



# PERFECT PLACES

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HIP, HAUTE, RUSTIC, OR HISTORIC, L.A. IS HOME TO A SEEMINGLY ENDLESS NUMBER OF SITES. HERE'S OUR GUIDE TO HELP YOU FIND THE RIGHT MATCH.

Choosing the site of your wedding is "an opportunity to express different parts of your personality," says Nicole Netzah, co-owner of Embellish Events & Design, a special-events firm. Luckily, Southern California has myriad locations, from private estates to backcountry ranches, befitting all personalities. Here, we've highlighted one extra special site from each of 10 categories and then provided you with a more comprehensive listing of the city's potential wedding venues.

## HISTORIC SITES

A sense of tradition motivates many in the selection of a wedding site. Just as some brides wear their mother's wedding gown, some choose to marry in the same spot their parents did. "Having your reception at a location with a rich history is really special," says Netzah. "Historical locations often have restrictions due to preservation measures, though that limits use." Having your wedding become part of a location's unique history, however, may outweigh the drawbacks.

### 1 LA VENTA INN

Built in 1923, La Venta Inn was the first structure on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. A clubhouse for prospective land buyers, the building transitioned to a black-tie restaurant, a weekend getaway for Hollywood notables such as Cary Grant, Gloria Swanson, and Tyrone Power, and then to a residential home. In 1992, it became the event space it is today. The



Mission-style haven greets guests with a trickling courtyard fountain and the fragrance of arbors overflowing with flowers like honeysuckle. Flanking the main building are two cottages, dressing areas for the bride and groom. Ceremonies are held on the front lawn with a panoramic view of Los Angeles and the Santa Monica Bay. Inside, a fire warms the main hall, and two adjoining rooms offer dining tables where guests can linger at sunset. The indoor/outdoor space accommodates 250. Events are held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Food minimums range from \$4,000 to \$12,750. Fees for beverages, service personnel, and sales tax are separate.

*La Venta Inn, 796 Via Del Monte, Palos Verdes Estates, 310-373-0123, [www.laventa.com](http://www.laventa.com).*

### rooftop elegance, cityscape panorama

Raffles L'Ermitage Beverly Hills (below) and La Venta Inn, Palos Verdes Estates (opposite and below, left).

## HOTELS

A hotel is a smart choice for many reasons. "Hotels have the basic items—tables, chairs, dishes, and glasses—that you'll need," says Netzah. Also, they have experience with wedding parties; many have a wedding planner on hand. Another upside, says Netzah, is the option for your guests to stay overnight.

### 2 RAFFLES L'ERMITAGE BEVERLY HILLS

Hidden behind a row of trees along Burton Way is the unassuming, yet distinctive Raffles L'Ermitage. Take an elevator to the roof and you'll find contemporary elegance coupled with captivating architectural details and a garden of black bamboo, papyrus, and bougainvillea. The