

WISCONSIN BARN WEDDING VENUE COMPARISON GUIDE

A simple two-page worksheet to compare up to four wedding venues side-by-side.

VENUE	A: _____	B: _____	C: _____	D: _____
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1. QUICK COMPARISON

DETAIL	A	B	C	D
Date available?				
Guest capacity				
Venue access hours				
Indoor ceremony				
Outdoor ceremony				
Rain backup				
Climate controlled				
Getting-ready spaces				
Parking / accessibility				
Rehearsal included?				

2. WHAT IS INCLUDED?

DETAIL	A	B	C	D
Tables & chairs				
Ceremony seating				
Setup				
Cleanup				
Venue staff / coordinator				
Bar / bartending				
Linens / decor				
Catering flexibility				
DJ / vendor flexibility				
Photo locations				

3. REAL COST

COST	A	B	C	D
Venue rental	\$	\$	\$	\$
Ceremony fee	\$	\$	\$	\$
Required rentals	\$	\$	\$	\$
Staff / service fees	\$	\$	\$	\$
Food / beverage minimums	\$	\$	\$	\$
Taxes / other fees	\$	\$	\$	\$
ESTIMATED TOTAL	\$	\$	\$	\$

Before leaving each tour: Ask what is mandatory, what costs extra, who handles setup and cleanup, what happens if it rains, and what the cancellation/postponement policy is.

COMPARE THE EXPERIENCE - NOT JUST THE BARN

Score each venue from 1 (poor fit) to 5 (excellent fit) while the tour is still fresh.

4. EXPERIENCE SCORECARD

DETAIL	A	B	C	D
Overall style / aesthetic				
Ceremony experience				
Reception space				
Wedding-day flow				
Photo opportunities				
Guest comfort				
Weather backup				
Getting-ready experience				
Planning support				
Vendor fit / flexibility				
Value for total cost				
Connection with venue team				

5. QUESTIONS COUPLES OFTEN FORGET

- ☐ Who makes the weather call, and when?
- ☐ Can vendors arrive early? Is overnight storage allowed?
- ☐ What time must music end and guests leave?
- ☐ Are candles, hanging decor or sparklers restricted?

- ☐ Where do gifts, cards and personal items go?
- ☐ Who is our point person on the wedding day?
- ☐ What happens if our guest count changes?
- ☐ Are there required insurance or security costs?

6. FINAL DECISION

Our top 3 non-negotiables	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
Venue that felt most like us	_____
Best guest experience	_____
Best weather plan	_____
Best overall value	_____
Our top choice	_____
Why?	_____ _____