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Our Favorite Local Mardi Gras Decorations

EDITOR: KATY DANOS | DESIGNER: EMILY SUCHERMAN

FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRIES:

SARA BARNARD | 504.636.7421 | SBARNARD@THEADVOCATE.COM



# Invitation ONLY

[ 3 LOCAL STATIONARY DESIGNERS  
SHARE STYLE ADVICE BY KATY DANOS ]

A beautiful and distinctive wedding invitation is one of the most important design elements of your entire wedding. In addition to delivering all the pertinent event details to your guests, a stylish invitation sets the tone for all the festivities to follow. From formal and elaborate custom designs to relaxed and rustic simple cards, your wedding stationary is a prime opportunity to let your personality shine. This is the first peek a guest gets at what to expect on your big day. A carefully crafted invitation gives visual clues about everything from the mood you hope to create at your ceremony, to what guests should wear, to learning a

little bit more about you and your fiancé. An experienced stationer can design a fully coordinated wedding paper suite that celebrates your excitement and taste in a cohesive way, bringing added decorative value to this line item in your budget.

Meeting with an invitation designer helps to streamline the process in more ways than one. They will be able to answer etiquette questions (let's face it – modern brides have all kinds of family scenarios and a good stationer will have seen it all!) They can guide you on ways to make the best use of your budget and they will have savvy





For classic elegance, Margaret Jones and the team of designers at Scriptura can guide you through their collection of vintage monograms and modern scripts. Each invitation is hand pressed on gorgeous paper using antique letter presses. The results feel timeless and are truly stylish works of art.

ideas about when to make a cut and when to just go for it. When your head starts to spin looking at all the zillions of fonts, they can keep you on track by narrowing the field to the ones that meet your aesthetic. And most importantly, they will adhere to a timeline that gets your invites out the door on time and into the hands of your loved ones. Prepare for your consultation by defining the type of event that you are planning not just the where and when details. Will it be formal and classic, glamorous and elegant, low key and outdoorsy, natural and relaxed? These wishes can be integrated in subtle ways so that the invitations hit the same note that you are envisioning for the big day. Knowing your color story helps to tie it all together from the get-go and of course setting a budget is key. Beware of the designer who pushes you further and further beyond your budget. All designers worth their salt have creative ways to handle almost any budget and should be well versed in what matters – getting your friends and family together to celebrate the happy occasion.

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Maggie Agnew, armed with a fine arts degree and a love for New Orleans, brings a warm hello to all of your wedding pieces using beloved architectural icons, whimsy, and lots of creativity. She specializes in party invitations, clever maps for your guests, and detailed menu cards—all of the unique elements that make your event special.



Like in all aspects of wedding planning, stationary trends come and go. You can touch on the current ones if you like and still have timeless and beautiful invitations. Designers are noting that the pantone color of the year—green—is making its way in as foliage and leaves lend themselves so naturally to many styles of weddings. Simple greenery embellishing the card's border, formal gold-tipped celadon garland, or rustic and whimsical illustrations all can work for the most formal occasion right on down to a backyard celebration. Natural and organic elements continue to dominate for affairs that are designed around a beautiful outdoor setting and custom monograms are coming on strong to carry a look all the way through to cocktail napkins, chair covers, cake embellishments—you name it. What a talented and experienced wedding paper designer can really bring to

the table is a breadth of knowledge about the many small details that impact a perfect presentation. Luxury card stock, gold foil envelope liners, hand lettered calligraphy, and seasonal color combinations are just a few elements to consider. And once the wedding invitation is designed and proofed, you can move on to any other paper pieces you would like to include in your wedding stationary suite. Save the dates are popular and do not have to match the ceremony invitation. This is a great place to let your guests enjoy your personal story and to have some fun with the design. Your invitation designer can help you with menu cards, programs, guest gift bags and table numbers – the sky is the limit. And above all else, order your thank you notes at the same time. You will surely need them!





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# BEAUTIFUL BLOOMS

FLORAL CONCEPTS FOR THE BIG DAY

BY KATY DANOS



**F**lowers are the luscious and romantic eye-candy of any wedding ceremony and reception. Bouquets, boutonnieres, and centerpieces bring fragrant visual artistry to everything from the bridesmaids dresses to flower girl baskets to dining tables. Because there is so much versatility in endless color and style, blossoms are one sure way to create the setting of your dreams. Ever-popular wedding flowers include roses symbolizing beauty and love and peonies with their large bushy heads and strong perfume. Hydrangeas, tulips, and calla lilies make the cut with their elegant shapes and range of stunning shades. For color, fifty shades of white mixed with pale and blushing pinks are timeless favorites. "Greenery," the Pantone color of the year will surely crop up in wedding floral design as a 2017 favorite; it's the color of new growth, life, and abundance making it the perfect choice on your big day!



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# SPRING 2017

# BRIDAL TRENDS

BY KATY DANOS

**T**oday's bride expects a lot from a wedding dress. She wants to look sexy and fabulous, timeless and elegant to move through her day in comfort and confidence. The experts advise that you stick with the silhouette that is most flattering to you and let the trends bring in the fashion component with details,

embellishments and trims. Bridal dresses take their cues from the runway and red carpet. The looks of the moment are spectacular, luxe, and filled with romance. If you stay true to your personal style and go with your gut, choosing a wedding dress that's all about you will create memories to last a lifetime.

## BOWS STEAL THE SHOW



VICTOR + ROLF



CAROLINA HERRERA

Bows are back as attention grabbing focal points with lots of show stopping drama and flair. Fresh and feminine, structural or draping, there is nothing quite like yards of silk or satin tied at the waste or accentuating the back of a gown. This look can be youthful and playful or over-the-top old Hollywood and is always the epitome of chic.



CAROLINA HERRERA



J. MENDEL

# CRAVING COLOR

For a fashionable break from tradition, a non-white dress with a hint of color is both whimsical and romantic. Something pale blue or a little bit lilac is an option, and blush, rosewater and petal pink are the hues of the moment. Soft pink is flattering on almost every skin tone and a 'barely there' shade is heavenly.



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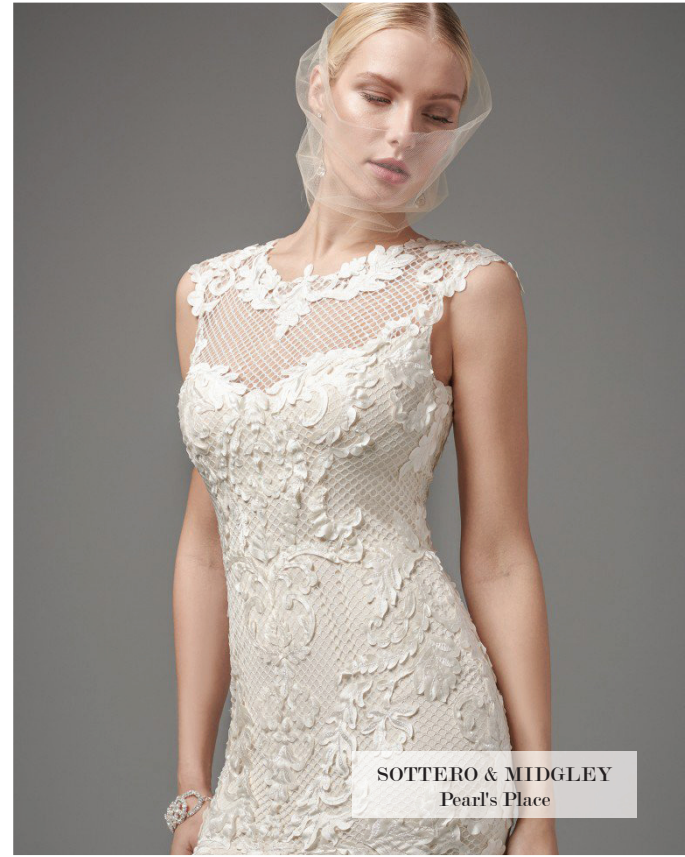
# HIGH COLLARS

## ELEVATE YOUR LOOK



J. MENDEL

A high neckline is a great way to emphasize beautiful fabric, intricate lace, and detailed embroidery for a look that is both sensual and elegant. The turtle neck and boat neck, both made famous by Audrey Hepburn, are enduring classics that are all about simplicity, beauty and grace. Alluring and charming, this neckline frames the face in a way not easily matched.



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[weddingbellesnola.com](http://weddingbellesnola.com)

# TAKE THE PLUNGE

The deep V-neck, cleavage-baring neckline can be sultry and glamorous or demure and retro-inspired depending on how you play it. Bare your décolletage for a bold and daring choice, add illusion fabric for a less provocative look, or embellish the plunge with lace petals and flowers for an ethereal vintage vibe.

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# Shine

## BRIGHT ON YOUR BIG DAY

Television executives may have built a franchise around saying yes to the dress, but let's not overlook the other heroes of a bride's ensemble: accessories. Long after your special day is over, when that perfect white gown is carefully preserved and packed away, your jewelry may still grace your ears, wrists and neckline. (And, of course, you'll see your wedding and engagement rings sparkling on a daily basis.) So select pieces that make your heart sing.

When it comes to engagement rings, old rules no longer apply. Colored gemstones like emeralds or unconventional diamond settings are ideal for the au courant bride, while antique Edwardian-era rings, necklaces and bands are sentimental (and eco-friendly) homages to the past. For everything else? Take your cues from your dress. Stark whites and diamond whites shine when paired with platinum jewelry, while 24-karat gold warms champagne and candlelight ivories. Drop earrings are the perfect complement to an updo, and regardless of your dress' neckline, you can't go wrong with bangles—especially with one that fulfills the something blue tradition. Now that's multitasking at its most elegant!

BY MISSY WILKINSON



1. Platinum Emerald and Diamond Ring | \$4,750 | FRIEND & COMPANY

2. Round Cut Diamond Ring with Tapered Baguettes | \$50,000 | FRIEND & COMPANY

3. Suzanne Kalan 18k Gold Eternity Baguette Band | \$5,600 | JACK SUTTON FINE JEWELRY

4. Platinum and Diamond Edwardian Era Ring | \$6,900 | FRIEND & COMPANY

5. 18kt White Gold and Diamond Edwardian Era Ring | \$5,950 | FRIEND & COMPANY

6. Yellow Gold and Round Diamond Eternity Band | \$1,200 | FRIEND & COMPANY

7. 18kt White Gold and Diamond Eternity Band | \$18,500 | FRIEND & COMPANY





1



1. Platinum and Diamond Earrings | \$9,500 | FRIEND & COMPANY

2. Sparkly Pearl Cluster Earrings | \$38 | HAZELNUT

3. 18k Gold David Yurman Supernova Climber Earrings with Diamonds | \$7,800 | AUCOIN HART JEWELERS



2



3



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2. Penny Preville Pearl Link Chain | \$18,470 |  
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3. Ippolita Lollipop 18K Gold Mini Bangle | \$7,000 |  
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4. Aurélie Bidermann Miki Dora Braided Rope Bracelet | \$465 | SAKS FIFTH AVENUE

5. Kwiat Riviera Diamond Pendant Necklace | \$3,750 | AUCCOIN HEART JEWELERS

6. David Yurman Stax Medium Cuff Bracelet with Diamonds in 18K Gold | From \$9,800 | AUCCOIN HART JEWELERS

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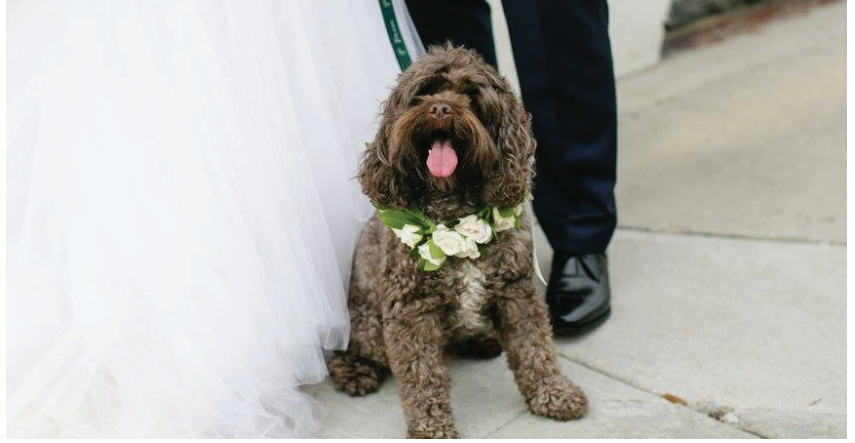
Sydney + Alex



A LOVE ROOTED  
IN THE BIG EASY

BY KATY DANOS | PHOTOS BY GREER GATTUSO





Sydnie and Alex met at Tulane and were married in New Orleans on the fifth anniversary of their very first date. Though they now reside in New York City, there was never any doubt about where they would have their wedding. Their Tulane roots run deep. With numerous family members—parents, aunts and uncles, siblings and cousins—as alum, New Orleans is their second home. “It’s where we met and made lifetime friends; it’s special to our families and as far as destination weddings go, who doesn’t want to go to New Orleans?” explained the bride in her warm and wonderful way.

“It was important to us that our guests have an authentic Big Easy experience whether this was their first time here or it’s where they call home. It had to feel real,” she giggled, “but in a totally magical way.” So with great care and attention to detail, everything about the weekend from music to cuisine to quirky traditions celebrated their joyous occasion from an insider’s vantage point on what makes New Orleans so unique and special.

For the rehearsal dinner, guests were instructed to meet in front of their hotels at 6:40 sharp for transportation



to the evening's venue—a surprise location and heavily guarded secret. As their friends and family watched for the usual shuttle buses and vans to arrive, a fully outfitted Mardi Gras float rolled up to the Windsor Court and Loew's with Sydnie and Alex in "position one, sidewalk side" as the front is known in parade lingo. Their delighted guests climbed on board to make their way to Mardi Gras World, the magnificent riverside float den where artists and architects have been building floats for over seventy years.

Place cards were attached to Mardi Gras throws and tables were named after krewes. Cocktails and a buffet dinner were served, featuring gourmet versions of fried chicken, po-boys and local desserts. Snow balls from Hansen's Sno Bliz and ice cream from Creole Creamery, two iconic establishments well known to any Tulanian worth her salt, were happy nods to local favorites. Orpheus floats, some of the most spectacular floats of all, moved around the den while jazz musicians jammed. Pageantry, history and fun all rolled into one made for a memorable evening on the river.

The wedding and reception were held at Il Mercato, the recently restored Spanish Colonial-style building on Magazine Street in the heart of the lower Garden District. Originally built as a neighborhood food market in 1931, the venue, much like New Orleans, oozes with soul, patina, and inherent ambiance and charm. The private courtyard with elegant white stucco walls studded with citrus trees and hints of unrefined bricks and slate provided a sophisticated setting for the ceremony. "We loved that our friends could see that we were in an historic and real neighborhood during the outdoor ceremony and when we second lined around the block after our vows," Sydnie gushed with an obvious love for the romance of this historic city.

The most memorable weddings of all are built around the personal details and sentimental gestures that tell the story of the two proud families coming together on such a sacred occasion. Sydnie wore her grandmother's diamond earrings with her stunning strapless re-embroidered lace

There's a picture of my dad and me hanging on the wall at Hansen's Sno-Bliz; I'm in third grade. That's what I love about New Orleans; it's all about tradition.

-SYDNE





and tulle gown and Alex wore his grandfather's gold cuff links with his midnight blue tuxedo. Whimsical and in the know touches such as the three flavored doberge cakes for dessert—peanut butter and bacon, chocolate whoopee pie and king cake—and the roman candy taffy favors completed the bridal love letter to the city. Surrounded by family and friends and their four-year-old cockapoo, Moose, Sydnie and Alex shared their love for each other in New Orleans—a city easy to fall in love with again and again.







## THE DETAILS

Dress | NAEEM KHAN

Location of Wedding | II MERCATO

Cakes | DEBBIE DOES DOBERGE

Jewelry | MAYFAIR JEWELERS

Makeup | KATIE MALONE MAKEUP

Invitations | STEPHANIE B. DESIGN

Bridal Shoes | MIU MIU

Flowers | POPPY & MINT FLORAL COMPANY

Hair | TEN ELEVEN STUDIO

Rehearsal Dinner Venue | MARDI GRAS WORLD

Groom's Tux + Groomsmen Ties | SUIT SUPPLY

Photography | GREER GATTUSO

Food | JOEL CATERING

Wedding Planner | VICKI EVANS

Band | THE PHUNKY MONKEYS

# BEST DRESSED GUEST

## ESSENTIAL LOOKS FOR WEDDINGS RANGING FROM BLACK TIE TO BEACHY

BY MISSY WILKINSON | STYLED BY EMILY ENGBERG + NIKKI KAITZ

Saint Valentine has come and gone, leaving many sparkling engagement rings and save-the-date cards in his wake. Gorgeously crafted wedding invitations are landing in mailboxes across the city, giving us something to celebrate—as well as something to decipher. What does “semi formal” mean? Are flip-flops ever appropriate, even for a wedding at a tropical destination? Knowing what to wear as a spring wedding

guest can be only slightly less challenging than picking out a bridal gown. But whether you’re planning to sparkle at a black tie affair, dance the night away at a cocktail wedding, or dig your toes into the sand at a beachside ceremony, we’ve styled looks that are timeless, elegant and perfectly suited to the occasion. So you can stop worrying about whether your dress is appropriate and start making lifetime memories.

## BEACH ▶

1

Like all good wedding-day ensembles, the perfect beach look harmonizes with its surroundings. In this case, soft blue lace complements the sea’s azure, while the natural texture of a simple wood bangle echoes expanses of sand and sea oats. Keep it practical (and protect your eyes from UVA and UVB rays) with handcrafted, gradient lens sunglasses. A metallic clutch adds that essential touch of luxe! As for shoes? Opt for flat sandals—or nothing at all.





3



4



- 1. Krewe Sunglasses | Brand available at Hemline
- 2. Alexis Dress | Brand available at Angelique
- 3. Aurelie Bidermann Wood Bangle | Brand available at Pilot & Powell
- 4. Clare Vivier Clutch | Brand available at Söpö

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# COCKTAIL

1

A glass of bubbly, a slice of cake and thou—what could be more festive than a cocktail wedding? This occasion calls out for a creative take on the little black dress. Look for standout features like a high-low hemline, and use accessories as opportunities to accent your ensemble with color.



2



1

# BLACK TIE



When it comes to fashion, there are so few opportunities in life to really pull out the stops. Fortunately, a black tie affair is one of them. Floor-length is a must, and a gown by Parker Black marries opulence (those sequins and beading!) with restraint (that understated beige hue!) for an elegant outcome. A gold spike bracelet adds just a hint of edge

2



3



- 1. Milly Cocktail Dress | Brand available at Clover
- 2. Julie Vos Earrings | Brand available at Hazelnut
- 3. M2Malletier Evening Bag | Brand available at Pilot & Powell

- 1. Parker Black Dress | Brand available at Hemline
- 2. Spike Bangle | Porter Lyons
- 3. Gramercy Clutch | Azby's



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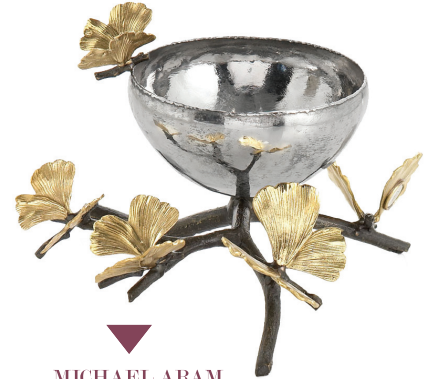
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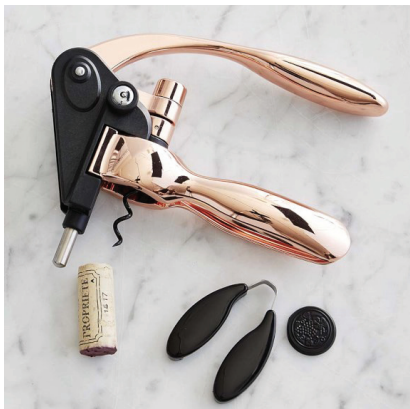
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COPPER MARTELLATA  
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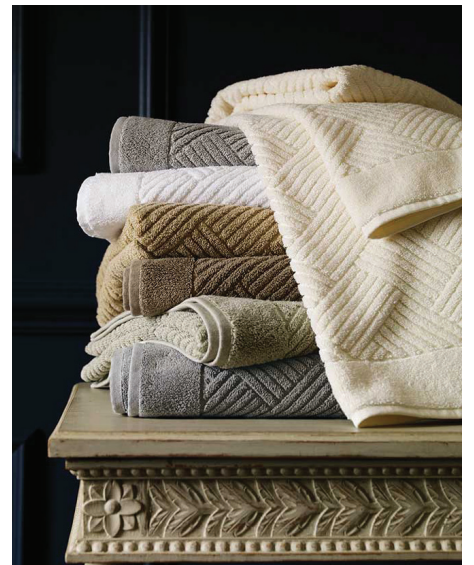
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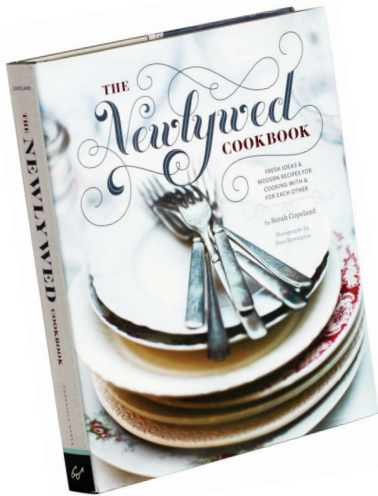


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# CAKE

# COUITURE

## TOP TRENDS FOR WEDDING CAKES

BY KATY DANOS

The wedding cake is the undeniable centerpiece of your reception. Guests notice it with excitement, it's a major style statement and just eyeing the buttercream frosting brings out the child in all of us. Of course, a scrumptious cake serves as the dessert for your guests, but it symbolizes so much more. Fresh, whimsical and happy, your dream cake represents joy, abundance, and romance which is always something to celebrate! Your cake design is a great way to tie all your wedding style elements together in one beautiful confection. Embellishments utilizing your wedding colors or that reference the lace or pearls on your dress are personal touches that always work. And whether your event is formal and elegant or relaxed and homespun, there is a mouthwatering cake style that is perfect for your occasion. Decoration trends are a fun way to wow your guests and tailor your cake to your personality for a magical and sweet finale.



## RUFFLES

Buttercream icing is making a comeback and with advanced techniques it has an entirely modern look. The ruffled cake is smothered in frosting and takes its cue from couture fashion trends. Light and airy with all over textured sugar ruffles, it really doesn't require too much other detail.



Five generations of bakers have created wedding cakes for New Orleans brides at the family-owned old-world baker, Swiss Confectionery. There is something truly sentimental about a wedding cake made by the same bakery that made your grandmother's. Traditional and European-inspired, Swiss, as it is known locally, is a treasured part of many a Big Easy romance.

## WHITE ON WHITE

A white wedding cake is always in good taste. Classic and sophisticated, this choice can be traditional or modern depending on the embellishments. Gleaming fondant, tiers piped in petals or pearls, cascading flowers—sugared or fresh—there's really no reason to reinvent a wheel that has rolled so well for decades.



## NAKED + NATURAL

The deconstructed cake is here to stay. With this design, the recipe and ingredients take center stage. Stacked layers of exposed goodness filled with seasonal berries, buttercream or ganache is visually stunning. There is something uber-elegant about simplicity. A bare cake garnished with greenery or fruit is as natural at its very best.



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# ROMANTIC FLORALS

Bouquets are not the only place that spectacular fresh flowers can play a starring role. Garden roses, ranunculus, peonies, and dahlias are all about romance. A cluster of blooms on top of the cake or posies tucked here and there in the iced tiers are always a tender touch. Blooms that coordinate with your other florals create a cohesive and luscious look.



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3. The Man(ly)cure - \$55
  - Don't forget about him! Even your groom should prep those hands before sliding on that wedding band

Call the Spa at Windsor Court at 504-596-4736 to book your appointments today! Get the whole wedding party involved! No better way to bond before the big day than with some group training



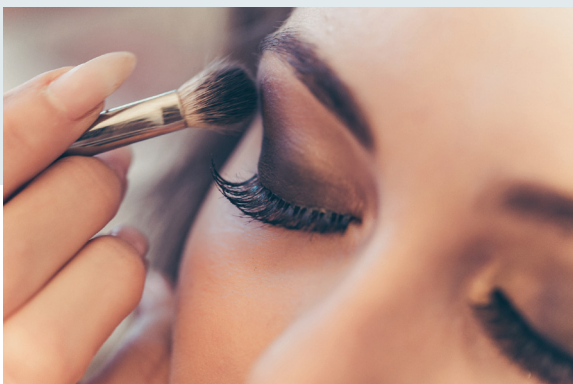
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TO

# Have & TO Hold

## CHOOSING YOUR SILVER PATTERN

BY KATY DANOS



New Orleans is a city that loves traditions. Second line dancing, red beans and rice on Monday, and the first King Cake on January 6th or Twelfth Night. The same holds true for choosing a silver pattern—a time-honored rite of passage for many a Southern bride. In an highly scientific poll on Facebook, I gathered info on this hot topic knowing that brides nationwide are taking to Williams-Sonoma, Crate and Barrel, and family-owned gift stores in their hometowns to register. Advice, whether welcomed or not, comes along with the territory. Though my roster of friends has a decidedly Southern majority, one thing is for sure: passions run deep when it comes to

Chantilly, Fairfax, and Grande Baroque. In New Orleans, it seems you are pretty much born into a pattern. As one friend after another posted such things as “Melrose because I liked it—it was mom’s pattern,” or “Strasbourg—all the ladies in my family have it,” and “Old Master—same as my mom and sister,” it occurred to me that choosing a sterling pattern is the first concrete step in becoming your mother. Whether conscious or not, it just happens. Just as you are striking a blow for freedom by getting engaged, you—without nary a cross word or second thought—follow right in her fine dining footsteps by registering for her pattern.

My family pattern is Frances 1st. I’d cut my teeth on this heavily detailed flatware and loved the burnished patina that comes only with generations of use. When I got engaged, my mom, grandmother, and I trekked to Adler’s on Canal Street to register. And this is pretty

Francis 1st by Reed and Barton, introduced in 1906, was designed by the French silversmith, Ernest Meyer. Richly detailed with fruit and flower clusters, the pattern is named after King Francis 1st of France, which explains why it is an enduring classic in New Orleans.





much how it went down. "You'll want the dinner size not the place size and you DEFINITELY want the cream soup spoon," stated my mother, who was never a pushy person. This was a first, no pun intended. The dinner size was larger in scale, making sense considering the way our family dined, but I was startled by her intense attachment to the cream soup spoon. As I told her that

I didn't really see myself serving a lot of creamy oyster stew, she looked like she wanted the floor at Adler's to open so she could fall through. "Kate, that's the piece you'll use the most," she practically hissed. "This one time please listen to your dear old mother. You've gotta have a gumbo spoon!" And that was that. I nodded gamely as she said yes to the asparagus server, picturing myself in my Manhattan apartment storing all this stuff. I grinned when she described how we could all share (yep, my sister has Francis 1st too). That we all lived in different states did nothing to dampen her enthusiasm.

My Facebook poll yielded great practical advice for the contemporary bride. "Use your silver and mix it with modern stuff," and "find vintage patterns at flea markets and auctions." But my favorite post came from my childhood best friend, Daphne, who has always had the right attitude: "Buttercup. Mom's pattern too. Goes well with paper plates and china." And cream soup spoons? All I can say is mother always knows best.



Buttercup by Gorham was patented in 1899. Its romantic and fanciful design features scalloped tips decorated with delicate flowers inspired by Venetian hand-sewn lace, making it a charming pattern for many a Southern bride.



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# Wedding **TIMELINE**

## GETTING HITCHED WITHOUT A GLITCH

The pros know that it is all about planning and organizing step by step leading up to the big day. Feeling overwhelmed by all the details? Follow this simple timeline for expert advice on getting to the main event with ease while enjoying your engagement and all of the bridal festivities!

### 12 MONTHS BEFORE

- Plan the details. Decide on colors, themes, etc.
- Begin the guest list. Start compiling names and addresses.
- Research your honeymoon.
- Finalize all ceremony and reception site reservations.
- Book all pertinent suppliers (caterer, florist, musicians, etc.)
- Meet with clergy for any required counseling.
- Also, discuss any specifics you would like in the ceremony.
- Order your dress.

- Decide what type of wedding you and your fiancé want. Talk to any other significant people (i.e. those footing the bill) who will have a major voice in the event. Establish a budget, size, and style and choose possible dates, sites, and participants.
- Hire a wedding consultant if you plan to use one.
- Reserve ceremony and reception locations.
- Choose a caterer if you need one.
- Select a photographer and videographer.
- Select a florist.
- Decide on your attendants and have your fiancé choose his groomsmen.
- Start dress shopping.

### 8-10 MONTHS BEFORE

- Order all wedding papers - invitations, stationery, etc.
- Book a calligrapher, if so desired.
- Shop for bridesmaids' dresses.
- Reserve any needed extras for your reception, such as tables, chairs, etc.
- Reserve hotel rooms for out-of-town guests.

### 6 MONTHS BEFORE

- Make sure all attendants' attire is ordered and reserved.
- Register for gifts.
- Finalize guest lists.
- Finalize honeymoon plans.
- Begin dress fittings.
- Order wedding rings.
- Check license requirements.
- Schedule rehearsal and rehearsal dinner.
- Choose favors.

### 4 MONTHS BEFORE



## 2 MONTHS BEFORE

- Have the final fittings for your and the bridal attendants' gowns.
- Have a formal bridal portrait done.
- Pick up the rings.
- Write thank-you notes as you receive gifts. Mail them after the wedding.
- Make wedding transportation arrangements.
- Make sure you have all accessories, i.e. a ring pillow, garter, etc.
- Make wedding day appointments, i.e. hairdresser, manicurist, masseuse, etc.

## 2 WEEKS BEFORE

- Contact guests who have not responded. Submit final guest count to caterer.
- Finalize details with all your wedding suppliers.
- Pack for honeymoon.
- Make sure all wedding attire is picked up and fits.

## 1 DAY BEFORE

- Eat something.
- Have hair done 3 to 4 hours before the wedding.
- Start dressing 1 to 1 1/2 hours before the wedding.
- Relax, stand up straight, and proceed down the aisle.

- Address and mail invitations and announcements. They should be mailed 4 to 6 weeks before the wedding.
- Go over details with the reception venue, the caterer, florist, photographer, etc.
- Order wedding cake, if not already supplied.
- Plan bridesmaids' luncheon.
- Choose guest book and attendants' gifts.
- Shop for lingerie and honeymoon clothes.
- Bring engagement or wedding announcement to the daily newspaper.

## 6 WEEKS BEFORE

- Get the marriage license.
- Attend to any legal and business details, such as changing names.
- Reconfirm out-of-town guests' arrangements, as well as honeymoon plans.
- Talk to photographer and videographer about specific needed shots/footage.
- Meet with musicians. Have the music start 30 minutes before the ceremony.

## 1 WEEK BEFORE

- Have rehearsal and rehearsal dinner.
- Go to bed early.

## THE BIG DAY



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Ron Carrier and Jeff Burrell are consummate entertainers. And with a home Uptown near the Mardi Gras parade route, Carnival is the season where they pull out all the stops. “We host several open houses over the big weekends and, of course, on Fat Tuesday,” Jeff explains. “It’s important to us to share the city’s rich culture with our friends and family.” “A spiffy cocktail and yummy local fare has a lot to do with it too,” chuckles Ron with a wink.

The decorations go up on Twelfth Night and their stunning collection of Mardi Gras home decor takes center stage. Original folk art, handmade ceramics, and charming interpretations of flambeaux and king cakes are cherished pieces collected over many years.

BY KATY DANOS | PHOTOS BY JAMES GAFFNEY |  
STYLED BY RON CARRIER



I collect handmade revelers by Ann Lee Sarpy from Judy at the Rink and signed decoupage trays from Hazelnut. My latest addition, Grande Masquerade, sits on my mantle.

-RON CARRIER

“We are passionate about supporting local artists and stores,” they both explain. “The magical traditions and unique New Orleans history is an artist’s dream platform. We are committed to celebrating the burst of creativity that rolls right along with Mardi Gras in such an organic way.”

In the sun-filled entrance, Ron festoons the painted carved mantle with ribbon, revelers, and a reverse decoupage signed glass tray, mixing it all right in with his collection of vintage silver trophy cups and antique English biscuit barrels. But it’s the homage to Muses, the wildly popular all-female krewe, that is the showstopper. Atop a round center table,



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**W**e treasure our Muses shoes from friends and co-workers. I especially love krewe member Natalie Pompilio's; she uses beautiful costume jewelry from her late mother's vast collection. So sentimental!"

-RON CARRIER

Ron displays their growing collection of shoes, the krewe's coveted signature throw, around a ceramic urn generously stuffed with regal plumage. The juxtaposition of the hand bedazzled and beaded stilettos, which on their own are tiny works of pop art, with the formal chandelier dripping with crystals pretty much says it all about the high-low spirit of Mardi Gras.

In their living room and breakfast area, fanciful paper "float flowers" are dramatically arranged on a center column and custom hand painted pillows are personality plus. A handmade ceramic king cake pedestal stand complete with a baby, painted wooden flambeau carriers and vintage tabletop pottery deliver playful touches throughout the lively space. The dining room centerpiece features a whimsical papier mache king cake circling an elegant glass and pewter bowl where guests can toss their day's catch. "I'm a collector and Mardi Gras is all about more is more," says Ron. "We have so much talent here. It's exuberant and joyful and definitely something to embrace!"







## SOURCES FOR MARDI GRAS DECOR

Cakestand  
SEAGEM STUDIOS  
seagemstudios.com

Pillows | LISA PAPA  
lisamurals@yahoo.com

Flambeaux Sculptures  
LORRAINE GENDRON  
lorrainepgendron.com

Float Flowers  
BRIAN BUSH  
carnivalsculpture.com

King Cake Centerpiece  
GWEN MARCOVICH  
datsawtsy.com

Glass Pedestal Bowl  
HAZELNUT  
hazelnutneworleans.com



# MARDI GRAS MAMBO

## OUR FAVORITE LOCAL MARDI GRAS DECOR

Beautiful design and elegant artistry has long been a part of Mardi Gras. Glass beads from the 1920s and Rex krewe favors from 1903 are just some of the cherished items passed down through the generations. Each year local artists present a stunning array of art, decor, and collectibles that celebrate all things Carnival. It's fun to splurge on a decoration or accessory when you know that it will be cherished for many years to come.

BY KATY DANOS

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And, here in New Orleans, our second shop is now open in the heart of the Warehouse District at the corner of Camp and Julia Streets.

#### Main Office

722 Martin Behrman Ave. · Metairie · LA 70005  
+1 504-875-3555 · [neworleans@evusa.com](mailto:neworleans@evusa.com)

#### New Shop Now Open!

601 Julia Street · New Orleans · LA 70130



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