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BRIDAL GUIDE 2014

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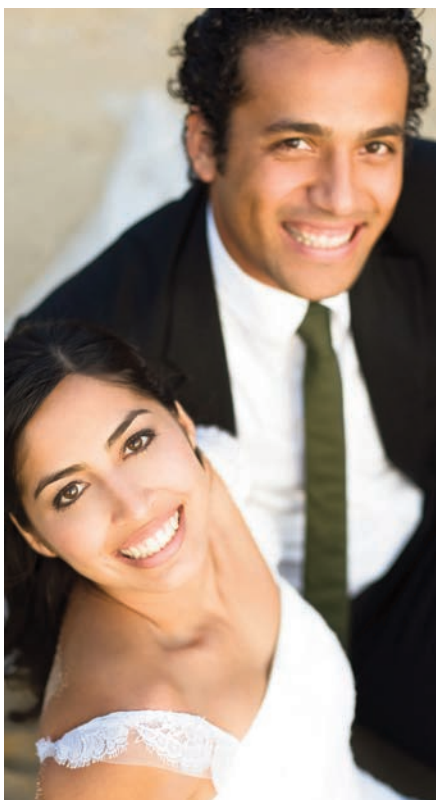
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## GETTING STARTED

### It's Time To Tell Your Love Story

*In 2014, love stories live online. Just think about the moment a couple gets engaged. One in 10 just-engaged women update their relationship status on Facebook within minutes of saying yes; one-third will update their status within a few hours; and another quarter by the next day.*

*The numbers come from a first-ever Social Wedding Survey put together by The Knot and Mashable.com. The survey also showed that brides are embracing new digital habits. Most brides are keeping up on wedding websites and blogs, becoming a fan of wedding brands and following them on their social networks, and relying on wedding-planning apps.*

*Of course, a majority (78 percent) of brides still rely on print magazines for inspiration — you're reading this on ink and paper, right?*

*Keep reading, and we'll show you how to make the most of the online tools you're already using to help plan your wedding. The key isn't to try to replicate the most-liked or pinned trends, though. It's about taking those inspirations and tweaking them so they're uniquely your own.*

## *Eat, drink and be married ...*

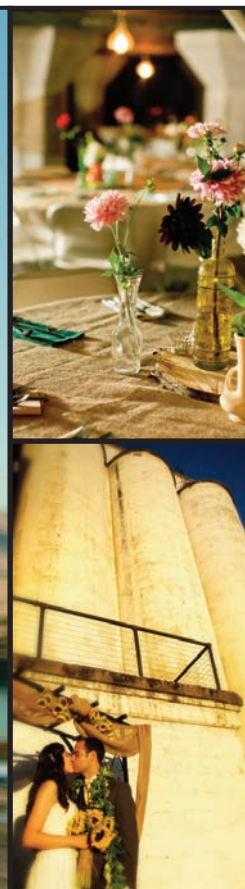
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## FLOWERS



# resh Inspiration

The beautiful bouquet of peonies you envisioned carrying down the aisle in all those post-engagement wedding fantasies may not be the most realistic floral option.

Although that stack of bridal magazines and all those Pinterest boards might be full of flowers from all over the country (the world, even), brides-to-be may need to consider what's in-season, what's available in their location and what works with their budget.

"There's just so many details when it comes to flowers people don't think about as far as the storage is concerned, and ordering, and how far out you need to order and what kind are available - it's just such a complex part of the wedding planning process," says Sarah Chancey, owner of Chancey Charm, a wedding planning and design company.

Chancey, who used to work in floral design, recommends that brides research which flowers are available in their location at different times of the year and how much they cost.

"You don't want them to get their heart set on peonies, and they're getting married in November and we can't get them peonies," Chancey says. "Or, they want these flowers that all cost an arm and a leg and they have a really small budget. They need to be realistic about availability and price before establishing which flowers they are set on using."

What is local and seasonal really doesn't have the same parameters as it used to.



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Some brides are heading to websites and gathering inspiration from all over - can you say Pinterest? - and then bringing their ideas for their wedding to their florist.

The tricky part is really putting a dollar value on their expectations or scaling back the expectations to meet the dollars. Sometimes a floral designer has to 'get creative' and offer alternatives to fit a bride's budget or compensate for availability.

With so many factors to consider, when should brides start picking the flowers for their big day?

Rani Hoover, who's had her own wedding and event planning

business for six years, Inspired Weddings & Events in Santa Barbara, Calif., says picking the right flowers depends on the size and scope of the event, and the right time to start planning depends on the bride's tastes, as well as the flower's seasonality and availability.

"If they have exotic tastes, things that need to be imported, the earlier the better," Hoover says. "If they're more into a fresh, kind of wild flower, seasonal-type of arrangements, then that time gets dialed way down." "It really varies according to the brides taste."



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## CAKE

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# Taking the cake

### How to make the dessert of your dreams a reality

Gorgeous-looking wedding cakes are almost ubiquitous — they grace the pages of glossy magazines, are featured in reality shows and are especially present online on wedding blogs and social sites like Pinterest. But scoring that divine, delectable cake for your own wedding might prove a little more difficult.

Sarah Chancey, owner of Chancey Charm, a wedding planning and design company based in Atlanta, suggests that brides-to-be start thinking about their wedding cake as soon as possible. “I recommend that they start looking into cakes as far out as they can, as far as choosing a baker and reserving a date, because if they want an exceptional baker, they want to make sure that they’re on their books in plenty of time,” she says.

Erica O’Brien of Erica O’Brien Cake Design in Hamden, Conn., recommends securing your venue first, adding that the bride also needs to know the approximate number of guests, which “will determine the size of the tiers, the number of tiers and the cost of the cake.”

The bride’s inspiration is the next part of the process. O’Brien, who has been a professional in the wedding cake industry for seven years and does about 75 wedding cakes a year, says that it is helpful for brides to have some design ideas of cakes they like as a ‘jumping-off point.’ She estimates that nearly 85 to 90 percent of the brides she works with have an idea, if not for their cake, at least a general theme or feel for their wedding.

“When I first started, brides would come in with their folder or portfolio, and they clipped photos from magazines. Now, they’ll come in with an iPad and just flip through pictures,” O’Brien says.



The plethora of online inspiration available has “expanded bride’s creativity and expectations,” O’Brien says, and helps fuel the trends.” For example, O’Brien says that last summer, she had many brides ask for cakes with a chevron pattern on them.

But bringing your baker a photo or two of the cake you love doesn’t necessarily mean she can —or will—copy it for you. “Each artist puts their own touch on it,” O’Brien says, and bakers have different philosophies on whether or not they will replicate each other’s cakes.

It’s also important to remember that photos of cakes you see in magazines or online might not be realistic—for your location or budget.

“A lot of what you see online in photo shoots are often faux cakes, and sometimes those designs are a bit more challenging to execute on a real cake in the middle of July with 95 percent humidity,” O’Brien says.

If you’re concerned about the cost of the cake, consider asking the baker to make a smaller display cake and have a sheet cake in the back (that no one sees) to serve to your guests.

“It’s more economical,” O’Brien says, but she cautions brides to make sure the size of the display cake looks proportional to the number of guests.

“Having a smaller cake or doing multiple cakes or pies, more of a dessert bar kind of thing, is also a great option for budget brides,” Chancey says.

Last, but definitely not least important, is the taste and flavor of the cake.

“You want to get a cake people are going to want to eat,” O’Brien says.

If couples are having trouble choosing the flavor of the cake, she suggests going with a more classic choice, such as vanilla, which will appeal to more guests. With the right planning and the help of a great baker, brides-to-be can have the cake of their dreams.



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*The wedding meal and bar typically are your top wedding expenses, and with never-ending online photos and magazine editorials featuring lavish stations, chic small bites and couture cocktails, it can be easy to get ahead of yourself and your pocketbook. Here, two wedding-planning experts offer tips to balance your dream dinner-and-drinks spread with your budget realities.*



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**Step 1: E-xplore**

Not sure if you're feeling macaroni-and-cheese cupcakes and mugs of spiked cider or a raw bar and saketinis? Do a google search for different wedding reception styles and see what pops up.

"Online resources put tons of options at your finger tips," says Wendi Hroncich, founder of Seattle-based Ethereal Events.

"You're exposed to so much more than just what's in your area, allowing you to pull ideas from experts around the world! Use the images and ideas you find to build a dream menu that you can then share with your caterer and bartenders," Hroncich says.

Most caterers will be open to working with you to create a special dish or two, or design a menu in the style you want that also plays up their talents.

Need help finding the actual caterer? A google search or wedding website may offer leads on caterers in your area. However, the best companies are typically found via referrals from past clients or other wedding vendors, Lewis says. Put out a request for

suggestions on Facebook or Twitter and email a florist or baker you love to see who tops their catering list.

**Step 2: Edit Yourself**

"Couples can definitely get carried away trying to do everything they see online," Hroncich says. The result can lack cohesion (sushi and fried chicken and a taco bar and sangria!) can get very expensive.

Rein yourself in by deciding on your priorities. If your goal is a big party, an ample bar will help, Lewis says, but even "ample" doesn't have to break the bank.

She suggests offering a selection of white and red wines (Riesling to Chardonnay and Zinfandels to Merlots) and both a domestic and import beer. Kick it up a notch by offering regional products, cava or prosecco for your bubbly, and one or two favorite cocktails that you found during your online research. If you really want it all and don't mind a little DIY, make sure you pick a venue that doesn't charge you to bring in your own liquor, Lewis says. "That can save a few thousand dollars on your bar tab."

Hroncich advises keeping costs down by choosing one or two things you truly fell in love with during your research that also will make a big impact. For example, you could have that gorgeous signature cocktail with a candied-fruit stir-stick and an elegant dessert table, but skip the 20 cute appetizers that caught your eye. Or if you're truly obsessed with small bites, focus on options that will satisfy guests faster. "Cheese and fruit will not fill people up for the night, but risotto balls and meat skewers will," Hroncich says. And you can always ask your caterer to suggest unique and memorable dishes that are surprisingly budget-friendly.

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## INVITATIONS

# Guest Alert!

**The invites, save-the-dates and all the other essential stationery.** *Here's how to get your paperwork in order. Facebook added a "Weddings and Celebrations" feature to the little box at the top-right corner of the site last year, which put engagement and wedding notifications alongside birthdays and other events. The moment you change your status to engaged, every one of your "friends" know about it (and some will probably send you a congratulatory note just as meaningful as the obligatory Facebook birthday wish).*

However, the ability to mass-communicate instantly — with just a few taps of a touch screen, you can broadcast anything to every single person you know — does not mean people should take an e-approach to their wedding invitations. After all, there still is a sense of decorum to be had, even in the digital age.



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**Getting Started:** Still, social networks and electronic communication can be a big help before you get to ink-and-paper invites.

Your guest list isn't truly finalized until you have mailing addresses for all the guests to whom you'll send an invitation. Facebook, email and even text messages are quick and easy ways to track down info from aunts, uncles, cousins and old college friends. Don't make your request via a status update; you don't want to broadcast the message to folks who will not be invited.

Google also has a suite of Google Docs-based wedding planning tools designed to help

tech-savvy couples stay on top of their "I Do" to-dos, including a collaborative guest list. Just email the document to your guests, and they can fill in their information. Check out [google.com/weddings](http://google.com/weddings).

Whether you're getting your stationery professionally designed or going the DIY route, take a trip to a local stationery shop to get your hands on some paper and check out design styles. Typically, expect to spend around 5 percent of your budget on your stationery, including postage, but adjust as necessary depending on your guest list and paper preferences.

**Save-the-Date:** As soon as your venue is booked, send all your guests a save-the-date. It doesn't

matter if it's a year out from the wedding — you want your guests to get your wedding on their schedules as soon as possible.

You don't need to go overboard on details; just your names and the date to keep open. If you have a wedding website set up include the URL. And of course, you can mention that a formal invitation will follow.

**Wedding Invitation and Enclosures:** Etiquette 101: Do not include registry information on the invitation - anywhere! You're inviting your friends and family to join in your wedding celebration; you're not inviting them to bring you gifts. (List registry information on your wedding website.)



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The actual wedding invitation is where you officially invite your guests. Plan to put these in the mail around two months prior to your wedding. The RSVP card (self-addressed and stamped) is where guests will accept or decline invitation and, if you're having a seated dinner, mark their dinner selection. List a date by which you'd appreciate their reply, usually four weeks before the wedding date.

Although all the pertinent details may be on your wedding website, it's still customary to include a card separate from the invitation that lays out the wheres and whens for the reception venue (if separate) and accommodations.

### Day-of Pieces

The invitation is the main attraction, but there are still paper pieces you need for the big day:

*Programs:* This will list information on the officiant, readings, wedding party, etc.

*Table numbers/names*

*Escort cards and Place cards:*

Escort cards tell the guest at which table they are seated. Place cards show them in which chair.

*Menus:* An outline of dinner, set with each place card.

*Thank-yous:* Get a jump on showing your gratitude. It can be worthwhile to invest in stationery that features your married name.

*Make your big day as unique as you are*



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## MUSIC

# Let's Dance!

*You can cram into a too-small limo, stumble through your vows and even enjoy a too-well-done steak — at the end of the day, you're going to remember the fun you had at your wedding and not a few minor details. But when it comes to the music, you don't want to make any concessions.*

*You want to ensure a night of great music and great memories. So, as with all vendors, ask the right questions and make sure you are a good match before you commit.*

**The Vibe:** When you walk into the office, are you at an office or at someone's home? How do you feel? Is the meeting friendly, or transactional? Do they take the time to get to know you and your fiancé as a couple, or just dive into the package options? Do they ask about your music tastes? The difference between feeling like a client and feeling like another customer is important, and it may be indicative of the service you'll be provided.

**The Playlist:** The DJ may have all the songs you want to hear in his catalog, but how are you going to convey that to him? Is there an online song-management system? Forms to fill out? What is the deadline to have your requests submitted? If desired songs are not available, will the DJ obtain them?

**The Equipment:** Take a listening test. Ask what grade of speakers and subwoofers they have and if they have back-ups, if need be. See how their DJ system works for queuing up songs, fading them in and out and changing the song.

**The Packages & Paperwork:** Be sure to review all sound package options — including the services, number of hours, prices and payment schedule. When you've found the service that meets your needs, like every vendor, be sure to sign the contract and get a copy. All that's left to do is dance.





## PHOTOGRAPHY &amp; VIDEOGRAPHY

## Unforgettable Moments

Today's brides are pinning, liking, sharing, posting (and still flipping through pages of glossy magazines) while on the hunt for inspiration as they plan for the big day. And not only are they gathering ideas from photos on Pinterest, Facebook and other social media sites, they're eager to share their own.

According to a recent survey conducted by online media companies *The Knot* and *Mashable*, 1 in 3 brides update their relationship status on Facebook within hours of their engagement. An online spread of engagement photos usually follows.

"I think that people's style has improved and their expectations have heightened because of Pinterest, blogs and Facebook," says Lindsey Orton of the Provo, Utah-based Lindsey Orton Photography. She also says couples may even feel pressure to match or outdo photos their engaged or married friends have published online.

So what does (and doesn't) make for great engagement and wedding photos brides will want to pin, post, print and share right away?

"For us, style means real, authentic, genuine moments," says

Kristyn Hogan, a Nashville, Tenn.-based photographer. "The ability to look at a photograph and remember what it felt like to be there, to feel a connection with the moment and the memory, that's what we always strive for and that's what our brides come to us for."

Many of today's brides are turning to themes and creative story lines in their engagement

and wedding photography to create memorable images.

"I think if it relates to the couple, then it's a really great thing," Orton says. "But unless it does, it's kind of unnecessary. And, in twenty years people would look at it and be like, 'What's that?'"

Hogan loves styled shoots but echoes Orton's precaution that the theme should have a purpose and connection to the couple.



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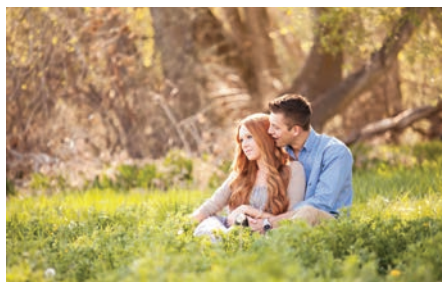
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"If the theme or story connects with the couple and brings out their personalities and unique relationship, I love it!" Hogan says. Hogan's tips for the best photos includes hiring a professional makeup artist.

"[They] understand the difference between an everyday look and what you'll want and need on your wedding day from longevity to how it shows in photos," she writes on her blog.



"You'll have these photos for the rest of your life and you want to look your absolute best!"

For photos on the big day, Hogan tells brides to "get ready somewhere awesome." If brides want to capture the preparation before walking down the aisle, a messy hotel room or bathroom won't provide the best setting. She also says that the difference between pretty reception photos and breathtaking photos is



lighting: candles, chandeliers, dance floor lighting, etc.

The most important element for great photos, however, may be to enjoy the day and let your photographer and others think about the details.

"It doesn't have to be a stressful time," Orton says. "You're married and in love and you can just take pictures about you guys. You don't need to have all these props. It's just about you."



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LENA and DAN WATSON

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## Best Plans

*When Lena Watson set out to plan her wedding to her now-husband, Dan, she was determined to have exactly the wedding she wanted.*

*"My biggest strategy was having a long engagement," she said. She and Dan became engaged in October 2011 and were married in the courtyard of The Riverenza in June 2013 as guests watched from the balcony.*

*"I didn't want to be limited by money," she said. "I knew I could get things over the course of time and pay deposits over time and book everybody early."*

*It helped that Lena isn't a procrastinator. She wanted to have all her I's dotted and her T's crossed well in advance of the big day.*





"I got engaged and I picked my colors the same night," she said, opting for a summery soft blue and yellow theme.

She used a wedding checklist she found on [www.theknot.com](http://www.theknot.com), a popular wedding planning website.

"I used the app on my iPhone and I could go and check things off," she said. "It would actually give me alerts."

As the old saying goes, the wedding day is the bride's day and so was most of the planning for the Watson wedding.

"I asked Dan if he wanted to be involved in the planning — I gave him the option and he said 'It's your thing, you do it.'"

His only provision was that the groomsmen not have to wear uncomfortable tuxedo shoes. So the men wore DC villain loafers with casually rolled shirt-sleeves and tuxedo pants. The groom and father of the bride were both in steel gray ensembles with only the ties differing, while the groomsmen wore heather gray with blue ties. The wedding clothing was locally sourced from The Dalles Wedding Place.

Lena saved money on decorations for the wedding and reception by doing them herself.

"I went to Walmart and The Dollar [Tree]," she

said. She bought all her vases and flowers there, and glass marbles to fill the vases and hold the yellow and blue flowers in place. "I just picked the pretty ones and put them in there."

When it came time to hire the cake, food and flowers for the wedding, Lena went to Palate Pleaser in Hood River.

"The caterer did the cake, flowers and food," she said. She left the design up to the caterer, only providing photos of the flowers and instructing them to coordinate.

The biggest challenge of planning her own wedding was getting started, Lena said.

"Once I made contact with the vendors and booked them, it went a lot smoother from there," she said.

Though taking time to plan made the job easier, the Watson wedding was not without bumps along the way. The original officiant backed out four months before the ceremony, sparking some added stress for the bride.

"I didn't know what I was going to do," she said. "Finally, I got ahold of Judge [Janet] Stauffer and she agreed to perform the ceremony."

*continued on page 18*



The Watsons wrote their own vows and included a sand ceremony, which involves using different colors of sand to symbolize the blending of two people in marriage. The bride was represented by blue sand, symbolizing loyalty, while the groom had yellow sand, symbolizing happiness. The layered sand, housed in a decanter, is a symbol of the marriage meant to be kept forever.

The groom put his own personal stamp on the vows, providing a lighthearted touch.

"At the end of the vows, when the groom traditionally says 'Til death do us part,' he said, 'until she kills me.' That kind of made it special for us."

Lena also saved money by creating all of the invitations, save-the-date cards and thank-you cards on Publisher, then having them printed at Staples. She also used recorded music off iTunes that was piped through the venue's sound system, for both the ceremony and the reception.

Lena budgeted about \$8,000

for the wedding and said she was pretty close in the final tally.

"We went a bit over, but it wasn't by a lot."

She suggests planning the guest list first, then setting the budget, because the caterer, cake and venue all rely on the guest numbers.

In the final analysis, Lena had the wedding she wanted and hadn't gone into a lot of debt to make it happen. She said the only thing she would change in retrospect was to have a bit more organization during the reception.

"We ended up not doing the first dance or the father-daughter dance," she said. "By the time we really thought about it, the recep-

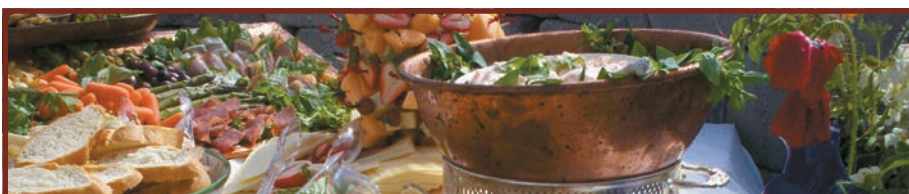
tion was about over."

She was happy to have been able to source most of her wedding in the gorge. It made fittings and other details easier.

Her message? "You don't need to spend a bunch of money to have a perfect wedding."

She also offered a suggestion particularly for couples that already have an established household at the time of their wedding.

"If you're planning a honeymoon, you might consider honeyfund.com," she said. Couples set up a profile on the website and family and friends can contribute toward honeymoon expenses, rather than buying unnecessary household items.

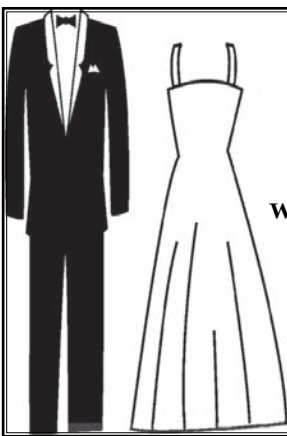


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## BUDGET

# Money Management

## Planning and paying for a wedding can be daunting, take control by budgeting smart

After “Bottoming out” at around \$22,000, the average cost of a wedding has settled somewhere between \$25,000 and \$26,000, according to *The Wedding Report*, the Tucson, Ariz.-based wedding market research company.

Yes, that’s a hefty number, but remember that number is an average, not a target. More important than the number, is how couples are using savings and on-hand cash to pay for their weddings. They’re being more cautious on how they deploy their dollars. In short, they want to be sure that they and their guests get the most out of what they spend.

For example, a groom might decide it’s better to invest a few hundred dollars in a suit he’ll wear for years rather than spend \$100 to rent a tuxedo he’ll wear for one day. Couples might decide not to overdo it on reception decorations and instead invest more in the dinner and drinks.

### The Basics of the Budget

To establish your magic number, look at your designated savings, contributions from parents or other relatives, and what dollar amount of your regular income you can devote toward the wedding, without sabotaging your day-to-day budget.

When you’ve come up with your number, plug it in a budget formula to see how much you have to spend in each area of your

wedding. Follow these estimates to get started. Remember, the figures are just estimates, so adjust as necessary to fit your wedding’s needs:

Reception— 50%

Music—10%

Flowers—10%

Wedding Attire—10%

Photo/Video—10%

Stationery—5%

Miscellaneous—5%

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## RINGS

---



# Put a Ring On It!



Today, your love story lives online. Take the engagement, for instance.

Nearly 60 percent of brides-to-be share their “we’re getting married” news by posting a picture of their engagement ring on Facebook (though about one in five of their fiancés think doing so is tacky!),

according to a proposal survey from *The Knot* and *Men’s Health* magazines.

But on your big day—and every day thereafter—your wedding band will have equal billing alongside your engagement ring, even if it may be less sparkly.

You’ll want to make sure it is cohesive with your engagement ring and, of course, that it fits your style. Start with the metal. According to a study of wedding jewelry by *The Knot*, 73 percent of engagement rings are white gold, which also makes up 70 percent of wedding bands. Whether your ring is white or yellow gold or platinum or something else altogether, you’d be in good company sticking with the same base metal for your wedding band.

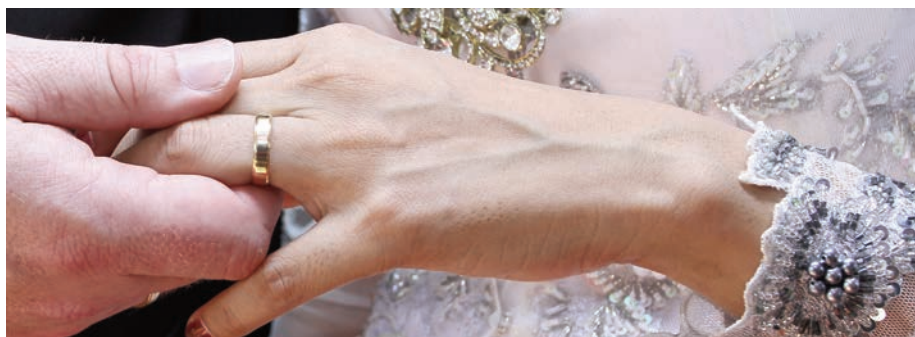
Also keep in mind design elements. Maybe your engagement ring is a full or partial eternity band, or maybe it features pavé diamonds or accent gemstones. You can carry on these elements into your wedding band.



White gold also is popular for the groom, with about one-third of grooms picking a blanco band.

However, alternative metals like tungsten and titanium (think golf clubs!) have grown in popularity in recent years, not just because of their unique look, but their lower price point.

Another trend for guys is "man-gagement rings." According to the *Men's Health/The Knot* survey, 17 percent of men said they would (not necessary that they do) wear a ring to let the public know they are "off the market".



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## FASHION



# Coming Up Glamorous

*Long before she says 'I do,' a bride has a pretty good idea of her dream dress. Whether she's just Type A or accesses the wealth of information on Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest boards galore, she's pretty much decided if it's Vera Wang or Amsale, strapless or one-shoulder. But the journey to find what she really wants may be fraught with detours.*



After all, what she sees on the computer screen — a sinewy number on a 5-foot, 10-inch super-model — may not go over well on her 5-foot, 4-inch curvy frame. Or, the price of her favorite online gown may not be in the same league as her budget.

"Pinterest and social media are a blessing and a curse for bridal shops," says Ty McBrayer, owner of Twirl Lexington, a bridal boutique in Lexington, Ky. "What they see may be a \$10,000 dress, and they have a \$1,000 budget. It sets standards that can't be met."

To navigate the road to her special purchase, bridal experts offer ways to keep the dream in check.


Bridal stores know that everything is about research these days when planning a wedding, especially because a typical client is of the social media generation. But, at the end of the research day, the ideas are someone else's and not yours. Do what's best for you. Picking the color purple for your wedding because it looks pretty online may not be the best idea if it's not a color you really like.

By all means, buy your dress in person. Feel free to canvas designer websites and social media platforms for dress options and to pester them with questions, including that of the gown's price. Then, gather your ideas on your

Pinterest page and email the link to the local bridal boutique before your appointment, but don't buy online.

"We wouldn't recommend ordering gowns from websites because you're never sure if the quality of the gown is up to par," says Lynn Annatone, marketing director for Modern Trousseau, based in Woodbridge, Conn. "You want to touch and feel it."



  
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Hood River, Ore.

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**Brian's Pourhouse**  
(541) 387-4344  
brianspourhouse.com  
606 Oak Street, Hood River, Ore.  
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**Mike's Bakitchen**  
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mikesbakitchen.com  
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**Ixtapa**  
(541) 298-1265, The Dalles;  
(541) 386-1168, Hood River  
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**Balch Hotel**  
(541) 467-2277 balchhotel.com  
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3405 Cascade Ave.,

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thegorgewhitehouse.com

2265 Hwy 35, Hood River, Ore.

*An outdoor venue with stunning double mountain views, flower fields, landscaped gardens and patios set behind a historical home on a century-old working farm.***Anzac Tea Parlour**

(541) 298-5877

218 W. Fourth St., The Dalles, Ore.

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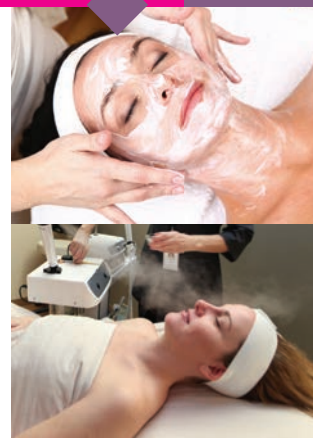
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## PLACES

### Fort Dalles Museum

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fordallesmuseum.org

500 W/ 15th St., The Dalles, Ore.

The museum grounds can hold weddings and receptions for 200-300 guests (keep in mind there are only two bathrooms). Various packages available.

### The Dalles Civic Auditorium

(541) 298-8533 thedallescivic.com

323 E. Fourth, The Dalles, Ore.

Weddings and receptions; early reservations recommended. Ballroom, Fireside Room, community room and theater. Accommodations for 400 people. Historic venue.

### Laurelbrook

(541) 490-0342 or (509) 637-4990

laurelbrookevents.com

1270 N. Main Avenue,

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### Old St. Peter's Landmark

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## HONEYMOON

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# Unplug and Recharge

### *Really?*

After a year of planning and thousands of dollars spent on the wedding and now the honeymoon, you're going to decompress by — checking in on Facebook?

According to a joint survey by *The Knot.com* and *Mashable.com*, two-thirds of brides consider logging onto their social sites during their honeymoon.

### *Don't.*

In fact, if you can, curb the urge altogether by uninstalling your Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest apps from your phone and tablet before you leave for your 'moon. You worked hard to get to this point, so take the time to enjoy the post-nuptial bliss with your

new spouse, not a screen.

After all, a honeymoon, while always deserved, does not come cheap! The average cost of a honeymoon in 2012 was nearly \$5,000, according to *Brides* magazine's 2012 American Wedding Study: Travel Edition, up from just over \$3,500 in 2011. The takeaway? At the end of the wedding journey, couples are investing in themselves.

"A honeymoon is something that a couple can share together and look back on 20 or 30 years down the road," *Brides* travel editor Jacqueline Gifford says. "They're spending money/investing in creating a memory that will last a lifetime, rather than a material object that they'll be over in two years."



# Engagement Announcement Form

The Dalles Chronicle and Hood River News publish information about engagements of local people, people formerly of the gorge area, or with close family in the area. Announcements should be submitted at least a month before the wedding. Copy will be edited. Announcement will publish as space allows. Please print clearly. Attach another sheet of paper if needed. Couples are welcome to submit a photo to go with the announcement.

## THE BRIDE-TO-BE

Bride's full name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Town/state of residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mother of the bride (full name): \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Stepfather's name if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Town/state of residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Father of the bride (full name): \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Stepmother's name if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Town/state of residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
 High school attended: \_\_\_\_\_ Year graduated: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Further education (college, trade school): \_\_\_\_\_ Year graduated: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Current employment/employer: \_\_\_\_\_

## THE GROOM-TO-BE

Groom's full name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Town/state of residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mother of the groom (full name): \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Stepfather's name if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Town/state of residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Father of the groom (full name): \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Stepmother's name if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Town/state of residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
 High school attended: \_\_\_\_\_ Year graduated: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Further education (college, trade school): \_\_\_\_\_ Year graduated: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Current employment/employer: \_\_\_\_\_

## THE WEDDING PLANS

Date of the wedding: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Place of the wedding (include town/state): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Photo included? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you want photo returned?\* ☐ Yes ☐ No

**\*To return hard-copy photos include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.**

Form submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



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**Hood River News**

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 Phone: 541-386-1234 • Fax: 541-386-6796  
 Email: esmith@hoodrivernews.com



# Wedding Announcement Form

The Dalles Chronicle and Hood River News publish information about weddings of local people, people formerly of the gorge area, or with close family in the area. Copy will be edited and will publish as space allows. Please print clearly. Attach another sheet of paper if needed. Accompanying photos should be a minimum of 400 KB. Announcements should be submitted within three months of the wedding.

*If you would like an announcement published before the wedding, please submit an engagement announcement.*

## THE BRIDE

Full name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mother's full name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Stepfather's name if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mother's town/state of residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Father's full name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Stepmother's name if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Father's town/state of residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bride's high school (include town/state): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Year graduated: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Further education: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Year graduated: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Current employment/employer: \_\_\_\_\_

## THE GROOM

Full name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mother's full name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Stepfather's name if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mother's town/state of residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Father's full name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Stepmother's name if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Father's town/state of residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Groom's high school (include town/state): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Year graduated: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Further education: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Year graduated: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Current employment/employer: \_\_\_\_\_

## THE WEDDING

Date/location of wedding: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Officiant: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Maid/matron of honor: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bridesmaids: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Best man: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Groomsmen: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Flower girl: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ringbearer: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other details: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Reception location: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Honeymoon details: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Couple is/will be living where? (town/state): \_\_\_\_\_

Photo included? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you want photo returned?\* ☐ Yes ☐ No

**\*To return hard-copy photos include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.**

Form submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



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# Anniversary Announcement Form

The Dalles Chronicle and Hood River News publish information about anniversaries of local people, people formerly of the gorge area, or with close family in the area. Announcements should be submitted at least a month before the event. Copy will be edited. Announcement will publish as space allows. Please print clearly. Attach another sheet of paper if needed. Couples are welcome to submit a current photo and/or original wedding photograph to go with the announcement. Digital photos should be a minimum of 400 KB.

## THE COUPLE

His name: \_\_\_\_\_

His occupation/former occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Years Retired \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Not retired

Her name (include maiden name): \_\_\_\_\_

Her occupation/former occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Years Retired \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Not retired

Current town/state of residence: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of years couple has lived in this area: \_\_\_\_\_

Previous towns of residence: \_\_\_\_\_

Day and year of wedding? \_\_\_\_\_ This is their \_\_\_\_\_ anniversary (total # years)

Location of wedding (include town/state): \_\_\_\_\_

Wedding details (who performed ceremony, who attended the couple, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

His current involvement (hobbies, clubs, church, volunteering, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Her current involvement (hobbies, clubs, church, volunteering, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Number of children: \_\_\_\_\_ (list name, spouse and town of residence for each if desired): \_\_\_\_\_

Number of grandchildren: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of great-grandchildren: \_\_\_\_\_

## THE EVENT

Date and time of the celebration: \_\_\_\_\_

Location (include city/town): \_\_\_\_\_

Type of gathering: ☐ Private family gathering ☐ Family and friends ☐ Public invited

Host of event: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe gathering: \_\_\_\_\_

We cannot guarantee the announcement will run on a particular date. However, is there a date you'd prefer? \_\_\_\_\_

Photo included? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you want photo returned?\* ☐ Yes ☐ No

**\*To return hard-copy photos include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.**

Form submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



**The Dalles Chronicle**

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**Hood River News**

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# Index of Advertisers

4C's Catering	15	Katina's Catering and	
B. Beautiful Salon	8	Professional Chef Services	18
Brian's Pourhouse	7	Laurelbrook	32
Cathedral Ridge Winery	12	Mike's Bakitchen	10
China Gorge	7	Oak Street Hotel	5
Class Act Catering	5	Old St. Peter's Landmark	26
Classic Carriages	21	Pacific Northwest Federal Credit Union	4
Columbia Gorge Hotel	23	Positive Negatives	15
Columbia Gorge Limousine	23	Riverside at Hood River Inn	12
Columbia River Women's Clinic	11	Rosauers	9
Dickey Farms Store and Angel's Bakery	21	Sigman's Flowers & Gifts	5
Discover Rentals	2	Skamania Lodge	14
Gorge & Hood River Limo Service	10	Sunshine Mill	3
Gorge Portable Sanitation, Inc.	19	Terri Bryant	8
Hazel Phillips Travel	26	The Dalles Wedding Place	9
Hood River Elks Lodge	23	The Spa at Water's Edge	25
Hood River Stationers	18	Tropical Illusions Salon	12
Ixtapa Family Mexican Restaurant	11	Unicorn Hair Design	15
JD Smith Jewelers	21		







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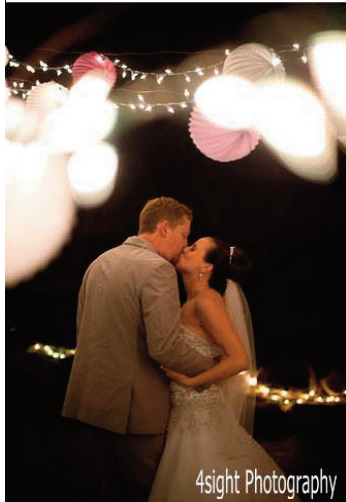
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Relax. Celebrate. Enjoy.

*Laurelbrook*

*For all of life's celebrations*



Michael Peterson Photography



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