



Explore

Big Sky SPECIAL SECTION

weddings

Your guide to wedding season in southwest Montana

Venue roundup

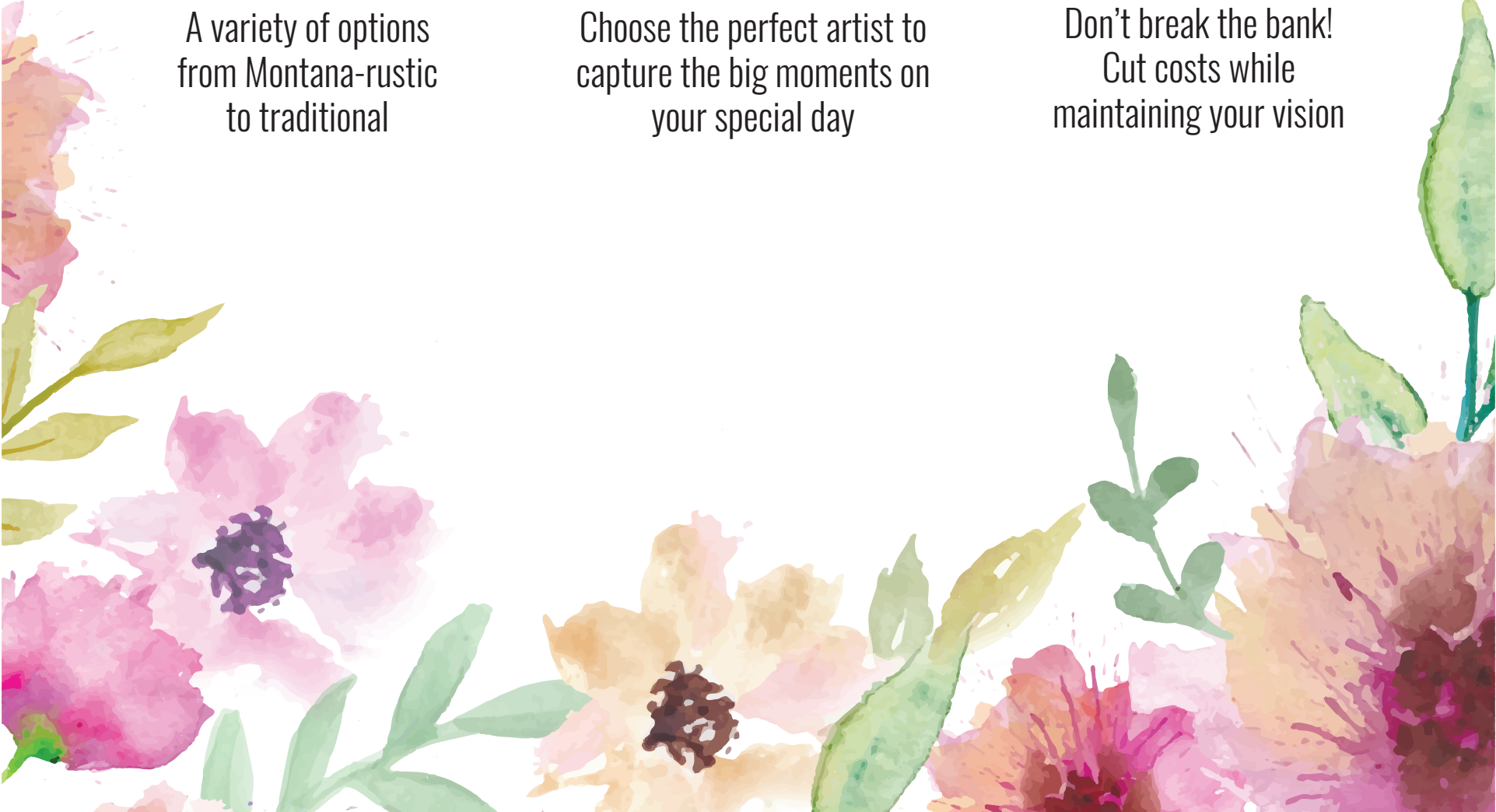
A variety of options
from Montana-rustic
to traditional

Regional photographers

Choose the perfect artist to
capture the big moments on
your special day

Budget saving tips

Don't break the bank!
Cut costs while
maintaining your vision



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How not to be a *BRIDEZILLA*

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- Delegate, delegate, delegate! And trust the people you delegate to.
- Hit the gym to relieve stress.
- Share the spotlight. We vs. me.
- Stick to your budget to avoid financial stress.
- Acknowledge your parents' opinions and feelings.
- A crash diet will likely result in a cranky bride.
- Have perspective—remember that this is only day one of a long marriage.
- Perfection is a myth that only causes anxiety.
- Be grateful.

Custom dinnerware makes for a memorable wedding gift

Handmade, one of a kind and personalized to suit the couple's taste, custom dinnerware makes for a special and functional gift. Local ceramicists Jill Zeidler (top) and Ryan Mitchell of Gangbusters Pottery in Bozeman are kept busy with commissions for full sets of plates, serving platters and mugs for newly married couples. Learn more about these artists at jillzeidler.com or gangbusterspottery.com.



PHOTO BY SARAH GIANELLI

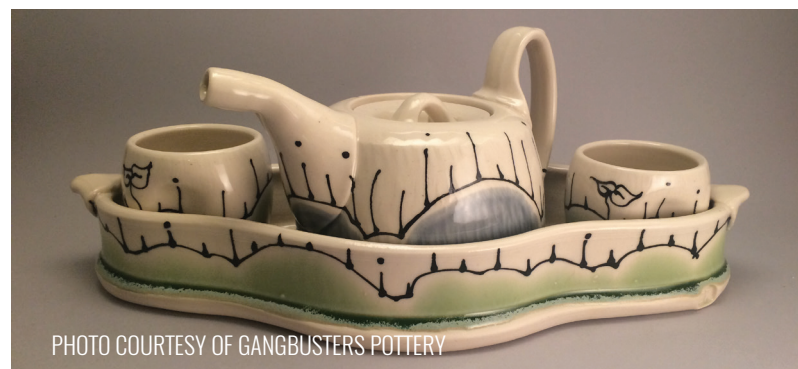


PHOTO COURTESY OF GANGBUSTERS POTTERY

*14th Annual
Bridal Walk*



*Downtown Bozeman
Saturday April 7th, 2018
11am to 3pm*

Same-day registration at The Baxter.

downtownbozeman.org



Rental options available for rehearsal dinners and special events

ARTISAN PASTAS AND EXTENSIVE WINE LIST

Open 7 days a week 5pm-10pm | 75 Center Lane | Big Sky, MT
michaelangelosbigsky.com or call (406) 995-7373 to make a reservation



RAINBOW RANCH

LODGE

info@rainbowranchbigsky.com
www.rainbowranchbigsky.com
(406) 995-4132
42950 Gallatin Road | Gallatin Gateway, Montana | 59730



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Places to get hitched under the Big Sky

PHOTO COURTESY OF BROOKE PETERSON PHOTOGRAPHY



Moonlight Basin

moonlightbasin.
findyourbigsky.com
(800) 760-5658

You'll always remember where and when you said, "I do." With the scenic backdrop of the Spanish Peaks and Lone Mountain, Moonlight Basin is the ideal setting for that special day.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GALLATIN RIVERHOUSE GRILL



Gallatin Riverhouse Grill

gallatinriverhousegrill.com
(406) 995-7427

Perched above the shoreline of the Gallatin River, the Gallatin Riverhouse Grill boasts breathtaking views, immaculate grounds and distinctive Montana charm. The grounds include 2 acres of riverfront property, a volleyball court, horseshoe pits and can accommodate 200 to 600 people.

Big Sky Resort

bigskyresort.com
(406) 995-5672

Big Sky Resort is surrounded by the peaks of the Northern Rocky Mountains and offers a selection of locations for the wedding ceremony and reception, from the summertime Lone Peak Pavilion, to the elegant Summit Hotel Talus Room, and more.



PHOTO BY REID MORTH

PHOTO COURTESY OF LONE MOUNTAIN RANCH



Lone Mountain Ranch

lonemountainranch.com
(406) 995-4644

A destination for 100 years, Lone Mountain Ranch has a variety of indoor and outdoor venues, accommodations for up to 150 guests, complete food and beverage service capabilities, plus a full range of ranch activities that will leave every guest with a lifetime of memories. Moments are crafted at the ranch through discovery, exceptional people, fun activities, and a breathtaking environment, where guests disconnect from the world while connecting with others.

Chico Hot Springs

chicohotspots.com
(406) 333-4933

Chico Hot Springs Resort and Day Spa offers a true Montana wedding destination with distinct venues in the Field of Dreams overlooking Paradise Valley, an event center that accommodates the smallest parties or bigger visions up to 180 guests. Chico provides seamless service with full catering for food and beverages, event planning, natural hot springs pools, and unique lodging in all seasons.

PHOTO BY RYAN BOLGER



PHOTO COURTESY OF CLUNEY PHOTO



320 Guest Ranch

320ranch.com

(406) 995-4283

Located on the Gallatin River 12 miles south of Big Sky, the 320 Guest Ranch is surrounded by spectacular scenery and highlighted by the authentic beauty of rustic cabins and corrals. The 320 Guest Ranch was awarded Borrowed & Blue's 2017 Best Large Wedding Venue for Bozeman/Big Sky.

Buck's T-4 Lodge

buckst4.com

(800) 822-4484

Buck's T-4 Lodge offers nationally recognized cuisine and a detail-oriented staff. Whether your dream is to get married under a blanket of snow, or in a garden filled with flowers, Buck's T-4 offers lodging and venues for outdoor ceremonies, receptions and rehearsal dinners with catering that can accommodate 10 to 225 guests.



PHOTO BY SALT AND PINE PHOTOGRAPHY

PHOTO COURTESY OF NOTARIUS PHOTOGRAPHY



Big Yellow Barn

bigyellowbarn.com

(406) 579-3415

Built in 1917 for draft animals, the Big Yellow Barn is a historic landmark. Conveniently located 7 miles north of Bozeman, the barn has been upgraded while still preserving its rustic roots to serve as the perfect wedding venue. The barn features an open interior and breathtaking views of the Bridger Mountains from the spacious deck outside.

Rainbow Ranch Lodge

rainbowranchbigsky.com

(406) 995-4132

Nestled snugly in the Gallatin Range alongside the picturesque Gallatin River, Rainbow Ranch Lodge provides an unparalleled setting offering a unique combination of elegance, romance and Big Sky Country alpine surroundings, complete with the Rainbow Ranch's lodge, historic barn, covered deck and river rock gazebo grill.



PHOTO BY KENE SPERRY



PHOTO COURTESY OF GLACIER WORLD

Montana Backcountry Adventures Dinner Yurt

bigskyyurt.com

(406) 995-3880

The Montana Dinner Yurt, located at Big Sky Resort, offers an off-the-grid backcountry setting for a truly unique wedding venue experience. The yurt operates throughout the winter and is located in the woods on the flanks of Lone Mountain, accessible by snowcat.

Your Montana Wedding...



Photo by Notanus Photography

Close to Bozeman • Gorgeous mountain views
Inspiring country setting • Easy, year-round access
Historic local landmark



www.bigyellowbarn.com • (406) 579-3415



Photo by Amelia Anne Photography



Photo by Amy Hallenius Photography



Photo by Amelia Anne Photography

Wedding money-savers

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THE DATE

Get married on any day but a Saturday, or choose a date that isn't in peak season, for example September or October instead of July or August.



ALCOHOL

Don't feel like you need to offer a fully stocked, open bar at your wedding. Opt for beer, wine plus a featured cocktail or two.



CAKE

The taller the cake, the higher the price. Consider a smaller cake for cutting, and sheet cakes for your guests. Or, do cookies or pie instead!



LIMIT INVITATIONS

Narrowing down a guest list can be tricky. Eliminate groups such as kids or coworkers rather than excluding on a case-by-case basis.



FLOWERS

Choose flowers that are in season, and avoid arrangements that are intensive for florists to make, such as cascading bouquets, to save on labor costs.



VENUE

Pick a venue that doesn't require you to use their food or music vendors. Choosing a scenic venue can also help you save on décor costs.



PHOTOGRAPHY

Create your own photo booth by purchasing a tripod for your camera, phone or iPad. Then, all you need is a backdrop and props.



ASSISTANCE

Don't be afraid to ask for help! Calling on a friend to pick up your cake or flowers can save a lot in terms of delivery costs.



DRESS

Consider shopping for a white dress that isn't wedding specific. Alternatively, look for a second-hand dress, or plan to sell yours when you're through with it.



FOOD

Consider non-traditional dining options, like heavy appetizers, or a whole roasted pig, rather than the standard beef, chicken or fish.

Bozeman Bridal Walk caters to all your wedding needs

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On Saturday, April 7 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. the Downtown Bozeman Association presents the 14th annual Bridal Walk, a self-guided tour of nearly 50 local businesses that can take care of all your wedding needs.

On the circuit are dress shops, jewelers, florists, photographers, caterers, invitation suppliers, event planners, venue representatives and many chances for brides and their family and friends to win in-store giveaways and raffle-prizes, including a \$500 shopping spree valid at any of the participating businesses.

Wine, cake and hors d'oeuvre samples from various vendors will be available along the way—including a cocktail and appetizer event hosted by Bozeman Spirits Distillery in partnership with Rainbow Ranch Lodge.

The bridal walk has added some new businesses to the tour, among them Salted Caramel, Evergreen Clothing, 9Round Fitness and Little Star Diner. They join the company of other businesses that have been participating in the annual event for over a decade, such as The Gem Gallery, Meridian Boutique, Alara Jewelry, Miller's Jewelry, Montana Gift Corral, The Baxter Hotel, Bridger Bowl, The Crossroads and Indulgence Beauty Bar.

Also new this year is the addition of several on-street vendors, including a decked-out Airstream turned into an off-site bridal dressing room and lounge, and two vintage trailer photo booths.

The ninth annual Photography Contest—always a highlight of the bridal walk—will take place at the Rialto Bozeman this year. Wedding photography by local and regional photographers will be on display, and ballots on hand for strollers to vote for “best bridal image,” “the most unique image,” and “best overall image.” Awards, plaques and prizes will be presented to the winning photographers. Not only is this an opportunity to support Montana artists, but also to find and connect with the perfect photographer to capture your unique wedding vision.



The Bozeman Bridal Walk is both a fun day to spend with friends and a practical way to connect with all the resources you need to plan your big day. PHOTO COURTESY OF DOWNTOWN BOZEMAN ASSOCIATION

“The Downtown Bridal Walk is a fun and unique way to plan your Montana wedding,” said DBA Director Ellie Staley. “At each stop you are not only welcomed by merchants that can help you with every small detail of your big day, you are also invited to partake in wine and appetizer tastings, raffles and bridal activities of all sorts to make your day of planning exciting and memorable.”

Brides-to-be and their entourages can stop by the upstairs ballroom in the historic Baxter Hotel at any time during the event and pick up a map, informational guide and complimentary gift bag before starting the tour down Main Street. Maps and booklets can also be picked up at any of the participating businesses beginning two weeks prior to the event.

Visit downtownbozeman.org or call (406) 586-4008 for more information about the event and vendor opportunities.

Available for Weddings, Parties and Corporate Events

www.montanaphotolounge.com | 406-414-7554

Wedding photographer roundup



Opt for an unconventional wedding photography option with a vintage trailer turned into a digital photo lounge. PHOTO COURTESY OF MONTANA PHOTO LOUNGE

Montana Photo Lounge

montanaphotolounge.com | (406) 414-7554

Digital photo booth services have grown in popularity in recent years as a fun addition to any event for kids and adults alike. Montana Photo Lounge, based out of Bozeman, installed a digital photo booth in a 1956 Shasta camper trailer—a photo op in and of itself—that will add a unique twist to your wedding guests’

experience. Traditional photographers are sure to capture the special moments between newlyweds, family and friends, but a photo booth is all about capturing the fun times, complete with playful props and graphics.

Crystal Images Professional Photography

bigskyphotos.com
(406) 994-2426

Crystal Images Professional Photography has operated in Big Sky since 1982, capturing residents and visitors’ adventures through the lens. Images created by the Crystal Images wedding team are natural, romantic and timeless, blending fine art and documentary.

Kene Sperry

kenesperry.com
(406) 581-2574

Kene Sperry is a Big Sky photographer who enjoys living in the moment. “Photography to me is living in the pleasant presence of the present tense,” he says. With Sperry’s eye for lighting and color, his photography transcends the gap between pictures and fine art.

Tori Pintar

toripintar.com
(406) 600-2090

Tori Pintar describes herself as the sentimental Montana wedding photographer for the adventurous, handcrafted brides. Based in Big Sky, Pintar says she’ll travel anywhere for a wedding.

Becky Brockie

beckybrockie.com
(406) 839-4797

Becky Brockie specializes in wedding and glamour photography designed especially for romantic, adventurous couples who are planning their wedding in the Montana mountains or in any place their hearts love to wander.