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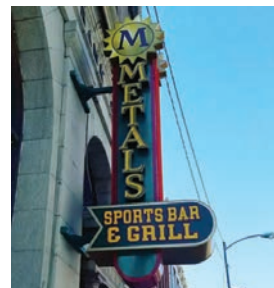
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A BUTTE WEDDING STORY

Mollie and Sam McCamley





BY LACEY MIDDLESTEAD

Mollie Peoples & Sam McCamley

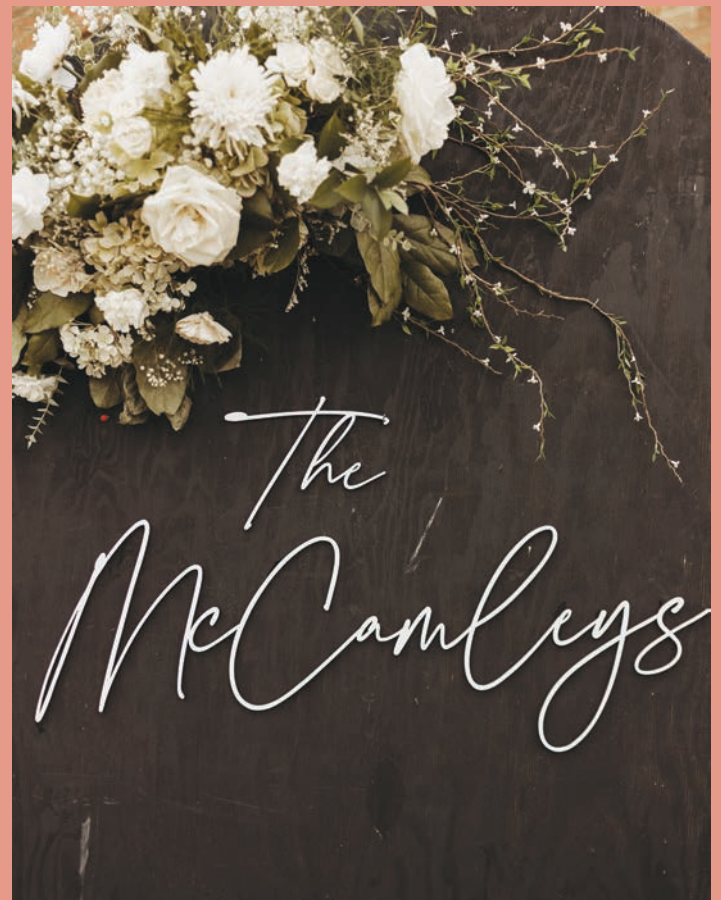
were married on July 26, 2025 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church followed by a reception at the Original Mine Yard.

On a late July afternoon, as the Montana skies poured down rain over Butte, a girl named Mollie and a boy named Sam took refuge in a 141-year-old church.

One hour later, just as the storm lifted and the sun broke through the clouds, Mollie Peoples and Sam McCamley walked hand in hand back out of the church and into the rest of their lives together.

"It was the perfect day," said Mollie.

That day marked their first step into marriage, but Mollie and Sam's love story began years earlier – and less than one mile from where they promised forever.





Born and raised in Butte, Mollie first caught Sam's eye from across the gym floor at Montana Tech's HPER athletic complex during the summer of 2018. Mollie was studying nursing and playing for the women's basketball team while attending Montana Tech while Sam, from Kalispell, studied business and played football for the Orediggers.

"We always had workouts up there because I played basketball and he played football," said Mollie.

"I thought he was really cute and funny," she added.

After several more workouts and glances stolen across the room, they decided to take the next step.

"We added each other on Snapchat and then we kind of started communicating through that," explained Mollie.

The first time the pair formally hung out, Mollie shared that they watched an "Indiana Jones" movie together. They later used that date night as inspiration when they got a chocolate lab together and name him "Indie."

Over the next few years, Mollie and Sam graduated from college and moved to Missoula. Mollie took a job as a labor and delivery nurse for Community Medical Center while Sam began working in insurance for Marsh McLennan.

All the while they grew closer and fell more in love.

After seven years of dating, on a snowy day quite unlike the one they met on, Sam proposed to Mollie at her parents' house on December 25, 2023. After saying "yes," Sam slipped a delicate gold band featuring an emerald cut diamond over Mollie's ring finger and that Christmas truly became "the most wonderful time of the year."

"We had kind of talked about it before, but I had no idea it was going to be then," said Mollie of the proposal. "I was very, very surprised."

Wanting to relish their engagement, Mollie shared that the couple chose to have a longer engagement of nearly a year and a half and "gradually get things done" for the wedding.





When it came to choosing the all-important location for their big day – the couple, rich in love, knew that getting married in Butte on the “Richest Hill on Earth” was the only place that made sense.

“I liked the idea of us getting married in Butte because it’s where we first met and where we fell in love and first started dating,” said Mollie. “I wanted to have that piece; it was kind of important to me.”

To add to the sentimentality, Mollie chose to hold their wedding ceremony at St. Patrick’s Catholic Church, where she frequently attended church growing up and where her own parents married decades earlier.

For the reception, Mollie and Sam hosted their loved ones at the Original Mine Yard in Uptown Butte alongside the iconic gallus frames on the hillside.

“I had been to a wedding there several years ago and I thought it was beautiful,” said Mollie of the Original Mine. “But I think too it’s just so Butte. That’s kind of what I love about it.”

With Mollie and Sam planning their Butte wedding from Missoula, they recruited the assistance of Cathy Ouellette with Decorations for all Occasions to help bridge the distance.

“She has her own warehouse of wedding decorations and was just phenomenal with helping with things,” said Mollie of Ouellette.

“I just told her exactly what I had envisioned, and she brought it to life,” added Mollie. “She was amazing to work with.”

After a year and a half of dreaming and planning, their wedding day – July 26 – finally arrived. Mollie and Sam, along with 250 of their closest family and friends, joined together in the town where their story began.

Eight bridesmaids draped in olive green dresses and nine groomsmen outfitted in classic black and white tuxes accompanied Mollie and Sam to St. Pat’s for the ceremony.

Walking into the church with rain pouring down on them, Mollie recalled feeling anxious about the weather and wondered whether it may put a damper on their outdoor reception later. But one hour later when the church doors reopened, the rain had miraculously stopped. Mollie realized it had clearly meant to be a mere sprinkling of good luck on their day.

And it wasn’t just the weather shifting that lifted Mollie’s spirits after the ceremony. Just as she walked outside of the church, she received a special gift from her sister, Marissa.

“I did get a little message from heaven,” recalled Mollie. “My sister loved ladybugs, and I got a little ladybug on my shoulder right when I walked out of the church.”

"She grew up loving ladybugs and so whenever we see a ladybug, we always think, oh, there's Marissa," continued Mollie.

Following the ceremony, Mollie and Sam hopped onto one of the Butte Chamber of Commerce's red and green trolleys for a ride.

"We sat in the back and just got to look at our friends and our wedding party and it was really nice to kind of have a moment to ourselves and see everybody having fun," said Mollie.

"We had just gotten married within the last 30 minutes so that was kind of our first moment of being alone-ish so that was really nice," said Mollie.

On their trolley ride up to their reception, Mollie and Sam made a few stops along the way including the Montana Tech "M" located on Big Butte above the city as well as the KC bar.

Upon arriving at the reception, the bride and groom, along with their guests, were treated not only to spectacular views from the Original Mine but also an array of decadent donuts from Town Talk Bakery. For a day that started out doused with wind and rain, it ended on a rather sweet note.

Thinking back now over all the little moments from the day, Mollie and Sam are grateful for each and every one of them.

"It couldn't have gone better," said Mollie. "It was so much fun, and I feel like the day turned out a lot smoother than expected."

And now the couple eagerly begins their greatest adventure together yet.

"I'm honestly just excited to start my life with him and build a family and I feel like we've already started to build a life together," said Mollie.

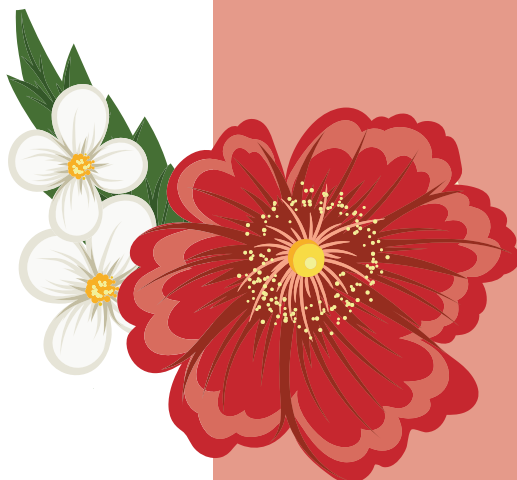
"I'm excited to grow old with him," added Mollie.

"He's my best friend and I'm very, very excited to live my life with him."



VENDORS

- Dress: Sweet Pea Bridal in Anaconda
- Tuxes: Thomas Family Apparel
- Food: The Ore Cart
- Bar: Knights of Columbus
- Dessert: Town Talk Donuts for guests and cake made by Lynette Hogart for the couple to cut
- DJ: RMF Entertainment
- Photography: McKenzie Heidinger Photography
- Decorator: Cathy Ouellette- Decorations for all Occasions



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. 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 latenight 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.

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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 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.

Questions to Ask Your Florist

Your florist is responsible for the blooms that are so important to making your wedding day perfect.

Those posies can cost a pretty penny, too, so you need to make sure you and your floral professional are on the same page. Here are some questions The Knot suggests you ask your florist.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A FLORAL DESIGNER?

Ask your florist about their years of experience. What kinds of weddings have they participated in? Do they have photos? Can you talk to the brides?

DO YOU EMPLOY SUSTAINABILITY PRACTICES IN YOUR BUSINESS?

More and more couples are insisting on greener ceremonies. Florists, with their use of plants, water and other goods, need to use green practices. Talk to your floral professional about sourcing the blooms for your wedding and make sure they use responsible vendors.

WHAT FLOWERS DO YOU RECOMMEND FOR OUR WEDDING?

Ask florists what flowers you can use to maximize your budget and your style. Because florists have seen many weddings, they can recommend flowers to dazzle your guests and complementary decor.

HOW DO YOU SUGGEST WE MAXIMIZE OUR BUDGET?

Floral arrangements and bouquets are going to be a big line item in your wedding budget. Make sure you can cover everything you need by asking your florist for seasonal blooms or other ways you can make the most of the money you have.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED IN YOUR PRICING?

Not only should you make sure you are crystal clear on the pricing, you need to know

what's not included. Ask about

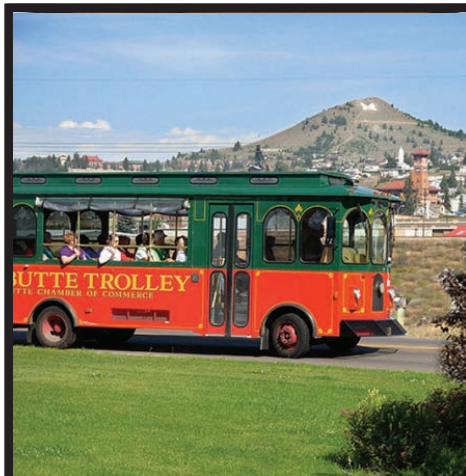
any common service that there may be an extra charge for and make sure you factor that into your accounting. Some florists might charge extra for design, delivery, setup or delivery.

WHAT IS YOUR COMMUNICATION STYLE?

You and your florist will need to be in conversation in the days leading up to your wedding. Avoid any problems by making sure your communication styles sync. Ask whether your florist prefers calls, texts or emails, and ensure that it works for you as well.

WHAT ARE THE DAY-OF LOGISTICS?

Know what your florist may need from your venue or any other vendors that you're working with. Ask when the flowers are arriving and whether the florist will need help unloading or setting anything up.





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When a wedding is out of town and requires a flight or hotel stay, it can be downright expensive to celebrate someone else's nuptials.

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ERIN EL ISSA
NerdWallet

Atending a wedding down the street can be costly — purchasing gifts and formalwear, hiring a babysitter and taking off work can all add up. But when the wedding is out of town and requires a flight or hotel stay, it can be downright expensive to celebrate someone else's nuptials.

Nearly 1 in 10 Americans (9%) are going to a wedding this summer that requires at least one night away from home, according to a recent NerdWallet survey conducted online by The Harris Poll. These wedding guests estimate they'll spend \$1,989 on average, for the associated lodging and transportation costs.

Is traveling for someone else's wedding worth the cost? That answer depends on

R\$VP

How guests can save money on a destination wedding

your finances and personal priorities.

Most Americans say they'd travel out of town for a wedding (87%), but their top considerations for deciding whether or not to do so vary.

Nearly half of Americans (46%) say a

top consideration is travel costs, and 42% consider the location of the wedding.

Even if the funds are available and the locale is desirable, work and child care responsibilities could make leaving town for a wedding difficult, if not impossible.

You might also just decide it's not worth spending the time and money to celebrate this particular union in person. But if you want to RSVP "yes," here are a few ways to make it more cost-effective.

1 Skip the gift

Some invitations may explicitly say that gifts aren't expected, some may not. But if you're already spending money to travel to a wedding, you might choose to forgo the gift. Controversial? Maybe, but some wedding and etiquette experts agree that "your presence is the present" at a destination wedding (which, arguably, is any wedding that isn't local).

This will come down to your comfort with opting out of gift giving and your relationship to the couple. If you know them well enough — likely, if you're traveling for their wedding — you probably know how they'd react if you just brought a card.

2 Pay for travel with rewards

For those who have points or miles saved up, an out-of-town wedding might be a good time to cash them in for free

or reduced airline tickets or hotel rooms. While maybe less appealing than using rewards for a vacation of your choice, points and miles can lose value over time. Because of this, it's recommended to use them when the opportunity arises.

3 Bunk with friends or family

Staying with loved ones could greatly reduce the financial outlay on wedding lodging costs. This could mean staying at their homes — say, if you're traveling to your hometown for a wedding — or rooming with them at a hotel and sharing the costs. This might be a tougher proposition if you're traveling with children, but consider if the savings would be worth the possible inconvenience.

Bonus: Start a wedding savings account

For some, attending weddings may be a rare experience. But for others, particularly younger Americans, this could be the season of life where receiving wedding invitations is commonplace, and the costs are adding up.

According to the survey, 18% of Gen Zers (ages 18 to 28) are traveling for a wedding this summer, compared to 9% of millennials (ages 29 to 44), 6% of Gen Xers (ages 45 to 60) and 5% of baby boomers (ages 61 to 79).

This makes a lot of sense, as

Gen Zers (and likely their peers) are at or near statistical marriage age — according to the U.S. Census data, the median age for first marriages is late twenties/early thirties, depending on gender.

For those who attend multiple weddings per year, a wedding guest sinking fund is probably a good idea. Consider opening a savings account or subsavings account specifically earmarked for attending other people's weddings and put money in it regularly. This could help take the stress away when the next save-the-date hits your mailbox.



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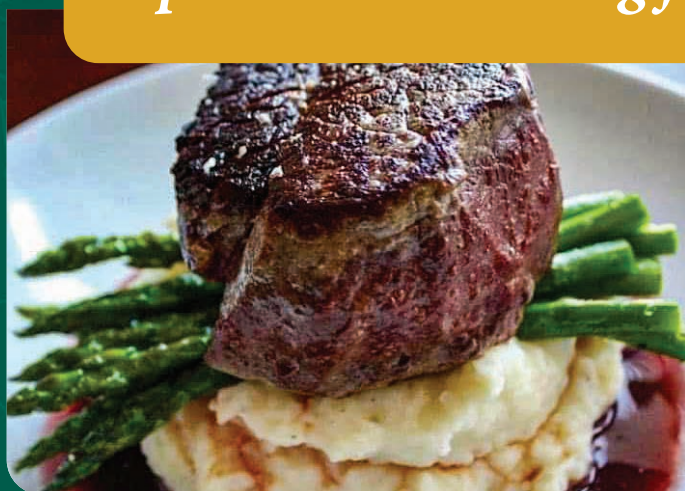


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April Pinto Photography

Capture the moment

HERE'S HOW TO MAKE SURE YOU'LL CHERISH YOUR WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHS

LEANNE ITALIE
Associated Press

Like all brides, Elana Goldin had high hopes for her wedding photos and video.

"I loved their images," she said of the company picked by her dad and future mother-in-law. "They were award-winning. They were in a ton of magazines. I really liked the vibe of the owner."

The feeling didn't last.

The photographer, who showed up 45 minutes late with a team of two, wasn't the owner, as the company had promised. She was someone Goldin had never spoken to. The fill-in had a bad attitude

from the start, said Goldin, who lives in Chicago and got married last May in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin.

Among other things, the photographer criticized Goldin's bridal shoes, jewelry and perfume as second rate for traditional close-up shots, and she picked apart the bouquets without permission to get images before the ceremony.

"She and the florist got into a fight. There was friction from the moment she walked in," Goldin said.

Looking back, Goldin said she would have done a few things differently.

We asked wedding planners and photographers to also weigh in on how to avert a photo disaster.

1

Don't be afraid to voice concerns

Goldin wishes she had been more assertive. She provided a shotlist ahead of time, but the photographer assigned to the bride and bridesmaids started making demands on where she wanted Goldin to pose.

"I'm in my dress and she said let's take a picture in the shower, because it was a very big, glamorous shower. My sister was like, absolutely not. Not happening," Goldin recalled.

At the venue, the photographer insisted on taking photos outside. The weather was rainy and windy, and the lighting was dreary.

"It was disgusting outside. My dress got all dirty at the bottom. My hair starts frizzing. The bridesmaids came out and our hair was blowing everywhere. The pictures were awful," Goldin said.



April Pinto Photography

2

Don't hire friends or family unless they're pros

You love them dearly. But New Jersey-based wedding planner Danielle Rothweiler of Rothweiler Event Design advises against it.

"I always tell my couples, stop hiring your friends and family because if something goes wrong, think of that conversation that you're going to have. No one wants that," she said.

One client took up an uncle on his offer to shoot her wedding as his gift. He missed half the shots and didn't understand the importance of timing. He also spent a good amount of time just being a guest and not taking pictures at all.

"She never said anything. The pictures weren't great," Rothweiler said. "I have a wedding coming up this year and half the vendor list is friends and family and I'm terrified."

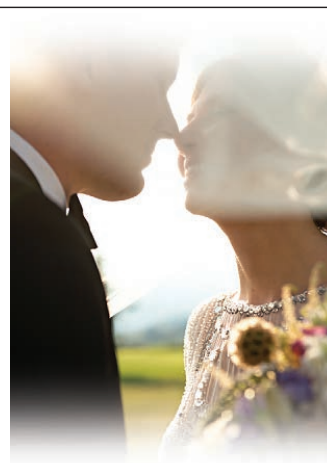


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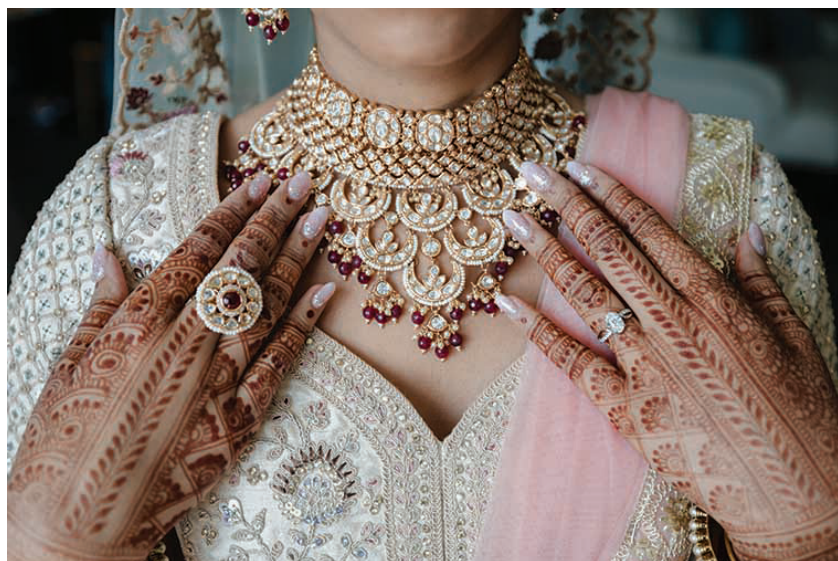
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Alexander Mai of Omne Amor



Jeff Tisman Photography

3

Read up on the process

Michelle Jackson, who owns the photo vendor Bambino International based in Cincinnati, Ohio, said some basic questions about equipment can go a long way.

Make sure your photographers have back up camera bodies and other crucial equipment of the same quality as their primary gear, she said. Cameras with dual slots for SD cards or XQD cards are optimal.

"Everything's being copied onto two cards," she said. "The worst disaster for a photographer is you have no pictures at all because of equipment failure. Couples don't think about that."

In the same vein, wedding photographer Oscar Urizar, the proprietor of Red Eye Collection in San Francisco, said couples should ensure they have the rights to personal use of their photos. That allows them to print, share and display them for non-commercial purposes.

"I started in the film industry. If you didn't get your negatives, you couldn't print your photos. It's kind of that same thinking," he said.

4

Plan group shots ahead of time

There's nothing more chaotic than organizing group shots at weddings. The larger the wedding, the more chaotic it can be.

Wedding planner Tirusha Dave, founder of the luxury market Bravura Brides, serves South Asian couples around the world with guest lists up to 300 or more.

She puts together a shareable document and asks couples to list every person expected in each group shot, but she doesn't stop there. She has them designate one person to serve as wrangler. The wrangler must know every person in the group by sight so they can be chased down if necessary.

"I tell my couples, I'm really great at what I do but I don't know your second cousins, your extended aunts and uncles," Dave said.

Each group is assigned a number that's announced when it's time to gather.

5

Stick to the schedule

Dallas-area photographer April Pinto, founder and co-owner of April Pinto Photography, has a stable of shooters. They can juggle up to four weddings a week.

They sink or swim by how well the timeline is observed. Not an easy task, Pinto said, “when you have a coordinator timing you and the mother of the groom who wasn’t on the Zoom call making her own agenda and stressing out the bride. We’re in the middle of all of that.”

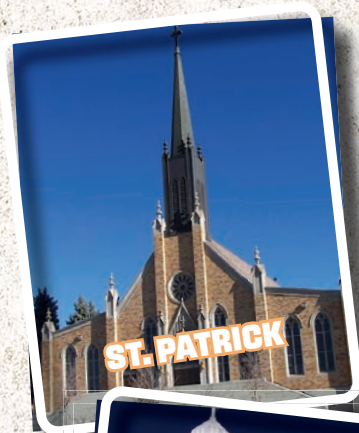
But that’s just part of the challenge. The other part?

The rowdy bridesmaid, Pinto said. She’s somebody who might have had a bit too much Champagne and feels like she should be in charge.

“If a bridesmaid is feeling a little too spicy, we try to give her tasks,” Pinto said. “I find that keeping people in general engaged and involved can go a long way. You can turn all that stress into a happy time.”



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START WITH

THE CONTRACTS

Before setting the menu, check the regulations for your chosen venue. There may be in-house catering services you must use or a list of preferred vendors you need to choose from. If you do choose another caterer, you may also have to pay an additional fee, and that should be included in your budget.

CONSIDER THE VIBE

Think about what type of food you want to serve and whether it matches the style of the ceremony you have in mind. There's plenty of room to bend the rules, but bear in mind dietary restrictions, cultural requirements and the abilities of your vendors. Look for caterers that have prior experience with the type of menu you have in mind.



MAP OUT A BUDGET

Set a budget and stick to it. Talk to vendors and be honest about your resources and rely on their expertise to maximize what you can afford. Ask your catering team for ideas that match your ceremony's style and your personality. Traditionally, a plated wedding menu will start with appetizers, then move to a salad course, entrée and wedding cakes and desserts. A buffet menu also starts with appetizers, then includes salads, sides, proteins and, lastly, wedding cake and desserts.

STATIONS

Serving foods that lend themselves to it, such as appetizers and desserts, at serve-yourself stations is a fashionable idea that also gives guests

some control over their own dish. Think things like a coffee bar, an ice cream station or crostini bar.

DON'T FORGET THE DRINKS

Ask your caterer about what kind of drinks they make available. If local laws and your venue allows, you may need a separate vendor (and budget) for alcohol. Budget allowing, ask your bartenders to come up with a signature cocktail for your wedding.

TAKEOUT

Think about having to-go or takeout boxes for your guests to take desserts, cake or even whole entrees with them. This will encourage them to enjoy the party and the dance floor while they can and have a snack to enjoy when they get home or back to their hotel room.



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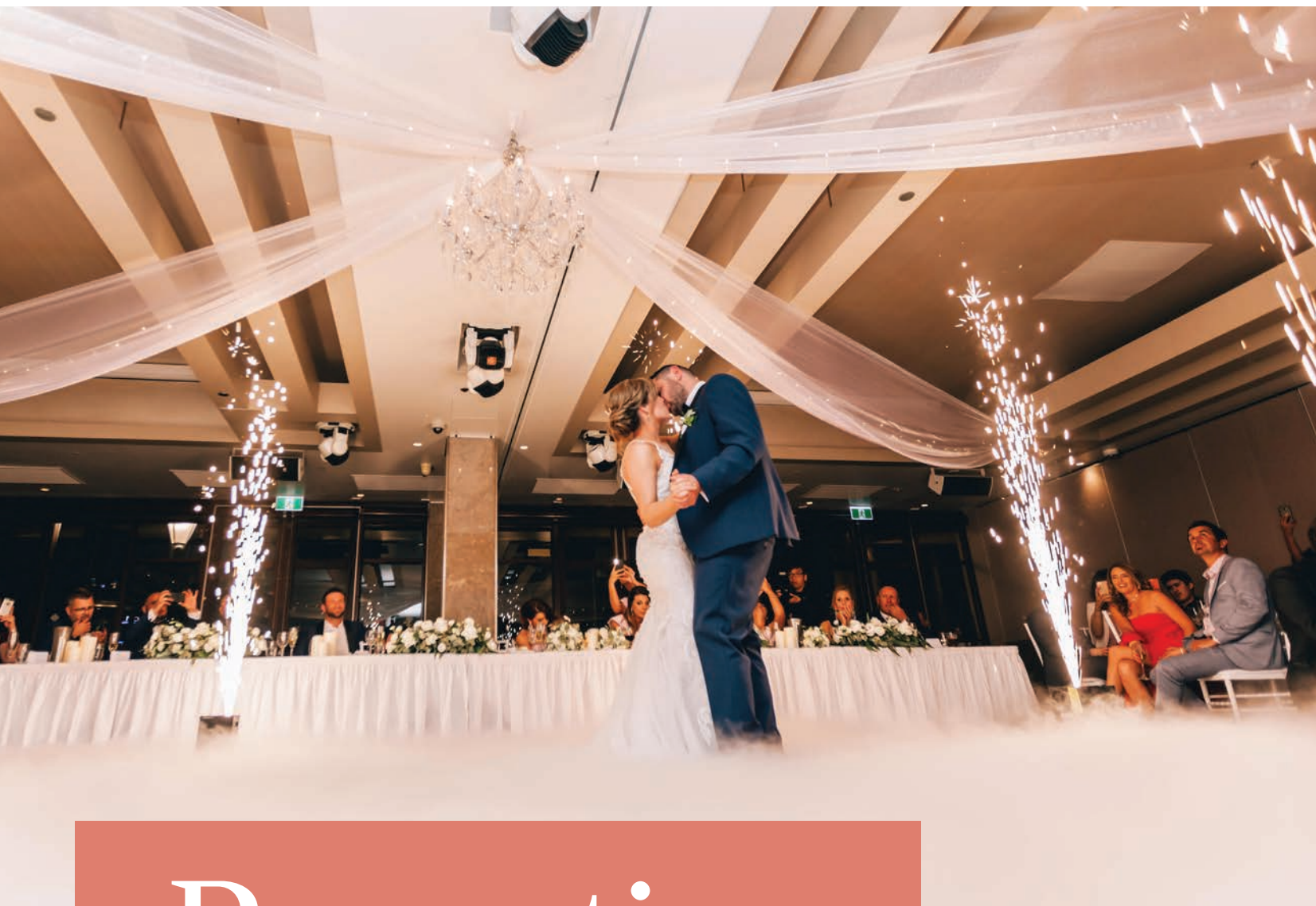
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Reception TRENDS to Watch

Wedding receptions are a once-in-a-lifetime party.

You'll be more likely to look back at yours with fondness if you choose classic themes and avoid fly-by-night fads.

Here, though, are some trends growing popular for wedding receptions.

SPLIT DECISION

More couples are going with a ceremony on one day and the party on another. That way vendors, friends, family and the couple themselves can give each event their full attention. Of course, there may be more in travel charges, but you may save on venue rental by not having to reserve each space for as long.

IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCES

Wow your guests with experiences at the reception such as drone performances, fireworks and shows. Live music is a great idea, but turn it into a vibrant concert rather than just an afterthought.

LIVE STREAMING

Ask your photographer or videographer to live stream the ceremony and the party so that people who can't be there in person can still share in the love. Have them record any comments so the couple can read them later.

DIGITAL GUEST BOOKS

Skip the old-fashioned paper book for a digital guest book that will give the happy couple a lasting, immersive experience. Allow guests to share photos, videos, audio messages and more.

SUSTAINABILITY

Look for greener options for your reception, such as recycled or recycling friendly dinnerware, favors that use less plastic and food and florals that come from close to home.

NON-FORMAL MENUS

Go for a more personal menu rather than sticking with a menu that's more formal but more generic. Use family recipes (and share them!) or pick a dish from a favorite dinner date.

SMOKE MINES

Go viral with TikTok craze smoke mines to express the sheer joy of being married. Colorful clouds of smoke can be seen in the daylight, unlike fireworks, and have the same wow factor.

ICE SCULPTURES

What's old is new again, and that means ice sculptures, obviously. Wedding ice sculptures can do dual duty as a shot luge or dessert display to make it an interactive experience for your guests.

TO-GO BOXES

Make wedding cakes or other sweet stuff grab-and-go so guests can focus on dancing and having fun. Plus, it gives them a late-night snack.





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Finding the Perfect Venue

The wedding venue is the backdrop for your dream day. It should reflect who you are as a couple and it should be able to comfortably host the wedding of your dreams. No matter where you're getting married, the perfect venue is out there.

WHERE TO FIND IT

Wedding website The Knot has a database of venues that you can search by category (reception venues, hotels, rehearsal dinners) or by name, and of course, by location. You can filter the results by price, capacity, outdoor space and more. Other websites, such as Wedding Pro,

Wedding Wire and more have similar databases. Search as many as you can to find the perfect place to exchange your vows.

WHEN TO BOOK IT

Ideally, you should book the wedding venue 12-18 months out.

It's one of the first steps you should take after getting engaged because the venue controls so much else about your ceremony. Online research is great, but you should also visit the venue in person. If you are using a wedding planner, have them come with you and look over the contract to make sure the venue can really accommodate the type of wedding you have in mind.

BUDGET

The venue will take up a sizable portion of your budget. Know your bottom line before you sign anything. Nothing is more disappointing than finding the venue of your dreams and then learning you can't afford it. If you're finding the budget a

hardship, consider looking at locations in the off-season when there's less demand and prices may be lower.

CAPACITY

Have a rough idea of your guest list before you start visiting venues. Each venue will have a maximum capacity and it's up to you to make sure you don't surpass that. Finalize that list before you secure a venue.

HAVE A BACKUP

Just in case, pick a venue and a backup venue, especially if you're planning on an outdoor wedding that is subject to Mother Nature.

When booking a venue, ask whether they have an alternate space and make sure you can visualize your ceremony there, too.



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Bridal

Etiquette to Know



Social media is filled with tales of bridezillas gone wild. That doesn't have to be you. Stay calm and remember your wedding is a celebration. Follow these simple rules of etiquette.

CONSIDER THE MEMBERS OF YOUR WEDDING PARTY

Particularly when it comes to the attire, keep the comfort of your wedding party in mind. If you allow them to choose their own outfits, keep your suggestions and comments kind and remember most of the eyes will be on the happy couple.

Also remember to properly thank the officiant and offer an appropriate fee in a sealed envelope along with a handwritten note of thanks from you and your spouse.

INVITATIONS

Allow plenty of time to address, assemble and mail your invitations. Try to develop a system to make sure each invitation gets

sent on time, and don't be afraid to ask friends and family to help. Include registry information and any other appropriate inserts, such as maps or directions or hotel information.

If you don't want children to attend, do not put "no children" or "adults only." Instead, address it to who is invited. An invitation sent to Mr. and Mrs. Jones includes only Mr. and Mrs. Jones, not their children. If children are welcomed, they'll be mentioned individually or the Jones family would be the addressee.

GIFTS

There are a lot of rules surrounding wedding gifts. The late Emily Post, an etiquette expert, says the prohibition against asking people not to bring gifts in fact puts an emphasis on gifts. Remember that friends and family who have attended a first wedding and given a gift are under no obligation to give another wedding gift to the same person, even if the new marriage is to a

different person.

Instead of including the disclaimer on the invitations, Post says to take care of such a request personally. It should come from the couple or close friends and family.

SEND THANK-YOUS

Weddings are one of the biggest events in someone's life. Don't forget to thank the people who supported you with their presence or their gifts. Emily Post says the couple should personalize thank-you notes and reference both the gift and the giver. Be enthusiastic, but don't gush.

WHEN IT COMES TO GUESTS

If guests RSVP with children written in, have the wedding host call and explain if children are not invited. Post advises to stay strong, but be clear.

Making exceptions isn't fair to other guests who found childcare for the duration of the event



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La Casa Toscana

53 E. Park St. ~ Butte, MT

406-299-2890

Lydia's Supper Club

4915 Harrison Ave. ~ Butte, MT

406-494-2000

Metals Sports Bar & Grill

8 W. Park St. ~ Butte, MT

406-782-5534

Pintler View Catering

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406-494-2000

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3250 Hecla St. - Butte, MT

406-723-9883

Metals Sports Bar & Grill

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406-782-5534

Park Street Liquors

133 W. Park St. ~ Butte, MT

406-782-6278

LODGING

Fairmont Hot Springs Resort

1500 Fairmont Rd. ~ Fairmont, MT

406-797-3241

Hotel Finlen

100 E. Broadway St. ~ Butte, MT

406-723-5461

PARTY RENTAL/DECORATIONS

Decorations for All Occasions

406-490-8692

Party Tyme

400 E. Front St. ~ Butte, MT

406-723-4369

RESOURCES

Butte Convention & Visitor Bureau

1000 George St. ~ Butte, MT

406-723-3177

TRANSPORTATION

Butte Chamber of Commerce

1000 George St. ~ Butte, MT

406-723-3177

Tucker Transportation

503 Centennial Ave. ~ Butte, MT

406-723-4623

VENUE

Anaconda Country Club

1521 Country Club Rd. ~ Anaconda, MT

406-797-3220

Fairmont Hot Springs Resort

1500 Fairmont Rd. ~ Fairmont, MT

406-797-3241

Hotel Finlen

100 E. Broadway St. ~ Butte, MT

406-723-5461

Immaculate Conception Church

1201 Caledonia St. ~ Butte, MT

406-723-5407

La Casa Toscana

53 E. Park St. ~ Butte, MT

406-299-2890

Lydia's Supper Club

4915 Harrison Ave. ~ Butte, MT

406-494-2000

McQueen Athletic Club

3250 Hecla St. ~ Butte, MT

406-723-9883

Metals Sports Bar & Grill

8 W. Park St. ~ Butte, MT

406-782-5534

St. Patrick Church

329 W. Mercury St. ~ Butte, MT

406-723-5407

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406-586-3124

Wein's Men's Store

66 W. Park St. ~ Butte, MT

406-782-1208



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Wedding *Keepsakes* to Save

Your wedding day is one you should remember forever, but between the jitters, the adrenaline and everything else going on, it could well be just a blur. Keep that from happening by making sure to save these keepsakes.

GRAB A KEEPSAKE BOX

Grab a box that's sure to be large enough to hold everything you want to keep and pick one that is sturdy enough to handle moves, remodeling and, hopefully, decades of love. Consider having it engraved with the date or initials or both.

WHAT TO PUT IN IT

Now you need to fill it up. Choose items that will remind you of your special day, that you can pull out and go through together in years to come.

- **Vows:** Make or buy personalized vow booklets and write your own vows in them. Or consider having a calligrapher write them for you.

- **Flowers:** Preserve your bouquet or part of your bouquet, depending on what you have room for. The whole bouquet can be professionally preserved in a shadow box or glass dome — talk to your florist about where you can get this done.

- **Attire:** Preserve part of your wedding gown, the groom's bowtie or pocket square, the bride's shoes or jewelry and more. Make sure the shadowbox or other container is acid-free and consider adding silica desiccant packets to control humidity.

- **Invitation:** Keep a wedding invitation and frame it to hang in your new home or add to the box. Consider adding any ribbons from the ceremony, printed napkins or other personalized decor.

WRITE A LOVE LETTER

Write love letters to each other the night before the wedding and put them in the box. Open them and read them after the ceremony, or even on a subsequent anniversary. Loss for words? Write about your excitement for your wedding day, your hopes and dreams and goals. Include a wedding venue blueprint, map or illustration.

ADD LOCAL FLAVOR

Pick a bottle of wine or liquor from the city in which you got married, or choose another local treat such as candy, honey or coffee. Even if you plan to live in that city forever, life can take funny turns and this way, you'll have something to remember it by.



Plan Your Stay In Butte.



LODGING IN BUTTE

Best Western Plus Butte Plaza Inn	2900 Harrison Ave.	406-494-3500	bestwestern.com
Copper King Hotel & Convention Center, Ascend Collection	4655 Harrison Ave.	406-533-6960	copperkinghotel.com
Comfort Inn of Butte	2777 Harrison Ave.	406-494-8850	comfortinnbutte.com
Wingate by Wyndham	2700 Harrison Ave.	406-494-7000	www.wyndhamhotels.com
Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott Butte	2340 Cornell Ave.	406-494-3000	marriott.com
Fairmont Hot Springs Resort	1500 Fairmont Road	406-797-3241	fairmontmontana.com
Finlen Hotel and Motor Inn	100 E. Broadway	406-723-5461	finlen.com
Hampton Inn by Hilton	3499 Harrison Ave.	406-494-2250	hilton.com
Holiday Inn Express & Suites	2609 Harrison Ave.	406-782-2000	ihg.com
La Quinta Inn & Suites Butte	1 Holiday Park Dr.	406-494-6999	www.wyndhamhotels.com
Miner's Boutique Hotel	53 W. Park St.	406-723-8928	theminershotel.com
Motel 6-Uptown	220 N. Wyoming St.	406-723-4391	motel6.com
Ramada Inn	2100 Cornell Ave.	406-494-7800	www.wyndhamhotels.com
Red Lion Inn and Suites Butte	122005 Nissler Rd.	406-782-5678	redlion.co
Rocker Inn	122001 W. Browns Gulch Rd.	406-723-5464	rockerrinnmt.com
Super 8	2929 Harrison Ave.	406-494-6000	www.wyndhamhotels.com

CAMPGROUNDS-CABINS-SPECIALTY LODGING

Fairmont Estates Condominiums	101 High Country Dr.	406-797-3228	fairmontestates.com
2 Bar Lazy H RV Park	122015 W. Browns Gulch Rd.	406-782-5464	
Butte KOA Journey	1601 Kaw Ave.	406-782-8080	koa.com
Fairmont Chalets	105 German Gulch Rd., I-90 Exit 211	406-797-8169	fairmontchalets.com
Fairmont RV Park & Campground	1700 Fairmont Rd.	406-797-3505	fairmontrvresort.com
Sportsman Lodge	540 N. Main St., Melrose	406-835-2141	sportsmanlodgemelrose.com
Copper King Mansion	219 W. Granite St.	406-782-7580	copperkingmansion.com
Hodgens Ryan Mansion	105 N. Excelsior St.	406-873-8076	hodgensryanmanion.com
Tuscany on the Green	1 Green Lane	406-494-2625	toadhallmanor.com

ATTRACTIONS

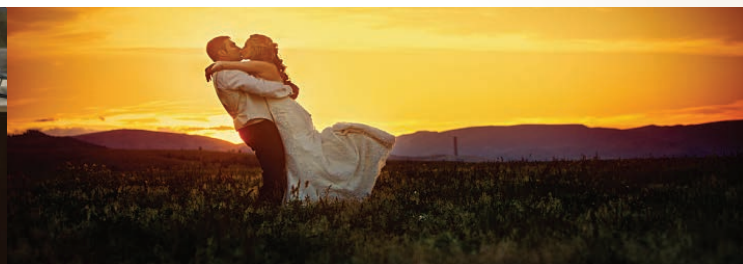
Butte Chamber of Commerce & Visit Information Center	1000 George St.	406-723-3177	buttechamber.org
Butte Trolley	1000 George St.	406-723-3177	buttechamber.org
This Historic Clark Chateau & Gallery	321 W. Broadway Street	406-565-5600	clarkchateau.org
World Museum of Mining	155 Museum Way	406-723-7211	miningmuseum.org

www.visitbutte.com



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