



Pelican Hill

FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL

BY KRISTIN BANTA

Hoopay for same-sex marriage! It's only a matter of time before all American citizens are permitted to marry the ones they love, and waiting for that much-anticipated moment, we've got marriage on our minds. Los Angeles—with its lush vistas, near-perfect weather and a just-right mix of laid-back charm and Hollywood glamour—is the perfect setting for your big day. With that in mind, here's a guide to all the things you should consider for a same-sex ceremony of your very own.

L.A. HOTEL VENUES

Montage Beverly Hills

You don't have to drive too far to experience the decadence and first-class service of the Montage. From the luxe spa, rooftop pool and sprawling views of Hollywood to cuisine from celebrity Chef Scott Conant's Scarpetta to the gorgeous rooms—this is my happy place. Weddings can take place on the romantic terrace overlooking artfully sculpted gardens, on the rooftop with panoramic views or inside the hotel's grand, Mediterranean-inspired ballrooms. montagebeverlyhills.com

The London West Hollywood

This property emulates the best of cosmopolitan chic and California cool along with first-class dining from the culinary team of Gordon Ramsay. In addition to the impeccable level of service and endless amenities, what I love about this property is the multiple options for hosting a wedding! Guests can be taken on a journey throughout the day, as they travel from the panoramic rooftop pool to the terrace garden and the incredibly chic ballroom. thelondonwesthollywood.com

Hotel Bel-Air

Renowned for its beautiful gardens and famous Swan Lake, Hotel Bel-Air provides the perfect romantic hideaway for wedding celebrations up to 250. Whether inside their chic new ballroom or al fresco in the hotel gardens—which feature a spectacular floral landscape that blooms year-round along with picturesque arches, bridges and gazebos—guests will enjoy the culinary delights of Wolfgang Puck. It just doesn't get much better. hotelbelair.com

Hotel Shangri-La

Built in 1939, the Hotel Shangri-La offers Art Deco elegance and Old Hollywood glamour. Overlooking the ocean and historic Santa Monica Pier, it is a unique boutique property, perfect for hosting a cocktail reception or intimate wedding. Your guests will enjoy 360-degree views from the only open-air rooftop penthouse in Santa Monica, along with farm-fresh cuisine and custom cocktails. There's also an outdoor poolside courtyard featuring lush greenery, multi-leveled lounges and a fire pit and private bar for all your events al fresco. Available for full buyout. shangrila-hotel.com

Mr. C

A contemporary luxe urban experience with a number of incredible options for hosting your wedding. Mr. C's gardens are the perfect setting for your ceremony, and the celebration continues in the Starlight Ballroom, with unparalleled 360-degree views capturing the beauty of L.A. Each space is the perfect complement to world-renowned Venetian cuisine served by the Mr. C family. mrchotels.com

Fairmont Hotel & Resort, Santa Monica

A stunning transformation has taken place—from the exquisitely manicured grounds to the casual elegance of the guest rooms and suites, this luxe Santa Monica hotel will provide you with an unforgettable experience. Your celebration can include fab cuisine from Chef Ray Garcia's seasonal bistro, FIG Restaurant, a ceremony under their grand oak tree and even an afterparty at their awesome new space, The Bungalow—then spend the next day recovering via a core fusion class from Exhale Mind Body Spa. fairmont.com/santa-monica



Cooper Design Space

OFF-PREMISE VENUES

Cooper Design Space

Located in the heart of L.A.'s Fashion District, Cooper Design Space offers its 11th-floor loft as a blank canvas, featuring loft ceilings, floor-to-ceiling windows, white walls and polished concrete floors. Other amenities include on-site restrooms, a sound system, lobby video projection, freight elevators, valet parking and security—and you can bring in your favorite caterer! It has great bones, allowing you to create anything imaginable. cooperdesignspace.com

Vibiana

This is a full-service events venue under the direction of husband and wife restaurateurs Chef Neal Fraser and Amy Knoll Fraser, who have successfully merged their hand-crafted approach to dining and service with the beauty and history of one of the city's most stunning architectural gems. A gilded foyer leads into the main hall, where ornate columns framing the room reach 45 feet upward to the arched ceiling, and layers of century-old marble and onyx define the grand stage. During the day, light pours into the space from grand windows, and at night the space is transformed—the neutral walls can be dramatically illuminated to suit any palate. vibiana.com



The London West Hollywood

The Frontiers Guide to Same-Sex Weddings

Carondelet House

Constructed in 1928, this gorgeous property was built as an Italian villa with an urban flair. With 7,600 square feet of warm hardwood floors, expansive rooms, exposed brick walls, two exterior courtyards, high exposed ceilings and a beautiful fireplace, this is one of the most unique event venues available in Los Angeles. With its fantastic natural light, incredible architectural detail, versatility throughout the space and a great variety of texture and shape, this space needs practically nothing other than for you and your guests to just show up. carondelethouse.com

Belasco Theater

Built in 1926, this decadent historic theater in Downtown Los Angeles functioned as both a traditional theater and church before being abandoned for over 30 years. After a tedious three-year, \$10 million restoration, the Belasco Theater reopened two years ago and has hosted events for Prince William, Lady Gaga and Elton John, to name a few. Belasco Theater has personality for days—equipped with lighting and sound, and boasting multiple event spaces, two outdoor patios and a massive on-site kitchen for events to use. thebelasco.com

Marvimon

Originally built by an Italian race car driver in 1924 as one of L.A.'s first automobile showrooms, Marvimon reinvented itself as a loft-style event space. With a flowing 7,000-square-foot floor plan of interior and exterior areas, it can accommodate up to 175 people for garden ceremonies, 175 people for formal sit-down dinners or a 250-person cocktail party. Located near Chinatown, and just minutes to Downtown, Silver Lake and Hollywood. For something intimate with built-in style and personality, this is one of my top picks. marvimon.com



Wolfgang Puck Catering

CATERERS

PHOTO: BLAKE GARDNER

Savore Catering

A boutique catering company with an exclusive clientele. Chefs and owners Richard Lauter and Erez Levy, formerly of Spago Beverly Hills, base their menus on the highest quality seasonal products available and specialize in social fine dining and multi-course tasting menus, often providing modern interpretations of global comfort foods. Passionate about cutting-edge culinary theory but always focused on flavor, each of their menus are unique to their clients' preferences, resulting in "one-of-a-kind" dining experiences. The service staff is an all-star roster of our city's most talented and gracious event industry professionals, which conducts itself with the finesse and precision of a ballet company. savore.com

Wolfgang Puck Catering

A celebrated name in catering who always manages to personalize each event with passion, designing a customized seasonal menu and attending to every detail of your unique celebration. Seated, buffet, small plates or globally inspired stations—it's totally about style, and they can accommodate anything you can dream up! From 10 to 2,000, the team never fails to deliver gracious hospitality and culinary innovation every single time. wolfgangpuck.com/catering-events

Urban Palate

They will work with you to artfully create an incredible dining experience that expresses who you are as a couple, celebrating your unique palate. They use fresh, seasonal ingredients provided by local farms, creameries and vineyards and love to turn traditional dishes on their heads. The staff is kind and professional, and the chefs are warm and gifted. urbanpalate.com

CAKES

Fantasy Frostings

Fantasy Frostings is a family-owned-and-operated business for the last four decades. They offer custom cakes, cupcakes and dessert bars for any occasion imaginable. With an eye for design and a keen understanding of flavor, their team of talented cake artists, led by owner Leslie Maynor-Anderson, can help you create a delicious masterpiece that reflects your style and palate. Each dessert is individually crafted to surpass your expectations in both presentation and taste. I'm obsessed with all flavors, but the almond cake and the banana pecan cake are particularly to die for. fantasyfrostings.com

The Butter End Cakery

Kimberly Bailey heads a small team of foodie-artists who only use local, cage-free eggs, organic milk, hormone-free butter and amazing chocolate and vanilla bean in their recipes—and instead of fondant, they use a premium rolled chocolate covering to decorate their cakes. Each is not only delicious, but truly a unique work of art. The Chocolate Almond Cherry Cake with Cherry Cream Cheese Buttercream is my absolute favorite! thebutterend.com

Vanilla Bake Shop

Voted by *Los Angeles* magazine as one of L.A.'s top bakeries, they have been featured by many industry tastemakers from The Food Network to Martha Stewart. Amy and Jeremy Berman, along with their team, create stunning cakes and confections focusing on high-quality ingredients and impeccable design. Whether you are looking for a cake or an unforgettable dessert bar, they have got you covered. And for the record, their French macarons are so good they make me feel a little dirty. vanillabakeshop.com

CUSTOM COCKTAILS AND BAR

Roger Room

The Roger Room, renowned for its finely crafted cocktails and world class "Mixology" bartenders, recently announced the addition of off-site bar catering for private parties and events—so now all of their award-winning cocktails are available for any event. The expert bartenders are happy to create original cocktails tailored specifically for clients' needs, providing a full bar with premium beer, wine and spirits as well as organic fruit and juices. Who doesn't like a custom cocktail? therogerroom.com

Pharmacie

Pharmacie is a craft cocktail catering service specializing in creating custom cocktails, designed to reflect the personality and palates of each couple. They believe the bar should be as special as everything else at your wedding. All of their juices are fresh-squeezed, and all proprietary syrups, tinctures and shrubs are handmade in their kitchen. All barmen are stylish, affable and educated. This is where I would spend most of my time if I were your wedding guest. pharmaciacola.com

FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL

GROOM'S ATTIRE

Klein Epstein Parker

A men's fashion company that specializes in the Made to Measure process, the Klein Epstein & Parker look is a modern 'New Rebel' consciousness paired with an elevated sense of dress. Inside the store, the client is able to create his own tuxedo, suit or suit separates exactly to their specifications. From fabric, buttons, lining, personal embroidery and much, much more, the client is able to express himself through the process, including having each suit or tuxedo tailored exactly for their body without breaking the bank. Klein Epstein & Parker celebrates the individual and the choices he makes. kleinepsteinparker.com

John Varvatos

John Varvatos is a brand that unites old-world craftsmanship and refined tailoring with modern innovations in textiles and a rock 'n' roll sensibility. Launched in 2000 with a collection of tailored clothing and sportswear, the brand now represents an entire men's lifestyle that includes footwear, bags, belts, eyewear, limited-edition watches, men's and women's luxury skincare and fragrances, as well as the younger, edgier John Varvatos USA collection. johnvarvatos.com



Hotel Bel Air

to life. With a floral studio, warehouses of luxe lounge furniture, as well as a skilled in-house fabrication team, R. Jack is able to envision, design, produce and install all matter of inspired décor and execute complete space transformations! rjackbalthazar.com

Reverly Event Designers

An exceptional visionary team specializing in designing and installing private and corporate events worldwide. Their downtown warehouse is filled with made-to-order furniture, lighting, custom-made drapery and specialty lounges and bars. Here, you'll find an abundant inventory of décor and unique pieces to customize the look and feel of your celebration. reverlyeventdesigners.com

Kristin Banta currently serves as the weekly wedding expert for the Hallmark Channel's *Home & Family* and is the host of *Keep the Party Moving*, a new show being developed by the Style network.

The Grunion Run Groomsman Shop

An online shop for grooms and groomsmen who are looking for stylish and affordable, vintage-inspired wedding wear. The clothes and accessories are designed to create mix-and-match looks with ease and offers guys pieces that are also wearable after the wedding. Unlike traditional retailers, styles are available year-round in colors and fabrics that are not based on season but on what couples are looking for for their wedding. The perfect source if you want a little vintage spin and want to get it all done online. thegrunionrun.com

Mille Fiori Floral Design

Known for their contemporary style, Mille Fiori Floral Design offers the modern couple a unique approach to their wedding that is so much more than just "the flowers." Bouquets and boutonnieres represent a personality for each member of the bridal party. Tablescape replace traditional centerpieces to add ambience to the venue. Customized organic backdrops create phenomenal photo opportunities while large statement pieces can change the flow of any event. themillefiori.com

The Hidden Garden Floral Design

Dedicated to providing exceptional service, innovative designs and unique floral arrangements, the designers at Hidden Garden use only the freshest flowers and highest quality materials to create floral masterpieces. They specialize in bringing imagination to life and transforming any setting—from backyards and beaches, ballrooms and boardrooms—into an elegant, over-the-top destination. hidden-gardenflowers.com

Copper Willow Paper Studio



INVITATIONS

Copper Willow Paper Studio

A full-service design and production shop located in Culver City, Copper Willow specializes in one-of-a-kind design and hands-on care from paper prep to final calligraphy on the envelopes. All work is done on-site, and they are happy to give you a tour of their pressroom with a demo on their antique machinery! They have access to the most unique materials and all designs are created especially for each individual client. copperwillow.com

Lehr & Black Invitationers

Lehr and Black Invitationers have been designing custom invitations for over 25 years, attracting high-profile and celebrity clients throughout the country. They have revolutionized custom invitations with their use of sumptuous fabrics, fine details and superior workmanship. Their goal is to design an invitation that best reflects you and your event. With Lehr and Black, anything is possible! lehrandblack.com

Mark Friedland Couture Communications

Marc Friedland Couture Communications specializes in designing and producing luxury, bespoke pieces, creating a wedding stationery wardrobe from invitations to menu cards for a perfectly unique and extraordinary wedding. Founded by Marc Friedland, they are renowned for their ability to transform their client's vision into compelling event brands that tell a story. creativeintelligence.com

East Six

A boutique design studio, founded in 2005 by Stacey Mui & Marina Marchisi, creating beautiful custom designs that truly showcase the style, personality and vision of the couple and their celebration. East Six works closely with clients to design personalized paper accents for every detail of an occasion, imprinting the story and personality of each couple onto all facets of their stationery. eastsix.com



Find an extended Wedding Guide—including hotel venues outside L.A., photographer/videographer recommendations, cake alternatives, entertainment, officiants, bridal gowns, hair & makeup and draping & lighting—at MarriageEqualityFrontiers.com.