

the inside scoop



The Minneapolis Skyway is an iconic backdrop for photos.

refresh your guests

“Minnesota summers can be surprisingly warm, so if you’re planning a celebration that will keep guests outside for more than an hour, be sure to provide hydrating refreshments like a self-serve water or iced-tea station.” —*Rita*

creative cuisine

“More couples are choosing dinner stations over the traditional sit-down dinner. Stations are a great way for your guests to interact with each other and provide a natural icebreaker for the shy or slightly timid guest. One of my favorite vendors to work with is Classic Catering (ClassicCateringMN.com)—they offer so many choices and will custom create your event menu for a great price.” —*Karrie*

welcome wagon

“Make travel easier for your out-of-town guests by selecting a hotel located near your wedding. Bonus points if the hotel is close to a few of the big tourist draws, like Mall of America. It’s also a good idea to stock up on seasonal items like umbrellas and mittens, since out-of-town guests may not come prepared to face our unpredictable weather.” —*Cara*

off the beaten path

“Looking for a unique wedding location? Give your guests an experience they’ll never forget with a celebration on the Mississippi River. Twin Cities Cruises (TwinCitiesCruises.com) offers a paddle wheeler for a quirky, vintage-style wedding, or a yacht for a sleek, modern affair.” —*Rita*

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THE PLANNER
Cara Pearson
Copper Crown Design and Events, St. Paul
CopperCrownEvents.com

YEARS IN THE BIZ

3 years

SECRET WEAPON

“Make a splash with a killer band, showstopping décor or an incredible venue. Those experiences that surprise and wow your guests will have people talking about your wedding for years.”



THE PLANNER
Karrie Dahler-Christensen
Solstice Event Planning & Design, Buffalo
Solstice-Event-Planning.com

YEARS IN THE BIZ

9 years

SECRET WEAPON

“My inspiration storyboards—they lay out the vision of the event, plus the important dates, timelines and responsible parties, which keeps everyone on the same level.”



THE PLANNER
Rita Swanson
Premier Planning Services Inc., Edina
PremierPlanningServices.com

YEARS IN THE BIZ

12 years

SECRET WEAPON

“Always being prepared.”

uninvited pests

“Although Minnesota’s state bird is the loon, many joke that it’s the mosquito. Depending on rainfall and the season, the area can be heavily infested or not very noticeable. If you choose to host an outdoor wedding, consider spraying the area for mosquitoes and other insects.” —*Rita*

cozy, not chilled

“Outdoor weddings continue to be popular; however, even in summer, the evenings can turn chilly. For cool nights, rent a tent with a clear exterior from Après Party and Tent Rental (ApresParty.com) for 360-degree views. And if needed, upgrade to portable restroom trailers for a more deluxe option. Your guests will appreciate it!” —*Cara*

local love

“Head to local arts fairs or farmers markets to pick up one-of-a-kind and personal favors like locally grown wild rice, homemade pastries and handcrafted trinkets. This is a fabulous way to make a difference in supporting your community and a unique way to honor your guests.” —*Karrie*