



FOREVER
The Bride's Resource

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CATERING
ALTERNATIVES**

*Memorable
Wedding*



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The Bride's Resource

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This is the perfect time of year to experiment with color. Combine blush-colored roses, deep red viburnum, dusty green ferns, pomegranates, multicolored dahlias, succulents and eucalyptus garland for a truly striking centerpiece. Deep purples and reds look amazing with faded green and white.



Tablescapes

THANKS TO THE AMAZING WEATHER IN EARLY FALL, SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER ARE TWO OF THE MOST POPULAR MONTHS TO GET MARRIED. WHILE FALL CAN OFTEN CONJURE IMAGES OF RED LEAVES, ORANGE PUMPKINS AND BROWN TURKEYS REMINISCENT OF AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S CLASSROOM WALLS, THIS SEASON ACTUALLY OFFERS THE MOST VERSATILE COLOR PALLETS AND CENTERPIECE OPTIONS AROUND.

By Liz McGehee



IF YOU'RE HAVING A COUNTRY WEDDING THIS SEASON OR PLAN TO HAVE THE RECEPTION IN A BREATHTAKING BARN, IT'S EASY TO GO RUSTIC.

Try wood elements and natural autumn flora like twigs, apples, vines, burnt orange flowers or leaves, tree stumps, tiny squash painted over in gold pears and wheat. If you're feeling bold, use faux fur as table runners. Faux antlers also add a rugged touch.





ANOTHER LOOK WE LOVE THIS FALL IS
SIMPLE WHITE LINEN PAIRED WITH
TRANSLUCENT BLUE ACCESSORIES.

Transparent blue mason jars, vases and glassware are the way to go. These colors really brighten up a room, and they're easy to pair with nearly any fall centerpiece. You can keep it simple with a few vases here and there or go big with a show-stealing centerpiece.



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A grand exit. For day weddings, give your guests something colorful to throw as you leave the reception. For night, providing them with something illuminated, such as sparklers, lights the way beautifully in photographs.



An aerial view. Of the ceremony, the first dance or the cutting of the cake. It's all about the dress really. You definitely want to catch it in all its glory from this impressive angle.

A "thank you" picture. Before you take off your elegant wedding duds, take one minute to pose for a picture together holding a thank you sign (prepared in advance) so you can include the photo with your thank you notes.



A "first look" shot. The look on anyone's face when the fully-bedecked bride is first presented is always priceless. Be sure to capture the expressions of the bridesmaids, the groom and especially the father of the bride.



A generational moment. Capture three (or more) generations on the bride or groom's side. The women could opt for something different and include simply their hands and wedding rings. Or the couple could pose together each holding a wedding photo of his or her parents.

Great PHOTO IDEAS

FOR A MEMORABLE WEDDING ALBUM

DON'T BE ONE OF THOSE COUPLES WHO THINK OF A GREAT WEDDING SHOT AFTER THE CAKE HAS BEEN DEVoured, THE RICE THROWN AND THE DRESS HEIRLOOMED. TAKE SOME TIME TO BRAINSTORM AND COME UP WITH A LIST OF THE SHOTS YOU WANT SO YOU DON'T MISS THAT PERFECT MOMENT.

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Deadlines & Details

THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN PLANNING A WEDDING. TO ENSURE SUCCESS – AND YOUR SANITY – THE KEY IS ORGANIZATION. WE'VE COMPILED A DETAILED CHECKLIST THAT PAYS SPECIAL ATTENTION TO TIME-SENSITIVE DEADLINES, SO YOU CAN CREATE A FOOLPROOF CALENDAR AND TO-DO LIST.

12 months +

- Select date, time and place. Then reserve venues!
- Decide on wedding size and style.
- Hire wedding consultant (if applicable) and create wedding website.
- Shop for gown.
- Begin guest list.

9-12 months

- Research honeymoon destinations.
- Book musicians, DJ, florist, photographer, videographer and limousines.
- Order invitations.
- Purchase gown and begin alterations.
- Ask friends to be in wedding party and order bridesmaid dresses.

6-9 months

- Finalize guest list and send save-the-date cards.
- Book appointments for hair, nails and make-up.
- Reserve attire for groom and groomsmen.
- Order cake(s).
- Purchase rings.

3-6 months

- Secure bridal accessories (such as shoes, jewelry, garter and mementos)
- Give musicians a list of songs you want them to play (or to avoid).
- Make food choices with venue.

2 months

- Mail invitations.

1 month

- Give photographer a list of pictures you want taken.

1 week

- Give final head count to reception venue.

The day before

- Hold rehearsal ceremony and dinner.
- Deliver everything to site and work out any kinks.
- Give marriage license to officiant.
- Present gifts to wedding party, parents and any other honored guests.

The day of

- Give rings and officiant's fee to best man.
- Designate liaison for photographer to ensure all necessary pictures are taken.
- EXHALE!

NOTE: Larger cities have long waiting lists for wedding vendors so you may need to act sooner!



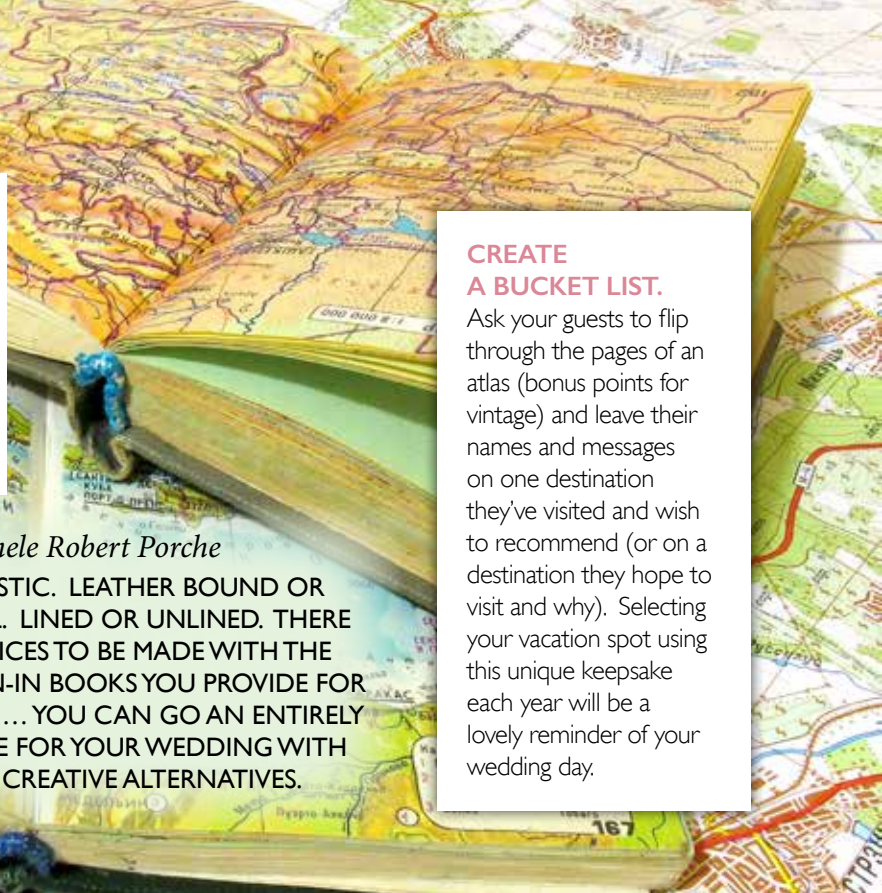
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WEDDING GUESTBOOK Alternatives



CREATE A BUCKET LIST.
Ask your guests to flip through the pages of an atlas (bonus points for vintage) and leave their names and messages on one destination they've visited and wish to recommend (or on a destination they hope to visit and why). Selecting your vacation spot using this unique keepsake each year will be a lovely reminder of your wedding day.

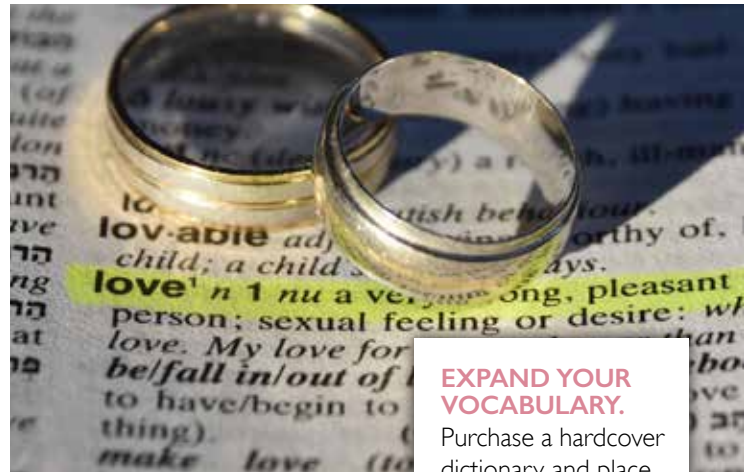
By Michele Robert Porche

FORMAL OR RUSTIC. LEATHER BOUND OR ENGRAVED METAL. LINED OR UNLINED. THERE ARE MANY CHOICES TO BE MADE WITH THE TRADITIONAL SIGN-IN BOOKS YOU PROVIDE FOR YOUR GUESTS. OR ... YOU CAN GO AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT ROUTE FOR YOUR WEDDING WITH ONE OF OUR CREATIVE ALTERNATIVES.



GROW YOUR ART COLLECTION.

Provide a large canvas (or several), paint and brushes for your guests and invite them to create art for your home. Customize it to your taste by selecting the paint colors and furnishing a grid or design to guide your "artists." Or display a completed painting and simply ask guests to sign their names to a certain section (ex. blank leaves on a tree, etc.)



EXPAND YOUR VOCABULARY.
Purchase a hardcover dictionary and place it on the sign-in table with an assortment of colored pens. Ask your guests to find and circle a word that best describes you both as a couple and leave their messages there. Imagine your delight when thumbing through its pages for the proper spelling of "ubiquitous" and you happen upon your grandmother's warm sentiments.

DECK YOUR HALLS.

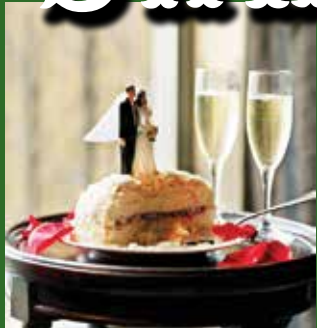
More than likely, you don't have a great deal of holiday decorations for your home just yet. Why not let your guests take care of that for you by supplying them with boxes of blank ornaments and colored Sharpies at the sign-in table? Invite them to sign and design the pieces personally to create the most memorable Christmas tree ever!



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FUN CATERING Alternatives

By Laura Fur Mericas

Whether or not you are traditional, your wedding food should reflect something special about you and your new spouse on the big day. So don't be afraid to throw out the rule book, and show them what you're really made of. Maybe you went to a baseball game on your first date or walked along the beach. Place cards at a food truck or hot dog stand that explain the significance of the meal. Let your food tell the story of you.

Today, ice cream bars, candy bars, sushi bars, charcuterie bars, popcorn bars and everything else in between, have set the bar even higher!



MOBILE MUNCHIES

The best thing about you and your beau's favorite food truck is that ... it's a truck! It can go just about anywhere, including your wedding reception. The trend has taken off quickly in recent years, so be sure to start coordinating as soon as you get the green light on your wedding date. And if your date or venue can't accommodate, you can always consider using the truck for your day-after get together!

BRUNCH — Equally delicious and cost effective is the revamped trend of daytime or Sunday weddings. And nothing says Sunday Funday quite like waffles, pancakes, coffee and mimosas. So, if you're an early riser, or a firm believer that the first meal of the day is the most important, a brunch bash could be the perfect plan for you.



FRESH OFF THE GRILL

Foodies will fall in love with immersive food stations. Whether it's a pig roast, pizza tossing, barbecue grilling or fondue dipping, couples and guests who want to do more than dance the night away can enjoy these new, interactive options.

SETTING THE BAR

A bar is where many couples can get their creative juices flowing. Usually the personalized take on the bar includes custom "his" and "hers" cocktails that play off the newlyweds' drinks of choice. But today, ice cream bars, candy bars, sushi bars, charcuterie bars, popcorn bars and everything else in between, have set the bar even higher!



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TAKE THE THRONE

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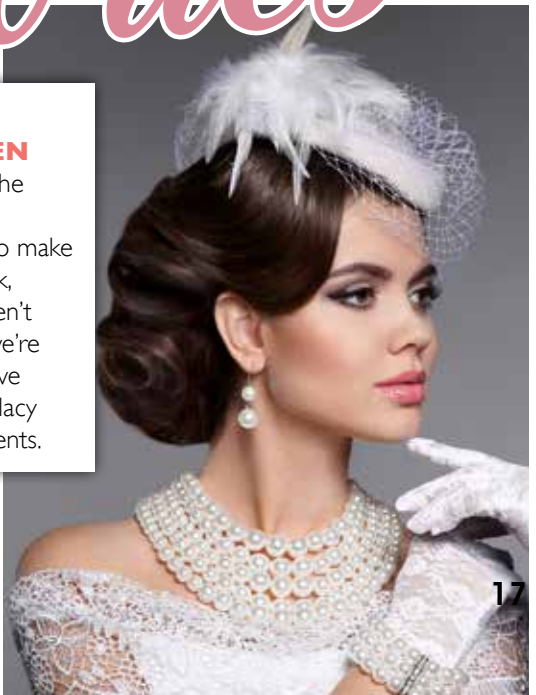
BACK IN BLACK

Expect to see black accessories this season. Earrings and shoes add just the right amount of color.

Hottest Accessories

WE'RE S-MITTEN

Out of all the trends we expected to make a comeback, gloves weren't one. But we're totally in love with these lacy accoutrements.





FLOWER POWER

Match your hair piece or crown with your bouquet to really wow your wedding crowd.

ASPIRATIONS

Many women are opting for messy fishtail braids, untidy side buns and even natural styles. Hair ornaments are also huge right now.



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This Decorator's

Choice

for Remodeling

Decor on a Dime owner Louise Ostrander met Teri Gilberg (better known as the Re-Modelista) through a client. "My client was using Teri to remodel her kitchen," says Louise. "She asked me to help verify her backsplash and paint choices. I had read about the Remodelista and I wanted to meet her, so my client set us up. Teri told me she hates what I do (design and decor). I told her I hate what she does (executing projects). So we struck up a deal and we've referred clients to each other ever since!"

So when Louise and her husband Dan bought their fixer upper dream home "as is," there was no question who would do the remodeling: Teri! "You name it, we did it. We remodeled the entire house from top to bottom," says Louise. "We broke walls, took out a step down, reconfigured the kitchen, painted cabinets, put in all new doors, installed all new lighting, retextured the walls, added all new plumbing fixtures and put in new countertops in the kitchen and baths. Plus we painted every single surface. This was the first time Teri did work for me personally. She is a tough cookie but a great joy to work with. When we started the project, we walked through the house. Room by room, Teri created a detailed line item bid. She was very honest. She let us know in the beginning that demo-ing an entire house is rough. Each time we got the deer-in-the-headlights look, Teri was very reassuring. She let us know that when it's all done, when the dust is settled, we'd have but a small memory of this. I loved that we had her to fall back on. When things changed, as they inevitably do when remodeling, she would always call and come over to talk. She is responsive and a team player. Christian Galvan was the foreman in charge of our project. He was also great to work with as Teri's right hand man. The entire crew became like family!"

While Teri and her crew worked on Louise and Dan's dream home, Louise worked her magic in her previous home. "As I do for my

clients, I staged my home with only existing items." Louise and Dan's Sugar Land home of 25 years sold in less than two weeks.

They moved their belongings to storage and lived with her mother. On "move day," the Ostrandars were surprised. "It was a Sunday," says Louise. "But Teri and her crew showed up! We didn't expect them, but they were out there ready to help. They rolled up their sleeves and got it done. I was blown away!"

"I give my clients choices when recommending contractors," says Louise. "Teri is always a choice, and she sells herself. This experience has provided me the certainty that when I recommend Teri, she will take care of my clients. She always does what she says she is going to do."

Visit "Decor on a Dime by Louise Ostrander" on Facebook or schedule a room by room consultation by contacting Louise at louostrander@comcast.net.

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by Amy Sharp

