



NEW YORK

Weddings

WINTER 2012/SPECIAL ISSUE

31 Perfect Venues

Perennial favorites and hot new upstarts

HOW TO Pull Off a Wedding in 90 Days

... but make it look like
it took all year

Dream Gay Weddings

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city's top planners

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THE RECEPTION

OLD AND NEW FANTASY VENUES.....GREENHOUSE AS PARTY HOUSE.....URBAN AESTHETES' TOP LOCATIONS...
EXTREME DANCE MOVES.....WEDDING BAND NUMEROLOGY.....ONE SWEET FINALE.....

Take a Bow

How to pull off an epic party, from first dance to last call.



The Brooklyn
2011

vated to include new bathrooms and a small kitchen. It offers three floors of space to play with, each clocking in at about 8,500 square feet, plus roof access. The building can accommodate up to 350 for dinner and dancing. Site fees are \$15,000 for a single-floor rental and \$18,000 for two floors. *548 W. 22nd St., nr. Eleventh Ave.; 646-398-9100; center548.com.*

NEW

CULT STUDIOS

Despite its white-cube Chelsea vibe, this new flower-district space is smartly compartmentalized to accommodate primping brides (thanks to a furnished dressing suite) and that tricky ceremony-to-reception transition (courtesy of a sleekly designed bar and lounge where guests can bide their time). At 8,000 square feet, the loft can host 150 for dinner and dancing. Site fees start at \$5,500 for an eight-hour day. *122 W. 27th St., nr. Sixth Ave., eighth fl.; 212-647-7171; cultstudiosnyc.com.*

UPSTATE ESCAPES

OLD

LAKE PLACID LODGE

This idyllic Adirondacks lodge was built in 1882—and all but decimated in a 2005 fire. Reconstruction efforts began immediately, and today the 30-room lakeside complex has been restored above and beyond its original glory. Up

to 75 guests fit in the stunning candlelit Artisan's Circle, a rustic-chic enclosed porch with a stone fireplace and panoramic views of the surrounding mountains and lake. The warm and ethereal Adirondack Room (picture an indoor take on *A Midsummer Night's Dream*) can accommodate 50 guests with a dance floor. Dinner from \$85 per person; the \$500 to \$3,000 site fees are waived with 30 guest-room confirmations. *144 Lodge Way, Lake Placid, N.Y.; 518-523-2700; lakeplacidlodge.com.*

NEW

HELSINKI HUDSON

This restaurant and music venue (an earlier incarnation of which was located in the Berkshires) has quickly become a Hudson Valley staple, its subterranean club attracting rock, jazz, and indie performers from around the world, including such acts as Rasputina and Spottiswoode & His Enemies. Local artists contributed to the gut renovation of its nineteenth-century postindustrial digs, and many details, such as the woodwork and the lighting fixtures, are handmade. Chef Hugh Horner drew on his southern roots to put together a menu of locally sourced, organic Low-Country cuisine. The entire building can accommodate up to 500 people for dinner and dancing, but the sunny, second-level ballroom is notable in and of itself and has a capacity of 150. Prices upon request. *405 Columbia St., Hudson, N.Y.; 518-828-4800; helsinkihudson.com.*

DREAM HOMES

OLD

ALGER HOUSE

This 105-year-old carriage house is just the sort of Greenwich Village home you wish your parents had had the foresight to invest in, if only for your future wedding reception. The décor is charming but dated—massive area rugs, antique mirrors—and can easily be enhanced with the right lighting and rentals. The building's Great Room accommodates up to 110 for dinner and dancing. Green Mansions, which runs the venue, handles catering; customizable menu packages start at \$85 per head. *Sixth Ave. nr. Bleecker St.; 212-627-8838; algerhouse.com.*

NEW

APARTMENT 2B

The private event space at the year-old Andaz 5th Avenue hotel captures upscale-loft living at its best. The area is divided into a series of connected studios and rooms, including a lust-worthy open kitchen that can squeeze in 150 people for a homey cocktail hour, and Studio 1, which can accommodate 80 for dinner and offers views of the New York Public Library across the street. All-inclusive packages start at \$30,000. Catering is handled by chef Roberto Alicea, who cut his teeth at the Michelin-starred NoMI in Chicago. *485 Fifth Ave., at 41st St.; 212-601-1234; andaz.com.*



Good Weather Guaranteed

Five glass-walled, flora-filled, feel-like-you're-outdoors-but-you're-not winter-wedding locations.

BY ALLY BETKER

THE HUDSON HOTEL

For intimate affairs (we're talking 32-person seated dinners), the Hudson's penthouse offers a cozy reprieve from winter's icy clutch. The glass-enclosed, ivy-covered sunroom is located 24 floors up and outfitted with a wood-burning fireplace and

landscaped terrace. Site fees range from \$3,000 to \$5,000, plus \$220 per person for dinner. *356 W. 58th St., nr. Ninth Ave.; 212-554-6000.*

MUSEUM OF JEWISH HERITAGE

Reserve the Events Hall at this cultural

institution, located in Battery Park, and you're guaranteed sweeping views of New York Harbor and the Statue of Liberty. The nondenominational 5,000-square-foot space fits up to 350 seated guests; a heated tent on the outdoor terrace can fit another 100. Grand floor-to-ceiling windows overlook Andy Goldworthy's Garden of Stones memorial, which is sublime covered in frost or snow. Prices upon request. *36 Battery Pl., nr. 1st Pl.; 646-437-4206.*

THE FOUNDRY

This 2,000-square-foot nineteenth-century metal-manufacturing plant in Queens can be yours for \$5,000 to \$10,000. But tack on an extra \$2,000 and you can also stake a claim to its newly converted greenhouse—an airy, sun-dappled space that,

until recently, functioned as a working nursery. Though the plants were transferred to a nearby courtyard, the Foundry added wall-climbing vines to maintain the 100-person room's lush-garden vibe. A fireplace, French doors, and skylights further conjure a balmy summer's eve. *42-38 Ninth St., nr. 43rd Ave., Long Island City; 718-786-7776.*

NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

Amateur horticulturists will find as much to love indoors as out at the city's most resplendent conservatory. NYBG's Garden Terrace Room boasts hand-painted botanical murals, a sunny yellow foyer, and 14-foot-tall arched windows that flood the 3,440-square-foot space with natural light. The room fits up to 175 people (at \$125 to \$203 a head), but there is an

adjacent tented terrace available for larger parties from mid-March through December at no additional cost. *200th St. at Southern Blvd., Bronx; 718-220-0300.*

WATER'S EDGE

The walls of windows at this restaurant and event space offer unobstructed views of the Manhattan skyline and Queensboro Bridge. A \$2 million face-lift two years ago appointed the venue with such luxurious details as Waterford-crystal chandeliers and an expandable dance floor. A neutral color palette means you can design the well-lit space however you please, but BYO greenery if you're envisioning a jungle oasis. The venue can fit up to 325 people, at \$125 to \$165 a head. *East River at 44th Dr., nr. 5th St., Long Island City; 718-482-0033.*

The Campucci Apartment



The Darby

NEW

Center548



Cult Studios

NEW

Lake Placid Lodge



Helsinki Hudson

NEW

Alger House



Apartment 2B

NEW