

the knot



10 most talked-about wedding venues

You've heard the hype—now get the scoop on these top Southern California spots. BY JAMIE DALESSIO

1 SmogShopper
This former smog-check center in Culver City has been transformed into an urban garden oasis—and a 100-percent solar-powered one at that! With indoor and outdoor spaces, SmogShopper can fit up to 200 nearest and dearest for ceremonies and receptions. Say “I do” in the private courtyard and then move everyone inside. We love the brick walls and exposed ceilings. Need inspiration? Check out Theresa and Kari’s reception on page 68. (710) 877-9765, SmogShopper.com

2 Viceroy Santa Monica
The Viceroy Santa Monica in Santa Monica is the perfect spot for a more intimate wedding. The blue and white Bristol Rooms fit up to 120 guests for a sit-down dinner. Guests will love the brick art on the room’s private patio, and be sure to

take pictures inside one of the poolside cabanas. (310) 414-0511, ViceroySantaMonica.com

3 Vibiana
Once an active cathedral, Vibiana in Los Angeles is now a fabulous event space. And it’s perfect for weddings (hello, it used to be a church!). It underwent some serious renovations, but the gorgeous architecture still remains. Have your ceremony and reception inside and invite all of your second-cousins—the space fits 400 for a ceremony and 350 for a seated dinner. (310) 646-1911, VibianaLA.com

4 Firestone Vineyard
Firestone Vineyard in Los Olivos offers the perfect wine-country vibe in SoCal. Owned by Foley Family Winery, the vineyard’s tasting room is a terrific space

for a casual, wine-and-apéritif reception with 100 guests. If a traditional sit-down dinner is more your style, reserve The Barrel Room & Deck, which fits 150 people at a long banquet table. (805) 838-3241 ext. 4, FirestoneWine.com

5 Estancia La Jolla Hotel & Spa
The Garden Courtyard (its spa) is a popular spot for ceremonies at the Estancia La Jolla Hotel & Spa in La Jolla. From there, it’s an easy transition to the La Jolla Ballroom. For smaller weddings, pair a ceremony on the Olive Lawn (complete with actual olive trees) with a party in the adjacent Grand Rooms. (858) 530-1000, EstanciaLaJolla.com

6 Verandas
New York Food Company’s event designers and caterers will help you plan a wedding at their

Verandas property in Manhattan Beach. The two-story venue gives guests flexibility and freedom to move around throughout the night. Get married in the pretty garden, have cocktails in the upstairs lounge, then head to the ballroom for dancing. (710) 945-7605, VerandasNY.com

7 Arroyo Trabuco Golf Club
Exchange views with gorgeous rolling hills as you bookend at the Arroyo Trabuco Golf Club in Mission Viejo. Then, seat up to 240 guests inside the Trabuco Ballroom. The exposed-beam ceilings make a great place from which to hang lanterns or fabric. (949) 365-3300, ArroyoTrabuco.com

8 Shutters on the Beach
If you dream of a romantic beach reception without the sand, celebrate

your nuptials in the Beachside room at Shutters on the Beach in Santa Monica. Fit up to 70 guests for a seated dinner and dancing. If you’ve got plans for a bigger shindig, the Grand Salon can fit up to 200 for dinner and dancing. Also, check out the Pacific Terrace—it’s the perfect spot for an outdoor ceremony. (310) 418-0000, ShuttersOnTheBeach.com

9 Parker Palm Springs
Parker Palm Springs sits on 13 lush acres surrounded by mountains and desert. Start with a ceremony on the croquet lawn and a cocktail hour in what’s known as “the secret garden.” Then, move up to 150 guests over to the ballroom for a truly original reception. (760) 770-3000, ParkerWeddings.com

10 Rancho Las Lomas

Get ready to wed in the super-cooling, quaint cottage, Casa Linda (at Rancho Las Lomas in Silverado), a restored private estate known for its botanical and ecological gardens. When you’re all prepped, have your ceremony beneath giant sycamore trees in the Teatro (an outdoor theater). After the vows, move to The Grand Salon, an indoor space with French doors leading out to patios and a gorgeous stone fountain. For wedding receptions, you can bring in an outside caterer, but for weeknights and holidays, Rancho Las Lomas will help you plan your menu. (949) 548-0444, RanchoLasLomas.com



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