BY WENDY HELFENBAUM



MAGNIFICENT LANDSCAPES & DIVERSE CULTURE

FOR MUSIC-LOVING COUPLES looking for unique venues, down-home cooking and fabulous nightlife, getting married in Nashville offers a fun and romantic option at an affordable price. The Tennessee state capital - also known as Music City - hosted close to 16 million visitors this year, and it's one of the top U.S. wedding destinations for both indoor and outdoor events of all sizes. Whether you're looking for a casual, low-key celebration in a renovated barn or a traditional affair on a historic plantation or in a beautifully restored hotel, this country music mecca has it all including talented bands to keep your guests dancing until the wee hours.

First established on the banks of the Cumberland River in 1779, Nashville is known for having been built on a dream and a song, with its earliest political leaders as famous for their musicianship as for their leadership.

Nashville features easy flight access from many Canadian cities and a range of lodging options at all price points. More than 50 hotels have been built or revamped in the city since 2018, such as Bode.co, which offers flexible apartment-style two- to five-bedroom rooms with full kitchens and large living spaces where family members and guests can celebrate together. With its vibrant club scene, vintage shops and foodie options



Top: Skyline of downtown Nashville, Tennessee Below left to right: Hall of Fame, Grand Ole Opry





galore, Nashville is also the ideal place to hold pre-wedding events such as bachelor or bachelorette parties.

Your out-of-towners will enjoy exploring Nashville's eclectic neighbourhoods, such as Franklin, the Gulch, 12South, Hillsboro Village and of course the honky-tonk clubs on Lower Broadway. With more than 180 live music venues offering shows all day and night, your friends and family can download the free Nashville Live Music Guide app to find shows throughout their stay. Other must-see attractions include the iconic Grand Ole Opry, the Parthenon in Centennial Park, the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, and the

Nashville Zoo, which is also a wedding venue.

Be sure to pack stretchy pants, because the Music City's food is as legendary as its tunes. Sample some comfort food like Nashville's renowned hot chicken at Prince's Hot Chicken Shack and fill up on authentic barbecue 'meat and three' at Martin's Bar-B-Que Joint or Peg Leg Porker BBQ. Leave room for dessert such as banana pudding or sweet treats at The Cupcake Collection in Germantown.

PRO TIP: Autumn is especially popular for weddings, as the weather is mild but not sweltering. But no matter when you travel to Nashville, you're sure to have a rollicking good time.

DID YOU KNOW?

GETTING THERE: From Toronto. a direct flight to Nashville is about 75 minutes.

PLACES TO HOST YOUR WEDDING:

-) In a rustic-chic barn: The Loveless Barn.
- lovelessevents.com > On an elegant 19th Century Southern

Plantation: Belle Meade Plantation.

bellemeadeplantation.com

- > At a restored railroad station: Nashville Union Station Hotel. unionstationhotelnashville.com
- > At a sprawling estate and botanical garden: Cheekwood Estate and Gardens. cheekwood.org
- > At a legendary music venue: Country Music Hall of Fame. countrymusichalloffame.org



Bode.co offers apartment-style living spaces where guests can celebrate together.

