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Hedding

5 A Perfect Day -Planning Calendar

9 Creating the Perfect Wedding Timeline

> 10 Preparation Budget List

12 Engagement Parties

13
Wedding Shower
— the Invites,
the Shower and
the Registry

14 Wedding Planners Relieve Stress

> 16 Wedding Invitations

18 Choosing Invitations Worksheet

20 Don't Stress the Dress

Gown Trends

24 Preserving Your Gown

The Bride's Attire

31

Mother of the Bride and Mother of the Groom Attire

> 32 Hair Trends

33 Makeup Trends

34 Groom and Groomsmen Attire

> 36 Tuxedos

37 The Groom's Calendar

38 The Dress Code For Guests

40 Rehearsal Dinner Tips

41 Rehearsal Dinner Guest List

42 Bachelor and Bachelorette Parties

45 Floral Trends

46
Love Blooms —
Tips for Beautiful
Blossoms

47 The Floral Plan Worksheet 48

To Make and to Hold — Personalized Wedding Flowers

> 49 Flower Tips

50 Photography Tips

> 51 Photography Checklist

52 Ceremony Location

54 Wedding Party Roles

56
The Little Things
— Ceremony
Touches and
Traditions

58 Romantic Rituals

> 60 Interfaith Weddings

61 Eco-Friendly Weddings

62
The Second
Engagement and
Wedding

63 Include Your Pet 64

Local Destination Weddings

66
View to a Venue
— Picking the
Perfect Place for
the Reception

68 Reception Creativity

72 The Signature Cocktail

73
Wedding Music
— The List of
Special Music
Moments

74 Wedding Music Worksheet

> 75 Dance With Confidence

76 Trends in Wedding Cakes

78 Wedding Cake Plan Worksheet

79 Tipping Your Wedding Vendors

> 80 Catering

82
Creative Catering
Can Be
Money-Saving

83

The Menu

84 Toasts and Speeches

85 Wedding Day Packing List

86 Honeymoon Tips

> 88 Honeymoon Planning Worksheet

89 Honeymoon Packing List

90 The Wedding Registry

91
Unconventional
Gift Registries

92 Making it Official

> 93 Guest List

97 Gifts and Thank You Notes

99 2017 Planning Calendar

101 Business Directory



ON THE COVER

Maggie Sottero wedding gown
photo provided by

Shirley's Fashion Boutique

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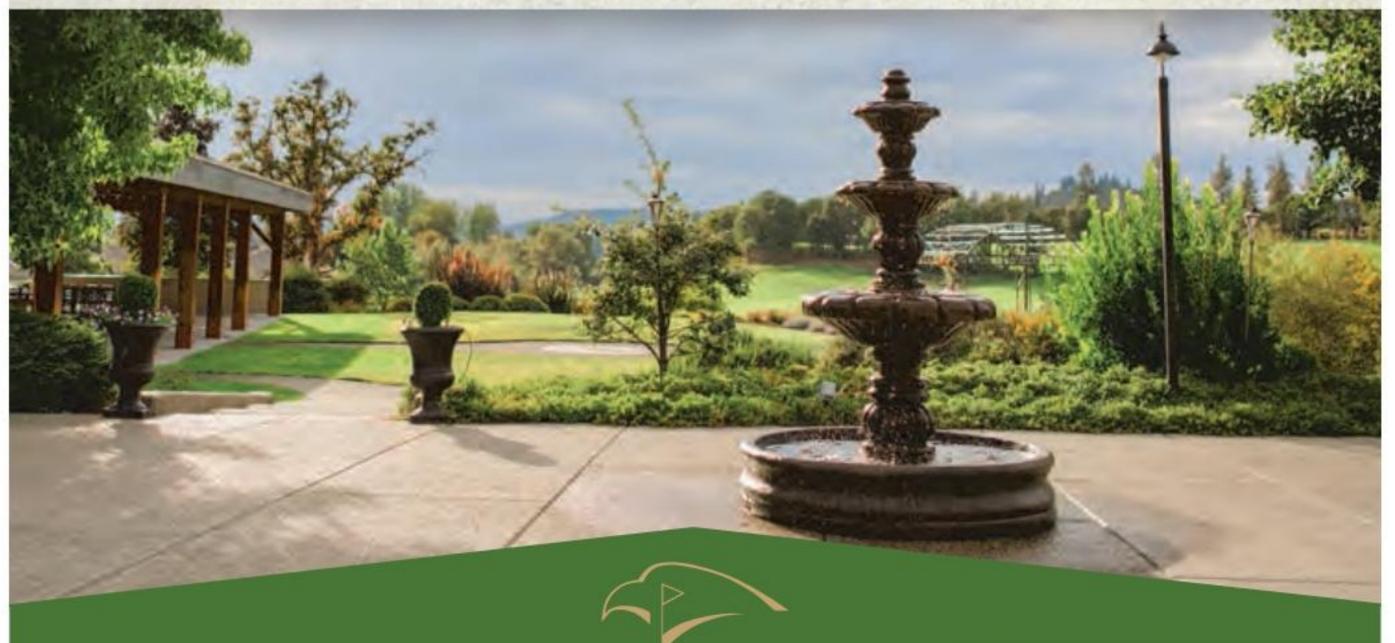
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For more information or to get a copy of the 2017 Wedding Planner contact Athena Fliegel at 541.776.4385 or email afliegel@mailtribune.com





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A Perfect Day

inally! The moment you have dreamed of your entire life: the man of your dreams has popped the question and you said YES! Now you can begin planning the wedding you've always wanted.

What better way to celebrate your love and commitment to your partner than a beautiful wedding? Of course, there is plenty of work that must go into planning a wedding. But don't fret! It's your wedding, which means you and your groom choose how large or small it is. Don't feel pressured to have a huge, over-the-top wedding if it's not in your budget, or if you just aren't a fan of that.

Smaller, more intimate weddings can be just as lovely; it's all in the planning. First of all, take a moment to imagine your wedding ceremony. Brainstorm about how you'd like your reception to be. Think about the things you want to include to make your big day truly special to you and unique to your guests. Once you have mentally envisioned an ideal wedding and reception, the next step is to take action!

Here is a timeline checklist to help you take care of business in the months, weeks and days leading up to your big day.



Set the date

If you plan to be married in a church, temple, mosque or in a religious service at home, clear the day and time with your clergy.

Announce your engagement

Place your engagement announcement in the Mail Tribune and Ashland Daily Tidings.

Set the budget and style

For the wedding, reception and weddingrelated parties. Decide who pays for what.

Enlist help

Consider hiring a bridal consultant. If your budget won't stretch that far, ask relatives and close friends to assist you in specific tasks — selecting a dress, interviewing caterers, locating a reception site — especially in areas where you feel you need support.

Compose your guest list

Let out-of-town guests know your wedding is in the works so they can make travel plans.

Reserve your reception site

Choose your attendants

Who will be the maid of honor, best man, attendants?

Decide on attire

Select your wedding gown, shoes and accessories, as well as bridesmaids' dresses, tuxes, flower girl dresses

Determine the theme or mood

This is established with the food, table settings, flowers and entertainment

Interview vendors

Meet with vendors, such as caterers, musicians, florists, photographers, videographers and bakers. Get cost estimates from each.



- Choose your caterer Remember to get a written contract.
- Choose your musician(s)
- Book your photographer or videographer
- Select a baker and order the cake
- Choose your florist

- Decide your color scheme
- Shop for wedding rings
- Decide on your honeymoon destination
- Select your wedding invitations Don't forget to purchase personal stationary for the thank-you notes.



- Register for gifts at one or more bridal registries
- Help both mothers to coordinate and shop for their wedding-day attire

- Select music for your ceremony and reception
- Choose readings for your wedding and write your wedding vows
- Plan and reserve a location for the rehearsal
- Arrange hotel accommodations for out-of-town wedding party members

Reserve a block of rooms for other out-of-town guests, and let them know the rooms are available.

- Reserve your wedding-day transportation and any other wedding-day rental needs
- Make appointments for gown fittings







- Design Concepts
- Inspiration Idea Boards
- Planning and Managing Logistics
- Creating the Perfect Atmosphere

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- Check the requirements for a marriage license
- Make sure contracts and arrangements are complete with all of your service providers



- Carefully prepare directions
 Including drawn maps, if necessary,
 to help guide guests to the wedding
 reception and to hotels. Consider
 assembling an information package for
 guests traveling a long distance.
- Begin addressing invitations and announcements
 Invitations should be mailed 6-8 weeks before the wedding.
- Give the caterer or food vendors an estimate on the number of guests expected at the wedding
- Make sure all reservations are in place for honeymoon travel

- Check with bridesmaids to make sure they have their gowns and are getting them adjusted
- Offer to help your fiancé select gifts for his attendants.
- Select your "going away" outfit and special items for your trousseau
- Make a date with your photographer for any formal portraits you desire
- Make an appointment to have your hair done just before your portrait session and again on your wedding day

Consider including your bridesmaids in a "day of beauty" before your wedding with manicures, hair styling, massages and makeup sessions.



- Mail out your wedding invitations and announcements
- Have bridal portraits taken
- Send bridal portrait and wedding announcement to newspapers
- Finalize the music that will be played during your wedding ceremony
- Meet with musicians to orchestrate precisely what you want and when. Don't be shy to voice your preferences, down to the volume, favorite songs you'd like to hear or even songs you don't want played.
- Plan your rehearsal dinner and a brunch for out-of-town guests to enjoy on the day following your wedding.
- Plan a luncheon for bridesmaids
- Make appointments: hairdresser, makeup artist and manicurist
- Finalize honeymoon plans

 If you are traveling overseas, check
 again that your passports are current
 and that you have any necessary visas.
- Gather necessary birth or baptismal certificates you may need for your marriage license





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- Get your marriage license
- Have final fitting of your gown
- Make sure attendants have their attire
- Check that your menu selections and service plans are locked in place with the caterer
- Purchase a special book to keep track of wedding gifts as they arrive
- Write those thank-you notes on a daily basis!
- Draw up a seating plan and make place cards if you're having a formal dinner reception
- Check with your florist to confirm dates and times of flower deliveries

- Review your wedding-day
 transportation plans and make sure
 drivers are clear about addresses, times
 and the number of passengers.
- Plan to change name or address on documents including driver's license, social security forms and financial accounts. Fill out change-of-address forms at the post office.
- Meet with your photographer
 Specify the formal shots you want
 taken of the bridal party as well as
 specific candid shots you'd like taken
 during the reception.



- Keep writing thank-you notes for gifts!
- Pick up wedding rings
- Begin packing for your honeymoon

- Touch base with all your vendors, and prepare a check to give them as agreed
- Ask a friend or family member to arrange for wedding gifts to be delivered to your home or another safe spot after your reception
- Wrap gifts for bridal attendants and have them ready for the rehearsal dinner
- Purchase travelers' checks and reconfirm honeymoon travel and hotel plans
- Inform your caterer of the final number of guests. Confirm that out-of-town guests are set with hotel accommodations, transportation and wedding-day directions.



- Relax: take time to enjoy a massage, manicure and pedicure.
- Rehearsal ceremony and rehearsal dinner









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edding timelines can be confusing when you've never done one — even if you've attended a lot of wedding days you probably haven't paid much attention to how long each individual aspect lasted. The best way to keep your wedding day moving and on schedule is to work it out ahead of time. Below is a worksheet you can use to estimate and schedule each event of your big day.

TIME	EVENT	SAMPLE TIMELINE
		9:30am — Makeup & hair
27 <u>-</u> 27		10:00am — Getting ready photos start
10 		10:00am — Setup starts / vendors arrive
		10:30am — Couple's portraits
\$ <u> </u>		11:15am — Family picture time
20.		11:30am — Guests start arriving
·		1:30pm — Time on the invitations
0) 		2:00pm — Wedding ceremony begins
7/2 		2:30pm — Ceremony ends
<u> </u>		2:40pm — Social hour / family photos
-		3:30pm — Lunch service begins
		4:00pm — Toasts
15 <u> </u>		4:30pm — First dance
<u></u>		6:00pm — Cutting the cake
<u> </u>		7:15pm — Couple departs
76 <u></u> 5		7:30pm — Guests depart
		7:30pm — Breakdown begins
·		8:30pm — All vendors out
88 <u></u>		



			adget List
Bride		Groom	
Wedding Date		Wedding Location	
Number of Guests		Number in Weddir	ng
Gown & Alteration Headpiece & Veil Lingerie Bridal Accessories Hair and Makeup Groom's Tuxedo Groom's Accessories	Budget Actual	Budget Actual	Stationery Save-The-Date Invitations Programs Place Cards Thank-Yous Postage Miscellaneous
Miscellaneous Ceremony Venue Fee Officiant Fee Marriage License Rings			Reception Venue Catering Beverages Cake Rentals Services
Bride Groom Entertainment			Transportation Bride & Groom Wedding Party Out-Of-Town Guests
Ceremony Music Reception Entertainment Equipment Rental Flowers/Decor			Gifts/Favors Guest Favors Wedding Party Gifts Other Gifts
Flowers for Ceremony Reception Decorations Lighting Miscellaneous			After Hours Wedding Night Honeymoon
Photo /Video Photography Video			Extras
Total			Total
	Grand Total:	Budget Actual	







ngagement parties are held two to four months after the engagement. If your engagement is going to be a short one, do not have an engagement party. Instead, let your friends know, send save-the-date cards for the wedding, and plan for that wonderful day.

If your engagement is long, you have an opportunity to introduce your future in-laws, family members, and friends - everyone gets to know each other. The party can be backyard casual, a meal at a favorite or sentimental restaurant, or a more formal affair at the club. The good news is the choice is yours — no worries about etiquette, invite the people you love, who love you right back. The party should reflect the style of the bride and groom.

The hosts of the party are the bride's parents, the groom's parents, a combination of the two, a family friend, or the bride and groom host and throw this soiree for themselves. Only invite people you are inviting to the wedding.

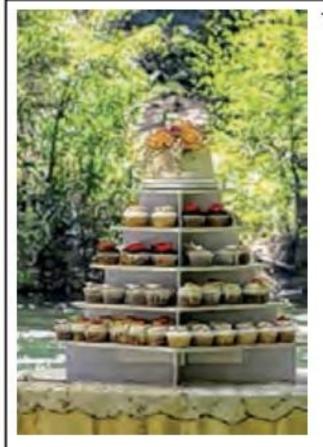
Your venue will set the tone for everything: invitations, food and décor. The number of guests will determine the expense. Decide who will attend (the number of people will help determine your party location) and then reserve a space that can accommodate everyone. Make that reservation at least a month prior to the party, then decide on a menu, drinks and timeframe.

If you're having a backyard barbecue, everything from the invitations to food and décor will be casual and personal. You can play organized games, have music, dance, talk, get to know each other. If you're having a brunch, think about having a golf time for the guys, and perhaps a spa day for the women — just make sure everyone gets a chance to mingle at breakfast. Maybe you want a dessert party - everything you do sets the tone and the theme. If you're at a restaurant, order a menu in advance that accommo-

dates all tastes and decide what wine pairs with these foods (beer and soft drinks should also be available.) Doing this in advance keeps your costs in line. The invites can reflect the restaurant - perhaps it's where you met or a favorite spot you frequent, perhaps it reflects your ethnicity - this sets the tone for your invitations. Consider a cocktail hour for restaurants so people have time to mingle before sitting down to a good meal. For a formal party at a country club or other upscale location, match the invites to the food and make it grand with a cocktail hour, musicians or a DJ, dancing and a fine dinner.

While some parties are theme-based, one of the nicest and most meaningful moments in an engagement party is to have a compilation of home movies, slides, or photos of the bride and groom from babyhood to adulthood. Make sure that toasts to the couple are prepared. Start the toasts about two-thirds of the way into the event. If friends are the hosts, they make the first toast. If the parents are the hosts, the father of the bride goes first, then the father of the groom goes next. After that, anyone can toast and roast the happy couple. Make sure you have champagne flutes and plenty of bubbly for all the toasts to come.

At the end of the party, be sure to thank the hosts and guests.



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— The Invitations, the Shower, and the Registry

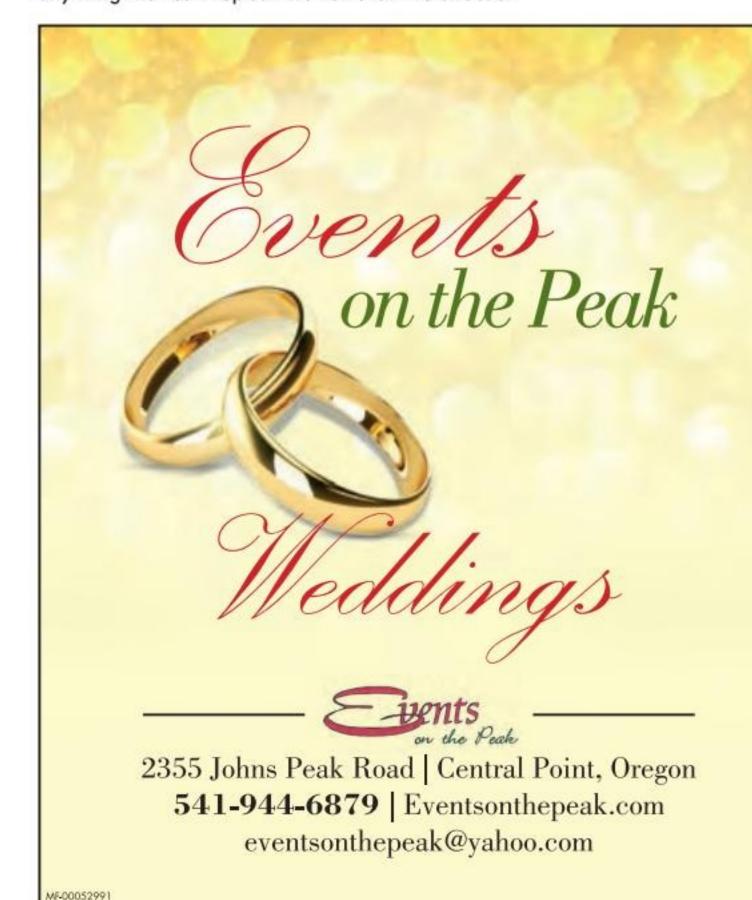
ou're throwing a shower for your best friend the bride. Her wedding day is right around the corner, so you need to decide on a theme, a location and an invitation that sets the tone for your special friend. A cool, funny, sentimental shower invitation gets the party started, it tells the attendees what to expect, and reflects your friend's style; modern, hip or traditional. You can shop locally at a fine print shop or stationary store, you can order great designs online, or you can send e-vites. There are so many great-looking and fun options you'll have trouble deciding.

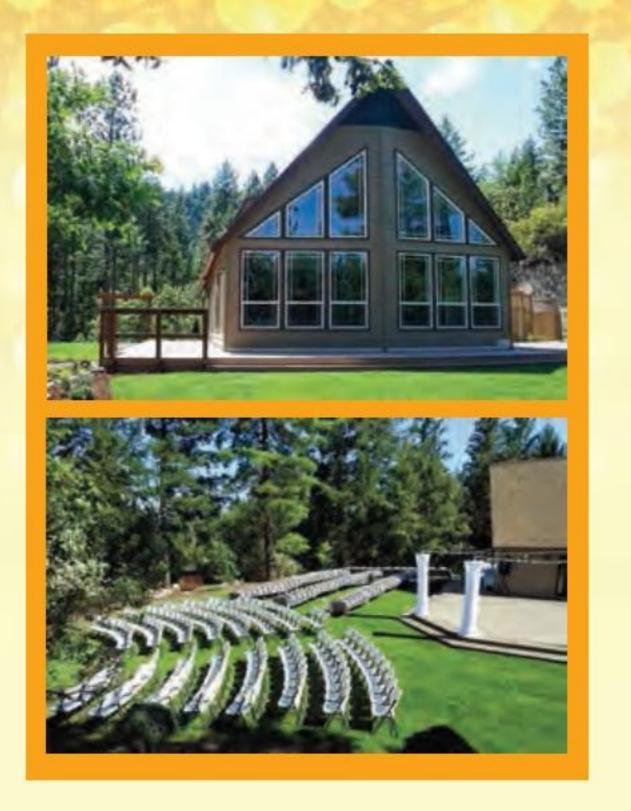
Once you've ordered the invitations, order additional items that continue the theme that match the style you've set. For example, napkins, plates, signs, tablecloths, favors, anything that can repeat the tone of the shower.

Make sure you have a list of the stores and boutiques where the bride and groom are registered. It is considered acceptable to put the list in the invitation. If the bride is registered with an untraditional concept (travel, charity or fund), make sure you put that in the invite.

Have fun with this — it is a special time in your friend's life...these are the memories you create that carry that friendship to the future.







Wedding Planners relieve stress



s the bride, you want to take special care and linger over your hair and makeup on your wedding day, but instead you are decorating the reception hall dressed in sweats and a ponytail.

Not what you always pictured? What you need is a wedding planner.

Wedding planners are experts in the details and schedules involved in weddings. These coordinators can help plan the vision from the beginning, get you started, or take responsibility for a smooth event on the big day. They have contacts with other service providers, and they should be familiar with costs and current trends.

When to Hire a Planner

TIME-WISE:

Optimally, a wedding planner should be the first service to book when brides actively begin planning a wedding, even if that is a year or more in advance. However, planners can work with short turnaround too. Some brides may want to do much of the legwork themselves and only have the planner actively involved in the last few weeks before the wedding.

MENTAL HEALTH-WISE:

Planning a wedding is stressful and emotional, with dozens of decisions to make. Brides with full-time careers may want to hire out some of that stress. Also, indecisive brides who aren't sure how to bring their ideas to fruition may want assistance. Wedding planners are enthusiastic supporters, sympathetic listeners and a neutral person when clashes of opinion occur with relatives or bridal party members.

How to Pick a Planner

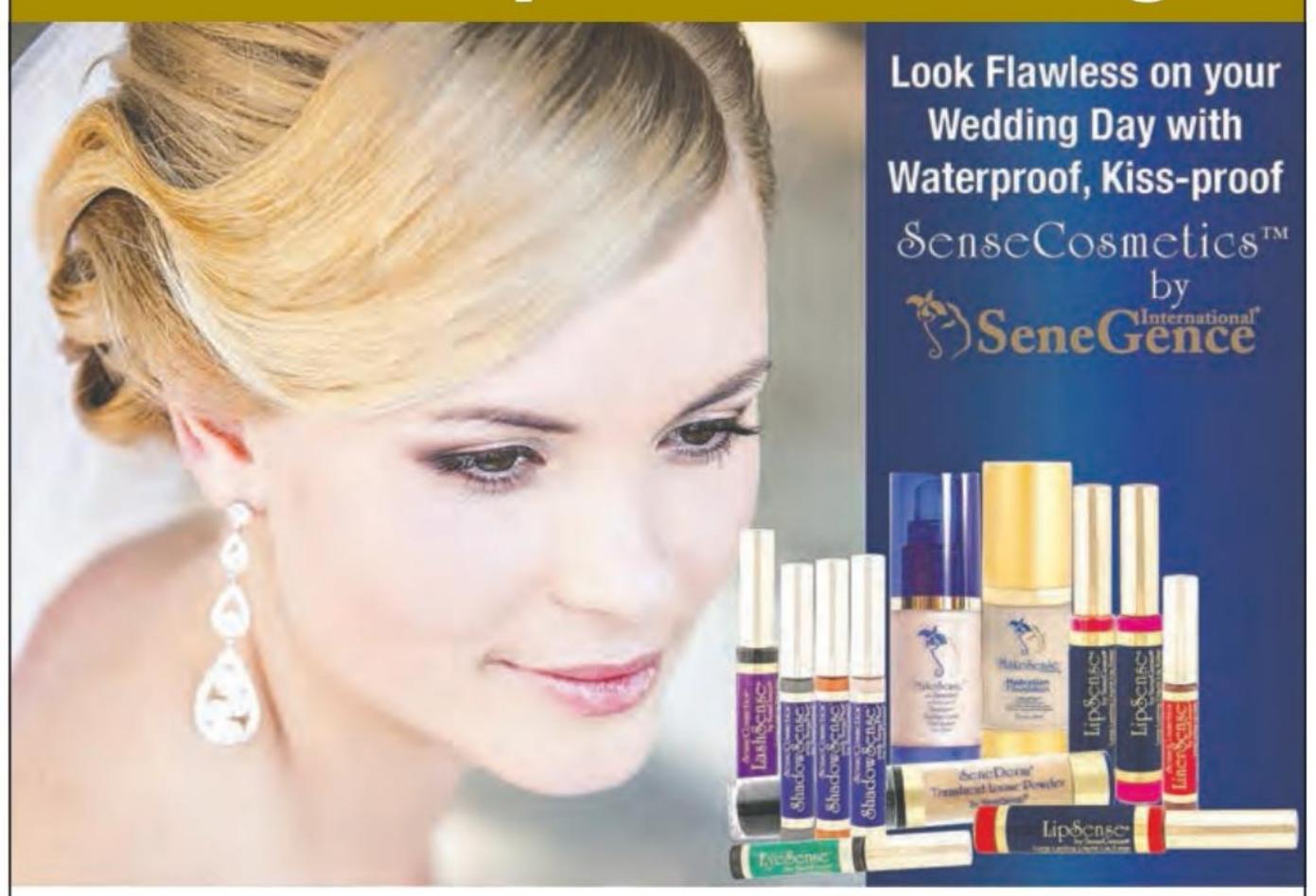
- There is no official qualification to become a wedding planner.
- Reputation is key. Other than personal references, planners can hold memberships in organizations that require a credible reputation to join, such as the Better Business Bureau or Angie's List.
- Experience is the most valuable credential for an event planner.
- Planners must be extremely organized, coping with many stressful situations with a calm exterior.
- Ultimately, it's about rapport and trust. The most important question to answer is whether you can work cohesively and intimately with this individual on one of the most memorable events of your life.

What Tasks a Planner Tackles

Approaches and prices vary by wedding expert. Planners may charge a percentage of the total wedding budget, by the hour, or offer packages for different services. One of the most popular coordination packages is for the professional to take charge the last four to eight weeks before the wedding, allowing the bride to focus on pre-wedding festivities. Here are some of the services most planners offer:

- Provide ongoing consultation for all things wedding
- Develop a customized budget plan
- Provide a schedule and month-to-month planning checklist
- Assist with vendor selection, providing a list of suitable and reputable vendors as needed
- Accompany bride to vendor meetings and review contracts
- Coordinate all vendors in advance and on the day of the wedding
- Assist with selecting the design/style of the wedding and/or reception
- Be a resource on wedding etiquette and traditions
- Direct attendants, rehearsals, processionals, recessionals and receiving lines
- Coordinate wedding day decorating, vendor deliveries and services, ceremony and reception
- Ensure all post-event tasks are taken care of after the couple leaves — gifts secured, rentals returned, gratuities paid

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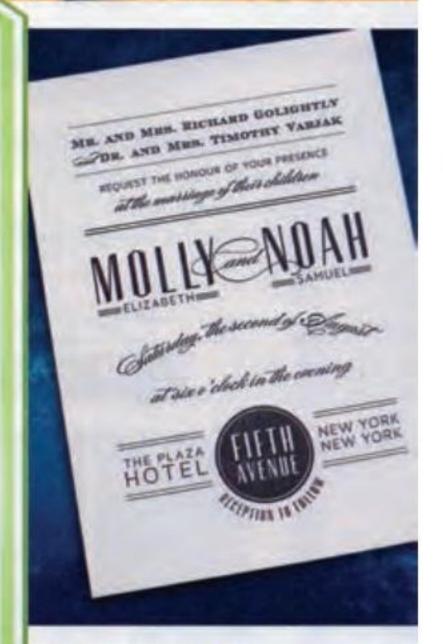




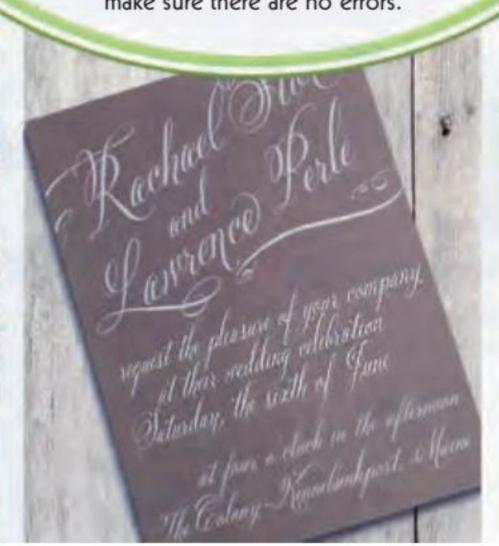




The wedding invitations you select will be the first impression your guests have of your big day. These personalized notes should reflect the tone of the wedding, as well as provide vital information about the ceremony and reception. It is also important to include any special requests or requirements for those planning to attend the event. Prior to ordering the invitations, it is important to already know your wedding colors or theme, and have an idea of what type of event you plan to host. It is also wise to stop by the post office to weigh a sample invitation before placing a final order. This will help you to better estimate postage costs. Once you are ready to order the invitations, be sure you check the invtation for accuracy. Ask more than one person to look over it with you to make sure there are no errors.











Choosing Invitations

OPTION 1

Invitation shop
Contact
Address
Phone
Price
Date ordered
Arrival date
Style
Ink color
Paper color
Quantity
Price
OPTION 2 Invitation shop
Contact
Address
Phone
Price
Date ordered
Arrival date
Style
Ink color
Paper color
raper color







Don't stress the Wress

Brides fit fitness into their wedding plans

TEXT BY CATHLEEN COLE PHOTOS BY DAVID GIBB

he wedding day is the time when all attention is on the bride — the beautiful princess marrying her knight in shining armor — bejeweled and bedecked in a glorious gown. She wants to look her very best. How can she achieve her goal? By adding fitness training to her long wedding to-do list.

TRY ON DRESSES FOR MOTIVATION

Sometimes all it takes to get motivated to start a fitness program is trying on a few wedding dresses. Do you look a bit lumpy under that tight-fitting bodice? Do you want to go sleeveless but not until your arms are toned up? Pick the dress you love and then get to work!

STICK TO YOUR FITNESS PLAN

If sticking to a healthy diet and a fitness program is hard for you, consider getting in shape with a buddy or hire a personal trainer.

Sometimes being accountable to another person helps.

Ditch the junk food in your fridge and pantry and restock with healthful foods and snacks. It's harder to be tempted by sugary

Lauren Medina of Central Point had her eyes on the prize of being fit and gorgeous for the big day. Photo by David Gibb

and fatty foods when they are not within easy reach.

Keep a cooler filled with healthful choices in your car when you're traveling for work or pleasure to keep on track with your nutrition goals.

BRIDAL TRAIN

Many personal trainers recommend starting a fitness plan at least six months in advance of the wedding date. If the bride has more than 20 pounds to lose, she'll need more time.



Good, basic exercises include lunges, squats and kettle-bell swings.

For the arms, try tricep kickbacks where you lean over holding three-pound to five-pound weights at the chest and extend the arms back toward the rear. This exercise works the back of the arms.

With the shoulders, keep the weight light. Form and technique are everything to keep safe. Movements must be slow and precise to avoid injury.

For the midsection, reverse crunches work well. Lie flat on the floor with your

palms facing down. Lift your legs up in the air with knees bent until your butt comes off the floor.

EAT FRESH ALL DAY

Forget three square meals a day, most trainers advise. Eat five to six small meals a day from the time you first wake up and then every two to three hours. The meals should include lean proteins such as turkey, chicken and fish. A little bit of lean beef is acceptable too.

Roughage is important so salads are a good choice. Fresh fruits and vegetables can fill you up and satisfy a sweet tooth.

And you still need some carbohydrates, which are essential for muscle recovery, according to health and fitness experts.

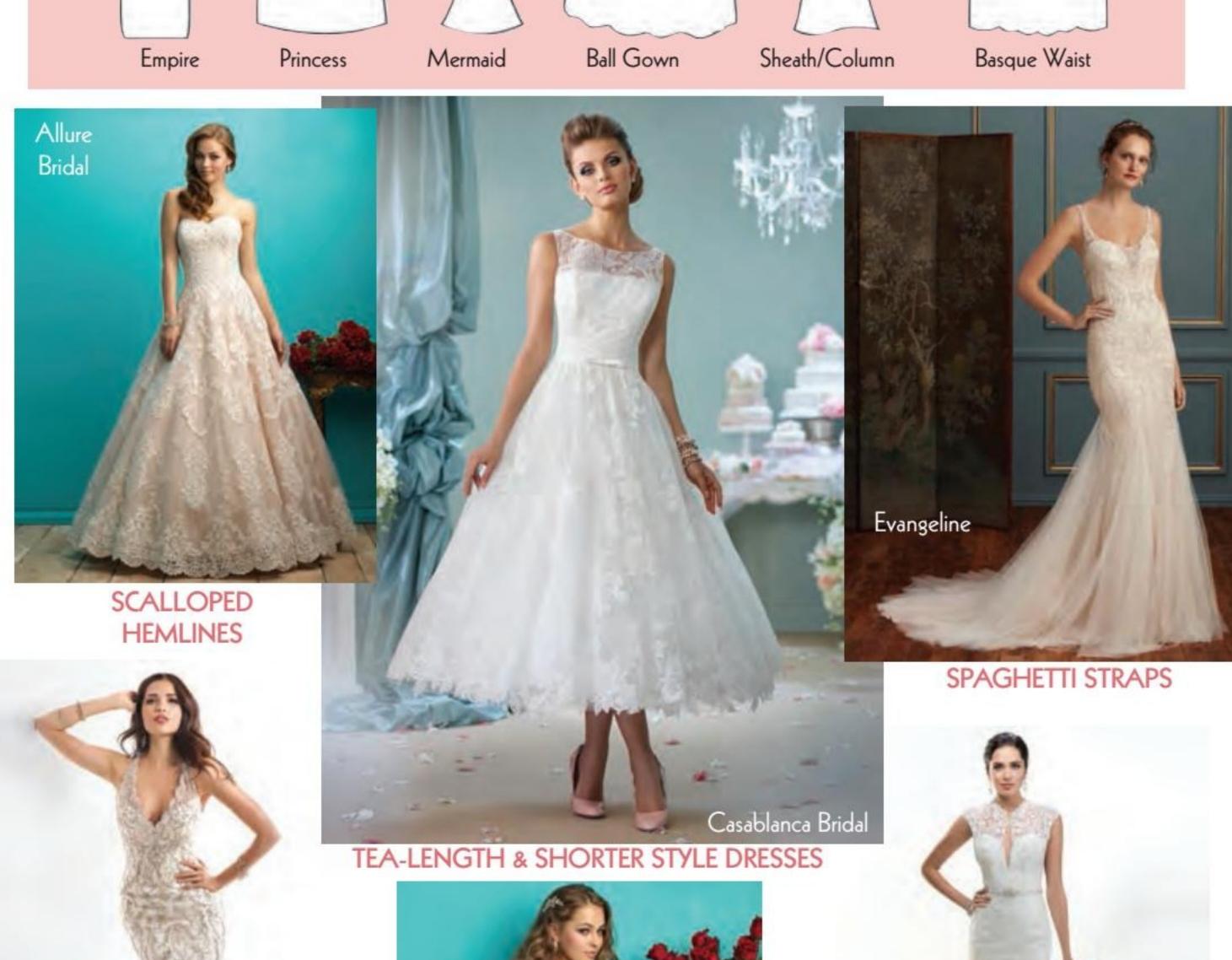
Hydration is important too, so up the water intake. Sodas are off-limits, even diet sodas because of the unhealthy ingredients and bloating factor. Limit caffeine, a diuretic, to two cups of coffee or tea a day. Also avoid overly processed foods, fast foods and fried foods.

It's also critical for stressed-out brides to get plenty of rest since sleep is the body's recovery process.

Gown For 2017







Allure Bridal

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Maggie Sottero

DEEP V-NECKS

LACE AND ILLUSION SLEEVES
- LONG AND SHORT



KEYHOLE NECKLINES



Maggie Sottero

STRUCTURED CORSETS

OFF-THE-SHOULDER DRESSES WITH LOOSE AND FLOWING STYLING



BILLOWY SLEEVES





LAYERS — PEPLUMS, OVERLAYS, RUFFLES AND TIERS





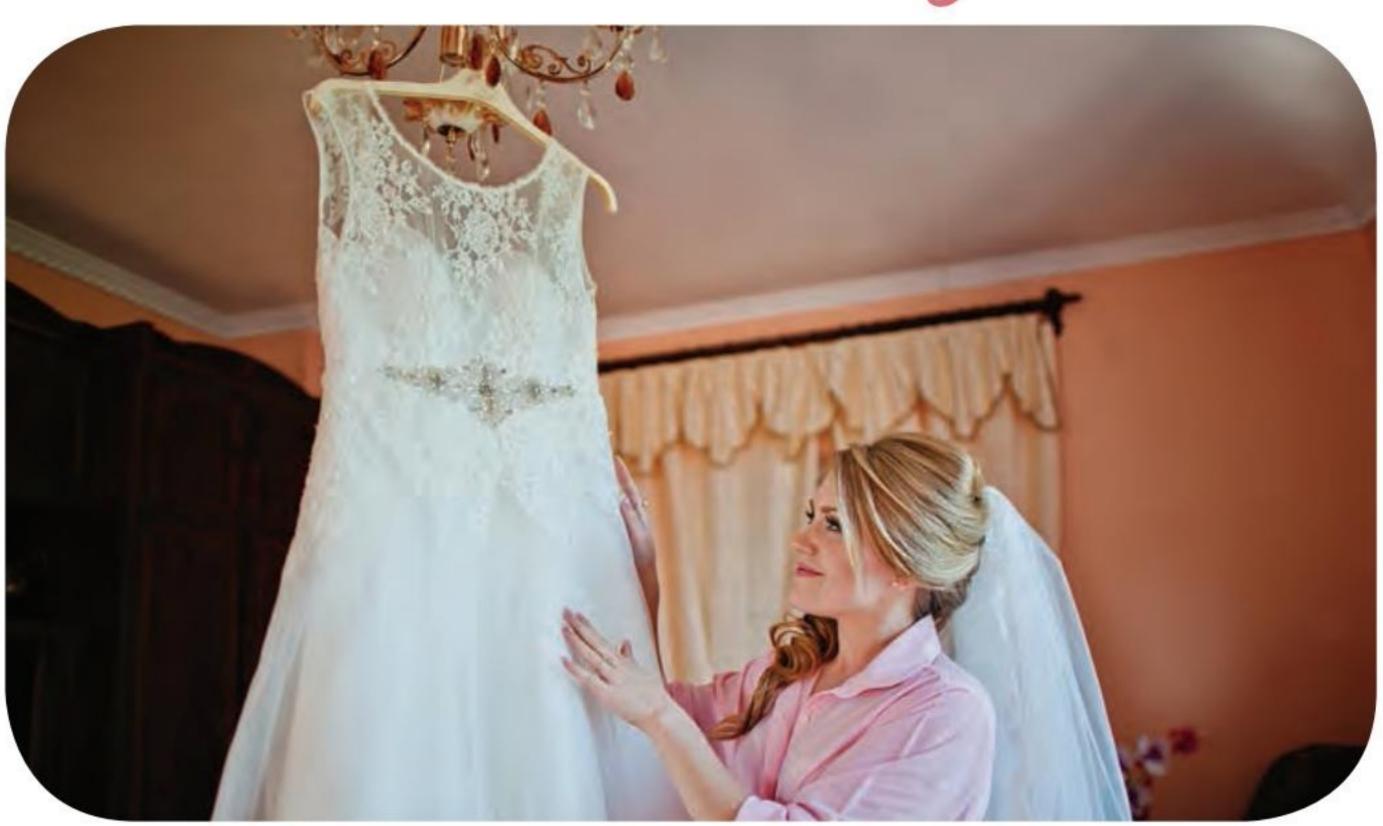
UNIQUE COLORS – BABY BLUE, PINK AND YELLOW

CAPES – ATTACHED, SHEER OR SOLID





Preserving Your Gown



hen you bought your wedding dress, you made an investment in perhaps the most important dress of your life. Now that the wedding is over (you looked amazing!), what do you do with the dress? Take care of it by treating it right.

1. HIRE A PROFESSIONAL:

Find a dry cleaner educated in wedding gown preservation or a wedding gown preservationist. You want the dry cleaner or preservationist to clean the dress first, using gentle solvents and chemicals that match the materials and are safe to use (harsh chemicals can ruin the fabric); any shoulder pads, perspiration shields, or foam inserts must be removed (they can break-down with time and ruin the dress). The gown is

then stuffed with clean, acid-free tissue, tissue is also placed between the folds of the dress (this prevents permanent wrinkling of the dress). The gown is then wrapped and boxed (a museum-quality archival box) for storage in your home. The box is not hermetically sealed because the gown requires proper air circulation. Avoid placing the box in a hot attic or a cold cellar. You're allowed to open and check on your dress periodically (use white gloves to avoid oil marks). Repackage for proper storage.

Some dry cleaners will store your dress for years for a yearly fee.

2. DO IT YOURSELF:

Get the dress professionally cleaned.

Get a large museum-quality box (not a brown box and not a plastic box, but a cedar chest can work), tissue paper, and a

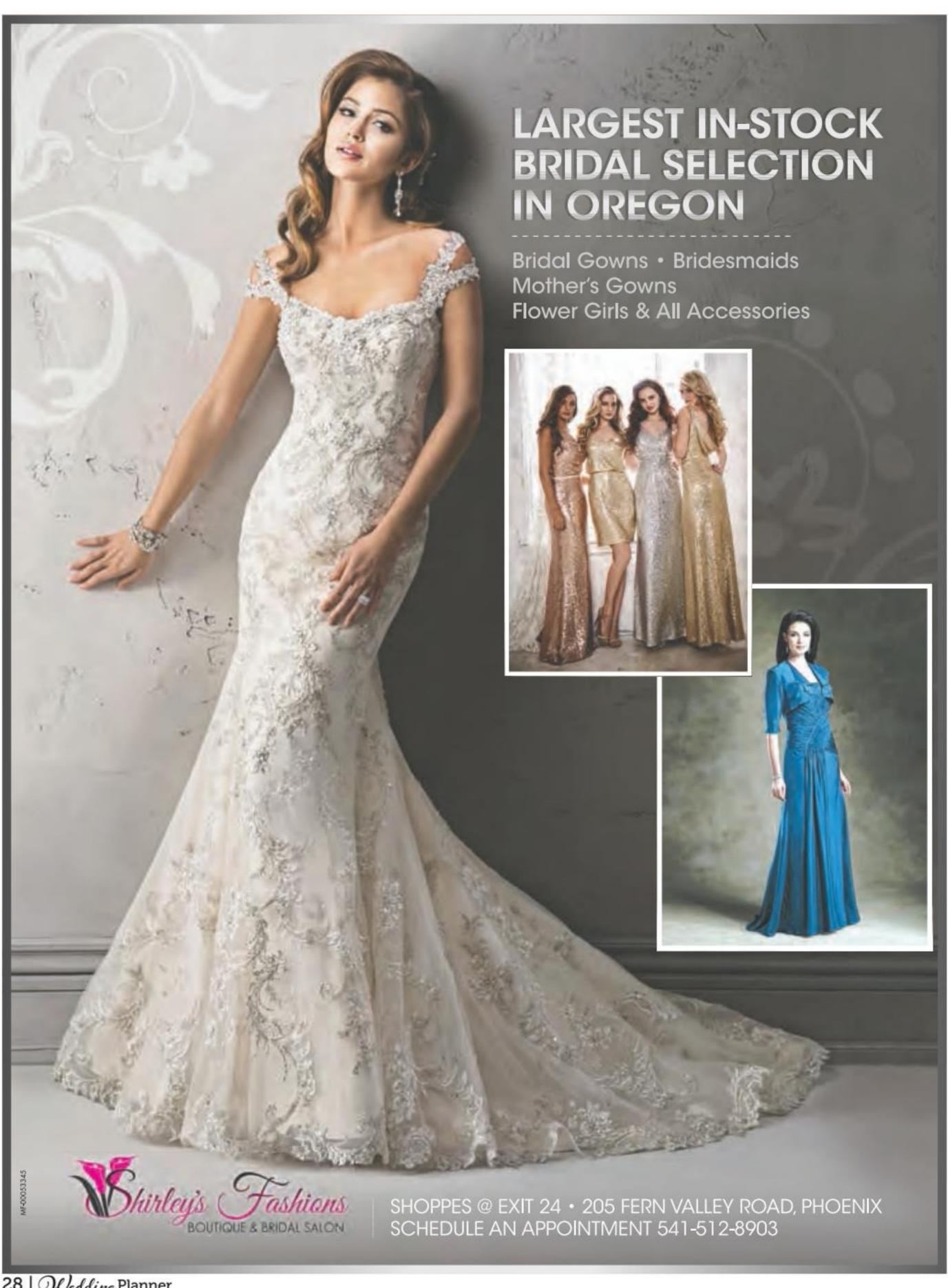
cotton liner. Place the tissue paper in the bodice and folds of fabric, trying to avoid creasing or wrinkling the gown. Place in the box, seal while letting air in the box, and store.

3. RESTYLE THE DRESS FOR WEARING MORE FREQUENTLY:

Go to a tailor and have them look at the dress to see if hemming, restyling, or designing anew will work for you. However, once done — it can't go back to the original.

4. MAKE YOUR BABY'S CHRISTENING GOWN FROM YOUR DRESS:

A sentimental and special idea is to use the wedding dress to create a christening gown for your infant(s), turning the dress into a keepsake.





Bridal Shop	_ [Shoes	
Address			
Phone			
Consultant		Hosiery	
Refund Policy	_		
GOWN Designer/Manufacturer		'ER GIRL(S)	
Style	14- 12 5		
Size	-		_Shoe size
Color	1000000		Cost
Fabric			
Date ordered	Name .		
Fitting date	2007 00		
Pickup date			Shoe size
Total cost	Date of	fitting	Cost
Deposit			
		SMAIDS	
VEIL/HEADPIECE			
Designer/Manufacturer	190079		Shoe size
Style	Date of	fitting	Cost
Color			
Length	Name		
Date ordered	10.000 mil		
Pickup date			Shoe size
Total cost	Date of	fitting	Cost
Deposit			Bridesmaids continued on page 30

Wedding Planner | 29



Bridesmaids continued from page 29

Name ____ Dress size _____Shoe size _____ Date of fitting _____ Cost _____

Name	
Style	
	_Shoe size
Date of fitting	_Cost
Name	
Style	
Dress size	_Shoe size
Date of fitting	_Cost
Name	
Style	
	_Shoe size

Date of fitting _____Cost ____





Choosing the Right Dress for the Moms

erhaps the second most important dress a woman will wear (after her own wedding dress) is her mother-of-the-bride or -groom dress. The selection process is fraught with pressure to look and feel pretty while also blending with the bridesmaids and wedding colors.

Follow the bride's lead regarding style, color and degree of formality. The days of blending in are gone. The mother-of-the-bride's dress complements the wedding party's colors. It's a good idea to look at styles early on because you won't be buying a dress until your daughter chooses the bridesmaid dresses (complementing color, of course), but knowing a style that works for you is half the battle.

Once you've chosen your dress, you share your dress color and style with the mother-of-the-groom. She'll coordinate a complementing color and style. Remember you'll both be in the photos, why not look great?

SOME GENERAL RULES OF ETIQUETTE:

- The mother-of-the-bride chooses her dress first.
- Carry a swatch of the bridesmaids' gown so your dress complements their color.
- Moms do not wear the same color dress.
- Never wear a dress the same color as the bride's dress not even remotely close.
- The length of the dress or gown is a personal choice.
- Make sure the dress is church, venue, color and age appropriate.
- Black is appropriate for weddings as long as you don't look like you're in mourning.
- Once the bride's mom has chosen her dress, she should let the groom's mom know and show her the dress or the color of the dress.

SOME SHOPPING TIPS:

You'll have a better selection at a specialty store, though do check out the department stores for ideas and options.

- Alterations are important.
- Proper undergarments are important.
- Order your dress (if it needs to be ordered) at least three to four months in advance.
- Allow time for those important alterations.
- Consider if you'll need a wrap for the church or because of weather.
- Bring proper shoes when trying on dresses.

ON THE WEDDING DAY:

- Think elegant, understated, appropriate, individual...reflect your style.
- While the bridesmaids are getting ready, why not have your own hair and beauty team to work on you and your friends or family?

Wedding Planner | 31

Smile!



Hair Trends

s with fashion, hair trends change with the seasons. How your hair looks on your wedding day is of primary importance. Is the wedding inside, outside, formal, casual? Is your vision to be romantic, elegant, modern, vintage, boho, or carefree? One thing is definite - you want to look good both coming and going (front and back). Your choice of style, what suits you, and what complements your bridal gown are very important... this is your vision of your wedding day.

There are quite a few trends for 2017, and some that carry over from 2016.

- The Ponytail as dresses become more elaborate, you'll find that hair is the exact opposite, and a sleek pony can be sophisticated and beautifully simple.
- Hair half up and half down is always popular and attractive on many face shapes. It can be simple
 or adorned with pins and clips that add sparkle; it can be straight or curly.
- Big Hair this might be a regional (Southern) thing, but big hair is back for weddings and it makes
 a bold statement.
- Side Styles with or without a part, many brides are going with swept to the side styles held in place with lovely pins, combs or barrettes.
- Romantic Braids feminine, stylish, up or down, braids come with a multitude of variations and work on all hair types.
- Flowers crowns, flowers woven in your hair, an entirely Bohemian styling.
- Updos if the dress is elaborate, a simple updo can complete the entire look. A bun, a twist, a chignon – you cannot miss with this style.
- Loose perfectly undone is totally in...natural and effortless.
- Hair Bling pins, barrettes, beads, pearls and crystals...an heirloom, a crown, a headband...a statement.
- Knotted Updo less traditional than a chignon, a top knot or a twist are contemporary and stylish.
- Sleek and Edgy slicked back, a sharp part, a side-pony these styles are for the modern bride.





Makeup Trends

n your wedding day, you'll have more pictures taken than any other day in your life. Why not hire a makeup artist to assure your photos (and you) are the best ever?

TRENDS IN MAKEUP ARE JUST THAT - TRENDS

You pore over magazines and see styles you like, but will these styles work for you? All brides want to look their best on their wedding day...a definitive way to make your day flawlessly beautiful is to hire a professional makeup artist. Get recommendations from friends whose style you like, whose wedding photos you loved, then start interviewing artists. Make sure your vision is clearly communicated. Then let the artist do her work. As your makeup artist consults with you, let her know about your personal style, your dress color, the flower shades, the wedding party, and the venue. Your makeup artist will make suggestions for you and provide tips for long-lasting makeup with a flawless finish.

It's a GREAT idea to schedule a trial makeup session about three months in advance of your wedding — you want no surprises on your wedding day! This is a the time for the artist to experiment with those makeup styles you've liked from the magazines. Nix anything that isn't comfortable, ask questions, if you like a look — make sure your artist is taking notes, choosing the right foundation, the right blush, the best eye 'look', and an appropriate lip color — natural or bold — glossy or matte. Your makeup artist will know what makeup lasts from the walk down the aisle to the last dance of the evening.

Make sure that you schedule the timing for your makeup to coincide with the hair stylist. Make sure you have a schedule for your wedding party (including both Moms) — clearly communicate this to your makeup artist so she knows what size job she has on your wedding day. No surprises.

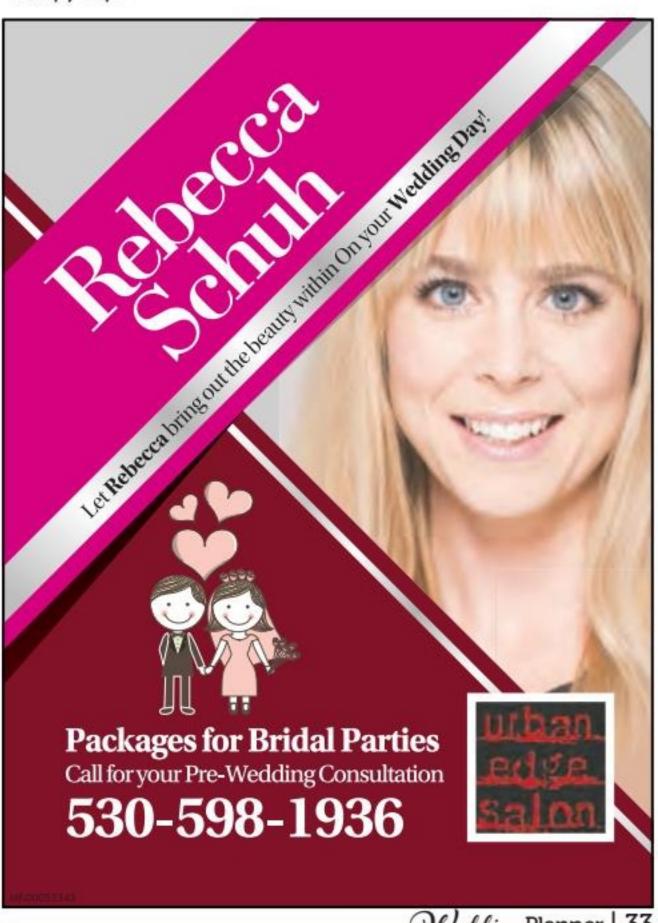
MAKEUP TRENDS FOR 2017

(Just the trends – not the rule – trust your makeup artist – you want to look like YOU):

- Bold Matte Lips timeless and sophisticated, this pop of color has staying power and ups the chic quotient.
- Unique Eyes fierce and colorful with your eyes taking center stage.
- Natural and Naked neutral tones cleverly applied to look totally natural.
- False Lashes long lashes glued on or the semi-permanent extensions done at salons and studios (these are great for those wedding day tears.)



- Bold Eyes, Strong Lips, and Defined Cheeks a total style for formal and evening weddings — this trend is for those who love makeup.
- Eyeliner a dramatic look with the focus on the liner not the shadow.
- Vampy Lips



Groom and Ottire



GROOM	
Store Name	
Address	
Phone	
Consultant	
Refund Policy	

BRIDE'S FATHER Name_	Deposit
Neck	Sleeve
Waist	Length
Shoe	Cost
Date Of Fitting	Pickup

Name	Deposit
Neck	Sleeve
Waist	Length
Shoe	Cost
Date Of Fitting	Pickup

Shoe	
Waist Shoe	_ Sleeve Length
Neck	_ Deposit _ Sleeve
Shoe	_ Length Cost Pickup

Name	Deposit
	Sleeve
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Waist	Length
Shoe	Cost
Date Of Fitting	

GROOMSMEN



 Shoe_____

 Total Cost______
 Deposit______



Don't Forget!

Though the boys don't exactly 'accessorize,' don't let them forget any of the extra pieces that suits or tuxes sometimes entail!

Tie / Bow Tie Cufflinks Dress Socks Pocket Hanky Tie Clip Belt



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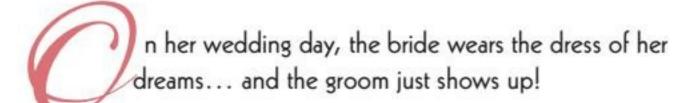
Locally Owned and Family Operated for over 30 years

Complete Tuxedo or Suit Rental Large Selection with a Variety of Styles and Colors

- All of our rental packages include shoes and accessories
- Low Competitive Prices Price Matching
- Quick turnaround time for those last minute RUSH items



Tuxedos



Truly, it is a lot less stressful for the groom to dress on his wedding day. The bride shops and shops for her wedding dress, while the groom gives his measurements and trusts the professional to match the type of tuxedo to the time and formality of the wedding.

HERE'S A GUIDE TO WHAT TO WEAR TO YOUR WEDDING:

WHITE TIE WEDDING (most formal) - black tailcoat and pants; white shirt, vest (or cummerbund), and bow tie; black formal shoes; white gloves.

BLACK TIE (very formal) - black (or white) tuxedo coat and black pants; white shirt; vest (or cummerbund) and bow tie; formal shoes.

BLACK TIE OPTIONAL (formal) - black (or white) tuxedo coat and black pants; white shirt; matching or coordinating accessories.

TIME AND LOCATION CAN DICTATE WHAT TO WEAR TO YOUR WEDDING:

After 5pm — Wear White Tie

2pm-5pm — Wear Black Tie

Cathedral - White Tie

Chapel or Church - Black Tie

Outside or Reception Venue - Black Tie Optional

Daytime and Outdoors – Casual – light-colored suit, seersucker, or khaki

THE FIT:

- The jacket sleeve should fall at the wrist bone.
- The bottom of the jacket should cover the bum and the vent should not pull open.
- The collar should lie flat on the back of the neck.
- The pants should break across the top of the shoes covering the top part of the shoe.
- Ties should fit snugly.



ADD THE FINISHING TOUCHES

All members of the wedding party should wear patent formal shoes to coordinate with their formal attire. This makes for a complete look and coordinates for the wedding photos. Remind your male attendants to have proper hosiery to coordinate with the tuxedo they are wearing.

Friends and relatives who may not be in your ceremony, but will be included in your wedding pictures will look great if they (too) are dressed in a tuxedo. Fathers, grandfathers, brothers, children and grandchildren should all consider dressing up in style. Ultimately, these friends and relations will feel more a part of your wedding (while looking great in your photos.)

The Groom's Calendar



10-12 MONTHS BEFORE THE WEDDING:

- Pick out the engagement ring (if you haven't already done so.)
- Announce your engagement.
- Discuss wedding plans and budget with fiancée and all parents.
- Select your best man, groomsmen, ushers (one usher per 40 guests).
- Help plan the engagement party.
- Discuss ceremony and reception sites with your fiancée.

8-9 MONTHS BEFORE:

- Meet with officiant (minister, priest, rabbi, etc.) to discuss the ceremony.
- Start compiling your guest list.
- Begin making your honeymoon travel plans.

6 MONTHS BEFORE:

- Visit gift registry with fiancée.
- Arrange for transportation for the wedding party to ceremony and reception.
- Complete your honeymoon plans.
- Pick your tuxedos and accessories. Have a list of attendants including Best Man, Groomsmen, Jr. Groomsmen, Ring Bearer, Fathers, Grandfathers, Ushers (one per 40 guests), and a list of any other attendants.

3 MONTHS BEFORE:

- Send size cards to any out-of-town members of the wedding party.
- Complete the guest list.
- Choose and order wedding rings.
- Choose and order groomsmen gifts.

- Plan rehearsal dinner with parents.
- Choose gifts for your bride and wedding party.
- Update passports for honeymoons abroad.

1 MONTH BEFORE:

- Make sure all men have been measured for tuxedos.
- Get your marriage license.
- Make appointments for personal grooming.

2 WEEKS BEFORE:

- Attend bachelor party.
- · Adjust insurance policies, bank accounts, utilities, etc.

THE WEEK OF:

- Pick up your tuxedo and remember, try it on in the store, to ensure a proper fit.
- Pack for the honeymoon.
- · Get cash for gratuities and officiant's fee.
- Take a deep breath... you're almost there.
- Enjoy your rehearsal and dinner.

THE BIG DAY:

- Double-check all details: wedding rings, transportation, marriage license.
- Get to the ceremony on time.
- Relax and enjoy your wedding!

THE DAY AFTER:

- Return the tuxedos.
- Drop off the bride's gown to be cleaned and preserved.

The Dress Code for wests

WHAT DOES THE INVITATION MEAN?

Il eyes are on the bride and groom (of course) on their wedding day, but you want to look your best too. The invite arrives and says 'Black Tie Optional' – what does that mean? Formal? Casual? Cocktail? Black Tie? White Tie? Oh my...what is appropriate and acceptable?

HERE'S A LIST THAT WILL HELP YOU DRESS FOR ANY WEDDING:

Casual — you wear a nice dress or skirt and sandals or flats — natural, everyday style; your guy wears dress pants and a polo shirt or dress shirt.

Beach Wedding Attire — if the bride and groom are on the local beach saying their vows — both men and women can go casual — linen is a good look for both men and women — a sundress/maxi dress and sandals for her and linen or cotton pants and a nice (but casual) dress shirt for him; now, if you're on the beach at a swanky resort, you step it up a few notches because more than likely the reception is a bit more formal — think casual cocktail dressing for you and your guy.

Cocktail/Semi-Formal — you're dressing party style, a little black dress, a flirty frock at an appropriate length, and great shoes or sandals with a heel — chic and fabulous — don't forget an evening bag, a fresh face, and jewelry; your guy wears a suit and tie.

Black Tie Optional/Formal — you're going for the total look here — a dressy dress at an appropriate length (knee or ¾) or a floor length frock — keep the hair less formal, more flirty, makeup should also be a bit more intense — an evening bag and

jewelry completes the outfit; your guy wears a dark suit and tie.

Black Tie — you're going all out — this is usually an evening event — you wear a floor length gown with your best jewelry and heels (sandals or pumps), great hair (updos are totally appropriate, as is wearing your hair down, but styled), and attention to all the details of your outfit including makeup; your guy wears a tuxedo with bowtie, cummerbund, and patent shoes.

White Tie — you're going beyond formal — this is as formal, fancy, and glamourous as it gets — you wear a gown, gloves, jewels, hair in an updo, fabulous makeup; your guy wears a full tuxedo including bowtie, vest, and patent shoes — formal.





Rehearsal Dinner Vips

raditionally the rehearsal dinner is held on the evening before the wedding — right after the ceremony runthrough. It is normally hosted by the groom's parents. However, the bride and groom often host this event because both sets of parents are sharing the cost of the wedding and the couple want a special venue for this relaxed and happy evening. When will you ever have the people who love you the most in one room at the same time...it's rare...remember that...

WHO IS INVITED TO THE REHEARSAL DINNER?

Every member of the wedding party (bridesmaids, groomsmen, ushers, and their spouses or dates), flower girls and ring bearers (and their parents), the parents of the bride and groom, grand-parents, siblings and their spouses or dates, close family friends, the officiant, pastor, or special clergy, and out-of-town guests and relatives.

WHEN DO THE INVITATIONS GO OUT?

Four weeks before the wedding you send out the rehearsal dinner invitations (and AFTER the wedding invites have gone out.)

WHAT ABOUT MY OTHER FRIENDS?

Have those who are not invited to the rehearsal dinner meet up with the group for a rehearsal party in the restaurants' bar for a drink and some toasts to the couple. This is a nice way to include more people — they won't even know the dinner occurred. Another idea is to send an evite to everyone saying the bride and groom will be at a certain bar, restaurant, hotel, or house from 8 to 10pm — come by for a rehearsal toast.

WHERE DO I HAVE THE REHEARSAL DINNER?

Keep it less formal than tomorrow's wedding. Make it personal, perhaps a favorite restaurant (with a private room for your party), maybe something casual like an ale house (have a beer tasting), under a large tent in a nice backyard (catered) — yours or a family friends, at the family home (pizza and beer, clambake, potluck, food trucks — your choice). The beauty is it's a relaxed time before the big day.

DON'T FORGET THE TOASTS!

The groom's father goes first (if he's the host). He welcomes the guests. Next is the best man. Then the floor is open to any and all who wish to toast the couple. Make sure you toast each other (bride and groom) and thank everyone for coming and a special thank you to the hosts.

GIVE OUT YOUR PRESENTS

This is the perfect time to give presents to your bridesmaids and groomsmen. As you give the gifts, make note of a special or funny moment these people have brought to your life. If the gift is something that you want your bridesmaids to wear at the wedding — make sure they know this. Thank and gift any other special people (grandparents, special family friends) and let them know how much their support and love have meant to you both.

OTHER SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

If you're presenting a montage of photos of the two of you (set to music), do that before you do the gifts.



Rehearsal Guest List Dinner

1	26
2	27
3	28
4	29
5	30
6	31
7	32
8	33
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10	35
11	36
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21	46
22	47
23	48
24	49
25	50

Final Fling

Hot trends in bachelor and bachelorette parties

hen planning a bachelor and bachelorette party, there is only one thing on the agenda: lots of fun! From a night on the town to a weekend getaway, bachelor and bachelorette parties have long been a traditional component of wedding festivities. Meant to serve as a last good-bye to single life, the bachelor and bachelorette parties should be tailored to the tastes of the honoree. No longer just a night of heavy drinking and wild strip clubs (unless that's your thing), bachelor and bachelorette parties can be anything you want them to be.



Some couples choose to forego their separate bachelor and bachelorette parties in favor of a joint bash, celebrating with each other and all of their wedding party and friends. This could be a laid-back barbecue, an overnight stay at a nearby destination, or even a cruise or vacation. Couples who choose a combined bachelor-and-bachelorette party may have a lot of shared friends, or just prefer spending the time together rather than on separate experiences.





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photo: olivia leigh









Floral Trends

Imost every wedding bouquet is hand-tied — flowers are gathered together and the stems are wrapped in a wide satin ribbon. A trend that has elevated this bouquet is the addition of a family brooch, jeweled pins, pearls, rhinestones, natural elements and even shells and starfish...all quite beautiful and unique — definitely elevated.

The rose continues to be the most popular flower, but add lilies, peonies, hydrangeas, tulips, and orchids and your bouquet becomes a trendy, loose, and casual bouquet.

WHAT ARE THE OTHER TRENDS IN BRIDAL FLOWERS?

LOOSE, ORGANIC, AND WIDE BRIDAL BOUQUET SHAPES:

Today's brides want bouquets with bulk

— but rather than tightly bunched balls,
the bouquets shapes take a freshly gathered
from the garden look. These bouquets
offer visually interesting lines defined by
arching branches, and unusual vines and
foliage that cascade to one or both sides.

CHIC/GLAM:

Brides seeking a more vintage vibe or an elevated farm-fresh look for their florals are able to achieve it with more interesting vases — including mercury glass and antique mismatched vessels — paired with rich textiles and accessories that feature bling.

REFINED WOODLAND:

A more formal twist on the whimsy of a woodland wedding uses ferns, fur, vines, moss, and other unexpected flora and fauna. Couples who are still attracted to rustic outdoor weddings now use these touches throughout their wedding...think sheet moss, brides wearing floral crowns, ferns, and other earthy touches have a new take on this old favorite styling.

OLD-WORLD OPULENCE:

This bouquet and décor tend to be large and have the additions of pearls, braids, the wearing of gloves, along with neutral and blush flowers.

GEOMETRIC:

Clean lines, geometric shapes, bright colors, spirals, and unique vases and containers.

WATERCOLOR THEMES:

Monochromatic soft lines and blending defines this theme. You'll find brides using hand-painted votive holders. This whole theme is based around a handcrafted look. DIY brides aren't going away and this is a favorite for their weddings. The primary colors of choice in this theme are blues, purples, and pinks, but couples can experiment with any color combo.

OLD-FASHIONED FLOWERS:

Yes, carnations, mums, zinnias, and chrysanthemums are back! The new twist is that there are new varieties in all shapes, colors and styles (some actually quite beautiful.)

KING'S TABLES WITH FLOWER-FILLED COMPOTES AND SATELLITES:

Multiple floral designs per table are in—way in, especially given the increased popularity of extra-long King's tables. The trend away from round tables means re-configuring not only the shape of the centerpieces, but also the spacing and quantity on these long tables. To provide visual interest, larger, longer centerpieces — typically elegant, slightly raised compotes interspersed with short vases with a few flowers or even single stems.

BLUSH IS BACK, BUT SO IS BERRY:

When Pantone announced Rose Quartz as its color of the year, blush was brought back to the fore. Rather than a simple

pastel pink palette, bouquets incorporating soft peachy pinks hues paired with soft sunset orange, coral, warm sherbet hues, and even rust colors. In another direction, blush is paired with deeper, moodier colors including berry-toned blooms, darker foliage and earthy merlot-browns that play off of last year's color of the year, Marsala.

FOLIAGE-FOCUSED BACKDROPS:

The creative use of vines, branches, and leaves to create beautiful backdrops and settings.

WEARABLE FLORAL ACCESSORIES:

Delicate floral headpieces and subtle vines woven into wedding day hair styles. Flower wearables will definitely continue to turn heads and you'll see a more creative use of flowers and succulents in accessories — specifically necklaces, rings and floral bangle bracelets in lieu of traditional wrist corsages.

LONG, LAYERED RIBBON ACCENTS:

We'll continue to find lots of long, fluttery ribbons flowing from bridal bouquets, especially multiple layers in complementary colors. Look for ultra-luxurious natural plant-dyed silks alongside other subtle finishing touches on hand-held bouquets.

FOODIE-INSPIRED DESIGNS:

Herbs, fruits and other edibles will continue to play a supporting role in seasonal floral designs fueled by an interest in infusing unique fragrances and textures into bouquets.



Cooms beautiful blossoms for your wedding day

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT NOW

Summer and holiday weddings are popular, so booking early for everything, including the flowers, is wise. Plan ahead and make your appointment with the florist in advance to make sure you get what you want.

WHAT GOES BEST WITH THE DRESS?

Show your florist a photo of your dress. This will help with choosing flowers, colors and arrangements.

CAN YOU GET DAISIES IN JANUARY?

Remember, flowers are seasonal. If you have to have a certain type of flower, plan your wedding to coincide with the season

your favorite flowers bloom. If not, you'll have to pay extra to have them shipped or you might not get them at all. Be sure to have a back-up choice.

COLOR MATCHES

Bring fabric samples of the bridesmaids' dresses, groom's cummerbund and tablecloths to make sure the colors go well with your flower choices.

BLING IT UP

Simple is beautiful, but don't be afraid to add some bling to your bouquet. Your florist will have some great ideas.

Types of Bouquets

NOSEGAY

A small, round bouquet that usually consists of one type of flower

ROUND

A traditional round bouquet that includes flowers, greenery and filler

CASCADE

A round bouquet with flowers that taper to a "V" at the front

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PRESENTATION

A bouquet of long-stemmed flowers that are held in the bend of the elbow

HAND-TIED

A cluster of flowers that are tied at the stems, leaving the stems exposed





Florist		
Contact		
Address		
Ceremony		
ALTAR AISLE OR PEW DECORA	TIONS MAIN ENTRANCE	
Description		
Deliver to		
Price quote	Deposit	
Date ordered	Payment due	
Wedding Party		
Bride's bouquet		
Deliver to		Price quote
Bridesmaids' bouquet		1
Deliver to		Price quote
Flower Girl BOUQUET BASKET		
Description	Quantity	
Deliver to		Price quote
Boutonnieres		
Deliver to		Price quote
Corsages		
Deliver to	Delivery time	Price quote
Reception		
ENTRYWAY CAKE & CAKE TABLE	Description	
Deliver to	Delivery time	Price quote
TABLE CENTERPIECES	Description	
Deliver to	Delivery time	Price quote
Date Ordered	Delivery time	

To Maked to Hold

Wedding florals can be a highly personal

expression for the hands-on couple

hanks to magazines and blogs that promise it's possible to cut costs when you make your own wedding bouquet, there is a perception that buying flowers in bulk and doing-it-your-self (DIY) is a bargain. Not so, say designers and flower farmers alike. It's not about saving money; rather, it's about the magic that happens when you choose flowers, greenery and other botanical elements that help you tell your story of love and commitment — that's priceless. DIY wedding florals have a lot of appeal for couples who want to create meaningful and memorable bouquets and boutonnieres that reflect their personal style.

When it's possible to source from local flower farms or cut from a family member's garden, the flowers you gather are fresher and more uncommon — and while that's not necessarily a reason to save money on your flower budget, every penny you spend adds up to higher value for your investment. The growth of the do-it-yourself wedding is a larger trend worth noting and celebrating,' says Joan Thorndike of Le Mera Gardens, based in Talent, Oregon. 'Wedding parties and in particular DIY bridal parties will adapt Pinterest, Martha Stewart, or the fashion of the day to the personal palette they have imagined for their wedding day — it might be anywhere from all whites to all colors; from muted to brights; from textures to only a simple gathering of flower stems.' A bouquet of your own making or a tiny cluster of herbs and petals tucked through the buttonhole of a tuxedo lapel can be romantic and joyful, but not necessarily stress-free. Still interested? Here are some tips to get you started:

- Understand seasonality: Do your homework to discover which flowers are available at the time of your ceremony. Peonies, for example, bloom in May or June; not in December. Local garden center staff, your local flower farm or farmers' market vendors are good people to ask.
- Research styles that reflect your personality: Here's where wedding magazines, Pinterest and Instagram are useful. When searching for inspiration, focus on your favorite palette or the "feeling" of the bouquet or centerpiece, rather than getting hooked on specific flowers that may or may not be available.
- Floral choice can depend on the time of year and whether you'll have an indoor or outdoor ceremony. Choose the freshest, longest-lasting flowers available, especially for bouquets that will be out of water and in your hands for an hour or so.

 Take a lesson: Increasingly, it's possible to take a design workshop from a flower farmer or florist in your area. If you can't find a local class, check out online tutorials for tips on arranging centerpieces and constructing personal flowers.

- Organize vases, urns and other vessels suitable for the altar, stage or banquet tables. Inquire as to rental services provided by some florists and vintage/prop studios. Borrow from others, shop flea markets, and hit the thrift stores too.
- Purchase floral supplies, such as tape, twine, boutonniere pins and ribbon. Craft and floral supply stores or online sites offer excellent selections.
- Set up a design area that will accommodate you and your helpers. You'll need counter-high tables, a water source, a greenwaste bin for clippings and a source of natural light.
- Practice first. Do a dry run one full week before the wedding to hone your skills and increase your comfort level with new floral-arranging techniques. This will help you determine your "production" schedule and plan for transportation for the day of your ceremony.
- Construct centerpieces up to two days prior to the ceremony and store in a cool, dark place. Larger pieces are often best assembled on-site, so take that into consideration. Personal flowers such as bouquets and boutonnieres can be made one day before. Ultimately, know that when you design your own wedding florals, you are communicating your values and your personal style. Show your love with flowers that reflect you and your beloved.

For more resources and to find flower farms that sell direct to DIY wedding parties, visit slowflowers.com, the free, nationwide, online directory to farms, shops, florists and studios that provide American-grown flowers.

Hower Tips

ne of the most beautiful components of a wedding are the flowers and arrangements. Bouquets, centerpieces, nosegays and arches (among other styled floral décor) help to pull the theme and aesthetic together. About 10 percent of your wedding budget will go to your flowers — make sure your florist knows your budget in advance. When working with a florist, do your best to follow the tips below:



- 1. Be prepared for your florist consult take the time to know what flowers you like, what arrangement styles you prefer, understand the difference between the types of bouquets and arrangements.
- 2. Your venue can determine your arrangements trust the professional to know what's appropriate as well as what sizes will work at the church and the reception — bring a floor plan of the locations if possible.
 - use magazines to illustrate flowers and arrangements you like this gives your florist the direction she needs to design your wedding flowers.
- 4. Pinterest this wonderful site is often used by brides (often to the chagrin of florists — a blessing and a curse) as the photos/images are lovely and the arrangements both glorious and expensive; be prepared for the price and if in the budget — go for it; if not, be willing to compromise and let the florist guide you — they do this all the time.
- 5. Look-alikes A good florist knows his or her flowers and can combine flowers and offer substitutions while still giving you the 'look' you desire.
- Don't forget greenery it enhances everything.
- 7. Florists today are artists and use flowers and greenery as well as feathers, wheatgrass, branches, stalks and so many creative alternatives.
- 8. If you are committed to a specific color let the florist know upfront; he or she will know what works best with your perfect shade.
- 9. Keep your flowers and arrangements in perspective make sure the flowers complement your dress, your size, your bridal party, and your venue.
- 10. Stay within your budget (and you've given the florist your budget from the beginning) and be prepared to pare down specific items if you go over know what you're willing to compromise on and what you cannot.
- 11. Be specific about your timing expectations when should the flowers arrive, when is the venue decorated — you want the freshest flowers possible and you want to avoid wilting and other possible damage to the flowers; make sure the venues are aware of this timing so there are no locked doors or entry problems.
- 12. Consider repurposing your flowers move items from the church to the reception — every florist knows this simple and money-saving trick and can make recommendations.





CHOOSE A PHOTOGRAPHER

- Book a professional photographer early.
- Check references, portfolios and prices.
- Expect to spend 10-15 percent of your total wedding budget on photography.
- Find a photographer who meshes best with your personalities and vision for the wedding.
- Discuss your photography goals, whether you want a record of the day, traditional poses or artistic concepts.

IMPROVE THE ODDS OF GOOD PICS

- Provide the photographer with a wedding schedule, shot list and even a helper who can identify the members of the family and others to be in photos.
- On the shot list, prioritize what is most important to you.
- Keep a clean space in the get-ready areas for photography.
- Have all the wedding details assembled and ready for photography: shoes, the dress, special jewelry, garter, gifts to your wedding party, mementos, the invitation.
- Build as much as two hours of time into the wedding schedule for portraits and group shots. If doing photography before the ceremony, brides will need to be on-site or ready approximately three hours before the ceremony.

LIGHTING AND LOCATION

- Lighting is crucial for great photography. Most photographers
 prefer natural light when at all possible. When booking venues,
 consider the natural light available for the ceremony and rooms
 designated for getting ready.
- Time of day matters for the best natural light, a consideration for working photography into the wedding schedule. Noon day brightness can cause harsh shadows, so a shaded area is best. The ideal hour for photography is the hour or so before sunset.
- The most stunning wedding pictures often have gorgeous natural backdrops.

Allow time to capture moments forever

Sample photography schedule:

45 minutes Getting ready, details photos

30 minutes Bride and groom dressed, final touches 1 hour First look and bride and groom portraits

30 minutes Wedding Party photos

30 minutes Family portraits

PRE-CEREMONY PHOTOS

Another way to improve your prospects of great wedding photos is to take the majority of the photos before the ceremony. Though some brides want to save the "wow" moment for the aisle, there are numerous reasons pre-ceremony pictures work best.

- The bride will look her best when she is fresh and hair and makeup are also fresh.
- The relatives and bridal party will be contained and easily rounded up for the photos.
- Everyone will be free to go directly to the reception and begin celebrating.

FIRST LOOK AND WEDDING PORTRAITS

- A "first look" session is when the bride and groom meet for a few minutes before the ceremony for some alone time (with the photographer.) Photographers love this opportunity for candid, emotional moments. For the couple, it provides a measure of privacy to share this special occasion and connect before the ceremony.
- First look can be a short session, but if the schedule allows,

this is also a window for getting the wedding portraits posed and directed by the photographer. Allow up to an hour. Alternatively, wedding portraits of the couple can be taken after the ceremony when the pressure is off, but the session will need to be abbreviated if guests are waiting at the reception. Allow 20-30 minutes.



Photography Checklist WEDDING PAR **WEDDING PARTY** ☐ Bride's mother coming down the aisle ☐ Groom's mother coming down the aisle ☐ Bride with bridesmaids BRIDE ☐ Father giving away the bride ☐ Bride with maid of honor ☐ Bride, close-up & full-length ■ Wedding party at the altar Groom with groomsmen ☐ Bride with mother ☐ Groom with best man ☐ Exchange of vows ☐ Bride with father ☐ Entire wedding party ☐ The kiss ☐ Bride with parents ☐ Flower girl & ring bearer ☐ Lighting the unity candle ☐ Bride with brothers & sisters ☐ Bride & groom with flower girl & ☐ Bride & groom recessing ☐ Bride with groom's parents ☐ Bride & groom leaving the church ring bearer ☐ Bride with grandparents & other relatives **BEFORE THE CEREMONY** RECEPTION GROOM ☐ Bride & groom arriving at the reception ☐ Bride arriving at church Groom, close-up & full-length ☐ Bride getting ready ☐ Wedding cake & buffet tables ☐ Bride & groom's first dance ☐ Groom with mother ☐ Mother assisting bride ☐ Groom with father ☐ Bride & attendants ☐ Bride dancing with her father ☐ Groom with parents ☐ Bride & father Groom dancing with his mother ☐ Groom with brothers & sisters ☐ Groom getting ready ☐ Both sets of parents dancing ☐ Cutting the cake ☐ Groom with bride's parents ☐ Groom with best man ☐ Groom with grandparents & relatives ☐ Bride & groom's toast **CANDIDS** ☐ Best man's toast **BRIDE & GROOM** ☐ Front of church ☐ Tossing the garter ☐ Bride & groom ☐ Guests arriving ☐ Tossing the bouquet ☐ Hands & rings ☐ Attendants coming down the aisle ☐ The "getaway" car

All About that Space

Where to hold the wedding ceremony



ne of the first decisions a newly engaged couple needs to make is deciding where to hold the ceremony. No longer exclusive to houses of worship and courtrooms, modern weddings happen in many different places in many different ways. Formal or casual, indoor or outdoor, nearby, or a trip away, a wedding can be anything you want it to be. Here are some tips to help you decide what venue is right for your own fairytale wedding.

RELIGIOUS OR SECULAR?

Many couples still opt to get married in the traditional setting of a church or other religious house. However, more and more, brides and grooms are choosing non-traditional locations. Wineries, restaurants, warehouses, beaches, forests — anything is fair game. Before you make the decision to marry in a church or outside of one, consider your own beliefs, as well as the ideals and traditions of your families. A church has the benefit of being set up for weddings, with seating provided, officiant at the ready, and appropriate facilities for guests. However, the music and rituals of the ceremony may be restricted based on the church's guidelines. Alternatively, a non-religious venue will be more flexible and allow you to have any kind of wedding you choose, but may require more work to make it guest-friendly, and you will have to obtain an officiant to perform the ceremony.

Questions to ask a potential venue

How many people can be accommodated?

Is there nearby parking or will a shuttle be required?

Is the officiant a separate fee?

Can I have any music/readings/rituals I want?

Am I required to use a designated florist and other vendors?

DON'T BREAK THE BUDGET

If you are flexible about dates and venues, there are many ways to save when planning for your wedding. Ask about rates on less popular days, like Sunday instead of Saturday. Morning events are also typically less expensive than primetime evening events. If you are tying the knot in a popular location, you can reach out

to other couples getting married the same day and suggest sharing floral arrangements and other décor. In the case of an all-inclusive venue, be sure to price items that are provided against the cost of bringing them in yourself or from another vendor.

A Wedding in Paradise

Does the idea of getting married on vacation appeal to you? You aren't alone. Destination weddings are more popular than ever. Whether a tropical beach or lush winery is your idea of romance, most resorts and venues offer wedding services at a set price. In the case of a remote locale, a wedding planner on-site is an absolute must, as you will need someone familiar with the venue and businesses who contract with it. Make a plan to visit your wedding location at least once in advance of the wedding to make plans and troubleshoot problems before the big day.



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Wedding Party Roles

Maid of Honor

The maid/matron of honor plans the bridal shower; helps the bride with correspondence; helps the bride dress before the wedding; holds the groom's wedding ring; makes sure the bride's dress is positioned correctly; arranges veil and holds the bride's bouquet during ceremony; and signs the marriage certificate.

Bridesmaids

Members of the brides wedding party. Usually close friends or family members.

Best Man

The best man organizes the bachelor party; holds the bride's wedding ring; signs the marriage certificate; gives officiant honorarium; toasts the couple at the reception; and returns the groom's tuxedo to rental location.

Groomsmen

Members of the grooms wedding party. Usually close friends or family members.













Officiant

A marriage officiant is a civil officer who performs acts of marriage by witnessing the consent of the intended spouses and to ensures the legal validity of the marriage.

Flower Girl

The flower girl walks immediately before the bride, usually carrying a basket of flower petals.

Ushers

Ushers seat guests, distribute programs at the ceremony, and escort the groom's parents and bride's mother to the front row.

Ring Bearer

The ring bearer walks down the aisle with the flower girl.

Guestbook Attendant

The guest book attendant looks after the guest book and accepts wedding gifts on behalf of the couple.

The Little Things

Small touches and sweet traditions customize a wedding ceremony



he wedding ceremony is the culmination of all your planning, and the reason for the party afterwards. It's the focal point of the event and the beginning of your new life as a married couple. Because the ceremony is so important, it makes sense to put some thought into how to make it as meaningful and unique as possible.

In the past, most couples have followed the traditional route and chosen music and readings that were suggested by their officiants. Today, brides and grooms are more passionate about tailoring each aspect of the wedding to their personal taste. Walk down the aisle to the first song you danced to, or have a friend sing the piece that was performed at your parents' wedding. Hire live musicians or feel free to play recorded popular music. Anything that is meaningful to you will be the perfect choice. Similarly, don't feel constrained by the traditional readings. If there is a poem or passage from a book that speaks to you, ask the officiant if you can opt to have that read during a key moment in the ceremony.

Though personalized services are on the rise, not all religions or houses of worship will allow modifications to the ceremony rites or secular music. Be sure to clear all your desired touches with the officiant before committing to a location.

Order of Events

The typical wedding ceremony follows this order:

- Seating of family
- Groom and groomsmen take their places
- Brides' attendants procession
- Bridal procession
- Opening remarks
- Charge to couple
- Exchange of vows
- Exchange of rings
- Unity ceremony
- Closing remarks
- Kiss
- Presentation of the couple
- Recessional



Connect to Your Roots

Some couples want to honor the parents, grandparents and other family members who came before them on this journey to matrimony. Including a keepsake like lace from your mother's dress in your bouquet, or wearing your father's cufflinks is a great way to feel their presence as you make your vows. You can also evoke the memory of family by using the same flowers at your ceremony location or choosing the same piece of music. Another popular idea is to display photos of previous family weddings as part of your décor.

Tell Your Story

A wedding is the culmination of a love story, so don't be shy about telling yours. Incorporate touches of personality into the ceremony, such as having a personalized aisle runner detailing key dates in your relationship. You can also use your wedding program to add a personal note or tell a story to your guests. Even the décor and flowers can contain elements of design that make the wedding more personal. For instance, wine connoisseurs might use empty bottles of their favorite wine as containers, or travel-lovers might include the names of past destinations or even airplane ticket stubs. Remember, this wedding is for you and your spouse, so be sure to include only things that make you happy.

Guest Participation

This ritual is a sweet way to tie in all the families, friends and well-wishers of the couple as they embark on their new marriage. When guests enter the ceremony, ask them to take a stone from a jar and hold it in their hands as the wedding is performed, mentally pouring their hopes and prayers for the couple into the token. Once the ceremony is over, the guests put the rocks back into the jar, and you will have a visible keepsake to remind you of how many people are rooting for your marriage to succeed.

Another option is to have your ring bearer give the rings to a seated guest, and ask attendees to pass the rings down the row during the ceremony, whispering a few words of blessing before passing on.



Romantic Rituals

New ways to show your love into the wedding ceremony

he ceremony is the most important part of your wedding day, so don't settle for a one-size-fits-all approach. More and more couples are adding unique rituals that incorporate their lives and personalities into the nuptials. While the unity candle and sand-mixing ceremony are the most common rites carried out to symbolize the union of two people, many couples are thinking outside the box to come up with new ways to make the wedding ceremony meaningful to them.



TIE THE KNOT

One growing trend in wedding ceremonies is to incorporate a knot-tying ritual. The bride and groom each begin with a piece of rope, and together work to fashion them into a fisherman's knot, which is known to be the strongest knot. In fact, the rope will break before the knot gives way, making it a meaningful metaphor for the budding union it represents. The knot can then be framed and displayed in your home as a reminder of the wedding day. The fisherman's knot requires a little know-how to execute, so be sure to practice before the big day.

PLANT A TREE

For couples seeking a tangible way to incorporate their pasts into their future together, planting a sapling is a great solution. Both bride and groom bring soil from their childhood homes and mix it together in a container. They then plant a tree. Another twist on this ritual is to ask guests to bring a sample from their homes, and mix all the soil together to represent the community that stands behind the marriage and vows to help it grow like the tree.

BUILD A BOX

Most couples are filled with love and fondness for one another on their wedding day, but everyone knows there will be some moments that try the new marriage. In anticipation of this, some people build a "first fight box" at their ceremony. The bride and groom write love notes to one another on the day of their wedding and place them in a wooden box, along with a bottle

of wine. At the wedding, the couple nails the box shut, to be opened on the first day that challenges the new marriage, as a reminder of the love they felt at the moment of their union.

WASH FEET

Especially popular in Christian ceremonies, the ritual of washing feet has become a recent trend in weddings. Based on the biblical passage of Jesus kneeling to wash his followers' feet, the foot-washing ceremony is a tender way to symbolize the promise to serve one another. If you want to incorporate this ritual into your ceremony, be sure to have a chair, basin and pitcher of water on hand, and wear shoes that are easy to slip off and on.

THE OFFICIANT

Name		
Contact		
	Due	
Notes		

THE CEREMONY **OPTION 1** Ceremony site _____Contact ____ Address Phone _____ Cancellation terms _____ Maximum capacity _____ Deposit ______ Due _____ Total Cost______ Due _____ Notes **OPTION 2** Ceremony site _____Contact Address

Phone _____

Cancellation terms _____

Maximum capacity _____

Deposit ______ Due _____

Total Cost_____ Due ____

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THE RECEPTION

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Maximum capacity	
Services provided	
Deposit	Due
Total Cost	Due
OPTION 2 Reception site	Contact
Address	
Cancellation terms	
Maximum capacity	
Services provided	
Deposit	Due



Interfaith Weddings



nterfaith and cross-cultural marriages are on the rise by 25 to 40 percent in the last generation, depending on which research study you consult. If the bride and groom come from different faith traditions, it is important to sit down early and talk candidly about the role religion will play in the wedding ceremony, and what will be important for the two families. If you decide you would like to incorporate both faiths, there are several considerations for planning a ceremony.

CEREMONY LOCATION:

Some faiths or officiants may have rules about whether a mixed-religion marriage will be sanctioned, and whether involving elements of a different religion in the ceremony will be allowed. Some religions require premarital counseling or classes. If you are considering a religious house of worship for the ceremony, plan a meeting with the officiant to see whether it is a good fit. Alternatively, choose a neutral site for the ceremony, such as a hotel ballroom, country club, park or other venue.

CHOOSING AN OFFICIANT:

Choose an officiant (or two) who makes both of you feel comfortable and who believes in your union. Couples can opt for a civil ceremony officiated by a justice of the peace.

HOLD TWO CEREMONIES:

If the bridal couple or their families want to fully embrace each religious tradition, two ceremonies can be an option. The ceremonies can be held on different days or the same day. One may be short and sweet, and one can have all the trimmings—or go all out for both. Obviously, two ceremonies will mean double the planning and a bigger budget, but may be the best solution for couples (and families) who feel deeply about the ceremony rites of their separate religions.

BLENDING TRADITIONS IN ONE CEREMONY:

Wedding ceremonies in most faith traditions have unique elements that make them special, from what the bride and groom wear to how the families are included. Working with your officiant, create a wedding program that includes explanations of the specific religious customs performed and a translation if a foreign language is used. This way, family and friends can understand, appreciate and participate in unfamiliar traditions. Be sure to offer to include both sides of the family in rituals.

HONOR BOTH CULTURES AT THE RECEPTION:

If a couple determines that the important aspects of their separate wedding traditions are cultural rather than religious, a neutral ceremony can be followed by a reception that honors both family histories. Culture can be represented in attire, food, décor, favors, music and dance. The bride may wear a sari while dancing the hora, or a mariachi band may play while the couple jumps the broom.

Accept a Little Disapproval

Even if parents are prepared to go along with your interfaith ceremony plans, chances are someone in your extended family and friends may harbor some negativity about mixing beliefs and rituals. Couples should be respectful of others, but keep a united front against disapproval. A blended ceremony that honors both faiths can show that love and respect for family lie at the core of almost all wedding rituals—no matter how unfamiliar they may appear on the surface.

Approach to Nuptials

Alternatives for hosting an eco-friendly wedding



here are many ways to go green, from recycling to limiting carbon footprint and power usage. Here are some easy alternatives for couples who wish to incorporate environmental responsibility into their wedding choices.

INVITATIONS AND OTHER PAPER PRODUCTS

Go as paperless as possible. Create a website for the wedding with all the details, including directions to the ceremony and reception, hotel options and more. Use the website and email to send save-the-date announcements or other updates. If you decide to send paper invitations, there are many alternatives made with recycled paper or sustainable materials. Some vendors also use vegetable-based inks.

BOUQUETS AND CENTERPIECES

With cut flowers, think local, organic and in-season. Southern Oregon has several growers who forego pesticides and are supported by local florists. Choose flowers that naturally grow at the time of year of your wedding for the best options. If a local grower doesn't have what you want, ask your florist for Veri

Flora-Certified Sustainably Grown choices. For centerpieces or arrangements, consider potted plants or topiaries that can be kept, planted or given as gifts. Examples include orchids, succulents, herbs and dwarf evergreens.

RECEPTION

Discuss the selections for organic foods and drinks when interviewing caterers. Have the caterer provide or rent real glasses and dishware and use cloth napkins to avoid disposable plastic and paper products. Order kegs and casks as opposed to individual bottles of beer or wine. Provide recycling, composting and waste bins. Investigate having leftover food packaged and picked up or delivered to a nonprofit that serves meals to those in need.

FAVORS AND GIFTS

If you want to send guests home with a token or gift, consider edible or useful options. For example, seed packets of your favorite wildflowers, a tree sapling, organic jam in glass jars, natural soaps or sustainable lavender sachets.

The Second Engagement & Wedding



hhh...the joy! You've found love again, and he put a ring on it! While basking in the glow of your happy future, there are a few things you need to do quickly, a few things you need to forgive (and celebrate), and a few things to decide on as you plan your second wedding. This wedding's for you!

The very first thing you do is tell the children. The next thing you do is tell your ex-spouse — in person, by phone, in a letter — however you communicate, it's just the right thing to do (especially if children are involved).

You'll get a lot of innocent-sounding comments from friends and family. Forgive them, they mean no harm. Things like: "so soon?," "can you wear white?," "is your ex okay with this?," "pre-nup?," "I thought you said you'd never get married?." You get the general idea. Your friends and family love you — don't let their insensitivity rain on your wedding parade.

The details should be relatively easy. You have done this before and while you may have been planning with a mom or sister or mother-in-law looking over your shoulder, this time it's just about you and your groom. You can have a formal wedding, you can get married at the court house, you can throw a big party, you can get married at your home, you can get married on the beach, you can have a wedding in a barn, you set the tone as a couple.

The rules for second weddings are that almost anything goes! The beauty is that couples marrying for the second time know what they want. Their weddings tend to be intimate celebrations; smaller, more personal and often involving children.

HERE ARE A FEW THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN PLANNING THAT SECOND WEDDING:

- You can wear a wedding gown and it can be white.
- You can also wear a color, a cocktail dress, a suit...whatever you want.
- You should check to see if you can be married in the church (if you want a church wedding).
- Involve and encourage children to participate in the planning and decisions about the wedding — make them feel a part of the celebration.
- A trend that involves the children is when the step-parents say vows to their stepchildren about being a family. Another trend is to light a family candle as part of the ceremony.
- Many second weddings are destination weddings.
- You can register for gifts, but if your friends were at the first wedding, they do not have to buy a present. Most couples on their second marriage do not receive gifts. Still, some folks are used to gift-giving, so register for some fun things that you like as a couple, or ask your friends to donate to a charity.
- Showers are not normally thrown for a second marriage.
- Some couples register for a honeymoon trip.

OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER:

- In order to get a marriage license, you'll need your divorce decree, or if widowed, your spouse's death certificate.
- You might consider speaking to an attorney about a prenuptial agreement if you have a lot of money, have property you wish to keep in the family, or want to protect your children's future.
- Considering the statistics for second marriages, it's a good idea to consider premarital counseling to make sure you're on the same page and that your expectations are similar.

The Best Dog & the Mutt of Honor

Will your bridal party include your fur-babies?



or couples who's pets are important parts of their lives, there's no reason not to include the furry family members in their weddings. Here are some ideas and tips to make a pet-filled wedding ceremony the cat's meow.

- Include your pet (or pets) in some of the engagement photos.
 Let your friends and family know from the start that your fur baby will be part of the festivities.
- Let other members of the potential bridal party know that you plan to have your pet in the wedding. Some people might have allergy issues.
- Designate a handler for your pet when you aren't handling him or her.
- Check with the wedding venue to make sure your pet will be allowed in the building during the service. Once that is

approved, figure out the role you want your pet to play. Best dog, bride's mutt, ring bearer, flower feline — they're all good choices. Plan what they will wear for the big day, but don't make the outfits too hot, constricting or distracting. Do several dress rehearsals to make sure your pets are happy and willing to perform the duties bestowed upon them. If your pets won't cooperate with your plans, don't force them.

- Book grooming appointments as soon as possible.
- Find a photographer who likes animals and won't mind working with your pet to get perfect shots.
- Take your pets home or to a quiet, safe place rather than taking them to your reception. The wedding ceremony will probably be calm and orchestrated, but the reception might get a bit too wild for your dogs, cats or other animal pets. Lots of strangers, possibly drinking lots of adult beverages, loud music

and an abundance of food can be overwhelming to your fur babies.

- If you don't want your pets to actually attend the wedding, they
 can still be a big part of the event by including photos of them
 on invitations and save-the-date notices. You can also include
 them in slide shows or videos at the reception.
- You want to be married atop your trusty steeds? Well, that's definitely an outdoor venue! Remember that even the gentlest horses will spook if something startles them. If you're still up for the challenge, perform several dress rehearsals to make sure your horses won't shy from the decorations or the fancy outfits you might wear. Keep the guests at a safe distance in case something does happen. If you don't want to take the chance of being dumped in your wedding dress or tuxedo, it might be best to stay on the ground and have a handler hold your horses nearby during the ceremony.

A Local Wedding Destination



The key is finding just the right place in your own backyard. You know the area, but discovering the right place for your wedding requires some visits to venues you've only heard about. The beauty of having your wedding in such a unique place is that often you can hire one location for every wedding event — the welcome reception, the rehearsal dinner, the wedding ceremony, the cocktail hour and reception, and the day-after wedding breakfast. Even better — sometimes these places have guest accommodations too. Who needs to leave the property?

In our area, there are wineries and their associated orchards among other venues with the backdrop of mountains and rivers — making a very memorable wedding weekend. The wineries and orchards often have one wedding planner who can arrange everything for your wedding, someone who has an intimate knowledge of the property who can suggest different locations on the property for various events, such as dinners, ceremonies,

cocktail hours, breakfasts — offering totally different views of absolute beauty, all in one location. Set packages allow you stay within your budget and every detail is arranged by that one person — a one-stop wedding shop! No need to go all over town trying to negotiate with numerous vendors.

Because these locations are unique, it makes sense to serve the wines and fruits of the property. Your guests can tour the orchards and vineyards and purchase products that appeal to them.

These venues have approved and tested caterers, relationships with local florists and designers, provide every table and chair needed for every aspect and event of your wedding and depending on the time of year and day, can give you a timeline that showcases the property to your best advantage making magic moments for your wedding day.











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Hillcrest Orchard Office (541) 773-1487 info@hillcrestorchard.com Hillcrest Orchard is a full-service destination venue located in Medford, Oregon. Nestled in the foothills, this estate offers spectacular mountain views, vast fruit orchards, vineyards, sprawling elegant gardens, overnight accommodations, and RoxyAnn Winery.

We strive to provide our guests with every aspect of a perfect wedding by working closely with industry professionals that will provide you with the finest in catering, entertainment, rentals, and event coordination.

This historic landmark is surrounded by a rogue and boundless beauty that highlights one of the oldest continuously producing orchards in the region.

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Dien to a Venue



Il wedding checklists put selecting a reception location right at the top, because reserving venues can be competitive, particularly for Saturdays in the spring and fall. In fact, couples may want to select the venue before setting the date for the wedding in order to be flexible in securing the desired location. Do your research and site visits early in the wedding planning process, so that you can make a timely decision. Depending on the venue, some may be taking reservations a year or more in advance.

WHAT TO CONSIDER WHEN BOOKING A RECEPTION VENUE:

- Guest list size can determine location options, so have your headcount ready before shopping for a facility. Typically, there are fewer venues that can accommodate large receptions.
- Being flexible about the date will open more options. June and September are the most popular wedding months.

- Visit venues that fit within your budget plans.
- Settle on a style or vibe before shopping. Are you casual or formal? Indoors or outdoors? Rustic, urban or elegant?
- If the ceremony is held elsewhere, a reception location relatively nearby can be helpful for guests. Some out-of-town guests may not have cars, so a central location can be a good choice.
- Do you want all-inclusive services or are you willing to work with multiple providers? For non-inclusive options, are you prepared to be responsible for more coordination and details?
- If considering an outdoor option, is there a backup alternative if weather is a problem? Rain can be a spoiler, but so can heat and insects, so consider the time of day and season.
- What services/equipment do you need from the venue? For example, if you want to have a band, they will need a stage or other place to set up and sufficient power for audio equipment.

PREPARE A CHECKLIST AND ASK, ASK, ASK

When you've narrowed your selections, don't hesitate to ask lots of questions. For example, will there be more than one wedding in the venue on your day? Are there any décor, construction or landscape changes anticipated before your date? When can you get in to decorate and is that time included in the price or extra? Create a checklist and review before signing the contract.

READ THE CONTRACT

FEES: Be sure you are aware of all fees. Most locations have deposit requirements. Many have additional charges for extra tables, linens, dance floor, AV equipment and tents. Some may have food and beverage minimums or service fees for staffing or clean up. These extra fees can bust a budget, so it's important to know what you will need and what it will cost when pricing different facilities.

RESTRICTIONS: Each venue will have its own rules about which caterers or vendors can be used, noise, décor changes allowed, parking, alcohol and much more. Ask directly what restrictions exist and compare against a checklist of your plans.

CANCELLATION: Many venues have nonrefundable policies for cancellation, so be sure you know the commitment before signing.



Possible Extra Fees

- Booking fee
 Additional tables and chairs
 - Tents Linens Gratuities Security
 - Audio/AV equipment



Reception Creativity

Small details add up to big style

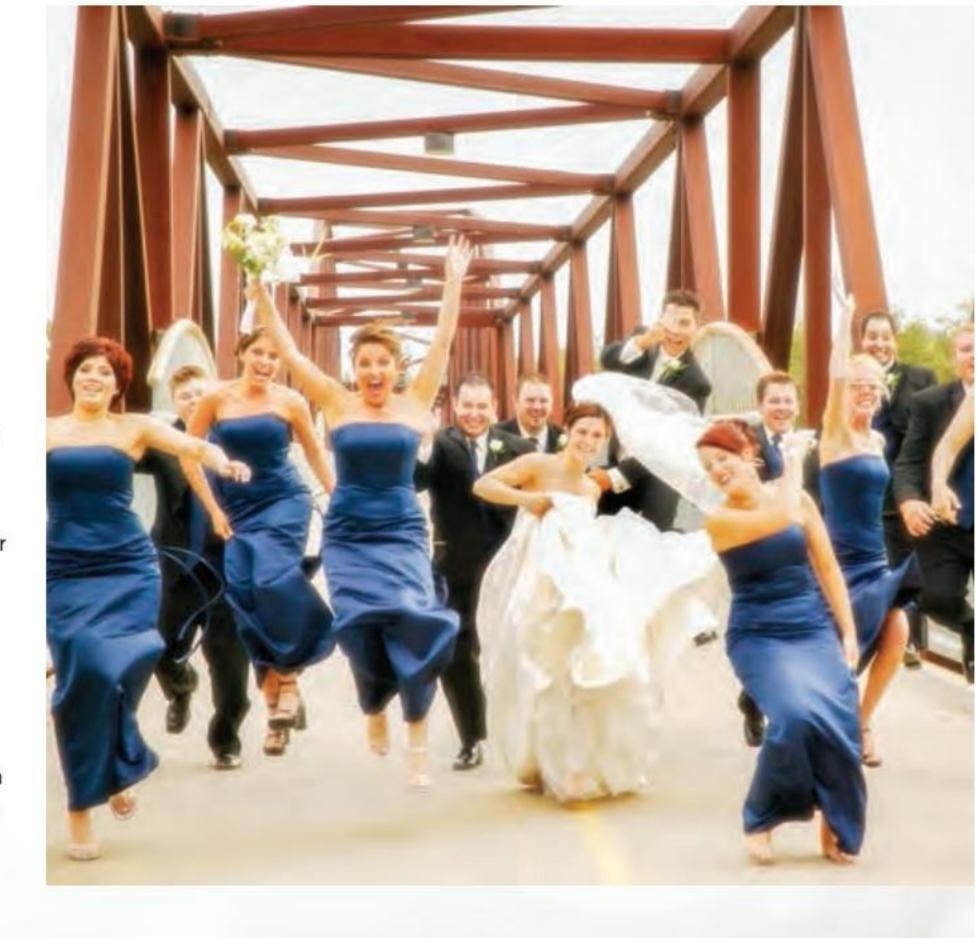
hen it comes to planning your wedding reception, the sky is the limit. From small and homespun to large and lavish, your reception party is the ultimate expression of you as a couple. With careful planning and an eye to the unexpected, you can create a wedding reception that will delight your guests and ensure fond memories for a lifetime. Here are 15 ideas sure to make your wedding reception unforgettable.

1. GIVE GUESTS A WARM WELCOME

Show guests just how much they mean to you by writing a brief, personal note welcoming them to your reception. Place the note on top of their place setting at the table and they will instantly feel at home.

2. MAKE A BIG ENTRANCE

Think of a fun way to join the reception when the DJ or bandleader announces you for the first time as husband and wife, such as a theme song or choreographed dance routine with your wedding party. When your guests see how much fun you are having on the dance floor, it won't be long before they join you to get the party started.



SAY "CHEESE!"

Everyone loves a photo booth, especially one including silly props and costumes. Consider upgrading to a video booth, where guests can record personal messages for you. Another option is to provide Polaroid cameras for the guests to snap photos and leave them in a designated location for you to enjoy later.

4. THINK OUTSIDE OF THE CAKE BOX

Love donuts? Cupcakes? Chocolate chip cookies?
There's no reason that you have to stick to the traditional wedding cake. Alternative dessert tables are all the rage as couples seek to make their reception more personalized to their own tastebuds.



6. HIRE A FOOD TRUCK

Food trucks are a fun, trendy way to inject flavor into your reception at a relatively lower cost than hiring a traditional caterer and waiters.

7. PLAY GAMES

Encourage guests to mingle by creating games for them to play during cocktail hour. You might have a scavenger hunt list asking guests to find someone who fits a particular description, or give guests a puzzle piece and encourage them to find the person with its mate.

5. MODERNIZE THE GUEST BOOK

Guest books are nice, but not very useful after the wedding is over. Why not choose something with staying power, like an art print or serving plate that can be displayed and enjoyed for years to come? Or have your guests sign a map, placing their name near their hometowns, for a visual reminder of how far people have come to support you.

8. REMEMBER THE CHILDREN

If you expect to have kids at your reception, it's a thoughtful and smart idea to organize some entertainment for them. Coloring books, crayons, candy and special child-friendly menu items are good ideas to keep your youngest guests happy and occupied.

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9. DESIGNER DRINK

Choose a cocktail that you and your fiance enjoy, give it a special name, and serve it as a signature drink during cocktail hour.

10. MEMORABLE MUSIC

Even if you opt for a DJ for most of the reception, nothing makes an impact like live musicians.

Consider hiring a jazz trio or single guitar player to serenade guests during cocktail hour.

11. FANCIFUL FAVORS

Consider giving guests favors that will come in handy during your event, like flip-flops to replace high heels when the dancing starts, fans to cool off guests on a summer day, or matchboxes to light sparklers for the bride and groom's exit.

12. BATHROOM BASICS

You've gone to great lengths to make sure that every detail of the reception is perfect, so don't forget the facilities. Set out a basket

of perfume, lotion, breath mints, and other niceties for guests to help themselves to when they take a break from the dance floor.



13. MIDNIGHT SNACK

After a long night of dancing, your guests will be famished as the party comes to a close. Serve a delicious midnight snack, such as milk and cookies, for them to munch on as they prepare to see you off.

14. LEAVE IN STYLE

Forget the birdseed. Make a splash on your dash to the getaway car as guests shower you in confetti, release butterflies, hold sparklers or ring bells.

15. HAVE A HASHTAG

Post visible signs in various gathering areas highlighting your wedding hashtag so that you can enjoy all the posts your guests make on social media in the days to come.





The Signature Cocktail

he ceremony is over. People have headed to the reception location. How can you welcome your guests in a most personal way? Try a signature cocktail created by the two of you. Can't decide on just one special cocktail, create TWO – one for her and one for him!

Signature wedding drinks can be served during the cocktail hour or throughout the entire reception. They can be wine- or champagne-based, or alcohol, mixers and trendy flavors.

Start with a recipe search and make the drinks at home first.

Consider having friends over to help make and taste your concoctions as a great stress reliever for you, your groom and your friends. Make your selection(s) and stick with it! This is a fun part of personalizing your wedding. Consider making a non-alcoholic version of your drink for those who are non-drinkers or designated drivers.

Can't decide on your cocktails? Meet with a mixologist and let that professional guide you and suggest options that reflect the theme or 'feel' of your wedding and reception. A mixologist will incorporate your menu and help to pair wines, champagnes and

liquors with the food you are serving. In addition, the mixologist will suggest drinks that appeal to a wide variety of people — your guests.

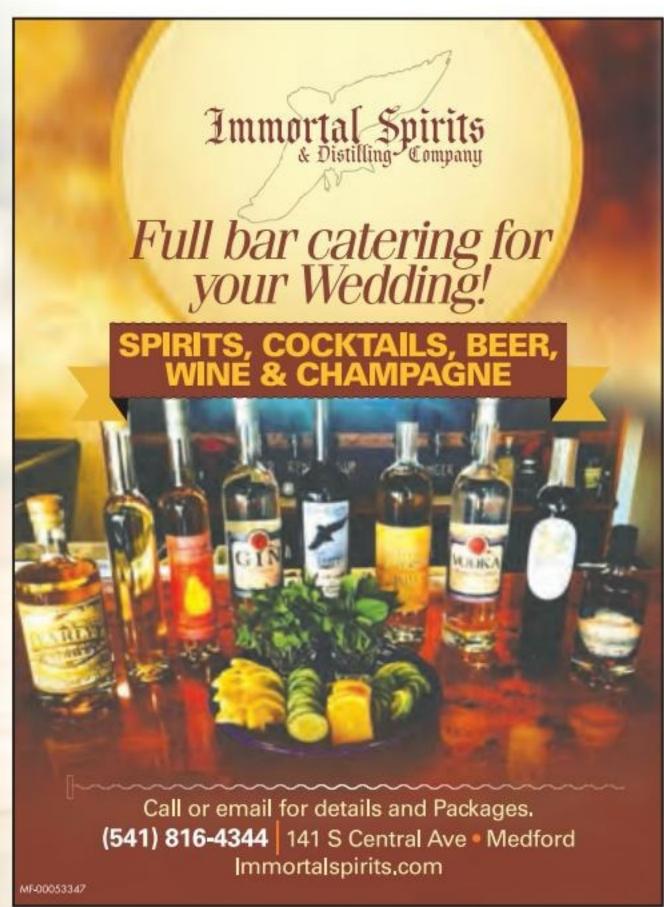
Is there a local winery, brewery or distillery in your

area? Consider contacting someone at one of these locations and creating a hyper-local signature drink or cocktail.

Don't forget to come up with a clever name for your cocktails

— this personalizes your drink. Use your sense of humor and
your creativity to come up with a name that fits you and your
relationship!





Medding Music The List of Special Music Moments

our wedding day is filled with music...music that sets the tone, tugs on the heartstrings, conjures memories, defines relationships, and sends you on your way. This list of musical moments will help you to decide on what to play and when.

HERE'S A LIST OF THE MOMENTS YOU'LL NEED TO SELECT MUSIC THROUGHOUT YOUR WEDDING DAY:

The Getting-Ready Play List — Have romantic, upbeat tunes as you get ready for your wedding.

The Pre-Ceremony — This is the music played as the guests arrive.

The Pre-Processional — This is the music played right before the wedding party enters.

The Processional — This is the music played as the wedding party heads down the aisle.

The Bride's Entrance — The bride walks down the aisle.

The Ceremony — Any music you use during the ceremony.

The Recessional — This is the joyous music played as you head up the aisle (after the ceremony).

The Interlude/Champagne Hour — This is the music played after the ceremony as guests arrive at the reception location.

The Reception — This is the music played as the guests head in to the reception. As the Bride and Groom and their wedding parties enter the reception.

The First Dance — This is the song you have chosen to dance to — your first dance as husband and wife.

Father-Daughter Dance — This is your dance with your Dad — heart-tugging, emotional music that expresses your relationship with your Father.

Mother-Son Dance – This is the groom and his Mom – heart-tugging emotional, music that expresses his relationship with his Mom.

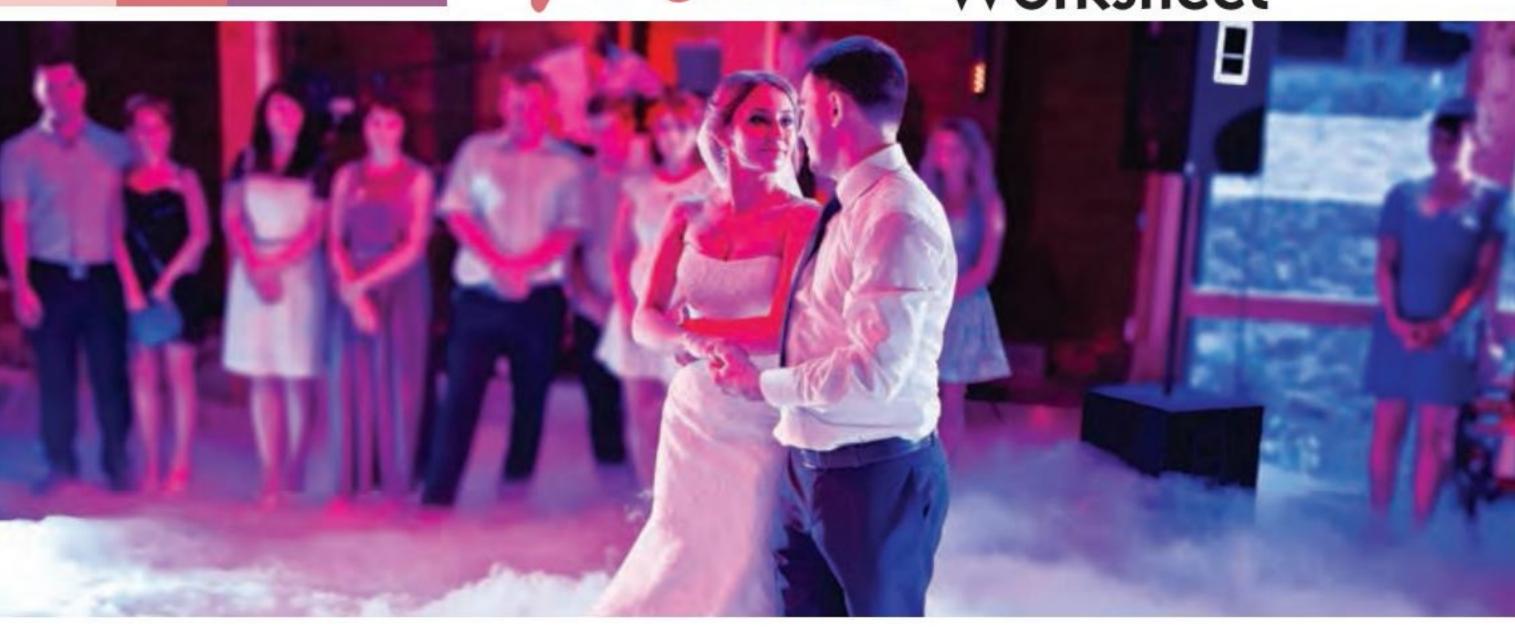
Last Dance — This is the music that sends you and your guests off into the night.



Music Worksheet

Departure: _____

Do Not Play: ____



Organist	Band/DJ	
Soloist	Contact	
Choir	Phone	
Instrumentalist	# of Musicians	
Prelude	# of Breaks	
First Solo	Time of Arrival	
nstrumental Hours of Play		
Second Solo	Cancellations Terms	
Processional	Other	
Bride's Entrance	Deposit Due	
After Vows	Total Due	
Unity Candle		
Recessional	The state of the s	
Other	Father/Daughter Dance:	
Deposit Due	Mother/Son Dance:	
Total Due	Cake Cutting:	
	Garter/Bouquet Toss:	



hether you are looking for dance routine to go viral on YouTube or you simply don't want to look like a fool with two left feet, dance lessons for brides and grooms should be on the wedding planning agenda.

START EARLY

Most studios recommend beginning dance practice three to six months before the wedding, depending on whether you hope to master a classic box step or a choreographed routine. Starting sooner allows for less stress and more time to get comfortable with new skills, so that you can feel relaxed when dancing rather than counting steps.

SEEK PROFESSIONAL HELP

Even if one half of the couple has experience, dance lessons together are fun. Dance studios offer private lessons for wedding couples. Depending on what the goals are, most couples can learn respectable skills within three to five lessons. If one partner is reluctant, remember that all eyes will be watching and that most songs last three to four minutes. Oh, and it will all be captured on video forever! A good dance instructor will listen to ideas regarding your "first dance" vision and go through options to achieve it.

SPECIAL SONG SELECTION

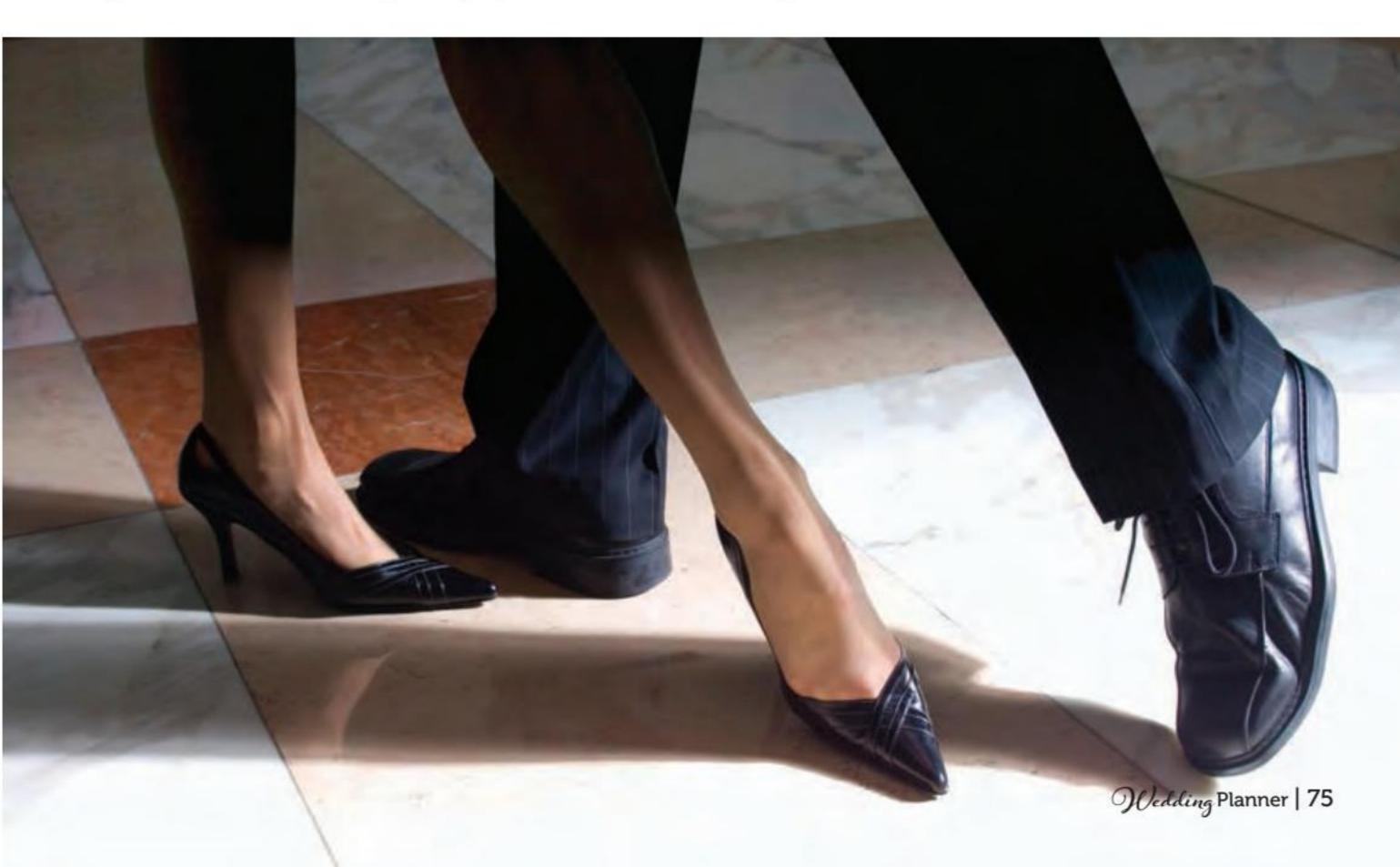
Learning steps and practicing can begin before a final "first dance" song is selected, but the music will influence the dance style. Pick something meaningful and representative to you as a couple, preferably with a steady beat.

PRACTICE!

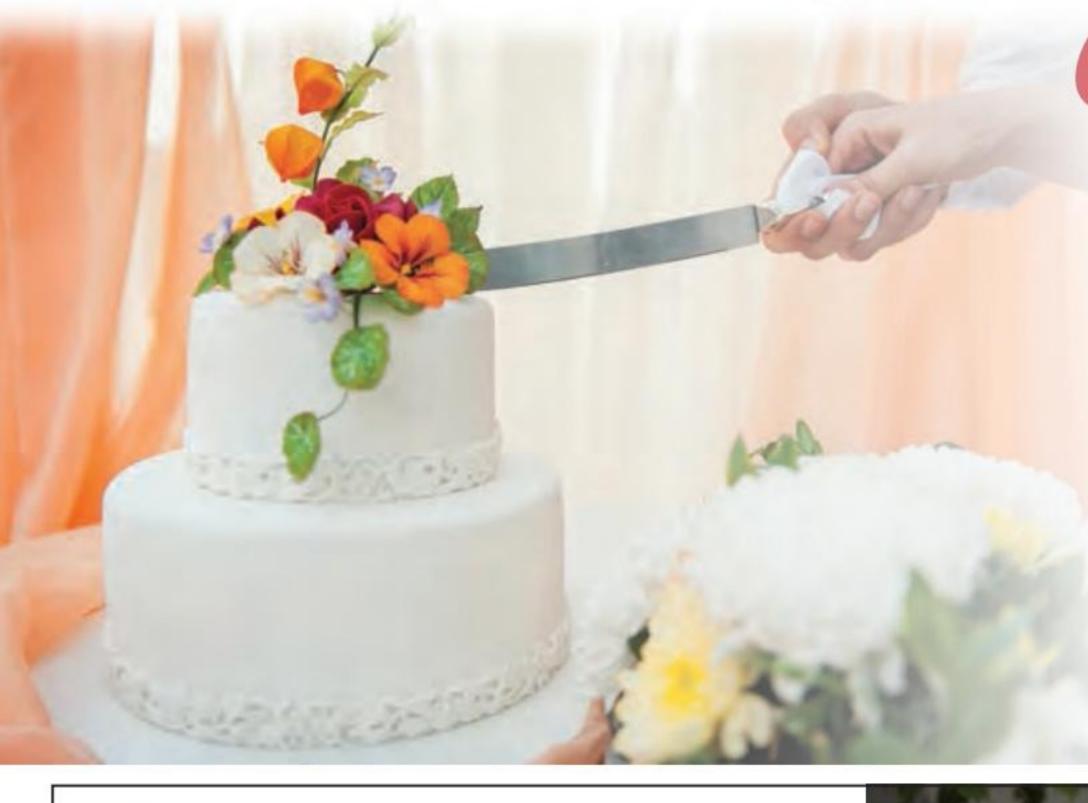
Make time to dance together between lessons and leading up to the wedding. Take advantage of group classes or dance nights out, but at least try to get in two practice sessions a week. Dancing, like marriage, is a team effort.

EXTRAS

- Invite your parents to participate in dance lessons.
- Consider swapping into dance shoes or slippers for the reception.
- Take additional dance classes for more moves and style at the reception.



Trends in Wedding Cake



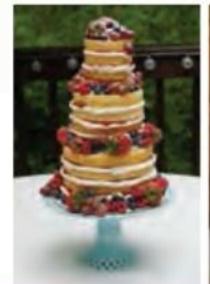
he wedding cake is an essential part of your wedding. Your cake must taste and look fabulous. There are so many choices in style and flavor. Here are the top cake trends for 2017:



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- Tall Cakes Impressive to look at...all about the WOW
- Unique Flavored Cakes Carrot, Fruit, Citrus or Cinnamon
- Traditional Cakes Good classic taste never goes out of style
- Topsy-Turvy Cakes Fun to look at, creative and interesting
- Cascading Flowers Cake The waterfall effect - down the cake and around the cake
- Metallic Cakes Gold, copper, silver, and Art deco – glamourous
- Naked Cakes An exposed cake (yes, you see the baked cake, no icing), fill each layer, and decorate with fruits, nuts, berries
- White on White Cakes A traditional white cake with white decorations and embellishments like ruffles, flowers, petals, and pearls



- Impressionist paintings
- Lace Cakes Yes, Kate's cake was lace (The Duchess)... they've taken this trend to another level by using pastel bases with lace overlays
- · Roses and Rosette Cakes the entire outside of the cake is flowers
- Woodland Cakes A perfect cake for a more casual wedding incorporate nature in the decoration
- Black Cakes These are dramatic cakes with black icing and equally dramatic decoration
- Ombre Cakes These cakes come in all colors and are light at the top and increase in intensity all the way to the bottom.

Wedding Cake plan

Wedding Cake Groom's Cake

Bakery	Bakery	
Contact		
Address		
Phone		
Number of servings		
Description	Description	
Cancellation policy	Cancellation policy	(A - 12.1 -
Total cost	Total cost	
Deposit	Deposit	
Notes		

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Jipping Your Wedding Vendors

hough you may think you've accounted for every imaginable wedding expense, there is one fee that might escape you — the tip. Tipping vendors (from photographers and florists to caterers and DJs) is expected, and it serves as a thank-you for a job well done. But how much do you tip these folks? What is right and proper? Here are suggested tips for everyone, but figuring out whom to tip, how much to tip, and when to offer it can be tricky.

CATERING:

If your contract doesn't include a gratuity, you should tip 15 to 20 percent of the total bill. Another way to tip is offering \$50 to \$100 for each chef and \$20 to \$50 per server.

WEDDING PLANNER:

Wedding planners won't expect a tip, so this is optional based on service. If you were given a huge discount or the planner went far above and beyond her contracted services, offering a tip of 10 to 20 percent is a nice way of saying "thank you" for the efforts.

PHOTOGRAPHER AND VIDEOGRAPHER:

You're not required to tip them if they own the studio. If they don't, then giving them an extra \$50 to \$200 is a nice gesture. If there are two or three photographers, giving a \$50 to \$100 tip to each person (who doesn't own the business) is optional.

CEREMONY STAFF AND RECEPTION STAFF:

It's not mandatory to tip the ceremony staff, reception staff and delivery staff, but if you'd like to, then you can offer them \$20-\$50 each.

OFFICIANT:

Often officiants won't accept tips, but a \$100 donation to their church is a great way to thank them. If the officiant is non-denominational, consider giving them a \$100 tip, especially if they aren't charging for your service.

HAIR AND MAKEUP ARTIST:

A 15 to 20 percent tip is expected, just like it would be for any other regular salon visit, but it isn't required.

BAND OR DJ:

Offering a 10 to 15 percent tip is a nice gesture to your band or DJ, especially if they have to carry a lot of heavy equipment from one location to the next. For musicians, a \$25 to \$50 tip per band member is appropriate.

TRANSPORTATION:

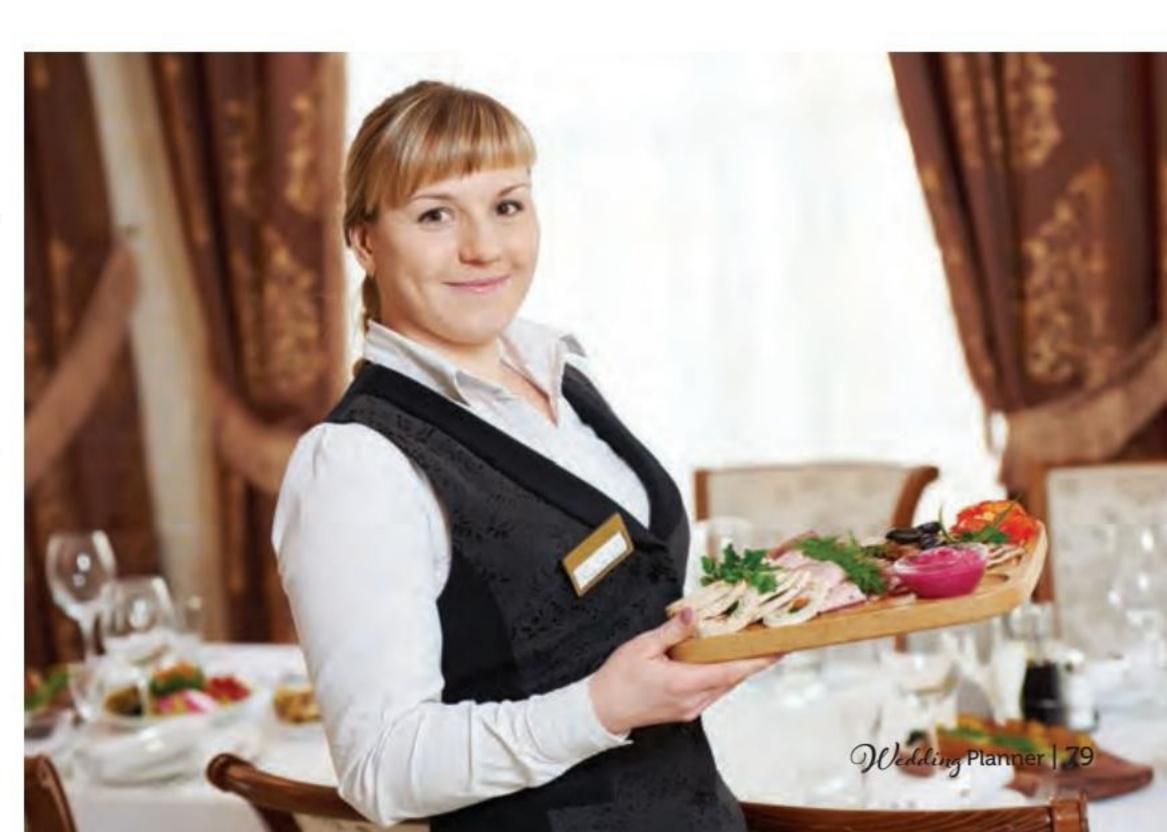
A 15 percent tip is optional if it isn't included in the contract.

FLORIST:

The florist doesn't expect a tip. However, if they do an outstanding job, you can consider giving them a 10 to 15 percent tip after services are rendered.

KEEP THIS IN MIND:

Though tipping at weddings has become more of a custom in all service areas, it isn't mandatory or even expected by most wedding pros. With the exception of the catering staff and possibly the venue, tips are considered a nice surprise by almost all vendors.



Catering

atering a wedding is often the largest cost you'll incur when planning your wedding. The good news is there's a caterer out there for almost any budget. It is important to decide on your budget and stay within those confines. It is also important to know what you want. It is very important to be ready to compromise.

When choosing your caterer (and you'll do this fairly early in your wedding planning), get recommendations and referrals from friends and family who have had experience with the food of a particular chef/caterer. In addition, look into their reputation — you can find anything about anyone via Google, so read reviews and get a feel of how they work, and how their customers feel about them. Narrow your list and then meet with the caterer to determine if you're a good fit both, financially and aesthetically.

Your caterer will want to know the following (in addition to your budget):

- Where and when is the wedding?
- How many guests?
- Is there anything specific you want to have served?
- Do you need plates and cutlery?
- Sit-down dinner or buffet?
- Do you need staff to serve?

Be honest about your budget. Be clear about what you want. Ask for the caterers' opinion of your wedding reception vision. A professional will be able to design a good menu and will offer items in season, substitutions if an item is difficult to source, what foods complement each other, and options to choose from. Food is important, and wedding guests look forward to an exciting and tasty meal. Once you've decided upon your caterer, you'll do some tastings to determine what your menu will be. Bring your groom and parents so you have varying opinions — make it an enjoyable time.







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Creative <u>atering</u> Can Be Money-Saving

ou may have always expected to have a traditional sit-down, three-course wedding dinner, but there are alternatives that can be unique and money-saving:

- Brunch Have a morning wedding with a breakfast brunch
- Pig-Picking Great for a casual wedding and oh so tasty
- Food Trucks Hire food trucks that serve tasty fare oh so trendy
- Favorite Restaurants You love the food choose your menu from your favorite dining spot
- The Buffet This is a money-saving option for all weddings
- Timing have your wedding at non-meal times this allows you to serve whatever you want - desserts, hors d'oevres, a specialty bar (potato, risotto, pasta)







FIND INSPIRATION

Couples should think back on their relationship and choose a meaningful place or a time that will inspire their food and wine choices.

INDULGE

This is a celebration so forget about calories and choose the food and wine that truly reflects the couple.

BUT DON'T LOSE YOURSELF

If the couple aren't fans of foie gras and caviar, now is not the time to serve it.

PERSONALIZE

Consider displaying menus at each place setting that describe the couple's food and wine pairings - and include anecdotes for why they were chosen.

LAST ALL NIGHT

It's a marathon to make it from the ceremony to the reception for the bride and groom and their guests. Make sure the food is substantial enough to keep everyone filled, yet light enough that they don't slip into a groggy fog.

AH, DESSERT

It might be your guests' favorite course, and for a wedding, it can truly be a showpiece. Let the dessert reflect the couple's idea of a tasty treat. Remember, Riesling is a lovely accompaniment to most wedding desserts.











Toasts & Speeches

edding toasts and speeches tell a love story, with a dash of humor and sentimentality, all in under five minutes. It's the moment to reflect on the wedding couple, their journey to this day and the future that awaits.

The bride and groom may designate a special friend or relative for this honor, or it may be part of the best man's or maid of honor's roles. Parents of the couple may want to contribute a few words, as may the bride or groom. Whoever is speaking, it is an important role that will have the full attention of the guests. There are only two rules for success: prepare and practice!



This is no time to wing-it. Start a month or so in advance to assemble your thoughts about special memories, qualities you love about the bride and groom individually and as a couple. You may want to ask others to contribute memories or anecdotes to incorporate. You may want to research and consider poems, quotes or song lyrics to include. If more than one person is speaking, compare notes to avoid duplicating each other.



PRACTICE

Write down your remarks or make a bullet-list on a notecard. Practice in front of your spouse, friends or co-workers — any willing audience you can find. Record your practice and review for improvements. Are you shuffling your feet, staring down or talking too quietly? Time your practice to make sure you are keeping it short and sweet.

Basic Outline of a Wedding Speech

Goal: Under five minutes, start to finish

- Introduce yourself to the crowd, your role in the wedding and/or relationship to the couple.
- Open with an appropriate joke or anecdote.
- Add some compliments and appreciation of the couple, the venue, the families, the ceremony.
- Share some sweet or humorous memories of the bridal couple.
- Offer a nugget of wisdom or advice, leading to wellwishes for their future.
- Thank the couple and acknowledge the families and others who worked and participated in the wedding.

Caution Flags

Don't drink too much before your speech!

Bring your notes or put them on your phone so you won't leave them at home.

Everyone loves humor and a fun joke can lighten up any crowd, but remember someone's grandmother is probably attending and choose your jokes with care. Relatedly, people will be expecting some funny stories about the wedding couple, but don't let any secrets out or humiliate either person with a story not intended for primetime.

Make sure everyone can hear and that any audio equipment is working.

Be who you are. You were chosen for a reason. Don't try to force a style that isn't natural to who you are, whether that is a comedy routine or a deeply serious introspection.



FOR THE BRIDE:

Don't forget these important items on your wedding day...

ATTIRE

- Pre-wedding clothes, such as a jogging suit or a simple dress, and a robe
- ☐ Wedding dress, veil and headpiece
- ☐ Shoes, hosiery and undergarments
- ☐ Bridal slippers or flats
- ☐ Handbag or clutch
- ☐ Gloves, if wearing
- ☐ Keepsake garter & toss garter, handkerchief
- Departure outfit, if changing

PERSONAL

- Cosmetics, perfume and toiletries
- ☐ Jewelry and accessories
- ☐ Sunglasses, glasses, contacts
- Something old, new, borrowed and blue
- Copy of wedding vows, if writing your own
- ☐ Gift or card for groom
- ☐ Wedding bands and clean engagement ring
- □ Prescription medication
- A separate tote/suitcase as your honeymoon bag

TECH

- ☐ Cell phone and charger
- ☐ Songs or music (that you promised to bring, or to keep you relaxed)
- Ask someone else to take candid photos, watch the weather radar, and track time

WEDDING FOLIO

- ☐ Copies of vendor and bridal party contact list and timeline for the day
- ☐ Copies of guest list, meal choices, and seating diagram
- ☐ Copies of photo shot list

DOCUMENTS, ID, MISC.

- ☐ Marriage license
- ☐ Envelopes with tips for vendors
- ☐ Driver's license and/or passport
- ☐ Airline flight tickets if you're leaving soon after the reception for your honeymoon
- ☐ Digital or printed copies of itineraries, confirmation codes, reservations (hotels, limos, bookings, etc.)

□ EMERGENCY KIT

Your wedding planner or coordinator can bring an emergency kit

FOR THE GROOM:

Don't forget these important items on your wedding day...

☐ Cash /	checkbook /	credit card(s) -	-be	prepared	for	the
unexpe	ected					

ATTIRE

- ☐ Pre-wedding clothes
- ☐ Tux or suit
- ☐ Underwear (including white t-shirt),
- ☐ Socks to match
- ☐ Shoes (if not rented)
- ☐ Tie (if not rented)
- ☐ Handkerchief, suspenders or belt

PERSONAL

- ☐ Travel bag to hold overnight items & toiletries
- ☐ Watch, cufflinks / tie bar
- ☐ Sunglasses glasses, contacts
- ☐ Copy of wedding vows, if writing your own
- Gift or card for bride
- ☐ Wedding band(s)
- ☐ Prescription medication

TECH

- ☐ Cell phone and charger
- Personal camera, charger, chips
- ☐ Personal devices needed before or after the wedding
- Usb or sync cables for devices

DOCUMENTS, ID, MISC

- ☐ Marriage license
- ☐ Envelopes with tips for vendors
- Driver's license and/or passport, insurance card (for car rentals)
- ☐ Airline flight tickets if you're leaving soon after the reception for your honeymoon
- □ Copies of itineraries, confirmation codes, reservations (hotels, limos, bookings, etc.)
- ☐ Car keys (if needed)

PRIOR TO THE WEDDING, DELIVER AND DISTRIBUTE:

- ☐ Wedding party gifts, parent gifts, thank-you cards
- Wedding programs (give to venue coordinator or wedding planner)
- ☐ Wedding favors (as above)
- Other personal items; accessories for ceremony and reception (as above)
- ☐ Copies of readings for the ceremony (as above)
- ☐ Directions to the reception (as above)



- 1. Start planning early.
- 2. Make sure you know what you both want in a honeymoon. Rest and relaxation? Adventure? All inclusive? Out of the USA? Europe? A road trip? The islands? Exotic? A cruise? Make sure you consider what you both like to do and agree on both the location and activities you'll both enjoy.
- 3. Set a budget. Stay within that budget.
- Know how many days you have for both travel and honeymoon.
- Once you decide on a location, do your research. Get air prices, hotel options at various price points, rental car costs, food estimates, and incidentals.
- Set an itinerary keep it interesting, but also loose enough to allow for some sleep and relaxation.

- Consult a professional travel agent or travel planner.
- 8. Consider your departure day. Do you really want a morning flight the day after your wedding?
- Consider your return day. Returning a
 day or two before you have to go back
 to work will allow you to be fresh at
 home and at the office.
- Consider trip insurance just in case there are weather woes, delays, flight cancellations, etc.
- 11. Plan what outfits you'll need based on activities and location. Swimsuits, skis, formal dress, hiking boots, wraps, coats, sundresses, shorts, jeans, sneakers, coat and tie?
- Make lists of clothing that can layer, mix and match.

- Make lists of toiletries for both of you as well as additional items appropriate for your destination.
- Get a cross-body shoulder bag (to discourage theft).
- 15. Get a waist or neck wallet for valuables.
- Have a tote for daytrips and extra items you'll want to carry home.
- 17. Check and re-check your packing list.
- 18. Pack in advance.
- 19. Arrange for pet care in advance.
- Have someone retrieve your mail and check on your house or apartment.
- 21. Book a dinner or two in advance for less stress.



Book a tour or two in advance if appropriate.

- 23. Make sure you have a medical kit for every possible mishap: allergies, irregularity, cuts or bruises, bug bites, headaches...better to be prepared with meds you know about.
- Don't forget any meds you may take daily.
- Bring batteries and chargers for your phones, laptops and cameras.
- Bring converters (electricity) for those countries with different electricity.
- 27. Bring an umbrella.
- Layer clothing, bring a wrap or hoodie just in case.
- 29. Take lots of photos. Make sure you get photos of the two of you. Bring a selfie stick.

- 30. Buy souvenirs that mean something to both of you: a painting, ceramics, mementos that will forever remind you of your wonderful honeymoon.
- Always use the safe in your hotel room.
- 32. Be on time to the airport. Be earlier than that. It's good to have an early flight so you can have a Plan B if Plan A goes off schedule.
- 33. No trip is without a few hiccups. Manage your expectations. Recover from a disappointment easily. It's these things that shape how you deal with problems.
- 34. Relax.
- 35. Enjoy.
- 36. Be safe.
- 37. Have fun!



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Hanning Worksheet

Wedding Night	After the Honey	moon		
Hotel	Send your wedding annound Ashland Daily Tidings	cement to the Mail Tribune &		
Address Phone Date reservation made	Develop film: review photo photos for your wedding albert family and friends.	proofs and video. Choose oum and order prints for yoursel		
Confirmation	 □ Write thank-you notes. Hand-write each note, personal it by mentioning the gift and how you will use it. Thanknotes should be sent within a month of the wedding. □ Take your gown to a professional cleaner to have it drycleaned and preserved. This should be done within on 			
Honeymoon	cleaned and preserved. This	should be done within one to		
Cleaned and preserved. This should be done six months after your wedding. Destination				
Leaving	□ Deposit wedding-gift checks,	bonds and stock certificates.		
Returning	☐ Pay wedding and reception i	invoices.		
Travel Agency	Don't forget to	change your		
Contact person	name on:			
Phone	Automobile registration	☐ Memberships		
	☐ Bank accounts	□Mortgages		
Airline	☐ Credit cards	☐ Passport		
Flight number	☐ Doctor and dental records	☐ Property titles or leases		
Transportation	☐ Driver's license	☐ Social Security card		
	401(k)/retirement plans	U.S. Postal Service		
Notes		☐ Utility bills		
	auto insurance IRS documents	☐ Voter's registration		
8	☐ Investment accounts	☐ Wills		
	Legal contracts			

Honeymoon Packing List



The Wedding Registry



For the Bathroom:

- 2 bathrobes
- 1 bath mat
- 2 bath sheets
- 4-6 bath towels
- 4-6 hand towels
- 4-6 washcloths
- 1 shower curtain and liner
- 1 soap dish
- 1 toothbrush holder
- 1 water glass
- 1 lotion dispenser
- 1 hamper
- 2 waste baskets
- Bath rugs
- Hair dryer

For the Bedroom:

- 1 duvet cover or comforter
- 1 duvet
- Shams and dust ruffle
- 2 blankets (cotton or wool)
- Mattress and boxspring
- Mattress pad
- Pillows 2-4
- 2 sets of sheets

he first thing to do when registering for your wedding gifts is to take an inventory of both your homes to see what you really need or want.

If you're just starting out, the list below will suffice. If you have an established household, you may not need new china or a food processor. If so, you may want to edit the suggested list below down and add some more unique items.

For the Dining Room:

- 1 large salad bowl and serving utensils
- 8-12 cups and saucers
- 8-12 drinking glasses
- 8-12 mugs
- 8-12 wine glasses
- 8-12 cloth napkins and rings
- 8-12 china place settings
- 8-12 casual place settings
- 2-4 serving platters or trays
- 1 set of salt and pepper shakers
- 1 set of covered dishes
- 1 set of serving utensils
- 8-12 steak knives
- 8-12 place settings of silver
- 8-12 place setting of everyday
- flatware
- 1 teapot
- 2 tablecloths

For the Kitchen:

- 2 baking sheets
- 1 blender
- 1 coffee maker
- 1 cutting board
- 1 Dutch oven
- 1 food processor
- Knife set
- Salt shaker and pepper grinder
- 2 oven mitts
- 2 round cake pans
- 1 set of pots and pans
- 1 electric skillet

- 1 pasta pot and stainer
- 1 set of measuring cups
- 3 baking sheets
- 1 set of mixing bowls
- 1 standing mixer
- 1 toaster
- 1 toaster oven
- 1 whisk
- 2 wooden spoons
- 3 spatulas
- 1 soup tureen

The Extras:

- Candlesticks
- Vases
- Luggage
- Woven throw
- Christmas ornaments
- Flannel sheets
- Holiday décor and linens
- Fireplace tools
- Vacuum cleaner
- Garden tools weed eater, leaf blower, shovel, shears, snow blower
- Lawn mower
- Picnic basket
- Patio furniture and furnishings
- Ice cream maker
- Grill
- Barware
- Insulated cooler

90 | Wedding Planner

Unconventional Gift Registries

Couples ask for fewer blenders and more Belize

pening presents is fun, but how many toasters does one couple need? Though you may want to have a traditional gift registry for linens and kitchenware, there are appealing alternatives for family and friends to fund travel, homes and charitable causes rather than a packaged gift.

HONEYMOON FUNDING:

With these services, guests can choose to pay for a portion of the expenses, such as airline miles, hotels or dining. They can also give add-on extras, such as a champagne brunch or a massage for two. Depending on the destination, donors can choose to fund sightseeing excursions, gondola rides, hot air balloon trips, horseback outings or deep-sea fishing trips, as examples.

HOME FUNDING:

Some couples may have an eye to the future and home ownership. Family and friends can contribute to their down payment goal or "buy" portions of their house (such as a "window," at a suggested amount of \$75).

NONTRADITIONAL GIFTS:

Couples may be stocked for kitchenware, but would like some camping gear or bicycles, a sofa or wine. One advantage of these services is that givers can pool funds to contribute toward higher-priced gifts.

CHARITABLE DONATIONS:

In lieu of gifts, some couples choose to direct guests to fund nonprofits. Some popular examples at the I Do Foundation (part of Just Give) are Doctors Without Borders, the American Cancer Society, Habitat for Humanity and Save the Children. Couples can also choose nonprofits closer to home, such as animal shelters and schools.



Changes in attitude
Alternative registries are on the rise. One reason is more Americans are getting

Alternative registries are on the rise. One reason is more Americans are getting married later. The average age of first marriage is 27 for women and 29 for men. Many brides- and grooms-to-be are living on their own or together and already own bedding, kitchen items and other typical wedding gifts. Another reason is a more casual modern lifestyle no longer puts the same premium on formal collections, such as large china and silverware sets, that previous generations did. Many modern couples prize experiences over items. Engaged couples may also feel cash-strapped and would prefer to pool wedding gifts into a big present, such as an appliance or furniture.

Cantion!

All wedding gifts are exactly that — gifts. Guests should have the option to choose a gift that they feel good about, whether that is a coffeemaker or the carbon offset for the honeymoon. Consider a blend of registries that suits your needs, but also has traditional and nontraditional options for people who wish to give you a memorable present. Recognize that some guests may prefer an object over an experience and vice versa. Even in selecting charities, you should choose several so there is an option that may vibe with their values also.

Making it Official



MARRIAGE LICENSE

In Oregon, each county is responsible for issuing marriage licenses, however the following rules hold true statewide. Marriage licenses are overseen at the county clerk's office. Check the webpage of the county clerk's office in your county to verify hours of operation, local fees and regulations.

A marriage ceremony in Oregon requires an officiant (a judge or an ordained representative of a religious organization) and two witnesses above the age of 18. The license must be filed back with the same county from which it was purchased within five days of the marriage. Your license becomes a record of marriage once it has been returned and signed by the local official.

- You DON'T have to be an Oregon resident to obtain a marriage license.
- You DO have to be at least 17 years old, and 17-year-olds must have proof of parental consent.
- You DON'T need a blood test.
- You CAN'T get married until three days after the license is issued.
- You CAN use the license anywhere in Oregon within 60 days to get married.
- You BOTH must appear in person to sign the license.
- You will NEED TO BRING proof of age, valid ID and the license fee (cash or debit/credit cards only).

EXCEPTIONS AND QUALIFIERS:

- Exceptions may be made in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act for applicants who cannot appear in the office.
- The three-day waiting period can be waived if the wedding is in within that time, but there is an additional fee. Both parties must be present to request the waiver.
- Parents will need to be present or sign a consent form for 17-year-olds.
- If one or both of the parties has been married before,
 a license can be issued one day after the final date of the divorce.

NAME CHANGE

If you are changing your name after marriage, start by requesting a new Social Security card, which you'll need to update your driver's license and passport. Notifying the Social Security Administration will also update the Internal Revenue Service of your new name. You'll need to file form SS-5 with your local Social Security office, which may have to be done in person. You'll need a certified copy of your marriage certificate from the appropriate county agency. Once you have a new Social Security card, you will need a new driver's license. Check what you are required to bring before visiting the DMV. You may be able to update your vehicle registration and title as part of the process.

ADDRESS CHANGE

If one or both of you is moving after the wedding, notify all the relevant entities, from employers to the Post Office, of how to find you. Use the opportunity to update your new name as well, if applicable. Be sure to add the spouse's name to the mortgage or lease if moving into one person's existing home.

STATUS CHANGE

Marriage is a life event that can necessitate at review of all your official paperwork, including legal documents, wills, insurance, emergency contacts and beneficiaries. Most health insurance providers allow 30 days following the ceremony to add a spouse to the insurance plan. If you miss this window, you may have to wait until open enrollment.



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Gifts & thank you notes

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Business	Website	Phone	Business	Website	Phone
A-Affordable Royal Flush		541-610-9654	Fort Vannoy Farms	www.fortvannoyfarms.com	541-479-3765
All About Parties/Grants Pass Rentals	www.allaboutparties.com	541-476-1447	Gene Holiday, DJ	www.asaturdaywedding.com	541-779-1664
Alteration Center	alterationcenter.biz	541-772-8535	Hillcrest Orchard	www.hillcrestorchard.com	541-778-8925
Anna Scott Photography	www.annascottphoto.com	541-237-8487	Holistic Health & Fitness	www.holistichealth-fitness.com	541-941-8800
Ashland Hills Hotel & Suites	www.ashlandhillshotel.com	541-482-8310	Hopper Vacations	www.hoppervacations.com	
Ashland Springs Hotel	www.ashlandspringshotel.com	541-488-1700	Immortal Spirits & Distilling	www.immortalspirits.com	541-816-4344
Bed Bath & Beyond	www.bedbathandbeyond.com		Inn at the Commons	www.innatthecommons.com	541-779-5811
Belle Fiore Winery	www.bellefiorewine.com	541-552-4900	It Works Global	www.itworks.com	702-747-1388
Beyond the Gates Photography	www.beyondthegatesphoto.com	541-326-2763	Jacklily Seasonal Floral Design	www.jacklilyfloral.com	541-951-2615
Branches, Blooms & Bling	branchesbloomsandbling.com	541-301-6657	Jacksonville Inn	www.jacksonvilleinn.com	541-899-1900
Bray Agency - Farmer's Insurance		541-779-4525	John Sherfey - Make-up Artist		541-646-2028
Carroll Newcomb - Ordained Celebr	rant	541-727-7522	La Fleur Bouquet	www.lafleurbouquet.com	541-621-2730
Cafe Dejeuner	www.quality-catering.com	541-773-2449	La Mera Gardens	www.lameragardens.com	541-857-8223
Callahan's Mountain Lodge	www.callahanslodge.com		Lahna Marie Photography	www.photographybylahnamarie.com	541-778-8872
Catalyst Video Productions	www.cvpmedia.com	541-840-0032	Lilys & Horns Photography	www.lilysandhorns.com	541-622-5540
Ciao Bella Catering/Bella Union	www.bellau.com	541-261-8884	Lithia Springs Inn	www.lithiaspringsresort.com	541-488-7383
Cigar Cave	www.cigarcave.biz	541-415-0781	Lotus Motion Pictures	www.lotusmotionpictures.com	541-941-1623
Classic Lips with Georgie		541-261-4348	Mary's BBQ - Catering & Rentals	www.marysbbqplace.com	541-601-1046
Cooking 4 Wellness	www.cookingforwellness.net	541-441-5607	Men's Wearhouse	www.menswearhouse.com	541-773-2170
Crystal & Flynn - Violin + Cello Duo	www.crystalreeves.net	541-621-6335	Moments Wedding & Event Rentals		541-761-5954
David's Bridal	www.davidsbridal.com		Monat Hair Care	www.monatyourhair.com	541-787-0563
Designtwentyfive	www.designtwentyfive.etsy.com	541-301-0624	Mike's Mobile DJ	www.mikesmobiledj.wix.com/mmd	j 541-680-8296
Dinner 4 Two	www.dinner4two.com	877-772-6297	Mission Travel Vacations	www.missiontravel.org	541-326-4299
DJ Hope	www.medforddj.com	541-944-7043	Mrs. Cards Cakes	www.mrscardscakes.com	541-601-2253
Dove Chocolate	www.mydcdsite.com/andreawatson	541-301-7431	Mucho Gusto		541-225-7461
Eagle Point Golf Club	www.eaglepointgolf.com	541-826-8225	Olive Garden Catering	www.olivegarden.com	541-857-1733
Easy Street Weddings	www.easystreetweddings.com	541-973-2999	Party Gallery	www.partygallerymedford.com	541-841-1474
Events on the Peak	www.eventsonthepeak.com	541-944-6879	Party Place	www.partyplaceandevents.com	541-776-7729

Business Directory

Business	Website	Phone	Business	Website	Phone
Party Time Rentals & Sales	www.partytimeoregon.com	541-884-0114	Sugar Rush Bakery	www.sugarushbakery.me	541-241-6727
Penny & Lulu Studio Florist	www.pennyandlulu.com	541-779-1112	Sweet Stuff Cake and Candy	www.sweetstuffcake.com	541-772-4439
Pixy Prints Photography	www.pixyprints.com	541-621-2434	Taprock Northwest Grill	www.taprock.com	541-955-5998
Ray's Food Place	www.gorays.com/locations		The Teapot on Wheels	www.theteapotonwheels.com	541-855-4343
Rogue Barbers	www.roguebarbers.com	541-476-1275	Things We Made		541-535-4633
Rogue River Lodge	www.therogueriverlodge.com	541-878-2555	Tuxedo Junction	www.medfordstuxedojunction.com	541-773-1606
Rogue Regency Inn & Suites	www.rogueregency.com	541-282-2114	Urban Edge Salon - Stacey Walch	i	541-951-9985
Rogue Valley Country Club	www.rvcc.com	541-842-8199	Urban Edge Salon - Rebecca Sch	uh	530-598-1936
Rosewood Vintage Rentals	www.rosewoodvintagerentals.co	om	WCST-Wedding Venues	www.myspecialwedding.org	541-295-5379
Shawnie Curtis Make-up Artist	www.shawniecurtis.com	541-326-9087	We Got Your Bling	www.wegotyourbling.com	
Sherm's Food 4 Less		541-779-2546	The Willows	www.thewillowsbedandbreakfast.com	541-665-3020
Shirley's Fashion Boutique		541-512-8903	Woolvies Florist	www.woolviesflorist.com	541-779-1375
Sights & Sounds Unlimited	www.ssounds.com	541-476-8558	The Wright Officiant	www.thewrightofficiant.com	541-660-6183
Simply You Planning	www.simplyyouplanning.com	541-727-8554			



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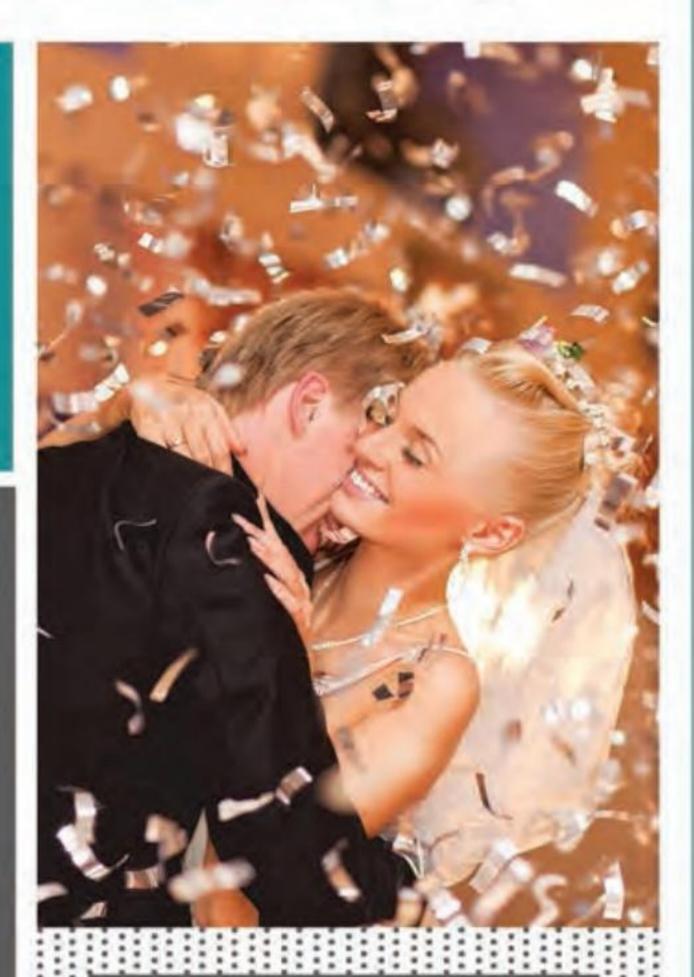
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