

realweddings

British Columbia

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VANCOUVER ISLAND

A Taste of the Island: How Local Cuisine Adds the Perfect Flavour to Your Wedding

Showcase the freshest fare and impress your favourite foodies by serving up world-class dishes from these top Vancouver Island venues



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Whether you're looking for a quaint ceremony by the sea or a chic setup in an upscale resort nestled in the woods, there's no setting more idyllic than Vancouver Island. The perfect marriage of land and sea, the Island offers a laid-back West Coast vibe with a lively urban feel. You can say your nuptials surrounded by nature, and then nosh on a diverse range of world-class dishes created using the freshest of ingredients, sourced from the local suppliers who call Vancouver Island home.

Give your wedding guests a taste of the Island with these must-try, locally inspired dishes...

Get by with a little "kelp" from your friends

When you can see the ocean while you're saying your vows, you know the seafood is going to be fresh. At the Delta Hotels Victoria Ocean Pointe Resort, you can enjoy a swanky ceremony by the sea, and then savour the freshly caught seafood that makes up the Island-inspired dishes offered on the menu.

Sous chef Brendan Walker opts for ingredients that are sourced locally. In fact, many of his suppliers are located within walking distance of the restaurant—it doesn't get fresher than that!

"Our salad greens are grown by Chris at Topsoil Innovative Urban Agriculture,

located just up the street," says Walker. "We get our kelp from Amanda of Dakini Tidal Wilds in Sooke, which we use in our squash risotto; and Cory from Whole Beast makes all of our artisanal charcuteries and pâtés."

For a unique local dish, Walker recommends the kelp-wrapped sturgeon with shellfish paella, or "the sablefish dish is another great collaboration of local products," he says. "From the quince butter to the kelp risotto to the freshly caught sablefish, there is just so much flavour in this dish!"

Impress foodies with a five-course feast fit for royalty

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at the Westin Bear Mountain Golf Resort & Spa, and bask in the beauty of the majestic vistas while enjoying the serenity that surrounds you. But just because the venue makes you feel as though you're a million miles away, that doesn't mean that the food also comes from afar. The venue is only 30 minutes from downtown Victoria and in close proximity to many local farms.

For a truly mouth-watering meal, Helena Roodbol, senior catering sales manager, recommends the five-course Bear Mountain menu. The exclusive feast is offered in The Cellar, Victoria's most sought-after private dining destination, nestled deep within the walls of the resort and surrounded by over 2,000 bottles of the world's finest wines.

The meal includes dishes such as the roasted beet and goat cheese salad, sautéed chanterelle mushrooms, smoked sablefish and the bacon-wrapped venison loin—all made with ingredients sourced from the Island's best farms and fisheries.

Bond over bison by the beach

Vancouver Island offers a bounty of beautiful beaches, but if you're looking for a luxurious waterfront wedding

destination that will truly wow your guests, you'll want to head to Parksville's Beach Club Resort. Nestled along Vancouver Island's east coast, this venue sits on what is recognized as the Island's top beach.

While seafood is an obvious menu choice at this beachside locale, executive chef Rick Davidson suggests some meatier, locally sourced options for wedding guests.

"Our Black Creek bison and water buffalo braised meatballs are sourced from Island Bison located in North Vancouver Island," says Davidson. "Or choose from our portfolio of steaks, which are sourced from 63 Acres, a collective of ranches in B.C. that focus on naturally

raised, hormone- and steroid-free, grass- and grain-finished cattle."

For the main dish, the bison tenderloin is a must-try. Raised on a family farm located right on the Island, this dish is the perfect fit for meat lovers who care about the quality of their food.

Say "I do" to a sumptuous seafood tower

Seafood is a must at Tigh-Na-Mara Seaside Spa Resort, a venue that offers award-winning dining and forested ocean-view accommodations. The menu is filled with fare from locally sourced Vancouver Island farms, and since they're located right on the ocean, their seafood dishes are the freshest choice.

"Our seafood tower, featuring smoked sockeye salmon, Cajun rockfish, smoked Fanny Bay oysters, clams, mussels, scallop ceviche, Dungeness crab and albacore tuna, is one of our most popular picks," shares executive chef Eric Edwards.

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SPECIAL FEATURE

VANCOUVER ISLAND



Church & State



Church & State



Victoria Marriott



Tigh-Na-Mara
Seaside Spa Resort



Hotel Grand Pacific

Win them over with a wood-stone pizza buffet

There's no better pairing than wine and pizza—yes, even on your wedding day. At Church & State Winery, everything is locally sourced; the wine is farmed on 10 acres of the Vancouver Island vineyard, and the bistro sources local seasonal ingredients from the Cowichan Valley, the Gulf Islands, the Saanich Peninsula and local fisheries.

"We recommend the wood-stone pizza buffet," says John Pullen of Church & State. "Guests can create an array of seasonal hand-tossed thin-crust pizzas—or the steamed Island clams and chorizo—a perfect showcase of local butchery and our coastal seafood together in one savoury dish."

Toast with a custom-made West Coast cocktail

Located in Victoria's Inner Harbour, the Victoria Marriott offers an abundant selection of West Coast cocktails and cuisine. Not only do they feature the freshest seafood, the Victoria Marriott can also create customized cocktails to complement your wedding's theme.

"Our team can create a local signature cocktail with your favourite ingredients in mind to personalize your special day," boasts food and beverage manager Boyan Lesov.

Dine and drink in perfect harmony

The Hotel Grand Pacific is also nestled in a picturesque spot along the Inner Harbour.

Steps from downtown Victoria and Fisherman's Wharf, the venue offers world-class, locally sourced dishes and drinks. According to director of sales and marketing Ian Wish, matching your menu choices to your location will help "make your event feel in harmony with your surroundings."

For cocktails, Wish suggests that you "add the must-try signature martini—the HGP Martini—which features Victoria Gin created by a local distiller, HGP tea syrup (tea from Silk Road in Victoria steeped and mixed with simple syrup), limoncello, lemon juice and thyme."

Spice up your Island-inspired nuptials by adding local cuisine from Vancouver Island's top chefs. These delicious dishes are sure to add flavour to your special day.

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