

# Summer Weddings



# Top Summer Themes

Some couples have known what colors they want for their weddings since their first date while others want to key in to trends that match the season of their wedding date.

Summer weddings provide an opportunity to embrace vibrant, airy and romantic tones that set the mood for a picturesque celebration. This year's trending summer wedding color themes offer a blend of timeless elegance and fresh inspiration. From sun-kissed hues to nature-inspired shades, here are the top summer wedding color trends industry experts are recommending.

## VERONA SUNSET: WARM, ROMANTIC TONES

EventInsuranceNow selected Verona Sunset — a vibrant shade of orange — as 2025's color scheme of the year. It captures the dreamy glow of a summer evening and pairs well with classic white, lavender and green accents. This palette evokes the warmth of a sunset and can beautifully complement rustic or bohemian decor. Bridesmaids in warm-toned dresses, floral arrangements featuring dahlias and roses, and golden candlelit receptions all create a breathtaking aesthetic.



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## PEACH-INSPIRED PALETTES

Sapphire Event Planning highlights peach as a standout summer wedding color, with palettes incorporating soft blush, coral and apricot. These shades bring a cheerful and romantic feel to any wedding. Peach pairs effortlessly with neutral tones like ivory

and taupe, as well as with pops of greenery for a fresh, garden-inspired look.

## NEUTRALS AND DARK GREEN ACCENTS

For a timeless and elegant approach, Sapphire Event Group suggests neutral-inspired palettes featuring champagne, beige and soft

gray. These colors provide a sophisticated base that can be enhanced with darker green accents, such as emerald or olive, creating a refined and earthy feel. Dark green elements in table settings, bridesmaid dresses and floral installations add a natural touch to summer celebrations.

## JUICY RED AND SOFT, LESS-SATURATED TONES

The Knot's trend report spotlights juicy red as a bold statement color for summer weddings. Deep reds like cherry and strawberry add vibrancy and passion, especially when used in floral arrangements or as a focal accent color.

If bold isn't your style, The Knot highlights soft, less-saturated hues, such as pale lavender, muted blues and faded yellows, for a more delicate and romantic ambiance.

## OLD-WORLD HUES AND CLASSIC GREEN

For couples drawn to a vintage aesthetic, The Knot recommends old-world hues, which include dusty rose, antique gold and faded navy. These colors bring a sense of nostalgia and sophistication to summer weddings.

Meanwhile, classic green remains a perennial favorite, symbolizing renewal and natural beauty. Lush greenery paired with crisp whites creates an effortlessly chic summer wedding look.

## BLOSSOM PINK AND FRENCH LILAC

Kennedy Blue suggests blossom pink and French lilac for a soft, feminine and floral-inspired summer wedding. Blossom pink, a delicate pastel shade, exudes romance, while French lilac adds a touch of elegance and charm. These colors are ideal for garden weddings and pair beautifully with white and soft metallic accents.

# Unique Summer Weddings

Summer weddings provide the perfect opportunity to explore unconventional venues that make for a truly memorable celebration.

While traditional ballrooms and banquet halls remain popular, many couples are opting for more creative settings to elevate their special day. Whether exchanging vows in motion, by the water or under the stars, these unique summer wedding venues offer something extraordinary.

Choosing a creative venue for a summer wedding ensures an extraordinary celebration filled with adventure, beauty and personal flair.

## ROMANCE ON THE RAILS

For couples who want a wedding with timeless elegance and adventure, a luxury train provides an unforgettable experience. Scenic rail journeys offer breathtaking backdrops as guests travel through picturesque landscapes.

Couples can exchange vows in a beautifully restored dining car or host a reception featuring gourmet cuisine while the train glides along the tracks. A luxury train wedding blends vintage charm with modern sophistication, perfect for a couple seeking something truly out of the ordinary.



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## RUSTIC ELEGANCE AMIDST THE VINES

Vineyards offer a stunning and romantic setting for a summer wedding, with rows of lush grapevines, rolling hills and charming wineries providing a scenic backdrop. Many vineyards feature elegant outdoor spaces for ceremonies and receptions, along with farm-to-table catering options that highlight local wines. Guests can enjoy wine tastings, sunset views and a relaxed yet refined atmosphere that captures the essence of summer romance.

## LUSH FLORAL WONDERLAND

For a wedding surrounded by nature's beauty, a botanical garden is an ideal venue. Towering trees, vibrant flowers and winding pathways create a magical setting for exchanging vows. Many botanical gardens offer dedicated event spaces, allowing couples to say "I do" amid blooming flora without the need for excessive decorations. The natural ambiance also enhances wedding photography, making every moment picture-perfect.

## EXCLUSIVE TROPICAL ESCAPE

For an intimate and luxurious summer wedding, a private island provides the ultimate getaway. Whether in the Caribbean, the Pacific or along the U.S. coast, private islands offer pristine beaches, lush landscapes and total seclusion. Couples can host a barefoot beach ceremony, enjoy an oceanfront reception and treat guests to water activities like snorkeling or sunset cruises. It's the perfect choice for those wanting a destination wedding with

exclusivity and adventure.

## A BOHEMIAN DREAM

For couples drawn to wide-open spaces and breathtaking night skies, a desert wedding offers an ethereal and dramatic setting. Locations like Joshua Tree, Sedona or Utah's red rock formations provide stunning natural beauty, with golden-hour ceremonies and receptions under the stars. Many desert venues feature glamping accommodations, fire pits and bohemian-inspired decor, creating a relaxed yet unforgettable experience.

# Trending Decor Ideas

Weddings are a chance for a couple's creativity and individual tastes shine through in everything from colors, food, music and activities.

It's why many couples want to take an active hand in determining how the wedding and reception venues are decorated.

With couples looking for ways to make their big day feel unique, fresh trends are emerging that elevate traditional wedding aesthetics. From custom branding to sustainable vintage touches, here are some of the top summer wedding decor trends making waves this season.

## CUSTOM BRANDING FOR A PERSONALIZED TOUCH

Personalization is key in 2025, and couples are taking it a step further with custom wedding branding. Monograms, unique logos and signature motifs are being incorporated into invitations, signage, dance floors and napkins. Some couples extend their branding to bar menus, guest favors and even lighting projections that cast their custom designs onto walls or ceilings, creating a cohesive and stylish ambiance.

## CURVED TABLES FOR INTIMATE GATHERINGS

Traditional long banquet



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tables and round seating arrangements are getting a modern update with curved tables. This setup adds visual interest and enhances the flow of conversation among guests, making receptions feel more intimate and inclusive. Whether arranged in a semi-circle, serpentine pattern or a flowing wave, curved tables provide a fresh and dynamic alternative to traditional seating.

## FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CENTERPIECES

Summer weddings are embracing bold, seasonal elements, and one of the most unique trends is the use of fresh fruit and vegetables as

centerpieces. Lemons, oranges, artichokes, figs and even vibrant peppers add unexpected color and texture to tablescapes. Often paired with lush greenery or florals, these natural centerpieces create an organic, farm-to-table feel that perfectly complements outdoor and rustic venues.

## CREATIVE FLORALS AND UNIQUE BRIDESMAID BOUQUETS

Floral arrangements are moving beyond traditional blooms, with couples opting for nontraditional elements like dried flowers, wild grasses and even sculptural arrangements. Bridesmaids' bouquets

are also getting a modern twist, with smaller, structured arrangements or even single-stem statement flowers. Others are turning bouquets into purses with flowers or even parasols for unique looks. Some couples are replacing traditional florals with fabric, beaded or paper bouquets, creating keepsakes that last long after the wedding day.

## VINTAGE FURNITURE FOR A SUSTAINABLE AND STYLISH LOOK

Sustainability is a growing priority in wedding planning, and one way couples are embracing eco-conscious decor is by using vintage

furniture. From ornate antique sofas for lounge areas to repurposed wooden tables for dining, vintage pieces add character and reduce waste. Many rental companies now specialize in curated vintage collections, allowing couples to mix and match elegant furniture while keeping their event environmentally friendly.

By incorporating these thoughtful and stylish decor trends, couples can create a summer wedding that is visually stunning as well as personal, meaningful and reflective of their unique love story. Summer wedding decor in 2025 is all about creativity and individuality.

# Convenient Drink Service

Couples planning their wedding receptions are always looking for ways to impress guests and create a seamless, memorable experience.

Wedding experts at Vogue and The Knot have identified cocktails and their service as trends that are gaining popularity in 2025.

## THE RISE OF READY-TO-DRINK COCKTAILS

Gone are the days when pre-mixed drinks were considered subpar. Today's ready-to-drink cocktails feature premium spirits, fresh ingredients and crafted flavors that rival those of a mixologist-made drink. From canned espresso martinis to bottled craft margaritas, these cocktails deliver quality without the wait.

One of the biggest advantages of ready-to-drink cocktails at weddings is efficiency. With bartenders pouring from pre-made selections instead of individually crafting each drink, lines move faster, ensuring guests spend more time celebrating and less time waiting. Plus, offering a curated menu of ready-to-drink cocktails alongside traditional bar options adds variety while keeping service smooth.

Ready-to-drink cocktails also shine in outdoor weddings where bar setups may be



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limited. With no need for extensive equipment, they make it easy to provide high quality drinks in remote or unconventional venues. They allow couples to showcase their personality by choosing signature cocktails that reflect their tastes.

## SEASONAL MOCKTAILS FOR A REFRESHING TWIST

For couples looking to offer an inclusive and refreshing beverage option, seasonal mocktails are an excellent addition to the menu. Crafted with fresh fruits, herbs and creative flavor pairings, these

alcohol-free drinks bring sophistication without the spir-its. Summer weddings can feature vibrant options like watermelon basil coolers or cucumber mint spritzers.

Offering a selection of beautifully garnished, handcrafted mocktails ensures that all guests, regardless of their drinking preferences, can partake in a festive and flavorful experience.

## THE ALLURE OF 360-DEGREE BARS

A 360-degree bar offers both function and flair. Unlike traditional bar setups that create bottlenecks, a circular or

wraparound bar allows guests to order from any side, reducing wait times and enhancing the overall flow of the reception.

A 360-degree bar becomes an eye-catching centerpiece, adding to the wedding's aesthetic. Whether adorned with florals, ambient lighting or personalized signage, it serves as a practical and decorative element. Placing the bar at the center of the reception space encourages socializing and movement, keeping the energy high throughout the night.

Additionally, this style of bar accommodates multiple bartenders working

simultaneously, ensuring guests receive their drinks quickly. Couples can customize the setup with specialty stations, such as a whiskey-tasting area or a bubbly bar featuring prosecco and garnishes.

Pairing ready-to-drink cocktails with a 360-degree bar creates an unmatched combination of style and efficiency. Guests can grab a high-end, pre-mixed cocktail with ease while enjoying the dynamic, open feel of a circular bar setup. For a wedding reception that blends modern convenience with an upscale experience, these trends are a perfect match.

# Modern Couples Using AI Tools

Wedding planning has always required a delicate balance of creativity, organization and communication.

Now, artificial intelligence is stepping in to make the process smoother, more efficient and even more personalized.

According to The Knot Worldwide 2025 Wedding Trends to Watch Report, the rise of AI-driven wedding planning tools has surged, with 20% of couples now using AI to assist with communication, etiquette and inspiration.

The number of AI users has doubled year over year, increasing from one in 10 to one in five, showing how both vendors and engaged couples are benefiting from this evolving technology.

Wedding sites such as The Knot and WeddingWire have been developing wedding-centered chatbots that can instantly recommend venues, caterers, photographers and other vendors based on the couple's budget and style preferences. Other AI tools such as Bridebook, nupt.ai, Zola and WithJoy provide help with customized style and theme recommendations and efficient vendor matching.



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## AI-POWERED INSPIRATION AND PERSONALIZATION

One of the biggest challenges couples face is narrowing down their vision for their big day. AI-driven inspiration tools can help generate wedding themes, suggest decor ideas and even create personalized mood boards based on a couple's preferences. Platforms like Pinterest and wedding websites are incorporating AI to analyze search patterns and recommend ideas tailored to a couple's unique tastes.

AI-powered chatbots and

virtual assistants can also guide couples in decision-making, helping them match color schemes, find trending styles or create a customized wedding aesthetic. These tools save time by filtering out irrelevant options and providing a curated experience that aligns with the couple's vision.

## STREAMLINING VENDOR COMMUNICATION AND PLANNING

Coordinating with vendors can be one of the most time-consuming aspects of wedding planning. AI is now

helping couples streamline communication with florists, photographers and caterers through automated scheduling tools and smart messaging systems. Some platforms even offer AI-generated email templates to ensure proper etiquette and clarity in vendor interactions.

Couples can use AI to compare vendor pricing, read real-time reviews and receive tailored recommendations based on their budget and location. This technology helps engaged pairs make informed decisions quickly and efficiently.

## SIMPLIFYING GUEST MANAGEMENT AND INVITATIONS

AI tools can simplify the process of managing guest lists, RSVPs and seating arrangements. AI-powered wedding planning platforms can track responses, suggest optimal seating charts based on relationships and even automate digital invitations with personalized touches.

For etiquette concerns, AI can provide guidance on wording invitations, handling plus-one requests and navigating cultural traditions. This ensures couples maintain proper decorum while personalizing their communication with guests.

## BUDGETING AND TIMELINE ASSISTANCE

AI can be a game-changer for couples looking to stay on track financially. Budgeting tools powered by AI can help allocate funds based on priorities, track expenses in real time and suggest cost-saving alternatives. Similarly, AI-driven timeline planners can create custom schedules, send reminders and adjust deadlines based on vendor availability and wedding date proximity.

With the rapid advancement of AI-driven wedding planning tools, couples are finding new ways to reduce stress and enhance creativity throughout the process. By integrating AI into their planning, engaged pairs can enjoy a more seamless, efficient and personalized experience leading up to their big day.

# Outfit Changes on the Big Day

Gone are the days when brides wore a single dress from the ceremony to the final dance of the reception.

Today, the trend of changing outfits throughout the wedding day is gaining popularity, allowing couples and their wedding party to showcase multiple looks that fit different moments of the celebration.

From ceremony gowns to reception dresses and even after-party ensembles, this fashion-forward approach adds an element of surprise and personal flair to the big day.

## THE RECEPTION DRESS

One of the biggest outfit changes brides are making is swapping their formal ceremony gown for a reception dress. While the wedding gown is often elaborate with long trains, intricate beading and dramatic silhouettes, the reception dress is designed for comfort and movement. Brides are opting for sleeker, shorter or more playful designs, such as cocktail-length dresses, slip dresses, jumpsuits or even chic two-piece sets. This outfit change allows them to dance the night away without worrying about tripping over layers of tulle or managing a heavy train.

## BRIDAL PARTY TRANSFORMATIONS

It's not just brides who are embracing multiple looks.



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Bridesmaids are opting for convertible dresses that allow them to change the style of their gowns with detachable skirts, straps or overlays.

Some groomsmen are ditching their formal jackets after the ceremony in favor of more relaxed vests, suspenders or even stylish outfit swaps that reflect the reception's vibe. This trend ensures wedding party members feel comfortable while still looking polished and put-together throughout the event.

## GROOMS AND GUESTS JOINING THE TREND

Grooms are also making outfit changes, often switching from a classic tuxedo or formal suit for the ceremony into a more casual look for the reception, such as a stylish dinner jacket, linen suit or even a custom statement outfit that reflects their personality.

Wedding guests who want to fully embrace the celebration may bring a change of shoes, accessories or a second outfit for an after-party or late-

night festivities.

## WHY MULTIPLE LOOKS ARE TRENDING

The rise of social media, increased customization in weddings and a greater focus on comfort have contributed to the popularity of this trend. Outfit changes allow couples to express different facets of their style and personality, from elegant and traditional to modern and fun. It also gives brides and grooms a chance to create distinct photo-worthy

moments throughout the event.

Whether it's slipping into a breezy reception dress, transitioning from formalwear to a more relaxed outfit or embracing detachable elements that offer versatility, outfit changes are making weddings more dynamic and stylish than ever. Couples and their wedding parties now have the freedom to mix fashion with function, ensuring they feel their best from "I do" to the last dance of the night.

# Activities to Enhance the Big Day

Weddings are a time of joy, love, and celebration, but they can bring a whirlwind of emotions and stress. It may be one of the reasons many couples are now embracing wellness-focused wedding activities.

Couples may want to create a more mindful, relaxing and health-conscious experience for themselves and their guests, or ensure that their wedding day — or weekend — is a time where everyone can engage in self-care and joy.

While some couples are arranging entire wellness retreats for their weddings, others are incorporating one or two elements that are meaningful to them. This allows them to cultivate an atmosphere of serenity, connection, and rejuvenation. Here are some thoughtful ways to weave wellness into your big day.

## GUIDED MEDITATIONS

Begin your wedding day with a guided meditation. Whether led by a professional or played from a calming app, meditation can help the wedding party center themselves, ease jitters, and embrace the moment with gratitude. Some couples even invite guests to



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join a short mindfulness session before the ceremony for a shared sense of calm.

## ORGANIZED HIKES

For an active and refreshing pre-wedding event, consider arranging a group hike. A morning or afternoon trek through scenic landscapes allows guests to unwind, breathe fresh air and bond before the main celebration. Nature walks offer an excellent way to integrate movement and mindfulness into the wedding weekend.

## PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENTS & RELAY RACES

For couples looking to bring a playful, active component to

their wedding festivities, hosting a pickleball tournament or relay race can energize guests and add an element of friendly competition. These activities are inclusive, engaging and a great way to break the ice among attendees.

## SOUND BATHS

A sound bath, using singing bowls, chimes and gongs, can create an immersive experience of relaxation and harmony. Scheduling a sound bath during a welcome event or as a morning-after recovery session can leave guests feeling rejuvenated and centered.

## WELLNESS-CENTRIC MENUS

Many couples are shifting

towards wellness-focused catering, offering organic, plant-based or nutrient-rich menus. Farm-to-table cuisine, antioxidant-packed beverages and herbal-infused cocktails provide delicious and nourishing options that align with a holistic wedding experience.

## MASSAGES

Providing mini-massages for the wedding party or setting up a massage station for guests can encourage relaxation. A quick shoulder rub or hand massage can work wonders in alleviating tension and adding a touch of indulgence to the day.

## WELLNESS-CENTERED WEDDING FAVORS

Instead of traditional

wedding favors, consider gifts that promote wellness. Items like lavender sachets, essential oil rollers, healing crystals or herbal teas offer guests a meaningful and soothing takeaway.

## NATURE MANDALAS OR LABYRINTHS

Encourage mindfulness with a nature mandala or a wedding labyrinth where guests can take a quiet moment for reflection. These artistic, nature-inspired installations allow attendees to express intentions, gratitude or personal wishes for the couple. Some couples have even invited guests to help them create a mandala that will last beyond the wedding day.