

Personalization

*is on
the menu*

Restaurants offer refined setting for intimate reception

By Tracey Porpora
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Whether you're hosting an intimate gathering for 20 people or an affair of 100 guests, smaller wedding reception venues abound in New Jersey at various restaurants, which will cater to your every need.

seating is needed, the banquet staff adds a round table at each end, creating an oval."

Frankel noted that a sit-down dinner in the Wine Cellar features a four-course meal, with a choice of four entrées. "A cocktail reception can be held there, or if the wedding is in the

one can't get a more romantic setting than having the Manhattan skyline as a 'scenic dining' view."

Meanwhile, Verve in Somerville, which resembles a New York City brownstone, can accommodate up to 100 guests for a wedding reception. "We offer full-service. We can help a



Kenilworth Inn in Kenilworth, and the Gran Centurions in Clark.

Meanwhile, at the Newark Club, where guests are afforded a spectacular view of Manhattan in a contemporary setting, small weddings can be hosted. "For a night time function on a Friday or Sunday we have a guaranteed minimum of 130 people, and on Saturday it's 150 people," said Harry Prot, catering manager for the Newark Club. "For smaller weddings with as few as 80 people, we can host it here on Saturday afternoons. We only do one event at a time, and each menu is customized."

Meanwhile, the Lincroft Inn in Lincroft is another venue that can accommodate intimate affairs up to 140 guests for a wedding reception. ■



At Highlawn Pavilion in West Orange there are many options for hosting an intimate wedding reception. "The upstairs Pavilion Room holds up to 150 people," said Mary Jane Frankel, public relations director for Highlawn Pavilion. "In addition, the Wine Cellar holds up to 45 people. It has a long rectangular table that seats up to 16 guests. If more

afternoon, it can be held in the upstairs bar. The wedding ceremony usually is held in the outside gazebo, but can also be set up in the Wine Cellar, or on the second floor in the Pavilion Room," she said. "The cuisine, under the direction of Executive Chef Mitchell Altholz, is American with modern European influences. As for ambiance,

couple with flowers, music, the wait staff, food, ministers or judges, and gowns and tuxedos. We provide an intimate setting for your wedding," said Rick St. Pierre, Verve proprietor. "At Verve, we do a lot of commitment ceremonies, as well as second marriages."

He noted the facility specializes in



"upscale, French provincial" cuisine. "We only offer prime steak, and also have a provincial French bistro and vegetarian selections," said St. Pierre.

Another restaurant that hosts intimate affairs is Aliperti's in Clark, which is known for its Italian cuisine and Mediterranean influenced décor. "We can host a cocktail hour with a sit-down dinner or buffet," said Garry Ruane, chef/owner of Aliperti's Restaurant. "There are hotel facilities a half-mile away for out-of-town guests, and the restaurant is easily accessible from the Garden State Parkway." He noted that intimate affairs, as well as larger weddings, also can be hosted at Aliperti's Culinary Creations at the

The Highlawn Pavilion, above, offers a variety of options for seating guests, including the Wine Cellar, top right, which holds up to 45 people. At Verve, above right, upscale French provincial cuisine is a specialty of the restaurant.

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