

Jardines Wedding FAQ'S

Wedding Packages

Can I purchase a wedding package even if I don't want to have the ceremony at Jardines?
Yes, the Bronze package does not have the ceremony included, and if you would like, we can upgrade it to resemble the Silver or Gold package..

Do we have a coordinator on the day of the event?

Yes, our Event Coordinator or one of her designees will be there for your wedding. She helps with the service, is familiar with the timings and sequence of your wedding day, and will liaise with the DJ or Master of Ceremonies to ensure everything flows according to plan.

What is the customized menu card?

It's a menu card on white cardstock listing all the menu items for your wedding with the bride and the groom's names and wedding date at the top.

Can the menu card be another color than white?

Yes, ivory and we have a limited number of additional colors, but cannot guarantee other than white or ivory.

What is the wedding favor mentioned in the Gold package?

It is a jar of our house made salsa (which is also served on the buffet and available for sale at the restaurant and select local stores) in a white organza bag. If you want, you are free to put your own "tag, sticker on the lid or something else with your names and your wedding date on the gift to customize it.

Could I have the favor in another color bag?

Yes, there are other colors available, but subject to availability at the time of your wedding.

Food

I have never eaten at Jardines de San Juan; can you do a tasting for us?

Yes, of all the main buffet items. Please schedule a time, and we'll make this available for you.

Is there a charge for the tasting?

Our standard tasting is \$25 dollars and consists of the main items we serve. Please limit tasting to 4 people. (Not available on the menu, or for other times than for wedding tasting.)

Can I have whole beans or black beans instead of refried beans?

Yes no problem. If you would like refried beans AND whole beans or black beans; there is a small charge for adding an additional option.

If there are leftovers, do we get to take them home?

We invite all guests to come for seconds and we will pack a courtesy meal up for the bride and groom. Usually there are not huge quantities of leftovers as we are good at calculating how

much a certain number of guests will consume. If you have fewer guests than you guaranteed, we can send you home with some of the leftovers.

I don't want a buffet; can I have a sit down meal?

We can discuss that, there is usually a bit more labor involved in the plating and service, but if you want to have a sit down meal we can do it

I'm allergic to nuts, is any of your food made with nuts?

No, we're not putting any nuts in our food, except the Pollos Borrachos special on Sundays and our Mole Poblano, and the Mexican chocolate ice-cream, but this would not apply to you as they are not items on the wedding buffet .However, be aware that we are not a nut-free facility due to the other three menu items.

I'm allergic to gluten, what should I avoid?

The enchilada sauce is thickened with flour. Everything else is fine. The corn tortilla chips are not mixed with flour, however depending on how severe your allergy is, we cannot guarantee that the tortillas were not made on equipment shared with flour tortillas.

We are vegetarians, what options do you have?

The Chicken Enchiladas can be made with cheese only. There are many options on the buffet that are meat-less. We can further help you if you want additional vegetarian dishes. Please note that the rice is made with chicken stock.

Are your refried beans made with lard?

No we use vegetable oil.

Can we have seconds on the buffet?

Sure, it is encouraged! After everyone has gone through the buffet once, we invite your guests to come up for seconds.

You say we pay for the number of plates that are used on the buffet, what about seconds?

We'll give your guests fresh plates for seconds, but we don't count those in the charge. You don't pay for seconds when you have a buffet.

Beverages

Can we have a keg?

Yes, we charge per keg. One keg has 168 12 oz servings, and it requires a private bar setup.

Is the private bar part of the Bronze and Silver package?

No, because the wine and the margaritas come out of the service bar, no separate bar is set up for it. It is however part of the Gold package.

What drinks can we have as the 3-per person under the Gold Package?

Any of our regular cocktails up to \$6.00 per drink.

What is your house wine?

Taylor Cellars Burgundy, Cablis and White Zinfanel

Can we have a different wine than your house-wine?

Yes, if you want something else that is on our wine list. No problem!

What is a Welcome Margarita?

A large pitcher of margarita served with six 6 ounce wine glasses. You have your choice of regular, strawberry, apricot, mango, margaritas.

Can we bring in our own alcohol?

No, this policy is firm. We value our ABC liquor license and will not do anything that jeopardizes it. If you or a guest of yours even tries to bring alcohol in we have to seize it immediately. We have to be responsible for the liquor we serve.

But my uncle makes his own award winning Tequila in Mexico, I would like to bring it in for a toast for everybody, can the corkage fee apply to that?

Sorry, we can't.

What about wine? You have a corkage fee listed on our price list?

Yes, wine is allowed, however it has to be arranged for in advance and agreed upon. We allow corkage fee on wines that we are unable to purchase easily through our distributors. We will NOT allow any outside liquor.

Cake

What kinds of cake flavors are available?

The basic cake flavors include: white cake, chocolate cake, red velvet cake.

Fillings include: lemon curd & butter cream, strawberry preserves and butter cream, raspberry preserves and butter cream, Bavarian cream, Belgian chocolate ganache and chocolate mousse, Mango mousse, Strawberry mousse, Belgian and white chocolate cream cheese, Belgian white chocolate mousse. Premium flavors are available for an additional fee.

What styles/designs can I choose from?

Fondant ribbons, fondant polka-dots, butter-cream scallops, tri-dots, scrolls, garlands, boughs, in various styles and colors are all included in the cake pricing.

What if I want a different style, can I have that?

The baker can make almost anything. If you have a wedding package that includes a cake, and you want a custom design or something out of the ordinary, you can arrange that directly with the baker, and if there is an additional charge, he will bill you separately.

What colors are available?

The baker can closely match almost any color in frosting as well as fondant. It may not be EXACT, but very close, he's good!

Can I have different flavors for each tier on the cake?

Yes but keep in mind that you may need to order additional cake since most people would eat more cake, since they will want to try several of the flavors.

What is the difference between butter-cream and fondant?

Butter-cream is just what it says, butter, and sugar creamed together for tasty creamy filling and is also used to cover and decorate butter-cream cakes. A well iced butter cream cake can be just as smooth and beautiful as a fondant cake. Fondant is a rolled "dough" made from sugar that can be molded and sculpted almost like play-dough. It provides a smooth outer layer, and can be used as accents, ribbons dots etc. Fondant is edible but not as tasty as butter-cream cakes.

What is ganache?

Ganache is a creamy chocolate filling made from chocolate and cream. It can be used as a filling or as a glaze on top of cakes. (In the photo gallery there is an example of a Ganache glazed cake with a "Dia de Los Muertos" theme.) Ganache is also what is used in chocolate truffles as filling.

Do you do whipped cream?

Yes but it's not recommended for summer weddings. Sitting out makes it fluffy and it can get an aftertaste. We would need to store it in the refrigerator until right before the cutting, and you and your guests would not enjoy the cake as a centerpiece during your reception. White chocolate mousse as an icing could be an alternative if you want a something resembling whipped cream but is more "usable" for summer weddings.

Can you make gluten-free, vegan, organic or dairy free cakes?

At this point, it is beyond the scope of our baker.

Can I have a cake tasting?

Yes, we can arrange for a cake tasting here at Jardines after you have secured your wedding date with us with a deposit. Please let us know what flavors you would like to taste we provide tasting for 7 flavors, and please give us 2 weeks' notice.

What about a cake topper or decorations?

You are welcome to bring in your own cake topper, if you choose to have a cake topper rather than fresh flowers, please have the topper available for the baker a minimum 2 weeks before the wedding so he can ensure that it doesn't need a different base or other modifications for it to stand securely on your cake.

Can I have fresh flowers on my cake?

Yes, it is a good way to have your cake match the rest of your wedding. You will need to arrange for the flowers through your florist, since they know what style will match the rest of your wedding. Be sure to ask them for a cake topper. The baker can place the flowers on the cake if

they are available at the time the baker delivers the cake. If you want additional flowers on the other tiers, make sure the florist leaves some extra for the baker. Please make sure your florist knows to arrive before the baker delivers the cake or arrange for the cake flowers to be delivered in advance. (We can keep them cool if needed.)

Can you wrap up the top tier of the cake for us?

Yes, we will. If the cake is part of a wedding package we will arrange for a box for the top, if you have another vendor for your cake, please make sure they provide a box for the cake top if you would like us to wrap it for you. Please arrange for someone to pick up the cake at the end of the event. If it is left longer than 24 hours, we will dispose of it as we don't have much freezer space.

Do you have an on-site baker?

No we have partnered with Freedom Bakery and Confections in Watsonville. They have been in business since 1975 and make wonderful cakes.

Who makes the cake?

Paul Liu is a second generation baker and grew up in the bakery business. He and his crew at Freedom Bakery and Confections will make your cake to your specifications and deliver it to Jardines and set it up for your big celebration.

China & Silverware

What kind of china and silverware do you provide?

We have white porcelain plates (Homer Laughlin Scalloped and Delta stainless steel) flatware.

What styles are available for upgrade?

We have a catalog downloadable on our website of what is available.

What does it cost?

Each piece of china or silverware starts 40 cents (price at our rental supplier) per piece plus a delivery charge of \$120.) Chargers and other items are more. If you are interested in upgraded china, we can discuss it in detail at a meeting.

What if something breaks or disappears?

For rental items you will be billed a replacement cost for loss or breakage.

What is a charger used for?

It is a liner under your entrée plate and is used purely for décor. No food is placed on it.

Do I need both a dessert fork and a dessert spoon?

Not for cake. If you have a dessert buffet or a dessert item like chocolate mousse or flan, it is a good idea.

Do you get an exact number of upgraded china or do we need to get extra?

We will order a few extra, as you may have additional guests, or want to offer your guests seconds on fresh plates.

Linen

What color linen do you provide?

You have a choice of 49 different solid colors; please see the linen color chart as a separate download on our website. Keep in mind that computer screens and printers do not do reality full justice. We also have a swatch-ring at Jardines if you want to feel the linen and see the color, bring with you any item you want to “match” colors with.

What other colors are available?

What? You mean 49 different options aren't enough? Just kidding, yes there are more options, patterns and textures like lace, lame, organza available – they are special order and will incur additional cost.

Can I mix and match colors?

Yes, from the solid colors you may. We caution you to use too many however – it can look busy, usually one color with one accent works nicely.

What are table drapes?

They are tablecloths that go all the way down to the floor on all sides and cover one whole rectangular table.

Can I have skirting on the tables instead of table drapes?

Yes, but they cost a little more. We can work out exactly what your needs are and charge you accordingly if this is important to you.

I want to have chair covers and sashes, can you arrange for that?

Yes, but again there will be an additional cost. They are also quite a bit of work to put on, so you will be charged a set-up fee as we need to put on additional staff to get it done.

What if a piece of linen or china is destroyed or lost?

For rental items you will be billed a replacement cost for loss or breakage.

Ceremony

I have more than 85 guests; can you accommodate ceremony seating for more?

We max out at about 100, but it is tight. Sometimes it is better to have some guests standing if you don't plan to have a really long ceremony.

What kind of arch is it?

We have a white lattice arch.

Does the arch come with flowers or décor?

No, it is painted white, and you can have any decorations added to the arch as long as it doesn't permanently alter it.

Does the aisle runner come in another color than white?

Yes, it is available in red.

What if I don't want an aisle runner, just flower petals or something else?

That is fine. Keep in mind that we don't allow rice, confetti or birdseed.

Does the ceremony area have shade?

Depending on the time of day, and the time of the year there is some shade available from surrounding trees. If you are planning a longer ceremony or have a lot of people sensitive to the sun, we can arrange for a shade canopy for a fee.

Does the shade canopy come in other colors?

Sorry, just white at this time.

Can I decorate the shade canopy?

Yes, some couples have covered the legs in tulle and bows, or you could arrange for your florist to make garlands for it.

What can my guests "toss" for good luck after the ceremony?

Flower petals, bubbles, dove release, butterfly release are ideas that have worked in the past. Because of our setting, we cannot allow paper, foil or plastic confetti, rice or birdseed.

Entertainment & Dancing

Do you have a dance floor?

Dancing normally happens in the open area in-front of the buffet and the DJ on the brick patio, you really don't need a dance floor as we're not on grass and heels don't sink into the lawn.

How late can my reception go?

Because of our outdoor residential setting the town requires us to turn off the music at 7 PM. The manager on duty is also responsible to keep the music volume to a reasonable level for the duration of your event, and will coordinate with your DJ to ensure the volume is acceptable.

I know you have a mandolin player and a harp player that play at the restaurant on weekends, can I contract them for my ceremony or reception?

Yes, you would be contracting them directly. The contact information for Billy Packard is (831) 588-2738, and for Ramon Romero(831) 635-9711.

Can you recommend any particular DJ's?

We don't endorse a particular DJ service, but we know several good DJ's that are good professionals and are available in this area. Please contact us for a list of names.

Are there outlets available for the DJ?

Yes, there are several outlets available. Since it is spread out and you may want to inquire if your DJ has wireless speakers – not essential but a slick idea!

Is there a PA system available if we want to do our own music?

We don't currently have an outdoor PA system. If you have an indoor event in the Theater, there is a multi CD player and you can make your own mixes and play CD's.

Is there anything else I should know or plan for?

If you have lots of kids attending you may want to hire a face painter, balloon artist or some other entertainment. Same thing if you are having an exceptionally long photo session or receiving line.

Timings

How long time do I have the back garden for if I have my ceremony and wedding there?

We allow 5 hours for your ceremony and reception, plus 90 minutes beforehand for vendor setup and decoration.

How long do I have if I only have the reception there?

We still allow five hours, but you will probably not need all that time.

Can I come by and have a rehearsal the day before the wedding?

Yes, however, scheduling is subject to availability due to other events.

When can I have my florist start decorate?

Up to 90 minutes before the event, however let the florist know it can get hot if it is in the middle of the summer, so closer to your event is better so flower arrangements don't wilt.

When can I start using the bridal dressing room?

You have the room for

After the party is over, how long do we have to remove decorations?

One hour after the event is allowed for clean-up.

Payment

What kinds of payment do you accept?

We take cash, money orders, check, Visa, MasterCard and American Express. For weddings we accept personal checks for all but the last payment.

When is payment due?

Payment is due when you guarantee your final count; two weeks prior to your event. Incidentals, bar tab and other things that are impossible to calculate before the event are due at the conclusion of you event.

What about the bar tab and any incidentals?

All incidental charges are due at the conclusion of your event.

What if I have special rental equipment that you handle – do you handle payment or do I pay the rental company?

It depends. China and Flatware always go through Jardines.

What if one of my guests accidentally breaks something?

You will be held responsible for any breakage or loss of equipment.

Weather

Can I have my wedding in mid to late April or in early November?

It all depends since you are taking a higher risk with the weather. We reserve the right not to book a wedding during a time when weather is known to be unpredictable, which is larger than we can handle indoors.

What if it rains?

They say rain on your wedding-day means luck! Part of planning an outdoor wedding is taking a risk with the weather. We can accommodate 70 people indoors and we will always try to make additional arrangements for inclement weather – but we cannot guarantee sunshine. There may be an additional charge for rentals due to inclement weather, per advance approval by client.

What if it is cold?

Make sure you tell your guests it is an outdoor wedding. Watch the weather closely suggest a light cover-up for windy days.

What temperatures can we expect?

Normal Temperatures (HOLLISTER 2 Weather station, 6.47 miles from San Juan Bautista)

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
Max °F	61.1	63.7	66.1	70.9	73.8	78.7	80.9	81.8	81.8	78.2	67.9	61.1	72.2
Mean °F	49.5	51.9	53.9	57.0	60.2	64.4	66.6	67.4	66.7	62.6	54.6	48.8	58.6
Min °F	37.8	40.1	41.7	43.1	46.6	50.1	52.2	52.9	51.6	47.0	41.2	36.5	45.1

Precipitation, Annual Inch.

(HOLLISTER 2 Weather station, 6.47 miles from San Juan Bautista)

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
Annual Inch	2.86	2.71	2.37	0.79	0.36	0.05	0.04	0.06	0.21	0.64	1.87	1.65	13.62

Is it often windy or foggy?

Fog is almost unheard of. Sometimes on warm days we get a moderate breeze that usually dies down sunset. (Make sure your veil is wind proof, a bride lost hers just before walking through the garden gate for the ceremony and had her dad put the comb back in – (it worked out fine, she was beautiful and the one off wind gust was the only one, but you don't need that stress.)

Anything else I need to think about?

If you get married early or late in the season, it could get chilly. You might want to plan to bring a little scarf or something that matches your dress to cover up. We had a bride that had to get a sweatshirt from her aunt's car because she was cold. Be prepared, we unfortunately we do what we can, but the weather is beyond our control.

Equipment

What kind of chairs are around the guest tables?

Currently they are green metal chairs. We are looking into investing in white folding chairs for the coming season but cannot guarantee it.

Can I have white chairs?

Yes, we can rent them. There are 85 included in the ceremony setup, and while it is cumbersome/not an elegant solution; we can move them to the tables after your ceremony.

I don't want anything obscuring the conversation at the table, what if I don't want the umbrella, can you remove them?

Yes we can, there is a fee to compensate for the additional wear and tear, and labor to do this.

I want all white on my wedding and I see that the umbrellas are ivory, can you get white umbrellas?

We have white umbrella cloths available; there is a labor fee for switching each umbrella them.

We're getting married early/late in the season and worry about the weather, can you get heaters?

Yes, we can rent heaters, but they are not great with the umbrellas as they tend to burn. We recommend heaters or umbrellas not both.

We're bringing our own music, do you have extension cords?

No, you will need to provide your own.

I don't plan to have a special cake knife and server – do you have one?

We do, just don't take it home with you!

Facilities

Is there parking available?

There is often enough parking on the streets of San Juan Bautista, we don't have a parking lot available however.

I want to make a grand entrance/exit and I'm arriving in a limousine/carriage/antique car that will come back to pick us up, how can we make sure he has parking when he picks us up?

We have a couple of saw-horses we can put out to block parking off immediately in front of the main gate to the back garden.

Are you handicap accessible?

Yes, there is a handicap accessible restroom and ways to get anywhere on our property with a wheelchair.

I only have a small number of wedding guests; can I get married in the garden and have the reception in the Theater or on the Adobe patio?

Yes and No. Times are limited and there is a ceremony fee to book that area it would be determined on a case by case basis depending on availability.

Can you tell me what blooms in the garden when I'm getting married, so my florist can match the flowers?

It depends a bit on the weather, whether there is a cold or unusually hot year, but here is a rough list of some of the flowers we have in our gardens.

Red and Pink Geraniums Bloom almost year round mostly March through November.

Epiphylliums Bloom mid-May through Mid-June.

(our stunning hanging cactus plant collection)

Bearded Irises Bloom in early may (pale blue and pink)

Red roses Bloom during and shortly after the bearded irises

Foxglove – We're planting seeds in the fall and hope for a May – June showing

Dahlias – Were planting a bunch of new dahlias this year and hope for a nice bloom from July through late September

Shows up with their large bluish blooms in June

Agapanthus

(Lily of the Nile)

Daisies June through August with a break late august and a second bloom

in mid September

Cactus Various cacti bloom all summer, they are tricky though because cactus blooms only last for a day or two, so it is a hit or miss. June

is when most of them bloom however.

Pink Roses Depending of the weather but we have blooms late April through mid October.

Daffodils and Narcissus Bloom from February through March

I have a really tiny wedding; can I get married on the Adobe patio with the reception there too?

Yes, it is tight but we can accommodate you.

I am just going to have my reception in the Theater, can I still have our photographer take some pictures of us in the Jardines Back Garden?

It depends on what else is booked at the time.

I have 250 people and I really want to have the ceremony and the reception at Jardines, is there any way to accommodate us?

Sorry that is just a little too large for us.

Bridal Dressing Room

Is there a limit to how many bridesmaids can I have in the Private Dining Room for dressing?
Comfortably about 10-12 although the room holds more, you might not want to cramp yourselves.

Can I have my make up person and hair-dresser there?
Sure!

Can the photographer take pictures while I get dressed?
As long as you're comfortable with your photographer, we have no objections.

What if we get hungry or thirsty, can we order something to the bridal dressing room?
We have a whole restaurant at your service, we can have a server check on you and you can add it to your tab. However, we ask that you tip the wait-person separately as they are not tipped by the service fee which goes to the people assigned to the wedding. And one more thing---PLEASE be careful with your dress – (salsa stains are usually only removable with scissors on short notice!) And please don't order pizza from down the street – no outside food or drink is allowed.

Can we have our own music in there?
If you bring your own iPods with small speakers, the main speakers can only play what plays in the rest of the restaurant.

Can I have white tablecloths on the tables in there, so that the photos are really pretty?
Sure, there is a small fee to cover the additional table linen.

Photography & Videography

Is there anything special about photographing at Jardines de San Juan that my photographer needs to know?
It is outdoors, subject to weather, sun and wind. It can get hot, so have someone available to blot your face if you are getting married on a hot day. In the early season before much of the trees have leafed out, your primary shade will be the umbrellas. Taking photos around midday will be harder due to sharp shadows. Early and late in the day colors are deeper and the light is softer, and shadows less sharp.

Are there any particularly “good shots” you can recommend?
Depending on whether you make a grand entrance or not, a shot from the outside (on the street) as you walk into the garden, you get the “Jardines” arch as you walk in, and people clapping as you enter. You can also take pictures against the rustic fence around the garden from the outside; there is a nice olive tree on the block just to the right of the entrance. You can also walk out on the town and there are many beautiful rustic doorways, adobe walls, pepper trees etc. If you get married in the mission, they also have a beautiful garden. If your photographer is not intimately familiar with San Juan Bautista, we suggest you might take him for lunch a few days

before the wedding and go over these details. Your pictures will be the most tangible of memories from your wedding day, so plan carefully is our advice.

Are there any areas that are off limits?

Any public areas are fine, however please be sensitive to dining guests in the part of the restaurant where the wedding is not held, and be prepared for curious looks. (People usually love watching newly married couples!)

What time is best for photographing?

Ideal lighting is about an hour before sunset, or early in the day and slightly overcast days. But whenever you get married is usually the best time, because you'll be glowing with happiness!

After the ceremony at Jardines, my photographer wants me to take us around the town of San Juan Bautista for some other shots; can we do that, and then come back for the reception?

We're fine with it as long as you don't leave your guests high and dry for a really long time. Be aware that photographers are artists as well as professionals, and sometimes they can get carried away in a pretty location with a beautiful couple! You might want to provide a cocktail hour for them.

Can my photographer/videographer come early and take pictures of the garden before our party starts?

Sure as long as there isn't another event scheduled for that time.

Is there anything else I should know?

We reserve the right to also photograph the weddings at Jardines to document and use for our portfolio and future promotion of our business. Sometimes we may obtain photographs from your photographer for this use as well. If we get any particularly good shots; we'll happily share them with you so make sure we have your address and email. Just don't cancel your photographer because of this –we're amateurs!!!

Service & Staff

I have dined a lot at Jardines and would like to request a particular server/bartender to serve on our wedding, may I do that?

Yes and no. If the person is scheduled to work that day on that shift it might be arranged, however some of our staff "specialize" in weddings while others don't. We reserve the right to staff your event with what we deem the best staff for your particular event.

How many service staff do you provide?

It depends on the size of your wedding. Generally our ratio is 20 per service staff for a buffet wedding. It can be more or less depending on the complexity of your event.

How/when is the champagne toast served?

You can have it served whenever you like. Some want it right after the ceremony, some during the meal and some right when the cake is served. We can set the tables with champagne glasses and pour when everyone is seated or we can pour them on trays and walk around and serve them to your guests if they are standing (after your ceremony or before the cake cutting.)

Do you serve the food at the buffet or is it self-serve?

We assist in serving your guests at the buffet, it allows for speedy service and less bother for your guests.

How long can I expect it to take for all the guests to be served food?

It depends on the size of the wedding but usually no more than 20-25 minutes, often less.

For the cocktail hour, are the appetizers passed or served on a buffet?

We can do either or both.