

Weddings are as unique as the couples

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Sage Inn and Lounge provides a venue and a menu for couples' dream weddings. During this week alone, the inn will host three wedding receptions and one ceremony at its location off Commercial Street in Provincetown. General Manager Christopher Schultz works with couples to create elegant wedding celebrations.

"We want to make sure we can provide what (the couples) want," he says, pointing out that Sage's intimate space and quality food is geared toward upscale celebrations. The inn can accommodate midsize weddings with up to 110 guests.

The process of planning a wedding, Schultz explains, is in-depth and depends on the couple.

"Couples explore the property and look at pictures we send them," he says. "Then we talk through the menu together. We try to make everything in-house."

Depending on what is envisioned for the special day, couples may choose to have the ceremony at a different location, such as a nearby beach, before returning

to the inn for a reception. Others choose to tie the knot on the property.

Staff at the inn help design personalized celebrations. Last Friday, the mixologist prepared a Tiffany-blue cocktail for a wedding's Tiffany theme. This weekend, a marriage ceremony will take place near the patio's herb garden at the inn, which also houses guests of honor in its 19 guest rooms and organizes rehearsal dinners.

Although The Sage Inn and Lounge hosts celebrations of all forms of love, Schultz has noticed a recent shift in the Provincetown community that affects these celebrations. He explains that before marriage equality, people visited town to be free to express themselves in an era of greater oppression. Those visits frequently involved partying. While Provincetown is still a wonderful place to celebrate pride, the young adults who were having fun in the '80s are now "more mature," settling down and starting families. There is also an increasing number of visitors who do not identify as LGBTQ, but who are open-minded and enjoy the liberal atmosphere.

"P'town is changing dramatically and quickly, and businesses who have an edge on that will do best," Schultz says.

The inn's support for LGBTQ love dates back decades. Before the property was purchased five years ago by its current owners, the inn was known as The Vixen, an "infamous" lesbian bar. Before that, it was a home to artists and performers. Rumor has it that Barbra Streisand once frequented the basement of the inn, where "something else was in the air" besides creativity, according to Schultz.

The inn has also gone green - solar panels crown the roof and three charging stations in the parking lot provide energy for electric cars. The kitchen composts, recycles and does its best to minimize food waste.

Weddings, which celebrate both love and the long struggle for equality, have a special significance here in Provincetown.

"Nobody should tell anyone else who to fall in love with. It's our job to support couples and make them happy," Schultz says. "This is who we are, and this is who we're proud to be. Love is love."



Couples receive help planning their wedding at Sage Inn and Lounge.