

# Chicago Brides

539  
NEW  
Style  
Ideas  
+  
137  
RECEPTION  
SITES

## CHICAGO'S TREND-SETTING:

### DRESSES

Where to shop; styles that work

### PHOTOGRAPHERS

Tips for flattering portraits

### BANDS & DJS

Songs to try (and skip)

### FLORISTS

Get what you want  
(even if you're not sure  
exactly what that is)

### CAKES

Real brides bring us  
their inspired designs

FALL/WINTER 2008

\$4.99US

833



Brides.com | YOUR #1 SOURCE FOR WEDDINGS

# Locations By Size

Chicago has no shortage of fantastic wedding venues, and narrowing down your choices is a tough task. But once you've determined the size of your guest list, the process becomes infinitely more manageable. We checked in with three top planners for their picks for the best wedding venues based on guest-list size and location type.

	CLASSIC AND TRADITIONAL with Ali Phillips Engaging Events by Ali	MODERN AND ECLECTIC with Lori Stephenson Lola Event Productions	DOUBLE-DUTY (2 SITES IN 1) with Lisa Gia Bascomb Parties Etc.
Under 100 guests	<p><b>Seasons Restaurant at the Four Seasons Hotel</b> "This elegant restaurant recently started hosting private events. It has sweeping views of Lake Michigan and serves some of the best food in the city."</p> 	<p><b>A New Leaf</b> "It's chic and welcoming at the same time. The airy, open space still manages to feel cozy and is incredibly versatile—you could hold a small, sit-down dinner or a cocktail-style reception. Plus, you can BYOB."</p> 	<p><b>Gallery 1028</b> "This spot is two-in-one—all-white walls for the ceremony and rustic wooden floors and brick walls for receptions. As of now, there's no rental fee—but you do need to use Calihan Catering."</p> 
100–200 guests	<p><b>The Newberry Library</b> "It's full of history, and you'll have the entire facility to yourself. The grand Lobby is perfect for cocktails, while Ruggles Hall, which has large windows and dark cherry-wood floors, is a gorgeous spot for dinner."</p> 	<p><b>Prairie Production</b> "This space is a photography studio, so there's great light, high ceilings [perfect for suspended floral arrangements], and limitless decorating possibilities. Plus, its outdoor spaces work well for cocktails."</p> 	<p><b>Chicago Illuminating Company</b> "Ceremonies are held in the front space; in the reception area are built-in bars, and a great lounge-like upper balcony that overlooks the dance floor, so guests have a bird's-eye view of the reception downstairs."</p> 
200+ guests	<p><b>The Drake Hotel</b> "The Drake is a quintessential Chicago landmark, with classic 1920s Italian architecture and spacious ballrooms that are grand and opulent, without feeling too large or overwhelming."</p> 	<p><b>Ravenswood Billboard Factory</b> "This loft space is brand new. Guests enter the Showroom, filled with vintage cars, and head to the Loft, with its breathtaking floor-to-ceiling windows. Two roof decks offer great skyline views."</p> 	<p><b>Chicago Botanic Garden</b> "In the garden, there are endless location possibilities—multiple gardens for the ceremony and a spacious tent for the reception. Plus, it's so beautiful, you don't need to add much décor."</p> 

FIND YOUR RECEPTION SITE AT [BRIDES.COM/CHICAGO](http://BRIDES.COM/CHICAGO)