

It's Your Day – Let's Make it Perfect!

Mt. Nittany Overlook Event Center - FAQs

Congratulations and Welcome!

Thank you for considering our venue, Mt. Nittany Overlook Event Center. We know you and your guests will love the breathtaking views, the comfortable and ample space, and very importantly, the catering provided exclusively by Harrison's Eat Well Catering.

If you haven't already visited our website, we suggest that you look there first to assist with understanding all the information below.

www.MtNittanyEventCenter.com

Frequently Asked Questions

Making the decision: Is this the right venue for us?

This is the ultimate question, and it is the decision that most of these FAQs aim to help you reach. While finding the right venue for you undoubtedly involves many factors, one of the first, very logical questions, the answer to which most couples need to know is, "Can we have a wedding here within our budget?" We, therefore, begin our Frequently Asked Questions with some information to help you understand the main costs of having an event at Mt. Nittany Overlook so you can decide if we are the right venue for you.

MAIN COSTS & OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

What are the costs of having an event at Mt. Nittany Overlook?

Here are the major costs to consider:

- **Venue Rental Fee:** This includes room rental, tables, chairs, china, silverware, glassware, sound system, cleaning, parking, restrooms, heat/air conditioning, insurance, recycling, guest preparation set up and clean up, and the use of outer decks and viewing areas. The rental fee does not include linen, A/V equipment, service rentals, food, beverage, bar, gratuity, or tax. Additional setup fees may apply, depending on set up request.
- **Catering Fee:** Includes food & soft beverage, service/gratuity.
- **Bar Fee:** We have several options for hosted or cash bar.
- **Linen Fee:** White linens can be included for an additional \$1.50 per person fee. Or outside linen rentals are welcome if you would prefer a different color or style of linen.
- **Other Possible Costs:** A/V equipment, rentals, or additional setup fees, depending on setup request.

So, what is the overall cost of having a wedding reception at Mt. Nittany Overlook?

The cost varies depending on time of year, day of week, guest count, which room(s) you choose, the type of menu served and your bar choice. As you provide us with this information, we can create a customized quote that fits your unique needs. Here are some examples to help you get an idea of the costs for different styles and sizes of events at different times of the year:

<https://www.mtnittanyeventcenter.com/>

- **Example #1.** Peak Saturday in June or October, 125 guests, Elevation 1809 Room, Hors d'oeuvres, Dinner, and Hosted Bar with House Wines and Beer – averages between \$70-\$89(+) per person, plus tax and gratuity.
- **Example #2.** Off-Peak Friday, 100 guests, Casual Tailgate-style Mix & Mingle Menu, with a cash bar – averages between \$39-\$49 per person, plus tax and gratuity.
- **Example #3.** Peak Saturday, 60 guests, Hillside Room, with Hors d'oeuvres, Dinner, and Hosted Bar – averages between \$45-\$65 per person, plus tax and gratuity.
- **Example #4.** Home PSU Football Game weekend Sunday, 50 guests, Casual Tailgate-style Mix & Mingle Menu, with hosted beer & wine – averages \$49-59+ per person, plus tax and gratuity.
- **Example #5.** Off-Peak date, 60 guests, Light Sunday afternoon hors d'oeuvres, cash bar – about \$25-35 per person, plus tax and gratuity.

What are considered peak months and days, and what times of the year or days of the week are more cost-effective?

Here is what we consider peak and non-peak times.

Peak Months:

- Mid-March to mid-November, December
- EXCEPT home PSU football game weekends

Off-peak Months:

- January to mid-March, later half of November
- AND home PSU football game weekends

Peak/Non-Peak Days of the Week:

- Saturday is the peak day and is typically the highest price.
- Friday and Sunday are mid-priced.
- Mondays through Thursdays are the lowest priced.

Do you ever offer lower prices for any other reason than for booking an event during an off-peak month or on an off-peak day?

If you are looking for something in the next two to three months and a peak time is still available, we will lower the price to off-peak pricing.

What is the food & beverage cost on a per-person basis? What is the tax and service charge?

Our menus are customizable, so food and service charges will vary depending on what you would like to order. Tax is 6% of your entire bill. Gratuity is an additional 20% (before tax).

Sample menus are available on our catering website, www.HarrisonsEatWellCatering.com. (Please let us know if you prefer not to have so much customization and, therefore, if a package would interest you!)

Are tables, linens, chairs, plates, silverware, and glassware provided, or will I have to rent them myself?

Tables, chairs, plates, silverware, and glassware are included in the room rental price. White linens can be included for an additional \$1.50 per person fee. Outside linen rentals are welcome if you would prefer a different color or style of linen.

Is the site handicap accessible?

The Elevation 1809 room (main level) is handicap accessible. The Overlook Grill on the top level, is available by lift and Hillside room is accessed by stairs.

What's the cancellation policy?

Upon booking Mt. Nittany Overlook, a 21-day grace period is given if your event is more than 60 days away. This means that, if you would like to cancel within the 21-day grace period, you will receive a full refund. If a cancellation is made after the 21-day grace period or if you book fewer than 60 days from the time of your event, you will forfeit any deposit already paid.

DAY-OF-EVENT VENUE INFORMATION**Can I hold my ceremony here, too? Is there an additional charge?**

The venue can accommodate ceremonies for up to 150 guests. Depending on the size of your group, you could either have a ceremony in your reception room or rent an additional room or level. There is no outside space for a ceremony, but every room has many windows and scenic views of the valley and mountains.

How long will I have use of the event space(s) I reserve? Is there an overtime fee if I stay longer? Is there a minimum or maximum rental time?

The standard wedding rental is for up to five hours. Additional hours may be purchased, although additional minimums and PA Liquor Law restrictions may be required. The price varies depending on which level you have rented and what foods and beverages are needed.

Can I move things around and decorate to suit my purposes, or do I have to leave everything as is? Are there decoration guidelines/restrictions? Can I use real candles?

Yes, you may decorate. There are guidelines you will need to adhere to and you will be responsible for all decoration setup and clean up. Real candles are permitted but must be approved for safety by Mt. Nittany Overlook staff. Due to the building's unique history, we are cautious about all fire on site.

What time can my vendors start setting up on the day of the wedding? Is it possible to start the setup the day before? How early can deliveries be made? How much time will I have for décor setup?

Setup: All of this depends on what other events are booked. Overall, we will make it work! On the event day, vendors & décor setup can begin 1 to 2 hours before the event. If no other group has rented the venue, you may also be able to set up the day before.

Deliveries: Most deliveries may be made in advance, depending on the size, but we should be able to accommodate most items ahead of time. Deliveries must be scheduled ahead of time to ensure staff is available to receive the deliveries.

Does the venue provide assistance getting gifts or décor back to a designated car, hotel room, etc. after the event has concluded?

No, you are responsible for setting up and removing all your décor and related items. Assistance with décor setup and removal is available for an additional fee. All gifts and décor must be removed from the venue immediately following the event.

Do you provide a coat check service (especially important for winter weddings)? If not, is there an area that can be used and staffed for that purpose?

Coat racks are provided for the guests on each level. If you are interested in having a coat check, we can provide you with a coat check fee for this additional service.

Is there parking on site? If so, is it complimentary? Do you offer valet parking, and what is the charge?

Complimentary on-site parking is available. The venue has 90 parking spots, plus a large grassy area for overflow parking. If multiple events are taking place, the number of parking spots will be managed to ensure each group has sufficient parking. Valet parking is not available currently. Shuttles are always encouraged!

What are the options for a shuttle service?

Shuttling is recommended, especially for groups with hosted bars or large guest counts. You will be responsible for booking your own shuttle services. We have an excellent local transportation service, Fullington, which offers shuttles, busses, limos, and more. Contact and pricing information for Fullington is available upon request.

Are cabs and Ubers easily accessible from the venue?

Because of Above the Valley's scenic location, using cab and Uber services will take more time than if we were in the middle of a nearby town. It takes about 15-20 minutes on average for Ubers to arrive at our location, and about 25-30 minutes on average for cabs to arrive, so knowing this should help you plan accordingly.

How many restrooms are there?

There is one Women's and one Men's restroom on each level with plenty of room in each.

Do you have signage or other aids to direct guests to my event?

We will set up signs to direct guests once they are inside the venue. Additional signage for outside the venue is welcome.

What security services do you offer? Do I need to hire my own security guards, or does the site hire them or have them on staff?

We do not offer security services. If you feel you need them you will be responsible for booking them on your own.

How many weddings will be booked on my day?

We do not book more than two weddings or events in one day, and we set them up carefully, so as not to have crossover issues. The timing of the weddings will be staggered to ensure there is no interruption or confusion as guests arrive.

FOOD INFORMATION

Is an outside catering company (i.e., other than Harrison's Eat Well Catering) permitted?

You are welcome to have an outside company provide your wedding cake or wedding dessert, but no other outside catering company is permitted. With permission, special family food items may be considered.

Can we do a food tasting prior to finalizing our menu selection? If so, is there an additional charge?

As a small catering company, many of our catering items are custom and not on hand to try at all times. Tastings of catering options can be available if the kitchen is preparing a similar item for another group, but this will likely not happen very often.

As an alternative to a traditional tasting, a Mt. Nittany Overlook Gift Card can be given to the couple so they can come into the restaurant and try items from The Overlook Grill restaurant menu. This will allow them to get a feeling for the quality and style of food that Harrison's has long been known for.

Does Harrison's Eat Well Catering specialize in any particular type of food?

Our menus reflect Chef Harrison's love of the seasonal cuisine of California's wine country. His original culinary creations are often California-style fusion foods: colorful dishes with many different layers of flavor from a variety of cultures and food influences. For those with more conservative palates, we also offer traditional favorites.

You can get an idea of the style of food we offer by perusing some of the many [Catering Sample Menus](#) on our catering website, www.HarrisonsEatWellCatering.com. By telling us what your preferences are, we can guide you to the right menu for your special day.

I see that Harrison's standard is to offer buffets. Is a plated dinner possible? Is a family-style meal possible?

We can do family-style. Plated may be possible based on your unique circumstances.

How flexible is Harrison's Eat Well Catering to making menus that take dietary restrictions or allergies into account?

It is no longer possible to feed a large group all the same limited selection (for example, lasagna), so we take great care to include foods that will work for most diets, especially Vegetarian (v), Gluten Free (gf), and Dairy Free (df). Please let us know what your specific needs are, so we can make recommendations. For example, a Nut Free menu can be requested.

BAR INFORMATION

Are you licensed to provide alcohol service? If so, is alcohol priced per person or by consumption? Is there a bar minimum that must be met before the conclusion of the event?

The venue is licensed by the PA Liquor Control Board to provide and serve alcohol. Alcoholic beverages are charged per consumption. There is a bar minimum that must be paid in advance. The bar minimum goes towards the final bar balance, which is due at the conclusion of the event, per Pennsylvania law. The bar minimum varies in price, depending on the length of time the bar is open and the alcoholic beverages requested.

What is the average bar tab for the number of people attending my event?

Bar tabs vary depending on your bar package choice. We can provide different bar options with average price estimates. Drinks are priced like regional bar and restaurant drink prices.

Are there additional charges for bar staff?

If alcoholic beverages are purchased through the venue, the charge for bar staff will be included in the service fee.

Can I bring my own wine, beer or champagne, and is there a corkage fee if I do? Can I bring in other alcohol?

Outside wine, beer, or champagne may be permitted with an additional bar “corkage” fee. The bar fee is used to cover glassware, bar service, ice, recycling, etc. Special orders of alcoholic beverages can be requested.

VENDOR INFORMATION

Can I bring in a cake from an outside cake maker or must I use a cake made on the premises?

Outside cakes or wedding desserts are welcome – Harrison’s Eat Well Catering does not specialize in cake making.

Is there a cake-cutting fee?

Cake cutting is complimentary for weddings.

Do you provide special cake-cutting utensils?

The venue has utensils to cut the cake, but if you are looking for something more suitable for pictures, we recommend providing your own.

Can I hire my own vendors (caterer, coordinator, DJ, etc.), or must I select from a preferred vendor list? If I can choose my own, do you have a list of recommended vendors?

Catering must be provided by Harrison’s Eat Well Catering. Otherwise, outside vendors are welcome. If you are looking for a vendor for a particular service, we can provide you with some recommendations.

ENTERTAINMENT INFORMATION

Are there restrictions on what kind of music I can play, or a time by which the music must end? Can the venue accommodate a DJ or live band?

We have no restrictions on the type of music, but sound levels must be maintained to meet PA Liquor Control law. Since some bands require more space than others, you should communicate with the band and us to make sure you will have adequate space for the rest of your event.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES INFORMATION

Do you offer on-site coordination? If so, what services are included, and is there an additional charge for them? Will the coordinator supervise the day of the event?

Our on-site staff will assist you throughout your event, coordinating guests and activities at no additional cost. We do not offer full-service wedding planning services, but please let us know what you are looking for, as we may be able to meet your needs or recommend an affordable or creative option.

How much assistance can I get with the setup/décor? Who is responsible for setting up and tearing down the decor, and when will it be completed?

We provide limited assistance with décor planning and set up, but we have some wonderful recommendations for people who can transform the space for you!

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

How much is the deposit?

To hold the reservation, 25% of the quoted price for the overall reception is due. A schedule is provided for making three more payments prior to the event.

If we must cancel, can we get our deposit back?

Upon booking with Mt. Nittany Overlook Event Center, a 21-day grace period is given if your event is more than 60 days away. This means that, if you would like to cancel within the 21-day grace period, you will receive a full refund. If a cancellation is made after the 21-day grace period or if you book fewer than 60 days from the time of your event, you will forfeit any deposit already paid.

When does the event have to be paid in full?

The full invoice with your actual guest count and a bar minimum fee will be paid in full one week prior to your date. The actual bar bill must be paid at the end of the event per PA Liquor Law, and it can be paid by credit card or check.

Does the venue have liability insurance?

Yes!!!

SUSTAINABILITY INFORMATION

Do you have a recycling policy?

Yes, we recycle and compost. We have won the Emerald Award locally for our ongoing efforts in sustainable practices. If you prefer compostables over china and glassware, we can offer those as well.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE

No matter where you live, whatever your culture, nationality, sex, race, religion, clothing size, age, abilities, socio-economic background, sexual orientation, whether you're planning a formal reception or a tailgate-style wedding (or anything in between!). We want you to feel welcome.

Weddings are about celebrating love and love is as unique as the two people committed to the relationship. For years, we have tried to do our part to create a planning experience and ultimately, special occasion where diversity is actively celebrated.

So, get comfortable—we're glad you're here to plan a celebration of a fabulous partnership, whatever that means to you.