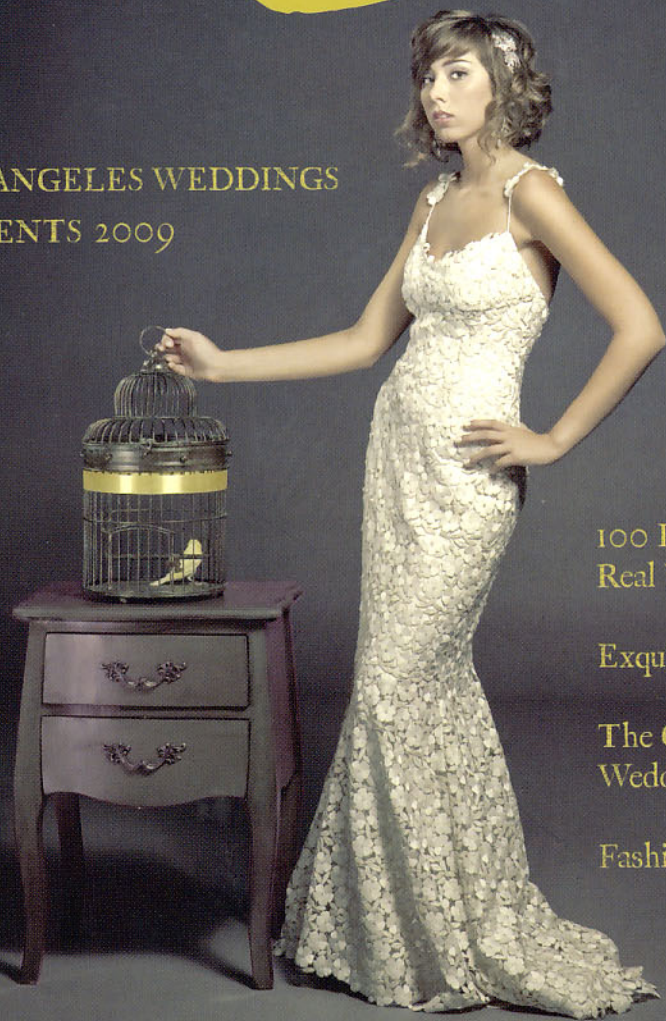


# Ceremony

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# Destination: *San Diego*

Las Vegas, Hawaii, Costa Rica, Paris...these are settings that come to mind when considering a destination wedding. Choosing the ideal location is an expression of the essence of the couple. A destination wedding does not need to occur far beyond home. Southern California's own "backyard" offers some of the most distinctive, attractive venues and vistas in the entire world. Convey your uniqueness without having to travel more than a few hours to nearby San Diego County. Have your cake, and eat it too; experience an intimate yet extravagant destination wedding weekend surrounded by your closest family and friends without traveling far.

## HOTEL DEL CORONADO

Coronado | [hoteldel.com](http://hoteldel.com)

The Hotel del Coronado exudes the confidence of cordial Victorian grandeur that is peerless. Its iconic red turrets pierce the deep blue-sky horizon for which California is known. The Travel Channel has named



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"The Del" "the number one wedding destination in America." The Victorian architecture, romantic beach views and world-class cuisine create premier surroundings for an idyllic wedding. Whether you envision something grand or intimate, traditional or cutting edge, unlimited options abound for the perfect weekend. Have your ceremony on the sand, followed by a sunset cocktail hour. Then, party away with an elegant reception in one of the beautiful ballrooms. After you and your guests spend the night in the historic hotel, enjoy brunch outside, followed by weekend beach activities.

## THE LODGE AT TORREY PINES

La Jolla | [lodgetorrey.pines.com](http://lodgetorrey.pines.com)

The Lodge at Torrey Pines has a view of the Pacific Ocean that is unsurpassed in its beauty. The Lodge is also adjacent to the grand Torrey Pines State Reserve: 2,000 acres of rare, protected Torrey Pine trees.



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The innate magnificence of the scenery draws couples to the venue while the unparalleled sophistication of the indoor and open-air function spaces ensures an elegant affair. The Lodge stands alone in its Craftsman style elegance; also standing on the 18th fairway and green. Start the weekend with a guys' golf round while the gals indulge in luxury at the spa that is

themed around sea, land and air. Complete the day with rehearsal dinner in either the casual Grill & Bar or the more sophisticated A.R. Valentien. Your wedding ceremony on the lawn overlooking the golf course can be followed with an intimate or grand reception in one of the warm, wood beamed spaces. At the end of the night, guests will be happy you had your wedding at a resort with such luxuriously comfortable rooms.

## RANCHO VALENCIA

Rancho Santa Fe | [ranchovalencia.com](http://ranchovalencia.com)

Rancho Valencia, an Auberge Resort, is a heavenly oasis. From the moment you drive through the gates leading to the front entrance of the resort, you feel as though you have entered a whole new



place; no wonder Zagat ranked the resort number five of the top 50 small hotels. A world away from everything, yet so close by, the luxury retreat is tucked away among 40 acres of manicured landscaping, blossoming gardens, soaring palm and eucalyptus trees and secluded courtyards with bubbling fountains.

Accommodations: With 49 well-appointed suites, there could be no better place for an intimate wedding weekend. After you check in and are escorted by way of golf cart to your secluded hideaway, prepare for pure tranquility. Reminiscent of early Southern California haciendas, each suite boasts 850 to 1250 square feet of charming décor and features, including Spanish tile throughout, exposed beam ceilings, plantation shutters, large bathrooms (huge, actually) fireplace and large private garden patio. It is easy to see why Conde Nast Traveler named Rancho Valencia to the Gold List 2007 with a perfect score of 100 for the accommodations.

Activities: Play croquet or bocce ball or practice your putting on the sprawling green. Rancho Santa Fe's perfect weather is almost always fit for a poolside cabana or simply relaxing on your patio with a good



book and glass of wine. The resort also has a renowned tennis program, a world class spa and playing privileges at four nearby private golf courses.

Dining: The Rancho Valencia restaurant is an experience not to miss. The French country charm and ambiance exudes romance while the food is

delectable. Be sure to indulge in the mesquite grilled diver scallops with calamari and polenta and definitely do not miss out on a most divine pinot noir, Roar, 2006 Pisoni Vineyard. Treat your bridal party to an evening where they will feel extra special: rehearsal dinner in the private sunrise room. Finally, guests will never want to leave the tranquil setting after breakfast (amazing eggs benedict!) on the patio overlooking the tennis courts and lush landscape.

**Wedding:** Oversized ballrooms are not this resort's forte. Instead, a sunset ceremony on the expansive west-facing lawn overlooking the rolling hills below is the ultimate romantic wedding experience. Tented or open to the star filled sky, the reception can continue outside. Or, for alternative intimate settings, hold your ceremony on the terrace with a sit-down reception in a charming adjacent room (for up to approximately 100 guests), or the enchanting patio with trellis, garden greenery and twinkling lights.

### ESTANCIA LA JOLLA HOTEL AND SPA

La Jolla | [estancialajolla.com](http://estancialajolla.com)

Nestled in the heart of Torrey Pines, Estancia La Jolla reflects the history of a former equestrian estate. The early California Rancho style—styled with exposed-beam ceilings, arches, outdoor fireplaces



and surfaces of distressed brick, plaster and ceramic tile—encourages relaxation.

**Accommodations:** Guest rooms exude the same warmth and rustic elegance portrayed throughout the resort. With 210 rooms and a location in arguably the most stunning city in the country, don't be surprised if your entire guest list makes it for your big day.

**Activities:** Bask in the sun at the courtyard heated pool, socialize with your guests in one of the serene outdoor areas, pamper your self in the 8000 square feet of spa indulgence (a favorite among locals), or delight in nearby scenic areas such as Torrey Pines State Reserve and beautiful beaches.

**Dining:** Mustangs and Burros – The rustic, Spanish rancho style bar and lounge with its stately brick outdoor fireplace serves up food and beverages that are equal in greatness to its atmosphere. The quesadilla con pollo is out of this world! Adobe El Restaurante – Its Southern Californian cuisine and rustic elegant atmosphere make a bold statement without being pretentious. Other wonderful rehearsal dinner options include Bodega Wine Bar or private dining in the library or a garden suite.

**Wedding:** The Garden Courtyard, with its manicured lawn surrounded by magnolia trees is a favorite spot for a wedding ceremony. The courtyard is designed for a bride's grand entrance with two tiled staircases sweeping down and meeting at a landing. Rose petals are strewn about leading to her groom who is standing in front of a trickling fountain. The Grande Room, with its chandeliers and Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired chairs, is particularly pleasing for smaller receptions. The spacious La Jolla Ballroom accommodates larger weddings while feeling intimate and warm. The included "Estancia Décor" (Fili D'oro linens, fine china and custom-designed flatware) makes a wedding exceptionally valuable considering you can have the finest in linens and china without incurring the added cost of rentals.

### IVY HOTEL

San Diego | [ivyhotel.com](http://ivyhotel.com)

A multitude of wedding options are available at Ivy Hotel; from a cozy wine cellar to groovy ballroom to the oh so chic rooftop. For stylish brides who want something fabulous but slightly less traditional,



this is not your mother's wedding venue. Ivy is all about being modern, luxurious and accommodating all wrapped up in a perfect package and tied with a chocolate velvet ribbon. Guests will love the ambiance of the rich, dark and warm interiors, the open air rooftop pool and the bustle of the "city life" from staying in the Gaslamp district.

### CATAMARAN RESORT HOTEL & SPA

San Diego | [catamaranresort.com](http://catamaranresort.com)

Mission Bay is the backdrop for weddings at Catamaran Resort. All fourteen of the event rooms are complemented by scenic views, balconies, patios and most of all – the beautiful bay front. The colonial Hawaiian architecture of the resort sets it apart from others. The Catamaran's 315 rooms and suites each have their own balcony or patio in which your guests can enjoy the tropically landscaped gardens and bay. The hotel boasts approximately 100 different varieties of palm trees and 1,000 different varieties of plants coming from all over the world. For a "backyard" destination wedding that makes you feel like you went all the way to Hawaii, Catamaran is the perfect setting.

