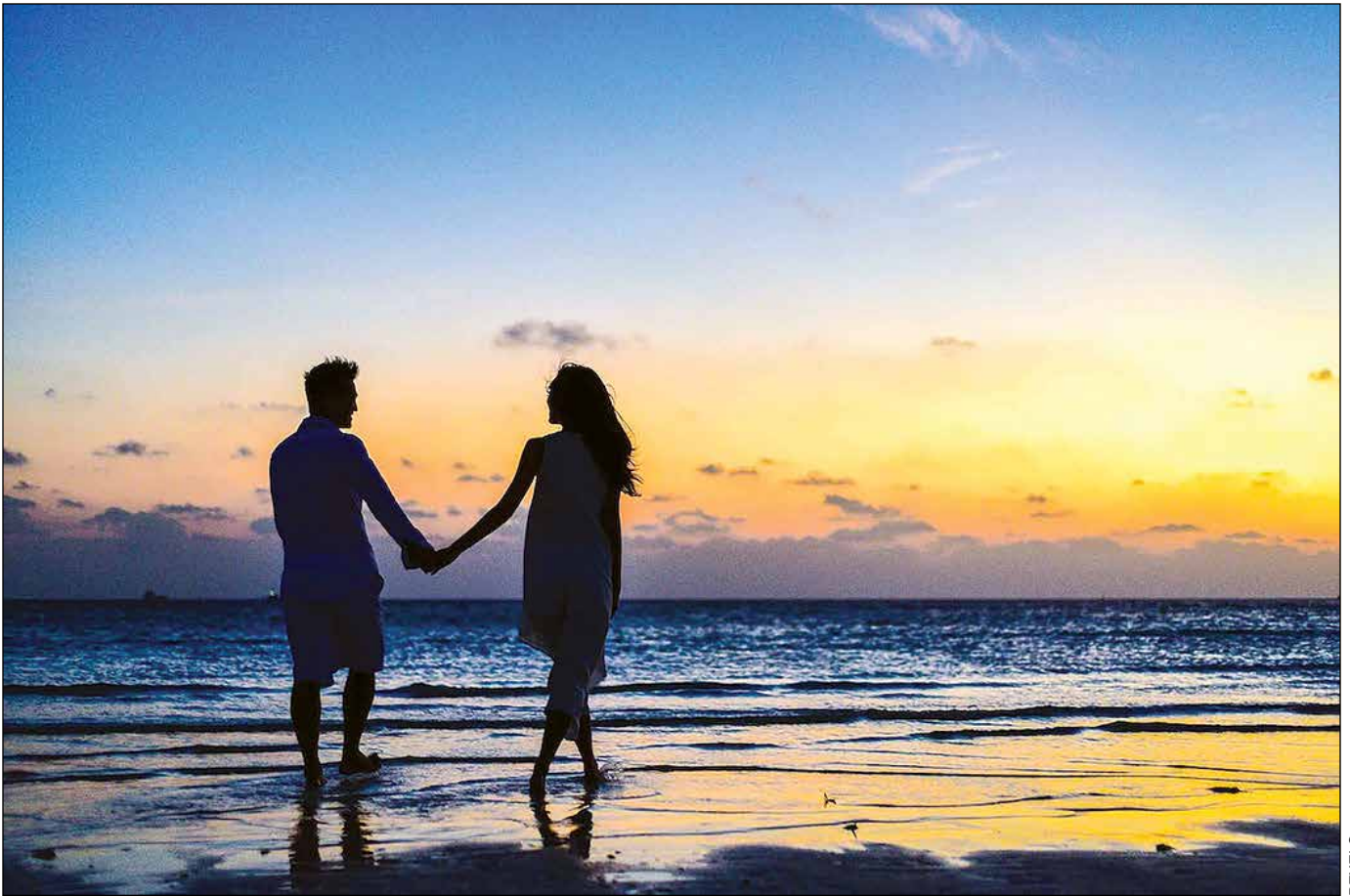
“I get to help brides find the dress they’re going to say ‘yes’ in,” Webster said. “Your ordinary day is someone’s extraordinary day. I love that we get to be a part of that.”

For more information on the store, call 262-767-8850.

at left: Bon Bon Belle Bridal has a special area where brides can celebrate picking their dress for their special day. **above:** The Bon Bon Belle Bridal “Bubbly Bar” is a new addition, where brides-to-be can celebrate selecting their dress with a champagne toast – or a non-alcoholic alternative.

JENNIFER EISENBART *Bridal Guide*





PEXELS

Honeymoon destination

GUIDE FOR INDECISIVE NEWLYWEDS

Loved up newlyweds have been told what each top winter honeymoon destination has to offer to help make their first big decision together a harmonious one and celebrate the joyous occasion stress free.

Holiday car rental experts at StressFreeCarRental.com have revealed what makes the best winter honeymoon destinations from across the world so special and why each might be the perfect place for excited lovebirds to walk off into the sunset together once the big day is done.

Booking the honeymoon is one of the most thrilling parts of getting married and is a moment that'll be cherished forever, but it can also be quite a challenge finding a location that will suit both partners.

Very often it comes down to the classic debate of either wanting to take a city break to explore cultural sights and adventure around different

towns or opting for a beach getaway to properly unwind and sip cocktails in the sun.

Top locations to embrace the relaxed romantic vibes include a break in Hawaii, while putting on the tourist hat and going sightseeing in central London will suit those newlyweds that don't like to sit still.

For those newlyweds who aren't quite ready to grow up and embrace adult life quite yet, renting a car in Orlando to drive from theme park to theme park might be just what they need feel that escape.

A spokesperson from StressFreeCarRental.com the best place for car hire in Orlando said, "Picking a place for your honeymoon can be one of the trickiest decisions to make as the possibilities are endless.

"It's all about narrowing down the different areas - affordability, weather and things to do, as well as deciding

which destination suits each partner's personality and interests.

"We've researched hotspot locations to visit this winter from Venice to Santorini where newlyweds can take their pick from an exciting city break or a relaxing pitstop in the sun."

Here are StressFreeCarRental.com's top winter honeymoon destinations:

Hawaii

A honeymoon getaway to Hawaii is one of the dream locations to visit, with the destination a firm favourite among couples in the United States.

With newlyweds having the choice of visiting incredible islands from Maui to Oahu, the islands benefit from warm temperatures during the winter period for couples looking to visit some mesmerising waterfalls in Manoa Falls or choosing to relax on the beach to watch the sunset.

London

The activities are endless for newcomers looking to sightsee in London, from Buckingham Palace, The West End and the London Eye. During the festive period, the famous Winter Wonderland in Hyde Park is a must-see destination for loved up couples to enjoy the magic of Christmas with hot chocolate and mulled wine.

Santorini

If you want to visit a warm destination and purely relax for a week or two, you can enjoy the deep blue oceans of the Greek island of Santorini.

The breath-taking views of the island from its unique architecture to the sight of the Aegean sea is perfect for those wanting to sit back on the sunbed in bliss.

Gran Canaria

The Canary Islands are a prime location to enjoy some Pina Colada on the Instagrammable dark sand beaches across the island. Gran Canaria has a range of delicious Spanish cuisine to try out and is slightly cheaper to visit during the winter season compared to



peak time in summer.

Florida

For couples searching for an exciting city break, they can enjoy the theme parks lavishly scattered across Orlando - which will have Disney adults in delight. Florida still benefits from warm temperatures, so those looking to tick off theme parks like Universal and Magic Kingdom can enjoy comfortable weather while getting some great pictures.

Maldives

Taking a trip to Maldives is ideal for

couples willing to splurge on a luxury trip away while benefiting from the warm winter climate. Scuba diving, snorkelling and pure relaxation is in store when you visit the Maldives and is perfect for those looking to unwind in the sun.

Paris

The city of love is a prime place to encapsulate the memories of a honeymoon together, by taking a cruise on the Seine River or visiting the iconic Eiffel Tower for a picture together. Paris has a long list of romantic hotels for couples looking to celebrate their honeymoon in this European hotspot.

Venice

For a city break in the other “city of love,” taking a flight to Venice to embrace Italian culture is the perfect way to enjoy the romantic ambience while visiting some fascinating landmarks. Have a look at booking a gondola to properly explore this grand old city. You could even do a half and half trip by spending a week in Rome to visit the Trevi Fountain and ancient Colosseum to make the most out of your city break.



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