

SUMMER

Weddings 2022



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2022 Summer Wedding *Trends*

Some wedding trends, like a focus on sustainability, remain but there are several twists on the way — from the return of pearls to non-traditional flower girls.

'80S REDUX

Blame Bridgerton, but it appears that the return of Regency-era fashion is now being combined with a little '80s flare. So, corset bodices ... but also puffy sleeves! After years of Zoom weddings and socially distanced ceremonies, brides are looking to make a statement.

A FLORAL TWIST

Back in 2013, wedding flowers were bold and bright. A couple of years ago, the trend began moving toward more neutral colors. Look for brides to start mixing it up this summer, as neutral color palettes get a boost with splashes of bold accents.

NON-TRADITIONAL

FLOWER GIRLS

Your flower girl doesn't have to be a "girl," or even a woman at all. Grandmothers will be dropping petals down some summer wedding aisles, while a "flower man" takes over at others. Mix it up to add a bit of fun.

GOING OLD-SCHOOL

The classic black-and-white color pattern is also set to return in a big way, as traditional styles and simple lines take center stage after years of exciting experimentation. What's old is new again!

ELABORATE DRINKS

If the color scheme is simple, then why not give your cocktails a boost? This summer will be marked by ever more interesting ingredient choices, made complete with eye-catching details like garnishes, stir-sticks and sparkles.

SUSTAINABILITY

The sustainability trend continues, as eco-conscious weddings dresses and lab-grown engagement rings are joining hip picks like bio-degradable cutlery.

GOING GREEN

In this case, it's the color green, a hot new color for bridesmaids dresses. Emerald engagement rings are increasingly popular, too. Some adventurous brides are incorporating shades of green too, as they tie in their ceremony with the simplicity and grounding qualities of nature.

PEARLS

The return of Regency-style fashion was dubbed "regencycore." So, call this trend "pearlcore," as these traditional gems move well beyond the choker. Look for pearls everywhere from wedding cakes to decor, accessories like veils and capes, to shoes and manicures.

SMALL PLATES

Rather than tried-and-true sit-down dinners built from a series of serving stations, look for summer weddings with their own kind of progressive dinner featuring appetizer-sized portions. There's an increased opportunity for food adventures, and it's so much easier to mix and mingle.



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Keys to a Great Toast

Raising a glass at a wedding is an opportunity to make a great impression, or fall flat on your face. Here are the keys to a great toast.

WHAT YOU'LL DO

People have been toasting one another for centuries. That might make it feel nearly impossible to stand out when you're asked, as the maid of honor or best man, to deliver the perfect post-ceremonial speech. Some get nervous and freeze up, while others might be prone to saying the wrong thing. It's important to relax in the knowledge that you were selected because of the important role you've played in their lives. You're among friends.

KEEP IT CLASSY

This toast will be made among all of the most important people in this couple's lives, including older family members, lifelong friends, and coworkers. The message is meant to offer words of encouragement as they make the transition into mar-

ried life. The best way to meet that standard is to avoid off-color remarks or jokes, and vulgarities of any kind. If alcohol is being served as the reception, know your limits. Drinking tends to lower inhibitions, and that can lead to slips of the tongue.

KEEP IT SHORT

Once you've resolved not to embarrass yourself or your newly married friends, keep in mind what you've been asked to do: Make a brief speech. The accent is on brief. They've already had a momentous day, and their schedule likely still includes several traditional benchmarks like the father/daughter dance. Ask the couple how long they're allotting for toasts. If they leave the decision up to you, aim for three to five minutes. Anything longer than that, and you're liable to lose the gathered crowd's interest anyway. Anything less and they may feel that you didn't care enough to properly prepare.

KEEP IT SWEET

Humor can be a great icebreaker, and everybody wants to keep the laughter going at joyous occasions. But be picky about what you discuss in a toast. The best examples of these speeches are met with a mixture of smiles and tears, as you balance humor with more personal anecdotes. Whatever you do, avoid embarrassing stories — in particular

about past relationships. This isn't the time or place for a trip down that particular memory lane.



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 the fastest-growing alternative, since they boast 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 a symbolic sweet!



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Make It With Paper

Paper-based touches at your summer wedding offer affordability and versatility — and, because the material can be recycled, they play a role in sustainability, too. Here are some great ideas for do-it-yourself brides.

CRAFTING OPTIONS

Paper can add new levels of creativity to everything from reception centerpieces and guest books to wedding party favors, aisle decorations and place cards. The options are all but limitless, as paper options originally meant for craft and scrapbooking open the color palette to every texture and hue. Earth tones and natural papers, for instance, are perfect for weddings in rustic locales. Die-cutting machines can add pizzazz to any creation. Head over to Pinterest and Instagram to find material options that will fire your imagination.

DESIGN IDEAS

Among the hottest trends in paper crafting are flowers, and they're perfectly suited for weddings, of course. Cut and fold floral patterns and shapes to create one-of-a-kind crafts that are beautiful and affordable — and they never die. Beyond the usual bouquets and boutonnieres, you can also use them for things like hair decorations. Add a handmade paper bow to the wedding cake, then take your vision to the next level by pleating the same paper and wrapping it around each

layer of the cake. Punch holes out of favorite old books or meaningful sheet music in the shape of a heart to make your own confetti. You'll have an extra special craft for the reception table or for showering the couple with as they depart. Cut out butterfly shapes to create a cool new detail on your flower arrangements.

MAKE IT FUNCTIONAL

Beat the heat at your summer wedding by cutting out intricate individual patterns in circular sheets of scrapbooking paper, then fold them into a handy fan. Attach crafting sticks to make their sturdier. Everyone will have a handmade take-home favor. Upgrade your photo area with a glamorous paper-made crescent moon and stars. Just remember to bring plenty of glitter to your crafting table. Place cards and thank you cards are easily personalized in ways that some major manufacturers might never imagine — and it will all match the color and font of your personal wedding theme. Ombre wall decor and paper garlands also add wow-factor colors without breaking the bank.



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