



QUAINT SOUTHERN CHARM

Southern weddings are widely known for their extravagance and grand fanfare. But with the onset of the pandemic, many brides and grooms are left scrambling to downsize while still working to achieve that certain charm and wow-factor for their wedding days. The perfect location for an intimate, gorgeous wedding, The Fairhope Inn and Restaurant stands at the ready to help it all come to life — COVID compliant and all.

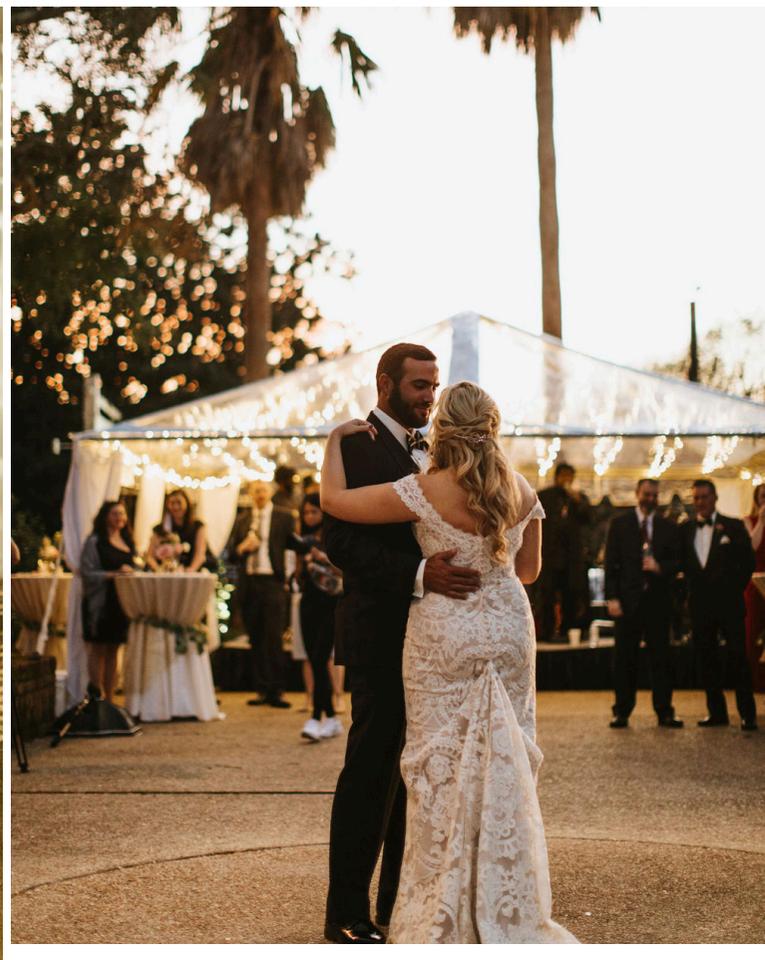
By Caroline Edmondson / Photos Blake McCollum Photography

Living by the motto: “If you’re popping the bubbly, count us in.” The Fairhope Inn and Restaurant has been making wedding dreams come true since they first opened their doors in 1998. With a variety of event spaces that all take on a different look and feel depending on the time of day, the Inn has a naturally relaxed and romantic feel, making it the perfect spot for any wedding. A weekend celebration can rotate between dining room day/night settings and rehearsal dinners in the Polo Bar to wedding receptions on the covered porch or in the courtyard (with a tent or without). The courtyard’s recent renovation includes a fountain and gazebo, both of which are features area brides *love*. An old historic home, the Inn’s spaces feel natural — because they are. Having the rooms on site is an added bonus for family accommodations for the weekend, and the private Carriage House that opens directly to the courtyard makes for the perfect space to prep and primp before the walk down the aisle. The gorgeous property aside, downtown Fairhope lies just steps away, with the Bay a short distance’s walk, and Point Clear a few miles past Fairhope Pier (great for cyclists and “Sunday drivers”). For those looking to gather

friends and family out of town for a destination wedding in a charmingly Southern city, it’s hard to top Fairhope, Alabama.

And with the rise of the pandemic and worldwide closures, the wedding industry has taken a massive hit. Large gatherings like wedding receptions have been indefinitely postponed, forcing many couples to opt for smaller, more intimate venues — something The Fairhope Inn knows well. “COVID shut down all weddings and receptions last spring,” says Jeffrey Mog, general manager of The Fairhope Inn. “Events today are smaller, and couples are searching Bed & Breakfasts in smaller cities for destination weddings. Many brides may be on their second or even third date... flexibility has been key.” This flexibility served as one recent bride’s saving grace as she searched for a new venue amid ever-changing restrictions. “When my husband and I started planning our wedding in early 2020, we were going to have it on my family’s farm in North Mississippi,” recalls recent bride Savannah Perkins. “However, in the summer, when the restrictions on the number of people allowed in gatherings tightened, we knew that it would no longer be possible to have the farm wedding or even include all of our family members.”





so happened to be the date that we had chosen back in March. We were so relieved and felt as if it was meant to be. Jeffrey and all others who worked at the Inn during the months of planning and the wedding weekend itself were all beyond helpful and kind."

As a smaller venue with a community of vendors, the staff at The Fairhope Inn can help connect the dots and communicate with everyone involved, from florists and rentals to musicians and more! "We coordinate our staff, food, and beverages, while the bride and groom bring in the flowers, cake, and music," Jeffrey explains. In describing the details from their wedding, Savannah shares, "The courtyard with its beautiful gazebo and tranquil fountain were the absolute perfect setting for our ceremony and reception. The band was able to set up a stage under the tent which turned the courtyard into an awesome dance floor. The florist (Katherine of Jubilee Flowers, also in Fairhope) had an already beautiful canvas to add to, and she even decorated the porch swing that had captured my heart on that first day," Savannah says. "To say that we had a dream wedding at this venue doesn't even do it justice. I may be biased, but it was the most beautiful wedding, and that's thanks in (big) part to The Fairhope Inn for hosting it."

Touting its sophisticated Southern charm and spectacular service, The Fairhope Inn is the perfect location for anything from dinner or brunch to a weekend getaway or the celebration of a lifetime. "There's a reason Fairhope is constantly dubbed one of the most desirable towns in the South," Jeffrey says. "We believe our weddings live up to that billing as well. Our catering menu has a world of options, all from the same culinary team that has made the Inn the grand dame of Fairhope dining for more than 20 years. The Beckner House is on the National Register of Historic Places and celebrated 120 years of history with a fresh renovation last year," he adds. Add in its extensive cleaning and safety protocols, and The Fairhope Inn is ready to welcome you with open *socially distanced* arms and help you make memories that will last a lifetime.

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