

# Lyndhurst Castle: Downton Abbey on the Hudson

*Have a taste for fairy tales or romance novels? Are you entertaining visions of Empire? Magnificent Lyndhurst Castle is the perfect wedding venue for you and your Prince Charming.*

## The History

Lyndhurst, situated on a graceful 67-acre English-style park on the banks of the Hudson River, is arguably the most beautiful and important example of Gothic Revival architecture in America. It is in Tarrytown, New York, a convenient 20-minute drive from White Plains, less than an hour from Manhattan, and a short taxi ride from the Tarrytown train station. Designed and built in two stages by influential American architect Alexander Jackson Davis -- who also designed Federal Hall in New York City and (reportedly) the “Tomb” headquarters of Yale’s Skull & Bones secret society -- Lyndhurst features over 40 rooms with vaulted ceilings, leaded windows (many with Tiffany glass), astonishing faux surfaces, and an atmosphere that is indisputably deluxe.

The nearly 200-year-old estate has been owned by just three people since it was built: a New York City mayor, a merchant, and railroad magnate Jay Gould and his family. Now, Lyndhurst is a crown jewel of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and has opened its doors to special events. When you hold your event at Lyndhurst, you are also contributing to the preservation of one of America’s great historic homes.

## The Spaces

Couples have many options at Lyndhurst, and your choices will be guided by both aesthetic and practical considerations. For everyone’s comfort, wedding parties at Lyndhurst should not exceed 400 people, but smaller bridal parties will not find themselves lost at the mansion, either.

The Laundry Building’s “Great Room” is the area for bridal prep: it features a spectacular river view, a full-length mirror, and a bathroom. Since rentals start at 3:30 for a 5:30 wedding, brides are advised to coordinate hair and makeup off-site at any of the nearby salons or hotels. You can recite your vows in the Rose Garden’s elegant, limestone gazebo, which does double duty as a *chuppah*. Or, if your wedding party is 40 people or less, why not hold your ceremony where Helen Miller Gould did, in the elegant Parlor? You can also say “I do” on the mansion’s gothic verandah, or in the Carriage House. Most couples choose to hold their reception in the gorgeous, semi-permanent tent which can accommodate up to 200 guests and is expandable as required.

The meticulously manicured 67-acre Lyndhurst park, featured in many movies and fashion shoots, offers a picture-perfect backdrop for romantic wedding photos. Why not meet with your beloved in secret for your “first look” in the leafy privacy of one the many magnificent specimen trees? Additionally, the glass Conservatory, now with a working fountain, makes a beautiful backdrop for group portraits.

## **The Offerings**

Like most important historic properties, Lyndhurst works with exclusive valet parking, tent rental and catering vendors in order to protect its grounds and facilities. Ask Event Planning and Sales Manager Christine Plazas about additional vendor resources if, for example, you’d like to arrive in style in a horse-drawn Cinderella carriage! The estate’s current partner for catering is Philip Stone Caterers, known both for their corporate work and for their association with a number of historic sites throughout the New York Metropolitan area. The exclusive on-site tent vendor is Party Line Rentals, offering a variety of luxurious tent styles and packages to keep your guests dry and happy in all kinds of weather.