

Wineries and weddings — a perfect pairing

by Casey Uebelhor

Indiana boasts 76 of the best wineries in the Midwest and more than half are in the southern region! Nestled perfectly between wine destination favorites New York and Texas, pilgrimages across our state's eight distinctive wine trails are popular with wine enthusiasts from every corner of the nation. That said, it's no wonder that every season hundreds of couples choose to say their *I do's* at one of Indiana's gorgeous vineyards, including Blue Heron Vineyards & Winery, Cannelton.

Gary and Lynn Dauby, owners of Blue Heron, appreciate that careful planning, a steady vision and professional poise yield unforgettable results. "We kind of built things a little bit at a time," tells Lynn. "We planted vineyards in '96 and just slowly got everything ready." As the couple gathered equipment, the wine cellar was constructed in '99. Featured buildings, including the Tasting Room, porches and lawn space were gradually, carefully designed and erected.

Guests travel up a rocky Indiana hillside to find what is now an impressive array of

outdoor features at Blue Heron including verandas, porches, lawn gardens, walking paths, staircases and sizable parking areas. Turning a corner on the well-curated property might lead to a forest-framed view of the Ohio River, a surprising deck filled with rocking chairs and wine tables, a wall of breathtaking stonework or a stunning piece of Indiana wood carving. There are loads of choices for live musician set-up, and the main porch is also outfitted with a stereo system for recorded music. Couples choosing Blue Heron as a wedding destination are offered incredible flexibility when conceptualizing their special day!

A favorite spot for small ceremonies is a beautifully positioned square patio. Guests may surround the patio on all sides (and even by deck). From the patio, the happy couple is elegantly silhouetted against a backdrop of endless river and sky. The location also offers a descending stair entrance for the wedding party.

Just above the patio, the corner of the Tasting Room porch beckons. Here guests feel tucked amid the lush Indiana greenery, as

though secretly looking out over a stunning bend in the Ohio River. "This is kind of a sweet spot as far as views go," nods Lynn. "We've had some ceremonies here too." She demonstrates

how brides have arranged benches and chairs in different ways to accommodate their wedding party's size and guest needs.

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