

*the knot*  
NOTEBOOK

THE HOTTEST WEDDING DESTINATIONS  
THE LATEST PARTY TRENDS  
NEW DÉCOR IDEAS...AND MORE

the new  
“it” natural  
bouquet

You can thank the darker magical settings of the new fairy-tale-inspired movies for the latest style in wedding blooms. Brides are requesting arrangements with a just-picked, organic, woody vibe. Think: loose, soft bouquets filled with cabbage roses, peonies and dinner plate dahlias, and natural accents. >>



stationery update

fancy fonts

With formal receptions back in vogue, we're also seeing a return to traditional invitations, and with it, classic calligraphy (left). But for a modern update with the same luxe feel, it's all about gold foiling (right). The trick? Use these fancy techniques sparingly—just to call out key details (the wedding date, your names) or design elements (your initials or motif)—keeping the other fonts and design subdued for a more dynamic (and cost-effective) look.



wedding scene

READ IT,  
SEE IT, DO IT

read it

**THE DIY BRIDE AN AFFAIR TO REMEMBER** Forty easy-to-follow projects from Khris Cochran of the DIY Bride blog. \$22, [DIYBride.com](http://DIYBride.com)

see it

**DONNY'S BOY** A Daddylia + Adam Sandler and Andy Samberg + Vanilla Ice as a wedding planner = pure wedding movie magic.

do it

**BRIDALICIOUS BOOT CAMP BY THE KNOT** We teamed up with fitness guru Doug Rice on this new DVD set. [TheKnotShop.com](http://TheKnotShop.com)

aisle style

alternate altars



**POP-UP CHAPEL** It's showtime! Perform your vows on a makeshift stage, with curtains.

**SURF'S UP** Stick two surfboards, oars or skis in the ground to mark where you'll say "I do."

**SCREEN SHOT** Project the city skyline onto a screen behind the altar.

runway report

the little white wedding suit

A nod to the '70s was spotted on this season's bridal fashion runways. Designers like Pnina Tornai for Kleinfeld, Douglas Hannant and Yumi Katsura showed sleek white pantsuits (à la Bianca Jagger) and sexy one-pieces for fashion-forward brides. Love the look, but not missing out on the chance to wear that big white dress? We're fans of both pant styles for rehearsal dinners and second reception looks (perfect for making a stylish exit). >>



PNINA TORNAI FOR KLEINFELD

DOUGLAS HANNANT

YUMI KATSURA



table talk

# put a lid on it

Instead of showing off lush arrangements atop towering candelabras or spilling out over claw-footed vessels, floral designers are covering up centerpieces. Glassing in the blooms, with apothecary jars and domed cloches of varying sizes and shapes, creates a dynamic (and conversation-friendly) tablescape. These table toppers work best in clusters, with just a few bright blooms surrounded by greenery inside each one, for a fresh, elegant look. Styling by Poppies & Posies

cruise news

## LOVE BOAT

Cruises are back—and not just for honeymoons. More couples are cruising down the aisle on these megaships too. To lure to-be-weds aboard, the cruise industry is stepping up its wedding game, with on-site planners and personalized packages. Essentially a floating all-inclusive resort, it can be a more streamlined and economical way to tie the knot. The hitch: You won't have much control (site visits don't apply). And you'd better like your guests (and be cool with crashers)—you'll be stuck on a boat with both for a few days.

eco weddings  
green goddess

It used to be that eco brides had to choose between a dream dress and a green dress. But things are changing. Made from 100 percent organic cotton tulle and hand-embroidered with natural ivory guipure flowers, Oscar de la Renta's one-of-a-kind Runway to Green gown, designed for an eco fund-raiser, was such a hit that it erased any doubts about the quality and look of eco-friendly wedding dresses. We're hoping the ethereal showstopper was the start of a new green bridal line and inspires other bridal designers to follow suit.



OSCAR DE LA RENTA



hot spot

## western weddings

Couples are heading west to say "yee-haw," er, "I do." An outdoor alternative (sans humidity) to beach weddings, the Western US offers some of the most scenic ceremony backdrops (and photo ops) in the world, acres of wide-open (read: tentable) party space and a range of activities that guests will be psyched to travel for (think: fly-fishing, skiing, hiking and horseback riding). Of course, it doesn't hurt that the region is a favorite of A-list brides like Reese Witherspoon and Lauren Bush, who got hitched at Ralph Lauren's ranch. >>



cake craze

# fantasy frosting

Soon we'll be seeing a revival of spun-sugar accents decorating wedding cakes. Skilled bakers are using the threaded sugar (which is mixed with corn syrup and beeswax to give it a malleable quality) to create intricate, architectural 3-D designs. From cotton-candy-like rings circling fondant tiers to eye-catching sugar sculptures on top (left), these edible works of art will give your dessert table a fun, fanciful feel. Cake by Lulu Custom Cake Boutique, [EverythingLulu.com](http://EverythingLulu.com)

reception buzz

## exotic entertainment

**INSTEAD OF FIREWORKS... PUT ON A LIGHT SHOW**  
Lighting designers can create the effect of falling leaves, a sunset or fireworks indoors.

**INSTEAD OF A MONTAGE... HIRE A LIVE ACT**  
Treat guests to a one-of-a-kind performance by fire-eaters or *Cirque du Soleil*-style acrobats.

**INSTEAD OF A PARTY BUS... TAKE A WILD RIDE**  
Make a memorable ceremony entrance on an elephant or in a hot-air balloon. During cocktails, treat guests to a ride.

new and noteworthy  
**SPIN-OFF**



The latest way to put a personal "spin" on the day: DJing at your own wedding. We're not talking about hooking up your iPod to speakers. This trend is more on par with taking lessons to choreograph your first dance. But instead, to-be-weds are taking classes to create custom mashups and prepare for bride-vs.-groom turntable battles. Find spinning workshops near you at [ScratchWeddings.com](http://ScratchWeddings.com).

EMILY BLUNT



## proposal trends the long engagement

Why Violet (Emily Blunt) and Tom (Jason Segel) got it right in *The Five-Year Engagement*.

- 1 LESS PRESSURE** Yes, "What's the date?" gets old. But the baby question is next...
- 2 TIME TO RECONSIDER** Just kidding. But you will get more marriage practice.
- 3 BOOKING EARLY** There's a better chance you'll get your top vendor picks.

inside look

# art deco-inspired engagement rings

Looking beyond the traditional solitaire? Take your inspiration from the sleek shapes of this era. (Think: the Chrysler Building, but for your finger!)

- 1** For a subtle twist, rotate the center stone. \$5,160, [YaelDesigns.com](http://YaelDesigns.com)
- 2** A center sparkly made up of smaller diamonds is eye-catching. \$60,000, [SimonJewelry.com](http://SimonJewelry.com)
- 3** Emerald-cut diamonds look best flanked by similarly shaped stones. \$7,540, [KirkKara.com](http://KirkKara.com)
- 4** A mix of oval, round and Asscher-cut stones gives this vintage style fresh appeal. \$11,600, [Kwiat.com](http://Kwiat.com)
- 5** Colored stones are all the rage. \$2,450, [TimelessDesigns.com](http://TimelessDesigns.com) >>



FROM TOP: DEVON JARVIS; OUR LABOR OF LOVE; WIREIMAGE; COURTESY OF THE MANUFACTURERS (5)

drink dish

# and the latest vodka flavor is wedding cake!

The perfect ingredient to any bachelorette party or signature cocktail? Pearl Vodka's Wedding Cake Vodka ([PearlWeddingCake.com](http://PearlWeddingCake.com)). It tastes just like frosting, so have your cake and drink it too!



party planner

## girls (and guys!) gone wild

Instead of the proverbial night on the town, to-be-weds are kissing singledom good-bye with action-packed parties.

### ♂ WRANGLING AND RANCHING

Grooms can live out their cowboy fantasies on a cattle drive out West. Many ranches offer guided group drives.

### ♀ STILETTO SPY SCHOOL

Channel your inner Jane Bond or Ms. MacGyver and learn spy skills—while rocking heels. [StilettoSpySchool.com](http://StilettoSpySchool.com)

### ♀ HUNGER GAMES—STYLE

COMPETITIONS What better way to get both sides of the aisle to bond than with an intense paintball competition?

gift ideas

## NEW WAYS TO PERSONALIZE



**golden globe**  
Mark your special spot with a tiny diamond. [Shop.MRKStyle.com](http://Shop.MRKStyle.com)

**diy bands**  
Make your own rings from scratch. [AWeddingRingExperience.com](http://AWeddingRingExperience.com)

**heart and sole**  
Show your edgy side with tattooed kicks or pumps. [FiggieShoes.com](http://FiggieShoes.com)

**graffitiing guests**  
'80s street art is big now. Embrace the trend with a graffiti guest book or sign.

flavor flash

## custom confections

To-be-weds are putting the focus back on flavor, serving confections that taste as good as they look. The secret: flavored fondant. Sure, fondant has a rep for not tasting so great, but with inventive new flavors—melon, chocolate cherry, tutti-frutti, coffee mocha and even buttercream-flavored fondant (seriously!)—entering the picture, it's giving buttercream a run for its money. Are you drooling yet?

current obsession

## breakfast baskets

Move over, morning-after brunches. The new way to be a gracious host to out-of-towners: delivering good-bye baskets filled with bagels and cream cheese, or scones and muffins, plus a hangover helper like a small split of bubbly, to their hotel rooms the next morning. For a no-fuss approach, order prepackaged baskets from Sarabeth's Bakery ([Sarabeth.com](http://Sarabeth.com)). Or design your own: Sapphire Event Group ([SapphireEventGroup.com](http://SapphireEventGroup.com)) lets you pick and choose your good-bye goodies. >>



# everything's looking rosy



Rose gold is hot for baubles right now, and it's not hard to see why. The rosy metal complements almost any skin tone, plus you'll get quality and durability similar to white or yellow gold, only with a more feminine finish. But the real reason we're fans of the metal is a bit more sentimental: It means love. **1** Pure boho elegance, pair these floral stunners with a Grecian-style gown. \$175, **Azaara.com** **2** A playful cherry pendant in rose gold has a retro yet sophisticated look. Wear it to all your wedding-related parties. \$678, **Alex Woo.com** **3** This chic stacked style by Mattioli is understated enough that it won't compete with the showpiece on your ring finger. \$4,200, (800) 827-7590 for stores **4** Delicate gold and rhinestone bangles add sparkle to a simple sheath. \$80, **MaxandChloe.com** **5** Butterflies are a hot motif right now, and this necklace is the perfect finishing touch to a strapless dress. \$4,998, **AlexWoo.com**

## nuptial trends

**SURPRISE!  
IT'S OUR  
WEDDING!**



If you've ever thought, *Wouldn't it be great if someone just planned the whole thing for us, so all we had to do was show up?* Surprise! It could happen. Surprise nuptials are a rare but real trend. While most duos pull the bait and switch on their guests, inviting them to an engagement party that's really a wedding, we've heard of proposals that turned into nuptials as soon as the bride said "yes."

## décor ideas

# couture chairs

Ceremony and reception seats are getting special treatment, with custom covers featuring silk ruffles, streamer-like ribbons and sheer patterns in style right now. Here, a sheer floral-embroidered custom cover by Nüage Designs transforms a plain white chiavari chair into a décor element that helps bring out the romantic look of the day.



## honeymoon help

**yes, your planner will...**



...plan your honeymoon. Got your hands full with all the wedding to-dos? Leave the honeymoon to a pro you already trust and who knows your personalities and preferences. Planners aren't just for parties; many offer honeymoon planning services too. >>