



CALIFORNIA
WEDDING DAY
BEST
of
2014

Creative, daringly chic and downright glam. Without further ado, meet the first Best of Bride class of top wedding vendors from Central Coast, Los Angeles and Orange County (and everywhere in between) as voted on and selected by California brides, vendors and the California Wedding Day editorial staff. Huzzah!



PHOTOGRAPH BY
BEST PHOTOGRAPHER
WINNER IN CENTRAL
COAST, MI BELLE
PHOTOGRAPHY



KRISTIN BANTA EVENTS

ALL-AROUND WEDDING VENDOR

LOS ANGELES WINNER
Kristin Banta Events

Known for: Creating luxurious residential environments by utilizing custom fabrications, fashion-forward textures and out-of-the-box inspirations.

Wedded wisdom: “Trust your instincts and make it your own. If you think the groom fishing for a garter under the bride’s dress is awful, skip it. If your favorite date nights revolve around tasting menus, treat your guests to a seven-course, wine-paired menu,” advises Banta.

FINALISTS: TERRANEA RESORT * GOOD GRACIOUS! EVENTS * RRIVRE WORKS EVENT DESIGN AND CUSTOM LUXURY RENTALS

ORANGE COUNTY WINNER
24 Carrots Catering and Events

Known for: Innovating catering menus by constantly changing up flavors and transforming classic dishes with a focus on high-quality cuisine.

Wedded wisdom: Marketing director Janet Kaufman-Rabinovich doesn’t think of Irvine-based 24 Carrots solely as a caterer, but as a support staff for couples. “We truly believe, ‘We’re in this together.’ We spend a lot of time with our clients and form relationships that last beyond the special day.”

FINALISTS: A GOOD AFFAIR WEDDING AND EVENT PRODUCTION * THE RESORT AT PELICAN HILL * PLATINUM WEDDINGS BY KERRIE



FOUR SEASONS RESORT
THE BILTMORE

CENTRAL COAST WINNER
Four Seasons Resort The Biltmore, Santa Barbara

Known for: Five-star Spanish Colonial oceanfront resort featuring lush gardens, grand beachfront venues, beautifully appointed ballrooms and impeccable food and service.

Wedded wisdom: Service and location are just two of the things that make this spot special. “[We’re] a little corner of paradise between wine country and the beaches that is the perfect location for fairy tale weddings,” says general manager Karen Earp.

FINALISTS: ALEGRIA BY DESIGN * LA FETE WEDDINGS * ADORNMENTS FLOWERS & FINERY

WEDDING PLANNER

LOS ANGELES WINNER
Kristeen LaBrot Events

Known for: A sharp eye for detail and penchant for blending modern and traditional elements with gorgeously unique results.

Wedded wisdom: “Make sure you’re including a detail because it’s special, not because it’s the hot new thing on Pinterest,” notes LaBrot.

FINALISTS: EXPRESSIONARY EVENTS * AT YOUR DOOR EVENTS * AMBER EVENTS

ORANGE COUNTY WINNER
Platinum Weddings by Kerrie

Known for: Flawless execution and personal service combined with a dynamic, outgoing team that thrives on bringing a couple’s romantic vision to life.

Wedded wisdom: “Look beyond the pretty details,” advises founder Kerrie Underhill. “The wedding should be a reflection of you as a couple. Think about things that would make guests stop and say, ‘That is so them.’”

FINALISTS: HIGH SOCIETY EVENT PLANNING * DETAILS DETAILS WEDDINGS AND EVENTS * INTERTWINED EVENTS

CENTRAL COAST WINNER
Percy Sales Events

Known for: Modern and romantic designs with the right touch of quirkiness. The Manila-born, Santa Barbara-based Sales’ attention to detail and joyful personality make him a bride’s best confidante.

Wedded wisdom: “When brides bring in a trend or a theme, I ask one simple question: ‘Is this who you are?’” explains Sales. “I appreciate when my couples come in with an idea but are open-minded about making their wedding reflect them as a couple.”

FINALISTS: XOXO BRIDE * EVENT OF THE SEASON * FELICI EVENTS



DAVIA LEE WEDDING & EVENTS



STUDIO EMP



INVITING OCCASION

EVENT DESIGNER

LOS ANGELES WINNER

Tic-Tock Couture Florals

Known for: Eddie Zaratsian's name is synonymous with luxurious and visionary floral design, and he has the ability to design without borders, from simple and chic to modern or earthy.

Wedded wisdom: "Flowers are to a venue what a wedding gown is to the bride," says Zaratsian. "Be smart about how you are spending your money."

FINALISTS: LA BOHEME EVENTS * KRISTIN BANTA EVENTS * STERLING ENGAGEMENTS

ORANGE COUNTY WINNER

A Good Affair Wedding and Event Production

Known for: Owner Natalie Good's effervescent personality and commitment to creativity lend an artistic and highly styled twist to every setting, from classic vintage to urban glam.

Wedded wisdom: "Enjoy the journey and don't sweat the little things," advises Good, who offers a lighthearted approach to planning and design in order to keep the client from stress overload.

FINALISTS: INTERTWINED EVENTS * LVL WEDDINGS & EVENTS * JL DESIGNS COUTURE FLORAL & EVENT STYLING

CENTRAL COAST WINNER

Davia Lee Weddings & Events

Known for: Owner Davia Lee's easygoing nature brings a fresh and stress-free approach to planning beautiful yet relaxed celebrations.

Wedded wisdom: "I see brides taking a leap by incorporating statement jewelry and colored gowns," observes Lee. "It is the one day that they can pull off some of the most couture fashion they will ever wear, so take full advantage."

FINALISTS: MARK PADGETT WEDDING DESIGN

* ALEGRIA BY DESIGN * TOUCH OF STYLE EVENTS

FLORIST

LOS ANGELES WINNER

Butterfly Floral & Event Design

Known for: Lush, feminine, beautiful florals with a romantic twist on tradition.

FINALISTS: LILLABELLO * R. JACK BALTHAZAR * PEONY & PLUM

ORANGE COUNTY WINNER

Inviting Occasion

Known for: Stunning and innovative visions combined with artistic, hand-crafted details that elevate florals to a couture level.

FINALISTS: FLOWERS BY CINA * LITTLE HILL FLORAL DESIGNS * KRISTA JON FOR ARCHIVE

CENTRAL COAST WINNER

Stella Bloom Designs

Known for: Romantic designs with a hint of vintage and unique touches of texture

FINALISTS: SANTA BARBARA STYLE FLORAL & EVENT DESIGN * TENLEY ERIN YOUNG FLORAL & EVENT DESIGN * SPRIGS FLORAL DESIGNS

PHOTOGRAPHER

LOS ANGELES WINNER

Next Exit Photography

Known for: Familial-like devotion to clients and magazine-worthy photos full of heart and emotion.

Wedded wisdom: "When my brides tell me specifically what they love ahead of time, it makes it easier for me to know to focus on capturing those kinds of moments," says owner

Cat Brenner. "It might be something as simple as laughter."

FINALISTS: BRIAN LEAHY PHOTOGRAPHY

* CALLAWAY GABLE STUDIOS * YVETTE ROMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

ORANGE COUNTY WINNER

Studio Emp

Known for: A focus on capturing personal, candid moments with exquisite lighting while embracing the importance of family.

Wedded wisdom: "Couples should definitely try to get a real understanding of photographers' work and style to be sure they are a perfect match," notes owner Joel Maus. "There are thousands of good photographers and [a] bunch of great photographers—but good and great are subjective terms, so finding who's great to you is most important."

FINALISTS: JIM KENNEDY PHOTOGRAPHERS

* KLK PHOTOGRAPHY * CHRISTOPHER TODD STUDIOS

CENTRAL COAST WINNER

Mi Belle Photography

Known for: Well-done, classic portraits with an editorial approach and a touch of fashion inspiration with the end goal of creating timeless and nostalgic imagery.

Wedded wisdom: "Live in the moment. Just be there 100 percent present on your wedding day, advises owner Michelle Beller. "The best photos happen when the couple is into each other and truly enjoy spending the day together."

FINALISTS: ALLYSON MAGDA PHOTOGRAPHY

* JESSICA LEWIS PHOTOGRAPHY * LINDA ARREDONDO PHOTOGRAPHY



THE RESORT AT PELICAN HILL



PERCY SALES EVENTS



A GOOD AFFAIR

VIDEOGRAPHER

LOS ANGELES WINNER

Blue Kite Cinema

Known for: Combining the adventure of love with a passion for capturing wedding videos that truly showcase each couple's style and personality.

FINALISTS: TOWER FILMS * ON TAPE VIDEO PRODUCTIONS * COUTURE MOTION PICTURES

ORANGE COUNTY WINNER

Lighthouse Studios

Known for: A cinematic approach that captures the couple's story, their family and their day, with a variety of packages available.

FINALISTS: VANTAGE POINT PRODUCTIONS INC. * TAYLOR FILMS * CLOUDLESS WEDDINGS

CENTRAL COAST WINNER

Joel Serrato Films

Known for: Using Super 8 film and vintage cameras to capture those special wedding memories in an artistic and unique way.

FINALISTS: FIG LEAF PRODUCTIONS * THOMAS HUGHES FILMS * TURNED WEDDING FILMS

NEW RECEPTION SITE

LOS ANGELES WINNER

The Loft on Pine

Known for: A beautiful urban venue in the heart of historic Long Beach featuring rustic wood floors, iconic columns, old brick walls and vaulted "barn-like" ceilings with skylights.

FINALISTS: CARONDELET HOUSE * TRIUNFO CREEK VINEYARDS * HOLLYWOOD ROOSEVELT

CENTRAL COAST WINNER

Greengate Ranch & Vineyards

Known for: An authentic San Luis Obispo

ranch and vineyard, complete with luxurious homes for on-site accommodations and multiple locations for everything from the rehearsal dinner to ceremony.

Wedded wisdom: "Prioritize and budget accordingly," advises the director of marketing and events, Corinne Smith. "If music is your thing, splurge on the entertainment. Or, if you want amazing pictures, make sure the décor elements support pretty pictures."

FINALISTS: LAVENDER OAK VINEYARD * CALLIOTE CANYON * WHISPERING ROSE RANCH

INDOOR VENUE

LOS ANGELES WINNER

Vibiana

Known for: Grand, richly detailed historic architecture (it's a former cathedral) merged with contemporary dining, libations, hospitality and state-of-the-art amenities.

Wedded wisdom: "Look for a space that is versatile and flexible—make sure to ask about things like rain contingencies, menu customization and any special needs that you might have early on," advises executive director Anika Warden.

FINALISTS: THE EBELL OF LOS ANGELES * THE LANGHAM HUNTINGTON, PASADENA * MONTAGE BEVERLY HILLS

ORANGE COUNTY WINNER

The Resort at Pelican Hill

Known for: Elegant 16th-century Palladian architecture and sweeping ocean views coupled with flawless service.

FINALISTS: SEVEN DEGREES * THE RITZ-CARLTON AT LAGUNA NIGUEL * CHUCK JONES CENTER BY 24 CARROTS

CENTRAL COAST WINNER

Four Seasons The Biltmore, Santa Barbara

Known for: Gorgeously appointed indoor ballrooms with breathtaking ocean views and lovely terraces.

Wedded wisdom: Size is a key factor when booking a venue, says catering director Kirsten VanBrunt, and then it comes down to what matters most to the couple, "Is it an ocean view or something else? What is the overall look that you are interested in?"

FINALISTS: THE CLIFFS RESORT * BACARA RESORT & SPA * OJAI VALLEY INN & SPA



FOUND VINTAGE RENTALS



24 CARROTS

OUTDOOR VENUE

LOS ANGELES WINNER

Terranea Resort

Known for: A little slice of paradise in Rancho Palos Verdes, the 102-acre peninsula is surrounded by the Pacific Ocean and features beautiful grounds and Mediterranean architecture.

FINALISTS: CALAMIGOS RANCH * SADDLEROCK RANCH * LA VENTA INN

ORANGE COUNTY WINNER

Casa Romantica Cultural Center and Gardens

Known for: Spectacular ocean views, Spanish revival architecture and spacious gardens on a bluff-top estate overlooking San Clemente Pier.

Wedded wisdom: “Leave your imprint on a piece of Southern California history,” says event manager Michelle Bogandoff. “Often, couples return year after year to visit and reminisce about their special day.”

FINALISTS: CASA ROMANTICA * RANCHO LAS LOMAS * ST. REGIS MONARCH BEACH, SERRA PLAZA

CENTRAL COAST WINNER

Crossroads Estate at Firestone Vineyards

Known for: Just minutes outside of Los Olivos, the rustically elegant grounds are set against the historic Craftsman-style Crossroads House, and include a rustic pole barn, oak-tree-studded meadow and top-notch catering.

FINALISTS: DANA-POWERS HOUSE * HAMMERSKY VINEYARDS & INN * THE VILLA AT SUNSTONE

CATERER

LOS ANGELES WINNER

Good Gracious! Events

Known for: British-born owner Pauline Parry brings a fun-filled zest to every dish and event with her cutting-edge cuisine and artisan cocktails, all created from the freshest and most delicious ingredients.

Wedded wisdom: “This is the first time hosting as a married couple,” says Parry. “So be sure you feel comfortable with is served, it should be what you really like so guests feel the same joy about the food and drinks as you.”

FINALISTS: NEW YORK FOOD COMPANY * ECO CATERERS * CONTEMPORARY CATERING

ORANGE COUNTY WINNER

24 Carrots Catering and Events

Known for: Elevating comfort food with an avant-garde twist, 24 Carrots creates house-made preparations—from simple syrups and marinades to sausages and edible spoons—and unites presentation with design and entertainment for a complete culinary experience.

Wedded wisdom: “To ensure a tailor-made menu, do a tasting,” says chef Ashley Santo Domingo. “I like to sit with clients and get feedback [so I can] present them with a memory of a lifetime.”

FINALISTS: SUMMIT CATERING * JAY’S CATERING * THANK GOODNESS IT’S SOFIA (TGIS) CATERING

CENTRAL COAST WINNER

Pure Joy Catering

Known for: Working with clients to prioritize, budget and create spectacular events that are filled with delicious food and make every guest happy.

Wedded wisdom: “Be creative! You are hosting

the biggest dinner party of your life for your closest friends and family. Take this opportunity to show you and your fiancé’s heritage or personalities in the food. If you have some allergies or aversions in the group, consider asking your caterer for some special meals just for those guests.”

FINALISTS: TESTA CATERING * SBB GOURMET CATERING * RINCON BEACH CLUB

RENTALS

LOS ANGELES WINNER

Designer Specialty Linens

Known for: Adding sumptuous, high-quality texture and patterns to reception tables through custom manufactured linens, napkins, overlays, chair covers and more.

Wedded wisdom: “The linen is the platform on which your entire décor rests. Choosing the right color, pattern and texture creates a cohesive look and enhances the tabletop design,” explains DSL owner Dahlia Wexler. “For a vineyard reception, a natural fabric in an off white, cream or tan color makes an ideal base. The natural fibers are in keeping with an outdoor or cask room setting, and the light color supports either a romantic or rustic look.”

FINALISTS: CLASSIC PARTY RENTALS * TOWN AND COUNTRY EVENT RENTALS * THE VINTAGE TABLE CO.

ORANGE COUNTY WINNER

Found Vintage Rentals

Known for: An awe-inspiring collection of antique suitcases, vases, glassware, demijohns and apothecary jars—not to mention farm tables, rustic chairs, church pews, antique beverage carts, aged mantels and more rare vintage finds sourced from flea markets and estate sales.

FOUND VINTAGE RENTALS: MICHAEL RADFORD PHOTOGRAPHY; 24 CARROTS: MARLIN SALAZAR PHOTOGRAPHY; OPPOSITE, TERRANEA: CHRISTOPHER TODD STUDIOS; GOOD GRACIOUS EVENTS: JASMINE STARR AND PAUL GOOD; GREENGATE RANCH & VINEYARD: CAMERON INGALLS



TERRANEA



GOOD GRACIOUS! EVENTS



GREENGATE RANCH & VINEYARDS

Wedded wisdom: “Think outside the box...it doesn't have to be done the same way every time,” says owner Jeni Maus.

FINALISTS: ARCHIVE RENTALS * DESIGNER SPECIALTY LINENS * CLASSIC PARTY RENTALS

CENTRAL COAST WINNER
Ventura Rental Party Center

Known for: A massive inventory of everything from glassware and canopies to linens and vintage décor, this family-owned company is renowned for excellent customer service.

FINALISTS: CLASSIC PARTY RENTALS * LA TAVOLA LINEN * TOWN AND COUNTRY EVENT RENTALS

MUSIC

LOS ANGELES WINNER
Bob Gail Special Events

Known for: Pairing musical talent with the vision of the couple to enhance the spirit of the wedding.

Wedded wisdom: “The most important factor when planning music for a wedding is to book entertainers who have a well-rounded and diverse repertoire, while also being experts at reading an audience, and therefore are equipped to respond accordingly,” says Brian Pincus, executive vice president.

FINALISTS: HEY MR. DJ * VOX DJS * LUXURY DJS

ORANGE COUNTY WINNER
Scott Cummings Music

Known for: Offering a variety of live musical styles, from soloists and string quartets to jazz and dance bands, Scott Cummings has a vibe for every couple.

Wedded wisdom: When it comes to music, it's not just about dancing, says Cummings. “Anyone with a phone or iPod can play music, but not everyone can create an experience. When choosing music for your wedding, you want to select musicians who are going to elevate your wedding.”

FINALISTS: ELEVATED PULSE * TIM ESPINOSA ENTERTAINMENT * REVOLUTION WEDDING

CENTRAL COAST WINNER:
Scott Topper Productions

Known for: A decade of classy DJ style with a great mix of music and upbeat energy that keeps guests on the dance floor all night long.

FINALISTS: KRAMER EVENTS * YBARRA MUSIC * AMS ENTERTAINMENT

INVITATIONS

LOS ANGELES WINNER

East Six

Known for: Adding a twist on the classic invitation so that it meets the vision of each couple.

Wedded wisdom: “The most creative invitations are those that tie together all elements of the wedding,” say owners Marina Marchisi and Stacey Mui. “We love it when clients come to us with their inspiration and then let us do what we do best.”

FINALISTS: COPPER WILLOW PAPER STUDIO * BLISS & BONE * PRIM & PIXIE

ORANGE COUNTY WINNER

Darla Marie Designs

Known for: Class and elegance, but never shying away from bold design and color to give that extra dose of magic.

Wedded wisdom: Wedding invitations aren't just the who, what, where and when of the wedding, but also a special moment for the bride, says Darla Vietti. “Once they hold that piece of paper with [their names printed on it] for all their loved ones to see, the romance and dreams become a reality.”

FINALISTS: WILEY VALENTINE * WHERE'S THE PARTY? * PAPER PLANE PAPERIE

CENTRAL COAST WINNER

Zenadia Design

Known for: Combining natural and extraordinary materials to create one-of-a-kind gifts and invitations that are a direct reflection of each individual and can be cherished long after the event.

Wedded wisdom: “Let your personality shine through. Consider having a monogram or logo designed, include personal elements into your invitation suite and consider your colors,” advises owner Heidi Jimenez.

FINALISTS: KATHLEEN COOPER FINE PAPERS * LAZARO PRESS & DESIGN * SUGAR PLUM INVITATIONS

WEDDING CAKES/DESSERTS

LOS ANGELES WINNER

Superfine Bakery

Known for: Martha Stewart-like attention to detail meets the Museum of Contemporary to create decadently chic treats for a couple's big day.



TIC-TOCK COUTURE FLORALS

Wedded wisdom: Owner and pastry chef Andrea Boudewijn suggests couples focus on creating an edible centerpiece that's perfectly customized to their event. “We have a maximum number of cakes we'll [make each day] to ensure a high level of service and quality.”

FINALISTS: FANTASY FROSTINGS * VANILLA BAKE SHOP * THE BUTTER END CAKERY

ORANGE COUNTY WINNER

Sweet and Saucy Shop

Known for: The ability to create delicious cakes in a variety of styles, from clean and modern wedding cakes and dessert bars to rustic setups or glamorous treats with edible gold and sugar flowers.

Wedded wisdom: “It's nice to have a lighter, fruity flavor and then offer a richer flavor option so there is variety,” suggests owner Melody Brandon. “But when it comes down to it, follow your gut and go with what you love.”

FINALISTS: SWEET ART FINE SWISS CONFECTIONER * SIMPLY SWEET CAKERY * A WISH AND A WHISK

CENTRAL COAST WINNER

Decadence Fine Cakes & Confections

Known for: Using fresh and local ingredients to create wedding cakes and dessert spreads that will satisfy every sweet tooth.

FINALISTS: MJB CAKES * THE CAKERY DESIGN STUDIO * JANA'S CREATIVE CAKES



JLM COUTURE FLAGSHIP SALON



EAST SIX

DRESS SHOP

LOS ANGELES WINNER:
JLM Couture Flagship Salon

Known for: Attentive and personal service and a beautiful, modern space on Robertson Boulevard, which showcases JLM's labels, including Hayley Paige, Lazaro, Jim Hjelm and Tara Keely.

FINALISTS: LOVELLA BRIDAL * MONIQUE LHULLIER FLAGSHIP SALON * PANACHE BRIDAL

ORANGE COUNTY WINNER
Mon Amie Bridal Salon

Known for: One of the largest selections of bridal gowns on the West Coast, featuring innovative and stylish gowns from designers ranging from Alvina Valenta to Berta to Stephen Yearick and others

Wedded wisdom: Because choosing a dress can be overwhelming, Danielle Keller says Mon Amie's staff guides each bride through the process by "dialing into each bride's personal vision."

FINALISTS: BLUSH BRIDAL COUTURE * THE WHITE DRESS * ERIN COLE COUTURE BRIDAL SALON

CENTRAL COAST WINNER
Panache Bridal

Known for: One of four branches in Southern California, the Santa Barbara boutique offers a range designers, from the French-based Cymbelline to elegance by Romona Keveza.

FINALISTS: A HEART'S DESIRES * CAMARILLO BRIDAL * NORDSTROM'S WEDDING SUITE IN WESTLAKE

CUSTOM DRESS DESIGNER

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ALL-REGION WINNER
R-Mine Bespoke

Known for: One-of-a-kind couture bridal gowns designed by fashionable Studio City-based Armine Ohanessian that meld timeless and elegant designs with a modern edge and old-fashioned quality workmanship.

Wedded wisdom: "When choosing a custom dress design, the most important thing to take into consideration is the bride's personality," explains Ohanessian. "We want to make sure that it represents her, but that you don't 'lose' her in the dress. It is also very important to consider each aspect of the wedding. What is the venue? What size wedding? Is there a theme? Are there traditions that need to be followed? These are all things that play a huge role in choosing the right dress."

FINALISTS: ALINA PIZZANO * KIRSTIE KELLY

HAIR AND MAKEUP

LOS ANGELES WINNER
Makeup Therapy

Known for: Helping clients feel organized, beautiful and informed through the art of personalized makeup application and its therapeutic benefits.

Wedded wisdom: "Look at bridal magazines like *California Wedding Day*, and others like *Bazaar*, *InStyle* and *Vogue* for inspiration," says Tara Dowburd. "Showing images helps

us see what a client thinks is beautiful."

FINALISTS: BLUSHINGTON MAKEUP & BEAUTY LOUNGE * SYMMETRY BEAUTY BY NYRHE * BETSY DIFRANCESCA

ORANGE COUNTY WINNER
Design Visage

Known for: Specializing in the unique beauty needs of brides and their bridal parties to help bring the desired style to life.

Wedded wisdom: "It does not matter what the look of the season brings, you need to be comfortable in your look," says owner Caren Lazarus. "Perhaps a softer version of a dramatic style or just be you—nude gloss, golden cheeks and a fresh eye is always in."

FINALISTS: FLAWLESS FACES * VANITY BELLE BEAUTY BOUTIQUE * KACEE GEOFFROY HAIR AND MAKEUP

CENTRAL COAST WINNER
Team Hair & Makeup

Known for: Creating beautiful, Hollywood-worthy looks so that each bride is red-carpet ready for her big day.

Wedded wisdom: "Go with what feels right. Wear your hair in a style that is familiar and comfortable. Not a makeup girl? Ask your bridal stylist to go natural and show photos of what natural means to you," advises Team's creative director Mar Romero. "Just be yourself and confidence will follow!"

FINALISTS: ARCHITECTURE * KIM & CO. SALON * BETSY DIFRANCESCA