

RUSTIC WEDDINGS

BY JENNIFER MATTHEWS, Memorable Events



NEW HAMPSHIRE ABOUND WITH LOCATIONS that provide the perfect backdrop for rustic style weddings. This type of wedding typically combines natural elements with a barn or farmhouse thrown in for good measure. The key to a truly rustic wedding is not to force it. If you take a contemporary venue and decorate it with countrified elements, it may not have the desired effect.

Location is key to creating an elegant, yet rustic wedding. Ideally, a farmhouse or barn, not necessarily used for the reception, but as a backdrop, set the ambiance and make for beautiful photographs. Keep it simple to allow nature's beauty to enhance the celebration

Throughout the reception, thoughtfully planned out details will bring a certain vision to life. For example, white linens will allow the varying colors from flowers and greenery to really pop. Earth tones, and even burlap would also be appropriate.

Combine old elements, such as a faded truck or tractor, baskets, and milk bottles with something new for a sophisticated look. The old items bring a touch of nostalgia to the event, but the new effects keep the event from being dated.

Wood is a detail that can be used in many ways, tying together various décor elements. It also adds a special touch when wood from the wedding location can be incorporated into the celebration. Use the wood from trees as make-shift tables; for a bar top, or place the guest books and favors on top. Birch, the state tree of New Hampshire, is a popular choice. Also consider some rough edged maple or other native trees.

Mason jars can be used in multiple ways from holding flowers, to drinks and even candles. Flowers should be kept in their most natural state, as if they were just plucked from the garden. Locally grown, fresh cut flowers can be displayed in simple containers like milk glass.

Chalkboards have an earthy, natural feel to them and can be very useful during the reception. Slide a chalkboard between two birch logs for the bar menu. Use them to display table numbers, the seating chart, or directional signs to help guide guests.

Rustic weddings tend to have a relaxed group of guests, which creates a more celebratory rather than formal atmosphere. Do not be surprised if guests kick off their shoes on the dance floor, so make sure there is good music! Although it does not need to be country or bluegrass, the music should get the crowd going.

All photography courtesy of Christopher David Photography.



Jennifer Matthews, owner and operator of Memorable Events, has been planning weddings and events in all styles throughout New England since 2004. www.MemorableEventsNH.com.

