

300+ Brilliant Ideas for Planning Your Dream Wedding

# WISCONSIN

# BRIDE

## BEST of 2011

BAKERS, PLANNERS,  
VENUES, FLORISTS,  
PHOTOGRAPHERS  
*and more*

WISCONSIN'S PRETTIEST  
*Country Club  
Receptions*

*Nature-Inspired*  
RESTAURANT  
WEDDINGS

*Gorgeous  
Gowns from*  
LOCAL SHOPS

CUSTOMIZE YOUR OWN  
*Ice Sculpture*

HOW *to* HANDLE  
PLANNING STRESS

FALL/WINTER 2011

\$5.99US \$6.99CAN



wibride.com



WISCONSIN  
BRIDE  
MAGAZINE  
**BEST**  
*of*  
**2011**

*Sixth Annual*  
**READERS' CHOICE AWARDS**

THE VOTES HAVE BEEN CAST,  
and the results are official—our readers  
have crowned 36 local wedding vendors the  
best of 2011. On the following pages, we  
raise our glasses to the industry's premier  
wedding professionals—from creative cake  
bakers to floral dream-makers—who make  
each couple's wedding-day vision a reality.

*By* JEANNE KOLKER

## BEST PHOTOGRAPHY

### THE FINALISTS ARE:

*Emily Steffen Photography, Ideal Impressions Photography, Natural Moments Photography*

### THE WINNER IS:

## EMILY STEFFEN PHOTOGRAPHY

STATEWIDE | 715.220.9443 | EMILYSTEFFEN.COM

"Emily captured amazing moments on our wedding day that I will cherish forever, such as the soft beauty in my mother's hands as she buttoned my dress before the ceremony. Emily was also professional in every sense of the word—but the word 'professional' sounds too stiff and corporate to fully describe her. She was friendly, kind, creative, energetic, and you could tell she truly loves her job and wanted to make the day special for us. Her talent is immeasurable."

—Maren Luedtke, Hudson, married July 30, 2010

## BEST HONEYMOON IN WISCONSIN

### THE FINALISTS ARE:

*The American Club, Heidel House Resort & Spa, Sundara Inn & Spa*

### THE WINNER IS:

## SUNDARA INN & SPA

WISCONSIN DELLS | 608.253.9200 | SUNDARASPA.COM

"Sundara is an escape—once you arrive, all your worries seem to disappear. It's amazing how quiet and relaxing it is. You can enjoy the outdoors year-round thanks to the heated pool and outdoor hot tubs. They have fantastic guest rooms as well, and we always feel well cared-for. Every morning, they serve a delicious complimentary brunch, which you can enjoy in their common area or take back to your room. The only sad part is that it's an indication that your stay is close to being over!"

—Heather Marr, Madison, married April 16, 2011

## BEST ACCESSORIES

### THE FINALISTS ARE:

*Jaxie, Premiere Couture, Brandi's Bridal Galleria, Etc.*

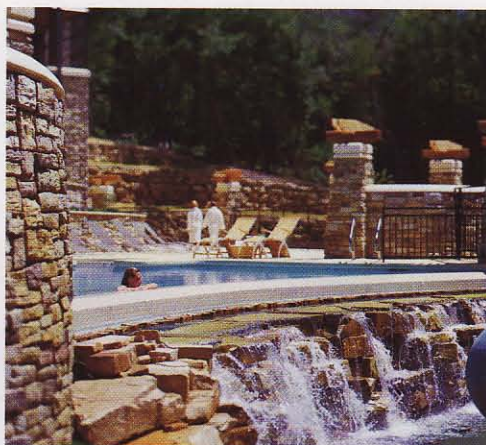
### THE WINNER IS:

## PREMIERE COUTURE

MADISON | 608.255.1921 | PREMIERECOUTURE.COM

"I only had four months to buy my dress because my fiancé and I had to change our wedding date due to his deployment to Iraq. At Premiere Couture, every single dress I tried on was gorgeous! Laura, one of the owners, transformed my dress even more with a sash, flower pin and veil. She told me she would rush-order it at no charge, because she wanted to support the military and everything my husband does for this country. The service was beyond amazing, and I felt beautiful on my wedding day."

—Amy Srnka, Madison, married Sept. 18, 2010



## BEST WEDDING-NIGHT HOTEL

### THE FINALISTS ARE:

*The Iron Horse Hotel, The Madison Concourse Hotel & Governor's Club, The Pfister Hotel*

### THE WINNER IS:

## THE PFISTER HOTEL

MILWAUKEE | 414.273.8222  
THEPFISTERHOTEL.COM

"The Pfister staff was very professional and responsive to our needs. When we explained what we were looking for—a place for my bridesmaids and me to gather and get ready together before the ceremony—they upgraded us to a large suite with a separate parlor. It ended up being so lovely that we decided to make it the place where my husband and I had our 'first look' at one another before the ceremony—the backdrop for some of our favorite pictures from the day."

—Julie Krawczyk, Wauwatosa, married Sept. 18, 2010

## BEST JEWELER

### THE FINALISTS ARE:

*Chalmers Jewelers, The Diamond Center, Kesslers Diamonds*

### THE WINNER IS:

## KESSLERS DIAMONDS

MULTIPLE LOCATIONS | 608.662.9800  
KESSLERSDIAMONDS.COM

"My fiancé and I couldn't be happier with the quality of service we received at Kesslers Diamonds. The staff was incredibly friendly and helpful. We decided to purchase both of our wedding bands from Kesslers as well; they took the time to sit down with us and give us advice. Their lifetime guarantee is incredible; it's a relief to know that if something happens to either of our rings, Kesslers will be able to fix it or replace it at no cost."

—Lindsay Knipfer, Fitchburg, married Sept. 5, 2010

## BEST INVITATIONS

### THE FINALISTS ARE:

*Creative Element, Paper Piper Designs, Sugar Pear Design*

### THE WINNER IS:

## SUGAR PEAR DESIGN

VERONA | 608.288.8976 | SUGARPEARDESIGN.COM

"My husband and I wanted to create a wedding experience that truly reflected our passions, personalities and style, and we quickly realized that custom invitations were the best option for us to set the stage for our special day. We selected Kathy [Marcelle] of Sugar Pear Design because her understated approach to creating elegant invitations was aligned with our vision. She was committed to understanding us as a couple, which helped in driving the creation of a design that reflected our personal style."

—Kirsten Steinbauer, Verona, married Sept. 12, 2009