



Weddings That Wow
a guide to creating your perfect wedding

By Kara Wetmore French



Every bride wants a wedding that creates a lifetime of special memories. From casual to classic, small to large, or even a themed wedding, today's brides have a dazzling array of choices. Katy brides are especially fortunate, as there are many wedding vendors and venues in the area that give a wide range of choices for every budget. Let your heart be your guide as we delve into the excitement that is wedding planning.

Here Comes the Bride

You've got the groom, the ring, and you can't wipe that smile off of your face. Congratulations, you're officially engaged! Now where do you turn? Tonia Jaeggi of Creating Dreams Consultants advises booking a coordinator first if you plan on using one. "They can help you find venues as well as churches that are in your price range," she says. Katy bride Casey Hogan says, "I didn't think that I would need a coordinator, but I was wrong. Unless you know a lot of details about everything a wedding needs, then I would definitely recommend it."

"Many churches in Houston have restrictions on time and dates, so it's important to plan early." Jaeggi also advises planning and setting a wedding budget outline to get you started. "There are lots of ways to save money. Research your big ticket items like the photographer. The price range for their services can be anywhere from \$1,000 to \$7,000. I always recommend asking if they have student photographers at a discounted price. Don't let the word 'student' scare you. The company would not use or recommend them if their services weren't good."



Mark and Marielle Mausner of Katy were married in the summer of 2008

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Going to the Chapel

A choice of location can be a sticky spot for some brides. However, with many choices of both traditional and modern wedding venues in the surrounding area, Katy brides have a vast quantity to choose from. Recent Katy bride Victoria Godwin Russell was married at St. Peter's Methodist Church in Katy, and the reception was held at the Golf Club at Cinco Ranch, where she says the staff did an amazing job. Her sister, Katherine Godwin Wagner, was married a short time later at the same church, and her reception was at

Willow Fork Country Club. For brides who choose to have their wedding and reception at separate locations, Jaeggi cautions, "Don't make the mistake of booking your reception first and being forced to change the date. Check with your church first and then select your reception site."

It's All about the Dress

The so called 'big-ticket items' for a wedding can make many brides nervous, but don't let them cause any undue stress. The Katy area offers a wide array of bridal shops so brides are sure to find their perfect gown. "There's no reason to go anywhere other than the Katy and Houston area for all the wedding needs," says Russell. Wondering what dresses to put your bridesmaids in this spring? The latest trends let you select a color scheme, and the members



Photo by Caffrey's Photography

Your wedding's theme, style, and colors should match you and your future husband's personalities



Andrea Seay Haley and her bridesmaids

"It's incredible to see your loved ones together at the same time under one roof. Family and friends from different cities and countries, all making the trip just to share that day with you. It's an experience that, when you think about it, gives you goose bumps." - Jandy Cuneo



of the bridal party select a dress style. This offers a wonderful way for each member of the bridal party to choose a dress that will make her look her best on the big day.

A Green Wedding

Another hot trend for 2009 summer brides is going 'green' on some aspect of their big day.

Choosing Katy vendors who use local or organic foods, as well as a local Katy florist with green or eco friendly flowers, are great choices for a bride looking to green up her big day. Jaeggi also suggests transportation options as a great way to go green. "A shuttle bus for your guests to carpool to the wedding can be a great way to do this," she says. "If you have a lot of out of town guests all staying at the same hotel, this can be a way to save the environment and some gas mileage."



Sheryl and Hank were married at Kingsland Baptist Church



Katherine Godwin Wagner and her sister Victoria



Make it Personal

Once you've selected your venue, your dress, and other big ticket items, today's brides are turning to the unusual to make their guest's day special and memorable. Personalizing your thank you gifts can make your guests feel as if they were a special part of the wedding. Jaeggi offers her own recent nuptials as an example. "I offered my guests wine as a

thank you gift for coming to the wedding. The labels of the wine bottles explained that we had made the wine ourselves as well as stating: 'This bottle was made with love for the Smith Family.' They all loved having something to take home from the wedding that was made just for them."

Instead of doing favors, Russell and her husband made a donation to the American Institute of Cancer Research in honor of their family members they had lost to cancer. "We customized these little flyers to include the names of the family members we were honoring. We rolled them up and put a ribbon that matched the wedding colors on them and set them out on the tables at the reception. We didn't tell our families that we were doing that, and they really loved it."

A Family Celebration

Remember that it's also the time spent with family and friends that will make your big day one to remember. Katy resident and recent bride Jandy Cuneo says "It's incredible to see your loved ones together at the same time under one roof. Family and friends from different cities and countries, all making the trip just to share that day with you. It's an experience that, when you think about it, gives you goose bumps."

Happily Ever After

As you set about planning your big day, set goals and realistic expectations for your wedding day. Remember, half the fun of a great Katy wedding is the planning and preparing. Try not to stress the small stuff, enjoy yourself, and always work to show your guests a great time. Wagner reminds brides, "Be positive at all times. At the end of all the planning the only thing that really matters is that you're married." So dim the lights and cue the music as you ride off into your new lives together.

KARA WETMORE FRENCH had a blast dancing with her dad to Aerosmith at her wedding, and she didn't eat a thing except one piece of cake.



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Brides can find everything they need for their bridal party in the Katy area

Ultimate Wedding Guide

Your Dream Wedding Becomes a Reality in Katy

Wedding and Reception Venues

Briscoe Manor

5801 FM 723, Richmond
281-238-4700

The Club at Falcon Point

24503 Falcon Point Dr
281-392-7888

Omni Houston Hotel Westside

13210 Katy Fwy.
281-558-8338

Safari Texas Ranch Ballroom

11627 FM 1464, Richmond
281-277-7888

♥ Weston Lakes Country Club

32611 FM 1093, Fulshear
281-346-1967

Willow Fork Country Club

21055 Westheimer Pkwy.
281-579-6262

Florists

K D's Florist & Gifts

5315 F Highway Blvd.
281-391-1132

Katy Flower Market

20829 Kingsland Blvd.
281-578-8200

Katy Flowers

6191 Highway Blvd.
281-391-8686

Kay-Tee Florist

870 S. Mason Rd.
281-392-2101

Petal Patch Florist

628 S. Mason Rd.
281-392-0158

Wedding Cakes and Desserts

Bake My Day Bakery

510 S. Mason Rd.
281-392-0757

Julie's Cakes

23730 Westheimer Pkwy.
281-347-7773

Ooh La La Dessert Boutique

23920 Westheimer Pkwy.
281-391-2253

Gowns and Tuxedos

Alfred Angelo

8066 Westheimer
713-781-7555

Al's Formal Wear

19859 Katy Fwy.
281-579-2030

David's Bridal

4520 San Felipe St.
713-572-6900

Katy Custom Bridal and Tuxedo

5506 1st St.
281-574-1566

The Men's Warehouse

1120 Fry Rd.
281-578-7817

Weddings by Debbie

2237 Hwy. 6 S.
281-531-6251

Dance Lessons

Fred Astaire Dance Studio

1800 S. Mason Rd.
281-392-0068

Photographers

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Carew Photography

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Schlegel Photography

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281-398-7950

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