



10 most talked-about wedding venues

You've heard the hype—now get the scoop on these top Washington, DC, Maryland and Virginia spots. BY CARRIE CHAMBERS

1 old town opulence

For an elegant Old Town Alexandria experience, let **Hotel Monaco** host your gala with beautiful backdrops like its charming sanctuary and enchanting interior courtyard. Invite up to 300 for a cocktail reception, or serve dinner to 180 guests. (703) 549-6080, **Monaco-Alexandria.com**

2 beach wedding on the bay

Say your vows on the beach, then dance the night away in the Chesapeake Ballroom looking out over the bay. The **Chesapeake Beach Resort** accommodates up to 250 people for a fully catered reception and will even help plan your rehearsal, ceremony and reception. Go all inclusive and choose from a variety of package deals! (866) 312-5596, **ChesapeakeBeachResortSpa.com**

3 rustic retreat

Say your I dos on the eastern slope of the Blue Ridge Mountains, overlooking the magnificent Loudoun Valley, then take your guests indoors for an intimate celebration at The Cellar on the lower level of the **Bluemont Vineyard**. If you're expecting a bigger crowd, The Stable at Bluemont can accommodate up to 200 people. (540) 554-2073, **BluemontVineyard.com**

4 garden gala

Brookside Gardens near Silver Spring offers picturesque indoor and outdoor settings year round. Celebrate with up to 250 guests under a tent in its fragrant, blooming gardens, or host a more intimate, light buffet in the tropical Conservatory. From April through October this site's shimmering ponds and classic gazebos are available to set the

scene for the wedding of your dreams. (301) 962-1404, **MontgomeryParks.org/event_centers/**

5 waterfront wedding

Wine and dine your guests as boats sail by and the moonlight sparkles through the large windows of **Sequoia** in Washington, DC. The nautically inspired restaurant overlooks the Potomac River, The Kennedy Center and the historic Watergate Hotel. The restaurant can hold up to 400 guests and also has several outdoor patios and balconies. (202) 944-4200, **ArkRestaurants.com/sequoia_dc.html**

6 go old school

You don't have to be a University of Virginia alum to rent out the **U.Va. Alumni Hall**, however, there is a discount for Alumni Association members. The Charlottesville site

has incredible space for large groups, like its 4,320-square-foot ballroom and a terrace more than half that size, looking out over campus. (434) 243-2665, **Alumni.Virginia.Edu/reservations/**

7 pier party

Want to get a little closer to the water? Give your guests a front row seat to the Potomac with a reception on one of the National Harbor piers. Over 300 acres along the scenic river set a romantic scene with gentle breezes, serene sailboats and amazing views of downtown Washington, DC. Choose from a list of preferred caterers and prepare for an unforgettable day. (301) 203-4170, **NationalHarbor.com/consumer/marina.htm**

8 serene sanctuary

The Mill at Fine Creek in Powhatan combines contemporary décor

with rich history and peaceful scenery. Hold your wedding inside the exquisite reception facility with its spacious balcony and wrap-around deck (accommodates up to 225) or take the party outdoors near rock formations or the historic gristmill, where Jenni and Huan held their ceremony (see page 84). (804) 379-8211, **TheMillatFineCreek.com**

9 magnificent mansion

The **Newton White Mansion** in Mitchellville offers an expansive floor plan in an elegant setting. This venue is ideal for ceremonies and receptions accommodating up to 300 people and boasts spacious interiors with wood floors and crystal chandeliers, a glass-enclosed atrium and a large brick patio that wraps around a beautiful fountain. (301) 249-2004, **PGParks.com**

10 charm city setting

For breathtaking views of Baltimore's Inner Harbor, floor-to-ceiling windows and a historic setting, the **Baltimore Museum of Industry** is a Best of Weddings favorite among Knotties. Invite up to 300 guests to celebrate in the gorgeous Decker Gallery or outdoors in the open-air Pavilion. Choose from a diverse list of pre-approved caterers. (410) 727-4808, Ext. 119, **www.TheBMI.org**