

BRIDES & Grooms

JANUARY 2021



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Put More Into Your Wedding Day

A wedding day is filled with symbolic tradition, from varied religious customs to the never-ending circle reflected in the rings and the types of flowers accentuating the celebration. Even with all the traditional rituals to consider, nearly every bride and groom can find ways to give their special day some unique touches that reflect their personality and love.

Music sets the mood for every wedding, and it's an easy place to put your own spin on the celebration. Whether you forgo the traditional bridal march entirely or simply look for an arrangement that gives an updated twist to the classic version, let guests know this isn't your average wedding by setting the festivities against a soundtrack that lets your true character shine.

The wedding party is intended to be a collection of those nearest and dearest to the bride and groom, who help ensure the day goes off without a hitch and who lead fellow revelers in celebrating the start of the new couple's life together. That being said, there's no reason this group must be limited to women on her side and guys on his, or even that it's limited to humans — a beloved pooch can make for an adorable ring-bearer, after all.

Photography is an essential element of your big day, but think beyond the images you'll capture throughout the wedding and reception. Photos lend a personal touch, no matter what your color scheme or theme.

Integrate photos of the two of you at various stages of life, together as a couple and with loved ones (perhaps even some you're honoring in memoriam). You can display these at a table with the guest book, as part of the table centerpieces, or even on the gift table. Or take things digital and load all your images into a slide show set to music.

Make favors meaningful. Forgo more common items like bubbles and chocolate, and instead send a little of yourself home with your guests. Maybe it's a memento from a place with special meaning to you both, or a bottle opener shaped like a bicycle to represent the way you met. Just think about the moments and things that define you as a couple and do some searching online. You'll probably be surprised by how quickly the options pile up.

Serve up a menu that shows guests more about your life together. Your loved ones can order basic beef or chicken anywhere. Instead, give them a glimpse into you. Make your main course the same food you enjoyed on your first date or during another monumental moment in your courtship. Or plan the entire menu around a region that you hold close to your heart.

Weddings are filled with traditions, but that doesn't mean you can't put your own touches on the day for a special event filled with memories that are uniquely your own. Find more advice for life's special moments at elivingtoday.com. (*Family Features*)



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5 Tips To Enhance Your Wedding Decor

Wedding days are meant to be filled with love and celebration, and what better way to ring in the new stage of life as newlyweds than with a well-decorated venue to match the joyous occasion. Whether a couple is on a tight budget or picky when it comes to theme ideas, these decorating tips can help add more flair for the big day.

■ Use a natural venue — Many couples choose wedding venues that require immense amounts of decorations, but a venue with organic scenery or a beautiful view can help alleviate the stress. Consider having the ceremony near a garden or beach with enough natural surroundings to keep guests in awe.

■ Make the cake a centerpiece — Wedding cakes are almost guaranteed to be filled with flavor, but they can also serve as a decorative centerpiece for the reception. Choosing a cake topped with flowers, highlighting bright colors and placing it in a prominent spot at the reception can grab guests' attention while also keeping them eager for a bite.

■ Choose table accessories that pop — Leave guests in amazement as they make their way to their seats for the reception with beautifully decorated tables. Table accessories can be anything ranging from patterned table runners to flowers in full-bloom placed in simple, elegant vases. If you are not having a formal sit-down reception, try using paper lanterns or hanging flowers from the ceiling to



create an eye-catching atmosphere to remember.

■ Add classic lighting — At times, finding the right lighting to match the mood of a wedding venue can be tricky. In this case, less may actually be more. Try opting for a classic candlelit ceremony or reception to create a more romantic setting. This can save both money and countless hours spent attempting to configure elaborate light fixtures, and also provide a timeless feel.

■ Place engagement photos around the venue — With any wedding, you want the day to feel personal and intimate for the couple and guests alike. Consider decorating the venue with engagement photos of the soon-to-be spouses as they popped the question. This can allow the newlyweds to reminisce while guests view those cherished moments and revel in the occasion. *(Family Features)*

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Plan the Perfect Outdoor Wedding

Outdoor weddings are gorgeous and romantic. But they present a special challenge when it comes to planning. Follow this easy checklist to make your outdoor wedding day as stress-free as possible.

- **Have an alternative location** — No one likes to think of it raining on their wedding day, but it's a possibility that must be considered. Have a backup plan if you wake up and the weather is out of sync with your plans.

- **Have a communication plan** — If anything big comes up (like that big location change), have a quick and easy way to communicate those changes with vendors and guests. This can be a note on your wedding website or on social media, or you can turn over all the responsibility to your wedding planner or coordinator. Set up a plan to have bridesmaids or other trusted friends mind the phones if you don't have a planner or coordinator.

- **Have a plan for parking** — This is especially true if you're getting married in a backyard or at a restaurant or park. If you don't have enough space, try to make an arrangement with a nearby school or church and include the parking info on your wedding website.

- **Check on noise rules and regulations** — Check on local laws and venue rules when it comes to volume and times for your musicians and DJs.

- **Restrooms** — Does your locale have ample restrooms for the number of guests you'll have? If not, you can rent portable restrooms for your guests.

- **Consider electricity needs** — Outdoor weddings usually don't have convenient power plugs hidden amongst the trees and grass. Check with your vendors to see what their electrical needs are, including the caterer, baker and florist. Then coordinate their needs with your location.

- **Plan for hydration and shade** — If you're in a warmer locale, you'll want to provide cooling shade and drinks for your guests to keep everyone safe.

- **Plan for the pandemic** — Outdoor weddings are particularly attractive to those hoping to gather safely despite COVID-19. Make sure you have hand sanitizing stations, consider hosting groups in shifts, and have guests that are able to stand so that there's more distance between them. Minimize sharing of items such as photo booth pops, serving utensils and guestbook pens.



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Find the digital edition at www.warrencountyrecord.com or www.mystandardnews.com.



Use Indoor Space Wisely

While an outdoor setting will create a beautiful backdrop for your special day, there is a significant drawback that must be considered.

Depending on where you live, bad weather may ensure that some events will be held entirely indoors.

One way to avoid choosing venues that lack the room for your closest family and friends is to work with a wedding planner. Be honest about how many people you plan to invite. They will take the lead on finding buildings for the ceremony that are sized sufficiently.

Unfortunately, your budget may not always be in line with a suitable venue, forcing you to compromise. Consider what is essential for the wedding and acknowledge that cutting corners in other areas can compensate for the higher rental fees.

MAKE A SMALL VENUE APPEAR BIGGER

If you're stressed that an available venue appears too small to host a wedding, try to make up for the lack of floor place. One easy trick is to limit the decorations you display. Too many accessories can make the area appear cluttered and take up valuable flooring space. Instead, try to use a few decorative wall hangings and non-intrusive accents to line the aisle.

You should also be conscientious about the perfect layout for seats. In most cases, round tables can be organized in various ways where guests enjoy their privacy. Long tables can lead to invitees sitting in close quarters and blocking paths for the flow of people.

Small spaces can also benefit from using lighting appropriately. Take advantage of quality lights to make the area appear larger and brighter by ensuring each side of the venue is lit accordingly.

MAKE A LARGE VENUE MORE INTIMATE

Another concern for your wedding location may be that the venue is too large for the number of guests who will attend. Try to close and divide the space by bringing in attractive trees or plants to fill in corners or the entire perimeter of the room.

Drapes are also a great way to close off unused space of the building and ensure the ceremony's attention is focused on the couple and the festivities.

You can also use a section of the room to create a comfortable and private lounge space for people to gather. This break in the action can be a welcome place for the bride, groom and wedding guests to gather.

Mistakes to Avoid



When planning a winter wedding, hosts must consider numerous details to avoid disaster. It's a good idea to be vocal about your views with those who will be standing with you and the essential people that you hope will attend.

One of the most significant risks you face is scheduling the event during hazardous weather conditions. While it may be impossible to check the forecast when the wedding is months or years away, researching the location's seasonal trends can reveal what to expect. Suppose the temperatures are more unpredictable in your area.

In that case, it can be beneficial to arrange for an indoor wedding but prepare for warmer weather with an outdoor back-up plan.

DON'T FORGET THE HOLIDAYS

A complication often involved in wedding planning during the winter is scheduling around the holidays. Be courteous when inviting your guests for events like the shower, bachelorette party and the big day. Keep in mind that many families take advantage of the season by having large gatherings to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas. To avoid tension in the future, don't take it personally if they opt-out due to prior commitments.

DON'T BOOK SEPARATE LOCATIONS

Try your best to find a venue that works for both the ceremony and a reception hall. Your guests will appreciate that they don't have to venture outdoors in brisk conditions

to travel to different locations.

Those with young children may find it especially challenging to haul their passengers across town for another event.

You can also avoid busy holiday shoppers who may be bogging down traffic on the way to a venue and limit the dangers of driving when extreme weather conditions persist.

BE COURTEOUS WITH EVENT SCHEDULE

The typical wedding is packed with time constraints for pictures, the ceremony and events at the reception.

Make sure to allow yourself and guests a cushion in the schedule to accommodate late arrivals and time to set up.

Top Wedding Colors for 2021

Picking your wedding colors is a huge decision in planning your special day.

Here are the top trendy colors for 2021 from the wedding experts at The Knot.

BLUE

In the past few years, jewel tone blues in deep blues have been all the rage. But this year, look for lighter tones to take the stage. The dark blues will stay around as accent colors to set off powder blue, cornflower and French blue hues. Light blues work great with other pastels and even earth tones. Choose light blue ribbons, glassware and flowers such as sweet pea and hydrangeas.

GREEN

A recent trend of tropical themed weddings has brought green shades back into the spotlight. For 2021, look for a more retro look with mid-range greens.

Pistachio and avocado greens will give your nuptials a cool vibe. Look for green dresses, ties and other accessories because green's range makes it flattering for almost any skin



tone. Look for flowers such as palms and ferns to add more green to your floral arrangements.

PURPLES

Once again, these aren't the punchy, bold purples popular in the past. Instead, look to pale lilac and lavender paired with pastel yellow and mint green for a whimsical, ethereal wedding palette.

Incorporate these hues' namesake flowers in your bouquet and use edible flowers in your cake and treats for maximum punch.

ORANGE

Coral and peach have been the hit oranges, but this year they're making way for a darker, warmer papaya orange.

This orange is also not as dark as a rust orange, making it a great middle ground if you're wary of this bold color. Think terra-cotta vases, orchids and lilies to work this vibrant color into your big day.

YELLOW

Unlike other colors, yellow is going more vibrant for 2021. Look for a sunflower yellow that's also popping in roses, lemons and peonies. Accent your tables with bright yellow candles and linens or gold flatware.

NEONS

We've seen the 1980s back in fashion, now it's in wedding palettes. Look for screaming hot fuchsia, teal and cobalt blue in trendy 2021 weddings. Don't just pick one neon for your wedding, choose a whole pack of them to go together for a bold, non-traditional look.



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Connect with Welcome Boxes

Your big day is all about you and your partner. But if guests are coming from afar or if you're having a destination wedding, you need to show some love to your guests, too.

Put together welcome bags, boxes or baskets to make your attendees feel like they're a special part of your wedding.

START WITH SNACKS

Start off with things to make your guests feel more at home on the road. These can include snacks, candies, bottled water, specialty coffees, or tiny bottles of bubbly to kick off your celebrations. Lend a local flavor to your gifts by choosing local brands. Vendors may even be willing to add a monogram and date to the labels to make your gifts more special.

GET OUT

Also include travel guides and suggested destinations for guests who aren't familiar with the area.

Include directions to the ceremony and reception locations, along with transportation



information. You can include tickets to popular local attractions, ideas for sightseeing and a list of your favorite restaurants. Toss in travel-sized goodies like sunscreen for a beachy locale or handwarmers for a snowy destination.

PARTY TIME

Another clever addition to your welcome boxes is a post-wedding recovery kit. Put in travel-sized bottles of Advil or Tylenol, cooling eye masks, do-not-disturb signs and anything else your guests might need to recover from a little too much fun.

DROP A NOTE

Get ahead of the game by writing thank-you notes to your guests and including them in the welcome bags. Make the notes special by handwriting them and personalizing them to each guest. Tell them how thankful you are that they traveled to be a part of your festivities.

SOWING SEEDS OF LOVE

For an outdoor wedding, consider dropping in packets of seeds or young plants that will be seen on the grounds during the ceremony. You can also include gardening gloves or a small pot with your monogram and the date of your nuptials.

BOX IT UP

When you're looking for a container, go with something like a tote or box that can be reused. This earns you green points and also gives your guest a memory to take with them after the party's over.



Our beautifully landscaped venue is located right along the Missouri River. Riverbend Chapel gives you the option of having an outdoor garden ceremony, on top of the bluff overlooking the Missouri River or inside our fully windowed chapel featuring cathedral ceilings. The formal banquet room is adorned with chandeliers, stone arched bar, fireplace, generous cherry dance floor and large windows with sweeping views of the river valley. This all inclusive venue includes a wedding coordinator, large banquet hall & dance floor, decoration package, bridal suite, wait staff, plated dinner, and available marriage counseling and officiants if needed.



“Don’t miss our upcoming Open House to Tour the Venue, Meet with Vendors, View our Included Décor and Services, and Taste the Menu, here at Riverbend Chapel in Washington, MO! January 30, 2021, 9am-1pm”

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You already said *yes!*, but where will you say *I do!*? The perfect day begins with the perfect setting. Innsbrook features multiple indoor and outdoor ceremony venues that will leave you and your guests in awe. Plus, we offer a wedding coordinator, on-site catering, overnight accommodations, rehearsals, showers, receptions, and more. Visit us for a tour and see it for yourself. We'll help make your dreams come true!

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