

BRIDES & Grooms

FEBRUARY 2023

A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO THE WARREN COUNTY RECORD AND MONTGOMERY STANDARD

What's your perfect wedding day look like?

Innsbrook offers multiple adaptable venues, on-site catering, overnight accommodations and so much more! To see all the wonderful possibilities, visit innsbrookweddings.com. Our dedicated wedding coordinators are ready to help.

 **Innsbrook** | Schedule a Tour Today!

the knot
BEST OF
WEDDINGS
2023



HERMANN HILL

weddings + events

SCHEDULE YOUR TOUR TODAY &
EXPERIENCE FOR YOURSELF THE
HERMANN HILL *difference*

PHOTO: K. Brownlee Photography

Hermann Hill provides amazing Missouri River photo settings for your ceremony and reception, award-winning food and beverage service, two highly trained wedding coordinators, and a dedicated staff of bartenders and servers that will WOW your guests!

We're ready to make your dream wedding a reality! Let's set-up a tour!

165 MO-100 East, Hermann, MO | 314-800-3295 | www.hermannmoweddings.com



@HermannHillWeddings



Engaging Rings for 2023

An engagement ring is meant to last a lifetime, but there are definitely some trends year-to-year.

And if you think that the COVID-19 pandemic hasn't reached into even this market, you'd be wrong. Experts say that, after two years of postponements and uncertainty, more couples are tossing the rules and going with their gut when it comes to engagement ring purchases.

TOI ET MOI

Multistone rings, symbolizing the bond between bride and groom, are big this year. Double- and even triple-stone rings are popular, as are combinations with precious stones and pearls. "Specifically, the double stone visually showcases the coming together of two people," Katie Zimmeran, chief merchandising officer at Blue Nile, told Brides magazine. "We've increasingly seen people choose unique diamonds and gemstones to further elaborate on the love story that's being told with the two gemstones."

A three-stone ring can represent the past, present and future of the relationship. More stones also allow for more creativity.

COLORED GEMSTONES

Colorless diamonds are moving over in favor of bold, bright gemstones, with emerald, morganite and sapphire particularly popular options. Black stone engagement rings are also making a statement. When the "Sex and the City" reboot, "And Just Like That" aired, fans were reminded of Carrie Bradshaw's black diamond engagement ring. Onyx-hued stones saw an accompanying uptick in popularity.

BIGGER IS BETTER

When it comes to traditional diamonds, bigger is better this year, including bold shapes and halo cuts, where a ring of smaller diamonds surrounds a larger stone, packing a huge visual punch. Oval shaped stones are also more popular. The soft, oblong shape draws attention and makes the fingers appear longer. Oval solitaires, in particular, are a feminine shape with a timelessness that's attractive to today's buyers.

VINTAGE RINGS

In the same vein as thrifted and vintage clothing are vintage rings. Heirloom pieces are often one-of-a-kind, unique pieces that are a great expression of love for modern couples. If it's a family piece, vintage rings can offer an emotional connection to past generations. Add a modern band that compliments it and make it your own. You can also have a jeweler add a new diamond or other stone to make a special piece your own.



Wedding Wishlist

Bridal, Prom and Alteration Shop

1000 Warrenton Shoppes, Suite 3



Wedding Gowns, Gifts,
Dresses, Décor, Accessories,
Invitations, Favors, Supplies
and So Much More...

Homecoming, Prom, Mens &
Other Special Occasion Wear
Too!

314-831-3422

www.yourweddingwishlist.com

How to Get Registered

What's most needed? How much? And from where? Settling on the answer for these basic questions isn't easy, but they'll guide you through the process.

Your completed wedding registry will then provide everything required to begin married life, while perhaps even adding a few personal indulgences.

If you're unsure how to get started, or want to double check that you haven't forgotten anything, check out this handy list of "do's and don'ts."

DO

Create the registry together. This should be a shared moment where you and your future spouse mesh your own personal styles. Discuss color and pattern preferences so that these foundational gifts build toward a look and feel that you both find comfortable and enjoyable. Many vendors have created programs which allow any registry items that are left unselected to be purchased at a discount after the wedding — and that's another opportunity to bond.

DO

Set up your registries early and check in on them regularly. If you haven't registered when you announce the date, or haven't completed your registry, eager friends and family may purchase something from somewhere else that may not fit into your shared vision. As gifts are purchased, consider adding other things into the registry so that there are always gifts representing a variety of price points for other guests who may log on later.

DON'T

Overlook needed everyday items. You have your own space, and so does your future spouse. In some cases, you may already be living together. That can lull couples into thinking that they already have these common household purchases covered. But what about the pot with the bad handle, or those old bath towels that need upgrading? Now is the time to think about small luxuries like the thread count on your bed sheets.

DO

Register at multiple outlets. This is important because some of your guests may have a personal preference for a specific retail store. They also may live nearer to one store location, and prefer not to shop online.

DON'T

Request cash. Instead opt for a cash registry website like Honeyfund or Zola. They have the same look and feel as a traditional online registry, but offer you an opportunity to raise needed funds.

DO

Write personal thank you notes as promptly as possible.



*The perfect
Honeymoon is yours
when you plan your
trip with us!*

Time To Travel offers friendly, experienced staff, bridal registry, and destination consulting! Let us help plan your personalized destination wedding or honeymoon!

910 W. 14th St. Suite, 240, Washington, MO
636-239-3040 • 800-474-4545
www.time-to-travel.com

Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00am-6:00pm • Sat: By Appointment Only



Thank You Cards

This post-wedding responsibility doesn't have to be so overwhelming.

The challenge is getting started, in particular with a large number of gifts. It's best to approach it all in a step-by-step manner, so that the task feels like something more easily achieved. If needed, create a schedule with appointed times to work on your stack of thank you notes, so that it becomes part of your everyday routine.

If they received an invite, that means your guest was already a big part of your life. Here's how to thank them for being part of your next adventure.

WHO TO THANK

Everyone. Simple, right? Anyone who gave you a gift should receive a special note of thanks. But thank you notes are also recommended for the team of folks who helped make sure your special event ran like clockwork. That includes planners, organizers, decorators, and even those who simply handled an unexpected errand for you somewhere along the way. Your wedding might not have happened if it wasn't for all of these sometimes unseen helpers.

SENDING THE NOTES

Some presents begin arriving before your nuptials, in particular from those who may not be able to attend for whatever reason. The clock starts when received, with a note generally due within a couple of weeks. Tradition allows for a longer timeline for gifts given on the



wedding day, when you're assumed to have a few months in order to respond. It's important not to wait until you get too close to this deadline, since that will make the task feel more and more insurmountable. Begin sending them out as soon as possible, ideally within weeks of your wedding date.

WHAT TO WRITE

These replies are meant to be a personal gesture, but that doesn't mean they can't be formatted at all. If you have a long list of thank you notes, consider tucking a bit of the unique into a simple formula to help ease things along. Start with the traditional greeting, then express gratitude for the specific item. Next, add details about how you plan to display or use this particular gift. Finally, add a personal note such as how much they mean to you, or when you hope to see them again. Sign it with kindest regards from both you and your spouse.

A Moment of Grace Florist & Gifts

Winner of *the knot* "Best of Weddings"

**Let us Help Create
Your Special Day Flowers**

Call for a free Bridal Consultation

Creative Designs-Reasonable Prices-Friendly Staff



511 N. Hwy. 47 • Warrenton, MO 63383 • 636-456-9334 • www.amogflorist.com • amogweddings@gmail.com



Optimize Your Flower Budget

After your dress, nothing is more visible at the wedding.

If the national average is any indication, they'll be a big part of your expenses, too. Before you spend thousands on high-priced blossoms, however, carefully consider your options. The wrong choice can lead to unneeded expense, and there are lots of creative ways to make the most of your flower budget.

GO SEASONAL

We all have that special favorite flower. Oftentimes, however, this single decision can raise the costs substantially. You can save money by blending in seasonal foliage, which will be less expensive since it's readily available. Ask a florist or someone with the local extension service office more about area plants and when they're in bloom.

GO BIG (ONCE)

If your budget doesn't allow for multiple showy arrangements, focus your florist's attention on one show-stopper. Put it in a prominent place where it will receive the most notice, then down shift into less-expensive settings elsewhere. You can also pair flowers that have bigger blooms with a mix of structural items like branches that will fill out the arrangements without breaking the bank.

MAKE A DEAL

Look for sales at local florists, or consider buying from a wholesaler. A word of caution: Buying in bulk means you can save a little, but you'll also need to find someone with a florist's expertise to arrange everything into something worthy of your big day.

GET PERSONAL

A great way to stretch your flower budget is to pair fewer blooms with more personal items. Take some time when still in the planning stages of your wedding to dig out beloved keepsakes or small pictures to give the space a more intimate, one-of-a-kind feel. Images from younger days are always a big hit. Look for photographs of departed family members, since that's a great way to share the occasion with them.

GET CREATIVE

Many venues offer their own beauty, and that's something money can't buy. Be aware of the backdrop when setting up outside. Consider incorporating elements found on the grounds into your arrangements, settings and even your hair. If you're getting married inside, open the windows or doors to showcase more of nature's wonder. Take advantage of lighting options, or bring your own lamps, candles or other illumination. They'll add just the right touch of ambiance, at no cost.



Helping Dreams Come True... One Dress at a Time!

We are Open by Appointment Anytime!

**Book your Appointment Today to enjoy
your very own Celebration Party!**

The celebration party is complementary for the bride and her party
when purchasing bridesmaid dresses!

Enjoy the choice of: Champagne and Cupcakes
Wine with cheese and crackers | Mimosas with Cupcakes

Just our little way of saying, "Thank You!"

Hours of Operation: Tuesday- Friday: 10am- 5pm • Saturday: 9am - 3pm • Closed Sunday and Monday

481 Main Street, Troy, Missouri, 63379 | (636) 528-5647 | emsweddingshop.com



Destination Weddings

The summer wedding season is predicted to be one of the busiest in memory after years of pandemic-related uncertainty.

Whether newly engaged or ready-to-re-schedule, here's where couples will be headed for destination weddings in 2023.

XCARET, MEXICO

With a glut of scheduled (and re-scheduled) weddings, some hometown venues are simply overbooked. So why not get away from it all? Xcaret is located less than an hour away from favorite vacation spots like Tulum and Cancun in Mexico's delightful Riviera Maya sub-region, but it feels like a world away. White-sand beaches, azure-blue water and lush greenery surround picturesque resorts and charming, authentic wedding venues that will make your day unforgettable. Eco-theme parks also make for great getaways for your guests.

FLORIDA

Miami's beautiful weather, throwback architecture, exciting cuisine and gorgeous coastlines always beckon. But if you're looking for a more private experience, consider Naples. This romantic city overlooks the Gulf of Mexico, with a number of venues situated directly on their local beaches. Many hotels feature balcony areas that are perfect for your ceremony, with large ballrooms to accommodate the reception. Or head right out to the water afterward.

CAP CANA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

This gated private community inside Punta Cana is a great destination for those looking for new all-inclusive venues — including adult-only resorts. Or go for the luxury of a five-star hotel. Either way, your ceremony will be uniquely positioned for incredible views on the eastern side of the Dominican Republic, where the Caribbean meets the At-

lantic Ocean. This is also a great spot for active couples and their wedding parties, with nearby sailing, snorkeling, golfing, horseback riding and adventure theme parks.

THE AMERICAN WEST

Orange County excels at versatility, with scores of options whether you're hoping for a specific view, cuisine, venue or style. Looking for something classic and traditional? Absolutely. An oceanfront vista? Sure. A themed event at Disneyland? That too!

Elsewhere, Oregon's Willamette Valley is an increasingly popular wedding spot for wine lovers, in particular, as Napa sites become more and more difficult to schedule — and more at risk for fires. Willamette trips are cheaper, too. More adventurous types will be heading to Montana, where mountains cascade behind wedding photos as the sound of the natural world envelops the ceremony.



Skipping the Cake

Cake seems to go with weddings like brides and grooms. But don't be afraid to buck with tradition when it comes to dessert.

A BRIEF HISTORY

Wedding cake traditions date back at least to ancient Rome. There were mentions in the medieval era, too. Early recipes relied on barley and wheat, long before newlyweds happily smashed desserts in one another's faces. Instead, according to *Gastronomica*, they'd eat just a few crumbs from these scone-like creations as one of their first acts as a couple. The British started the tradition of stacking these scones, buns or cookies as high as they could, creating a forerunner for today's tiered cakes. Sugar became more affordable into the 18th century, bringing on the advent of white icing. Brides originally handed out the cake to wedding guests, before it became a shared activity. The

cake-cutting ceremony followed.

NEARLY CAKE

Couples are increasingly choosing something besides cake, as intricately designed petit fours, ice cream, cake pops and sorbet move onto the menu. Cupcakes have been the fastest-growing alternative, since they boast a cake-like quality, have an advantage of being very portable and can be stacked. Cheesecakes and pies can also showcase summer's freshest fruits — and they'll link back to earlier wedding traditions. Back then, a ring was hidden in the wedding pie and whoever found it was thought to be the next to marry — similar to our bouquet-tossing tradition today.

TINY TREASURES

Miniature items are likewise easily transported as guests mix and mingle. Match

different donuts, Madeleines, cream puffs, macarons and pies — or do something more exotic like banana beignet bites or tiramisu pudding shots. Summer weddings can sometimes get steamy, so consider tiny frozen creations like sorbets or daiquiris. Setting aside the tried-and-true cake option opens up a world of new options.

DO BRUNCH INSTEAD

Stack cinnamon rolls with cream-cheese icing for a fresh take on dessert that will delight your guests. Or stack them without icing, then place a fountain for dipping nearby. Try a pancake or waffle tower. They will resemble the traditional tiered cake, while giving you a chance to let your imagination run wild with decorative ideas like greenery or blooms. Then instead of cutting the cake, you can pour the syrup together as your first married act. The result is sweet symbolism!

Wedding Day Emergency Kit

Unfortunately, the unexpected happens — and you'll want to be ready. Preparing early helps alleviate worries about common mishaps that add unneeded stress during your nuptials.

Don't let your big event become marred by makeup disasters, torn clothing, or even a sudden pang of hunger. Packing a wedding day emergency kit helps ensure that none of that gets in the way as you prepare to walk down the aisle.

TOUCHING UP

You'll be primped, prepared and dressed long before it's time to say your vows, meaning there will be plenty of time for something to potentially go wrong. So keep critical beauty supplies nearby for any needed touch ups with your makeup, hair and perfume. Outdoor settings are increasingly popular for weddings, and they provide a variety of challenges — not least of which are smudges and running mascara, lipstick and foundation. Double check before taking pictures, and before saying "I do." These crit-

ical extras from home may prove to be a lifesaver.

RE-STYLING ITEMS

Outdoor weddings are also a huge potential challenge to your carefully crafted hairstyle. Be prepared for a potentially windy situation by tucking away a brush, additional bobby pins and hairspray in your dressing area. Depending on the season, you may need to freshen up with perfume and deodorant, in particular after taking your pictures. Bring any additional needed toiletries.

SEWING KIT

Wardrobe malfunctions happen, so pack an assortment of threads, needles, scissors and safety pins just in case. You'll either need to master the skill of emergency sewing, or ensure that a trusted bridesmaid, matron or family friend is on hand in case of accidental tears, stepped on hems or other mishaps. Just knowing all of these things are available can



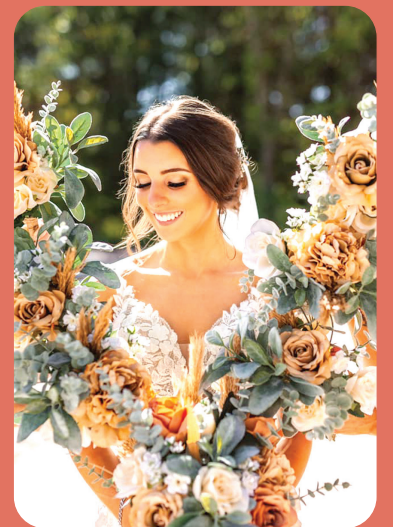
significantly lower stress during what always promises to be a very busy schedule.

A LITTLE SNACK

With everything else that's going on, you may not make time to eat and hydrate enough along the way. Nourishing yourself is critical to carrying everything off without a hitch. At the same time, however, you don't want to over-indulge. So don't forget a few small, healthy snacks like nuts, granola or protein bars — and a few bottles of water, too. They'll help you be at your best when it's time to join together in matrimony before family and friends.



Let us help you get ready
on your BIG day!



Bridesmaids Makeup- \$75 • Bridal Makeup- \$85 • Hair- \$75

We can also travel to the bride's home or venue and do hair and makeup on location for a hassle-free wedding day!

Travel Fee: \$50 for the first 20 miles, then \$2 per mile after that from our location to yours.

1000 Warrenton Shoppes, Suite 4, Warrenton, MO 63383 • 636-456-1198 • celestebeautybar.com



THE LODGE AT DOVER PLACE is a new private, locally owned family operated wedding & event venue; offering flexible cost-friendly rental packages to meet your budget.

- **CEREMONY OPTIONS:** Outdoor ceremonies are at the gazebo & fountain by the pond and indoor ceremonies have a 14 foot high stone fireplace as a backdrop. There are acres of open space for photos and for guests to gather around fire pits and outdoor seating.
- **DISTINCTIVE FEATURES:** Inside the 2,500 sf main level of The Lodge are four glass garage doors that open onto an 800 sf covered porch and a 500 sf patio, providing a distinctive indoor/outdoor setting.
- **BONUS CHARM:** An elegant bridal horse drawn carriage and a large groom's 10 person wagon is onsite for a grand and dramatic entrance of the wedding party providing more enhanced photo opportunities.
- **PACKAGE INCLUSIONS:** In the lower level of The Lodge, and included in all wedding packages, is a large bridal suite and a large groom's suite with private parking and a secluded entrance into the suites.
- **SPEND THE NIGHT BEFORE/AFTER:** Overnight lodging is available for the bride & groom and additional guests.
- **ESCAPE THE ORDINARY:** To guarantee that your wedding escapes the ordinary for your lifelong memories, photos and your guests, The Lodge is definitely the venue to explore.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE – CALL US FOR A TOUR

17329 Dover Place, Wright City, MO 63390

(636) 384-3880 • www.DoverLodge.com

contact@doverlodge.com



Hiring a Photographer

A wedding photographer is one of the most important vendors you'll hire for your big day.

They'll capture the memories of your wedding day and, if you don't like the finished product, it's not like you can go back and do it again. You'll also be spending a lot of time with your photographer, so it's important that you work well with them. Here are some questions to ask to make sure you get the right person for your once-in-a-lifetime photos.

Are you available on my wedding day? While this seems like a no-brainer, you want to check photographer availability as soon as you possibly can. If you have any flexibility with your date, let the photographer know. If an associate is going to shoot your wedding, ask to meet the photographer as early as possible so you can make sure you'll work well with them.

Have you ever shot a wedding or a reception at our venue? If the photographer regularly works in your area, the answer is probably yes. Ask to see a full wedding gallery from that venue to make sure your photographer can handle all lighting and social situations. Look for a cohesive wedding gallery that has the feel you're looking for. If they haven't shot at your venue, ask to see a recent gallery at a similar venue and make sure they're available to walk through the venue with you before your wedding day.

What is included in your most popular wedding package? Have a clear understanding of your budget, what you can afford, and what is included in the package that you choose. Some photographers may include all images in your final wedding gallery while others will just give you a certain number and sell you more. Confirm how many hours of shooting is included in your package, if an engagement shoot is included, and how many photographers are included in that price. Some special wedding moments require more than one photographer to capture the full scene.

Also make sure you understand how and when the photographs will be delivered. If there's a print permit, make sure you understand how that will be delivered. Lastly, ask if that package includes any travel and accommodation fees. If you're planning a destination wedding, you should understand how your photographer will be getting to your venue and where they'll be staying — and if you're expected to pay for it.

What happens if you're unable to shoot our wedding? Things happen. Equipment breaks, people get sick. Make sure you know if your photographer requires a retainer, what the refund and cancellation policy is, if they use backup equipment and what the quality of that equipment is, what will happen if they can't shoot your wedding personally, and, lastly, if the photographer has liability insurance should anything happen.



We are located just north of Auxvasse, MO in Callaway County

Sweet

Barn and Lake

Breeze

The 60x100 barn has enough spacious room inside for a wedding, reception or both. There is also plenty of outdoor space next to our 3-acre lake and under the stars on our patio for your upcoming wedding.

Visit our Facebook Page using the QR code! We would love to show you around!



Marriage Licenses

The ceremony may be beautiful, the bride a vision in white, but the wedding itself isn't legal unless there's a marriage license.

This is the document that legally binds the couple together and clears the way for the marriage certificate, which is proof that you are officially married. Here's what you need to know about both documents.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

You will typically have to file your marriage license in the county in which you plan to get married. Some counties and states have expiration dates on their licenses, so you'll not only need to know the place where you plan to get married, but also the date. There may also be a waiting period from the time you file to the time you get your license. In Texas, for instance, you must wait to get married for at least 72 hours after applying for a license.

You'll most likely get your license from the county clerk, and that office will tell you everything you'll need to bring with you. Each county is different, but generally, this is information such as proof of identity, such as a drivers license or passport; a birth certificate; a certificate of divorce or death certificate if this isn't your first marriage; information about your parents, such as their full names, birthdates and birthplaces; and cash for the license fee.

Three people will generally need to sign the marriage license, usually after the ceremony. That's the couple themselves, the officiant and one or more witnesses. The officiant will then turn in the



marriage license to the county.

MARRIAGE CERTIFICATES

After the officiant turns in the marriage license and the county processes it, you'll receive a marriage certificate. This document usually comes several days after the ceremony, after the county clerk files your completed license with your state's vital records bureau. In Florida, for instance, the filing process takes an average of 60 days.

Marriage certificates often include much of the same information as the license and are acceptable proof that a marriage has taken place, was finalized and is recorded with the state. In other words, it's proof that you're legally married.



Elegant Treasures FINE JEWELRY

We Offer Complete Jewelry Services

- Custom Designs
- Stone Resets
- Jewelry Resizing & Cleaning
- Battery & Band Replacement

LAYAWAY & FINANCING AVAILABLE!

HOURS: Sunday and Monday Closed • Tuesday - Saturday 10 to 5

1000 Outlet Mall - Ste. 17 | 636-359-6011
www.warrentonjewelry.com

15% OFF
Single Item Purchase

With Coupon. No Combined offers.
No Duplicate offers. One per household.

What Next For Your Dress?

There are many options to consider on the day after your wedding. You've shopped for the gown, been fitted and refitted, then gotten married in it. But there's still one big decision to make.

Some brides choose to carefully store their gown in order to preserve it as something to hand down to future generations, or even simply as a heartfelt memento. Others choose to resell or donate the dress so that someone else can enjoy it on their own big day.

Which is right for you? Consider these crucial questions.

LONG-TERM STORAGE

Storage is an option for those with an intent to one day pass along the dress to a daughter or other family member. You may also be the sentimental type who'd like to have it as a keepsake. If so, you can't simply tuck the gown away in the back of the closet, much less in your damp and musty attic or a basement.

You'll need to first get a garment professional to properly clean and store the dress for future use. They also recommend special storage bags or compartments. This will extend the life of the gown, while making sure it doesn't become faded, infested or frayed — mishaps that can happen even during a short amount of time in storage.

MAKE A DONATION

Those without a concrete plan to hand down a dress may consider donating it. Local charitable organizations and some consignment shops can connect you with those in need. There are also larger national efforts like Brides Against Breast Cancer, which collects and sells donated dresses for the Nationwide Tour of Gowns. Proceeds help fund programs for patients and their families.

SELLING YOUR DRESS

If you'd like to recoup some of the cost of your dress, there are a variety of options available for those who'd like to sell. This is particularly attractive if the dress is valuable because of its designer or its one-of-a-kind features. Some companies have buy-back programs that make this process a breeze. A quick search will reveal a number of online options, as well as local in-person marketplaces. There are also companies devoted to buying and selling pre-owned gowns like yours, but they don't typically pay as much as individual buyers.



BRIDAL
MAIDS
TUXES
FLOWER GIRL
MOTHERS
VEILS
ACCESSORIES
PROM

ASK US HOW TO
SAVE OVER
\$1000
ON YOUR
WEDDING!

MENTION THIS AD
TO GET
\$100 OFF
A CURRENT
BRIDAL GOWN!



**GODDESS
GOWNS**
BRIDAL & FORMALWEAR
636-744-1763

33 SOUTH OAK ST.
UNION, MO

WWW.GODDESSGOWNS.NET



LOST HILL LAKE

Weddings + Events



LOST HILL LAKE

ESTD.  2013
Weddings + Events

Lost Hill Lake Weddings + Events is a family-owned venue offering over 200 acres of beautiful natural terrain. We provide a variety of wedding, micro-wedding, and elopement packages and feature one of the top Glamping Resorts in Missouri, all just 45-minutes from St. Louis.

www.LostHillLakeEvents.com



ONE MAGNIFICENT LOCATION

MULTIPLE ADAPTABLE VENUES



Innsbrook

You already said *yes!*, but where will you say *I do!*? Visit innsbrookweddings.com to see all the wonderful possibilities. Our dedicated wedding coordinators will ensure your knot-tying experience is unforgettable. Schedule a tour today!

