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Hot Spots

That's Entertaining!

Atlanta's recently revamped restaurants make ideal settings for staging a wedding feast. —J.S.W.

103 WEST

The newly renovated 103 West offers a private event space ideal for intimate gatherings or grand weddings. The ballroom has been remodeled into a brighter and lighter space, creating a beautiful background for rehearsal dinners and receptions. Executive chef Matt Rainey helps develop menus to suit every couple's tastes and ideas. The local favorite is the "A Taste of Buckhead Life" menu, which includes Buckhead Life Group's greatest hits like fried lobster tail and white-chocolate banana cream pie. Rainey can also customize menus based on the couple's wedding theme or background. Heidi Sandate, manager of private events at 103 West, assures, "We customize anything and everything. We've catered family-style Greek weddings to German beer-garden themes." 103 W. Paces Ferry Rd., 404.233.5993, buckheadrestaurants.com/103-west.

NEO

Located at the Mansion on Peachtree, Neo combines fresh farm-to-table delights with personalized service and a breathtaking garden backdrop. Changing from a full-

service restaurant to a private event space in May 2008, Neo revamped its menu and now offers both farm-to-table and organic products to provide the freshest, healthiest ingredients. With a stunning English-style garden courtyard, Neo allows guests to easily flow back and forth between nature and the comforts of the restaurant. Delectable menu options range from grilled lamb brochette with mint pesto for starters to a chocolate mousse duo with mint bourbon sauce for that sweet finish. 3376 Peachtree Rd. NE, 404.995.7545, rumansiononpeachtree.com.

THE DINING ROOM AT THE RITZ-CARLTON, BUCKHEAD

The Ritz-Carlton has a rich history of impeccable service, and its Dining Room, which recently became available for private events, is no exception. The room's silk wall coverings and 18th- and 19th-century oil paintings make for an always stunning setting for special dinners. And depending on your party style, the resto is happy to customize the menu, offer up a single royal conference table setup or an array of tables and chairs for a more formal feel, and even add in a dance floor. We love The Dining Room's display kitchen that lends a level of intimacy between the guests and the chef. 3434 Peachtree Rd., 404.237.2700, ritzcarlton.com.

I Do!

Decent Proposals

It's quite possibly the most important question you will ever pose—and an experience you'll never forget. From luxuriously outlandish to elegantly simple, here are our picks for where to pop the question. —J.S.W.

THE ST. REGIS HOTEL, ATLANTA

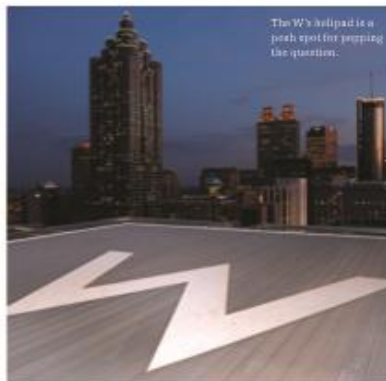
Make a date you will never forget by reserving the hotel's beautiful Astor Rink for a private "Fire & Ice" dinner. With the rink cleared out, couples enjoy a custom four-course dinner on the ice, with exclusive wine pairings and an hour to skate arm in arm, sans interruptions. Packages start at \$1,500; stregisatlanta.com.

THE W HOTEL, DOWNTOWN

Plan "The Perfect Proposal" with a helicopter tour over the city of Atlanta, dinner for two at BLT Steak and a bottle of Champagne to celebrate. Later, revel in one of the hotel's swanky studio suites. Packages start at \$525; watlantadowntown.com.

ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN

Enjoy the understated beauty of this gorgeous green space. Seek out a quiet nook in the Japanese Garden or stroll through the treetops on the new Canopy Walk. Every square inch offers a breathtaking backdrop to get down on one knee. General Admission is \$15 for adults; private event packages start at \$300; atlantabotanicalgarden.org.



Airle File

► Atlanta's wedding industry elite have been busy creating quite the bridal buzz... Find inspiration and insider secrets in the new book *Atlanta Weddings for the Modern, Stylish and Chic Bride* (at left) just released by Wedding Soirée's Gail Johnson and Hester Parks. Check-full of tips and tricks from Atlanta's most talented vendors, this tome demystifies the planning process... Local designer Annette Thurmon's Chaviano Couture (770.366.0072, chavianocouture.com) took the Big Apple by storm when she debuted her 2011 line at October's Bridal Market... CONTINUED...