

# Southern Bride<sup>®</sup>

Alabama

Winter/Spring 2012

**NEW!**  
newlywed  
LOOKBOOK

**ELEGANT**  
weddings  
&  
**SAVVY**  
inspirations

[SouthernBride.com](http://SouthernBride.com)

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**A BIRMINGHAM WEDDING RETREAT**  
*Renaissance Ross*  
*Bridge Resort*  
 BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

By | Sherra Meyers

**A** Scottish castle inspired hotel tucked within a resort community is a lovely choice for couples planning their ultimate wedding weekend.

The Renaissance Ross Bridge Resort sits majestically within the rolling hills skirting Birmingham, Alabama, creating a magical setting of faraway lands. The traditional modern resort has much to offer the bride and groom that are interested in planning an entire weekend of wedding festivities. The resort not only offers an incredible selection of venues for your ceremony and reception but also offers the perfect group activities for your wedding party and guests.

Go traditional or get creative. The options for your ceremony and reception are endless – from a beautiful, traditional ballroom that can easily accommodate large to intimate groups that opens up to an expansive patio creating just the right ambiance overlooking the pool's waterfall and natural backdrop of the beautiful rolling hills. Don't forget about the 'extra' events and needs. The Presidential Suite has a kitchen with a service entrance making this the commanding suite the perfect place to hold a cocktail reception to honor your wedding party and can also double as a reception area for family and friends to gather during the weekend.

Activities around the resort will surely please everyone. For girls, the Ross Bridge Spa is a must with 10 professionally designed treatment rooms; a meditation room offering aromatic teas and fruit infused water and a relaxing wet area with lounges surrounding a bubbling hot tub.

Lunch can also be arranged in the spa so, the pampering can continue all day. For the guys, the Ross Bridge Robert Trent Jones golf course will prove to challenge even the best player boasting the third longest golf course in the world! Other resort activities include; biking, badminton, tennis, fitness center or simply lounging around the pool.

If you time your event just right, you and your guests will enjoy an interlude of performance-led kilt-wearing bagpipe musician serenading everyone at sunset. It's a Ross Bridge tradition that is ceremoniously upheld every evening, paying homage to the Scottish heritage of the James Taylor Ross Family; original owners of the land dating back to the times of the Civil War. Visit [www.marriott.com](http://www.marriott.com) and look for the Ross Bridge location for more information.

For personalized help contact the sales office directly at 205-949-3081.



King Suite



**SOME BRIDES ARE JUST BORN TO BE WILD...**

*The Iron Horse Hotel*  
 MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

By | Suzanne Scharff

**N**ot all Brides dream of a horse drawn carriage. Some actually prefer the power of the horse on two wheels, with the wind in their hair and the wide-open road.

And for couples looking for a destination wedding, honeymoon or romantic getaway, that will surely get their motor running; there's no doubt that Milwaukee's Iron Horse Hotel will have all feeling like they are in hog heaven.

Located just a few blocks from the Harley-Davidson Museum, this 100-year-old timber framed warehouse turned luxury boutique hotel is as authentic and cool as Fonda and Hopper in Easy Rider. Early American Indians coined the train the "Iron Horse" and modern culture applying the moniker to the motorcycle. The first and only hotel exclusively to cater to bikers, The Iron Horse Hotel pays tribute to the iconic two-wheeler and the heart and spirit of the early settlers of our country.

Brides can switch to and from their high-heels, cowboy or riding boots amongst the array of wedding and reception venues. Smyth restaurant serves a modern version of Wisconsin "comfort food" of steak and potatoes as well as more delicate seafood dishes. Rustic-elegant décor flows throughout the hotel and continues in the restaurant with leather booths, ironwork chandeliers, and worn wooden floors. Posh, outdoor lounge seating at the Yard provides an urban backdrop as well as the unique sight and slow chugging sounds of a working train just outside of the hotel. The Library features an impressive book collection and provides an intriguing space for Sunday brunch.

Couples can hole up in a choice of 100 luxurious, loft-style rooms that showcase original brick walls, exposed beams and ductwork. Bathrooms are generous sized and sleek as the chrome on a Harley. Edgy and historical artifacts from London to small town flea markets punctuate the hotels design. Local artists are featured throughout the interior including classic black and white photographs of Route 66. The hotel is also operating on a high "green" caliber with the use of recycled products integrated throughout the accommodations, amenities and décor.

There is a lot to get revved up about this hot property and no need to BYOB – as you can rent a motorcycle just in case, you can't...Bring Your Own Bike. For more information visit [www.theironhorsehotel.com](http://www.theironhorsehotel.com).



The Yard



The Lobby



LAISSEZ LES BON  
TEMPS ROULER!  
(LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL)

*Ritz-Carlton*  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

By | Suzanne Scharff  
stay at The Ritz-Carlton in New Orleans might just prove the perfect elixir for couples who are overly enthusiastic at "letting the good times roll." As famous as New Orleans is at providing a festive time – rest assured, the Ritz Carlton is equally famous for providing the ultimate in luxurious accommodations and amenities with a heaping serving of gracious southern hospitality and professional service.

Located on Canal Street just at the edge of the French Quarter, the Ritz Carlton, New Orleans ensures ideal proximity as well as providing a bit of congestion and noise buffer. The Ritz-Carlton New Orleans opened in 2000 in the historic and grand Beaux-Arts building that once housed the upscale Maison Blanche department store. Over 400 guest rooms, offer generous space with subtle elegance in creamy colors, traditional furnishings and original artwork. Slumber peacefully on fluffy feather beds and thick goose down or hypo-allergenic pillows. Bathrooms are also on the generous side and awash in yards of gorgeous Italian grey-flecked marble.

A boutique hotel within the hotel, The Maison New Orleans or "Club Level" offers guest rooms with a more sophisticated yet intimate feel with hardwood floors and four-poster beds. The Club Level, its décor reminiscent of nearby Garden District homes, embraces the New Orleans French Quarter spirit with lively music and a convivial atmosphere with a near continuous flow of champagne, wine and other spirits. Signa-

ture food presentations, as well as an impressive cheese cart, are offered throughout the day.

The Ritz also ensures that your good times can continue to roll without even having to step off the premises as the hotel also boasts the stylish Davenport Lounge, named in honor of Jeremy Davenport, the hotel's feature entertainer. Come daylight you can enjoy the refined tradition of afternoon tea and by twilight, things start shaking again with cocktails and the crooning sounds of Davenport and other entertainment.

M Bistro offers a top rated Farm-to-Table menu using the freshest Gulf region ingredients and produce. This elegant restaurant is extremely farmer friendly - though jackets and reservations are required to sample and savor their highly civilized dishes such as the baby back ribs, rabbit lasagna and morel mushroom gnocchi.

Overindulgence can also have an amazing effect when you succumb to it at the world-class Ritz Carlton, New Orleans Spa, where within their 22 treatment rooms and choice of 100 therapies utilizing highly luxurious ingredients, you'll be pampered like Mardi Gras Krewe royalty and emerge radiantly and refreshed, and more than likely be ready to let the good times roll all over again. For more information visit: [www.ritzcarlton.com](http://www.ritzcarlton.com).



Club Level Suite