

AUSTIN

FEBRUARY 2006

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Austin Wedding Pages

Your wedding day is unlike any other day you will experience.

It is the day you have dreamed about since you were little, and now it is becoming a reality. The man of your dreams, the ring, the flowers, the dress, the cake—it is all part of a bigger-than-life fantasy finally taking shape. Being an Austin bride, you are the perfect balance between elegant and casual, and you definitely want your wedding to be one of a kind. We tracked down some of the best local wedding and event planners as they prepare for the hectic spring wedding season to find out the top wedding tips and trends in Austin for 2006. Here's what we learned. >>>



PLAY WITH COLOR

Austin brides are shying away from simple, pristine white and are taking color to the next level with **EXOTIC, TROPICAL-INSPIRED HUES** of tangerine and persimmon, and rich jewel tones such as blue, purple and green. Tanya Posavatz of Clink Weddings also notes that gold accents will replace silver accents in the bouquets and table linens at quite a few Austin weddings this year.

LEAVE YOUR MARK

One trend that is getting a big push in 2006 is that of **MONOGRAMMING**. This year more than ever, the Austin bride and groom are looking to personalize their special day with monogrammed ice sculptures, cakes, linens and favors, such as wine glasses personalized for each guest.

OUTSIDE THE BOX

A fun new idea this spring is to offer your guests **FLOWER OR PLANT KITS** that will act as constant reminders of the lovely wedding and couple. M. Hope Lawrence of Michelle Hope Weddings suggests making donations to a charity in the names of your guests. One such example is to give **LIVESTRONG BRACELETS** as symbols of the donations made to the foundation in each of the guests' names.

ADD SOME FLAIR

Kasha Birotte of Bella Occasions has noticed that the Austin bride of 2006 is savvy about creating a theme for her wedding and carrying that theme into every aspect. Take invitations, for example. Bella Occasions is seeing quite a few modern, richly colored invitations taking the place of the traditional cream or white choice. This new breed of invitations is still soft and ethereal, but it also manages to incorporate the bride and groom's own tastes with such embellishments as **SYMBOLS** or **RIBBONS**.

HAVE FUN WITH FOOD

Fine wedding dining in 2006 is turning away from the traditional sit-down dinner and is moving in

the direction of **FINGER FOOD**. Less eating and more mingling seems to be the focus of the modern wedding, and this can be easily accomplished through buffet-style dining and lighter, appetizer-like choices. Another change to this year's wedding feast is the addition of **WHIMSICAL DESSERT** choices.

According to Christine Gerlach of Elite Weddings, brides have been showing an interest in cakes of a variety of colors and shapes, especially square layers. Even brides who are still keeping with their fairytale white cake are adding other options such as chocolate fountains, gelato or cotton candy.

BE A GEM

This year, Austin brides are looking for more than basic diamonds and are showing an interest in **GEMSTONES** such as rubies, sapphires and emeralds for their engagement rings. For wedding bands, pavé bands, such as the Cartier Trinity band, are a big hit.

INSIDER TIPS

Posavatz suggests making an impact at your reception with **OVERSIZED FOCAL POINTS**, such as huge lampshades hung from the ceiling. "In with opulence and luxury for 2006; out with clean and simple."

Lawrence swears by **LIGHTING** as a main reception design element. "With lighting, you can help focus attention, color a room, cause distraction, change the mood of a room and more."

Gerlach recommends that all brides-to-be hire an **EVENT PLANNER** or wedding coordinator. "Wedding coordinators allow brides not only to get incredible discounts, but to have peace of mind as well."

Birotte wants to remind all brides and grooms that **THIS DAY IS FOR THEM**. "Too often, couples can get wrapped up in trying to please everyone on their guest list, and they lose sight of what the day is truly about." Remember to have fun and enjoy the meaning of this day.