

# Fall Brides





# 5 Reasons for a Fall Wedding

The first question you will hear after getting engaged is, “When is the big day?” It’s not hard to round up inspiration for autumn nuptials.

Here are five reasons why fall is the perfect time of year for getting married.

**1. (More) predictable weather.** Temperatures are falling and the leaves

are changing, which means you don’t have to worry about profuse sweating. Inclement weather also is less likely than springtime weather to impact your plans, which makes outdoor events less of a gamble. The flexibility of cool weather definitely has a lot to offer.

**2. Jewel tones.** Deep purples, burnt oranges, vivid reds and woody greens all take center stage in the fall. Since these colors occur naturally this time of year, incorporating them into your decor will feel lush and organic.

**3. Cute accessories.** There are some seriously swoon-worthy accessories that you just can’t incorporate in a spring or summer wedding. Think cozy flannel blankets set out for guests or thick chunky-knit shawls for the bridesmaids. This also is the perfect time of year, as the nights get chilly, to add a soft cape to your bridal look.

**4. Budget-friendly decor.** Use the changing of the seasons as your stunning backdrop. Make bare branches look elegant in tall vases, arrange pumpkins and your favorite flowers as

centerpieces, or use apples as place card holders. With fall decor, it is all about keeping it simple. Pick just a few elements and utilize them throughout for a big impact.

**5. The food.** Did we mention apples are in season? This means apple cider, apple-cider donuts, caramel apples and apple pie. Not to mention the other goodies that are only good in cooler temperatures, such as spiked cocoa, bacon-wrapped figs, hearty soup courses and roasted root vegetables.

# Fall Fashion Trends



The fall runway report is in. The usual suspects made an appearance — gorgeous backs, plunging necklines, whisper-thin lace — but there are also a few new kids on the block, asserting their presence with authority.

Keep in mind that the key to making a fall fashion statement on your big day is comfort. Feeling confident in your dress, hair, accessories and makeup is half the battle. Get started early and try out many different design options. You never know when you'll fall in love with the perfect scheme.

## **BOLD COLORS**

There is something incredibly romantic about all the blushy hues dominating bridal fashion — but don't be afraid to embrace the bold colors making their way down the runway. A gown with black accents or a fit-and-flare gown in deep burgundy are sure ways to be a show-stopper.

## **THE JUMPSUIT**

It's okay to say no to the dress. While it's not for everyone, the jumpsuit is appearing everywhere, from off-the-rack BHLDN to the runway of Carolina Herrera. Bend the bridal rules and wear a one-piece stunner on your big day.

## **CAPES**

Sleek, classic and warm, a bridal cape might be the key to keeping goosebumps at bay. If you love the look, but are still unsure, consider a capelet, a cover-up for the shoulders that ends near the elbows and is traditionally made in lace or with heavy beading.

## **IT'S ALL ABOUT THE VEIL**

The cathedral, embellished veil is back, and it's making a statement. Veils are the go-to bridal accessory of the fall, so allow yours to make a statement. Cathedral veils are known for their adornments of lace and beading. Due to their length, they are traditionally secured separately from any headpiece you may choose, and therefore are easy to detach without disturbing the rest of your look.

## **APPLIQUE, PLEASE**

Applique is all about adding dimension. Think flora and fauna, lots of embroidery and add-on lace details. Feminine and fashion-forward, this detailing is sure to make you feel confident and beautiful on your big day.

# Fall Color Combos

The right colors can take your wedding from standard to unforgettable.

Consider what type of mood and tone you want to set on your big day and then draw inspiration from the things around you, such as your dress and venue. The autumn season offers a wide palette to choose from; here are just a few options to consider.

## CRANBERRY AND BLUSH

This is a great color palette if you are after a soft and dreamy feel with a hint of the autumn season. While blush screams romance, a cranberry color punches up this combo.

Cranberry red is one of the richest colors of the fall but is also a warm tone — contributing to that cozy feeling. This “dress-up, dress-down” combo easily complements a rustic barn wedding or a lavish celebration.

## NAVY AND DOVE

If you are after an elegant and sophisticated affair, then this color combo is a great option for you. This chic combo is stunning in the fall because it allows nature to do all the work. Choose a rustic backdrop and keep the decor simple and elegant.

## CHOCOLATE, CINNAMON AND EGGPLANT

Choose earthy tones and embrace a shabby chic aesthetic. Work a lot of natural wood into your decor, accent with large branches, and play these elements off more luxurious accents, such as rich fabrics and soft, lush flowers.

## PUMPKIN, APPLE AND SAGE

Embrace the harvest and use it for your inspiration. Use small white



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pumpkins painted with gold table numbers, apples tucked into bouquets and pomegranates at every

place setting. Just remember to keep the details simple and clean because these colors add the drama. Think

crisp white invitations with apple-red envelopes, for example, to keep things sophisticated and streamlined.

# Bouquets to Swoon Over

Carrying a bouquet that is “in season” will not only help tie your wedding together, but is oftentimes gentler on the budget. Fall foliage offers rich hues, exciting textures, and plenty of harvest bounty to inspire and create beautiful arrangements.

Need help putting together a memorable bouquet? Make a trip downtown to your local flower shop. Bring a notebook of ideas and see how they can help you make it happen while meeting your budget.

Consider the following elements when dreaming up your perfect bridal bouquet:

## DEEP AND VIVID COLORS

Spring and summer are typically the seasons we associate with budding flowers, but many blossoms are blooming like crazy this time of year and are available in many colors.

Ranunculus, roses and heather are always classic beauties. But not to be missed are velvety coxcomb, cornflowers and dahlias in early fall, and Amaryllis in late fall. Don't forget a sprig of heather for good luck.

## LOTS OF TEXTURE

While a lush bouquet accented with plenty of greenery is a classic choice, don't overlook the other options the autumn season brings.

Leaves, berries and grasses all add a spark of cold-weather beauty. Also consider lotus pods, fiddlehead ferns and fuzzy lamb's ear for a distinct look.

## FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Adding fruit or vegetables to

a bouquet can be absolutely stunning — and perfectly on-trend. Pomegranates and artichokes are popular choices right now, and apples are clearly a fall favorite.

Don't forget smaller fruits,

such as cheery little kumquats. If you love your greens, cabbage and kale also add a dramatic flare to any arrangement.

## RIBBON AND TWINE

What you use to secure your

bouquet can significantly add to its beauty. If you are having a rustic wedding, consider twine, which can be found in many colors.

Using a ribbon is a classic choice with so many options.

Consider the thickness of the ribbon, material (silk, satin, velvet, lace) — not to mention color. Be sure the color you choose complements the bouquet rather than detracting from it.



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# Wedding Planning 101

Once the excitement of being engaged settles in, you will need to begin to plan the nuptials. Many brides-to-be can't wait to start trying on dresses — but before you head to the boutique, there are other items on your to-do list.

Here are the first few things you need think about:

## PICK A STYLE

Have a conversation with your fiance and discuss how you want your wedding to feel. Fun and festive? Intimate and sophisticated?

Has one of you always dreamed of marrying barefoot on a beach or on the lawn of a stately mansion? What are the most vital elements of the wedding to each of you? Decide what's most important to each of you and compromise.

## DECIDE ON A TIMELINE

While the availability of your most coveted vendors will help you choose an exact date, you still need to think about other factors that will impact your timeline: Is there a season or time of year you hope to marry in, or avoid? Holidays or other family events you need to work around?

You also might consider how much time you need for planning and preparations. The answers to all of these questions will help shape the timeline of your wedding.

## SET YOUR BUDGET

This can be one of the most diffi-

cult tasks of wedding planning. You need to have sit-down conversations with each other, and with each set of parents, to be clear who will be contributing what when it comes to finances.

These numbers will impact every other decision you make, and you

don't want to plan or purchase based on assumptions.

## BOOK PRIORITY VENDORS

Priority vendors will be the people in charge of the elements most important to you and your fiance. The most significant of these vendors will

likely be your venue.

Your venue will impact almost all other aspects of your wedding — including your date. Another vendor who will likely take top billing is your photographer. Be sure to research all your options to secure the best price with the extra amenities you want.



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# Aiming for European Flair?

A European destination wedding is the dream of many brides. There's the romantic culture, robust history and historic landmarks, providing the perfect environment for a fairy-tale affair.

Unfortunately, traveling overseas isn't always in the cards — or the budget.

Don't fret. These U.S. destinations offer a European ambience that will make you glad you didn't cross an ocean for your affair. Remember to call these destinations — and others like them — well before you plan on tying the knot. They are wildly popular for a reason and generally put clients on a waiting list.

## **A COZY SWISS ALPS VIBE ... Aspen, Colo.**

Get married among the aspens, pines and snow-covered peaks. Aspen offers a perfect mix of natural beauty and chic amenities. There is a plethora of cozy lodges that will create the perfect setting for your special day.

Bonus: This destination is stunning all year long. Thank you, Rocky Mountains.

## **THAT FRENCH COUNTRYSIDE KIND OF FEELING ... Redmond, Wash.**

Not much feels more French chic than getting married in a field of lavender. There are plenty to choose from in Washington State.

Many farms will permit you to marry adjacent to the fields — guaranteeing breathtaking photos with rows of lavender in the background. Most of these farms offer both inside and outside spaces, all within view of the subtle beauty of the fields.

## **A TUSCAN VINEYARD WEDDING ... Napa County, Calif.**

California is wine country, and you need not look further than Napa Valley for a European touch. Napa County is located just North of San Pablo Bay in northern California and is brimming with rolling hills and lush grape vines.

Every vineyard offers spectacular views of their property to enjoy as you and your guests experience amazing food and wine. Combine that with the dry California heat and you will soon forget you aren't in Italy.



# Registry Must-Haves

Registering is one of the most fun tasks on any wedding planning to-do list. Going to stores and choosing things for your new home together is exciting and can melt away the stress of other aspects of planning.

However, even the most diligent bride and groom will tell you that there are things they wish they had registered for. Even if you don't think someone will buy you these items, put them on your registry anyway. Most retailers offer a discount on un-bought registry items.

Here's what you need to know:

## KITCHEN KNIVES

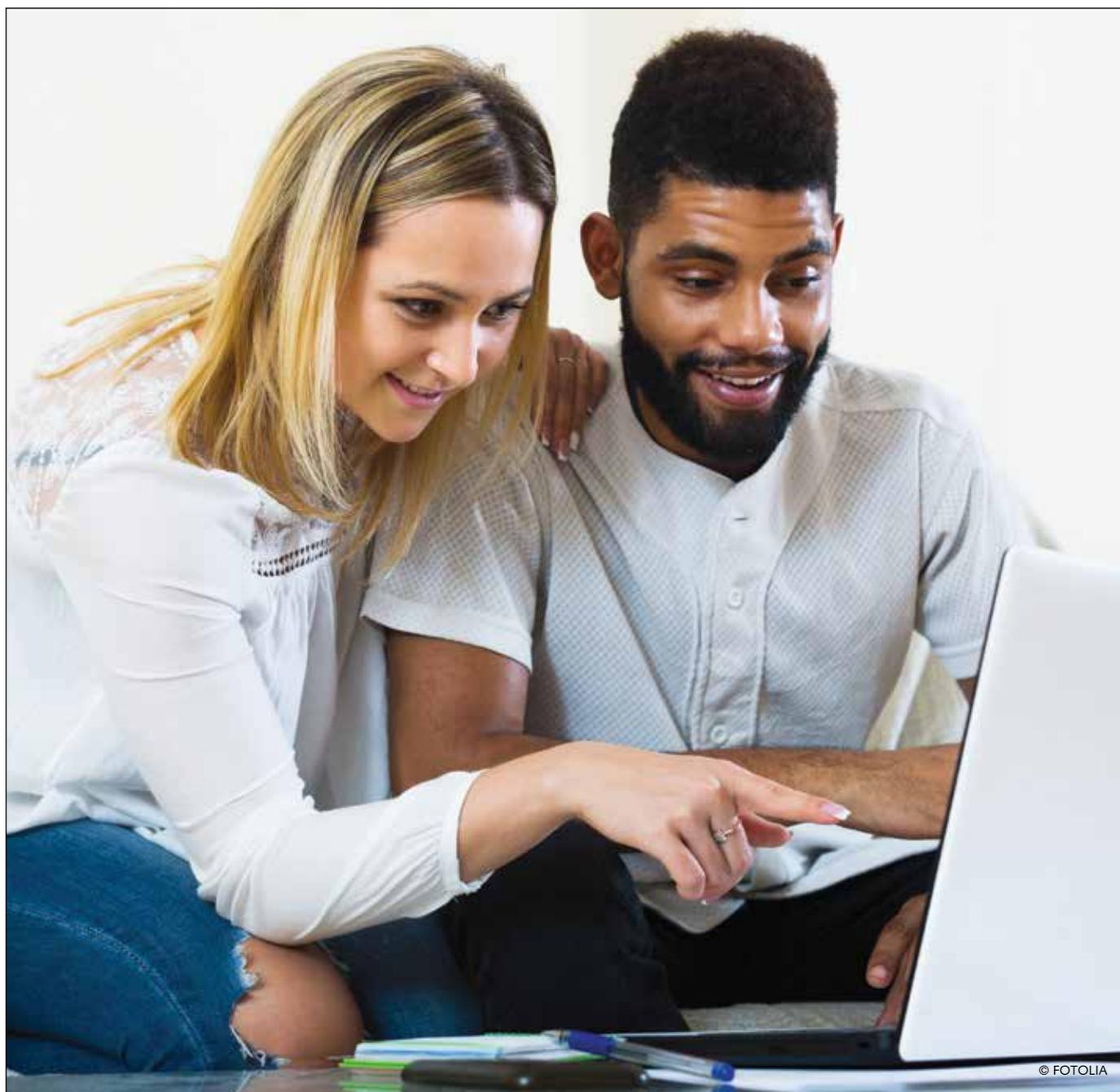
The best investment you can make in your kitchen is in high-quality knives. Think knives that don't come in a set. This allows you to choose individual knives that meet your needs and mix and match brands.

## A QUALITY VACUUM CLEANER

It is time for a serious vacuum. Higher-end vacuums also frequently come with manufacturer warranties — so when it goes on the fritz you should be able to get it repaired or replaced.

## A DUTCH OVEN

This universal kitchen item is a lifetime lifesaver. It can go from stovetop to oven to grill, is great for soups and braising meats, and can be substituted at any time for other cookware pieces, should you



choose or need to.

## IRON OR STEAMER

Ironing is a basic skill that

everyone should know. If the task seems too time-consuming, go for the steamer. This handy tool takes wrinkles out

of clothing without making contact with the fabric.

## BATH TOWELS

Even if you and your fiance

currently live together and have towels, register for new ones — nicer ones. Quality towels can be pricey and not necessarily something you will want to invest in later. Plus, you will find that good bath towels get softer with use rather than nubby and coarse.

## LUGGAGE

Luggage is a great registry item because it is often expensive and most high-end lines on the market have a lifetime guarantee. Don't forget, you will most likely be using it soon on your honeymoon.

## RUGS

Items for your home together make great registry items, but these pieces are often overlooked. Rugs bring both a “homey” feeling and put-together look to a room. However, they are expensive — so let someone else splurge for you.

## FUN GEAR

This could be camping gear, water sport accessories — whatever your hobbies are. Many couples are choosing to set up “honeymoon registries,” where they register for excursions or add-ons that guests can purchase to enhance the couple's trip.