

WEDDING

TIMES LEADER MEDIA GROUP

Style Guide

March 2018

Plan the perfect wedding
just pick your palette:

*70s Boho, Fairytale,
Urban Vintage, Tropical*

TIPS FOR MAKING YOUR WEDDING

Picture Perfect

7 LOCAL COUPLES SHARE THEIR

Special Day

The Checklist

FROM SAYING "YES"
TO SAYING "I DO"

Dan & Annaleigh Fusco

PHOTO BY ALY MARTIN PHOTOGRAPHY

The Checklist

This wedding planning checklist covers a 12 month span, but you can adjust the schedule to your own timeline, whether you're planning two years or one month in advance. Then, simply start at the top of the list below and browse through each group of tasks before tackling them one by one.

12 Months Before

- Announce your engagement to family and friends and plan an engagement party
- Place an engagement announcement in your local newspaper
- Sign up for a wedding website to keep your guests informed about event details, area information, etc.
- Work on the budget
- Consider purchasing wedding planning software to organize everything, or hire a wedding planner to help secure contracts, etc.
- Choose a wedding date - select a few days in case your first choice is booked
- Choose a location and reserve your ceremony and reception site(s)
- Begin a rough guest list and compile current addresses
- Decide on who you'd like to have as your attendants, including your maid of honor and best man
- Begin shopping for your wedding gown
- Attend a local bridal show or two and jot down notes about any vendors you really liked
- Purchase a wedding planning organizer or calendar to keep track of important dates and appointments (fittings, showers, etc.)

6-9 Months Before

- Research and choose one or more bridal gift registry
- Order your wedding gown and buy undergarments that you will wear with it (bring these to all fittings)
- Order other bridal accessories - shoes, gloves and veil
- Begin shopping for bridesmaids dresses
- Find an officiant who will perform your ceremony
- Research local vendors and book ceremony musicians, a wedding band/DJ, photographer, videographer, caterer and florist

4-6 Months Before

- Select and order your wedding invitations, invitation envelopes and thank-you cards
- Select and purchase wedding favors and wedding favor accessories - boxes, personalized wedding ribbon, labels, etc.
- Purchase any desired ceremony and reception decorations - unity candles, vases, aisle runner, etc.
- Start researching wedding cake pictures and local bakeries
- Book your honeymoon and verify that you have any necessary travel documents including passports and visas
- Book a room for your wedding night, if you will be leaving for your honeymoon the next morning
- Book hotel rooms or arrange other accommodations for out-of-town guests
- Finalize your guest list and send out save-the-date cards, if using
- Print out directions to the ceremony, reception, rehearsal dinner and hotel(s) for guests
- Reserve transportation for you and your wedding party as well as a bus or trolley for your guests (if necessary)

2-4 Months Before

- Find out what your state's requirements are for obtaining a marriage license and get blood tests done, if required
- Order tuxedos for the groom and groomsmen
- Meet with your caterer to discuss the menu and your bar/liquor needs
- Meet with your officiant to discuss ceremony details, wording and wedding vows
- Select wedding readings
- Order your wedding cake
- Buy thank-you gifts for your attendants, flower girl and ring bearer
- Shop for a gift for your new spouse-to-be
- Select and purchase wedding rings, and have them engraved if desired
- Coordinate and choose a location for the rehearsal dinner
- Contact party rental companies for tents, tables, arches, etc. if necessary
- Book any other specialty services - ice sculptures, photo booths, etc.
- Purchase luggage and other travel necessities and attire for your honeymoon
- Order/renew passports if necessary, leaving ample time for them to be sent back to you
- Schedule an appointment with your dentist if you'd like to have your teeth whitened or cleaned before the wedding

The Checklist

1-2 Months Before

- Mail invitations out to everyone eight weeks prior to the wedding date and send accommodation info to your out-of-town guests
- Compile and complete name change documents or purchase a bridal name change kit online
- Fill out a change of address form at the post office, if necessary
- Have ceremony programs printed
- Purchase a guest book, pen and other wedding accessories including toasting glasses, cake knife, ring pillow, etc.
- Keep your wedding web site updated with directions and event details
- Choose your hair and makeup stylists and schedule a trial for both; also book appointments to have your hair, make-up and nails
- done on the day of the wedding
- Review insurance information with your fiancé and check with employers to see what documents need to be updated once you are legally wed (car, home, medical, etc.)

2 Weeks to 1 Month Before

- Create a seating chart for the reception and make table numbers and place cards (or have your calligrapher work on these)
- Contact your caterer with a final guest count
- Print out a timeline of events for your wedding party and vendors - include contact information and cell phone numbers
- Meet with your photographer to finalize your wedding photo list of any must-have photos
- Contact your florist to confirm your final flower order (bouquets, boutonnieres, centerpieces, etc.) and go over any decor details or
- venue logistics for the big day
- Finalize your ceremony and reception music and song lists for your wedding band or DJ
- Confirm lodging reservations for out-of-town guests
- Place a wedding announcement in your local newspaper
- Plan a bridal luncheon or dinner with your bridesmaids
- Pick up wedding bands and make sure the fit is good
- Schedule a final wedding dress fitting
- Apply for your marriage license
- Write rehearsal dinner toasts

1 Week Before

- Write out final checks to your wedding vendors (each organized in an envelope) and let your wedding coordinator or one of your attendants to distribute at the wedding
- Pick up your wedding gown
- Pick up your marriage license
- Confirm limo or other transportation reservations
- Pack for your honeymoon and confirm travel arrangements
- Have your post office hold your mail, if necessary, while you are on your honeymoon
- Treat yourself to a spa day - you deserve it!

The Day Before

- Welcome out-of-town guests as they arrive
- Take a yoga class or go for a walk during the day
- Schedule a hair appointment for prior to the rehearsal dinner
- Attend the rehearsal and enjoy the rehearsal dinner!

The Wedding Day

- Wake up early and do some easy exercise, or just go for a peaceful walk outdoors and try to soak up the beauty of the day
- Set aside some time before the festivities to share gifts with your bridesmaids or close family members
- Eat a healthy breakfast - you'll need your energy for the big day ahead!
- Enjoy it; it's finally here and everything will be wonderful... Congratulations!



PHOTOS BY ALY MARTIN PHOTOGRAPHY

Annaleigh & Dan

September 30, 2017

Story submitted by Mrs. Annaleigh Fusco

How We Met & Engagement

We met on July 25, 2013 at an Old Crow Medicine Show concert at Penn's Peak. The car Dan was in just so happened to park next to my car. Almost three years later, on July 21, 2016, Old Crow Medicine Show was returning to Penn's Peak. We had plans to go to the show, but before we left, Dan took me to lunch at Fox Hill Country Club and proposed. When we finally got to the concert and parked the car, I looked out the window and saw all of our close family and friends. Dan had arranged for all of them to go to the concert to help us celebrate!

Wedding Planning

When we started thinking about our wedding, we knew we wanted to have delicious food at a beautiful venue, amazing entertainment and a talented photographer who would capture this special moment in our lives. Those were the first 3 vendors we wanted to focus on initially and make sure we found the BEST in each category.

Venue: Due to a large family and many friends, our guest count was going to be around 300 people. Knowing this, our venue options were limited locally. We looked at about 5 venues before we inquired with our chosen venue. Dan and I had always been a huge fan of the Beaumont Inn. We love the property, the outstanding food created by Chef Jeff Huntzinger and the friendliness of the staff. We knew they

did weddings, but didn't know how many people they were able to accommodate. It was worth a try so we reached out to Sheila Humphrey, the manager and event planner of The Beaumont Inn. She told us they were able to accommodate up to 300 guests AND that they were constructing a new beautiful Grand Pavilion for events. It was a no brainer. Dan and I were sold! Sheila was the best person to work with during the wedding planning process. She was very attentive, very knowledgeable and easy to work with.

Entertainment: This category was important because we wanted our guests to be entertained from beginning to end! For the ceremony, we wanted to have the classic sound of a string trio. After searching The Knot for string bands in the area, Aviva Strings popped up with the best reviews. I contacted Jessica Yang, the founder/violinist, and she immediately got back to me. Jess was so sweet to work with and very responsive to questions. Their repertoire had a vast selection, but if you wanted something not on the list they were able to learn it for the special day! For the cocktail hour and reception, Dan and I wanted to look into a band because we love live music. We looked both locally and in the Philadelphia area, and finally picked Love 77 through EBE Entertainment. EBE is based in Philadelphia and their company offers a variety of bands, DJs and other entertainment. Love 77's band leaders, Dave Giorgio & Anita Ferriola, were super helpful when discussing and picking out our set list. We were very happy we chose them as our band!

Photographer: Everybody says your wedding day goes by quickly, so we wanted to get a talented person to document the special occasion. We looked at various photographers in the area, searching through all their pictures and packages. We finally came across Aly Martin Photography. Her pictures were absolutely flawless and her use of natural lighting was so beautiful. Aly was the kindest person and such a joy to work with. She was extremely informative when establishing a timeline for the wedding day!

Other Vendors

All of our vendors were amazing to work with. They were very knowledgeable in their area of work.

MCR Productions: When it came to décor for our wedding, we worked with John Phillips, owner of MCR Productions. The three of us had countless meetings on what Dan and I visualized for our wedding. John and his team turned our vision into reality and it was absolutely breathtaking. We can't thank him enough!

Mattern's Floral: Flowers, of course, were an essential part of our wedding. We loved the idea of organic arrangements everywhere and Heather Hospodar from Mattern's Floral in Kingston was the florist to get the job done. Heather is so talented when it comes to flowers and we got so many compliments on her beautiful arrangements!

Amberdonia: We opted for cupcakes for our reception. Aida Sacipi, owner of Amberdonia, is hands down the best baker (besides my Gram, of course) in NEPA. We were able to choose from a variety of flavors (we chose seven), and each was a beautiful piece of artwork. Aida also came and set everything up so nicely. By the end of the night, all the cupcakes were gone!

The Paper Lab: Our invitations were done by Jess Semanek of The Paper Lab. Jess, a friend from high school, was so creative when it came to designing our invitations. She also designed all of our signage for the day of the wedding.

La Bella Moda: My bridal gown and the bridesmaids' dresses were from La Bella Moda in Conshohocken, PA. I opted for a Mikaela lace gown and the bridesmaids chose different dress styles from the Hayley Paige Collection. Lena and Noria from La Bella Moda were very accommodating, especially when it came to dress fittings!

Tom James Company: The groomsmen wore their own navy suits, but Dan opted for a custom made suit by Tom James. Trudy



Cordaro from the Scranton office worked with Dan to tailor his wardrobe for the big day.

Au Salon/ Eclectic Salon: My hair was done by Martha Zabriski from au Salon in Dallas. The bridal party's hair was done by both Martha and Bridget Norakus from Eclectic Salon in Wilkes Barre. When it came to hair, I knew I had to have both Martha and Bridget. They're both amazing and very professional!

Alisha Nycole Co.: Make-up was done by Janae and Stefania from Alisha Nycole Co. based out of Nazareth, PA. Their make-up application was flawless and I was extremely happy with how it turned out.

The Shop: Steve Tippins from The Shop on Rutter gave Dan, the groom's dad, and some groomsmen haircuts and clean shaves the day of the wedding.

Wedding Day

We got married on September 30, 2017 outside in The Beaumont Inn gardens. Although it was a chilly day, 291 family and friends huddled close together for the ceremony. MCR and Mattern's Floral created a beautiful scenic backdrop of old rustic barn doors draped with fresh flowers. Aviva Strings played a melody of love songs prior to the procession. Our ceremony was very personal. My father, William Brace, performed a special song after walking me down the aisle; Danny's cousin, Steve Bartusiak, read a personally written piece of poetry; and the officiant was our close family friend, Mayor Thomas Leighton.

Our cocktail hour was on The Beaumont Inn patio. A jazz guitarist from the band Love 77 played in the background as our guests enjoyed passed hors d'ourves, an antipasto display and cocktails. After cocktail hour, everyone made their way to the Grand Pavilion for the reception.

The new Grand Pavilion was beautifully decorated by MCR and Mattern's Floral. We chose to have a sit down dinner, and all the entrees prepared by Chef Jeff Huntzinger were out of this world! After dinner, our guests enjoyed the scrumptious cupcakes from Amberdonia and a late night snack station comprised of mini cheesesteaks and crispy french fries. Love 77 from EBE entertainment played non-stop, and the dance floor was packed the entire night!

Our day was executed seamlessly because of the hard work done by all of our vendors, especially Sheila Humphrey and her team at the Beaumont Inn. Sheila worked closely with all of our vendors to make sure our special day was perfect!



PHOTOS BY ALY MARTIN PHOTOGRAPHY

A photograph of a bride in a light pink strapless gown, smiling and holding a bouquet of white and pink flowers. The background shows a brick wall and some greenery.

Step into a Fairytale Wedding

Add glitz and glamour to your day with white, peach, gold, and millennial pink.

By Cathy Cassatta | CTW Features

If you've always dreamed of an over-the-top fairytale wedding, from your venue to your dress and everything in-between, your dream can come true. Make your day as magical as you envision with these tips.

Look the Part

Your dress can take you and guests into a world of allure. Pick a style that's best for your shape and that's full of fairytale details. Then accessorize.

"A detachable cape is the perfect accessory," Hovhannisyan says. "I suggest one that drapes between the shoulders and attaches at the top of each shoulder to the lining of the sleeve."

Dawn Stafford, founder of event planning company Gathering Souls, agrees noting that capelets are not just for the cold shoulder. "Going for luxury combined with glitz, choose a crystal-encrusted cape for a signature statement," Stafford says.

Gloves can also add elegance. They can be wrist length, over the elbow, satin, lace or even sheer, Stafford notes.

"For lovers of Romeo and Juliet, your season has arrived. Romantic wedding dresses with cinched waists, voluminous shoulders, flowing fabrics and 3D floral embellishments are all unforgettable," Stafford points out.

And bridesmaids can get in the glamour game too by glimmering down the aisle in a full sequin dress, suggests Lindsey Bennett, lead designer at Azazie.com. A jeweled sash can complete their look. "Additional accessories that will help add that extra sparkle to a bridal party include chandelier earrings or some pretty metallic heels," Bennett says.



Delight with Décor

Just like fairytales are different, so are décor options, says Maksym Podsolonko, owner of Magic Day Luxury Experiences. "Choose between tender pastel colors for dark overstated venues and colorful combinations for 'blank space' venues with lots of natural light. Go for grand tall centerpieces in spaces with lots of volume but choose numerous smaller compositions where you want to create a cozy atmosphere. Always use lots of candles and dim the lights for extra 'wow,'" Podsolonko says.

Flowers can do wonders, too, says Sukh Grewal, style director at Shields Flowers & Events. She suggests a moss wall embellished with flowing ivy and accenting it with white, peach, and dusty pink flowers.

Bailly notes that lush arrangements and overgrowing nature give a "Sleeping Beauty" look while placing flowers under cake plates, clear glass whimsical vases and clear glass cloches can remind guests of "Beauty and the Beast."

In fact, incorporate accents related to any fairytale that you desire, Sukh says. "An antique teapot on some of the tables with flowers designed within, old fairytale books adding to some of the tablescapes, a glass slipper as another table accent, giant vintage mirrors and small pastel blue bird accents," she says. Options abound.

Palaces, Please

Nothing says fairytale like a castle. The aesthetic is already there and your guests will surely feel like they're witnessing a prince and princess exchange vows.

If a castle is out of your range in cost or proximity, renting a mansion is a good alternative. Caroline Bailly, owner of the floral and event design company, L'ATELIER ROUGE, says whichever venue you go with, "Pick a venue that works with your colors rather than spending on covering the carpets and so forth."

Also, ensure you have enough space to execute your vision. "The ceilings should be high enough and sturdy enough to hang chandeliers," says Ani Hovhannissyan, founder of couture bridal styling agency, Through The Veil. "When I walk into a reception, the first place my eyes go is up. Chandeliers add drama and opulence even in the most derelict of spaces."



70S BOHO WEDDING

Who said that the 1970s are out of style?

By Kristen Fischer | CTW Features

Integrating bright reds, greens and yellows popular in the era can be a splashy way to create a Bohemian-themed affair. Just think more in jewel tones and less in the bright colors that defined the Brady Bunch. From the venue to the flowers, it's easy to fuse these colors into a one-of-a-kind wedding without going overkill. Even better, you can still attain an elegant look when done right – and enjoy this unique palette in any season.

"Bohemian is effortless cohesion," says Lindsay Parrott-Masiewicz, who owns P3 Events in Connecticut. In addition to all the upbeat hues, add a little gold into the color palette for a distinctive look.

An Unforgettable Atmosphere

Start with textiles and make your tables take on the motif. "To achieve an effortless bohemian vibe, I would start with a patterned tablecloth, something bold and bright with hints of gold throughout," Parrott-Masiewicz says. She recommended picking a blue or green square charger, then topping it with a round red dinner plate and a gold- or yellow-inspired menu on top.

Taper candles, submersible LED lights and linens can be the perfect accents to add the color without overwhelming guests with your theme, adds Audrey Issac with 100 Candles based in California.

"If you're looking for a subtler touch, look to your candle and floral vessels – consider colored and textured glass votives and vases for the eclectic look often associated with bohemian inspired celebrations," she says.

Boho Chic

What you, and your bridal party members, wear can also incorporate the color palette.

Dresses can also tie into the theme, and Issac suggests letting bridesmaids choose their own outfits – just make sure they fit the tone of the big day, such as upscale or rustic. Some bridesmaids will be fine in a sundress for a beach wedding, while a more classic wedding requires a formal dress.

"Give them one or two colors and allow them to take the lead on the hue and overall style," she says. "Blues and greens in particular work well with most skin tones; save the brighter colors, such as yellow and oranges, for accents and accessories."

You can encourage bridal party members to incorporate a pattern, as it will add to the eclectic vibe.

As for the bride, adorn your locks with fresh flowers.

"Channel your inner flower child by donning a floral crown made out of wildflowers," notes Megan Velez with the Destination Weddings Group, a network of wedding planners across the globe. Prefer a traditional veil? Then, see if your wedding party is on board with donning natural blooms, instead!"

"And for the dress, aim for light fabrics, flowy sleeves and a touch of lace," Velez says.

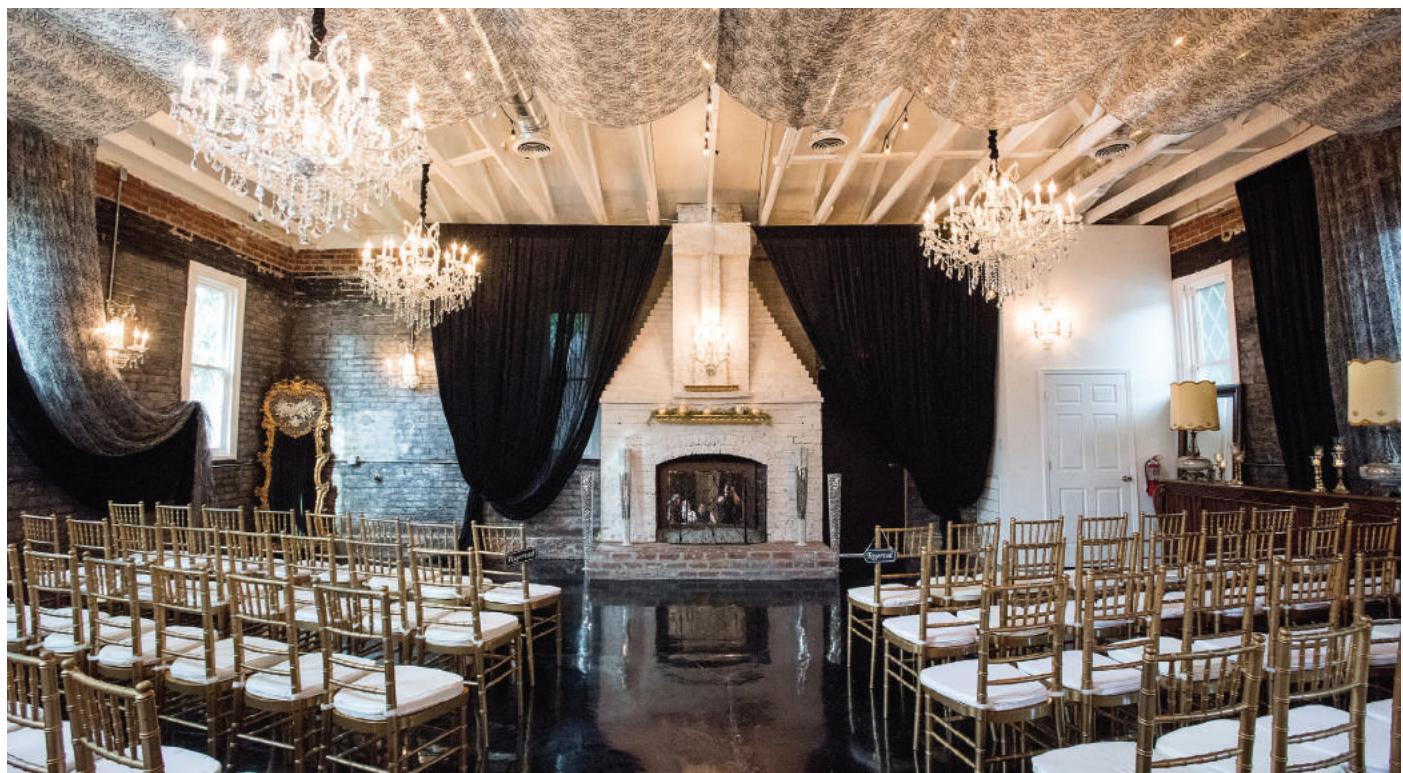
Speaking of flowers, this theme lets you explore other plant life.

"Texturizing your floral arrangements and bridal bouquet will add interest and natural playfulness," says Dawn Stafford with the event planning firm Gathering Souls in Washington D.C. "Berries are plentiful and come in an array of hues from pale pinks and deep reds to bright greens and icy blues. Succulents and greenery provide lushness and complimentary monochromatic tones."

Those are just a few ways to add colors. Your flowers and invitations can also incorporate the colors, while ribbons can accent just about anything while featuring engaging patterns.

From there, it's simple to adopt trends like a candy bar or photo booth – just stick to the same hues and you're set.

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Liz & Danny

August 6, 2017



PHOTOS BY DANNI P PHOTOGRAPHY

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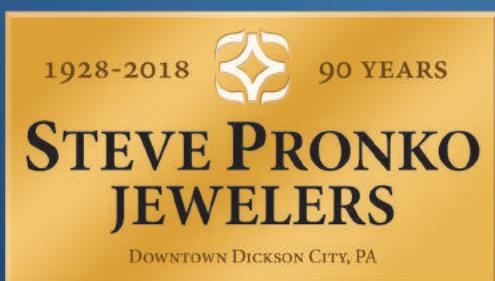
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BIGGEST SALE OF THE YEAR!



Forget cookie-cutter hotel ballrooms. Celebrate your uniqueness with an unconventional urban vintage wedding.

By Jill Jaracz | CTW Features

Urban vintage lets you combine different styles from different eras, such as blending the gilded age with a modern touch, says Kate Lerman, owner of Chicago Vintage Weddings.

Find the Right Stage

Key is finding the right venue, especially a space that will look great in photos. “[Today’s couples] want pictures in front of something architecturally interesting,” says Neasia Henson, senior events coordinator at Poplar Springs, a Northern Virginia venue. Think stone or brick walls and lofted spaces with exposed timber. Warehouses with skylights, firehouses, or clean buildings with white walls are great canvases for your event.

Set the Scene

How you dress up that industrial space makes your one-of-a-kind look. Go for the unexpected and bring in provincial furniture and lace. “[You’re] contrasting the rough, raw, masculine venue with something that’s more feminine and pretty,” Lerman says.



Look beyond the regular wedding suppliers and try antique stores for décor ideas. Richard O’Malley, managing director of New Jersey-based Bubble Design suggests creating a mix of elements that blend form, function, times and styles for your space. “It’s supposed to harken to a different time.”

Create your environment with unique seating and beautiful wooden tables that don’t need to be covered with linens. O’Malley suggests setting up a beautiful bar that’s mirrored or mixed with wood. “Something that’s utilitarian now becomes a decorative focal point.”

Décor is also an opportunity to share something important to you. One of Henson’s brides brought in a three-tiered feed bin from her grandfather’s farm, which they decorated with hydrangeas and baby’s breath and filled with bottles of Perrier for guests to enjoy while dancing.

Don’t forget photo ops. Create insta-worthy settings for your guests with elegant vintage couches, giant pocket watches or unusual statuettes.

Add Class and Whimsy

Decorate tables with mixed metal centerpieces or tall, thin vases. Lush greenery and branches add height and drama. Vintage postcards, house numbers or flash cards add a whimsical touch to table numbers and place cards and reflect your crafty, less formal invitations.

The right lighting bridges the gap between vintage and modern. Edison bulbs, industrial light chandeliers, string lighting and drip lighting all achieve this look, Lerman says.

Your Food Scene

Food stations let you further personalize the day. Skip the rubber chicken and choose restaurant favorites. Favorites like Sushi, shrimp and grits, tacos, chicken and waffles and prime rib will have your guests lining up for more.



"Again, it's stepping out of the box of what's expected at a wedding," says Henson.

Look the Part

Vintage details also shine through on bridal attire. Ivory and rose shades win out over formal white, and back-of-dress details like pleats, soft bows and lace add the right touch. Vintage accessories like a beaded 1920s clutch complete a look, Lerman says.

Soft, feminine hair completes this look. Think extensions, soft updos

with vintage barrettes or loose, flowing hair. "It's a very soft aesthetic," Henson says.

Most importantly, because there's no one-size-fits-all approach to urban vintage, Lerman recommends setting priorities and knowing what elements are important to you so that you can work with your planner to execute your concept exactly the way you want.

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Allison & Brandon

December 23, 2017



Story submitted by Dawn Harding

Brandon is a graduate of Dallas Senior High School and has obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from Lehigh University and is also a summa cum laude graduate of Lehigh University with a Master of Science degree in Engineering and Management.

Allison is from San Antonio, Texas and has obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from Johns Hopkins University. Both Allison and Brandon are employed as a Chemical Process Engineer II at the Holston Army Ammunition Plant, operated by BAE Systems, Inc. located in Kingsport, TN.

The couple had a lovely, Christmas wedding in Horseshoe Bay, Texas. They chose Horseshoe Bay Yacht Club and Resort as their wedding venue, overlooking the beautifully manicured gardens and fountains.

Horseshoe Bay Yacht Club Resort strikes the perfect balance between the Texas Hill Country charm and romantic lake-side luxury. It is located on the shores of the Lyndon B. Johnson Lake (LBJ). The resort boasts three award-winning golf courses designed by legendary Robert Trent Jones Sr. The resort also has resident flamingos and macaws.

The Rehearsal dinner was held at the Captain's Quarters overlooking the LBJ Lake. Their honeymoon getaway car was a 1954 Facel Vega Typhoon, which is owned by father of the bride, Jack Chisenhall. There were only 23 of these cars made in the world.

The couple is honeymooning in Italy.



PHOTOS BY JERRY HAYES PHOTOGRAPHY AND KATE DIXON PHOTOGRAPHY



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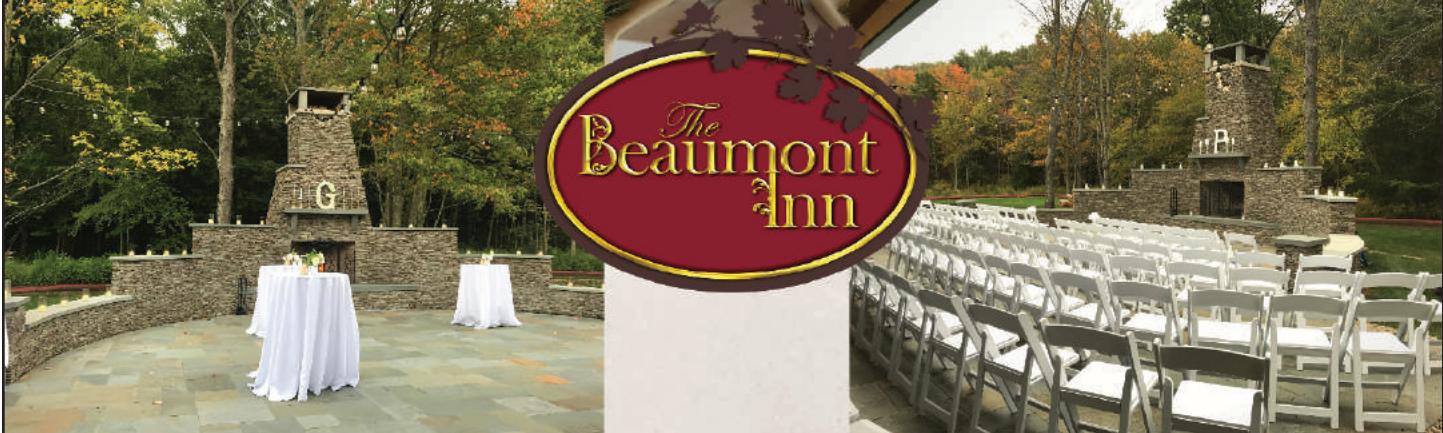
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Frosting-free cakes the latest trend

A new trend is taking hold both in North America and on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean. Cakes are being pared down so that frosting and fondant coverings are now nearly absent from the confections.

They're called "naked cakes," and these simplified desserts showcase the texture of the cakes and their fillings. According to culinary experts, the idea for the naked cake came from Christina Tosi, owner of Momofuku Milk Bar. It's an award-winning bakery with locations across the United States and Canada. Now many other pastry chefs and bakers are hopping on the naked cake bandwagon, with the trend



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being highlighted by the likes of Martha Stewart and the respected wedding resource The Knot.

Just because these cakes may be short on exterior buttercream doesn't mean they fall flat on flavor or visual appeal. Cakes can be embellished with fresh blooms, gum paste-molded flowers, edible pearls and gems, fresh berries, and much more. The Knot notes many naked cakes are garnished with flavors that are included in the cake, such as chocolate chips, crumbs, cookie dough, or candy sprinkles.

Couples who are stripping down their weddings to include more basics and natural effects may be drawn to these naked cakes. They're also an option for those who find frosting, buttercream and fondant too sweet for the palate. Naked cakes enable the interior flavors to really shine.



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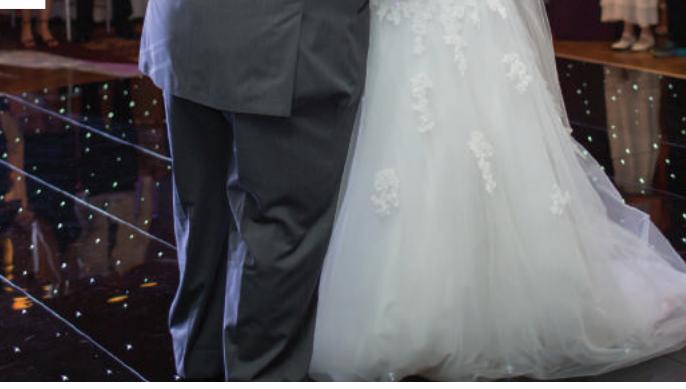


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Angela & Garrick

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Venue:

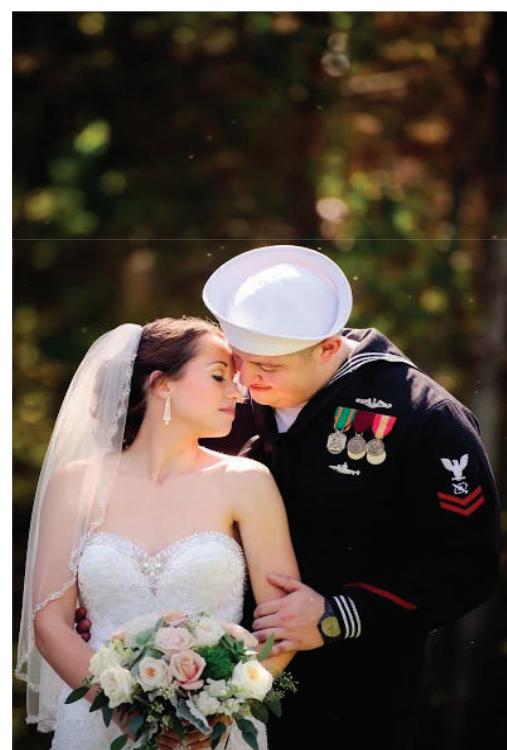
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The Lush Floral

Give your big day some island flair with these hot trends, no matter where you're tying the knot, from the desert to a blustery winter wonderland.

By Cathy Cassatta | CTW Features

The Perfect Palette

What screams tropical wedding more than a color scheme filled with bright pops of pink, luscious green and tan (reminiscent of sandy beaches, anyone?)

The Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas specializes in tropical-themed weddings, and to achieve that aesthetic, it's all about decor, especially with its location in a desert environment, Michelle Goldberg, Tropicana's marketing projects manager says.

"Whether you choose to get married indoors or outdoors, you can always add exotic foliage, a bright color scheme and Chivari chairs to achieve a tropical setting for your wedding," Goldberg says.

And for that exotic foliage, it's all about bringing the tropics to your theme with just the right floral choices. To the team at Tropicana,

that means creating just the right island aesthetic by decorating with palm leaves and bright, colorful flowers such as orchids, birds of paradise or ginger flowers.

Whether it's colorful bouquets for you and your squad, boutinieres for your beau and his entourage or accessories like floral crowns, it can help to go straight to the source.

Hala Tropical Flowers, a 10-acre tropical flower farm on the island of Hana, Hawaii, specializes in helping bring the abundance of lush floral of the island to any bride and groom.

"For a bride planning a tropical themed wedding, I recommend using some of my favorite pink

flowers like orchids, pink ginger and King Protea," Hala's florist and designer Jessica Keay says. Adding whimsical flowers like white torch ginger and tubarose can add to the fun island vibe, while garden roses can add a touch of romance, she adds. Locally grown seeded eucalyptus and heliotrope plants are also some of Keay's favorites for adding tropical greenery.

Aside from obvious floral elements like bouquets, many tropical-themed weddings also feature orchids and greenery in other decor elements – palm leaves are especially striking as escort cards or as part of tablescape, while they can also adorn tropical wedding cakes.

The Fun, Pineapple-Filled Decor

What's the hottest wedding decor trend of the year? For Tropicana's Goldberg, it's definitely the pineapple. Use the quintessential tropical fruit to add a pop of the islands or a pop of color (think attention-getting gold or bright yellow-painted pineapples) and think beyond pineapples by including other on-theme fruits like bananas, mangoes, papayas or eye-catching buddha's hand (take inspiration from a 'meet me in the pineapple patch'-themed wedding shot by Acqua Photo).

For even more tropical flair, include decor elements like flamingos (perfect for that bright pink color palette), colorful leis, sand dollars (great for escort cards or table cards), sea shells, or candles (candle treatments along the aisle are a favorite at Tropicana). For fun while striking a pose, set up a photo booth with tropical props like sunglasses, straw hats, coconut bras and more leis!



Jessica & Andrew

April 28, 2017



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Bridesmaid Dresses

David's Bridal

Hair

Stephan and Co. Salon

Tuxes

Men's Wearhouse

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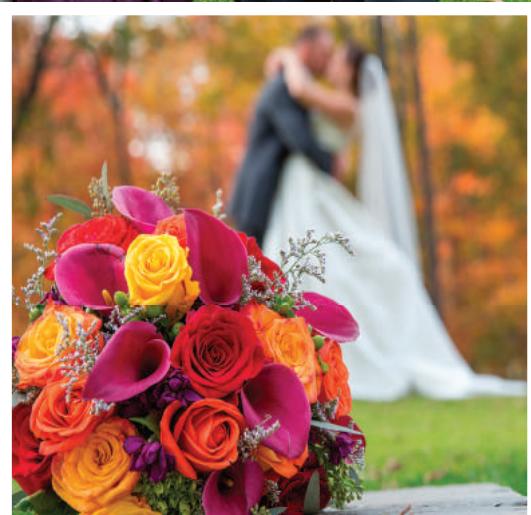
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Rachel & Alan

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Wedding Belles, Drums

Bridesmaid Dresses

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Hair

Eclectic Salon, Wilkes-Barre

Tuxes

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Venue

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Wedding transportation trends

Couples planning their weddings routinely rely on professional transportation to bring them to and from the ceremony and reception. According to The Knot Real Weddings Study 2016, roughly half of all engaged couples will hire a transportation service such as a limousine or party bus for their weddings.

Wedding transportation options abound, and some are more popular than others. The following are some of the ways couples are getting to the altar on time.

Shuttles and buses

Investing in the guest experience means couples are seeking ways to provide comfort and convenience for their guests and wedding party members. Rather than asking guests to get themselves to and fro, couples may employ buses or shuttles stocked with amenities to transport a greater number of people. The Real Weddings Study indicates this type of transport has grown considerably more popular in the last six years.

Exotic limousines

The chauffeur-driven limousine continues to be one of the most popular methods of transportation. However, to set their weddings apart, couples are trending away from traditional stretch limousines and renting something more trendy,

such as limos built upon sports cars. SUV-based limos are still popular, with Hummers, Escalades and Navigators offering the wow factor.

Vintage cars

For that A-list look right out of a classic movie, stepping out of a vintage vehicle creates red-carpet moments. Dream cars for this type of glamorous arrival and departure include Rolls Royce, Bentley, Aston Martin and others. Many private companies rent classic vehicles. Couples also may contract with those who attend classic car shows.

Water transport

Couples celebrating by the ocean, a lake or a river can make a grand entrance aboard a vessel. Water taxis, pontoon boats and even sleek speedboats may be the transportation of choice.

The Knot says that couples spend around 6.5 months researching their wedding day transportation options and will make their decision and a reservation five months before their weddings. The more exotic the transportation option, the earlier couples should make their decisions to ensure they can book their first choice.

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Photo by Zak Zavada Photography

How couples can benefit from hiring local wedding vendors

Local vendors are often a go-to choice when couples are planning their wedding ceremonies and receptions. As the “shop local” movement grows in popularity, weddings present a prime opportunity to embrace this movement.

Couples may have different ideas regarding where to tie the knot, but local vendors can be hired regardless of geography. Brides magazine says the biggest factor influencing wedding location is the size of the guest list and the number of people who wouldn’t be able to attend if the wedding was in a particular locale. Hometowns might be the traditional choice regarding wedding location, but the XO Group says one in four couples now host destination weddings.

Once couples choose a town or city to host their weddings, they can begin exploring the benefits of working with locally-based vendors.

Familiarity

Local vendors will be familiar with the area and possibly even the location where the wedding will be held. That can help couples avoid having to give directions, discuss venue protocols, and handle other tasks that must be worked out with non-local vendors. For example, local photographers

familiar with a particular venue will know all of the best places to get shots, and some vendors may have preexisting relationships with venue representatives that could ensure wedding day operations go smoothly.

Proximity

Local vendors can meet with brides and grooms more readily throughout the planning process, making things less stressful on the happy couple. This also makes it easier to drop off deposits, attend meetings, make fitting appointments, or attend styling sessions.

Savings

Couples who travel for their weddings and employ local vendors will not have to pack as much. Using local vendors eliminates the need to bring along bulky dresses, decorative items, flowers, and much more. Plus, couples needn’t pay to transport and house vendors brought along from back home.

Environment

Individuals who take great strides to conserve resources by reducing their energy consumption and protecting the environment often find that shopping local is beneficial. Local vendors are more likely to source their materials from other local businesses, reducing their carbon footprints along the way. For example, local caterers may rely on local farmers for their foods, affording couples the chance to host eco-friendly or even farm-to-table weddings.

Customization

Working with local vendors often translates into getting more personalized service and attention than mass retailers or merchants can provide.

Going local when choosing wedding vendors is an increasingly popular choice among couples about to tie the knot.

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Selecting a comfortable wedding gown

Many brides-to-be visit bridal shops with specific goals in mind regarding the style of their wedding gowns. Some women come equipped with magazine tear-outs or pull up ideas on their mobile phones. Others may have an entire scrapbook filled with various ideas they've been compiling for years.

Much consideration is given to wedding gowns. The cost and silhouette of the dress may garner the bulk of that consideration, but brides might want to spend more time considering comfort.

Depending on the time of day their weddings take place, brides can spend 12 hours or more in their wedding gowns on their wedding day. However, when shopping for their gowns, brides may prioritize beauty over comfort, even though it's entirely possible to find a gown that's both stunning and comfortable. When staff and friends or family who have come along to offer advice start to blush over wedding gowns, brides-to-be may feel pressured to downplay any discomfort they feel.

To make sure brides look flawless and elegant but are still comfortable in their

wedding gowns, consider the following tips.

- Know what to highlight and what to cover up. No two body types are the same, and many women feel certain parts of their bodies are their best assets while they want to downplay others. Try on gowns that play up your best features. If you have shapely legs, consider a dramatic gown with a slit to show them off. Certain gowns can enhance the decollete or show off an hourglass shape. Remember, many gowns can be modified so that you feel secure and confident. Sleeves can be added or fabric placed to cover up any perceived flaws. Confidence and pride are important parts of the comfort factor.

- Get sized correctly. Bridal gown sizes do not coincide with street sizes. Depending on the manufacturer, brides may have to select gowns that are several sizes larger than they would normally wear. This should not be a cause for alarm. Brides should go by their measurements. Attempting to squeeze into a dress that is too small will only lead to discomfort on the wedding day.

See 'Gown' page 29



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Choosing wedding color palettes



ultimately has a cohesive look. Colors need not necessarily match, but borrowing on similar hues can make it easier to plan wedding party wardrobes, flowers, table linens, and much more.

Colors can come from anywhere, but many couples try to coordinate their color schemes with the season in which the wedding takes place. In fact, couples who are finding it difficult to decide on a palette can look to seasonal colors for inspiration. For example, pastels and blooming flowers can set the scene for spring weddings, while jewel tones and rich reds and greens may be fitting for winter ceremonies.

Some couples opt for more loosely defined color palettes, such as neutral and natural colors. Country and garden weddings can borrow ideas from the landscape, with natural linens paired with wildflowers. Using whites, grays and beiges enables couples to add a pop of color without overwhelming the setting.

Brides magazine suggests that couples avoid choosing too many colors. A maximum of three with one metallic can ensure that things look cohesive without being over-the-top. Also, brides and grooms needn't feel pressured by the "hot" colors of the moment. As with clothing and hairstyles, trends change. It is better to select colors that will stand the test of time and look good for years to come.

Couples may have to incorporate colors already at their wedding venues into their style. Fortunately many reception sites are outfitted in neutral tones to enable customization.

The wedding resource The Knot also says having a basic knowledge of the color wheel can help. Typically, colors that pair well together are those that are opposites on the color wheel. Also, colors that share proximity on the color wheel will have similar tones and play well together. Examples of opposite colors include purples and yellows, reds and greens, and oranges and blues.

Couples should not be afraid to take some chances with their color palettes, especially if they want to make a bold and modern statement.

Some brides may feel beholden to the color white on their wedding days, at least in regard to their gowns. Those who do often embrace the opportunity to showcase their personal styles and set the mood for their nuptials by embracing various colors throughout their ceremonies and receptions.

Color can be a critical component when establishing the ambiance for a wedding. Color can evoke certain moods and set the tone for the day. Some colors work better together than others, so while choosing a color scheme may seem like an easy undertaking, some couples may find it requires more careful consideration than they first imagined.

According to the bridal guide *A Practical Wedding*, wedding colors can give couples a starting-off point for all of the other details of their weddings. This ensures the wedding

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Factors to consider before choosing a wedding venue

Once couples become engaged and share the good news with their friends and families, the next step is to begin planning their weddings. While couples must make a myriad of decisions during the wedding planning process, perhaps none is more significant than where to tie the knot.

According to The Knot 2016 Real Weddings Study, the average cost of a wedding for couples who married in 2016 was \$35,329. That's a sizable amount, and a big portion of that was spent on the wedding venue. The Real Weddings Study found that couples spent an average of \$16,107 on their wedding venues in 2016. That figure easily dwarfs the next biggest expense (\$6,163 for the engagement ring) for couples tying the knot.

Because the wedding venue comes with such a potentially high sticker price, couples should give ample consideration to a host of factors before choosing where to get married.

Size

Until they can agree on a guest list, couples might want to delay even looking for venues. However, some couples might want to first look at some venues so they can determine just how many guests they can afford to invite. Whether they're hosting small affairs or large parties, couples should choose venues that can comfortably accommodate all of their guests. If possible, look for venues with multiple reception areas, which might allow for some wiggle room if the guest list grows or dwindles during the planning process.

Availability

Some couples might have an ideal time of year they hope to get married. Some even know the exact date they hope to get married. While that can help with the planning, it can also limit couples with regard to their venue options. Some venues may be booked for as much as a year or more in advance during peak wedding season. The Real Weddings Study found that the most popular months to get married in 2016 were October and September. Couples who hope to follow in the footsteps of many 2016 brides and grooms may need to book their wedding venues well in advance. Those who can be more flexible regarding their wedding dates may find it easier to book their dream venues.

Insurance

Ask about the venue's insurance policies, including the policies the venue has to protect itself. In addition, ask if the

venue requires couples to have their own wedding liability insurance for protection in the event of injury, property damage or incidents related to alcohol. Couples may also want to make the investment in cancellation/postponement insurance, and some venues may even require it.

Financials

It's easy for couples to be focused on the bottom line when choosing wedding venues, but it's also important that they get a complete grasp of the financials before choosing a wedding venue. Ask about the amount of the initial deposit and if that deposit is refundable. In addition, ask when the deposit is due and when each subsequent payment is due until the balance is paid in full. This can make budgeting easier and planning less stressful.

Couples should have fun choosing their wedding venues while recognizing that certain factors must be given ample consideration before signing any contracts.



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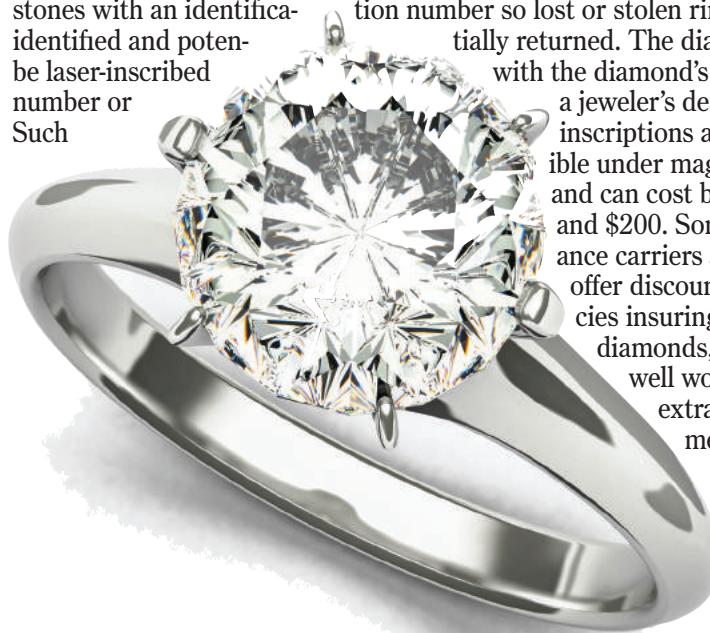


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Engagement rings can be quite expensive. Online wedding resource The Knot says the average ring costs more than \$5,000. To protect their purchases, consumers can listen to experts and ask their jewelers to mark stones with an identification number so lost or stolen rings can be identified and potentially returned. The diamond can be laser-inscribed with the diamond's certificate and a jeweler's designation. Inscriptions are only visible under magnification and can cost between \$40 and \$200. Some insurance carriers also will offer discounts on policies insuring inscribed diamonds, so it can be well worth the extra investment.



Gown from page 26

- Purchase the right undergarments. Improperly fitting bras, shapewear and other undergarments can lead to discomfort as well. Some seamstresses can sew in supportive cups to remove the need for separate bras. Brides can explore various options to reduce the visibility of certain accoutrements.

- Move around in the gown. Brides should not just stand in front of the mirror and smile when trying on gowns. Put them through their paces. Try sitting, bending and even a little dancing. Make sure the dress is comfortable to move around in.

- Try different options. The gown brides have in mind may not be the one they ultimately go home with. Explore different styles and materials. Choose cooler, breezier fabrics and lightweight gowns, like crêpe, georgette or organza, for summer weddings. Heavier fabrics, such as brocade, may be more comfortable in the winter.

Wedding gowns can be both beautiful and comfortable for those who know how to shop.

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Rustic bouquets add natural flair to wedding celebrations

Couples opting to get back to basics, streamline their nuptials and create more intimate and less superficial affairs often gravitate toward rustic celebrations to showcase their ideals. Rustic weddings also may appeal to environmentalists and men and women who want their weddings to be as eco-friendly as possible.

Rustic weddings may include those ceremonies and receptions that take place outdoors or in abodes, such as barns, wineries, castles, or converted silos or town factories. In fact, Bridal Guide says that barn weddings have never been more popular - among both urban and rural couples alike.

Coordinating a rustic wedding may mean letting go

of perceived notions of how everything from food to favors to flowers should be. In fact, one way to describe rustic weddings - and especially the floral arrangements that adorn them - is "purposely imperfect."

Rustic wedding bouquets may seem like they were plucked right out of the garden or grabbed through a

stroll in a meadow. They're rarely symmetrical or feature the customary flowers of more formal wedding celebrations.

When designing rustic bouquets, florists may keep the stems of wildflowers or other blooms untethered for a relaxed feel. Long stemmed arrangements are quite popular, and trends point toward bouquets that are loosely tied with raffia, twine, vines and other natural materials rather than more refined ribbon.

Another way rustic bouquets set themselves apart is with the introduction of other elements into the arrangements. Not merely blooms and greenery, rustic pieces may feature twigs, vines, berries, scabiosa pods, ivy, and feathery ferns. The heights of elements in the bouquet are varied, and the bouquets will not have an overly uniform shape. Rustic bouquets are far from pretentious, and brides shouldn't feel that these bouquets are delicate or will fall apart when handled.

When planning a rustic wedding, couples can work with their florists to create bouquets and arrangements that fit with their visions.



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Preserving wedding memories

Couples' wedding days are momentous occasions, and couples want their memories of the day they tied the knot to endure long after the final guest has departed.

Weddings can be amazing, but they only last a few hours. Memories can be forever if they are effectively documented. The following are some ways for couples to permanently memorialize their wedding days.

Dry the bouquet

Wedding bouquets can be freeze-dried and/or chemically preserved so that the colors, textures and the volume of the blooms can appear just as vibrant as they were on couples' wedding days. After preservation, the bouquet can be displayed in a vase or in a specially prepared shadow box with other mementos.

Create a custom locket

Brides can wear a piece of their wedding gown day after day with a custom necklace or locket. All they need to do is trim a small piece of the lace or other embellishment from the gown and enclose it in the locket. Jewelry designers also may be able to convert a section of the gown pattern into metal through a casting process.

Have guests sign the label

Purchase a special bottle of wine or champagne and ask guests to sign the label or the bottle itself. Store the bottle until a special occasion, such as a memorable anniversary, and then toast to a happy marriage.

Make a cake replica

Ask an artist to make a miniature replica of the wedding cake out of pottery. Put the clay cake out for display or ask for it to be made small enough to serve as a Christmas tree ornament.

Frame the invitation

Display the wedding invitation in a beautiful frame with custom matting.

Revisit the site

On their anniversaries, couples can visit their ceremony site or have brunch or dinner at the venue where the reception took place. Take an "after" picture to display with the "before" shot from the wedding day.

Make an invitation ornament

Cut the wedding invitation into strips and place it inside of a hollow glass ornament. Seal the top and hang with a ribbon.

Design a greeting card scrapbook

Turn all of those special handwritten messages and well-wishes into a scrapbook so that memories can be revisited time and again.

The planning may take months and the wedding mere hours, but well-documented wedding day memories can last forever.



PHOTO FROM YOURCAPTUREDMEMORIES.COM

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