

FROM THE
COVER



The Florence Griswold Museum sits on the banks of the Lieutenant River in Old Lyme. PHOTO BY ZLAKO BATISTICH PHOTOGRAPHY



Nighttime at the Eolia Mansion at Harkness Memorial State Park in Waterford. PHOTO COURTESY OF HARKNESS MEMORIAL STATE PARK / CT DEEP



the perfect



Saltwater Farm Vineyard in Stonington features a World War II-era airstrip and hangar for ceremonies and receptions. PHOTO BY MAGGIE CONLEY PHOTOGRAPHY



Darren and Marty at the Compass Rose at Saybrook Point Resort & Marina in Old Saybrook. PHOTO BY ONCE LIKE A SPARK WEDDING CO.

place

Dreamy wedding destinations worth exploring along the Connecticut shoreline and beyond

By Elle Rahilly

Every dream wedding starts with a dream location. Connecticut is full of one-of-a-kind wedding destinations, from rustic barns to mansions and vineyards to museums. You'll find beautiful flower gardens, New England colonial architecture, sweeping water views, and more at these local favorites.



ABOVE Saltwater Farm Vineyard's restored world War II-Era airport hangar has plenty of room for your perfect reception. *PHOTO BY MAGGIE CONLEY PHOTOGRAPHY*

BELOW The tidal marshes that border Saltwater Farm Vineyard offer a unique background for wedding photos. *PHOTO BY MAGGIE CONLEY PHOTOGRAPHY*



THE RIVERHOUSE AT GOODSPEED STATION

55 Bridge Road, Haddam; 860-345-4100; theriverhouse.com

amenities

Ceremony and reception area

Handicap accessible

Indoor, outdoor, and covered outdoor spaces

Perched on a ridge above the Connecticut River in the picturesque town of Haddam, the Riverhouse at Goodspeed Station overlooks the historic Haddam Swing Bridge and Goodspeed Opera House. Guests are greeted by a beautiful front entrance with a fountain surrounded by flowers at its center. On the grounds is a pavilion-sized gazebo for outdoor ceremonies against a backdrop of weathered wooden docks and bridges, perfect for post-ceremony photos. Inside, a spacious lobby with a grand two-story staircase leads to a ballroom boasting vaulted ceilings, Palladian windows, and stunning chandeliers. An outdoor glass-roof atrium offers an open, airy space for cocktail hour.

The venue is equipped with a four-star chef and a gourmet menu of American fare with numerous options to choose from. Sparkling wine for pouring toasts or enjoying at the bar is complimentary, as well as a coffee station for guests' convenience. A traditional wedding cake will also be provided to add a finishing touch to the celebration. With a ballroom that can host up to 300 guests, this is a perfect venue for a larger wedding with a touch of opulence.

SALTWATER FARM VINEYARD

349 Elm Street, Stonington; 860-415-9072;

saltwaterfarmvineyard.com

amenities

Ceremony and reception area

Handicap accessible

Indoor, outdoor, and covered outdoor spaces

Saltwater Farm Vineyard in Stonington has been nationally recognized for its award-winning wines and breathtaking scenery, set on more than 100 acres of vineyard bordered by tidal marshes. The vineyard has a 350-year history dating back to the foundation of the coastal village of Stonington and features a restored private airport from World War II. The old airfield was converted into a vineyard in 2001. Couples can

begin their day getting ready on-site before exchanging vows outside in the ocean air.

The restored World War II-era airplane hangar makes a beautiful setting for receptions, with its sleek yet cozy rich wooden interior, warm lighting, and vintage charm. Located on the mezzanine level of the hangar, the Saltwater Farm Vineyard Tasting Room overlooks 15 acres of vineyard and a fully preserved grass landing strip that dates back to the 1930s. Guests can enjoy a delicious selection of small-batch wines that are produced on-site by winemaker Giles Martin and expertly paired with fine cuisine. If you're looking for a serene wedding location offering some of the best wine around, Saltwater Farm is the venue for you. ♦



ABOVE There's nothing like celebrating your wedding with small-batch wine made on-site at Saltwater Farm Vineyard. PHOTO BY MAGGIE CONLEY PHOTOGRAPHY

BELOW Saltwater Farm Vineyard's grape vines can frame a wedding ceremony for an unforgettable event. PHOTO BY MAGGIE CONLEY PHOTOGRAPHY



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