



See a Real  
Wedding at Jekyll  
Island Club Hotel on  
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## best outdoor sites

The prettiest places to wed and party under the sun or stars. BY JAYME KLOCK

### 1. rustic retreat

Hidden away in Young Harris, **Brasstown Valley Resort & Spa** is surrounded by the Blue Ridge Mountains. The Waterfall Lawn has gorgeous natural views and can hold up to 280 guests. Receptions must be catered by the resort and can take place in the open-air Sunset Pavilion, where a Blue Ridge Mountains view and fireplace enhance the romantic vibe. (706) 379-4764, [BrasstownValley.com](http://BrasstownValley.com)

### 2. grand gardens

**The Atlanta Botanical Garden's** wedding sites include the Robinson Gazebo, which looks out onto the Atlanta skyline and is adjacent to the Fuqua Orchid Center. The classic Rose Garden can hold up to 200 seated guests, while the intimate Trustee's Garden has a classical gazebo, stone balustrade and vine-wrapped pavilions.

The staff will match you with one of its preferred caterers. (404) 591-1585, [AtlantaBotanicalGarden.org](http://AtlantaBotanicalGarden.org)

### 3. mediterranean manor

A bit of Italy in Atlanta, **Villa Christina** has wedding spots amidst rose gardens, streams and waterfalls. Ceremonies can take place in the tree-shaded pavilion. Receptions can be held in either the ballroom or restaurant, both of which have views of the gardens. (404) 303-0133, [VillaChristina.com](http://VillaChristina.com)

### 4. elegant estate

**The Swan House Lawn** at the classic Italian- and English-style mansion at the Atlanta History Center isn't your typical backyard—it can seat up to 500 guests! For more intimate events, the Boxwood Garden hosts 52. The fountains and stately stone columns

on the lawn epitomize Southern elegance. Also, you can create a customized menu with one of the center's preferred caterers. (404) 814-4000, [AtlantaHistoryCenter.com](http://AtlantaHistoryCenter.com)

### 5. divine vineyard

**Three Sisters Vineyards** is a top choice for Dahlenega weddings. The vineyard gazebo and the rock wall patio are perfect for intimate weddings, and various spots throughout the vineyards can be tented. Choose any caterer you like—just don't forget to ask for custom-labeled wine bottles for the tables. (706) 865-9463, [ThreeSistersVineyards.com](http://ThreeSistersVineyards.com)

### 6. natural hideaway

Say "I do" under a cascading waterfall at **Chota Falls** in Clayton, a 150-acre estate. Ceremonies can be held

on a stone patio at the foot of the waterfall. Bring your own drinks, but you must use the on-site caterer. (706) 490-2071, [ChotaFalls.com](http://ChotaFalls.com)

### 7. storybook palace

A turn-of-the-century castle in Atlanta, **Rhodes Hall** receptions can take place on the front lawn and outside caterers may be used (for a fee). The king-sized front steps and towering porch pillars make a great photo spot for the king and queen... er, bride and groom! Move inside for a more intimate affair, which can accommodate up to 175 for a cocktail-style reception. (404) 885-7800, [GeorgiaTrust.org](http://GeorgiaTrust.org)

### 8. lakefront luxury

Incorporate nature into your nuptials at **Lake Lanier Islands Resort**. Located just 45 minutes from northeast

Atlanta, the Summer House Garden has stunning views of the surroundings, including Lake Lanier. The three-tiered gazebo sits on the edge of the lake and is a picturesque spot for up to 300 guests. (770) 945-8787, [LakeLanierIslands.com](http://LakeLanierIslands.com)

### 9. charming chateau

French charm meets Southern hospitality at the sixteenth-century-style **Château Élan** in Braselton. Ceremonies for up to 400 guests can be held on the beautifully landscaped Château Lawn, while the Matisse Lawn surrounds the inn and can seat 130 under towering trees. Receptions in the covered Winery Pavilion, which the chateau caters, can accommodate 360 guests. (678) 425-0900 x45, [ChateauElan.com](http://ChateauElan.com)

### 10. island escape

Oak tree-canopied lawns and beachfronts abound at the Victorian-style **Jekyll Island Club Hotel**. Crane Cottage can hold 120 guests in its courtyard; the sunken garden can host 250; and 200 can be accommodated at the reflection pool. Steps from the ocean, 60 guests can dine alfresco (the hotel caters all receptions) at the Beach Pavilion. (800) 535-9547, [JekyllClub.com](http://JekyllClub.com)

FALL/WINTER 2013

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