



VENDOR SPLENDOR

Here's everything you need to know about the top venues and wedding professionals in the city, from A (The Allan House) to Z (Zach Theatre).

BY CARLA AVOLIO
AND RAMONA FLUME



The Allan House

VENUES

THE ALLAN HOUSE

ALLANHOUSE.COM

Hidden in downtown Austin, this historic property features an 1883 Victorian home with an oak-shaded courtyard. Thanks to the Allan's bring-your-own vendors policy, couples can make this magical space their very own.

BARR MANSION

BARRMANSION.COM

With its pretty Victorian manse, lush lawn and glass-walled ballroom, Barr combines old-world charm with modern convenience. As of January, that convenience has doubled thanks to a new 3,000-square-foot screened pavilion—called the Farmstead—which makes it possible to hold both the ceremony and reception entirely indoors.

BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART

BLANTONMUSEUM.ORG

Design buffs take note: Receptions at this university art museum are held in the soaring Rapoport Atrium surrounded by the cerulean beauty of the "Stacked Waters" art installation, and guests are free to browse the downstairs galleries at their leisure.

BRAZOS HALL

BRAZOSHALL.COM

As well as being Austin's only downtown venue that can seat 500 guests, this raw warehouse building—boasting restored long-leaf pine floors, brick walls and wood rafters—is a blank canvas waiting to be transformed into a couple's dream setting.

CAMP LUCY

CAMPLUCY.COM

An idyllic Hill Country wedding awaits on this sprawling ranch in Dripping Springs. Couples can tie the knot either in a French colonial chapel, an ancient grove of illuminated oak trees and, as of 2015, a picturesque vineyard.

CHAPEL DULCINEA

CHAPELDULCINEA.ORG

Yes, rental of this beautiful but small stone chapel is mind-blowingly free. And yes, that also includes use of the Canadian Diamond Pavilion for champagne toasts at no extra cost. But it's Chapel Dulcinea's breathtaking views from its perch atop a cliff that makes this unique venue truly unforgettable.

COUNTY LINE ON THE LAKE

COUNTYLINE.COM

If the guest list is big but the budget's not, this popular barbeque chain offers a 120-seater marquee, expansive lakeside lawn, and good ol' Texan hospitality for down-to-earth prices.

THE DRISKILL HOTEL

DRISKILLHOTEL.COM

Built in 1886, this legendary downtown hotel is the last word in Old World opulence. Majestic rooms furnished with antiques can host parties of up to 350, while the wedding planners and exceptional staff can accommodate every other imaginable detail.

FOUR SEASONS HOTEL

FOURSEASONS.COM/AUSTIN

Like an impeccably choreographed ballet, the acclaimed food at the Four Seasons Hotel is cooked à la minute by an assembly line of chefs and seamlessly brought to guests through synchronized service. The private garden for ceremonies, set by the tranquil Lady Bird Lake, is also hard to top.

THE GRAND BALLROOM

1900-UNIVERSITY-AVENUE.COM

Located a stone's-throw away from two of Austin's most iconic landmarks—the University of Texas Tower and the Capitol—The Grand Ballroom includes an inner courtyard sanctuary for ceremonies, an award-winning restaurant and an unbeatable setting for photos.

HOTEL ELLA

HOTELELLA.COM

Boasting grand verandas and towering Ionic columns, Hotel Ella, which reopened in 2013 after a multimillion-dollar renovation,



Chapel Dulcinea

FROM LEFT: CHAD WADSWORTH; COURTESY OF THE NICHOLS; COURTESY OF PEARY PHOTOGRAPHY.



Hotel Ella

tion, exudes Southern grandeur. Couples can host their ceremony on the divine Ella lawn, and reception in the newly refurbished Grand Ballroom.

**LADY BIRD JOHNSON
WILDFLOWER CENTER**
WILDFLOWER.ORG

At this famous location, venue options are almost as abundant as the wildflowers that carpet its meadows. Choose from an intimate stone courtyard, a shaded oak tree “cathedral,” a climate controlled gallery and the new 4.5-acre Luci and Ian Family Garden, among many options.

LAGUNA GLORIA
THECONTEMPORARYAUSTIN.ORG

There’s a reason this romantic, Italianate villa was named one of The Best Wedding Venues in the country by brides.com in 2014. Not only do the 12-acre grounds brim with stone fountains, lush plantings and sculptures; they also offer unbeatable water views.

MA MAISON
THEMAMAISON.COM

French for “my house,” Ma Maison has quickly become the venue *du jour* since opening last year. The 23-acre property in Dripping Springs offers three outdoor areas for the perfect Hill Country backdrop, as well as the 4,000-square-foot Great Hall for a reception. Maybe best of all, Ma Maison already has a plan for rain—a covered trellis—so couples don’t have to worry about renting a tent.

MERCURY HALL
MERCURYHALL.COM

This charming, turn-of-the-century church—with stained glass windows and pure white walls—offers a little piece of the Hill Country in south Austin. After tying the knot beneath a canopy of 100-year-old oak trees, couples move to the stone courtyard

for cocktail hour, then on to the dreamy main hall for dinner and dancing.

THE SALT LICK
SALTICKBBQ.COM

Set on a 600-acre property in Driftwood, this famed barbeque restaurant is also an ideal place for a Hill Country wedding. Venues include the elegant Thurman’s Mansion next to a vineyard or the newly refurbished Pecan Grove. And yes, their just-launched Beyond Bar-B-Que menu offers superb dishes starring steak and even fish.

UMLAUF SCULPTURE GARDEN
UMLAUFSCULPTURE.ORG

Thanks to cascading waterfalls, rippling streams, quiet ponds and gleaming bronze statues, this peaceful oasis near Barton Springs comes ready-made with spectacular decor. And knowledge that event proceeds go towards Umlauf’s award-winning educational programs provides the final flourish.

THE W
WHOTELAUSTIN.COM

Spaces in this minimalist 2nd Street District hotel epitomize sleek restraint. Modernist-leaning couples will deeply appreciate the WET pool

deck, with its narrow turquoise pool, for ceremonies; the industrial-chic terrace overlooking Lavaca Street for cocktail hour; and the blank canvas-aesthetic of the Great Room for receptions.

ZACH THEATRE
ZACHTHEATRE.ORG

Make a dramatic statement with a wedding at this unique venue, which offers abundant indoor-outdoor spaces and large-seating capacity. Creative options include the Nowlin Rehearsal Studio with a wood-sprung dance floor, ceremonies and photo-ops in front of theater sets, and the 6,400-square-foot tented Bobbi Pavilion.

—CARLA AVOLIO

CATERERS

CATERING WITH A TWIST
CATERINGWITHATWIST.COM

Typified by the motto, “a deviation from the norm,” this uniquely Austin caterer boasts a retro-chic style with the capability to customize any type of cuisine (from Caribbean to Tuscan-inspired) and service style, whether it’s interactive appetizer stations or seated dinners.

CRAVE CATERING
CRAVE-CATERING.COM

This family-owned business led by a sibling duo is a full-service operation that spans creating customized food menus and assisting with on-site execution to the coordination of all rental items, like tables, chairs, linens and glassware.



Laguna Gloria

FROM LEFT: COURTESY OF HOTEL ELLA; COURTESY OF LAGUNA GLORIA; COURTESY OF WORD OF MOUTH; CHAD WADSWORTH.

CREATIVE CREATIONS CATERING
CREATIVECREATIONSCATERING.COM

Executive chef Jonathan Stoffregen has handled 5,000-seat dinners and is known to constantly research and update his repertoire. His team can also handle specialty cakes, floral arrangements, ice sculptures and entertainment services.

PINK AVOCADO
PINKAVOCADOCATERING.COM

This one-man start-up turned popular city-wide operation has become one of Austin’s best wedding caterers, with delicious, customizable cuisine and a sterling customer service reputation. They also offer kids’ menus, furniture setup/cleanup and bartending services, including personalized signature cocktails.

ROSEMARY’S CATERING
THERKGROUPEAUSTIN.COM

Serving Austin since 1972, Rosemary’s attests to creating “memorable events with a modern and creative edge.” Their range of in-house suppliers extends far beyond catering and into the realm of full-blown event planning.



Word of Mouth

ROYAL FIG CATERING
ROYALFIG.COM

This husband-and-wife team specializes in upscale farm fresh cuisine, sourced seasonally from local producers. Family-style service is Royal Fig’s specialty, but it can accommodate different preferences. Tastings are free for all potential clients, and Royal Fig’s mobile food truck can add a unique element.

WHOLE FOODS MARKET
WHOLECATERINGAUSTIN.COM

This catering arm of Austin’s favorite organic grocery store provides the same culinary standards, plus direct access to fresh ingredients, rental equipment and event-planning services. They’re adept at handling food allergies, dietary restrictions and special requests.

WORD OF MOUTH
WORDOFMOUTHCATERING.COM

A favorite amongst Austin event planners, these caterers have built their 30-year business on word-of-mouth recommendations. Extra perks include an in-house pastry chef who can handle top-notch desserts and wedding cake orders upon request.

—RAMONA FLUME

CAKES

BLUE NOTE BAKERY
BLUENOTEBAKERY.COM

Since the age of 17, Angela Jiles has been creating cakes that are edible art. Not only do her custom creations look spectacular—the Millennium Falcon from “Star Wars” is a hot favorite—thanks to her house-made honey rum fondant, they taste that way too.

COCO PALOMA DESSERTS
COCOPALOMADESSERTS.COM

Last year, former graphic designer Paloma Efron was the only Texan that made the Martha Stewart Weddings list of Top Southern Wedding Cake Pros. Her impeccably designed cakes adorned with astonishingly realistic sugar flowers, explain why.



Coco Paloma Desserts

MICHELLE’S PATISSERIE
MICHELLESPATISSERIE.COM

With patisserie training that started in her grandmother’s kitchen and continued under the tutelage of California-French chef Traci Des Jardins, Michelle Doyon learned the fundamentals of baking before moving into design. This may explain why even her fanciful grooms cakes are melt-in-your-mouth delicious.

POLKADOTS CUPCAKE FACTORY
POLKADOTSCUPCAKEFACTORY.COM

They might call themselves a “cupcake factory,” but this husband-and-wife operation is a one-stop dessert shop for weddings. As well as cakes in flavors like white chocolate and mixed berries with chardonnay, they can also make a dessert table brimming with iced cookies, meringues and of course, cupcakes.

SIMON LEE BAKERY
SIMONLEEBAKERY.COM

Having crafted custom cakes in Austin since 1996, Jad Simon and Judy Lee rank near, if not at, the top of the biz. They focus on elegant and classic designs, but no cake is beyond them. And their 3-D sculptures must be seen—and tasted—to believe.



Sugar Mama's Bakeshop

SUGAR MAMA'S BAKESHOP
SUGARMAMASBAKESHOP.COM

Austinites addicted to Sugar Mama's luscious cupcakes will be delighted to know that the in-house wedding consultant can arrange for your favorite flavors to be made into a show-stopping cake or cupcake tower. One Kardashian recently ordered a vanilla buttercream cake for her rapper husband's birthday. And if it's good enough for Kimye...

SWEET TREET'S BAKERY
SWEETTREETSBAKERY.COM

You won't find any multi-tiered, white-fondant wedding cakes coming out of Jackie McGrath's bakery. Starring unique flavors like raspberry cheesecake, chocolate salted caramel and strawberry champagne, her stunning confections are 99% buttercream-frosted, so they taste every bit as good as they look.

—C.A.

FLORISTS

BLACKBIRD FLORAL
BLACKBIRDFLORAL.COM

Owner Lea Wood's nature-inspired arrangements combine wild, textured designs with natural color variation for a timeless elegance. Her vintage and modern rental containers complete the look.

BOUQUETS OF AUSTIN

BOUQUETSOFAUSTIN.COM

With 19 years of experience working exclusively for weddings and special events in Austin, Stephanie Barro knows brides inside out. She brings the freshest flowers, classically beautiful design and exceptional service to every couple's special day.

DAVID KURIO DESIGNS

DAVIDKURIODESIGNS.COM

High impact design is what distinguishes David Kurio, who has been in business for more than 30 years. Demand for his majestic creations (think tree-sized centerpieces, fountains of white orchids and entire walls of leafy plants) sees Kurio designing for distinguished clientele nationwide.

ECOCHIC FLORAL

ECOCHICFLORAL.COM

Have the chicest green wedding in town with Natasha Madison's sophisticated and sustainably sourced floral designs. And, you'll feel even better knowing that Ecochic composts all plant material, repurposes all gray water and can donate your arrangements to local charities.

EXQUISITE PETALS

EXQUISITEPETALS.COM

The results are in: Austin voted this studio the Best Wedding Flowers in one online survey. Using the most lush and gorgeous floral, Beth Richard strives to meet and surpass every bride's expectations every time.

THE FLOWER STUDIO

THEFLOWERSTUDIOAUSTIN.COM

Leading a team of multi-award-winning designers, Coby Neal has himself earned the highest professional accolades in the industry. His 48 years in Austin also mean that there isn't a venue in the city he hasn't transformed from blank to wow.

MERVEILLE EVENTS

MERVEILLEEVENTS.COM

This atelier's whimsical, feminine arrangements are the vision of lead designer Amy Bodle, whose experience with major event companies has seen her designs appear at high-end functions, including Oprah Winfrey's 50th birthday party.

PETALS, INK

PETALSINKFLORAL.COM

It's no surprise that arrangements coming out of this Bouldin studio have an organic, fresh-from-the-garden style. Owner Gretchen O'Neil has planted her very own cut flower garden, where she grows delicate, hard-to-source varieties like anemones, zinnias and heirloom sweet peas.

POSEY FLORAL AND EVENT DESIGN

POSEYEVENTS.COM

With combined backgrounds in photography, gemology, fashion and interior decorating, Madeleine Landry and Bonni Taylor bring an uncompromising level of design to their floral decor. Luckily, they are willing to do more than just flowers. The pair offers event design help for every detail you can think of.

STEMS FLORAL DESIGN

STEMFLORAL.COM

The show-stopping decor by STEMS comes courtesy of a team of artists who bring every bride's vision to life. Beyond flowers, this full-service studio can coordinate every element of an event's design—from lighting to colors to layout—to create a cohesive look for your wedding.

UNEXPECTED ELEMENTS

UNEXPECTEDELEMENTS.COM

Brides can take comfort in Wendee Sawran's CV, which includes work for major hotels, destination weddings and owning her own event company. Her professional experience coupled with fabulous creative vision puts your wedding in safe hands.

—C.A.



Exquisite Petals



ATX DJ

DJs

ATX DJ

ATXDJ.COM

DJ Sean Alan brings a technical mixing background to years of experience and a love for music of all genres. He boasts a sterling reputation, from emcee services and a comprehensive song library to personalized must-play/do-not-play request lists.

DJ RICH

DJRICHAUSTIN.COM

This Austin native was raised on vinyl, and his passion shows through his turntable prowess and high-energy performances. He plays frequently throughout downtown's hottest spots, but his musical range (including original sequencing and mixing) can elevate the vibe of any wedding party.

GREENBELT DJ PRODUCTIONS

GREENBELTDJ.COM

This trio of live-mixing DJs has years of combined experience, having performed at more than 1,250 weddings. Their extensive music catalog, specialized lighting services and original sequences keep the dance floor packed all night long.

HILL COUNTRY DJ

HILLCOUNTRYDJ.COM

Another trio of DJs, these vets know how to deliver high times for wedding parties, with personalized playlists and experienced emcees. They're known for their customer service, on-site professionalism and energetic performances. They also provide customized uplighting upon request.

PENGUIN ENTERTAINMENT

PENGUINENTERTAINMENT.COM

Spinning since 1987, these award-winning DJs are natural hosts, combining musical mastery with enthusiasm, professionalism and well-timed humor. They can juggle any number of special requests, wedding night rituals and emcee obligations.

SPACECRAFT ENTERTAINMENT

SPACECRAFTWEDDINGS.COM

This DJ collective consistently receives rave reviews. Spacecraft's online planning tool makes song selections and special requests a breeze, but the experienced DJs also know how to read the crowd to make any executive decisions or genre switch-ups on the spot.

TEXAS PRO DJ

TEXASPRODJ.COM

This Austin-based group, led by owner DJ Miles, has an impressive skillset. They not only mike wedding officiants, but each DJ is an ordained minister—just in case. Their online planner provides a preemptive way to time your reception from start to finish.

—R.F.

BANDS

MATCHMAKER BAND

MATCHMAKERBAND.COM

Local 10-piece Motown/soul/funk cover band Matchmaker boasts some heavy-hitting vocalists and expert musicians (from sax to bass guitar) with a repertoire of crowd-pleasers. It's a modern way to celebrate classics as diverse as Frank Sinatra to Whitney Houston.

MATT WILSON BAND

MATTWILSONBAND.COM

The front man of this local band—a singer/songwriter piano man with a Broadway pedigree—offers gospel crooning tunes in addition to a classic catalog of rock and roll, R&B, blues and funk hits.

SAUCE

SAUCETHEBAND.COM

One of the most popular event ensembles

in town, this 10-piece group can deliver an entire spectrum of hits, from oldies and modern pop to Latin beats and 1970s disco. The band features Grammy Award winner Carlos Sosa on saxophone.

SKYROCKET!

SKYROCKETTHEBAND.COM

Creative cover act Skyrocket! is a seven-member band that really makes hits from the 1970s and '80s come to life. All the members are accomplished recording artists and have a powerful stage presence.

THE SPAZMATICS

THESPAZMATICS.NET

This nerdy group is one of Austin's most notable (and beloved) cover bands, known for its raucous live performances and contagious dance parties. They even played Andy Roddick and Brooklyn Decker's public reception.

—R.F.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

ASHLEY GARMON PHOTOGRAPHERS

ASHLEYGARMONPHOTO.COM

Award-winning photographer Ashley Garmon is supported by a talented team that helps shoot in her signature photo-journalistic style. The aesthetic is ideal to document any special day, from dress touch-ups to the last dance.

CAROLINE + BEN PHOTOGRAPHY

CAROLINEPLUSBEN.COM

This Austin-based husband-and-wife team specializes in destination weddings, so



Matt Wilson Band

FROM LEFT, CLAIRE HOGAN; COURTESY OF JOEY T. PHOTOGRAPHY; COURTESY OF MATT MONTALVO; COURTESY OF DWAYNE HILLS.

their talents have no geographical bounds. Their style is creative and unique, with an emphasis on special candid moments in both exotic and intimate locales.

CORY RYAN PHOTOGRAPHY

CORYRYAN.COM

Cory Ryan is the type of wedding photographer who showcases the contemporary chic in hip young couples, whether captured in urban or Hill Country settings. She's also available for engagement photos and destination weddings.

JAKE HOLT PHOTOGRAPHY

JAKEHOLT.COM

Married couple Kasey and Jake Holt believe in the old-fashioned product of photography: printed copies. All packages include a customized box of prints and a USB. No travel fees are included within an hour drive of Austin.

KIM MAGUIRE PHOTOGRAPHY

KIMMAGUIREPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

Shooting in and around Austin for more

than 15 years, Kim Maguire has developed an incredible portfolio of Texas "I dos." She has a real knack for intimate portraits and scene-setting details.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY VANESSA

PHOTOGRAPHYBYVANESSA.COM

UT grad Vanessa Escobedo Barba has become a fixture of Austin's wedding and portraiture scene, with an intimate, romantic style. Her blog is a reliable source of dreamy inspirations if you're still deciding on your desired style.

PRESSMAN STUDIO PHOTOGRAPHY

PRESSMANSTUDIO.COM

Suzanne Pressman says she fell in love with shooting weddings in 2011 and has been honing her signature mix of candid and documentary style ever since. Her other specialty is event photography, so she knows how to capture a festive moment.

SHE-N-HE PHOTOGRAPHY & DESIGN

SHE-N-HE.COM

This husband-and-wife team has nearly 20



She-N-He Photography & Design

years of experience in advertising and editorial photography. All packages include two photographers, unlimited photographs and online viewing and ordering. The recently launched HeDesign branch handles customized wedding invitations and print designs.

TARA WELCH PHOTOGRAPHY

TARAWELCHPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

Last year Austin photographer Tara Welch, who boasts a hip and colorful style that's full of personality, was named one of 30 Rising Stars of Wedding Photography by *RangeFinder* magazine. She charges no travel fees for weddings in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

PHILLIPS
EVENT CENTER

8140 Exchange Drive, Austin, TX 78754 | www.PhillipsEventCenter.com
CONTACT PAM GILMOUR (512) 982-9187 FOR MORE INFORMATION

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bachelorette barre-ty
Thinking of something fun and healthy to do for your bachelorette party that's also a great bonding experience? We offer private parties that can be personalized by the bride. Whether you'd like to combine your private class with food, goodie bags or a trip to the spa after, it will surely be a special and memorable experience.

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