

The gorgeous Canyon Suites reception venue at the Phoenician showcases Camelback Mountain.

Destination Scottsdale for Your Desert Wedding

ESTINATION WEDDINGS are a popular theme for 2019, with couples preferring more personalized and intimate experiences, more than ever before. With the Cubs and White Sox now back in Chicago, it was safe to head west to Arizona to see how the best resorts in Scottsdale are tackling the 2019 wedding season.

Warm weather, dramatic mountain backdrops, iconic hotels, and 300+ days of sunshine a year are some of what makes Scottsdale, Arizona a popular choice to host destination weddings. Whether the celebration calls for black-tie formal or boho-chic, Scottsdale's Sonoran paradise has it all, especially when it comes to exciting resort wedding venues. The Best of the Best for 2019 all offer uniquely refreshing takes on personalized service, complete with customizable wedding packages and tireless attention to detail meant to enchant the happy couple and all in attendance. Here are few of the best for 2019.



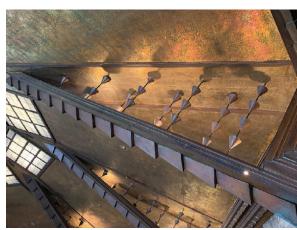
Frank Lloyd Wright inspired architecture at the Arizona

THE ARIZONA BILTMORE

Traditionalists will find sense of place in the Arizona Biltmore. The sprawling 39-acre Frank Lloyd Wright inspired masterpiece dates back to the original opening in February of 1929. The estate's rich history, architectural design, sprawling outdoor gardens and stately lawn space provides every opportunity for even the largest and most lavish of celebrations, proving the timelessly elegant Arizona Biltmore to be an everlasting traditional venue favorite.

Built in 1929, the Aztec Room is the original ballroom of the Arizona Biltmore. The circular shaped room is perfect for dining receptions of up to 120 guests, and features the original gold leaf ceiling, and outdoor patio, complete with fireplace for cocktail receptions.

If an elegant affair is your desire, the Arizona Biltmore is your calling. Notable honeymoon guests of the property are Clark Gable and Carole Lombard and Ronald and Nancy Reagan.



The gold-leaf ceiling in the Aztec Room at the Frank Lloyd Wright inspired Arizona Biltmore.



Peaceful Cholla Lawn at sunset at the Andaz. Rent out 'The Retreat' space (16 rooms, one three-bedroom home) for your wedding guests, complete with private pool for your party to enjoy. The dog-friendly resort offers complimentary drive-up parking next to the guest bungalows.

THE ANDAZ SCOTTSDALE

Offering contemporary accommodations with Southwest spirit, the ground level bungalows at the Andaz offer ample patio and lawn space, some with Mountain views. The grounds are adorned with palm trees and aloe plants. Multiple fire-pits with bright, multicolored Adirondack chairs provide unlimited gathering spaces for groups. Palm trees line the pool and resort property and are lit up by multi-colored spotlights at night.

Popular with locals and millennials, the bungalow accommodations include bright accents, complimentary in-room amenities (Banana Boat Sunscreen and Sunglasses), and Hermès toiletries. Give back by renting out the RED Cabana at the main pool for a day. Part of the \$250 USD cabana fee is donated to the RED foundation, supporting the ongoing fight against AIDS.



The Fountain Terrace at the Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale at Troon North.

FOUR SEASONS SCOTTSDALE AT TROON

Perched high above the valley at the base of the foothills of Pinnacle Peak sits the breathtaking Four Seasons Scottsdale at Troon. The five-star luxury resort hosts celebrities, public figures, and royalty, and is no stranger to offering nothing but the best when it comes to your wedding day.

There are two main terraces available for ceremonies, the Fountain Terrace, overlooking the dramatic city vistas, and the smaller Ironwood Terrace, showcasing picturesque views, with fire and water elements on display for each. There is both indoor and outdoor space available for receptions of all sizes. One thing to keep in mind for any outdoor celebration is the 10 p.m. Scottsdale noise ordinance.

The Four Seasons offers plenty of indoor space for celebrations of all sizes to dance long into the night. No detail goes unnoticed and just about anything can be added a la carte to ensure that the wedding is as unique and special as each couple.

Opt for the "Beer Burro" donkey during cocktail hour, or take a helicopter ride to the top of Camelback Mountain for an unforgettably Instaworthy Big Day photo session.

ROYAL PALMS RESORT

Perhaps Scottsdale's best kept secret, this gorgeous Spanish villa turned resort creates highly personalized boutique wedding experiences. The Royal Palms is home to vibrant gardens, sprawling fountains, and fine dining (T. Cook's). The open-air Mediterranean ambiance leaves you feeling as if you've stepped back in time in to a different era.



Entrance to the stunning Alegria Garden at the Royal Palms Resort.



One of many Spanish-villa inspired pathways at the Royal Palms Resort.



Camelback Vista at the Royal Palms Resort accommodating up to 160 guests.



The estate was built in 1929 by Delos Cooke on nine acres of orange groves for his wife Florence as a wellness retreat. Offering daily tai chi and yoga in the garden, pampering the bridal party in Alvadora Spa in preparation for the big day is not to be missed.

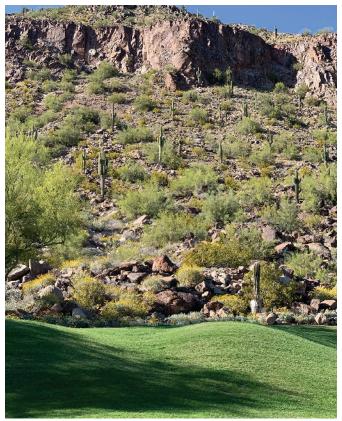
While an intimate wedding is most obvious, the largest lawn of the three ceremony spaces accommodates up to 180 guests. The winding corridors, candlelit paths, fireplaces, and water elements give the Royal Palms a strong push toward becoming the most romantic wedding destination in Scottsdale for 2019.

THE PHOENICIAN

Last but certainly not least is Midwestern favorite, the Phoenician Resort Scotts-dale. Fresh off a multi-million-dollar renovation, this property is a top choice for 2019. Offering inspired, never-seen-before backdrops and top-notch behind-the-scenes operations, there is a bold 'anything goes' vibe that is further evidenced by the truly fantastic and detailed service, especially at the resort's newest addition, a 36 villa private section of the resort called the Canyon Suites at the Phoenician.

Wedding packages include thoughtful touches like an audio engineer on hand for the entirety of your big day, as well as complimentary bottled water and onsite valet parking for wedding guests.

Alexandra Khoshaba is a Virtuoso travel advisor and wellness travel specialist at Travelex International. She can be reached at alexk@travelexinternational.com or 847-519-4822.



The Canyon Lawn at the base of Camelback Mountain.