

picture perfect

trends

**Montreal photographers
SHARE THEIR favorite
backdrops**



Dominic Fuizzotto has newlyweds right, from top, at Château Dufresne, at the World Trade Centre and overlooking Lac St. Louis.



Once the wedding ceremony is over, married life officially begins. And those very first photographs – taken after the knot has been tied – will likely become family treasures. So whether you're planning to hire a photographer or beg a favour from a friend who's a camera buff, you'll need to consider where to pose for your first portrait as a married couple. We Montrealers are fortunate: with so many backdrops to choose from, there's something to suit every mood – from manicured gardens to city skylines.

The Montreal Botanical Garden (4101 Sherbrooke St. E.) is the city's best-known post-wedding photo location. So many couples head for the rose garden, the flowering brook or the exhibit gardens that, on summer Saturdays, limousines vie for space in the parking lot and brides can expect to rub lacy elbows with other brides. There's a \$7 parking charge per vehicle and unless individuals are Access Montreal cardholders, they should expect to pay a \$10 entrance fee.

Nice as it is, the Botanical Garden isn't the only site that Montreal couples choose for their first photos. In order to find something a little different, we turned to two local wedding photographers. Here's what they told us.

Dominic Fuizzotto, owner of Dominic Fuizzotto Photography, likes to photograph newlyweds at Westmount Park (4626 Sherbrooke St. W.). Here, couples can pose in front of gigantic flower beds or by a lagoon that looks like something right out of a fairy tale.

Though Fuizzotto likes the lagoon, experience has taught him that not all brides are willing to muddy their shoes. Which is why he has found another spot at the park, just outside the solarium at Victoria Hall. "The brown brick wall makes a decorative background and the white pebbles on the ground are great for reflecting back the light," he says.

Pointe Claire's Stewart Hall (176 Lakeshore Rd.) is another romantic photo location. In summer, the greystone mansion, which dates back to 1916, is surrounded by flower beds. Some photographers favour the Victorian veranda overlooking Lac St-Louis, but Fuizzotto prefers a quieter spot – the brick wall between the grass and the lake. For a more architectural look, Fuizzotto likes Château Dufresne (4040 Sherbrooke St. E.), one of Montreal's first steel and concrete buildings. Modeled after Versailles's Petit Trianon, Château Dufresne was completed in 1919. The exterior features seven columns. Place a bride and groom in front of them, says Fuizzotto, and you get a dramatic effect.

Wedding photographers always need a back-up plan. If it rains, Fuizzotto brings bridal couples to the atrium at the World Trade Centre (380 St. Antoine St. W.). Here, a 40-foot long reflecting pool runs across a slab of granite. "It looks like a mirror," says Fuizzotto. At one end of the stream is a Greek statue; at the other is a set of green doors with gold trim. Both spots make impressive backdrops, he says.

"For some couples, the post-wedding photo is the first time they can relax and take a breath after the ceremony – and after months of preparations," he says. "Sometimes they just want to escape into the romantic moment, and the right environment can help them feel comfortable."