

STONE HOUSE

Nevada City, California

Weddings & Events — Comprehensive FAQ

Everything you need to know about planning your perfect day with us



1. ABOUT STONE HOUSE

Q: What is Stone House and what spaces are available?

Stone House is a historic event venue in Nevada City, California, offering a collection of uniquely characterful indoor and outdoor spaces ideal for weddings and celebrations. Our six distinct spaces are:

- Lounge — elegant indoor gathering space
- Dining Room — formal seated reception space
- Courtyard — beautiful outdoor entertaining area
- Cave — intimate underground space with unique character
- Great Hall — expansive space for larger events
- Show Room, Cavern & Parlour — additional spaces included in Full Building hire

Spaces can be rented individually (Single Room), as a curated Partial Building package, or as the Full Building for the ultimate Stone House experience.

Q: How many guests can Stone House accommodate?

Capacity varies by the rental package selected:

- Single Room: Up to 75 guests
- Partial Building (Lounge, Dining, Courtyard & Cave): Up to 150 guests
- Full Building (all 6 spaces): Up to 300 guests

For events exceeding 150 guests, please contact our team directly at bookings@stonehouse.io for a custom quote. For fire safety compliance, stated capacities are absolute maximums inclusive of all guests, children, and vendors.

Q: How far in advance should we book?

We recommend booking as early as possible — ideally 12–18 months in advance for peak Saturday dates. Shoulder and off-peak periods typically have more flexibility. A holding enquiry can reserve a provisional date for up to 14 days while you finalise your decision.



2. VENUE HIRE PRICING

Q: How is venue hire priced?

Venue hire is priced based on the day of the week, the spaces selected, and the season. We operate three pricing seasons:

- Off-Peak: January – February
- Shoulder: March – April and November

- Peak: May – October and December

Pricing below reflects our standard rates. Please contact us or use our online Package Builder for your specific season and date.

Pricing is organised by season. Each table below shows the full rate card for that season — they are not combined. Saturdays are block-rental only in all seasons.

OFF-PEAK *January – February*

Day	Single Room hourly · 3-hr min	Partial Building hourly · 3-hr min	Partial Building 12-hr block · save 40%	Full Building 12-hr block · best value
Mon–Thu	\$250/hr	\$550/hr	\$3,950	\$8,000
Friday	\$300/hr	\$600/hr	\$4,300	\$9,000
Saturday	— block only —	— block only —	\$4,700	\$10,500
Sunday	\$275/hr	\$600/hr	\$4,300	\$9,800

SHOULDER *March – April, November*

Day	Single Room hourly · 3-hr min	Partial Building hourly · 3-hr min	Partial Building 12-hr block · save 40%	Full Building 12-hr block · best value
Mon–Thu	\$300/hr	\$600/hr	\$4,300	\$9,800
Friday	\$350/hr	\$650/hr	\$4,700	\$11,500
Saturday	— block only —	— block only —	\$5,400	\$13,000
Sunday	\$325/hr	\$700/hr	\$5,050	\$12,000

PEAK *May – October, December*

Day	Single Room hourly · 3-hr min	Partial Building hourly · 3-hr min	Partial Building 12-hr block · save 40%	Full Building 12-hr block · best value
Mon–Thu	\$350/hr	\$650/hr	\$4,700	\$11,000
Friday	\$400/hr	\$750/hr	\$5,400	\$13,000
Saturday	— block only —	— block only —	\$6,100	\$14,000
Sunday	\$375/hr	\$800/hr	\$5,750	\$13,500

◆ Saturdays are 12-hour block rental only in all seasons. Hourly rentals are not available on Saturdays.

◆ Partial Building 12-hour block saves approximately 40% vs. the equivalent hourly rate.

Q: What is included in the venue hire fee?

Venue hire covers exclusive use of your selected spaces for the contracted duration, along with tables, chairs, and standard linen, access to all indoor restrooms, venue staff coordination during your event, setup of venue-owned furniture, and use of our on-site preparation areas. Catering, bar service, florals, entertainment, and photography are quoted separately.

Q: Can we do an hourly rental, or do we need a full-day block?

Hourly rentals are available Monday through Sunday (excluding Saturday) with a 3-hour minimum for Single Room and Partial Building packages. The 12-hour block packages offer approximately 40% savings over equivalent hourly rates and are the only option available on Saturdays. The Full Building is always booked as a 12-hour block.

 **3. BOOKINGS, PAYMENTS & CANCELLATIONS**

Q: What is the deposit amount and when is it due?

A non-refundable booking retainer of 50% of the total estimated venue hire fee is required to secure your date. This retainer is payable within 7 days of signing your venue contract and is deducted from your final balance.

Q: What is the full payment schedule?

Our standard payment schedule is as follows:

- At booking: 50% non-refundable retainer
- 3 months before the wedding: 25% instalment
- Final balance (including any additions): due 30 days before the event

Final catering numbers and last-minute additions must be confirmed in writing no later than 14 days before your wedding date. This constitutes your guaranteed minimum for catering billing purposes.

Q: What is the cancellation policy?

Cancellations must be submitted in writing. The following policy applies:

- Cancellation more than 12 months prior: Loss of the 50% booking retainer only
- Cancellation 6–12 months prior: Loss of 50% of total contracted value
- Cancellation 3–6 months prior: Loss of 75% of total contracted value
- Cancellation less than 3 months prior: Loss of 100% of total contracted value

We strongly recommend purchasing wedding cancellation insurance to protect against unforeseen circumstances. Force majeure events are handled individually at management's discretion.

Q: What forms of payment are accepted?

We accept bank transfer (EFT), Visa, and Mastercard. A 1.5% credit card surcharge applies. All balances must be cleared before the wedding date — no payments are accepted on the day of the event.

 **4. CATERING — OVERVIEW & PRICING**

Q: Does Stone House provide catering?

Yes. We offer in-house catering as our preferred option. You may also use an approved outside caterer for a flat fee of \$1,000. Outside caterers must hold a current food handler's licence, public liability insurance of at least \$5,000,000, and submit all documentation to our team at least 30 days before the event.

Q: What protein/entrée options are available and what do they cost?

You may select 1 or 2 proteins for your reception. All entrée packages include a salad course plus all catering rentals, plates, and flatware:

Protein	Price	Description
Vegetarian	\$45/person	Seasonal vegetable entrée — includes salad & all rentals
Chicken	\$55/person	Expertly prepared chicken — includes salad, plates & flatware
Fish	\$65/person	Fresh fish selection — includes salad, plates & flatware
Steak	\$75/person	Premium steak — includes salad, plates & flatware

◆ When two proteins are selected, all guests are charged at the price of the higher-priced option (highest price prevails for plated service).

Q: What styles of service are available?

We offer three service styles:

- Buffet (included in base price): Self-serve stations — relaxed, interactive, and the most popular choice for receptions
- Family Style (+\$10/person): Shared platters placed at each table for a communal dining experience
- Plated (+\$10/person, highest price prevails): Full table service with individually plated courses — the most formal option

Q: Can we add appetisers, extra sides, or dessert?

Absolutely. The following add-ons can be included in your catering package:

- Passed Appetisers: +\$5/person per appetiser during cocktail hour. Popular options include Bruschetta, Shrimp Cocktail, Caprese Skewers, Italian Meatballs, Mini Sliders, Stuffed Mushrooms, and Spring Rolls. Final selection confirmed during planning.
- Additional Side Dishes: +\$6/person per side. Popular options include Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Roasted Seasonal Vegetables, Truffle Mac & Cheese, Rice Pilaf, Grilled Asparagus, and Roasted Sweet Potatoes. Final selection confirmed during planning.
- Dessert Course: +\$10/person. Options include Wedding Cake Cutting Service, Plated Dessert, or a Dessert Bar. Final selection confirmed during planning.

Q: Is there a service fee on catering?

Yes. A 20% service fee is applied to all food and beverage charges. This fee is included in the prices shown in our Package Builder and covers staffing, coordination, and operational costs. This is not a gratuity — tips for catering and bar staff are entirely at your discretion.

Q: When is the final catering headcount due?

Your guaranteed minimum guest count for catering must be confirmed in writing no later than 14 days before your wedding. After this point, numbers can only increase, not decrease. You will be charged for the guaranteed number or actual attendance, whichever is greater.

5. CATERING — CHILDREN'S PRICING & AGE POLICY

Q: At what age are children not charged for catering?

Children aged 2 years and under (not yet reached their 3rd birthday) are NOT charged for catering. Infants and toddlers at this age typically eat from a parent's plate or bring their own food from home. They are still counted in the total guest headcount for venue capacity and seating purposes.

Q: Is there a reduced catering price for children?

Yes. We apply the following tiered pricing:

Age Range	Catering Price	Notes
0 – 2 years	FREE	Eat from parent's plate; no catering charge
3 – 5 years	25% of adult price	Simplified kids menu provided
6 – 12 years	50% of adult price	Kids menu or limited adult selection
13 – 17 years	75% of adult price	Full adult menu; excluded from bar package
18 years and over	Full adult price	Full adult menu and bar package included

◆ *The 20% service fee applies to all children's catering charges in the same way as adult pricing.*

Q: What does the children's menu include?

Our standard children's menu (ages 3–12) includes a choice of main and side from kid-friendly options such as:

- Mains: Chicken tenders, mini beef burger, penne pasta with tomato sauce, or fish goujons
- Sides: French fries, steamed vegetables, or mac and cheese
- Beverages: Apple juice, orange juice, water, or lemonade (no alcohol)

If a child over 12 prefers the adult menu, this can be arranged and will be charged at the 13–17 age tier rate.

Q: Do infants under 3 need a seat at the table?

All guests must be included in the seating plan for fire safety compliance. Parents may seat infants on their lap or in a high chair. We have high chairs available — please advise us of the number required at the time of your final headcount. Parents are welcome to bring pre-prepared food for toddlers in sealed containers. Formula and baby food are always exempt from our outside food policy.

6. CATERING — DIETARY REQUIREMENTS & ALLERGIES

Q: Can you accommodate special dietary requirements?

Absolutely. We can accommodate the following at no extra charge, provided they are notified at least 14 days before the wedding:

- Vegetarian and vegan (our Vegetarian entrée option is fully plant-based)
- Gluten-free and coeliac
- Dairy-free / lactose intolerant
- Nut allergies, including severe/anaphylactic allergies
- Halal (30 days' notice required) and low-sodium or diabetic-friendly diets

Please collect dietary information from guests on your RSVP and provide a full breakdown at the time of your final guest count confirmation.

Q: How do you handle severe food allergies?

We take food allergies extremely seriously. For life-threatening allergies, please notify our catering manager as early as possible. We will prepare allergen-specific meals in a separate area of the kitchen, brief all staff on allergy protocols, and label allergen-free meals clearly. Cross-contamination cannot be 100% guaranteed in a large catering environment — guests with severe allergies are encouraged to speak with our catering manager on the day.

 **7. BAR & BEVERAGE SERVICE**

Q: What bar packages does Stone House offer?

We offer three bar packages, all of which include professional bartender service. The 20% service fee applies to all beverage packages:

Package	Price	Inclusions
Beer & Wine	\$40/person	Domestic & imported beer, red & white wine, 4-hour bar service
Premium	\$50/person	Premium beer, premium wine selection, full liquor bar, 4-hour bar service
Top Shelf	\$60/person	Craft beer, premium wine, top-shelf liquor, 5-hour bar service
Soft Drinks Only	Included	Non-alcoholic beverages — no bar package required

◆ *Bar packages are optional but highly recommended. A Soft Drink package is always included with catering.*

◆ *A minimum bar spend of \$1,000 applies to all weddings. This minimum is easily met by any of the full per-person bar packages above. If no full bar package is selected, a \$1,000 bar minimum charge will be applied to your invoice.*

Q: Is there a bar minimum for weddings?

Yes. All weddings at Stone House are subject to a minimum bar spend of \$1,000. If you select one of our full per-person bar packages (Beer & Wine, Premium, or Top Shelf), this minimum is automatically met. If you choose not to select a full bar package — for example, opting for soft drinks only or a

limited bar — a \$1,000 bar minimum charge will be applied to your invoice. This policy ensures an appropriate beverage experience for all wedding guests.

◆ *The \$1,000 bar minimum is subject to the 20% service fee. The service fee is applied on top of the minimum charge where applicable.*

Q: Are children and teenagers included in the bar package cost?

Guests aged 13–17 are charged at 75% of the adult catering price but are NOT included in the alcohol bar package. Non-alcoholic beverages are always available to all guests at no additional charge. Guests 18 and over are charged at the full adult rate which includes bar package access.

Q: Can we bring our own alcohol?

We do not permit couples to supply their own spirits or draught beer. Couples may supply their own wine subject to a corkage fee. All bar staff must be licensed and trained in Responsible Beverage Service (RBS). Unlicensed individuals are not permitted to serve alcohol on our premises under any circumstances.

Q: What is your policy on intoxicated guests?

Our bartenders are RBS-certified and have a legal obligation to refuse service to visibly intoxicated guests. Stone House reserves the right to close the bar early or ask a guest to leave if their behaviour poses a risk to the safety or enjoyment of others. Alcohol policies are non-negotiable.

✨ **8. ADD-ON SERVICES & PREFERRED VENDORS**

Q: What add-on services does Stone House offer?

We offer a curated selection of add-on services through our trusted preferred vendors. These partnerships offer exclusive rates and seamless coordination:

Q: What floral packages are available?

We offer four floral tiers through our preferred florist partner:

- Intimate — \$1,500: Bridal bouquet, 4 bridesmaid bouquets, 5 boutonnieres, centrepieces for 10 tables
- Classic — \$2,500: Everything in Intimate, plus ceremony arch flowers, cocktail arrangements, centrepieces for 15 tables
- Elegant — \$5,000: Everything in Classic, plus premium flower varieties, large ceremony installations, centrepieces for 25 tables
- Luxury — \$10,000: Everything in Elegant, plus premium imported flowers, room transformations, and ceiling installations

◆ *Floral arrangements are tax-exempt services.*

Q: Is a Day-Of Coordinator included?

A dedicated Day-Of Coordinator is included at no extra charge when you book the Full Building 12-Hour Block package. For all other venue packages (Single Room, Partial Building hourly, or Partial Building 12-Hour Block), a Day-Of Coordinator is available for an additional fee of \$750. This coordinator oversees your event timeline, liaises with all vendors on arrival, manages setup and breakdown, and acts as your primary on-site contact throughout the day.

◆ *The Day-Of Coordinator manages venue logistics — they are not a full wedding planner. For comprehensive wedding planning support, see our Basic Wedding Planner package below.*

Q: Are photography, planning, and DJ services available?

Yes. The following premium services are available through our preferred vendor network. All additional services are tax-exempt:

- Professional Photography — \$3,800: 8-hour coverage, 2 photographers, 500+ edited images
- Basic Wedding Planner — \$2,500: Full planning support including vendor sourcing, timeline creation, design guidance, and wedding-day management (a comprehensive planning service, distinct from the Day-Of Coordinator)
- DJ Entertainment — \$2,500: 5-hour service, professional sound system, dance floor lighting

You are welcome to bring your own vendors for these categories. Outside vendors must submit insurance and licence documentation to our team no later than 30 days before the event.

 **9. VENDOR MEALS**

Q: Are we required to provide meals for our wedding vendors?

Yes — vendor meals are industry standard and are often a contractual requirement in vendor agreements. Any vendor working 5 or more continuous hours at your event should receive a meal. This typically includes your photographer and second shooter, videographer, wedding coordinator, DJ or band, and any independent bar staff not employed directly by Stone House.

Q: What does a vendor meal cost?

Vendor meals are charged at a discounted rate — typically 40%–50% less than the standard adult per-person catering price. Vendor meals include a main course and non-alcoholic beverages only. Alcohol is not included under any circumstances. The exact price will appear in your catering proposal. The 20% service fee applies to vendor meals.

Q: When and where do vendors eat?

Vendors typically eat during the first course of the main reception meal. We provide a designated vendor area away from the main reception space so vendors can rest and recharge. Vendor meal timing should be documented in your day-of timeline, which your coordinator will help create.

 **10. TAX & SERVICE CHARGES**

Q: What is the sales tax rate?

Stone House is located in Nevada County, California (unincorporated area). The applicable sales tax rate is 8.875%. Tax rates may vary slightly by specific city location (8.875%–9%). Final tax is calculated based on the venue address.

Q: What is taxable and what is tax-exempt?

The following are taxable:

- All food and beverage services
- The 20% service charge applied to food and beverage

The following are tax-exempt:

- Venue rental fees

- Floral arrangements
- DJ entertainment
- Photography services
- Basic Wedding Planner / Event planning
- Day-Of Coordinator service

Q: What is the 20% service fee?

A 20% service fee is added to all food and beverage charges (including bar packages, catering, add-ons like appetisers, sides, and dessert). This fee covers staffing, operational overhead, and coordination costs — it is not a gratuity. Tipping catering and bar staff is entirely at your discretion. The service fee is itself subject to sales tax.

 **11. DÉCOR, SETUP & RESTRICTIONS**

Q: What decorations are permitted?

We love seeing your personal style reflected throughout Stone House. Permitted décor includes: candles in enclosed glass vases or holders; fresh, dried, and artificial florals; fabric draping and fairy lights (secured without nails or staples); signage and printed materials; table centrepieces; and battery-operated or LED lighting. All décor must be approved by your venue coordinator in advance.

Q: What decorations are NOT permitted?

- Nails, staples, tacks, tape, or glue on walls, ceilings, or floors
- Loose confetti, glitter, or flower petals indoors
- Sparklers, fireworks, or pyrotechnics of any kind
- Open-flame candles outside of enclosed glass holders
- Fog machines or large smoke effects (triggers fire alarms)
- Balloons attached to any venue structure

Q: Who is responsible for setup and breakdown?

Your catering and/or styling team is responsible for all third-party décor setup and removal. Stone House staff set up all venue-owned furniture. All décor must be removed within the contracted hire period. Items remaining after contracted hours may incur a storage and disposal fee.

 **12. GENERAL POLICIES**

Q: Is event insurance required?

Yes. All couples must obtain a single-event general liability insurance policy with a minimum of \$1,000,000 coverage, including host liquor liability. Proof of insurance is required at least 30 days before your wedding date. Policies typically cost \$100–\$175 for a one-day event.

Q: Is smoking permitted?

Smoking and vaping are strictly prohibited inside all venue buildings and within 10 metres of all entrances. A designated outdoor smoking area is available. Guests who violate this policy will be asked to leave.

Q: What is the noise and curfew policy?

Stone House complies with Nevada County noise ordinances. Music rules differ by location:

- Courtyard (outdoor): All music must cease by 10:00 PM regardless of your scheduled event end time.
- Indoor spaces: Music may continue until 30 minutes before your contracted event end time.

Music volume must remain within legal limits at the property boundary at all times. Our team conducts periodic noise checks throughout the evening and may request volume reductions if required.

Q: Is parking available?

Yes. Parking is available on-site for guests at no charge. Accessible parking is located nearest the main entrance. Overnight parking is permitted for guests who have consumed alcohol, but vehicles must be collected by 10:00 AM the following morning.

Q: What is the lost property policy?

Items left at the venue will be logged and stored for 14 days. After this period, unclaimed items will be donated to charity. Stone House accepts no liability for loss or theft of personal property during events.

Q: How do I request a quote or contact the team?

The easiest way to get started is to use our online Package Builder at stonehouse-wedding-cart.vercel.app to build your package and request a quote. Alternatively, reach our bookings team directly at bookings@stonehouse.io. We respond to all enquiries within 24 hours.

Stone House · Nevada City, California

bookings@stonehouse.io · stonehouse-wedding-cart.vercel.app

For questions not answered here, please reach out — we're always happy to help.