

20 things we're loving right now

GET INSPIRED FOR YOUR BEST DAY EVER WITH OUR ANNUAL LIST OF FRESH IDEAS.
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1

BALLOONS

Transform a space with this floral alternative. Create balloon garlands or suspend an installation above a table for a playful twist on a classic centerpiece.



2

SUITING SWAPS

Black, navy and gray will always be in style, but guys are stepping out in more fashion-forward alternatives (burgundy, dark green and even dusty mauve) especially when it comes to the jacket. Textures like tweed and herringbone are making their way down the aisle too.



3

SIGNATURE EATS

Signature sips are almost expected, so instead couples are claiming the food. Ask guests to choose from “his” or “hers” entrée options, or name passed hors d’oeuvres. “Food will continue to be the real centerpiece of the reception,” says **Annie Lee** of Daughter of Design in New York City.



4



SINGLE-STEM BOUQUETS

Want to honor a loved one at your ceremony, or simplify your attendant bouquets? Single flowers are making a comeback—and a statement. Opt for a sculptural stem, like an oversize tropical leaf, or a big-headed bloom, like a peony or dinnerplate dahlia, for maximum effect. >>



5

A RETURN TO COLOR

“It’s been an era of neutrals but now brides and grooms are inspired by jewel tones and are playing with patterns like floral prints,” says **Lynn Easton** of Easton Events in Charleston, South Carolina. Choose a palette that represents the vibe of your celebration and your personality or taste as a couple.



6

THE WEDDING PARTY REIMAGINED

Who says you can only have bridesmaids and groomsmen? Mix up your attendants with bridesmen and groomswomen. Or honor certain relatives in other special ways—flower grandmas, anyone?

7

ALL ABOUT THE SLEEVES

From caps and bells to barely there lace, the bridal fashion runways were filled with sleeved silhouettes. This ultra-flattering trend is sure to upstage the long-standing strapless gown.



8

PASSED CAKE BITES

“Let’s face it: By the time the cake is cut, everyone is on the dance floor—so bring the cake to them,” says **Madison Lee** of Madison Lee Cakes in New York City. Have your baker make a gorgeously decorated, mostly fake cake for the cutting and photo op, plus bite-size pieces to pass as guests get down.



9

STATEMENT ESCORT CARD DISPLAYS

Invite guests to find their seats with an Insta-worthy installation. “It’s a great place to incorporate your shared interests or play up a fun wedding theme,” says **Emily Clarke** of Emily Clarke Events in Dallas.



10

CASHING IN

It’s finally okay to ask for cash—really. Thanks to The Knot Newlywed Fund, you can request exactly what you want, including matching honeymoon luggage, a down payment on a new home and everything in between.



11

ROAMING ENTERTAINMENT

Hire a live artist. “It’s like a photo booth, but better,” says **Jove Meyer** of Jove Meyer Events in Brooklyn, New York. The artist will quietly observe guests sipping champagne or catching up with friends, sketch them and then surprise them with a keepsake portrait.



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COCKTAIL RECEPTIONS

Ditch the seating charts for a standing soiree. By opting for a cocktail-style event, you’re giving guests more opportunities to mix, mingle and party. Just be sure everyone leaves as full as if they enjoyed a sit-down dinner, and have seating areas sprinkled throughout the room. »

1: ALLIE LINDSEY PHOTOGRAPHY; DESIGN: FARM TABLES & MORE; 2: SHANNON MOFFIT PHOTOGRAPHY; 4: BIRDS OF A FEATHER, FLORIST; FLOWER ALLIE; 5: BELATHÉE PHOTOGRAPHY; 6: ASHLEY ELIZABETH PHOTOGRAPHY; 7: NICHOLS PHOTOGRAPHY; 8: RACHEL HAVEL PHOTOGRAPHY (2); 11: SHANNON COLLINS PHOTOGRAPHY; 12: LIVE IS FIFTEEN PHOTO COMPANY



13 **TIMELINE REVAMP**
We love bending the rules, and switching up the order of events keeps guests guessing. Some couples are hosting intimate ceremonies on Friday night and celebrating with a party on Saturday, while others opt for cocktail hour preceremony.

14

THE OTHER FIRST LOOK
Your first look with your spouse-to-be is huge—but we bet there’s another VIP in your life (or five besties who stood by your side through months of planning) who would enjoy an official reveal too. Stage a second first look with your mom, dad, bridesmaids—anyone important—and bring your photographer along to capture their priceless reactions.



PERSONALIZED PAPER
When it comes to paper, “opt for the unexpected, like gold foil on deep jewel tones, or play with interesting textures, like leather and suede,” says **Heather Balliet** of Amorology in San Diego. And illustrations continue to trend as a perfect way to personalize an invitation suite—anything from a monogram to furry friends is fair game.

15



16 **FLAVORFUL CONFECTIONS**
Step aside basic vanilla and chocolate—what’s inside the cake is becoming just as important as the design. Flavors and fillings are getting a delicious update—think cookies and cream, confetti or more exotic pairings like bourbon and whipped mocha.



17 **BBY’S BREATH REVIVAL**
This budget-friendly stem of tiny white flowers is having a total renaissance—in big and small ways. It pairs perfectly with on-trend greenery and is well-suited for flower crowns and other small hairpieces.



18 **TOKENS OF APPRECIATION**
The new twist on the welcome bag is a series of small gifts parceled out from arrival to departure. Greet out-of-towners with essentials, followed by a sweet treat at turndown and a parting gift for their journey home.

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FOREGOING THE FAVOR
Couples are prioritizing the experience over a simple takeaway. Instead of favors, treat your guests to “extras” during the wedding. Set up a pretty lipstick touch-up bar, serve a passed after-dinner treat or switch up the entertainment throughout your celebration.



ALTAR REVAMP
Trade a classic altar for a circular design. Stand underneath an arch or be encircled by pampas grass for outdoor “I dos.” This fresh take is rooted in meaning too—circles symbolize eternity.

