

OVER 500 LOCAL RESOURCES FOR PLANNING YOUR DREAM WEDDING

MINNESOTA

BRIDE

BEST
WEDDING
IDEAS
for 2015

CAKES, FLOWERS,
DÉCOR AND MORE!

—
The Ultimate
BRIDAL
BEAUTY
GUIDE

DESTINATION:
DULUTH

*Turn Your
Wedding into a
Weekend Getaway*

THE HOTTEST
New RECEPTION
VENUES

+

OUR EDITOR
SHARES HER
WEDDING
PHOTOS!





wine, dine & UNWIND

TEXT MEGAN MCCARTY
PHOTOGRAPHY LAURA IVANOVA PHOTOGRAPHY

REHEARSAL DINNER, WELCOME DINNER OR GROOM'S DINNER—NO MATTER THE NAME, THE MISSION IS THE SAME: TO THANK YOUR CLOSEST FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS WITH A CELEBRATION OF FOOD, SPIRITS AND QUALITY TIME. SO RAISE A GLASS AND KICK OFF YOUR WEDDING WEEKEND WITH A CELEBRATORY DINNER TO REMEMBER.

[VENDORS]
PLANNING + DESIGN: THIS LOVE WEDDINGS
FLORAL DESIGN STUDIO: VILLETTE
STATIONERY: GRETCHEN BERRY DESIGN CO.
RENTALS: THE VINTAGE TYPE RENTALS • HIGHWAY PARTY RENTALS
CALLIGRAPHY: JOHANN HONCZEWSKY CALLIGRAPHY
CAKES: THE COUNTRY CAKE CO. ROPOLLO
CATERING + VENUE: SPILL THE WINE



page 88
Give yourself three to six months to plan a rehearsal dinner, says Faith Foley, lead wedding planner at The Love Weddings. When narrowing down your list of venues, consider the following: What is the food and beverage minimum? Is there a private event space or would you be renting out the entire restaurant? How large a party can the venue accommodate? Keep convenience in mind as you choose a locale: you want guests, some of whom have already traveled for your big day, to navigate between the rehearsal and dinner sites with ease.

page 89
This dazzling head table, dressed with a cascading garland and lush ivory blooms by Studio Fleurette, is contained only by the show-stopping chandelier, made with a smattering of bar knives, olive-dollar study pens and olive branches. Whatever your table decor, ensure sightlines are kept clear so guests can converse comfortably with those sitting across from them.

(a)
There's an art to creating a seating chart. (You may have already discovered this ultra-nitty step in the reception planning process.) While determining who sits where, take care to consider the optimum arrangements to invite lively conversation and the pairings that could spark new friendships.

(b)
Get the conversation—and wine—flowing with the four S's: see, smell, smell and sip. Before dinner, encourage guests to mix and mingle as they sample cheese and wines, ranking them on stylish scorecards.

(c)
For a cake with a charming, rustic look, forgo the outer layer of buttercream. Naked cakes, as they're called, are presented with unfrosted edges and are best topped with fresh flowers.

(d)
A pop of color in place cards and other paper goods balances beautifully with the venue's natural elements. Concrete floors, a rustic harvest table and chalkboard details lend themselves to a relaxed, yet impeccably planned, dinner—perfect for breathing easy the night before your wedding.

(e)
Though formal invitations like this one by Gretchen Berry Design Co. are not required, Foley says, "If you opt to send rehearsal dinner invitations, send them four weeks before the dinner—after the wedding invitations have been placed in the mail, of course."

(f)
Choose elegant fare. This dish of pan-seared pork, peppery greens, shalot vinegar and grilled bread from Spill the Wine is a guaranteed crowd-pleaser.

