The hardest part of planning a wedding is knowing where to start. Of the thousands of talented coordinators, cake bakers, and florists out there, who can execute your carefully crafted vision to perfection—or help you create one from scratch? Thankfully, we’ve already done the research for you, poring over online portfolios and Instagram accounts, polling industry experts, and even popping into bridal shops undercover, all in the name of creating this, your exclusive guide to the area’s finest wedding professionals. Ready to say “I do”? Read this first.

THE BEST OF

Boston Weddings

BY IRENE BERMAN-YAPORIS, CHERYL FENTON, BRITTANY JASNOFF, MICHELE SNOW, AND ANDREA TIMPANO

PHOTOGRAPHS BY FRANCINE ZASLOW
STYLING BY ABBY RIELAGUS/ENNIS
FASHION & SHOPPING

ACCESSORIES
BHLNDN
We found true love in the gold-dipped halos and lace-trimmed veils at Anthropologie's Chestnut Hill bridal boutique. Embellished with crystals and glass beads, the brand's headbands and sashes add a dose of glam to even the simplest of white dresses, while the ethereal hair combs and flower crowns turn heads in any setting from dainty garden party to royal affair. There's even an on-site stylist to help bridge accessories with authority. 220 Boylston St., Chestnut Hill, 617-527-3063. bhdln.com.

BRIDESMAID DRESSES
Flair Boston
You found it. The dress. Now it's your bridesmaids' turn. Choose a frock they'll want to wear again (really) at Flair, where owner Stacey Kraft helps bridal parties sift through racks upon colorful rack of shifts, one-shoulders, and A-lines from top designers such as Jenny Yoo, Anna Elyse, and the Dessy Group. Beloved by wedding pros, the airy studio offers top-notch service and refreshingly honest advice. 140 Newbury St., Boston, 617-247-2828, flairbridesmaid.com.

ENGAGEMENT RINGS
Laura Preshong
Goldsmith/jewelry designer Laura Preshong and her team use eco-friendly, recycled metals and conflict-free diamonds from Botswana and Canada to handcraft every ring—which translates to less impact on the environment and mining industry, and an even greater impact on your sweetheart. Choose from the store's existing collection of sparklers, bring in your own sketch, or let the skilled jewelers transform Grandma's gems into a new heirloom. 558 Tremont St., Boston, 617-230-7660, laurapreshong.com.

LINGERIE
La Perla
This ultra luxe lingerie boutique's unmentionables deserve way more than a mention. Shape-defining bustiers, classic "night of" babydolls, and racer honeymoon ensembles are displayed like works of art in the Back Bay showroom, and bridal parties enjoy VIP closed-store shopping with champagne, chocolate, and finger foods. One look at the hand embroidered frastaglio details of the Maison collection and you'll wish every day was your big day. 250 Boylston St., Boston, 617-423-5709, lapera.com.

LOCAL DRESS DESIGNER
Candice Wu Couture
Tiered lace trains, detachable skirts, and lots and lots of sparkle: Boston School of Fashion Design alum Candice Wu's couture gowns are positively showstopping. Browse the sea of organza and tulle in her South End studio and workspace, then let her sketch a custom design just for you. Despite Wu's penchant for intricate lace and beadwork, dresses take just two months to stitch—but can be passed on for generations to come. 460-C Harrison Ave., Boston, 857-272-2840, candicewucouture.com.

ALTERATIONS
All Fit Tailoring
Handling your dream wedding gown over for a nip and tuck is an extreme exercise in letting go. The skilled needleworkers at All Fit, however, will ensure a seamless transition from your hands to theirs and back again. Manager Binh Tran gets a special shout-out for her command of the most intricate details from antique lacework to painstakingly handsewn beading. She usually requires 14 weeks to reconstruct a gown, but can work at lightning speeds should small alterations pop up at the last minute. 109 Newbury St., Boston, 617-230-1864, allfittailoring.com.

"CANDICE WU is extremely meticulous right down to every last detail. The end result is that my dress is nothing less than a masterpiece. I'm looking forward to having my husband see me walk down the aisle wearing what was once a vision become a reality." —Alexis Frankian, getting married in October 2017

VENUES
You've set the date. Now find the perfect spot to tie the knot.

BALLROOM, CITY
STATE ROOM
Perched 33 stories above the city with glass walls overlooking the Custom House Tower, the State Room is a blank canvas with personalization options galore. Chef David Briesky, mastermind, carves up customized menus that are as breathtaking as the views—think tuna poke in mini cones and adorable Eddie’s teat two. 60 State St., Boston, 617-854-5000, longwoodevents.com.

BALLROOM, SUBURBS
LAKEVIEW PAVILION
When the sisters behind this Foxboro venue lost the building to a fire two years ago, they vowed to rebuild. In September 2015 they unveiled their stunningly modern interpretation of the traditional ballroom: white on white dream world featuring chandeliered ceilings, sleek crystal chandeliers, flowy curtains, and windows overlooking a lake and pine trees. 45 Lakeview Rd., Foxboro, 303-943-9039, lakeviewpavilion.com.

COASTAL
THE CRANE ESTATE
This 2,400-acre wonderland of woods and beaches...
**DÉCOR, MUSIC & SERVICES**

**BAND**

**Flipside**

There are one-trick pony bands, and then there's Flipside, a group with absolutely zero limitations. Whether you want to fall crazy in love or be your own alter ego, there's a vibe for that. With five lead singers, the band has gotten crowds on their feet at the weddings of NBA superstar Ray Allen and TV personality Elizabeth Hasselbeck, and even on the silver screen, making a cameo in the film *27 Dresses*. 800-843-2263, flipsideboston.com.

**CALLIGRAPHY**

**LiWardian**

Skilled in a range of hand-lettering styles, artist Li Wardian excels at loose, watercolor brush type, but can also turn out formally addressed envelopes in tighter, more classic script. And she doesn't stop at ink on paper. Ward's work includes outside-the-box offerings such as chalk on chalkboard, gouache on terra cotta, and fabric paint on muslin. liwardian.com.

**DJ**

**Mike Amado**

As proprietor of the event-music powerhouse Entertainment Specialists, Mike Amado is an expert at reading the crowd, drawing from his vast library of tunes to get guests on the dance floor and keep them there—which makes sense considering his past gigs spinning for the likes of Steven Tyler and Run DMC. With a voice as smooth as silk, the mix master is also a personally gifted emcee. 908-540-6157, entertainspecialists.com.

**FLORIST**

**Mimosa**

After years spent creating the tight, modern arrangements favored by couples of the early aughts, Teresa Fung's style pendulum recently swung back to the "wild, organic, tangle" look she'd been spotting at West Coast weddings. Embracing this more-relaxed philosophy, Fung now creates amorphous, textural bouquets and centerpieces that look like they were plucked straight out of the garden. 64 Plympton St., Boston, 617-751-0855, mimosastyle.com.

**EVENT DESIGNER**

**Lauren Wells**

The perfectly toasted napkins and confetti-strewn farm tables you obsessively regram from your favorite bridal magazines don’t happen by accident—chances are, they’re the brainchild of a stylist like Lauren Wells, who also works her magic behind the scenes at real Boston-area weddings. The sought-after stylist can take your ideas from napkin sketch to full-fledged design plan, then execute, style, and install every last detail on the big day. laurentophaniawells.com.

**EVENT PLANNER**

**Janie Haas Events**

Drawing on 30 years worth of industry connections, planner Janie Haas and her event team will outline an overall vision, negotiate contracts, and coordinate everything from vendor setup to hotel welcome baskets. The result? Dreamy productions that transport guests to a world of the couple’s choosing. A Coachella-themed mountain fete complete with a living wall of moss and ivy (see page 116), or an ethereal soiree featuring a gold-and-pastel bar and lush cherry-blossom branches. 125 Coachmans Ln., North Andover; 978-728-8956, janiehaasevents.com.

**HOTEL COMMONWEALTH**

With floor-to-ceiling windows and a string of terraces showcasing Green Monster views, Hotel Commonwealth's new event space hits it out of the park. Part of the hotel's recent $50 million makeover, the jewel box bar is now the perfect spot for soirees and culinary-minded couples to celebrate their love. The catering menu features dishes inspired by one-star hot spots Eastern Standard and Island Creek Oyster Bar. 500 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, 617-993-5000, hotelcommonwealth.com.

Want to get away? Get hitched in one of these destination party spots.

**CAPE COD**

**WEQUASSETT RESORT AND GOLF CLUB**

Imagine warm sun, soft breezes, palm trees, and plan the e-ter accommodations. Sounds like a dream honeymoon, right? At Wequassett, it will also be the backdrop for your wedding. The auere water beckons along the ceremony-perfect Croquet Lawn. The canopy-covered Garden Terrace—a stunning spot for canapes—opens up to Pleasant Bay panoramas. And the Pavilion ballroom brings all of those vistas inside. 2173 Route 28, Harwich, 508-432-5400, wequassett.com.

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**New England bridal planner Janie Haas shares**

**My sister got married in 2013 with the help of Janie Haas. When I got engaged, Janie was one of the first I called! When I walked into the Grand Ballroom at the Fairmont Copley Plaza, it left me breathless. Our wedding was far more than a dream come true.**

—Renee Lee, married December 12, 2015