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Audrain County Historical Society's Complex is the Perfect Wedding Venue



Rental of Graceland Mansion:

The mansion can accommodate up to 140 people. Includes use of the meeting room and kitchen. Alcoholic beverages are permitted. Live music is allowed at the discretion of the Museum Director.

Cost: \$300 • Refundable Security Deposit: \$300



Country Church Rental:

This fully restored 1889 structure makes for a beautiful backdrop for any wedding ceremony, conveniently located directly behind the courtyard. The church seats 140 guests. Includes use of church for rehearsal, use of meeting room for dressing on day of wedding & restrooms.

Cost: \$150

Refundable Security Deposit: \$100



Courtyard, Gazebo & Grounds:

The beautifully landscaped courtyard makes the perfect setting for outdoor weddings, family reunions and business gatherings. Rental includes use of meeting room and restrooms. Museum can provide information for tent and chair rental. Gazebo & grounds includes use of meeting room and restrooms.

Cost: \$100

Refundable Security Deposit: \$100

Audrain County Historical Society

501 S. Muldrow • Mexico, MO 65265

573-581-3910

www.audrain.org

BRIDES & GROOMS | JEWELRY

Engaging Rings for 2023

An engagement ring is meant to last a lifetime, but there are definitely some trends year-to-year.

And if you think that the COVID-19 pandemic hasn't reached into even this market, you'd be wrong. Experts say that, after two years of postponements and uncertainty, more couples are tossing the rules and going with their gut when it comes to engagement ring purchases.

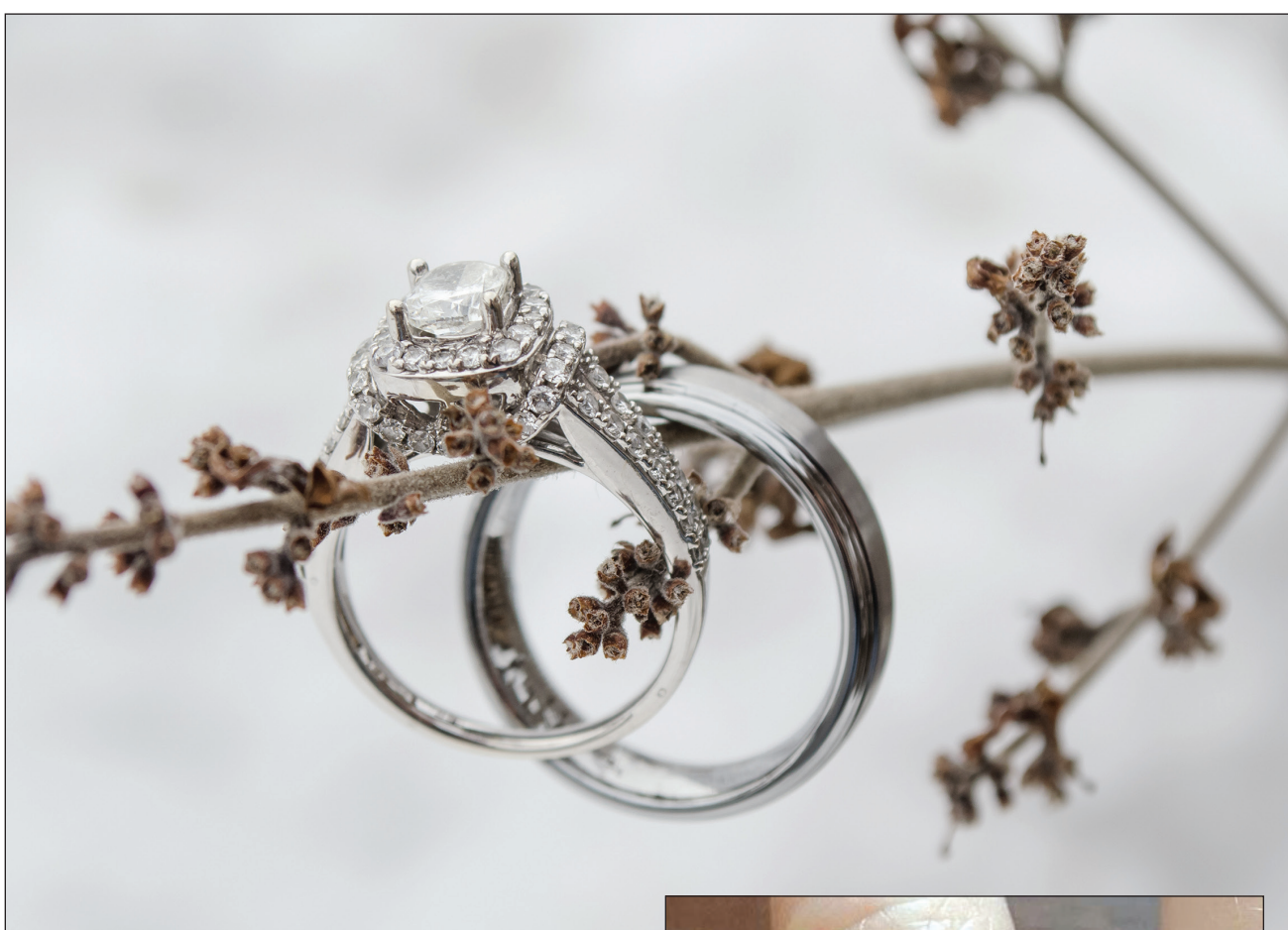
TOI ET MOI

Multistone rings, symbolizing the bond between bride and groom, are big this year. Double- and even triple-stone rings are popular, as are combinations with precious stones and pearls. "Specifically, the double stone visually showcases the coming together of two people," Katie Zimmeran, chief merchandising officer at Blue Nile, told Brides magazine. "We've increasingly seen people choose unique diamonds and gemstones to further elaborate on the love story that's being told with the two gemstones."

A three-stone ring can represent the past, present and future of the relationship. More stones also allow for more creativity.

COLORED GEMSTONES

Colorless diamonds are moving over in favor of bold, bright gemstones, with emerald, morganite and sapphire particularly popular options. Black stone engagement rings are also making a statement. When the "Sex and the City" reboot, "And Just Like That" aired, fans were reminded of Carrie Bradshaw's black diamond engagement ring. Onyx-hued stones saw an accompanying uptick in popularity.



BIGGER IS BETTER

When it comes to traditional diamonds, bigger is better this year, including bold shapes and halo cuts, where a ring of smaller diamonds surrounds a larger stone, packing a huge visual punch. Oval shaped stones are also more popular. The soft, oblong shape draws attention and makes the fingers appear longer. Oval solitaires, in particular, are a feminine shape with a timelessness that's attractive to today's buyers.



VINTAGE RINGS

In the same vein as thrifted and vintage clothing are vintage rings. Heirloom pieces are often one-of-a-kind, unique pieces that

are a great expression of love for modern couples. If it's a family piece, vintage rings can offer an emotional connection to past generations. Add a modern band that compliments it and make it your own. You can also have a jeweler add a new diamond or other stone to make a special piece your own.

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BRIDES & GROOMS | REGISTERIES

How to get registered

What's most needed? How much? And from where? Settling on the answer for these basic questions isn't easy, but they'll guide you through the process.

Your completed wedding registry will then provide everything required to begin married life, while perhaps even adding a few personal indulgences.

If you're unsure how to get started, or want to double check that you haven't forgotten anything, check out this handy list of "do's and don'ts."

DO

Create the registry together. This should be a shared moment where you and your future spouse mesh your own personal styles. Discuss color and pattern preferences so that these foundational gifts build toward a look and feel that you both find comfortable and enjoyable. Many vendors have created programs which allow any registry items that are left unselected to be purchased at a discount after the wedding — and that's another opportunity to bond.

DO

Set up your registries early and check in on them regularly. If you haven't registered when you announce the date, or haven't completed your registry, eager friends and family may purchase something from somewhere else that may not fit into your shared vision. As gifts are purchased, consider adding other things into the registry so that there are always gifts representing a variety of price points for other guests who may log on later.

DON'T

Overlook needed everyday items. You have your own space, and so does your future



spouse. In some cases, you may already be living together. That can lull couples into thinking that they already have these common household purchases covered. But what about the pot with the bad handle, or those old bath towels that need upgrading? Now is the time to think about small luxuries like the thread count on your bed sheets.

DO

Register at multiple outlets. This is important because some of your guests may have a personal preference for a specific retail store.

They also may live nearer to one store location, and prefer not to shop online.

DON'T

Request cash. Instead opt for a cash registry website like Honeyfund or Zola. They have the same look and feel as a traditional online registry, but offer you an opportunity to raise needed funds.

DO

Write personal thank you notes as promptly as possible.



David Pickering
PHOTOGRAPHY

davidpickering.biz



***Rings for that
Special Someone or
Special Occasion!***



Tuxedo Rentals



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BRIDES & GROOMS | AFTER THE WEDDING

Thank you cards

This post-wedding responsibility doesn't have to be so overwhelming.

The challenge is getting started, in particular with a large number of gifts. It's best to approach it all in a step-by-step manner, so that the task feels like something more easily achieved. If needed, create a schedule with appointed times to work on your stack of thank you notes, so that it becomes part of your everyday routine.

If they received an invite, that means your guest was already a big part of your life. Here's how to thank them for being part of your next adventure.

WHO TO THANK

Everyone. Simple, right? Anyone who gave you a gift should receive a special note of thanks. But thank you notes are also recommended for the team of folks who helped make sure your special event ran like clockwork. That includes planners, organizers, decorators, and even those who simply handled an unexpected errand for you somewhere along the way. Your wedding might not have happened if it wasn't for all of these sometimes unseen helpers.

SENDING THE NOTES

Some presents begin arriving before your nuptials, in particular from those who may not be able to attend for whatever reason. The clock starts when received, with a note generally due within a couple of weeks. Tradition allows for a longer timeline for gifts given on the wedding day, when you're assumed to have a few months in order to respond. It's important not to wait until you get too close to this deadline, since that will make the task feel more and more insurmountable. Begin sending them out as soon as possible, ideally within weeks of your wedding date.

WHAT TO WRITE

These replies are meant to be a personal gesture, but that doesn't mean they can't be formatted at all. If you have a long list of thank you notes, consider tucking a bit of the unique into a simple formula to help ease things along. Start with the traditional greeting, then express gratitude for the specific item. Next, add details about how you plan to display or use this particular gift. Finally, add a personal note such as how much they mean to you, or when you hope to see them again. Sign it with kindest regards from both you and your spouse.

Skipping the cake

Cake seems to go with weddings like brides and grooms. But don't be afraid to buck with tradition when it comes to dessert.

A BRIEF HISTORY

Wedding cake traditions date back at least to ancient Rome. There were mentions in the medieval era, too. Early recipes relied on barley and wheat, long before newlyweds happily smashed desserts in one another's faces. Instead, according to *Gastronomica*, they'd eat just a few crumbs from these scone-like creations as one of their first acts as a couple. The British started the tradition of stacking these scones, buns or cookies as high as they could, creating a forerunner for today's tiered cakes. Sugar became more affordable into the 18th century, bringing on the advent of white icing. Brides originally handed out the cake to wedding guests, before it became a shared activity. The cake-cutting ceremony followed.

NEARLY CAKE

Couples are increasingly choosing something besides cake, as intricately designed petit fours, ice cream, cake pops and sorbet move onto the menu. Cupcakes have been aboast a cake-like quality, have an advantage of being very portable and can be stacked. Cheesecakes and pies can also showcase summer's freshest fruits — and they'll link back to earlier wedding traditions. Back then, a ring was hidden in the wedding pie and whoever found it was thought to be the next to marry — similar to our bouquet-tossing tradition today.

TINY TREASURES

Miniature items are likewise easily transported as guests mix and mingle. Match different donuts, Madeleines, cream puffs, macarons and pies — or do something more exotic like banana beignet bites or tiramisu pudding shots. Summer weddings can sometimes get steamy, so consider tiny frozen creations like sorbets or daiquiris. Setting aside the tried-and-true cake option opens up a world of new options.

DO BRUNCH INSTEAD

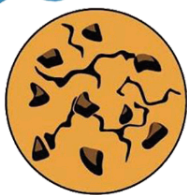
Stack cinnamon rolls with cream-cheese icing for a fresh take on dessert that will delight your guests. Or stack them without icing, then place a fountain for dipping nearby. Try a pancake or waffle tower. They will resemble the traditional tiered cake, while giving you a chance to let your imagination run wild with decorative ideas like greenery or blooms. Then instead of cutting the cake, you can pour the syrup together as your first married act. The result is sweet symbolism!



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BRIDES & GROOMS | FLORAL

Optimize your flower budget



After your dress, nothing is more visible at the wedding.

If the national average is any indication, they'll be a big part of your expenses, too. Before you spend thousands on high-priced blossoms, however, carefully consider your options. The wrong choice can lead to unneeded expense, and there are lots of creative ways to make the most of your flower budget.

GO SEASONAL

We all have that special favorite flower. Oftentimes, however, this single decision can raise the costs substantially. You can save money by blending in seasonal foliage, which will be less expensive since it's readily available. Ask a florist or someone with the local extension service office more about area plants and when they're in bloom.

GO BIG (ONCE)

If your budget doesn't allow for multiple showy arrangements, focus your florist's attention on one show-stopper. Put it in a prominent place where it will receive the most notice, then down shift into less-expensive settings elsewhere. You can also pair flowers that have bigger blooms with a mix of structural items like branches that will fill out the arrangements without breaking the bank.

MAKE A DEAL

Look for sales at local florists, or consider buying from a wholesaler. A word of caution: Buying in bulk means you can save a little, but you'll also need to find someone with a florist's expertise to arrange everything into something worthy of your big day.

GET PERSONAL

A great way to stretch your flower budget is to pair fewer blooms with more personal items. Take some time when still in the planning stages of your wedding to dig out beloved keepsakes or small pictures to give the space a more intimate, one-of-a-kind feel. Images from younger days are always a big hit. Look for photographs of departed family members, since that's a great way to share the occasion with them.

GET CREATIVE

Many venues offer their own beauty, and that's something money can't buy. Be aware of the backdrop when setting up outside. Consider incorporating elements found on the grounds into your arrangements, settings and even your hair. If you're getting married inside, open the windows or doors to showcase more of nature's wonder. Take advantage of lighting options, or bring your own lamps, candles or other illumination. They'll add just the right touch of ambiance, at no cost.



Marriage documents

The ceremony may be beautiful, the bride a vision in white, but the wedding itself isn't legal unless there's a marriage license.

This is the document that legally binds the couple together and clears the way for the marriage certificate, which is proof that you are officially married. Here's what you need to know about both documents.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

You will typically have to file your marriage license in the county in which you plan to get married. Some counties and states have expiration dates on their licenses, so you'll not only need to know the place where you plan to get married, but also the date. There may also be a waiting period from the time you file to the time you get your license. In Texas, for instance, you must wait to get married for at least 72 hours after applying for a license.

You'll most likely get your license from the county clerk, and that office will tell you everything you'll need to bring with you. Each county is different, but generally, this is information such as proof of identity, such as a drivers license or passport; a birth certificate; a certificate

of divorce or death certificate if this isn't your first marriage; information about your parents, such as their full names, birthdates and birthplaces; and cash for the license fee.

Three people will generally need to sign the marriage license, usually after the ceremony. That's the couple themselves, the officiant and one or more witnesses. The officiant will then turn in the marriage license to the county.

MARRIAGE CERTIFICATES

After the officiant turns in the marriage license and the county processes it, you'll receive a marriage certificate. This document usually comes several days after the ceremony, after the county clerk files your completed license with your state's vital records bureau. In Florida, for instance, the filing process takes an average of 60 days.

Marriage certificates often include much of the same information as the license and are acceptable proof that a marriage has taken place, was finalized and is recorded with the state. In other words, it's proof that you're legally married.



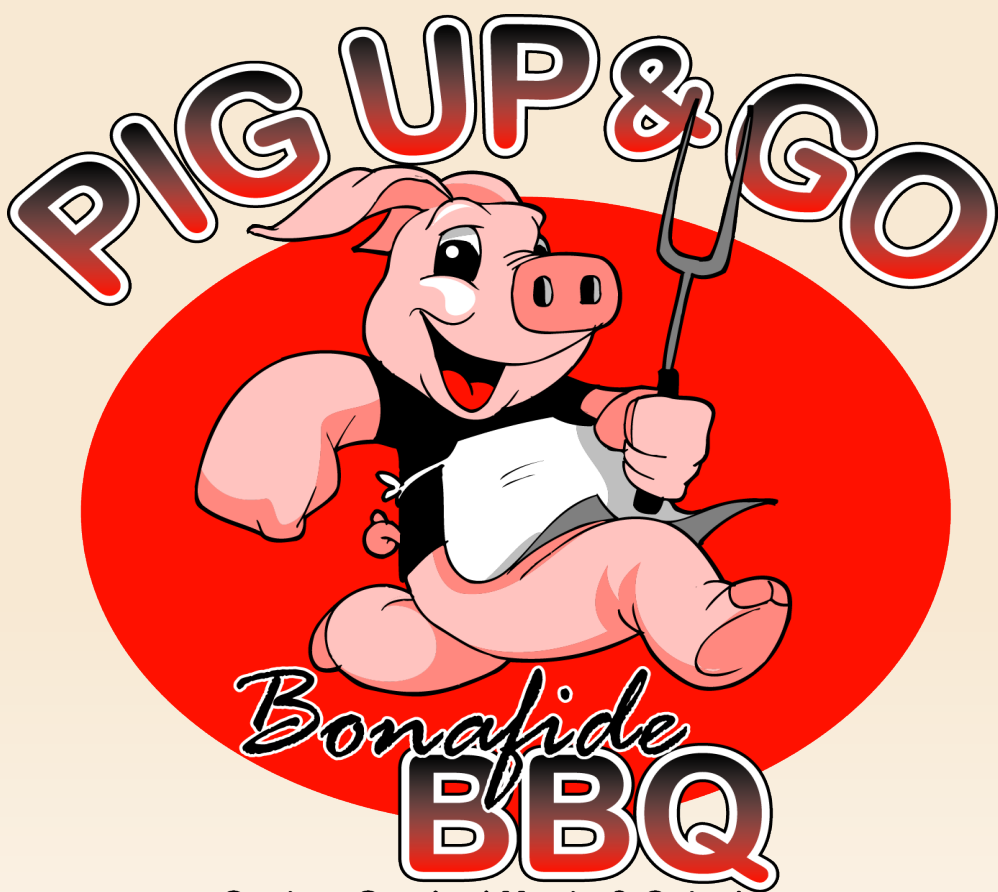
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Side Options

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- Pasta Salad
- Potato Salad
- Cheesy Potatoes
- Baked Beans
- Garden Salad
- Country Green Beans



Dessert Options

- Apple Cobbler
- Cherry Cobbler
- Peach Cobbler
- Assorted Cookies
- Texas Sheet Cake
- Goopy Butter Cake
- Brownies

Beverage Options

- Iced Tea
- Lemonade
- Bottled Water



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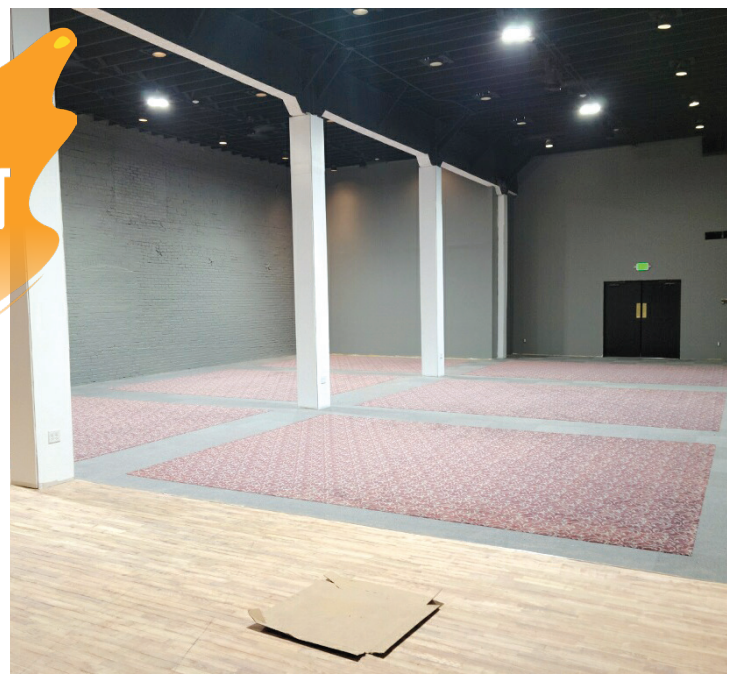
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