





bustling boutique venues

Located in the heart of their city centers, these downtown properties pair charm with convenience. BY BECKY MURRAY

Graduate Athens 295 E. Dougherty St., Athens (706) 549-7020; GraduateHotels.com/athens

sits this retro outfit, styled with quirky colors and exposed brick. Up to 180 guests can join for a seated dinner and dancing in the property's Foundry Ballroom—five additional spaces are available for smaller events. With 122 rooms on the property,

Blocks away from the University of Georgia

percent off the regular rate. TIP Snap your first look in the hotel's lively, living-room-like setting.

you can reserve a room block at up to 30

The Whitley 3434 Peachtree Road NE, Atlanta; (404) 237-2700; TheWhitleyHotel.com

Open less than one year, this chic, Buckhead-based high-rise is an urban space for modern couples and includes over 500 luxury rooms. Up to 300 guests can join you in the Legacy Ballroom, with 14-foot ceilings, crystal chandeliers and a wall of windows, after cocktails alfresco on the private terrace. Three other spaces, equally detailed, are also options for weddings. Score savings on catering by booking your party on a non-holiday or a Friday evening.

Perry Lane Hotel 256 E. Perry St., Savannah; (912) 415-9000; PerryLaneHotel.com

The rooftop glass-enclosed ballroom known as "the glass box" offers unparalleled views of Savannah at this extravagant property, which opened in spring 2018. A lush outdoor terrace connects the event space to a pool deck and lower and upper lawns. In all, up to 200 friends and family can join in your festivities and more than 160 stylish guest rooms are on offer too. Inside, a second ballroom with rich hardwood floors and an intimate library bring historic glam. >>

The Partridge Inn Augusta 210 Walton Way, Augusta; (706) 737-8888;

CurioCollection3.Hilton.com

This restored 19th-century inn maintains a traditional Southern charm with rituals like Sunday brunch overlooking the veranda and design details including a wraparound porch. The largest of the four spaces can accommodate up to 120 attendees, while the smallest—an old-fashioned cigar bar—hosts 20 inside and 50 with the courtyard included. Keep loved ones on-site by blocking the elegant 143 rooms.

The Variety Works 274 W. Washington St., Madison; (706) 342-6145;

VarietyWorksMadison.com

With exposed wood and a metal ceiling, this part rustic, part industrial reception space is a blank canvas for seated dinners up to 285. The venue provides an on-site coordinator and can sleep your family or wedding party—there are 19 rooms.

Design elements, like string lights, large chandeliers and an original cotton press stationed outside the building, make for several snapshot scenarios. Your outdoor ceremony can take place on landscaped gardens among a pond and fountain, or under a gazebo.

Andaz Savannah 14 Barnard St., Savannah; (912) 233-2116; AndazSavannah.com

Positioned near the popular City Market, this red-brick venue can fit up to 150 in its Grand Studio ballroom for dinner and dancing (the dance floor is part of the package). A second-floor outdoor terrace is a prime pick for a ceremony or cocktail hour, while the window-filled Decker Studio can host weddings up to 75. Guests can choose from 153 rooms and suites.



The 1888 House 74 N. Grove St., Dahlonega; (706) 867-1313; The1888House.com

With its first wedding set for December 2018, this 1800s plantation-style home is both old and new. Best suited for small weddings or other gatherings (rehearsal dinners and bridesmaids luncheons included), you can invite up to 70 attendees to partake in the fun. After cocktails on the covered patio overlooking downtown Dahlonega, friends and family can move indoors to find copper-stamped ceilings, crystal chandeliers and fireplaces. For lodging, the venue partners with nearby Dahlonega Square Hotel & Villas.

173 Carlyle House 173 S. Peachtree St., Norcross; (770) 662-5800; 173 Carlyle House.com

Originally built in the late 1800s and restored to include chandeliers in every room, this home is meant for mingling. Between the "old house," ballroom and connected outdoor terrace, up to 500 guests can circulate, taking a seat in a front porch rocking chair and eyeing the rows of flowers that are kept fresh year-round. Tents are allowed on-site if you prefer to host an outdoor-only reception.

TIP Book your wedding on a Friday or Sunday, or in January, February or March, to save up to 25 percent.