

# Planning the Perfect Day

It's that time when happy couples hear music ... but, before the bells, before the prelude to the wedding march is heard ... comes the prelude to all that will make your wedding day ideal. Look to the advertisers in this special wedding planner to find a world of ways to make your day a dream come true!



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### A Gift To Remember

By Tresa Erickson

You're up to your elbows in wedding planning when you suddenly realize you haven't shopped for gifts for your attendants yet. Your wedding is just weeks away, and your attendants have done so much for you already. You want to get them a great gift that they will cherish for years to come.

When shopping for gifts for your attendants, you can go one of three

ways. You can get everyone the same gift, you can get everyone a different gift, or you can select a theme and buy gifts based on that. For the guys, for example, you might go with a sports theme and buy them items with their favorite team logo on it. You might buy the businessman a pen and the athlete a hat.

Before you go shopping, you should think about the gifts you want to give. Do you want to buy everyone the same gift, or do you want to look for individual gifts? Do you

want to buy everyone something they can use at the wedding? Do you want to buy material gifts, or do you want to look for event gifts, like tickets to a concert or a game?

Jewelry is a common

gift, especially for the ladies. If possible, you should look for versatile pieces your attendants can wear at your wedding and at other events. To make the gifts more personal, look for pieces with birthstones or have them engraved.

Goody bags are another option. You may fill these with a wide range of products from bath salts and bubble bath for the ladies to sports gear for the guys.

If everyone likes to hang out as a group, tickets to some event might be ideal. You might arrange to go to a concert, game, play or some other event. The options are endless, and if you think there might be schedule conflicts, you can always purchase an event ticket for each individual.

If you are on a tight budget, you might make the gifts. You will find numerous ideas online, and not all of them require you to be crafty or handy. You could make a CD for attendants of their favorite tunes or fill a basket with their favorite foods.

It doesn't matter what you give your attendants. As long as you put some thought into it, they will be delighted with whatever you give them.

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### Wedding Vegetarian Style

By Tresa Erickson

You are a vegetarian, your beloved is a vegetarian, and many of your friends and family are vegetarians. The matter is settled. You are serving vegetarian foods at your wedding.

Not all of your guests will be expecting a vegetarian menu, so it is best to let them know in advance of your decision. You may do this in one of two ways. You may let close family members know and ask them to spread the word, or you may divulge the information on your invitations. You may note that a vegetarian reception will follow and include the vegetarian choices on the response card. This will ensure guests know what to expect and prevent conflict later.

As for the foods you serve, you should do your best to provide a mix of the familiar and unfamiliar. When surrounded by foods they know, like breads, pastas, soups and salads, guests might be more willing to try unusual

selections like mung bean cakes or spinach and artichoke bruschetta.

You may have the food catered or make it yourself. Should you decide to have the food catered, you may hire a caterer or a restaurant specializing in vegetarian foods. Either way, communication is a must. Meet with individuals involved frequently to discuss the menu and make sure it works for you. Make suggestions and provide recipes. Should you decide to do the food yourself, you will need to start planning right away. Collect some recipes and make out a menu. Then arrange for some helpers to assist you in preparing the food. Do as much as possible before your big day and have your helpers finish whatever remains. This will allow you to enjoy your wedding.

Depending upon your preferences, you may want to serve a vegan wedding cake free of eggs, butter and milk, which are made from animal products. If you're lucky, you will find a bakery with experience in this. If not, you may have to get a recipe and find a baker willing to use it.

Serving vegetarian food at your wedding will take some time and effort. It will all be worth it in the end, though, when everyone leaves with a full stomach and a smile on their face.

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