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the knot notebook reception sites

The best outdoor reception sites for your wedding in the North Star State.

BY ERIN HILL



1. Garden Party

Look no further than **The Outing Lodge** in Stillwater for a perfect garden reception. "Literally, guests feel as though they are dining in the midst of a garden," says Geri Wolf of The Style Laboratory. "There's a great backup in case of rain too—an old, rustic farmhouse." (651) 439-9747, OutingLodge.com

2. On the Water

If a lakeside celebration is what you're after, check out **Black Bear Crossings** on Como Lake. You can exchange vows on the breathtaking promenade and then mingle with your guests during a reception beneath the stars. "It's just gorgeous at night," says Sherón Brown of The Carriage House. (651) 488-4920, BlackBearCrossings.com

3. City Views

For striking vistas, consider **Nicollet Island Pavilion** in Minneapolis. This popular pavilion may not be a secret to local brides and grooms, but it definitely deserves a place on our list for its gorgeous views of downtown Minneapolis, Horseshoe Falls, and the Stone Arch Bridge. (612) 253-0255, NicolletIsland.com

4. Nature's Finest

If you want mountains in the background of your wedding photos, **Elbow Lake Lodge** fits the bill. This resort near Cook has a cozy outdoor patio for receptions and is ideal for weekend weddings—your guests can canoe, ride horses, go mountain biking—there's even an on-site massage therapist. (651) 492-7092, ElbowLake.com



5. Pitch a Tent

For a down-home affair, what's better than your own backyard? Whether it's at a country cottage or a lakeside home, make sure your guests are stylishly covered with a gorgeous white tent. **Apres Party and Tent Rental** in Edina has a variety of options to suit any style. (952) 942-3399, ApresParty.com

6. Historic Site

Cosmopolitan couples will love the Ruins Courtyard at the **Mills City Museum** in Minneapolis. The grounds of this National Historic Landmark have recently been revamped, and the gorgeous up-lighting on the old flour mill makes for a stunning party backdrop at night. (612) 341-7555, MillCityMuseum.org

7. Petite Fete

For a small celebration with big character, Laura Salyards Fryberger of Flings Event Design recommends the **Covington Inn** in St. Paul. On this "funky floating B&B" on the Mississippi River, you and 50 guests can enjoy views of downtown St. Paul from the riverboat's deck. (651) 292-1411, CovingtonInn.com

8. Grand Affair

If your guest list keeps growing, plan to say "I do" in the English garden at **Cedarhurst Mansion** in Cottage Grove. Afterward, you and your guests can move to a large formal tent set up on the veranda, with a backdrop of this grand country house for an elegant reception. (651) 769-8918, CedarhurstMansion.com

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