

# brides

Northern California

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Photos: Flory Photo (couple), Steven Torres (dress on form, tie); courtesy of the Puerto Rico Tourism Company (street); courtesy of wistaria.com (stool); Kyle Erickson (runway); illustration: Erin Burns (runway)

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We create dream registries for four stylish couples.



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# Just Picture It

Photographers' favorite portrait locations

Seasoned photographers know the best backdrops for extraordinary portraits. "Wedding and engagement portraits are all about the romantic interaction between two individuals, so you want a setting that's equally romantic and compelling, to provide a sense of place," says Napa-based photographer Meg Smith. "It's also important to choose a spot with great lighting—big trees and pretty architecture can help filter and soften light." We asked Meg and other pros to share their favorite spots. **EDITOR: LAUREN MATTHEWS**



## ① Marin Headlands, Sausalito

"This is one of the most romantic spots in all of Northern California, with its dramatic clifftop views of San Francisco and the Pacific Ocean, all visible from amidst beautiful foliage," says **Joel Flory** of Flory Photo. "The light here is the best in the Bay Area, since the marine layer diffuses the sun's rays, creating an amazing softness."

## ② Outside the San Jose Repertory Theater, San Jose

*sjrep.com*  
"I love the colors, textures, and oftentimes unusual scenery of downtown San Jose," says **Rhee Bever** of Rhee Bever

Photography. "You can't beat the light—the buildings and asphalt temper any harsh lighting conditions. And the ultramodern and very blue facade of the San Jose Rep makes an especially cool-looking backdrop."

## ③ Rincon Park, San Francisco

"Most couples love having the Golden Gate Bridge in their photos since it's such an iconic symbol of the city," says **Lucie Silveira** of Lucie XYZ Photography. "However, the Bay Bridge has its magic as well. Rincon Park, on the Embarcadero waterfront, has some of the most excellent Bay Bridge views."

## ④ Hale's Apple Farm, Sebastopol

707-823-4613  
"This adorable spot is totally unique for California—it has tons of Midwestern charm," says **Sara Wolfram** of Onelove Photography. "The farm is only open from late September through October, and is on private family property, so be respectful and call beforehand if you want to stop by."

## ⑤ Ethelwild, St. Helena

707-478-9829  
"This historic private estate is just five minutes from downtown St. Helena, but feels like it's in the middle of nowhere," says **Meg Smith** of Meg Smith Photography. "There are so many possibilities for amazing

backgrounds—sprawling fields with horses, old oak trees, the porch of the main house, an old-fashioned greenhouse. Even the dirt road leading to the estate makes for charming photos. Just call Diana, the owner, beforehand to request an appointment."

## ⑥ Mt. Tamalpais, Mill Valley

"It's exhilarating up there—breathtaking, beautiful, and so expansive it borders on epic, like something out of a movie," says **Gia Canali** of Gia Canali Photography. "The wide-open space is unparalleled in the area, and it's so high up that sometimes the clouds seem to have their own horizon."

>> Find your photographer and videographer at [brides.com/northerncalifornia](http://brides.com/northerncalifornia)

# Shop Her Look

A magazine shot of a model or celebrity can provide inspiration for your wedding-day look, but a real bride's style is probably much more attainable. We found three stunning brides willing to share their fashion and beauty secrets. **EDITOR: LAUREN MATTHEWS**



## ▲ JENNA'S STYLE

"My original vision was a big, poufy, princessy look," says Jenna. "But once I started trying on dresses, I totally changed my mind."



**Gown** Maggie Sottero, J'aime Bridal, Pleasanton, [jaimebridal.com](http://jaimebridal.com)  
**Veil** Bel Aire Bridal, J'aime Bridal  
**Hair accessory** Mariell, J'aime Bridal  
**Bracelet** Macy's, Pleasanton,

925-463-3333 **Shoes** RSVP, [zappos.com](http://zappos.com)  
*"My shoes were the shining star of my outfit."* **Hair** Missy Craig, Hair by Missy, [hairbymissy.net](http://hairbymissy.net) *"I asked for a loose, romantic style that didn't look prom-y, and Missy knew exactly what I meant."*



## ▲ ANNE'S STYLE

"I was going for a laid-back and modern look, with a bit of Asian flair," says Anne. "I wanted a form-fitting gown with interesting fabric."



**Gown** Nicole Miller, available at Lilac Dress Boutique, Alameda, [lilacdressboutique.com](http://lilacdressboutique.com) **Veil and hair accessory** Twigs & Honey, [myrakim.etsy.com](http://myrakim.etsy.com)  
*"Originally, I didn't want a veil at all,*

*but I ordered this birdcage style online on a whim, and ended up loving the look."* **Earrings** Nadri, [nordstrom.com](http://nordstrom.com) **Necklace** Kate Spade, [nordstrom.com](http://nordstrom.com) **Shoes** Badgley Mischka, [endless.com](http://endless.com) **Hair and makeup** Maria Chang, Professional Makeup Artistry, [professionalmakeupartistry.com](http://professionalmakeupartistry.com)



## ▲ MELISSA'S STYLE

"The wedding's theme was vintage glamour with a touch of 'trendy,' so I wanted my look to reflect that," says Melissa.



**Gown** Vera Wang, available at Bridal Galleria, San Francisco, [bridalgalleria.com](http://bridalgalleria.com)  
*"I was very attracted to the gown's sparkle. I skipped the belt for the more traditional*

*ceremony, then wore it for the reception."* **Shoes** Badgley Mischka, Saks Fifth Avenue, San Francisco, 415-986-4300 **Earrings, bracelet, and rings** Vintage, borrowed from her mother **Hair clip** Britex Fabrics, San Francisco, [britexfabrics.com](http://britexfabrics.com) **Hair** Jesse Either, Sanctuary Salon & Day Spa, Modesto, [modestosanctuary.com](http://modestosanctuary.com)

>> Find your gown salon at [brides.com/northerncalifornia](http://brides.com/northerncalifornia)