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With the use of your smart phone, you can scan any one of the QR Codes in our Advertisers' Directory and immediately receive the information that you need. You can also scan the QR Code at the bottom of this letter and instantaneously attend our Internet Bridal Show™ from the comfort of

your own chair. This opens an entire world of thoughts and ideas, as well as suppliers who are waiting to answer your questions and fulfil your wishes.

But that's not all.

This information age that we live in creates more decisions for you. How can you possibly know which information is credible, and what is gossip and hype? I am proud of our writers and researchers. They have cut through all the noise and have created content for you in all of our magazines that is interesting, unique and trustworthy. The Real Life Weddings are not wild ideas of what might be, but actual weddings of interest that worked. Our regular features are crammed with transferrable ideas, new trends and practical methods of creating the wedding you envision. There is an amazing variety of venues in Ontario for weddings; check out a sampling of those in this issue. Be inspired by fabulous gowns, flowers, sweet treats and décor elements. Just flip through to the Table of Contents on and you'll be carried off on an enjoyable journey of wedding planning.

John Wabster

John Webster | Publisher



Wedding Essentials

VOL.18, NO.1 | WINTER/SPRING 2017

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66 There really is no better way to say thank you to your guests than helping ensure they have access to quality health care close to home. ?? —Adam & Daniella Erwood

Adam and Daniella Erwood said "I do" to making a difference on their wedding day in September, 2014. In lieu of traditional wedding favours, the childhood sweethearts handed out donation acknowledgement cards to their guests informing them of the gift made to Markham Stouffville Hospital on their behalf.

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Every couple needs to have some clear, deep discussions before they get married. Some topics are hard to talk about and others seem unnecessary, but this doesn't negate the need. Talking about finances, children and expectations before the wedding can clear up any misconceptions and let each person have a say in their hopes for the future.

Getting married is one of the biggest decisions you make in your lifetime. It affects your future in ways you might not even understand fully. While a lot of couples feel they know each other inside and out, this is rarely true. People make assumptions about their partner, believing that just because they are in love, they share all the same values, hopes and dreams. But before you get married, it's important to talk about some key aspects of your future lives together, as well as your past and present.

Families influence us in ways we can't always see, which is why it is enlightening to visit your partner's family. A person's childhood affects how they see marriage, family, money and, largely, their values. It is important to think about these influences, try to gauge where your ideals and expectations come from and then talk about this with your partner. Such discussions can bring realizations to both of you, realizations of your partner and even of yourself.

Children are definitely something to talk about with your future spouse. Before you have this conversation, however, have an idea of what you're expecting and what you'd like in this area. Know when you want to start having children, when you'd like to stop and how large you'd like your family to be. But think about the harder topics as well. What will you do if there are infertility issues; are you open to adoption or in vitro fertilization? How will you handle having children with disabilities? How are you hoping to space your children? Do you even want children? Once you have an idea of your expectations and hopes, and once you have some answers to these questions, it's time to discuss the topic with your partner and be prepared to compromise.

Another subject which partners think is always clearly understood is careers. What are you both hoping for in your future, career-wise? Jobs can sometimes take over a relationship, leaving little time for bonding and maintaining your connection. How will you handle this?





What will you do if one of you loses their job and how will jobs fit around children? Try to be as honest as possible, and even if there are no immediate solutions to the harder questions, be aware of the issues and any potential problems that they might cause.

Geography might not be as a big a topic for some couples as it is for others. The issue might be as simple as deciding whose house to move into, or it might be as complicated as which country to stay in. With life becoming increasingly global, there are more options than ever. But if one of you has been living away from family, discuss whether or not you're expecting to move back, or where would be acceptable as a compromise. Maybe one partner harbors a secret desire to move far away or to live in a place they've only dreamed about. Even if none of this seems to apply to you, it's worth talking about to ensure that there are no hidden desires or unresolved wishes.

The biggest topic to talk about, however, is money. Finances are the most fought-about subject between couples. Again, while you may think you know everything you need to about your future finances with your partner, it still deserves discussion. In fact, it's probably the most important discussion you'll have. More people nowadays are forgoing the joint account, but for a future married couple, it's not a good idea to have your money completely separate, as it doesn't foster togetherness. You need to talk about how you're going to handle accounts, bills, savings and spending. Everyone has a different idea about how much to save and what reasonable living expenses are. Spending habits might not be as simple as what you've seen from your partner. There might be debts you don't know about or past financial problems that you need to know about. You need to talk openly about these topics and have some understanding of them, making it less likely that there will be nasty surprises later on. However it is impossible to discuss every contingency beforehand, so also have an idea of how you'd like to handle conflicts in this area if and when they arise.

Every person has different expectations of their marriage; some are obvious and others, are not even clear to themselves. But it is important to discuss these expectations and future hopes before the wedding and to clear up any miscommunications and misconceptions. While hopes and dreams for the future are an easier topic, it is vital to discuss the practicalities of your life together so that you have a better idea of what your future will actually look like. Don't shy away from the harder subjects because they won't get any easier when you come across them in real life. Prepare now so that when problems do arise — and they will — you will have a foundation from which to work, WE



Cuisine

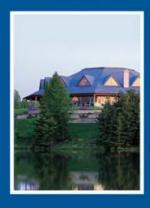
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RELAX AT A DAY SPA

Day spas can be a great place for the bachelorette to relax before her special day. Take the bride-tobe to get a facial, hit up the sauna, and enjoy a mud bath. If you want to truly indulge her, take her to a spa resort for the entire weekend and enjoy the full spa package.

Wild bachelorette parties aren't for everyone. Some brides may shy away from going out to a strip club or a bar. However, there are still plenty of fun ways to celebrate the bride-to-be's upcoming marriage. Here are some unique bachelorette party ideas!

DO SOMETHING ADVENTUROUS

If you want to create a bachelorette party that will leave a lasting impression on the bride-to-be, find out what's on her bucket list and then do one or more of those items. You could take a trip in a hot air balloon, go parasailing, go to a Broadway play, or spend the night on a house boat. The possibilities are endless.



DO SOME ARTS AND CRAFTS

If the bride-to-be enjoys arts and crafts, this can make for a fun bachelorette party. Find a local business that offers canvas painting or pottery painting. These businesses usually allow you to bring your own snacks, beer, and wine. This can be a great way for the bachelorette to just kick back with her bridesmaids and show off her artsy side. Afterwards, take her out to dinner at her favorite restaurant.





No matter what the bride-to-be in your life enjoys, there is a bachelorette party idea out there that she will enjoy.

Be sure to get creative and keep her personal interests in mind. The small. thoughtful touches are what will make her special day memorable.

MAKE A SURPRISE BRUNCH

Set up someone's backyard with tents and prepare a breakfast buffet. You'll want to include an assortment of breakfast foods, such as scrambled eggs, bacon, turkey bacon, sausage, quiche, fruit salad, muffins, bagels, and Danishes. Be sure to keep the bride's favorite foods in mind. If you want to include something alcoholic at a bachelorette brunch party, mimosas will do the trick. WE







Upcoming Wedding

BY GRACE THOMPSON ELLES

Floral bouquets and centerpieces undergo changes from year to year with some floral varieties being more popular than others. This year is no different, and brides are choosing to make bigger and bolder statements with their selection of blooms.

As brides begin to plan their upcoming nuptials, trends begin to emerge regarding every aspect of the celebratory event from gowns to venues to flowers. This upcoming season is no different, and certain trends are beginning to appear regarding floral bouquets and centerpieces. While traditional floral designs remain intact for the most part, brides are making their preferences known with the following styles.

WHAT'S COMING UP IN WEDDING FLOWER TRENDS?

While brides seem to be favoring seasonal blooms for their bouquets and centerpieces, traditional flowers are also making an appearance, partly due to their wide offering of colours. Bouquets and other floral settings seem to be leaning toward a wild and abandoned look that is expansive in design. Most table displays feature an elegant presentation set in an elevated manner.

SEASONAL FLOWERS

Drawn from local inspiration, bouquets and centerpieces featuring seasonal flowers are highly popular among brides this year. Whether inspired by the desire to tap into lower prices often made possible by choosing flowers currently in bloom, or by an interest in keeping the event's floral designs in tune with the time of the year, seasonal blossoms are in demand.

REVITALIZED TRADITIONS

Despite the trend toward new ideas, some of today's bridal bouquets are borrowing from traditional favourites like lilies and chrysanthemums. Available seasonal colours seem to fit in nicely with themes preferred by today's brides.

WILD AND FRESH

Accompanying a trend towards casual, strictly local events, bouquets and centerpieces are featuring a wild and abandoned look that is reminiscent of the "freshly picked" variety. As a result, a greater interest in greens, nuts, ferns, and branches is appearing.

LARGE IN SCOPE

Modern bridal bouquets are taking on a presence of their own. Today's versions are expansive in design, fully taking up the full width of the bride and more. Their presence is unmistakable in their large and loose structure. No tight bunches are featured in the bridal bouquet of the modern bride!

ELEGANT AND ELEVATED

Far from the low-lying centerpieces of yesteryear, today's versions have returned to an elegant display set above the tabletop with the assistance of tall fancy vases. Of course, this style is most often seen at formal and evening wedding receptions. Nonetheless, centerpieces set low and close to the table are less likely to be seen. WE

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For more information, please contact: Megan Houston (905) 478-2389 or megan.houston@sharontemple.ca www.sharontemple.ca





Whether a free form, or sculpted shape, your floral displays will help accent the overall vibe that you are working towards on your wedding day.







Succulents are a fantastic way to allow the winter greens in a bouquet, and still give the summer fresh feel. Another amazing green piece for both look and smell is eucalyptus leaves. Be wary on any allergies that guests may have as these do present a strong and lasting fragrance.

Make sure you choose your bouquet for comfort as well as appearance.











While choosing your bouquet try out the many different styles of handles to hold during the ceremony. Even though you may love the look of the flower itself, the stalk may be extremely thick or need thorns removed.





Thoughts behind the colour

Add meaning to your floral choices by choosing flowers that represent your birth months.

JANUARY: Carnation FEBRUARY: Violet MARCH: Jonquil APRIL: Sweet Pea MAY: Lily of the valley

JUNE: Rose JULY: Larkspur AUGUST: Gladiolas SEPTEMBER: Aster OCTOBER: Calendula

NOVEMBER: Chrysanthemum **DECEMBER:** Narcissus WE







Wedding planning is often something brides have dreamed about. If not their whole life, then a large part of it. But no matter how organized you are and how much pre-planning you've done, there are always going to be moments of panic. And something's going to go wrong. This article contains some tips and some things to remember as you're going through planning your big event.

BY NIRMALA DONALDSON

Wedding planning will always be stressful, at some point or another. For some women, dealing with families and the politics that always crop up during this time is the worst part. For others, the organizational nightmare of planning a party on this scale is daunting. Whatever the details of your situation may be, it's important to let the stress go before it becomes overwhelming.

Whether you're having a big church wedding or a small civil ceremony or planning a destination getaway for a select group, being involved in a wedding can be difficult. It can also be, and is supposed to be, a joyful celebration. It's that joy and happiness that you must strive to hold onto, though sometimes you can lose sight of that.

Accept from day one that there are going to be problems and complications. Not everything is going to go your way during the whole of the process. Planning a wedding is an ordeal, it is a hugely important event whether you're having a small ceremony or a big party and things will go wrong. Know that from the beginning, and when things do start to go wrong, you'll be less surprised and more able to adapt.

Keep a core support group of friends and family that you can turn to when everything gets overwhelming because it is going to happen. Just like mistakes, becoming stressed over the planning and the forthcoming event is a given. Delegate when you need to and ask for help wherever possible. It's difficult to do everything yourself and you shouldn't need to.

Remember that the day is about you and your fiancé. You can't always please everybody, and there are bound to be hurt feelings and disappointments from somebody. Try to be as thoughtful as you can be but don't forget that this is your day and you should be able to have it how you want.

And don't forget ... take some time away from wedding planning. It doesn't need to consume your life and all of your free time. Relax, read a book, go to a movie, take a vacation and try to have some conversations that don't revolve around the planning. Forget about it for a while. You don't need to think about it nonstop and keeping up with some of your regular activities is a good way to de-stress.

The best advice for wedding planning though, and the big event itself, is to remember exactly what this day is about. Forget all of the politics, the things that have gone wrong, the people who aren't quite pleased with how you've gone about things; when it all ends, the day is about two people announcing their love and commitment in front of their friends and family. It can really be that simple.









A full array of beautiful wedding gowns are available for brides getting married in the upcoming season. Many of the styles retain traditional elements, while other designs borrow from modern trends intended to add a unique flair to the gowns.

BY TERRI SCHMIDT

Fresh wedding trends appear each year as fashion designers attempt to outdo each other, while also offering brides new and exciting ideas for their gowns, veils, and accessories. Traditional elements of design remain highly visible in modern styles but with a twist of the unusual, providing something unique for upcoming brides to consider. Here's a look at some of the trends appearing on the horizon for the 2017 bridal season.

WHAT TO EXPECT IN WEDDING GOWN **TRENDS FOR 2017**

As with each season before it, the upcoming 2017 bridal season is filled with a blend of traditional and modern styles for the latest brides. One of the strongest trends is a heavy reliance on 3-dimensional floral appliqués incorporated on the bodice and skirts of many gowns. For brides who want a hint of sexiness, plunging and dipped-v necklines are featured, while the bateau neckline is available for brides who are intent on keeping their treasures hidden.

Shades of blush and gowns featuring silver coloring present an alternative to traditional whites while off-the-shoulder and strapless designs offer a clear look at bared shoulders. Long, flowing skirts are perhaps more popular than knee-length dresses, but both styles are featured on the runway today. For brides looking to stand out in bold fashion, gowns adorned in plush feathers are sure to do the trick.

3-DIMENSIONAL FLORALS

While floral designs have always been a part of the wedding event, 3-dimensional appliqués are appearing with increasing frequency. From scattered designs across the bridal skirt to large oversized appliqués on the gown's bodice, floral patterns offer feminine styling that many brides seem to find appealing. A few styles even feature a flurry of whimsical butterflies to accompany the flowers.

PLUNGING NECKLINES

Enhancing the sexiness of a woman's bosoms, the plunging neckline, which is daring and sensual in nature, is continuing in its popularity from 2016. Designed for brides who are confident in their own beauty, the plunging neckline is often combined with a back that is set equally low. For brides who appreciate the sexiness of a plunging neckline but require a more modest look, the dipped-v neckline offers an attractive alternative to a plunging drop.

BATEAU NECKLINE

Coupled with long, flowing skirts, the bateau neckline makes a bold statement. Falling straight across the bodice within a finger's width of the neck, this style of neckline presents a modest appearance that is classic in nature.

BLUSHING PINKS

For brides wanting a hint of color, gowns offering delicate shades of blush can provide just what they require. Pale shades of pink are perfect for the upcoming spring season.

SHADES OF SILVER

Frilly gowns glistening with a hint of silver coloring are making an entrance on the bridal runway this year. Metallic threadwork, silver appliqués, and frilly fabrics featuring various shades of silver combine to create delicate visions of loveliness for brides

OFF-THE-SHOULDER DESIGNS

Ever the romantic notion of a wedding dress, off-the-shoulder designs are hot and steamy this year. Trimmed with delicate organza or bordered with floral appliqués and edging, upcoming wedding gown styles provide a teasing hint of sexuality with their off-the-shoulder styles. For brides looking for a more daring approach, strapless gowns are prepared to place shoulders on full view.

FLOWING SKIRTS

Rumored to be one of the hottest trends this upcoming bridal season, long, flowing skirts crafted from soft, delicate fabrics adorned with decorative floral appliqués are showing up nearly everywhere. Sweetheart necklines are frequently featured with the longer skirt, but this year is showing a preponderance of plunging necklines as well.

KNEE-LENGTH DRESSES

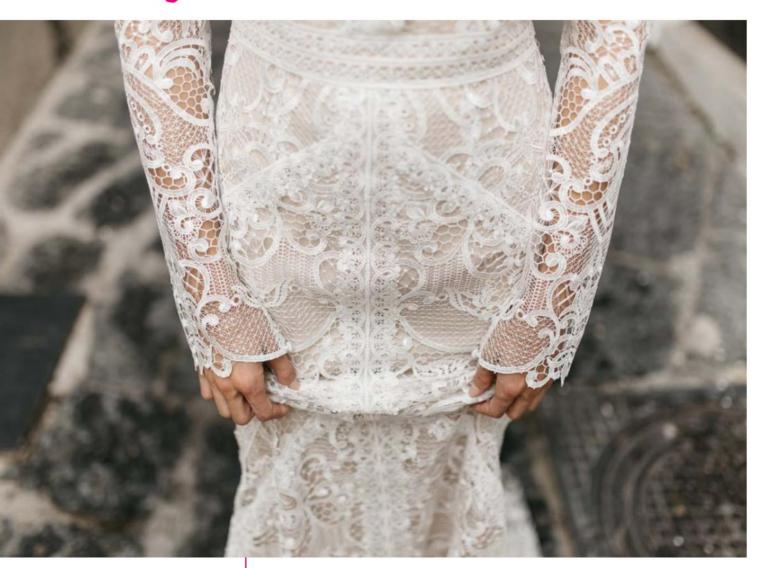
Intended for casual and daytime wedding events, the knee-length dress is making a comeback in certain circles. Designs are just as gorgeous as their longer counterparts with just a bit less fabric.

PLUSH FEATHERS

Creating a dramatic presentation that will leave a lasting impression, feather-adorned gowns are clearly not going disappearing from the scene this year. While colored gowns are more commonly adorned with plush feathers in all kinds of sizes, it is possible to find them in white as well. WE

Fashion, Auston

A wedding gown is much more than a beautiful dress. Her perfect gown reflects a vision of herself that a bride has cherished for a long time. The moment when the bride is first seen in her wedding gown is very emotional and is often greeted by tears, including her own.

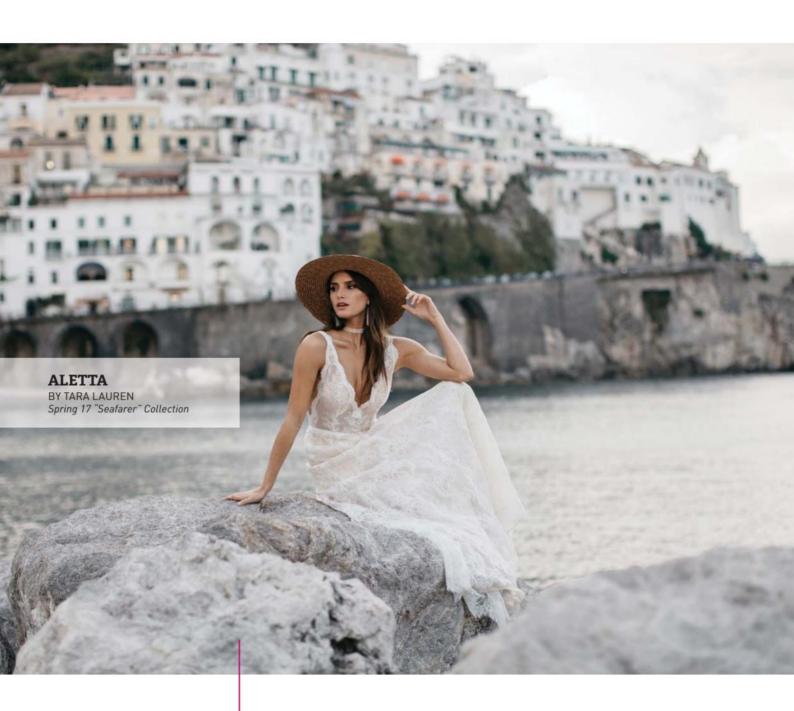


Tara Lauren is an alternative bridal collection co-founded by sisters Tara and Shaina Healy who share a passion and enthusiasm for art, music, culture, travel, and of course fashion and bridal.

The sisters have always found fashion to be of strong importance to the preservation and definition of self-expression. It is a celebration of life, the armor of distinction, and a visual representation of the experiences that continue to inspire them. With this in mind, their designs aim to bring out every bride's individuality.

Join us in the next few pages to take a look at the Spring 2017 "Seafarer" Collection by Tara Lauren.





Tara Lauren embodies a romantic, fresh, elevated bohemian aesthetic designed with an admiration for the spirited confidence of today's modern bride. With inspiration from 70s style icons and the charm of the inherently feminine, the collection incorporates the dynamic between the raw timelessness of romance effortlessly juxtaposed with the distinct boldness of the alternative bride.



















6 Ways for Your Bridesmands to Stand Out

Bridesmaids can stand out and look and feel their best. With the restrictive trends of yesterday out the window, friends and family will be happy to say "Yes" to being a part of the bridal party.

Gone are the days of sullen bridesmaids all in the same ill-fitting dress. Now, it's all about individuality while collectively standing up for the lady they love - the bride. Here are six simple ways to let your bridesmaids stand out, feel comfortable and keep it classy, all at the same time.

SELECT A COLOUR AND FABRIC AND LET THEM CHOOSE THE STYLE

It has become fairly common practice in recent years for the bride to select a colour and fabric and then each of her bridesmaids selects the style of dress she will wear. This is a win-win for a number of reasons. First, it is highly likely that each and every bridesmaid in any given bridal party will have a different body type. So, a halter dress might look fabulous on one and not on another. By allowing each lady to select her own style, the bride ensures that each one feels as comfortable as possible. At the same time, even though each of the bridesmaids may be in a different style dress, they're all in the same colour and fabric, signifying their special role, and supporting the wedding theme.

SKIP COLOUR AND TELL THEM ALL TO BUY A NEW BLACK DRESS

Another trend that has become increasingly popular is ditching the traditional bridesmaid garb and asking each of the bridesmaids to show up in a new black dress. This ensures not only that the bridesmaid is comfortable in what she's wearing and actually likes her dress, but the bride can say in all sincerity: "You can wear it again!"

HAVE THEM ALL WEAR THE SAME ACCENT PIECE FOR CONSISTENCY

Whether the bridesmaids are all in the same colour and fabric or all in a black dress of their choice, one way to make them stand out and make it clear that they're playing a special role is to have them all wear the same accent piece. This is an area for a bride to get particularly creative as an accent piece can range from the same dainty and bright belt on each of the ladies to the same flower in each of their hair-dos to the same necklace. The choice is the bride's and it can produce a memorable photo opportunity. Picture this: All of the bridesmaids facing away from the camera, each with the same white daisy perched at the napes of her neck.

HAVE THEM ALL WEAR THE SAME SHOES

Of course, the ultimate accent piece could be for all of them to wear the same shoes. Picture this: All of the bridesmaids form a semi-circle and, all in the same pair of red satin shoes, point their toes to the center.

DON'T FORGET THAT THEY'LL ALL CARRY THE SAME BOUQUET

Regardless of how different each of the bridesmaids may look, one thing is certain to pull it all together and that is the bouquets. When all of the ladies hold the same collection of flowers in front of them, it brings it all together and says "We stand here as one alongside the bride."

ALLOW THEM TO SELECT THEIR OWN HAIRSTYLE AND MAKEUP CHOICES

Lastly, even if a bride insists on a certain style dress along with certain shoes and certain jewellery, it is particularly wise to let bridesmaids stand out by having a say in the makeup and hair area. If a bride asks all of the women to wear the same flower in their hair, it can still work on an updo, a halfdo or flowing locks. Let the ladies choose. What matters is that each bridesmaid is comfortable. So, if a bridesmaid doesn't like fake eyelashes or the idea of filling in her brows, such personal attributes should not be forced on her. Remember: Bridesmaids who are comfortable in their attire, hair and makeup will be happy bridesmaids and it is, after all, a happy day.

While it is the bride's day, the bride has the power to make choices that will make her bridesmaids stand out while standing up for her. The happier the bridesmaids are, the happier the bride will be and that mood will shine through, not only in the ever-important photos, but all day, too. WE

















Top Tips for Working with a Wedding Coordinator



The perfect wedding day is a lot easier to achieve when you have a wedding coordinator in your corner. But even with a coordinator. things can go wrong. This article offers five tips to help you keep your coordinator happy and efficient, so that you'll get the best possible results.

BY MARY WORRELL

You've got the man, you've got the ring, you've found the venue, you've set the date, and along the way you've found an important person whose job is to ensure it's a day to remember. That person is your wedding coordinator. Moan at your mum, disagree with your dad, fight with your fiancé, and get bolshie with your bridesmaids if you must, but whatever you do, stay calm with your coordinator. Here are five top tips to help you work with your wedding coordinator, to achieve the best possible results.

TIP 1: Ask as many questions as you must to ensure that you are well informed about what you can and can't do at your chosen venue. There are no silly questions and your wedding coordinator will know the answer to almost anything you ask. It's far better to discuss these things in advance than to surprise your coordinator with a wacky request on the day of the event. Once you've chosen the venue, let your coordinator handle all contact with them, so she will be fully aware of any issues that may arise.

TIP 2: Remember that your coordinator is bound by the venue's rules as well as by your





desires. Respect your coordinator's position when they tell you that something you'd like is not allowed - and don't shoot the messenger. For example, candles must usually be encased in a votive for safety reasons, bubbles may be prohibited because they make tiled floors slippery, thrown rice can be dangerous to wildlife, balloons can get stuck on high ceilings, and self-serve wrapped sweets typically result in wrappers all over the floor.

TIP 3: Remember you are planning one wedding, but your coordinator may be responsible for the smooth running of up to five weddings a week. Communicate by email rather than phone calls, so your coordinator can print off, file and double-check your requests. A verbal conversation can be forgotten at busy times, even by an efficient coordinator.

TIP 4: For your wedding to be well organized, you must be well organized yourself. As the special day draws close, you will have a final meeting with your coordinator to plan the details. Being prepared for this meeting will save lots of time. Make sure you have all the

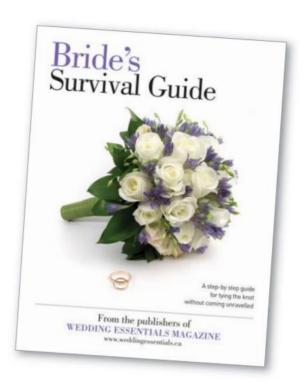
relevant information about guest numbers, music choices, order of speeches and cake and flower deliveries ready, though naturally your coordinator will give you lots of reminders as time grows short.

TIP 5: On the day itself, there will be little room for error. Help your coordinator by crosschecking your table plan against your seating plan, and pack everything for each table in a clearly numbered box. Put each table's place cards in an envelope, preferably in the order they are to go around the table. Check the number of favours, ensuring you have enough to go around. Advise your coordinator of any last-minute changes to the guest list as soon as you can, so that they can add or remove chairs before your quests arrive, and adjust the numbers with the caterer.

Your job is to look happy and gorgeous, and to enjoy every minute of your day. By keeping your wedding coordinator informed about your plans and ideas, you can ensure that everything runs smoothly, while you have the wedding day of your dreams. WE







Planning a formal wedding can cause stress in the most serene of women. But you can plan yours with a minimum of frayed nerves, thanks to this FREE book from Wedding Essentials.

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Destination weddings are often thought of as being expensive and cumbersome undertakings. However, many couples today are waking up to the fact that having a destination wedding is more cost effective and stress free than planning a traditional ceremony in your home city. This article covers some of the common misconceptions people have about planning a destination wedding.

BY ELIZABETH HANDLEY





Having a destination wedding was once synonymous with eloping. For that reason, many couples completely forego the option of jet-setting their way down the aisle and opt for a traditional, hometown wedding instead. There is no wrong way to get married to the person you want to spend the rest of your life with, but it is important to recognize that the kind of wedding you have is completely your choice. Choosing a destination wedding can be a fun, stress-free way to say "I do".

DESTINATION WEDDINGS ARE COST-EFFECTIVE

Catching a plane or setting sail to your wedding may seem expensive at first, but in all actuality, it is one of the cheapest ways to get married. Many resorts and cruise lines have affordable ceremony options available to couples. When you choose a destination wedding, only your closest friends and family members may follow, which means you will spend much less money on things like wedding transportation and an expensive reception.

DESTINATION WEDDINGS FOCUS ON THE COUPLE

Traditional weddings are often a source of great anxiety for the bride and groom-to-be. Uncomfortable family dynamics tend to rear their head at weddings. If the bride or groom has family that is overbearing, emotional, disapproving or focused on stealing the spotlight, having a destination wedding can eliminate all the negative behavior. Sure, it may cause some hurt feelings initially when you tell your families that you have decided on an intimate, destination wedding, but your big day should be about what you want as a new couple.

DESTINATION WEDDINGS MAKE FOR AN EASIER HONEYMOON

It's true that honeymoons are often more exciting than weddings to new couples. Traditional weddings are not always conducive to having a memorable and relaxing honeymoon. With a destination wedding, you will typically arrive a day or two in advance and once your ceremony is over, you can immediately shift your focus to your honeymoon. There will be no need to catch a

plane, rent a car or sit around in an airport waiting for your luggage to reach you. Depending on where you choose to get married, your wedding could be just a few steps away from the bridal suite where you will spend your romantic honeymoon.

DESTINATION WEDDINGS GIVE YOU FULL-CONTROL OF THE BRIDAL PARTY

If there are a few people you just can't imagine missing your wedding, you can always bring them along with you while you wave goodbye to the people with whom you'd rather not share your wedding day with. This makes it easier to control the size of your bridal party without feeling guilty about not asking your second cousin (twice removed) to be your maid of honor.

Running away to elope in Vegas or having a traditional wedding in your family church are not the only options available to a couple that who are eager to start a new life together. As you can see, having a destination wedding can be a great option for any couple who want to combine the benefits of planning their big day with all the fun of eloping! WE



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Displaying good wedding quest etiquette shows respect for the bride and groom, and the plans they have made for their wedding day. Genteel social behavior adds value to wedding ceremonies and wedding receptions. Poorly behaved wedding quests can create great embarrassment for themselves as well as the bride and groom and other wedding guests.

BY MARY-JANE JOHANSEN

Weddings are the special day for the bride and groom, and proper etiquette from their quests can make the day even more enjoyable. Much is written about wedding etiquette for the bride and groom but very little about wedding quest etiquette! Poor behaviour on the part of the guests can mar an otherwise wonderful occasion. Be considerate of the feelings of the bride and groom and their families, putting their happiness first.

RSVP ASAP

When a wedding invitation is received, RSVP as soon as possible. The family or wedding planner needs to know how many will be attending so that adequate arrangements can be made. If you must cancel, do it as soon as possible so the invitation may be extended to someone else if the couple desires. The wedding invitation is meant for the persons to whom it is addressed and no others. If it is addressed to a married couple, without "and family" added, the children are not included in the invitation. If you are a single person without a significant other, you are expected to arrive alone unless the invitation specifies "and guest."

Weddings are a celebration, not a date. And who knows, you may meet an interesting single there! If you truly feel uncomfortable arriving alone, ask the couple or family if there are other mutual friends invited, and make arrangements to meet them before the ceremony. In most circumstances it is rude to ask if you may bring a guest to a wedding. Exceptions might be if you become married or engaged after the invitation is received, or if you have a family member visiting from a distance on the day of the wedding. Discreetly inform the bride and groom of your circumstances, but don't push the issue. If they just don't have room for one more, you may have to graciously skip the occasion.

SENDING GIFTS

It is customary to send a gift when the invitation is received. Delivering the gift before the ceremony is preferable, but in some

locales the gifts are brought to the wedding and taken to the reception hall. When the gift is delivered before the day of the ceremony, the couple doesn't have to worry about damage or theft, or how to get all the gifts home. If you are unable to attend, it is customary to send a gift.

Many couples use bridal registries to let guests know their choices of dishware and silver patterns, linens, and other household needs, but you are not obligated to use the registry. You may choose a unique gift that you know the couple will appreciate. Gifts of money and gift certificates are also appropriate. If this is a second marriage for either, etiquette experts differ on whether or not a gift is necessary. It's really at your discretion; at the very least send a card wishing the couple well. If you attend the ceremony, a token gift would be appropriate.

ARRIVE EARLY

Arrive for the wedding ceremony 15 to 30 minutes early so you may be seated. If you arrive late and the ceremony has already begun, forgo the ceremony and join the guests afterwards. Take a cue from the wedding coordinator; they may allow you to slip in quietly after the wedding party has advanced, but avoid using the center aisle if you can.

TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS

Respect the sanctity of the marriage ritual and do not take photographs during the

ceremony. In a church ceremony, the officiating clergy may not allow it. Follow the lead of the professional photographer. If he is not taking pictures during the ceremony, then apparently he has been requested not to. When the professional is taking pictures, stay out of his way! There will be plenty of opportunity to take pictures of the wedding party at the reception. Video cameras are becoming more acceptable at weddings but again, take your cue from the photographer.

DRESS FOR THE OCCASION

Dress appropriately for the occasion. The invitation will usually specify the attire expected: informal, semiformal, or very formal. If it is not indicated on the invitation, contact a family member and ask. Dressing appropriately shows respect for the occasion and will keep you from feeling uncomfortable and out-of-place. Men seldom go wrong with a dark three-piece suit, although a very formal (black tie) wedding requires a tuxedo, and at an informal wedding you might get by with a dress shirt and slacks. Women should wear knee-length dresses for informal or semiformal ceremonies, and floor-length gowns for very formal ceremonies. Don't show up the bride-no white or sequins, and no bare shoulders if the ceremony is held in a house of worship. Wear a jacket or wrap over your shoulders and remove it for the reception. Do not wear jeans, shorts, sandals, sneakers, or caps unless the dress is "casual."

MIND YOUR GUEST MANNERS

At the reception, look for place cards or a seating chart. You may not know the people who are at your table, but please don't complain to the couple or the family that you want to sit somewhere else. This is their day to celebrate, not to indulge whiny guests! The seating arrangements are made with the consideration that table mates may enjoy each other. Introduce yourself and try to have a good time where you are. At the buffet table, be considerate of the other quests and do not load your plate down with food. Drink alcohol in moderation to avoid embarrassing vourself and the newly married couple. Home videos may be hilarious on TV, but it's doubtful that the bride and groom will appreciate guests' drunken antics. The honor of the first dance goes to the bride and groom. Before making your exit, be sure to find a member of the family, or the married couple if they are still there, and thank them for a wonderful time.

The bride and groom and their families have probably spent lots of time and money to create the wedding of their dreams. They want you to have a good time, but the day is about them, not the guests. Be respectful and considerate of their wishes by behaving in a way that shows you have a bit of class. Your genteel presence will become part of the fond memories the new couple will create throughout their married life. WE



Should you give up In this modern era, should women still relinquish their



BY ELLEN GOODMAN

Over the years, I have come to think of this as the Plumber Problem. I pick up the phone and the plumber asks, "Mrs.Levey?"

At that point, two possible responses run through my brain. I can say, "No, I'm Ms. Goodman although I am married to Mr. Levey and no longer married to Mr. Goodman, but by the time I was divorced and remarried, it was too late to go back to my birth name, which was, by the way, Holtz, because Goodman was my byline." Or, I can say, "Yes."

My answer on any given day depends on exactly how high the water is in the basement. But I offer up this brief history of plumbing, marriage and nomenclature to make it clear I understand the complications that can arise when one couple carries two names.

Nevertheless, I always assumed that, after all these years, a younger generation of brides would leave the altar with their birth names intact. I thought that keeping your name was a leading indicator, as the economists say, of an egalitarian era. But as I read the bumper crop of end-of-summer wedding

announcements, it has become clear that one of the last things to change is namechanging. The majority of college students are female, half of the new doctors and lawyers are women, but more than 90% of the brides still give up their names.

We have more pay cheques and rights, but toss out our credit cards and identities like so much rice. In short, married women are making a name for themselves. But the name is still his. Married men are changing a lot, even diapers, but not surnames.

Wives do not take their husband's name, I am told, because men demand they do. Grooms don't have to. Penn State's Laurie Scheuble, who has been studying the name phenomenon with David Johnson, her husband of 18 years, says, "Bright boys know that if they say, 'you do whatever you want, dear, the women are far more likely to change their name."

Women make this decision because, they have told her, "It's what's done." It's still seen as a part of marriage. Not the part that treats wives as property — the old reason women changed names - but the part that subtly and strongly makes women regard trading in their name as proof of commitment.

One glance at the wedding pages of The New York Times, the paper of romantic record, is a pretty good indication of the ongoing power of tradition. Wives are no longer totally "disappeared" under their husband's names as Mr. and Mrs. John Jones. But even now, a woman who is "keeping her name" is treated as if she were breaking news. Or breaking norms. Last month, for example a Ms. Robischon, who is keeping her name," got married. So too Ms. Olson, who is also keeping her name." No such tagline, need I say. accompanied Mrs. Galland? No editor said Mrs. Kirsch was giving away her birth name.

birth names, and assume the surname of their beloved?

A lot of kissing goes on at weddings. And a lot of women kiss their names goodbye. There is the social subtext to all of these public announcements: Ms. Smith, whose marriage will never make it, is keeping her name. Ms. Brown, a careerist who doesn't really believe in family, will keep her name. Of course, Scheuble can tell you from her research that "names can never hurt" your marriage, that there is no difference in the satisfaction or duration of a marriage with one name or two. (Something else to tell the plumber?] But there is still the enormous weight of tradition coming down at precisely the moment in life when even the neurosurgeon is mystically drawn to Chantilly lace.

Yes, I know the thoroughly modern arguments for changing a name. I've heard them, done them. Why is it less patriarchal to keep a father's name than take a husband's? Shouldn't children all have the same name? One family, one name? Why confuse the teacher, let alone the plumber? But none of these explain why newlyweds don't pick a new name or why men almost never change their own. You may be certain that no editor announced to the reading public that Mr. Kirsch is "keeping his name."

The truth is not only that the pull of tradition is strong, but also that it pulls more on women. The burden of changing traditional assumptions and relationships from the wedding bells on still rests on the wives. The name is just the first thing they "give" or "keep."

Recently, a survey showed how the young are looking for soul mates. It seems to me that the trick of marriage is not merger but negotiation, managing two "I's" and a "we."

Maybe the real symbol is when we bring something old - ourselves - to something new - our marriages. Two first names. Two last names. One marriage. The plumber will figure it out. WE







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Adventure Weddings

If you're searching for unique ways to tie the knot, look no further. We've compiled a list of wacky wedding ideas from all across Southern Ontario.

BY MARINA RAMIC

If heights don't give you frights, head on down to the CN Tower for a ceremony beneath this national landmark. Ask your guests to join you in a trip up to the rotating 360 Restaurant for a meal of penne with sautéed tiger shrimp while you thrill over the changing views of Toronto. For more information call 416-362-5411 or visit www.cntower.ca

Since your knight has won your heart, an appropriate celebration is in order. Start your ceremony on the lawn outside Medieval Times at Toronto's Exhibition Place. Of course, your garb must be in tune with the period. Call Malabar's (416-598-2581) to rent something appropriate. Then ask your quests to join you inside the theatre for a mini show. Let them toast you with silver goblets over a meal of chicken broth and ribs. For more information call 1-866-543-9637 or visit www.medievaltinies.com

Always dreamed of going on an African Safari? Why not try the next best thing, African Lion Safari west of Toronto? Not just for kids, your quests will enjoy watching a modern-day Tarzan & Jane celebrate their day at the park's indoor venue. Keep the decor intune with the surroundings. String a mosquito net from the ceiling, and drape vines from each table. For more information call 519-623-2620 or visit www.lionsafari.com

If the twang of country music and the fit of Wrangler jeans are what turn your crank, visit Trdak's Western Wear (905-277-2971) to outfit yourself in the latest country fashions. Then head out to Nashville North (905-702-7677) for the ceremony and a wedding day hoedown. Set the mood with a menu of fried chicken and coleslaw salad served on red gingham tablecloths amid bales of hay.

Lovers of the great outdoors will be thrilled to have your ceremony in a chartered helicopter from Niagara Helicopters (905 357-5672). The pilot will take you over the Whirlpool Bridge where you'll be surrounded by continuously changing rainbows. Exchange vows over the Horseshoe Falls, a photo opportunity that you don't want to miss. Let the celebration continue on land at the Niagara Helicopters grounds. For more information check our website at www.niagarahelicopters.com

Take your guests back in time to the early 1800s. Exchange your vows at fascinating Fort York in downtown Toronto, For your reception, book the Blue Barracks room. originally the officers' quarters during the War of 1812. Dig into pheasant-stuffed quail served by soldier servants in 18th century military garb. Dance a quadrille accompanied by the Hogarth Ensemble, specialists in music from the period. For reservations call 416-392-6907 or visit www.foodand-heritage.com

While you're promising to love and honour and all that stuff, promise not to upchuck your lunch when you plunge 163 feet on the Xtreme Flyer at Canada's Wonderland. A traditional billowing white wedding dress is not recommended, of course. When you're on the grounds, let your guests mingle with Fred Flintstone and Scooby Doo in Hanna-Barbera Land. Finish the day off in the courtyard with a picnic prepared by the Wonderland staff. For more information visit www.canadas-wonderland.com. Open weekends only in Winter.

Is your marriage a union of two water signs? Take the ferry ride across Lake Ontario and arrive as husband and wife on Centre Island. Imagine a reception under the stars with a string quartet leading you in your first dance next to the water with floating flowers and candles. For decoration, place seashell topiaries at each table. For more information call 416-203-0405, for permits 416-392-8188.

If you love hockey, consider incorporating that sport into your special day. Hold your ceremony on ice at Canlan Ice Sports in Markham. Your guests can enjoy the show over a cup of hot chocolate, while you skate down the aisle. Let your reception follow at the Thirsty Penguin located on the upper level of the arena. Send your guests home with hockey puck wedding favours. For more information call 416-412-0404 or visit www.icesports.com

Go rustic at the Delawana Inn at Honey Harbour. Forget the limo. Rent a speedboat to take you to the dock where you and your guests can enjoy a lakeside ceremony. Take advantage of the beauty of Georgian Bay by setting up a tent on the grounds. Light the path for your guests with floating candles and water lilies leading

them to a magical fairy tale setting. Drape the entrances with garlands made of roses and tiny sparkling lights. For your centrepieces use fresh ivv and white roses in ceramic urns. Garnish the plates with linen napkins accented with fresh flowers. For more information call 1-800-557-0980 or visit

www.delawanaresort.ca

Marriage can be a heady experience. To prepare you both for its ups and downs, recite your vows in a river raft on the Red River in Quebec. Be sure to save your "I do" for calmer territory before hitting the Washing Machine Rapids. Don't worry about photography; automatic cameras are set up at each series of rapids to capture your startled expressions. Have a rough-it-in-the-bush reception back at the New World Resort where hamburgers and camping are definitely the order of the day. For more information visit www.newworld.ca or call 1-800-361-5033

With Casa Loma as your backdrop, plan a masquerade ceremony with everybody in disquise. Exchange your vows in the picturesque gardens located on the premises of a Canadian landmark. When it's time for the reception, lead your guests to the Great Hall - with its 60-foot oak-beamed ceiling and towering bay window. For guests who come unprepared, supply lavish masks decorated with feathers and seguins. More information: 416-923-1171 or visit

www.casaloma.ca

If Las Vegas is your thing you can capture the fun and excitement using Canadian dollars. Visit the Little Wedding Chapel at Niagara Falls (1 -800-463-0884). Your guests have a fling at the blackjack tables in the casino (let them use their own money) before joining you at the Casino Niagara Falls (1-888-325-5788) for a night of Elvis impersonators. For more information visit www.niagarafallsweddingworld.com

Ski into married bliss at Horseshoe Resort in Barrie. For your wedding ensemble pay a visit to Sporting Life (416-620-7750) to pick up suitable skiing clothes. Then gather with your guests at the top of the Bunny Hill and skate down as husband & wife. Toasts can be offered with a steaming cup of hot chocolate. Continue the festivities at the Go West Grill located on the site. Fajitas, burgers and ribs are menu specialties and formalwear is discouraged. For more information visit www.horseshoeresort.com

Marry in the 19th century at Fisherville Church located in Black Creek Pioneer Village. Instead of traditional invitations, send out scrolls worded in the heavily formal style of the period. The box pews and high pulpit at this charming church will transport you back to the time of the first Ontario settlers. Have your reception under the Pioneer Patio overlooking the creek that gives this wonderful site its name. For more information call 416-736-1733 or visit www.trca.on.ca

You don't have to be Tiger Woods to appreciate a good game of golf. Invite your guests to join you at the 18th hole at Sleepy Hollow Golf & Country Club located in Stouffville, northeast of Toronto. After exchanging vows, drive off in your newly decorated golf cart complete with a "Just Married" sign on the bumper. At the reception, continue your golf theme by using golf balls as place cards. Put the person's name on the ball and set it on a tee in a mini flowerpot. Enjoy a warming fire-place, exquisite menus and the starlight solarium. For more

information call 905-640-2426 or visit www.sleepyhollowgolf.on.ca.

Who isn't affected by the relaxing ambiance of a beautiful garden? For spectacular flowers and greenery, get married at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington. Pleasant scents will waft over you as you exchange your vows. For your reception, retreat to the Gardens Cafe in a lush cocoon of greenery. Make a toast in the outdoor courtvard and thank everyone with mini herb garden wedding favors. For more information call 905-527-1158 or visit www.rbg.ca

For an event filled with country charm,

plan to celebrate your special day at the Archibald Orchards & Estate Winery where you can have your ceremony under a canopy of apple trees. Let your quests mingle in the wine tasting room while you take memorable pictures on board the orchard wagon. Continue the celebration outdoors on the patio. Centrepieces made from fresh apples & Spanish moss will carry the rural theme right through to the dinner. Finish the night off with some fresh apple pie, and a

scoop of ice cream. Let your guests remember the day with a wedding favour of apple cider. For more information call 905-263-2396 or visit www.archibaldswinery.com

For the couple with refined taste, plan a day filled with artistic impressions at the McMichael Gallery in Kleinburg. Situated on 100 acres, the setting will enable you to exchange your vows among paintings by members of the Group of Seven. Your reception can follow in the McMichael Lobby, where floor-to-ceiling windows offer a spectacular view of the Humber Valley. Carry the art theme throughout the evening's decor with seating cards in tiny frames mounted on mini easels. Hire a caricaturist to do guick sketches of the guests as keepsakes. For more information call 905-893-1121 or visit www. mcmichael.com

For a ceremony on wheels, exchange vows in the hustle and bustle of Toronto's Union Station. Afterwards take the train to 263 Queen's Quay E, where you will exchange the stress of the city for the tranquility of Toronto Island. Have your reception in the ballroom veranda at the Royal Canadian Yacht Club, which looks across the water to Harbourfront. Dine on a sumptuous sailor's buffet of smoked cherrywood salmon and grilled chicken breast. Take a stroll through the rose garden before returning to the bustle of city life. For more information call 416-967-7245 or visit www.rcyc.ca WE





The Honeymoon

After all of those months of hectic planning you will need a honeymoon - even if it means you do not leave the province. Quite aside from all the pressure you both have been experiencing, it's highly unlikely that you have been able to spend much time alone together. That's why it's so important that you take a few days or a few weeks to unwind and enjoy each other.

Although some men think that honeymoon planning is their responsibility, most couples nowadays get together and discuss the options. It's very important that you not leave it until the last moment as you may have difficulty obtaining the accommodations and the flights that you want. Booking early also means that you can probably take advantage of earlybooking incentives - and be sure that your choice of honeymoon resort is not sold out.

If you have difficulty getting time off from your jobs at the same time, consider taking a couple of days off after the ceremony and saving a lengthier honeymoon until you have been married for a few months.

YOUR HONEYMOON STYLE

The main goal of your honeymoon vacation should be to enjoy the interests, activities and atmospheres that will help you both to relax and feel your best. This is not the time for the golfer among you to plan things around that activity if the partner does not enjoy the game. You'll have the rest of your lives to compromise your own vacation choice for the sake of the enjoyment of your partner. Be honest with each other about what kind of traveller you are and what expectations each of you has for this important getaway.

Here are the kinds of questions you should be asking each other:

- 1. How well do we travel? Things to consider: Motion sickness. Flying phobias. Dietary needs. Medical requirements. Desire to be exposed to new cultures. Desire for modern conveniences.
- 2. What is the perfect setting? Things to consider: Preferred temperatures and climates. Level of accommodations (modern hotel vs. B&B).

- 3. How do we like to spend our days? Things to consider: Active vs. lying around in the sun. Sightseeing. Shopping.
- 4. How do we like to spend our nights? Things to consider: Dining out and dancing. Fast food and early to bed. Dressup vs. jeans and T-shirts.
- 5. How secluded do we want to be? Things to consider: Organized activities vs. exploring on your own. Roughing it vs. room service.
- 6. How planned should it be? Things to consider: An all-inclusive vs. a plan-your-own and take things as they come. Staying put vs. travelling around.
- 7. How much can we afford? Things to consider: Prepaying at an all-inclusive vs. paying as you go in the local currency when you arrive at your destination. WE





Let's hope you don't have a similar problem on your big day!!

YOU THINK YOU HAD PROBLEMS GETTING THAT DRESS? SOME READERS OWN UP TO THEIR SHOPPING NIGHTMARES

"Three weeks before the wedding, I opened the newspaper and read that the bridal store at which I had ordered my gown had burned to the ground. As upset as the owner was about my predicament, there was nothing she could do except refund my deposit. I was forced to go with an off-the-rack gown - not the best solution but at least I was married in a white wedding dress!"

-LINDA, 23, WEBSITE DESIGNER, TORONTO

"We went to a shoe place to have my shoes and those of my bridesmaids dyed to match our dresses. My gown was a light pink while the dresses of my attendants were to be a darker shade of pink. When we picked up the shoes the day before the wedding, I found that my shoes too had been dyed to match the bridesmaids'! Panic city! The shoemaker ended up bleaching my shoes and then redyeing them to the proper colour, all in the space of 24 hours. But it was definitely touch and go for a while."

-MARY, 28, POLICE OFFICER, TORONTO

"As an incentive to lose weight for my wedding day I told the store that was supplying the gown that I would be losing 30 pounds and to size the gown accordingly. My diet plan was too successful! I lost 35 pounds, so that when I tried on the gown it was way too big on me. The sales girl was really miffed at me, as if I had done it to her on purpose. However, she got it altered as far as she could, considering the short time available before the wedding. It ended up being not a great fit, but I don't think anybody noticed."

-KRISTEN, 23, JOURNALIST, AJAX

"We were standing under the Chuppah facing the rabbi, who turned with the glass of wine that we would use during the ceremony. Unfortunately, he stumbled, sending the red liquid cascading down the front of my white dress. I just looked down, eyes as big as saucers, and then burst into tears. They stopped the ceremony for a half hour while they tried to clean me up as best they could. But the rabbi, usually a gruff man, was quite subdued for the rest of the afternoon."

-RACHEL, 23, STUDENT, TORONTO

"I was so looking forward to my grand entrance at the church. I arrived in a stretch limo with my father to a small crowd of people who had remained outside the church for this important moment. The sun was blazing out of the sky and it was a perfect Ontario summer's day. I arranged my dress as I emerged from

the car and my father took my arm. He closed the limo door as I began to walk toward the church. Unfortunately my veil was caught in the door. When the driver departed, off came my veil and down came my hair. Not an auspicious beginning!"

-RHONDA, 26, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, HAMILTON

"I ordered my dress from the manufacturer in ivory. Wouldn't you know! It arrived three weeks before the wedding in white. My whole wedding was planned around an ivory gown. Luckily all the suppliers were able to switch to white - except for the shoes. I had to keep my feet covered through the whole ceremony."

-ALLISON, 24, TEACHER, MISSISSAUGA

"My bridesmaids' dresses arrived in the wrong size and we did not find out until the day before the wedding. Thank God the bridal store took on the responsibility for making things right. Three seamstresses stayed up all night to fix them."

-BETTY, 24, OFFICE MANAGER, TORONTO

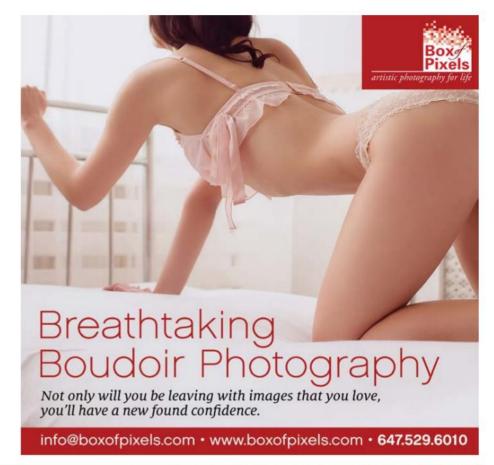
"I got married last September and the weather had been great right up to about the third week in the month. The day before the ceremony things turned suddenly cold and I was in a gown that left my shoulders bare. My trip from the limo to the church was completed with my father's jacket around my shoulders."

-VIRGINIA, 23, JOURNALIST, MISSISSAUGA

In some cases your dress nightmares can be caused by your retailer. You can protect yourself at the outset by dealing with stores than have been in business for a long time and have a solid reputation. The best way to find out whom you can trust is to ask your friends. If your wedding gown is to be custom-made or heavily altered, you should insist on a written contract.

Key points to look for: The date the contract is signed. A detailed list of specific items and prices. The date the gown is to be delivered. A list of payments including the initial deposit. How payment is made (cheque or credit card numbers). The date the balance is due. A statement of the vendor's cancellation policy. (Example: What happens if the wedding is called off or the vendor backs out?] Price escalations.

Never pay the bill in full before you have to and never pay cash. If the dress store suddenly closes its doors and you have no record of payment, you could be left out in the cold. Keep cancelled cheques as proof of payment or - better still pay by credit card. Many credit card companies offer you a degree of protection should the vendor not provide the goods as promised. Check with your credit card company for the nature of the protection it offers. WE





HONOMOGN in Britain

A passage to history, pageantry and good old-fashioned fun.

BY BRANDON JONES

hen you are in the land of royalty you want to feel a little like royalty yourself. And there is nothing that will do it more effectively than to be met at London's bustling Heathrow Airport by a brand-spankingnew S-series Mercedes driven by a Jeeves-like man in a banker's grey suit.

It certainly had the effect of making us hold back our shoulders and stand up a little taller, despite the fact that we were very much wrinkled and dazed after seven hours of being cooped up in in airliner.

So, when our luggage was safely stowed in the trunk and we were able to settle back into butter-soft leather for our serene glide into London (courtesy of Auto Europe), our outlook definitely improved. Our minds once more cleared, we were able to focus on our exciting honeymoon in Britain, the land of our birth. It must be said here and now that it unsettled us only a little bit when we were told that it was in the identical car that Princess Diana met her death in Paris. Said our driver Nigel, "People always seem to ask that question just as we enter a tunnel."

And so we began our visit in one of the most fascinating cities on the planet, founded by the Romans circa 30 AD as Londinium and now a huge metropolis offering visitors a wealth of history, culture, architecture — and just plain

fun. Deposited at our hotel, the May Fair Inter-Continental — located in a district of high-end shops and art galleries not far from Buckingham Palace — we entered through a canopied entrance-way assisted by a liveried doorman who led us into a lobby reeking with hushed, old-world luxury marble counters, overstuffed furniture, walnut paneling, old paintings and big vases of flowers.

Disheveled and sleepless, we felt a little out of place amidst all that elegance, but the staff at the Inter-Continental seems to go out of its way to make guests feel welcome. We were soon being escorted to our junior suite on the second floor. Entering through a vestibule, we came on a huge room, one-half for sitting and one-half for sleeping. It was three times the size of the average hotel room. Decorated in restful beiges with taupe accents, the focal point was an entertainment centre with built-in Entertainment Center that was situated in front of comfortable easy chairs and couches.

Expensive draperies shut out the London noise and with the soft lighting turned on it was as if we had entered some sort of royal apartment. Chris has travelled so much that she has become a bit jaded, but even she was impressed. She walked around the room taking everything in and stopped in front of the coffee table.

"Look at this," she said, pointing. I had not noticed the bottle of champagne chilling in an

ice bucket beside a mound of lightly sugared English strawberries. They had even provided plates, napkins and forks.

"That's not all," I said. "Look here."

In a small wall alcove lit from above was a large arrangement of fresh roses and lilies in various shades of pink. They complemented the room beautifully. Welcome to luxury British-style!

The thing about Britain, you are never very far from history, and this was true even at our hotel. When King George IV and Queen Mary came to the place in 1927, it represented the first time a reigning monarch had opened a hotel. Later Edward VIII stayed there prior to his coronation — and prior to throwing it all away to marry Wallis Simpson. It's not only a home away from home for royals, however. Madonna, Bruce Springsteen and Michael Jackson have all stayed in one of its 52 suites, no two of which are alike.

Exploring London is never difficult. You can take the ubiquitous London taxi-cabs if that's what suits you, but for us the London Underground was the best way to get around most of the time. And virtually everything you want to see is accessible by this terrific subway system. Consisting of 15 different lines all intersecting with and extending one another, getting around is a snap if you use the colour-coded maps that are given out.





The real excitement happened as we walked back to our hotel amid the bustle of a warm London night. Passing along St. Martin's Lane we noticed spotlights, an ambulance and a crowd of people around the entrance to the Albery Theatre. The play being advertised on the posters did not include any international celebrities so we were not sure what all the fuss was about After a wait of about ten minutes a whoop went up from the crowd and Madonna emerged from the theatre. She was out of the doors and into her limo in three seconds flat. Had I known it was going to be her, I would not have wasted my time.

Our entree to many of the sights in London and throughout the U.K. was facilitated by two useful passes. The London Pass (available at www.londonpass.com) and the Heritage Pass saved us a small fortune and in some cases permitted us to bypass the regular lineups.

The London Pass entitles you to visit over 60 attractions in the London area, including zoos, historic buildings, museums, art galleries and collections. The Heritage Pass from the British Tourist Board gets you into nearly 600 historic properties across Britain.

With over 300 places of interest, London is not something you should explore in haste. Of course, I would spend all my time in museums and art galleries, but with Christine along I was forced to broaden the reach of our sightseeing somewhat. Nevertheless, I did manage to persuade her to spend some time in the National Portrait Gallery in St. Martin's Place, where you can see paintings of all the main characters in British history from all periods since the late 14th century as they actually looked.

We were both keen to see St. Paul's Cathedral and we trudged to it in a light rain to spend an hour absorbing its 17th-century grandeur and testing its interesting Whispering Gallery, where the slightest sound echoes around the dome. Designed by Christopher Wren after the original was burned down in the Great Fire of 1666, its dome is second in size only to that of St. Peter's in Rome.

Also, designed by Wren but built the following century, is Kensington Palace, half of which is taken up by lavish royal apartments. Princess Diana lived here at one point as did Princess Margaret until her death. Besides enjoying the fine architecture and interior design, we were able to see the actual wedding dresses worn by various royals, including Queen Victoria and the present queen. We topped off our visit with afternoon tea at the Orangery located behind the palace, parts of which date back to the 1630s.

No visit to London is complete unless you go to the British Museum. Besides the mummies and other ancient artifacts, I am always fascinated by the gallery where you can view actual manuscripts in the hand of Dickens, Chaucer and other literary notables, as well as letters from people like Henry VIII and Mary Queen of Scots.

Hampton Court, an historic royal palace that contains elaborate state apartments and is surrounded by wonderful Baroque landscaping, is another must-see. It was built in 1514 by Cardinal Wolsey, who was archbishop under Henry VIII, and extended under the direction of Christopher Wren.

For history buffs like Chris and me, the Tower of London is always a fascinating place to visit.

Back in the 11th and 12th centuries, if you offended a monarch it was to this palace that you were brought for torture and perhaps execution. Sir Thomas More and Sir Walter Raleigh spent time imprisoned here, as did the high-ranking Nazi Rudolph Hess.

The Yeoman Warders or, as they are more commonly known, the Beefeaters, conduct interesting and amusing tours of these fascinating buildings where you can see displays and reconstructions that give the viewer a good feel for what life was like in olden times. It is on these dank white walls that the huge black ravens live, the birds that will foretell the end of the kingdom should they ever depart. The Brits are not taking any chances. The birds' wings have been clipped.

For our evening meal, we had to spiff up a little. We were booked on the Symphony, an elegant barge operated by Bateau London that could accommodate about 300 people for a dinner cruise on the Thames. The cigarshaped boat pushed away from the dock while the sun was still shining in the sky and we were served a cool glass of champagne with cassis for colour and flavour. If you take this cruise, which costs about \$140 per person, ask for table #10 or #110, both of which are situated in corners at the bow end, from which you can watch the passing scene through floor-to-ceiling windows on two sides. The maître d' (very friendly and very French) assured us these were the best tables on the boat and he was right. Here we were, floating down the Thames on a luxurious barge quaffing wine and watching London go by the windows!



Near sunset the cruise passes under Tower Bridge, at which point it stops and makes several complete revolutions in the water to the strains of a chorus singing Elgar's Land of Hope and Glory, an experience that is definitely inclined to get the pulse racing.

Get a splendid look at London aboard the London Eye, a ferris-wheel-like contraption that lifts gondolas the size of buses into the sky for a fantastic view up and down the Thames. It is one of the most popular attractions in London.

Our last full day in London we took a bus tour in order to ensure that we at least saw all the major sites even if we did not visit them. It was dark and breezy and damp - although Speaker's Corner in Hyde Park, was a loud and raucous place to hang about.

It was tough to leave London, but throughout our visit I had been looking forward to the trip to North Wales. It meant a long ride on a train, something I always relished. Travelling first class, we were able to sit in airline-style seats but with a whole lot more room than you will ever get on an airplane. Lunch, consisting of a selection of cold pastas, bread and hot or cold drinks that was served on the table between us, was brought to our seats by two female attendants, and we were able to sit back and alternate between dozing - the clickety-clack of the rails can be quite hypnotic - and watching the English countryside as it sped past our window. Rail travel in the U.K is fast and efficient, especially when you have a BritRail pass that gives you unlimited travel.

NORTH WALES

The land of my birth is said to be inhabited by descendents of the original Britons. The Angles and the Saxons and the Romans all came to Britain and married with the locals, but the original Brits, the ones who painted themselves blue and hid in the trees. managed to escape assimilation by fleeing to the cold and mountainous region on the west side of the island. (Other Celts fled to Scotland about which more later.) Indeed, when you talk to real Welsh you find that they really are different to the average Brit - shorter, for one thing, and of a darker complexion. They also have their own language, which my patriotic father always maintained was like no other language on earth, but which my Webster's New World Dictionary tells me has its roots in ancient Celtic along with Irish, Gaelic and Breton.

Thank goodness the road signs in Wales are bilingual because getting to our first stop in our new Peugeot from Auto Europe would have been decidedly difficult if we had to decipher the language of my ancestors.

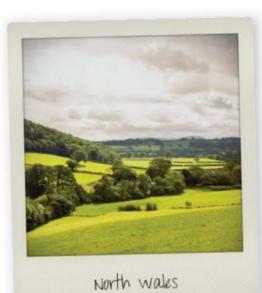
Ruthin Castle eventually hove into view and as soon as we entered the courtvard we were transported back to the 13th century. Despite its honourable and historic heredity, Ruthin Castle is a modern Best Western hotel, though it manages to combine mod cons with an atmosphere that is definitely that of another age. Our room had 20-foot ceilings and gold wallpaper decorated with blue crests. Peering from our window, we were able to see four peacocks as they strutted their stuff on the ruined parapets.

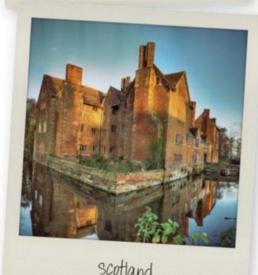
Off early in the morning in our zippy blue Peugeot we stopped in St. Asaph, the smallest cathedral city in Britain, to watch an auction of Welsh sheep, thence to Conwy Castle, part of the Iron Ring of castles that includes Beaumaris and Harlech built by Edward I on the Irish Sea around 1283, where we walked on the ruined walls against a background of the magnificent Snodonia mountains.

Following narrow winding roads bordered by stone fences, we came back through pretty Llangollen on the banks of the rushing River Dee, a town famous for its international festival of song called the Eisteddfod. On the edge or town is Plas Newydd, a picturesque 18th century house where two "old ladies of Llangollen" entertained the literati of the day. From there it is only a short drive to the breathtaking Horseshoe Pass, one of Wales' most famous beauty spots, which climbs into the mountains a few miles north of Llangollen. At the foot of the pass in a scene of pastoral tranquility lie the majestic ruins of Valle Crucis Abbey. The abbey evokes the lifestyle of the white-robed Cistercian monks who lived here throughout the Medieval period.

For dinner one night we went to a 17th-century pub near Wrexham called Pont Yr Ochain, where the cigarette smoke hung in the air like low-flying cumulus. It was crowded and noisy and great fun, and we had a generous meal of Welsh lamb and roast potatoes washed down with a pint of lager.

Our rental car was returned in Chester, just over the English border, so that we could once again entrain to our next stop. With the railroads in Britain privatized, we found







ourselves on a modern coach operated by Virgin, and we were able to enjoy a pleasant view of the countryside from our seats as we drank hot tea and ate Eccles cakes.

SCOTI AND

Once over the border and into Scotland the scenery became even more picture-postcard beautiful. We saw the occasional castle on lush rises of land and small crofts nestled in the softly rolling hills. Every few miles the train clattered over a rocky stream or whistled past great stands of majestic pines.

We were on our way to Cameron House, which sits on 100 acres of magnificent woodland on a crooked strip of land that juts into Loch Lomond. On our arrival in our rental car, the porter, a jolly gentleman in a Glengarry, informed us that no Cameron has ever lived there, the name coming from the Celtic cam sron ("crooked nose"), which this outcropping of land is said to resemble.

Although the estate was founded centuries ago, the present mansion is a full-service resort offering all manner of facilities for sports and relaxation. Cameron House is well equipped to handle weddings, and indeed the evening of our first day there was a wedding involving about 200 guests. They gathered in the courtvard, the men in kilts of various family tartans and the ladies in formal gowns. to enjoy a fireworks display on the shores of Loch Lomond. We watched it through the tall windows as we dined on rare roast beef in the Georgian Room restaurant.

Arriving in our room - called Shiel - we opened the bottle of champagne that awaited us and looked down the length of Loch Lomond to the blue hills on the distant shore. The walls were done in a red toile wallpaper and all the wood furniture was dark and polished to a high shine. The bathroom was finished in white and black marble. The upholstered pieces and the bed covers were in red-and-cream patterns and plaids.

Our next stop was majestic Inverlochy Castle near Fort William in the shadow of the mighty Ben Nevis amidst stunning Highland scenery. Queen Victoria visited here in 1873, describing it as the most romantic spot she had ever seen. Our room - called Isle of Skye - was certainly worthy of a queen, with twelve-foot ceilings, comfortable furniture, and a huge bathroom. The king-size bed came with a canopy and the room contained a comfortable camelback sofa and plush chair and ottoman along with other exquisite antique pieces. The bed linens were the brand the Queen uses. Fresh fruit was delivered to our room daily along with knives, napkins and a bowl of water with bits of orange and rose petals floating in it so that we could rinse off our fingers.

About seven miles from Fort William is the Nevis Range of mountains where you can ski, bike, climb or birdwatch. A 12-minute gondola ride takes you to the top. Fort William also gave me another chance to indulge my love of trains. An old steam engine called the Jacobite takes visitors on a spectacular 41-mile trip west to the Atlantic to view lochs, mountains and glens and pass over the curving Glenfinnan viaduct, made up of 21 arches, from which you can view the spot where Bonnie Prince Charlie raised his standard. If the Jacobite looks familiar to you it's because it was the train used in the first Harry Potter film.

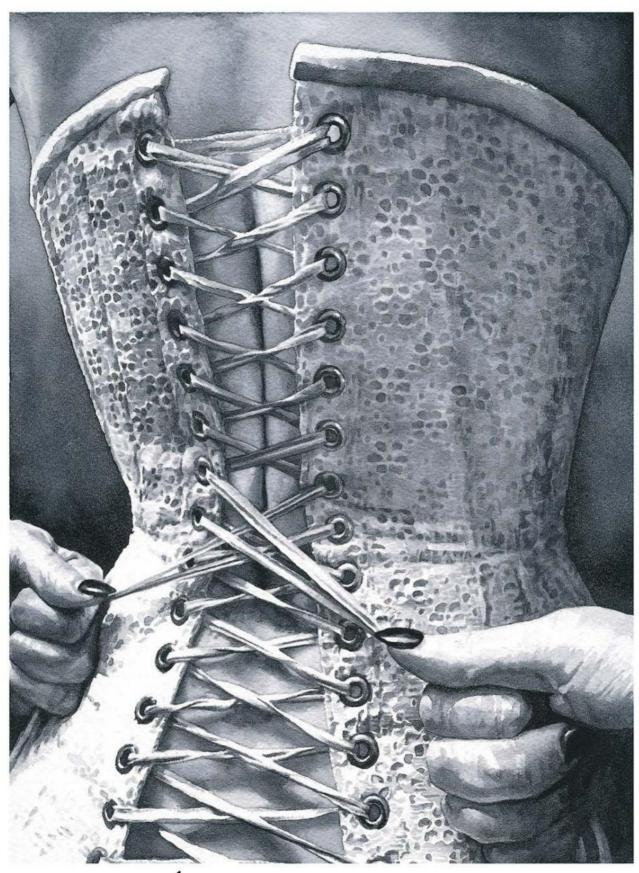
While waiting at Mallaig for our return trip we sat on the dock eating fish and chips while we watched the ferry to the Isle of Skye disembarking its passengers. In bright sunshine, we heard the laughter of children as it echoed across the calm water.

Heading north to the edge of Glenmore Forest Park we spent a day at Rothiemurchus, a magnificent highland estate in the heart of the Cairngorms, where you can fish, walk, shoot or sail on thousands of hectares of unspoiled Scottish countryside. My big adventure was to go overland in a 4x4 Land Rover that had me driving up steep slopes and through sucking mud that would surely have wrecked an ordinary vehicle. Later Chris had her first-ever experience of firing a gun at the clay pigeon shooting range on the estate.

The Brits do spectacular things to take advantage of their history and there is perhaps no better example of this than ruined Urguhart Castle situated on a promontory overlooking Loch Ness. The modern visitor centre offers a dramatic video that shows the castle's violent history, ending with its destruction near the end of the 17th century. When the video ends, the curtains open and you find yourself looking out on the actual castle, glistening in the sunshine against the dark blue waters of the loch.

We finished up in Glasgow, Chris's birthplace, referred to by some as Manhattan with a broque, where we stayed at the elegant One Devonshire Place. Set in the heart of Glasgow's distinctive West End, with its Victorian mansions and graceful terraces, One Devonshire is a small sophisticated hotel that prides itself on personal service. Our room was enormous and the decor can only be described as luxurious: walnut wainscoting, gold wallpaper, black walnut furniture, and a real fireplace. From the oil painting above it the eyes of a beautiful woman from the 1920s followed us around the room.

We said goodbye to the United Kingdom in Glasgow, having gone from one end of the country to the other with a whole lot of stops in between. It was a homecoming of sorts, but we have taken away with us a wealth of new memories. WE



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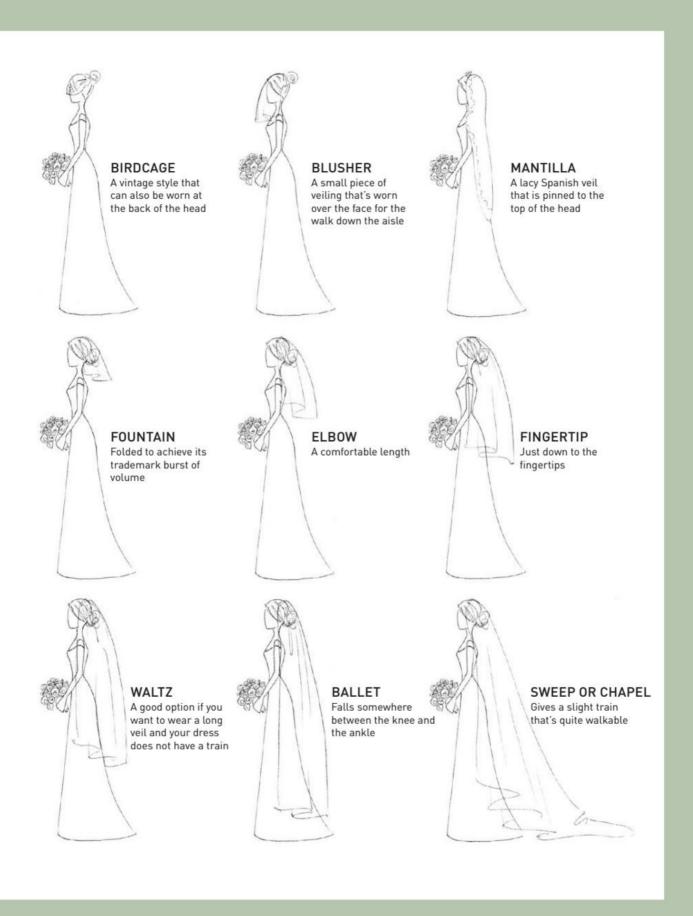
There are plenty of choices for headpieces these days, including long and short veils, tiara styles, flowers and hats. Just about anything goes. A simple veil can be attached to a comb, band, cap, hat or tiara. Or it can be more elaborate, encompassing several layers of fabric and falling to either the tip of your nose or the end of the train. Make sure it's in proportion to your head and flatters your face and hair. The headpiece must also complement your gown — you should choose your headpiece while you're trying on the gown.

HEADPIECE ANCHORS

Use white bobby pins to hold your headpiece in place even if you have dark hair. They do a better job of blending in with your headpiece or veil.

ATTACHING THE VEIL

Most veils need to be fixed to a headpiece, which can be as simple as a comb or as elaborate as a tiara. The veil can be sewn to the headpiece, but if you plan to remove it, use Velcro. WE



Hanning Alert

Get yourself organized...

HANDY TIPS TO AVOID CHAOS AS THE BIG DAY **APPROACHES**

Organization is the best insurance you can have to make sure that your wedding is well planned. It will keep chaos at bay, ensure that things are staying on track, and help make the whole experience of planning your big day enjoyable and hassle-free. A few pointers for staving off bedlam:

1. DO YOUR INFORMATION SHOPPING WELL IN ADVANCE. Pick up planning and budgeting tips from wedding magazines and planners. Wedding Essentials, for example, has a free comprehensive planner that will save you many hours of research time. Log onto wedding websites for planning hints. There are sites that will help you create your own home page where your guests can obtain your wedding date, place and time, as well as information on the area and gift registries where your selections are recorded. This will not only be convenient for your guests, but a great timesaver for both you and them in the planning stages.

2. GO SHOPPING FOR YOUR PERSONAL ORGANIZER. Best: A large three-ring binder with index sheets and a three-hole punch. Colour-coded index sheets may work well for you, e.g. white for clothing, blue for church, pink for reception. Label sections for clothing with subsections for bride, groom, bridesmaids, etc. Do the same for church, with sections for music, flowers, etc. Ditto for the reception, where you can have places for information on the location, the music, the menus, the flowers, and so on. This will be your master organizer. Punch and file magazine articles, brochures and photos. Glue scraps of paper with contact names and numbers onto larger sheets so you can find them more readily. As you work through the

process, you'll be able to discard material you no longer need. For example, you may start with five possible locations for your reception and gather info on all five. Once you have made your decision, you can eliminate the "research" stage of the other four venues. Now you will begin adding in estimates, detailed arrangements, confirmation letters and contracts for the place you have selected.

3. GO SHOPPING FOR A BANK ACCOUNT.

Open an account to be used only for wedding expenditures only. Start contributing as early as possible to build the account. This is also a good place to put funds that one or both sets of parents might be contributing toward the costs. Keep meticulous records so you can track spending accurately. This will also help keep you on budget.

- 4. PREPARE A BUDGET AND STICK TO IT. If you find you must overspend in one area, scale down in another to keep your budget balanced. One way to keep the honeymoon going as long as possible after the wedding is to enter married life as free of debt as possible.
- 5. START PLANNING EARLY. This way you won't be forced into making hasty, often costly, last-minute decisions. Preferred wedding reception venues, the best photographers, and wedding locations for the ceremony get booked months ahead.
- 6. KEEP AN OPEN MIND. There can be substantial savings for a luncheon reception compared with a dinner, for example, or for a Friday ceremony rather than one on Saturday. You may not be able to get your favourite band on Saturday night in June, but maybe the last Friday in May hasn't been booked yet. What local seasonal flowers will be available when your wedding takes place? They may be available more reasonably and be fresher too.
- 7. ENLIST HELP. Who's the music expert? Your groom? Then he's your choice for doing the research on reception music. Dad might enjoy sourcing limos or carriages to "get you to the church on time." Is your Mom

- a whiz on the computer? How about putting those skills to use organizing RSVPs as they come in and tracking gifts and thank-you notes? Your main attendant, the maid of honour or chief bridesmaid, can help by organizing the girls' night out, and by providing a sounding board for you on trips for bridesmaids' gowns.
- 8. GET IT IN WRITING. Once you have decided upon a supplier, write a letter detailing all the decisions and arrangements. You will want to get written confirmations from your suppliers for your files. Detail any advance payments made to eliminate any later confusion. Don't forget to complete your files after the event with copies of your paid invoices.
- 9. BUY COMFORTABLE SHOES. You'll need them for those shopping trips. Would it be possible for you to take a peek at another wedding where your type of flower arrangement is going to be used? Those bands you are thinking of hiring, can you hear them performing live? If not, you may have to settle for a taped example. That food in the catering company's brochure may look great, but you might want to sample it before making a decision. You will be surprised at how your ideas may change and this is a great way to avoid unpleasant surprises.

- 10. COVER ALL THE BASES. Be sure the photographer knows which photographs you want taken by providing a list of "must-have" shots. Do the same with the band or DJ to ensure that those special songs aren't forgotten.
- 11. PAMPER YOURSELF. Make sure you are in top physical shape so that you will have the stamina you'll need for your big event and so that you can enjoy your special day to the max. Make time to eat healthily and maintain your exercise schedule. And be sure to get your beauty sleep. You'll need lots of energy throughout the wedding planning process. Just before the wedding, schedule a couple of days on your planning calendar just for you. Your goal is to forget about decisions and planning, and to simply relax. If you can, book yourself into a hotel so that you can eliminate any distractions. Treat yourself to a massage, a session at the spa, time at the pool, and veg out with some movies or a good book. Don't talk "wedding plans" with anyone. This is your precious pamper time. Make the most of it.
- 12. DON'T LOSE SIGHT OF WHY YOU CHOSE TO GET MARRIED. It's important not to get so caught up in the planning and decisions that you don't make time for you and your groom just to do the fun things together that you both enjoy. Schedule some date nights that are for no other purpose than enjoying each other's company. Put wedding plans out of your minds for a few hours! WE





PERHAPS YOU HAVE ALWAYS DREAMED OF A SUMMER WEDDING WITH THE SUN SHINING AND THE BIRDS CHIRPING, BUT, A WINTER WEDDING CAN BE JUST AS ENCHANTING, WITH THE OUIET OF WHITE SNOW FALLING AND CANDLES LIGHTING A DARK ROOM, HERE ARE FOUR OTHER REASONS TO HAVE A WINTER WEDDING.



BY CONNIE GERLING

You can wear fur (real or fake), suede, or any other winter fabric you would never be able to pull off if your wedding were held between Memorial Day and Labor Day, You can also have your bridesmaids walk down the aisle with their hands in a fur muff, instead of holding flowers. You can don a fur shoulder wrap as you move from location to location on the big day and, more importantly, for the pictures. Not too many brides can post to social media - and boast, for that matter - a photo wrapped in a chic fur on their wedding day. It's the height of glamour.

Rich colors are yours to explore. Forget light pink, champagne, blush, whatever they call it, whatever you'd like to name it. Your bridesmaids' dresses, as well as your invitations, centerpieces, place cards and anything else that will reflect your accent color, can be deep purple, burgundy, navy blue, any rich and dark winter color you love. The possibilities are unique and endless.

Deals, deals, deals. Not too many couples choose a winter wedding date. As a result, catering halls, florists, photographers, limo services, bands and other vendors are more likely to offer you a better deal for their services on your wedding day. Furthermore, vendors will also likely be available on that day. Fall in love with a particular photographer? If you're getting married in June, he or she might already be booked. Getting married in January, his or her schedule is probably wide open.

Speaking of availability, your family and friends will be in attendance, as well. During the winter, their dance cards will not be full of other, conflicting weddings, graduations, parties and other engagements.

You may not have pictured your big day this way but maybe now it's time to start. It will be different. It will still be beautiful. It may be less expensive, and all of your friends and family will be able to make it. All of the above are reasons to say "I Do" to a winter wedding. WE





MAIN TO YOUR EARS

Wedding music is too important to take a chance on. Before making a final decision, arrange for an audition, borrow a CD or video of a previous performance, or attend an upcoming appearance.

When it comes to wedding music a lot has changed over the years - and the music itself is just a small part of it. Originally a live band was a must for any formal wedding, especially if it was an "ethnic" wedding. (Even today many ethnic weddings are obliged by tradition and cultural demands to use a band that specialises in the music of their heritage.)

In more recent years, deejays - with powerful sound systems and recorded music in virtually any style # — have grown in popularity. Bands are less often the main entertainment at a wedding, but when a couple elects to book a band it usually creates a different atmosphere, a kind of energy that only several talented performers can deliver.

Whether you choose a band or a deejay, it is very important to check out a few prospects before making a decision. Caution: Do not shop by price alone. Prices do not necessarily reflect the artist's abilities. Experience, referrals and your personal evaluation should help you make the best choice.

The music you select for your ceremony and reception will set the atmosphere and tone for your celebration. No other single element of

your day has the power to stir emotions and memories the way the right music can. With the wide range of music available and the varied tastes of young and old, it is a good idea to seek the help of either your deejay or bandleader so that the music played incorporates your favourites as well as those of a broad range of guests.

Brides and grooms are faced with guite a few decisions when it comes to the music and entertainment. Will you allow guests to request songs? Do you want an interactive style using speciality dances and props, or would you prefer a more reserved approach? Do you want the deejay/bandleader to act as MC or do you have someone else in mind? Do you want to choose your entire music programme or should your deejay/band play what they know will motivate your guests while still catering to your song choices. When it comes to the music that is played always remember that you are paying for a professional who is there to make sure you have the party of a lifetime.

There are three different parts to the music played at most wedding receptions. First there is the arrival of the guests as they move

through the receiving line. Should it be light, uplifting and fun, or of a more reserved style that employs a string quartet or a harp playing classical compositions? Second, is music to be played during dinner? This can include jazz, classical, Sinatra, Bublé, show tunes or whatever you prefer.

Last - and for most brides and grooms the most important - will be the party music. The play list can be a compilation of several musical genres that, of course, will incorporate your choices. If there are songs (example: the Chicken Dance) or musical genres (example: rap) that you do not want played, provide a do not play list. Hint: It is always a good idea to remind the deejay/band not to play any risqué songs just to be sure nobody will be offended.

A trend that is becoming more and more popular at wedding receptions is to hire a live band or musician to play for about two hours while guests are arriving and over the cocktail hour. Afterwards, the deejay takes over. In some ways this offers the best of both worlds. You can have the luxury and elegance of live music but for much less than it would normally cost for a full night of music. When the deejay takes over, you will benefit from a more extensive music library, one that will satisfy the tastes of the entire quest list, which usually consists of many age groups.

Some venues have installed permanent sound systems and made it compulsory for the bride to use their in-house deejay at the reception. These locations often charge a high premium for this service. If you would prefer to hire your own deejay, find out what the venue's policy is before you sign the contract.

THE CEREMONY

Before you make any elaborate plans, check to see what restrictions there are at the ceremony site. Many places of worship have policies on what they consider to be appropriate wedding music selections, and you will have to take these into account when deciding on musical arrangements.

Some houses of worship have musical directors. If yours has one, this person can be a valuable resource, one who should be consulted about the choices available to you. Often, s/he will recommend musical selections to suit the type of ceremony you have in mind. This person also will have access to vocalists and musicians who can enhance the service. But don't accept any recommendations until you have actually heard the music and musicians yourself.

Even if you are not being married in a religious setting, find out if the ceremony site has any restrictions. Also, check whether your house of worship or other ceremony site allows musicians not associated with the facility.

MUSICAL PHASES

In determining the music for your service, you will have to consider the five musical phases of a traditional wedding - prelude, processional, ceremony, signing and recessional.

PRELUDE

This is the half-hour period before the ceremony begins when guests are arriving. The music sets the mood of expectation and provides enjoyment for the guests. Often, it is a medley of classical and contemporary pieces played by a lone organist, pianist, string quartet, harpist or woodwind ensemble. You may want to coordinate the selections with a musical, ethnic or holiday theme such as Spanish guitar, Christmas carols or classical jazz.

PROCESSIONAL

(about 1.5 minutes in duration)

The start of the processional is marked by a change in music that begins as the mother of the bride is seated, the groom and the best man enter, and you and your attendants are about to begin your walk down the aisle. The music should be stately and uplifting, building up to a crescendo and possibly changing again as you make your entrance. Traditionally, wedding processionals are accompanied by an organ or a piano. A trumpeter can add a joyful and royal touch.

Ceremony

The actual wedding ceremony usually is conducted without music to allow voices to be heard easily by everyone. If you think you might like to have some soft music playing in the background, you must check with your officiant before making any decisions. Work with the music director or organist to determine where in the ceremony music should be placed. You may want to include guests in the singing of hymns or a favourite song. Or you may want to include a special solo or other performance in an appropriate place.

SIGNING THE REGISTER

(about 2.5 minutes)

Here it is appropriate to play a popular love song or some classical pieces. In general, the music should be peaceful and relaxed.

RECESSIONAL

(about 1 minute)

The ceremony is over, and you and your new husband are jubilant. The music will be fasterpaced, upbeat and triumphant. It should have both of you floating up the aisle arm in arm, followed by your attendants. Best: Find out what the officiant's last words will be and let the musicians use them as a cue to start playing.

Often, the bells on a bell tower or the bell note on the organ are rung to add to the festive atmosphere. The recessional ends after the wedding party exits. The guests usually follow row by row, accompanied by softer background music.





CHOOSING YOUR MUSIC STYLE

The type of music you select should be consistent with your personal style, the kind of ceremony (traditional or informal; indoor or outdoor) and what is allowed at your chosen ceremony site. Ask yourself what the most appropriate music might be for the kind of service you have in mind. Examples: Classical. Hymns. Popular songs. Discuss this in detail with your fiancé. Keep in mind also the type of guests attending, your budget and other restrictions.

Music is not the only sound that can help you create a special atmosphere. At a summer garden wedding, you may want to hang wind chimes or set up water fountains that create their own kind of music.

SELECTING MUSICIANS

The decision about the kind of music and mood you want for your ceremony is usually a matter of consultation between you and your musicians. If you are working with a bandleader, s/he will no doubt have some suggestions.

Southern Ontario offers numerous vocalists and musicians for you to choose from. However, you should not hire anybody that you have not actually heard either live or on a CD. Meet with the musicians you select several months before the wedding to discuss your needs and expectations, and to determine who is responsible for what.

If your wedding is in a place of worship, it makes sense to use the services of the house organist, who is already familiar with the organ, the acoustics and the type of music you want played.

CEREMONY MUSIC CHECKLIST

Keep the following items in mind when you meet: If the organist is not the house organist, when will he/she be available to practice on the organ before the wedding rehearsal? It is up to you to make the arrangements.

Ask about fees. What do these cover and how and when will payment be made? Traditionally, the best man takes your cheque or cash and pays the musicians before the ceremony begins.

PRE-RECORDED CEREMONY MUSIC

Some couples choose to use pre-recorded music for their ceremony. Many wedding CDs exist and the quality of music is excellent. If you decide to put together the music for all phases of your ceremony, use a good quality CD (90 minutes on both sides).

Be sure to check the sound system at your ceremony site ahead of time to ensure the acoustics are right. If you are not satisfied, bring in your deejay or music provider to make changes. Unless you are familiar with sound systems, it's probably best if you do not attempt to rearrange things yourself.



THE RECEPTION

Music is not only an important part of your ceremony, it will also set the tone and pace of your reception. Most receptions include music. Deciding what kind you will have depends on the mood you want to create, the setting and the degree of formality you have decided on.

RECEIVING LINE AND COCKTAILS

You will want something soft at this time. Use a CD/MP3 player, a pianist, an accompanied flutist, a deejay, a jazz combo or a classical trio. The tempo should build up as the afternoon or evening goes on.

DANCE PARTY

Once the bride and groom have had their first dance, and the groom has danced with his mother and the bride her father, the bandleader or deejay will provide bossa nova, easy swing or soft rock selections that are suitable for mealtimes. It's likely that the maitre d' will ask that the dance music cease for a few minutes at the start of each course in order that the servers can do their work.

Whether it is classical, romantic, rock, pop, jazz, big band or ethnic, a diverse selection of music is the key to a great reception. Try to include a variety of selections from slow,

traditional pieces to rock and roll to faster, contemporary music for dancing. Try also for a good mix of slow and fast songs. Select appropriate tunes for important announcements such as the grand entrance, the first dance, cutting the cake, and throwing the bouquet and garter.

Arrange for older standards to be performed early in the evening when elderly guests are still feeling spritely. After dessert, when the bridal dance takes place, you may want to have livelier music. A good bandleader or deejay will offer suggestions for music in a variety of moods and styles.

The kind of music and musicians you select will depend on the type of reception and time of day: BRUNCH, LUNCH, AFTERNOON TEA You want a mood that is elegant and allows conversation. Any music you choose should be in the background. Your best choices are a single pianist, harpist, violinist, string quartet or recorded background music.

SUMMER GARDEN PARTY

This is the perfect venue for strolling musicians, instrumental combos and quartets, guitar ensembles, a single pianist, or a combination of any of these. The music should be lively but not overbearing.

AFTERNOON COCKTAIL BUFFET

This calls for sophisticated and contemporary musical selections that allow for limited dancing. Instrumental and vocal, jazz combos, soft rock and lively piano are all good choices.

DINNER AND DANCE

Music for a dinner dance reception can range from a dance band to a full orchestra to a deejay. The smaller the guest list, the smaller the musical group. Music selections will vary for different activities during the reception.

QUESTIONS TO ASK

- · Will the musicians/vocalists I have heard and seen be the same ones actually performing at my wedding?
- How will the musicians or DJ be dressed?
- How long will the sets be and how long the breaks?
- Will continuous or taped music be provided during your breaks?
- Can the quests make special requests? How should they be handled?
- Do you provide a sound system? If not, what is required? (You will have to check with your reception site to see what is compatible.)
- What extra costs are not included in your quoted price? Examples: Travel. Setup time, Continuous music, Cocktail hours, WE

Planning a Wedding?

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- 1. BUILD ANTICIPATION. Before sex, have a closeness encounter. Tell him he can look at you for five minutes but he cannot touch. Make sure he's close enough to feel your warmth but make him wait. Watch his eyes start to bleed.
- 2. BE SENSUOUS. You should have educated your body to the point that you can bring off several great orgasms on command. Only then can you guide him toward the movements and positions that give you maximum pleasure.
- 3. TAKE CONTROL. Most men get | turned on and feel seriously complimented - when their women initiate sex. Try it about one time out of three.
- 4. KEEP IN TOUCH. Don't ever lose that desire you have to keep touching each other. He needs that tactile sensation as much as you do. Holding hands is okay, but what we're talking about here is the arm around the waist, the legs entwined while you are sitting on the couch, "spooning" when you are in bed together. And guys love it when you sit on their laps.
- 5. BE HANDY. Men love manual stimulation from you, especially when it's unexpected. Surprise him with a handhummer when you're driving, when you're in a darkened restaurant or visiting an arena. It's especially nice when your hands are wet, so be prepared to lick your palms before you start.
- 6. DON'T BE SHY. Show that you have a healthy, open attitude toward sex and that you enjoy it with him. It's interesting that the most popular porn videos are not the ones in which nasty whores are performing the deed. It's the ones in which the actresses are beautiful, healthy women who enjoy sex.
- 7. LOVE TOYS. The use of vibrators and other fun tools can add a lot to the sport that goes on in your bedroom. But use them only to add variety once in a while. Bring them out every time and your guy will begin to feel inadequate.
- 8. TURN-ON LINGERIE. Still the popular favourite, stockings and garter belt. Make sure your drawer contains both - but use them sparingly.
- 9. KEEP ROMANCE ALIVE. Keeping spice in the relationship is not always a matter of sexy lingerie and weekend getaways. It's small surprises that do the trick. Unexpected tickets to sports event or a short love note when he least expects it will do more for the relationship than anything you can get from Victoria's Secret.
- 10. VARIETY. Penetration is not always the key to great sex. Because sexual satisfaction is 85% touch, mutual masturbation can result in a night of great sex. Most men feel that a woman who can masturbate in front of them is irresistibly fearless, confident and sexy. Go for it!
- 11. TAKE CONTROL. Men operate with different timetables than women. For him everything is rush, rush, rush. For you it's likely to be more a matter of letting things flow over you. Here's how to control the pace. Tell him that he can do to you only what you do to him.
- 12. CHANGE PLACES. Lie back and let him take charge. Then swap so that he's entirely at your mercy. Putting yourself in someone else's hands is tremendously trustbuilding - and a turn-on.



- 13. TEASE. Making him wait can create irresistible sexual tension. When he reaches for your breasts, push his hand away. If he gets amourous in front of the TV, get him to take his clothes off, but leave yours on. During oral sex, stop every few minutes and lick his belly button or the inside of his thigh. Don't continue until he tells you how much he wants you to go on.
- 14. ORGASM SCALE. Know that there is no clear description of an orgasm that fits every situation. While some women have something akin to a grand mal seizure, others experience a quiet orgasm that they describe as a kind of rippling effect. They are both successful orgasms. You've definitely had one if you get sexually turned on, if you feel good, if you feel a release of some kind, and if you then enter a relaxed and non-aroused state.
- 15. AN UNBITCH ZONE. Agree that you will never bring your problems into the bedroom. Air your grievances all you want before you enter, but that room should be whine-free. Once you get in the same room as the bed, you can say only positive things. This goes for both parties.
- 16. LIST THE NICE BITS. Take stock of every sexy part of each other's body. Maybe it's the hair on his wrists. Maybe it's the dew that gathers on the back of his neck during lovemaking. The more specific the better. It gives you a sense of knowing someone intimately.
- 17. SPEAK UP. The only way to let him know that you are satisfied so that he can come is if you tell him. Don't be shy about it. It's actually an incredible turn-on for a man.
- 18. ORGASM OLYMPICS. The best thing you can do for your man is to bring him close but not let him come. Take him to the brink three times. After that he'll be ready to explode.

- 19. MAGIC WORDS. The ten most important words to a man: "Keep on doing that and you're going to make me come!"
- 20. LIPSTICK TURNOFF. You want to look your best when you start to tussle under the covers. But leave the lipstick off. Most men do not like the taste of it. Strawberry- or cherry-flavoured lip gloss is a better bet. It takes men back to their high school years when they were making out in the back seat of Dad's car. Freshly brushed teeth also give off a taste that's very satisfying to a man.
- 21. SAVOUR THE SMALL STUFF. Slipping your hand in his during oral sex. Brushing his hair out of his eyes during intercourse. Stroking each other gently in non-obvious places. These simple actions can do much to make sex feel even more intimate.
- 22. FACE TIME. The face is a very tender part of the body. Running your fingers over his nose, his cheeks, his lips, can be very loving. Gentle kisses on the neck can have the same effect. Skip positions where you cannot see each other's faces.
- 23. LUSTY LINGO. When they're alone together, most men want their women to be whores and virgins at the same time. It means you have to perform a neat balancing act, but if you can pull it off you'll have him at your side forever.
- 24. VITAL INGREDIENTS. For sex to be really good, you need two things. First, there has to be love (no surprise there.) The second is enthusiasm. Show you're having a good time, or it can be a real downer.
- 25. ORAL SEX. Is it necessary every time you make love, or can it be more a spontaneous thing? Some men want to receive it and give it all the time. Others want it to be spontaneous.

- 26. ORAL SATISFACTION. There are things he can do to make his ejaculate taste better. Tell him to eat fruit or celery each day. Pineapple and apples will add sweetness to the flavour. Red meat is said to give cum a strong taste. Dairy products and asparagus are also said to give his juices a foul flavor. Likewise smoking and coffee.
- 27. UNKNOWN EROGENOUS ZONE. A neglected site for real pleasure is the crease where the top of the thigh meets the buttock. Kissed or nibbled, it will drive either of you wild.
- 28. CLOSET MUST. Make sure you have the sexiest item of apparel in your closet. No. we're not talking negligées or fuck-me pumps. We're talking high-heeled sandals that leave your toes exposed.
- 29. BLENDED ORGASM. Here's something new he can try that will drive you wild. Teach him to give you a blended orgasm. He starts off by stimulating your G-spot - a comehither motion of his finger about two-and-a-half inches up the front wall of your vagina. He stops before you come and switches his finger to the stimulation of your clitoris. Before you explode, he switches back to your G-spot, then back to your clit. He finally takes you over the top by stimulating both at the same time.
- 30. DRIVE HIM BONKERS. With his cooperation, truss him spread-eagled on the bed or tie his feet together and his hands behind his back. Use anything that is strong enough to restrain him but soft enough to keep him comfortable. Neckties, soft rope or your stockings will do. Tease him by kissing him everywhere except his genitals. Brush your nipples and your pubic hair over his stomach, his chest and up to his mouth but make sure you don't let him lick you there -



yet! Masturbate him. Suck on his penis. Play with him like a toy. When you are ready, mount him, slip him inside and thrust fast and passionately until ho comes. Until him quickly as his muscles will be stiff after orgasm. Finish up with a massage of those tired muscles.

- 31. MANUAL STIMULATION. An ability to reach orgasm solely by the thrusting of the penis is actually quite rare. Almost every woman needs manual stimulation of her clitoris in order to reach orgasm. This is perfectly normal. And if he cannot do it properly for you, get over your squeamishness and do it for yourself.
- 32. GET INTO IT. Your man will get thoroughly turned on if he feels he is with a lusty woman who's really enjoying herself. Show your passion! Moan and groan with pleasure. Pant with excitement. Wriggle with abandon because you're so hot you cannot keep still. Nuzzle him appreciatively. Wrap your legs around him and squeeze. Grab his bum and push him into you with each thrust as if you cannot get enough of him. Vibrate. Scream. Grind. Toss and turn. Talk like a whore. Lick, kiss and suck him as if you'd like to swallow him whole. Everything you do to show your enthusiasm and enjoyment will spur him on to ever greater heights of fabulous lovemaking.
- 33. KEEPING HIM. Men don't leave women for being sexy, unpredictable and slightly dangerous. They leave them for being boring.
- 34. TRIGGER FANTASIES. If you can find out the one special fantasy that turns him on, you can enjoy great control over his arousal. Enhance his enjoyment of his sexual thoughts by inserting yourself in his dream scenario, even embellishing it.

- 35. SQUEEZE PLAY. A fun sexual technique is to play "squeezing genitals", providing your pelvic muscles are in good shape. A man can tighten up his crotch and penis so that it momentarily changes in diameter. You can tighten your vagina so that it hugs his penis. Try alternating the squeeze play on each other.
- 36. SENSUOUS THOUGHTS. There is an old saying to the effect that before you fuck my body, you have to fuck my brain. That's why dirty talk can be so arousing. Whispering to him exactly what you intend to do to him in bed will create pictures in his mind that are likely to excite him almost as much as the real act.
- 37. PITIFUL PANTIES. Ugly underwear can really turn off the passion machine. First, it says that you don't care that much about yourself. Second, it tells him you don't care that much about him - or you wouldn't let him see those things. Third, it tells him you don't care that much about sex. 'Cause you couldn't possibly feel sexy wearing those unsightly bloomers.
- 38. GOING DOWN. You do not do yourself any favours when you tighten up at the prospect of oral sex. He might be having a wonderful time down there, but if you feel that your genitals are dirty and the act of kissing them is gross, he will take it as rejection as surely as if you threw his flowers in his face. Ask him if he has any problem with your nether regions. Alternatively, if you are uncomfortable with the thought of him putting his mouth there, tell him so that he will not feel that you are rejecting him.
- 39. ODOURIFIC. Men joke about the odours emanating from a woman's vaginal juices. The fact is, keep yourself clean and the only

- scent he will experience is the earthy perfume of your natural lubricant. And you can use that wonderful fluid to advantage. Your cassolette is an aphrodisiac, after all. Before you get together with him, take a minute to apply some to yourself as you would your perfume. Put some behind your ears, on your throat, between your breasts, on your wrists. He'll wonder why he suddenly finds you so irresistible.
- 40. TAKING TURNS. Oral sex is great for both parties, but if you intend to go all the way to orgasm you should take turns.
- 41. QUICKIES. One of the nicest ways to get out of the sexual rut is to enjoy the occasional quickie. They can enable the horny partner to get off and relieve physical tension while they add spontaneity to the act of love. Likely places are the kitchen, a walk-in closet, the backyard or the car.
- 42. SOFT REJECTION. Men do not handle rejection well, especially when it comes to sex. They need it in order to feel wanted. When you reject his advances, he feels you are saying, "I don't want you and I don't love you." But men are no good at expressing their hurt, so they retaliate by turning off you, or by seeking sex elsewhere. So, if you're not in the mood for sex, say no but show him in words and caresses that you love him. (Of course, he should do the same for you.)
- 43. MAKE LOVE IN PUBLIC. Sex doesn't start when you get into bed. In other words, you should be loving even when you are not making love. Like when you're working together in the garden, or shopping at Canadian Tire, even when you are having dinner with the folks. Make affectionate, erotic gestures that create a mood you can bring to sex, like touching his cheek or just brushing the back of his neck. WE

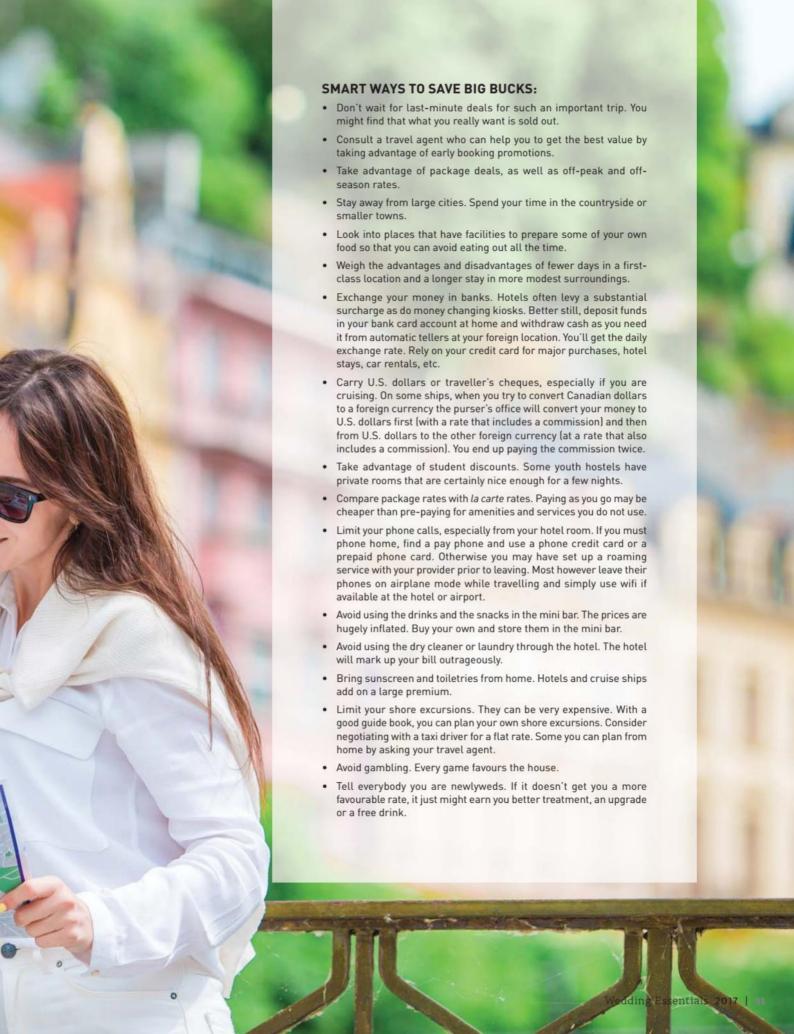
Travelling Smart

SEASONED TRAVELLERS KNOW THAT HAVING A GOOD TRIP MEANS TRAVELLING LIGHT, STAYING LOOSE AND BEING PREPARED FOR THE UNEXPECTED.

- l. Don't overpack. Estimate what you will need for the time you are away and take half that.
- 2. Use the right bag. Best: Those that you can haul fully loaded without straining yourself, such as rolling bags. For infrequent travellers, a \$50 bag with cheap hardware and zippers may be just fine. For road warriors, plan to spend \$300 to \$400 for a bag that is truly durable. Stick with tough cloth. Leather is heavy, rots when wet, cracks when old, and invites theft.
- 3. Avoid fabrics that are not made of natural fibres. Silk, wool, cotton and even wrinkle-prone linen are great for travel. But garments of polyester and other synthetics will leave you smelling like ripe goat cheese after a few hours. Used in undergarments, synthetics cause you to be tugging at yourself where you should never be seen to be tugging.
- 4. Take a toilet kit of essentials. Slip it into your coat pocket where it will not make a bulge. Let the hotel supply the shampoo and soap. Avoid taking bottles of pills. Roll them up like coins in aluminum foil; they'll shrink as you use them up. Caution: Take copies of your prescriptions in case customs officers get curious.
- 5. Avoid too many shoes. They are bulky and heavy. For men, Hush Puppies can be fairly dressy or can do double duty as beachwear. Women can minimize shoe space by taking along a strappy little number and one pair of runners.
- 6. Take a backpack. Pick one that folds up small and place it in the bottom of your suitcase. As you travel, fill it with great buys, documents or presents on the way home.
- 7. Make up an emergency kit. You'll be prepared for any disaster. What to include: The sewing kit from your last hotel room. Some safety pins in different sizes. Rubber bands to serve as sock garters or pants closures. A sleeping mask. Ten feet of fishing line to hang over the bathtub and serve as the world's lightest clothes dryer.
- 8. Be adaptable. What to take: An all-weather raincoat with a removable lining. A crushable hat for rain. Thick socks to make your Hush Puppies or runners warmer.
- 9. Avoid colour conflicts. Take clothing that is all grey or all beige or all brown or whatever. Use neckties and scarves to add colour. One basic outfit can become a wardrobe with accessories.
- 10. Pack a first-aid kit. What to include: Antacid. Aspirin. Antiseptic. Band-Aids. Motion sickness pills. Suntan lotion. Sunblock.
- 11. Take one carryon in addition to your handbag. And keep all important and valuable items in it and with you. What to include: Passports. Visas. Health insurance. Other important documents. Tickets. Vouchers. List of credit card and traveller's cheque numbers. List of major contents of luggage. Important names, addresses and phone numbers. Prescriptions (in their containers with their labels). Birth control. Camera. Extra glasses or contacts and/or eye prescription. Some makeup. Washcloth. Fresh underwear. WE







All-inclusive Holidays

The honeymoon vacation that includes everything — air fare, transfers, hotel, all or most meals, use of recreational facilities and evening entertainment — is the most popular option for honeymooners. After all, the honeymoon is meant to be a time to get away and relax from the pressures of getting married. A good travel agent should be able to recommend several to suit your budget. Many Ontario couples make their choices from the dazzling brochures produced by the tour operators or from their online descriptions. Be wary. Two four-star hotels may share the same location, price and owner, but the holiday they offer could be a delight or a disaster depending on your interests, needs and tastes.

THINGS TO DO BEFORE YOU GO:

- Check the brochures and websites for what the pictures don't show you. Maybe that close-up of the pool is shown so prominently because the beach is lousy.
- Question your well-meaning friends. When they rave about a place, ask them what they like about it. It may be that they loved the casino, which would be a waste of time for you if you do not like to gamble.
- Ask questions relating to your unique needs.
 Your travel agent should be able to tell you if
 this resort is trying to attract families with
 children, an ambiance that you will not like if
 you want to spend quiet moments together.
 Likewise, if you prefer to explore historical
 sites rather than lying on the beach make
 sure you are not restricted to the resort
 property because of lack of transportation or
 unsafe roads.
- Push for extras. A week or so before you go, ask your travel agent to contact the resort and ask for an ocean view or a quiet room. It won't always get results but it's worth a try. Caution: If you go to a European hotel or resort, don't expect special treatment for honeymooners. You might receive a fruit basket and/or chilled champagne but there is no guarantee. [Carry a copy of your marriage licence with you just in case.] WE

Request a Pampered Bride Party!

Ask your bridesmaids to host a party and get started on a fantastic collection of kitchenware!

Enjoy your private Pampered Chef Cooking Show! Pampered Chef cooking host, Anne Brown, will cook up a storm for everyone and she will also help you create your Pampered Chef registry. Pampered Chef has a fabulous, high quality collection of kitchenware that works together and will last you a lifetime!

Have one of your bridesmaids contact me and I'll do the rest!













Call: Anne Brown Phone: (705) 286-0450 Ep ail: anne.brown@xplornet.ca

Diana Fiore & GianBruno Sinopoli

Diane and GianBruno celebrated their wedding with friends and family in a glittering ceremony and reception they'll remember forever

CEREMONY LOCATION

St. Paul's Basilica, Toronto

CELEBRANT

Father Jimmy

TYPE OF WEDDING

Formal

DIANA WORE

Zac Posen by Davide's Bridal, Scarborough 416-751-8775

GIANBRUNO WORE

Hugo Boss Suit | 905-739-2677

Bride: 18k white gold eternity diamond band Groom: had grandfathers ring melted, recast with original ruby placed inside band Samuel Kleinberg Jewellers, Toronto 416-789-7557

WHAT MADE OUR WEDDING UNIQUE

Our wedding favours which were full size red wine bottles with personalized labels that had our engagement photo and a short thank-you note on it. I feel that giving a wine bottle to our guests is personally thanking them on sharing our special day with us. It's also a gift that won't be forgotten so soon. We didn't say our own vows but we did memorize the traditional vow, which made it that much more special. We said it to each other at our own pace and from our heart without having to repeat after the priest.











FLORIST

Antonietta Fiore, Owner, Sister, Wedding Planner (all-round "go-to" person) Heavenly Creation Florist and Décor | 416-787-1973

RECEPTION LOCATION

Venetian Banquet Centre, Woodbridge 905-660-1110

WEDDING DÉCOR

Tables featuring 4 foot tall, textured pastel centrepieces by Heavenly Creation Florist. Featuring mounds of white jumbo hydrangeas with imported lush garden roses, orchids and hanging crystals to create a dreamy effect setting. The bridal bouquet was filled with garden roses and classically filled and composed with pure white cascading Phalaenopsis Orchids adding a touch of bling to complement the centrepieces.

WEDDING MUSIC

Ceremony: piano + cellist "Arioso", Perri's "A thousand years", "Ave Maria" for Communion, Rieu's "Panis Angelicus"; Reception: DJ/bongo/sax Automatic DJ | 416-781-5140

Two cakes: the display one was 4ft tall, 4 tier white fondue covered in hand crafted rose

petals and pearls. The real cake was red velvet, covered in white buttercream icing with pearls on the outside.

Simply Frosted | 416-283-7486

PHOTOGRAPHER

Silvana Marshall Photography | 647-449-8105

VIDEOGRAPHER

KCS Video, John Armogida | 416-936-2742

WHAT MADE US LAUGH

At the ceremony, after the priest says "you may now kiss your bride" I grabbed my husband and locked lips with him but then I wouldn't let go LOL. He could be heard on video saying "ok, ok, ok" and was trying to pull me away. You can hear our guests laughing too.

WHAT ADVICE TO OTHER BRIDES

Enjoy your planning, it's supposed to be fun. Don't stress about the small details everything always falls into place. Take all the help you can get. Don't try to be a hero and do it all yourself. Try to be easy going with your decisions because if there's something you can't get, there's always an alternative and it will be just as nice. Also, always remember to keep a permanent smile on your face. You don't know who's snapping away.

HOPES FOR THE FUTURE

We hope that one day soon we can start a family of our own and share our beautiful love story with them. We live in a condo downtown right now by the lake; we'd like to buy a house somewhere perfect to raise a family of our own. WE

WEDDING BUDGET

Flowers and Decor: \$18,000

Fancyfaceinc makeup for Bride, MOB and MOH incl trial: \$750



On a budget? — here's how to cut costs, and still have a wonderful wedding

For most couples planning a wedding, there is an endless list of decisions to be made all centering around one single day: the wedding day. The clothes, the décor, and even the music all serve one day and one day only. For many, the thought of spending so much money on a single day of their lives can be daunting. Instead of making purchases that essentially expire after the big day has come to an end, make choices that will serve a purpose throughout your relationship. Here are five tips not only to help you save money on your wedding day, but also allow you to continue enjoying these choices well into your new life as a married couple.

Choose a non-traditional wedding venue. The bulk of a wedding budget tends to go toward venue costs, so planning wisely and looking outside the box can benefit you greatly. For the amount of money you might spend to rent a traditional wedding venue for an evening, you could rent a beautiful private home for an entire week. Choose a vacation rental with an appropriate setting for a ceremony, whether that be a deck overlooking a creek or a lush lawn that can sit your entire guest list.

By holding the ceremony at a private residence, you get to extend the wedding day into a wedding week and give yourself time to relax and enjoy the experience. You also have the option of revisiting the home for holidays and anniversaries for years to come, creating more

memories at your wedding venue. Be sure to check with your rental company to ensure the home you choose allows parties, as some may require a larger deposit. Simplify your bar menu. Instead of offering a fully stocked bar to your guests, limit the options to a few key choices that will wow everyone. While it is tempting to supply your guests with plenty of options, the truth is that most people gravitate toward the same few drinks.

Offering one brand of wine in both a red and a white, one brand of beer in a light and a heavy version, in addition to a signature cocktail, will satisfy all of your guests, without spending a ton of money on unnecessary options. Your weddingspecific cocktail can be recreated to celebrate future anniversaries as a way to remember your big day.

Decorate with the future in mind. Instead of spending your entire decorating budget on items that will only serve you on your wedding day, choose decor that can be reused or repurposed in your everyday life. Whether you want to choose specific wedding colors or a general wedding theme, keep your home and personal tastes in mind so the items can easily transition into your household once your wedding day has come to an end. Candles, centerpieces, and photos can all help make your home look beautiful while also being a constant reminder of your wonderful day.

Create a menu that represents you, as a couple. One of the biggest complaints wedding guests have is mediocre food. Forgo the traditional steak or chicken, and choose a menu full of your favorite dishes. Choosing food that you love,

whether it be buffalo wings, a clambake, or an array of pastas, will ensure that your guests are comfortable and satisfied, while saving substantial money.

If your favorite dishes seem too casual for a wedding, spice them up with elegant ingredients, while keeping the basics in tact. Add spicy arugula to delicious burgers, gourmet cheeses to flatbread pizzas, or local barbecue sauces to grilled meats. For years to come, these favorite recipes will provide a delicious reminder of your exciting wedding day.

Skip the DJ and create a digital playlist. Weddings tend to have the same generic playlists built on radio hits and dance numbers. By creating your own playlist, you not only get to customize the music and create a personalized mood for your entire day, but you also get to listen to your playlist for years to come. Choose songs that are meaningful to you, flow together, and set the stage for the different moods of the day.

You need music that will play as guests arrive, a different playlist for the actual ceremony, and then something with a little more energy following the vows. A simple mp3 player or laptop and a set of speakers is all you need to bring your

When the festivities have come to an end and the guests have all gone home, a newly married couple doesn't need to be left with mere memories. Many aspects of your wedding can be brought into your married home, as continuing reminders of a day filled with love. Let your wedding day begin a marriage filled with traditions and excitement, and a little less pressure on the pocket book. WE











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Was sach other, as well as bein

How to strengthen the marriage bonds

Every couple dreams of walking up the aisle into marital bliss. They picture growing old together, sitting in rocking chairs side-by-side on the front porch. There is an underlying assumption that if you are in love on your wedding day, you're still going to be on your 50th wedding anniversary. We all want to believe in living happily ever after, but the reality is many of us simply don't know what it takes to make that dream come true. Is there a way to predict how likely your relationship is to last? According to two research scientists from the University of Washington, it is possible to measure a couple's compatibility.

Based on the research of Sybil Carrere, PhD, and Kim Buehlman, their system had an accuracy level of 87% for rating the long-term viability of newlyweds' relationships. During sixty-minute interviews with couples they looked at many factors, including the couple's relationship so far, each person's expectations for the marriage and how their parent's marriages/relationships stacked up against their own.

Counselors gathered information about the courtship period, the engagement period, the wedding day and the highs and lows of the marriage so far. By examining how the husband and wife answer the questions, rather than the actual answers, patterns begin to emerge and they are able to measure a couple's bond.

Carrere and Buehlman found that couples really need to focus on how they communicate with each other, and it's especially important to examine that dynamic during disagreements. In marriages with a stable base, wives and husbands were more positive right from the start when talking about problems. When the going got tough, the partners with a strong marital bond got talking in a way that avoided escalation into highly destructive arguments.

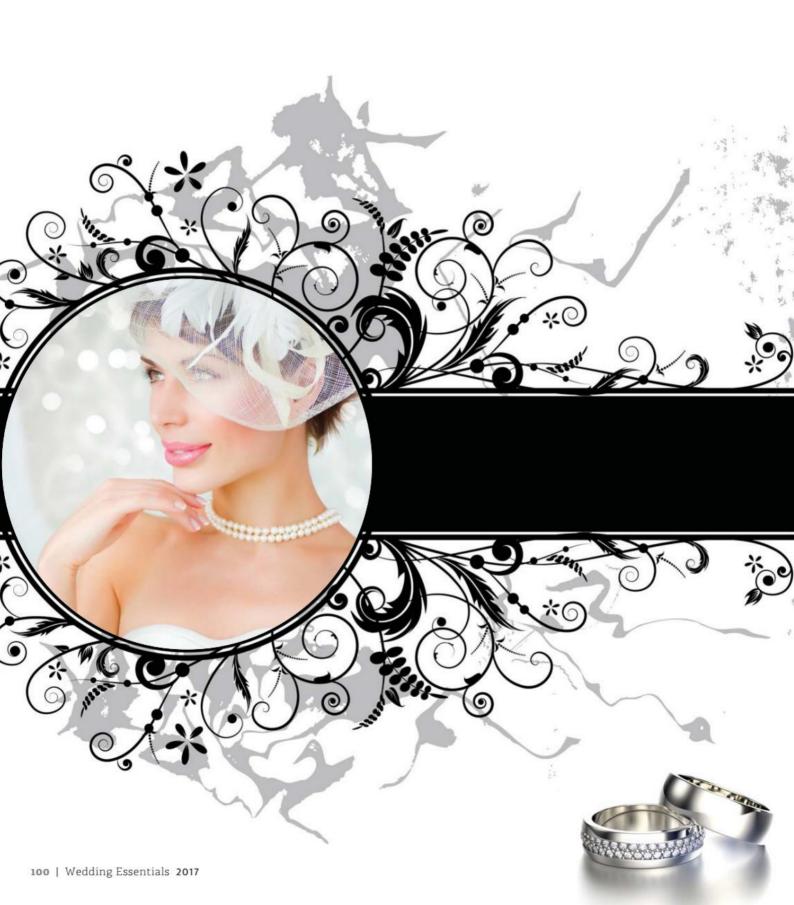
Truly liking each other, as well as being in love, results in couples being highly attuned to one another's wants and needs, so much so that the happiest partners echo each other's thoughts. Unhappy couples on the other hand, showed little respect for one another and focused on negative things to say about the relationship and each other.

In the midst of all the preparations for your wedding, and for living happily ever after, it is vitally important that you both take a long hard look at your relationship. How strong is your current bond? What can you both do to forge an even more powerful one so that growing happily old together can become a reality?

For starters, each of you should grab a pencil and separately take the relationship quiz below. After you've scored your answers, both of you will undoubtedly have many thoughts about the questions asked and how each of you answered them. Sit down together and take some time to explore your responses. Let the discussion begin; talking is a great way to begin strengthening your bond. WE

What are our chances for living happily ever after? Answer 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree) to each question.

00000000000000 LOVE AND RESPECT: 3 5 a) I am very fond of my partner b) I enjoy spending my free time with my partner 3 5 5 c) I respect my partner 5 d) My partner is my best friend 5 e) I see our relationship as in my control WHEN TALKING ABOUT OUR RELATIONSHIP: 2 3 5 a) I use terms like "we" and "us" instead of "I" b) I recall positive experiences and memories 3 5 3 c) I finish his/her sentences 5 d) We compromise rather than argue 2 3 5 5 e) My partner makes me feel loved COMMUNICATION: a) I often express my love verbally 5 2 b) When criticized, I don't react defensively 3 5 c) We agree on big issues such as money d) During arguments I don't lose my temper 3 5 2 5 e) I don't sulk if I "lose" a disagreement 3 IF YOUR TOTAL SCORE IS: 15-29: That ringing you hear is from alarm bells, not from the wedding variety! You have some serious work to do on your relationship to deal with some major issues. There are excellent counselors out there; find one before that walk down the aisle. 30-44: Lots of room for improvement here. Consider pre-wedding counseling to help you work through the problem areas in your relationship. There's communication going on all right, but not necessarily all of the right kind. You need to learn how to listen to each other and how to talk with each other constructively. 31-60: Your communication skills are quite highly developed. Your bond is strong and you find your relationship happy and satisfying. There are a few areas though that would benefit from more attention to showing each other caring and consideration when working through life's rough patches. 61-75: Communication bliss! You are highly sensitive to each other's needs and desires. The key now is to keep up the good work - keep on treating one another with respect and consideration. Now, what kind of rocking chairs were you thinking of buying for that front porch?





Dewellery Trends

BY JACOB BENDAYAN

Classic or trendy? That's a basic choice that many brides face with regard to the kind of jewellery to wear for that most important and special day. From the engagement ring to the earrings, the styles and fashions are both numerous and breathtaking... so have fun choosing. Below are some of the latest trends.

The most popular ring is still the classic solitaire diamond ring with a single diamond in the center. Current trends are towards coloured diamonds and other gems as well as modern cuts and settings. Diamonds, diamonds and diamonds again! Sparkle & shine on your wedding with this breathtakingly beautiful engagement ring. The halo engagement is the up-to-the-minute look (seen above). Another beautiful look is a halo as a matching engagement ring and

wedding band. Matching sets are very popular today! Want some colour? The coloured stone engagement ring is gathering a lot of attention lately.

The next item in line is the all-important wedding band. The round wedding band is a sign of eternity — that your partner's love will last forever. The classic yellow gold band is still popular but there has been a strong trend to more sophisticated cuts and the use of diamonds galore. The image on the left depicts a white gold diamond encrusted men's and women's set. A matching set gives the special moment that enhanced feeling of unity and commitment.

Can't forget those earrings and necklaces. The main thing is to be consistent and to make sure that they go well with the wedding dress and rings. A pair of pearl and diamond earrings for the bride is always a classic, yet still ultra-modern. Add a beautiful matching

necklace for an ultra-modern look that still gives that touch of grace and elegance.

Remember, the main thing is to make the moment as special as you can while minimizing any stress in the process. That takes a bit of planning and communication. So, if it's important to you that you both exchange, complementary and matching wedding bands at the ceremony, then talk to him about the idea of wearing bands that come from a prepared set. It's the same if you want a stylish engagement ring to match your future wedding band. Beautiful contemporary sets exist.

Jacob Bendayan is a Jewellery design expert who is the President of Flica Inc., a leading Canadian designer and manufacturer of wedding bands, engagement rings and other fine Jewellery. Jacob can be reached at Jacob@Flica.com.



Food options you may not have thought of yet

Modernize your reception with wedding food ideas you never considered!

BY AUDREY NORMAN

If you were to ask most people why they love going to weddings, undoubtedly a top response would be the cuisine. Of course, your friends and family want to watch you join your life with your soulmate, best friend and main squeeze, but they also want to indulge in a free meal that tickles their taste buds, so don't disappoint. The days of serving dry chicken breasts with boring veggies are long gone, thankfully, so serve whatever strikes your fancy.

Take a look at some of these wedding food ideas to help get the wheels of inspiration turning.

WEDDING FINGER FOOD IDEAS

Most couples are now opting to have a cocktail hour during their weddings. This gives the bride and groom, as well as the entire wedding party, the opportunity to take some photos and relax before boogieing the night away. If this is your plan, consider:

- 1. Oyster bars can be so much fun. Imagine your guests watching the chef shuck fresh oysters and serving them au naturel or throwing a few on the grill. The room will sizzle with excitement and anticipation. Everyone can jazz up their own bite sized treat with fresh lemon juice, Tabasco sauce or just a little sea salt. Do not forget to supply some crackers as well. Yum, right?
- A classic finger food everyone can enjoy is devilled eggs. This menu item has become a popular trend for daytime weddings but it can work for an evening one too. Plus, there are a lot of ways to spin this traditional snack. Add bacon or olives to change it up a bit or keep it simple with a little mayo, mustard and paprika.

- 3. Wedding food ideas on a budget are not impossible. Keep it cost effective but classy with the vegetable shooter option. Slice up your favorite veggies like celery, carrots, cucumbers or bell peppers, place them in a shot glass with a little ranch and ta-daa!, a light snack that will tide your guests over until the main meal is served.
- 4. No one has ever refused a slice of pizza and your wedding will not be any different. Think about serving mini pizza bites. You can really go crazy with this idea by using unexpected ingredients. Try a white sauce instead of red, artichoke hearts instead of pepperoni or ricotta cheese over mozzarella. The heavenly bites will disappear in seconds.

WEDDING RECEPTION FOOD IDEAS ARE IN ABUNDANCE AROUND THE YEAR. HERE ARE A FEW UNIQUE OPTIONS FOR YOU TO CHEW ON.

- 1. Wedding food ideas centered around breakfast items are the newest trend hitting the market. Who as a kid didn't love being surprised by breakfast for dinner? Think along those same lines for your wedding day and serve bacon cups (yes, it is a real thing) filled with eggs, shredded veggies and cheese. A heartier suggestion would be a customizable breakfast sandwich. Offer the best breads you can find and as many toppings as you can get your hands on. Don't forget the neverdisappointing chicken and waffles. It's rich, savory and tasty.
- 2. Splurging on a cake that costs hundreds of dollars just isn't practical for some couples, plus, you have a sweet tooth and can't pick just one. Consider a dessert table full of decadent delicious delights like cronuts. This creation is half croissant, half doughnut and is a 100% winner every time it is served. Another yummy hit are nutmeg-dusted beignets, complete with lots of powdered sugar, of course.

- 3. Give your guests something they really weren't expecting by bringing in food from around the world. Hire a food truck instead a traditional catering service. If you are getting married country-style, consider barbecue ribs, pulled pork sandwiches and various kinds of grilled meats. Getting hitched in Markham or Vancouver and longing for Asian cuisine? A food truck serving dim sum, fresh spring rolls or a steaming bowl of pho could be just what the doctor ordered for late-night dining.
- 4. A buffet always makes sense at a wedding and so does pasta, so just combine the two. Offer a half dozen types of pasta, with the same number of sauce options. This is especially thoughtful if you have a lot of guests with special dietary restrictions. While one guest may choose the whole wheat penne pasta with spicy red sauce, another can opt for the fettuccine chicken alfredo. Complementary items would be a big salad and lots of garlic bread. Everybody wins!

WHILE HAVING THE MOST DELICIOUS FOOD FOR YOUR WEDDING is a huge part of the overall experience for quests, let's not forget that presentation is everything!! Display your tasty treats in the most appealing ways possible to further entice those in attendance to dive right in.

For example, try scattering "food stations" around the reception venue, built around giant-sized photos of various features of your life togetheryour favourite sports, activities, vacation spots you've been to, your work or hobbies, movies that are special to you both, and so on.

Or challenge friends and family members to bring along costumes of their favourite characters, and become "servers" to help everyone else dive into snack-type food-we all like to dress up! But, no food fights, please. WE

To look or not to look?

Do you believe in this old tradition—don't see the bride on her wedding day until you walk down the aisle





Traditionally, it has been considered bad luck for a bride and groom to see each other before the wedding ceremony. However, things are changing and many wedding co-ordinators now recommend a "first look."

A first look is when the bride and groom choose to see each other for the first time before the service, fully dressed and ready for their wedding. It is usually done about an hour before the ceremony and is staged by the photographer in a secluded setting, away from family and friends, to give the couple plenty of privacy to enjoy the special moment.

The groom stands in a spot where he cannot see the bride approaching. The bride is asked to walk toward him and tap him on the shoulder, and then he turns to see her as his beautiful bride for the first time. That unique moment is captured, and is often one of the most romantic photographs of the whole day.

Will a first-look moment be right for you, or will you stick with tradition and not see your beloved until you are walking up the aisle?

On your wedding day, a private first look is much more romantic than when you are surrounded by family and friends. You will both be looking fresh and the bride's makeup will not show any signs of the happy tears that will inevitably fall as you make your vows.

The first look is a precious time when you chat with each other before the service, and if you are feeling nervous, it can help you to relax. You can say much more to each other, and the groom has a chance to tell his bride how beautiful she looks. You may end up cherishing that part of the day more than any other.

Having time alone on the big day can be the most difficult thing for a bride and groom to achieve, especially with a constant stream of guests wanting your attention. Your photographer will not rush you as you spend time with the most important person in your life on your most important day. The moment will be so much more intimate than when the eyes of a hundred wedding guests are watching you.

But a first look may not be for you if you think that you seeing your spouse before the ceremony might bring you bad luck.

The entrance of the bride is one of the most emotional parts of the wedding ceremony. As the music starts and you glide up the aisle, all eyes will be on you and your dress. If you opted for a first look and have already been photographed in your gown, you may not feel or look quite the same; dust may have gathered on the hem, or your shoes may have gotten scuffed as you walked from one place to the other.

You might also want to preserve tradition and share that first glimpse with all the family and friends you have invited to the ceremony, and not deny them the chance to enjoy it with you.

If the elements have been unkind, the groom may be feeling too hot, or dampened by rain. Either way, the result will bea creased suit, which can combine with the weather to make the post-wedding pictures less than perfect. There are many benefits to having a first look on your wedding day. It is a relatively new idea, but one which is gathering favour. The wedding photographs are such an important part of the day, and will be the trigger to revisiting those happy memories for many years to come. So choose your photographer wisely, before you decide to look, or not to look! WE

Luxious Locks

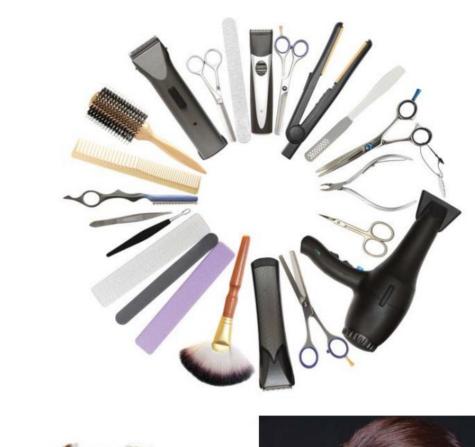
Long before you walk down the aisle in your beautiful wedding dress, you should know how you're going to wear your hair. That's the advice of beauty and wedding experts who know that something new and something different is best saved for another day.

Even if you're having a casual ceremony or you're a wash-and-wear hair person, enlisting the help of a stylist is a good idea. And as soon as you settle on the wedding date, think about how you want your wedding day to unfold and make a booking with your stylist. Perhaps the stylist can come to your home in the morning. A bridal hairstyle can take more time than usual, and the stylist needs to arrange his or her schedule too.

Several months before the wedding start discussing your hair and the styles that might work. All the experts suggest that a bride wear a hairstyle she's used to. "A bride wants to feel like herself on her wedding day," says one Toronto bridal consultant. "A beautiful yet comfortable hairstyle is the finishing touch." That's not to say you can't have a little fun. Ask your stylist about highlights or a little glamour. Sweeping hair up into a French twist might be just the right thing for you.

Your hairstyle should also fit with the overall style of the wedding. How formal is your dress? Where is the wedding? If you plan to dance the night away or if you'll be having a casual reception, having your hair swept up into a glamourous bouffant might not be the best do". Another consideration: will you be wearing a veil, hat, floral wreath or tiara? Take the headpiece with you to the stylist a few weeks before the ceremony - and practice in the salon. How will the hairstyle work with and without the headpiece? You might want to take it off during the reception.

Chemical processes, such as colouring, perming or straightening, should be completed at least two weeks before the big day. That leaves lots of time for it to settle - and for you to get used to it. Also, any problems can be corrected without racing against the clock. In the weeks and months leading up to your wedding day, take special care of your hair by not over-conditioning and using too much of anything. Wash hair with a shampoo that has been selected or recommended for you by a professional stylist, and follow with conditioner only where and if needed. Alternate shampoos regularly to avoid buildup. And don't be afraid to blow dry your hair. It actually brings up the shine of straight and wavy styles because high heat helps flatten the cuticle. Use a high hot setting and blow dry from roots to ends using a natural bristle brush. Finish on the cool air setting. WE













Reception Reference Guide

A quick chart to help you to compare Ontario's finest upscale wedding venues. All information is subject to change without notice. Some offerings may be available only on a limited, seasonal or by-request basis. Unless otherwise noted, alcohol charges, gratuities and taxes are extra.

NORTH OF TORONTO

Page	2	Guests	\$	Included In Price	Ceremony On Site	Outdoor Area	Special Menus
HATEAU I	LE JARDIN CONFERENCE	& EVENT V	ENUE				
	905.851.2200	30-1300	\$75-160	A B F I J M N, open bar, antipasto bar	No	No	F G It P
HRISTIES	MILL INN & SPA						
	1.800.465.9966	100	\$35-150	AIMBFJNRGOSUHLPT	Yes	Yes	Ca Ch G H In It Ja K P V
RANBERR	Y GOLF RESORT, LIVING	WATER RES	ORT & RESI	DENCE	-		
	705.446.3253	2-220	\$30-100	CU	Yes	Yes	Ca G In It Ja P V
PATTERSON	N-KAYE RESORT AND SPA			de la companya de la			
	705.645.4169	20-200	\$60-130	FGHIJPRU	Yes	Yes	V 0
SHARON TI	EMPLE NATIONAL HISTO	RIC SITE AN	ID MUSEUM				
	905.478.2389	0-88			YEs	Yes	Yes
тавоо ми	SKOKA						
	1.800.461.0236 Ext. 5796	20-200	\$150-250	AFGHOP	Yes	Yes	Ca F G H In II P V
THE BRIAR	S RESORT, CONFERENCE	CENTRE & S	SPA				
	905.722.3271 Ext. 2730	up to 150	\$125-135	ABCFGJNOPRSTU	Yes	Yes	Ca Ch F G H In It Ja P V O
WOODING	TON LAKE GOLF CLUB						
PAGE 13	905.936.9523 Ext. 232	60-300	\$70-125	A F G I J O P R U W	Yes	Yes	CaFGPV

SOUTHEASTERN ONTARIO

	2	Guests	\$	Included In Price	Ceremony On Site	Outdoor Area	Special Menus
DEER CREEK	GOLF & BANQUET FA	CILITY					
	905.427.7757 Ext. 300	50-540	\$75-125	ABCFG	Yes	Yes	F In H Ja V

TORONTO AND GTA

	2	Guests	\$	Included In Price	Ceremony On Site	Outdoor Area	Special Menus
ATLANTIS	416.260.8000	840-1400	\$95-110	ABFGIJNOPU	Yes	Yes	Ch G H In II K P V
CASTLEFIEL	905.851.2200	25-1100	\$79-169	A B C F G I J M N O P R S U	Yes	Yes	F G It Ja P V O
DISTILLERY	EVENTS: 416-203-2363	80-300	\$2,500-22,000	AIJNROP	Yes	Yes	Ca Ch F G In It Ja K P V O
• ARCHEO	416-203-2363			AIJNROP			Ca Ch F G In It Ja K P V O
• THE FERM	MENTING CELLAR 416-203-2363			AIJNROP			Ca Ch F G In It Ja K P V O
• THE LOFT	416-203-2363			AIJNROP			Ca Ch F G In It Ja K P V O
MARKHAM	MUSEUM 905.294.4576 Ext. 3171	50-100			Yes	Yes	We welcome all caterers.
THE EGLINT	ON GRAND 416.485.5900	240-400	\$115-126	A B F G I J N O P R S U	Yes	No	Ch G H In II K P V
THE OLD MI	LL INN AND SPA 416.236.2641	12-650	\$99-138	ABFRCOU	Yes	Yes	H It P

SPECIAL MENUS Ca — Caribbean F — French H — Halal It — Italian K — Kosher V — Vegan Ch - Chinese G - Greek In - Indian J — Jamaican P — Portuguese 0 - Other

INCLUDED IN PRICE

Q. Valet parking for two A. Dinner wine E. Wedding cake I. Late-night buffet M. Chocolate fountain U. In-house wedding co-ordinator B. Champagne toast F. Hors d'oeuvres J. Non-alcoholic punch N. Sweet table R. Late night coffee/tea V. Wedding invitations C. Chair covers G. Bridal suite K. Limousine O. Limited bar included S. Wine and fruit for bridal suite W. Centrepieces P. Tasting for two T. Breakfast H. Gift for couple D. Disc jockey L. Engagement photo

SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO

OCCITIV		01.1					
Page	28	Guests	\$	Included In Price	Ceremony On Site	Outdoor Area	Special Menus
ANCASTER MILL 905.6	548.1828	18-205	\$89-150	AIQFJNRGOUP	Yes	Yes	
BANQUET ROYALI 905.2	E LTD. 238.5335	80-250	\$69-99	ABCFGIJNOPQRUW	No	Yes	H It K P V O
PAGES 25 1.800	SPA 0.265.1711	10-120	\$39-60	N R W G U P T	Yes	Yes	Ch G It V Other-Celieac
	US STONERIDGE IN 52.6022 Ext. 575	NN & CONF 10-200	\$98-115	TRE AIMFRCGOUPT	No	Yes	V Other-Custom
CAMBRIDGE MILL 519.6	48.1828 Ext. 2	24-200	\$89-150	AIFJNRGOUP	Yes	Yes	
CARLISLE GOLF & 289.7	COUNTRY CLUB 95.0426	50-200	\$99-250	A B C F G I J N O P R S U	Yes	Yes	G H It P V
CENTURY PINES G 289.7	OLF CLUB 95.0426	50-200	\$99-250	A B C F G I J N O P R S U	Yes	Yes	G H It P V
COWAN PARK BAI 519.4	NQUET HALL 21.0030 Ext. 34	up to 375	wknd rental	0	No	Yes	
	RMOURIES HOTEL 40.5054	20-180		A I M Q B F J N R W C G O S U D P T	No	Yes	Ca F G H In It P V
	SHERATON LONDO 81.0680 Ext. 8208	N 50-500	\$30-140	A B F J N R W C G O U H P T	Yes	Yes	vo
	DLITAN OF MISSISS	AUGA 168-500	\$60-86	A B F G I J N O P R S U	Yes	Yes	Ch G H In It K P V
	N CONVENTION CE	NTRE 50-600	\$98-189	ABFGIJNOPR	Yes	Yes	Ca Ch F G H In It Ja K P V O
HESSENLAND COL 1.866	JNTRY INN .543.7736	10-180	\$57-125	ABFJRGOUPT	Yes	Yes	V Other-German
KURTZ ORCHARD 905.4	S 468.2937	100-300	\$100-200	FJNRP	Yes	Yes	Ca Ch F G H In It Ja K P V
LIONHEAD GOLF 8	& COUNTRY CLUB 155.8816	80-400	\$99-160	A B C F G H I M R	Yes	Yes	H In K V, Vegetarian
	CONFERENCE CENT 354.2277	RE 20-130	\$35-100	OUHP	Yes	Yes	
	NICIPAL GOLF COU 56.6345 Ext. 211	RSE 50-160	\$30-50	AIBFJNRCGOSUDP	Yes	Yes	It V
ROYAL NIAGARA 289.7	GOLF CLUB 95.0426	50-200	\$99-250	A B C F G I J N O P R S U	Yes	Yes	G H It P V
ROYAL ONTARIO	GOLF CLUB 195.0426	50-250	\$99-250	A B C F G I J N O P R S U	Yes	Yes	G H It P V
SPENCER'S AT TH 905.6	E WATERFRONT 533.7494 Ext 2	150	\$99-150	AIQFJNROUP	Yes	Yes	
THE STRATFORD (519.2	COUNTRY CLUB 71.4212 Ext.231	10-165	\$62-80	AWUP	No	Yes	VO
THE WINDERMER 519.8	E MANOR 58.1414 Ext. 432	80-120	\$90-100	A G O U H T	No	Yes	V Other-Custom
WESTOVER INN 519.2	84.2977		\$45.00		Yes	Yes	F
WHISTLE BEAR GO 519.6	OLF CLUB 50.2327 Ext. 2	170-440	\$79-136	AIFJNRGOU	Yes	Yes	
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me through Wedding Essentials is here to help you

with the important questions — like those related to planning a perfect wedding.

HOW WILL I GET INTO ALL THAT WEDDING DRESS WITHOUT MESSING UP MY HAIR?

Don't try to do it alone; it's best if you have help. First, put your petticoat inside your dress, making sure the waists match up. Have someone hold the dress so that the bodice flops forward. Step into the dress, rather than pulling it over your head. If you have no choice about pulling it on over your hairdo, cover your head first with a zippered had netting or a scarf.

WILL I SAVE MONEY AT THE RECEPTION IFI HAVE A BUFFET RATHER THAN A SIT-DOWN DINNER?

At first pass, you might think the buffet would save you money. The truth is, it can be just as expensive as a formal sit-down and depending on the dishes you serve - can even cost more. You will need more plates because your quests will want to make several trips to the food table. You will need just as many servers to attend the stations and to clear up the dirty dishes. And since guests serve themselves you cannot control food portions. Quite aside from the cost considerations, you should be aware that a buffet table can quickly turn into a disaster area, due to "traffic" problems.

EVEN THOUGH CHILDREN WILL BE EXCLUDED FROM MY RECEPTION, CAN I MAKE AN EXCEPTION FOR MY FAVOURITE NIECE?

If children are to be excluded, all children must be excluded, even your beloved niece. Otherwise people who have children and left them at home because they heard about your wishes will be miffed to see this youngster at the reception. If you absolutely must include a child at a no-children reception, make the child a member of the wedding party.

DO I HAVE TO GO THROUGH THAT **EMBARRASSING GARTER TOSS RITUAL?**

This is a throwback to a time when the bride's underclothes were ripped off in order to hasten the consummation of the marriage. The garter tradition is dying but unfortunately not fast enough. According to tradition, the man who catches the thrown garter is the one who will marry next. If the men want to find out who next will make the trip to the altar, they should crowd in with the women and try to catch the bouquet.

WITH THE PARENTS ON BOTH SIDES BITTERLY DIVORCED, HOW CAN WE POSSIBLY SEAT EVERYBODY AMICABLY?

Don't even try. The traditional wedding reception is not for you. Try to find a creative alternative. Perhaps you need to consider a pre-wedding party in advance of the wedding to which you can invite one side of your family and one side of your spouse's. At the actual wedding invite the other side of each family. Some noses will be out of joint, of course, but you won't have the disaster you will experience if you invite warring parties to the same event.

IF MY PARENTS ARE PAYING FOR THE WEDDING, MUST I LET THEM TAKE OVER THE GUEST LIST?

If you want their money, you must accept their terms.

MUST I TAKE MY FIANCÉ'S UNPRONOUNCEABLE SURNAME WHEN WE MARRY?

You are not legally required to. In choosing what to do, consider your professional status, the ease of spelling and pronouncing the new name, the feelings your parents have about retaining your maiden name, tradition, children and social ease. If you want, you can keep on using your maiden name or just use it professionally. If you decide to use both names and hyphenate, the custom is to use your surname first, his second. In social situations you would use his surname. If you want to be really radical, suggest that you both take your surname. It's not common but it's perfectly legal.

IS IT OKAY TO USE TABLE NUMBERS AT MY RECEPTION?

Table numbers can make the event look like a Board of Trade lunch. It's not the numbers so much; it's those sterile chrome stands. A better idea is to put the numbers in little frames. Or paint them on leaves for positioning in the middle of the center piece. Or avoid numbers altogether and use animal names like "fox" or flower names like "tulip." If you do decide to use table numbers, put the odd numbers on one side of the room and even numbers on the other. It makes it easier for people to find their places.

FOR MY SECOND MARRIAGE IS IT ACCEPTABLE TO HAVE A TRADITIONAL WEDDING WITH ALL THE TRAPPINGS?

There's no reason why you can't. However, some brides like to do the reverse of their first wedding. If the first one was formal, they make the second one small and casual. If the first one was small, they might want to go all out for the second one. Whatever you decide to do, make sure you do it with taste.

MUST I HAVE AS A BRIDESMAID A FRIEND FOR WHOM I WAS A BRIDESMAID AT THEIR WEDDING?

Not at all. However, it might be difficult to avoid hurt feelings. One solution is to ask your mother or father to be your best person. Another is to have the wedding party made up entirely of children. Still another is to appoint only siblings. WE

ave a question you would like have answered

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