

Bridal Basics



SAN DIEGO MISSION COMPLETE

Brides searching for a five-star, hacienda-style setting for their wedding will rejoice to hear that after a 10-month closure and extensive \$30 million renovations, Rancho Santa Fe's luxury resort Rancho Valencia reopened its doors this past October. Located 25 miles north of downtown San Diego,

the picturesque Felicitas & Châtroux property (the only in southern California) underwent a complete transformation in all 49 guest casitas (think custom-made furniture, high-beamed ceilings, deep soaking tubs, and a private patio with fireplace and whirlpool) and added two new dining options, namely the coastal-ranch-influenced restaurant Vitaleña, which blends locally grown produce with seafood, poultry and house-made pastas. In addition to fine dining, brides and their bridal parties will love indulging in the newly expanded spa and fitness programs. Get your downward dog on in the impressive 1,000-square-foot Seventy Yoga Pavilion or unwind with one of the new spa services, such as the decadent signature Sixth Sense Ritual, which will have you reclining from head to toe. ♦ Rancho Valencia also offers a wealth of ceremony and reception sites. From the newly designed 1,900-square-foot ballroom to the private Sunrise Patio or the expansive croquet lawn. But the biggest reveal is the sprawling Hacienda, a unique 5,000-square-foot, three-bedroom villa that underwent a \$1 million renovation and is now home to a modern new kitchen, steam showers, plush living spaces and a private backyard with a pool. Ideal for as many as 180 guests, the cottage-style space even has its own private garden—perfect for saying “I do.” And with the resort's director of romance at your beck and call, every detail is handled, from the gorgeous flowers to top-notch catering. —Lara Barnap

The Golden Gate Bridge is the stunning backdrop at Cavallo Point.



SAN FRANCISCO

POINT BREAK

Good news for brides-to-be looking for a stunning Bay Area wedding venue: Cavallo Point, one of northern California's most breathtaking resorts, is offering discounted facility fees for Friday and Sunday weddings through 2013. The resort boasts luxury amenities, the serene Healing Arts Center & Spa, award-winning food by Murray Circle Restaurant, and on-site activities that include hiking Golden Gate National Park and complimentary yoga sessions. Situated at the foot of the Golden Gate Bridge, the views (and the wedding pictures!) can't be beat. Even better? Family and friends can stay on-site in a historic suite or contemporary hotel room at a discounted group rate. —Allyson Reedy

ORANGE COUNTY

Animated weddings

Brides looking for a lively setting will want to consider the new, ultramodern Chuck Jones Center, located in Costa Mesa's chic SoCo Collection. Owned and operated by the OC coberer 24 Carrots, the Chuck Jones Center is 6,000 square feet of blank-canvas event space. It's also home to the Chuck Jones Center for Creativity—an artsy nonprofit inspired by the animator and creator of Bugs Bunny and Daffy Duck. ♦ The venue is especially unique thanks to its movable gallery walls. Rooms can be shaped into countless configurations, separating the space for a ceremony and a reception or creating a makeshift lounge or kids' playroom. ♦ Since the facility is run by 24 Carrots, which also runs the restaurants Bistro 24 and 24 Carrots at The Michelson, the only thing that might outshine the setting is the food. “Everyone is asking for fun, interactive food stations,” says Laura Fabian, vice president of sales and administration for 24 Carrots. “Stations offer a bigger variety of food, plus, they create an experience.” ♦ Another trend that Fabian is seeing is the use of liquid nitrogen. “There are a million different ways we can incorporate it,” she says. “We can make fun cocktails with it at the bar, make instant ice cream and even make really cool garnishes for our entrée dishes. The possibilities are endless.” —Allyson Reedy

Chuck Jones Center is a beautiful blank-canvas wedding for your vision.

