

Today's hottest wedding dress trends

These are some notable trends as brides walk down the aisle in the months ahead.

Among the items on a wedding planning checklist, choosing a wedding gown often is a top priority. While certain wedding dress trends withstand the test of time, others have shorter shelf lives. Though no one knows what the future holds for wedding gown trends, these are some that may be notable as brides walk down the aisle in the months ahead.

Floral appliqués and 3D accents

Florals are nothing new on wedding dresses, but they're being elevated this year with new interpretations. Floral embellishments give texture and help brides make a statement. Appliqués may be on sheer panels that serve as a top layer of the dress, or grouped together to form rosettes or additional threedimensional floral details. Florals were on display at the Fall 2024 New York Bridal Fashion Week.

Coquette is everywhere

Flirty and feminine is the name of the wedding dress game, as many gowns showcase feminine details like corseted tops, bows and soft

not be for everyone, but this style merits consideration for the bride who wants to appear romantic and approachable.

Mini dress

Although one of the first pictures to come to mind when one envisions a wedding dress may be a floor-length gown, mini dresses continue to make bold statements on bridal runways and in magazines. The abbreviated hemlines can be flirty and fun, and are featured on various types of dresses, including fitted, strapless, flowing, and even puffed

Jacquard other opulent materials

Lace long has been a bridal dress in dress designs. Silver thread staple, but designers are branching out into other fabrics that lend luxury and opulence to dresses. Texture can make a wedding dress a unique visual during ceremonies and the after-party, and may help a bride feel like royalty.

Pearls and more pearls

Pearl necklaces and other jewelry has long gone hand-in-hand with weddings, but brides-to-be can now

colors, say the experts with Martha find pearls turning up just about Stewart. Hyper-feminine looks may anywhere. Pearls are embroidered onto dresses, veils, sleeves, and headpieces, and even can be used on wedding cakes to mirror a pearl aesthetic used elsewhere.

Bows

Along with pearls, a growing number of designers are opting for bows in their wedding dress designs. They may be subtle, such as stitched onto the bodice of the dress, or more over-the-top, like a huge bow at the waist or near the train bustle, according to One Fab Day.

Shimmer and sparkle

A little bling (or a lot) never goes out of style. For 2024, many brides plan to embrace even more shimmer and sparkle as silver takes center stage embroidery or even mirror-type embellishments will ensure all eyes are on the bride when she makes her entrance.

Overskirts

Many brides want a dramatically shaped dress for the ceremony, only to pare down a bit for the reception. The style experts at Vogue note an overskirt provides the flexibility to easily remove layers of fabric to



unveil a more fitted silhouette.

Wedding dress styles continue to evolve, and this year's trends merit modern brides' attention.





Aug. 13, 2016



How did you meet?

We met while pursuing our college education at the University of Minnesota – Duluth.

Who proposed and how?

Evan planned the proposal with Steph's aunt and uncle, who were trying to build their photography portfolio. We offered to "model" for them, and Evan surprised Steph by proposing during the session at Munsinger Gardens in St.Cloud. We have photos and a video of the moment!

How long were you engaged?1 year

Date of Marriage:

Aug. 13, 2016

Place of Marriage:

The Grands at Mulligans in Sartell, Minn.

How large was your wedding?

It was around 150 people.

What food was served?

We had chicken with fresh basil, sundried tomatoes, garlic, and mushroom sauce served with mashed potatoes and glazed carrots.

What was the most memorable moment at your wedding?

For Evan: There was some time between group photos and the wedding, where Steph and I got to step away from everyone to take some photos together. We were near the main entrance to the venue, and it was nice to have some "alone" time with her before the party started.

For Steph: I think that the dinner was the most memorable part for me. There were so many family members there that are no longer with us today and to have all the most important people in my life sitting down and enjoying a meal together is really special. We had speeches from so many people in our lives and you could just really feel the love in that room. It was an amazing day and experience.

What was your most memorable wedding gift?

All the pieces of the wedding that came together from family members. Steph's aunt Juliet made all the cupcakes and the wedding cake, Steph's aunt Amanda did all the wedding photos and helped with makeup for Steph and her bridesmaids, and Steph's Grandma Donna did all the floral arrangements including the bridal bouquet, bridesmaids bouquet, and the boutonnieres. Steph's sisters Melissa and Mikayla did A LOT of DIYing to make the vision come to life. Steph's dad Joe bought her wedding dress. If it weren't for all the help from family, the day wouldn't have been possible.

What wedding gift do you use the most today?

Kitchen Aid mixer: we use it to make all of our holiday cookies and everyday baking.

Who caught the bouquet and did they have to shove to get it?

One of Steph's good friends from high school, Rachael, caught the bouquet, and she is now married to a good friend of Evan's. She did not shove for it...it just sort of came to her.

Whose relatives, or friends, had the most fun at the reception? (To protect the guilty, no names, please.)

We got married shortly after we graduated from college, so we had a lot of friends from high school and college there, and they definitely had a good time. Although both our families still talk about how much fun our wedding was so it was a lot of fun for all!

Where did you go for a honeymoon?

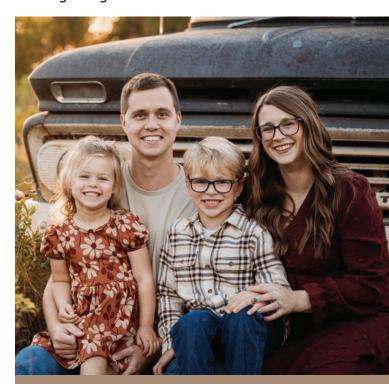
We stayed at an all-inclusive resort in Jamaica. Food, drinks, pool, ocean, and between all of that we went zip lining and took a float on tubes down a river through the jungle.

What do you do to keep romance alive in your marriage?

I have always been told to "never stop dating your wife." I think it is sound advice. However, between busy work schedules and parenting young children, it is easy to lose sight of where everything started. I have always found that it is in the small things that the flame is kept lit. Whether it is dropping off a coffee, buying chocolate, or cleaning the house (romantic right?) because it is through these small actions that we show we care about and are thinking of our spouse. One of my favorite things is bringing my 'forever +1' to another couple's wedding. It is an opportunity to relive the magic of your 'big day' through the love of another couple.

If you could travel back in time to your wedding day, what advice for maintaining a happy marriage would you give yourselves?

Remember that you are on the same team. Life can become chaotic and complicated at times, but if you keep in mind that you are in this together, everything will work out. Communication is key, so continue to be honest with each other and trust that you are stronger together.



Countdown to a flawless, stress-free wedding day . . .

MONTH

- Draw up a budget
- Pick a wedding date
- Research & book ceremony & reception
- Ask friends & family to be a part of your wedding day
- Consider hiring a wedding consultant

MONTHS

- Schedule engagement photos
- Shop for & order bridesmaids dresses
- Start planning honeymoon
- Send save-the-dates
- Book musicians
- Reserve hotel accomodations for guests

Reserve hotel suite

for wedding night

Register for gifts

MONTHS

- Attend pre-wedding counseling (if required)
- Shop for & order
- Shop for wedding rings
- Shop for formal wear
 - Renew/buy passports (if necessary)
- Go cake testing and book bakery/cake designer

MONTHS

- Order men's formal
- Hire wedding day transportation
- Mail invitations Write your vows
- Purchase gifts for parents, attendants and each other
- Book hair and make-up stylist and schedule a trial appointment

MONTH

- Apply for wedding
- Final gown fitting
- Talk to bridesmaids to make sure they have their dresses ready
- Make adjustments with vendors and confirm details
- Order wedding programs

MONTHS

Start shopping for your wedding gown

Begin planning theme/decor

Research & book

wedding profession-

videographer, florist)

als (photographer,

Research wedding

Contact rental com-

panies if you plan to

Order Save-the-Dates

rent items

Think about reception

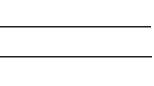
- Review final RSVP list and contact anyone who has not responded
- Deliver shot lists to photo and video professionals
- Bride: Pre-wedding haircut/color
- Give final guest head count to reception hall/caterer
- Confirm arrangements with all vendors
- Provide vendor delivery, set-up times & phone numbers to ceremony & reception site managers

- Groom: Pick up formal wear
- Confirm groomsmen attend fittings and pick up formal wear
- Confirm date, times and locations with car/limosine service

- Provide all wedding professionals emergency phone number/ contact to call day of wedding
- Pay final balances
 - Wedding rehearsal
- Bring ceremony accessories to site
- Give marriage license to officiant
- Present attendants gifts at the rehearsal dinner
- Go to bed early

WEDDING **DAY**

- Present parents and each other gifts
- Give weddng bands to best man and maid of honor to hold during the ceremony
- Introduce reception site manager to your personal attendant for questions or problems during the
- ber to collect any to the ceremony or reception



Notes:

reception Assign a family memgifts or cards brought

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Sept. 12, 2020



How Did You Meet?

We met online through a dating app.

Who Proposed and How?

Ethan was the one who proposed...right in the living room of our apartment at the time. Said he "just knew (Marissa) was a keeper."

How Long Were You Engaged?

A year and a half. The Covid-19 pandemic was quite the delay.

Date of Marriage:

Sept. 12, 2020

Place of Marriage:

The Litchfield Opera House in Litchfield, Minn.

How Large Was Your Wedding?

150 people

What Food Was Served?

We had grilled Italian chicken and pork loin with potatoes, veggies, and lots of other goodies!

What Was the Most Memorable Moment at Your Wedding?

When one of our guests was out doing backflips in the parking lot!

What Was Your Most Memorable Wedding Gift?

Two hand-crafted wooden swords that were gifted by Ethan's childhood friend

Eddie. They were the same swords the two of them would "duel" with all the time as kids.

What Wedding Gift Do You Use the Most Today?

Our air fryer oven and our large crock pot for sure!

Who Caught the Bouquet and Did They Have to Shove to Get It?

No bouquet was thrown.

Whose Relatives, or Friends, Had the Most Fun at the Reception? (To protect the guilty, no names, please.)

The kids who attended definitely had the most fun dancing and playing with glow-sticks.

Where Did You Go for a Honeymoon?

Duluth and Two Harbors, Minn.

What Do You Do to Keep Romance Alive in Your Marriage?

Continuously do things together.

If You Could Travel Back in Time to Your Wedding Day, What Advice for Maintaining a Happy Marriage Would You Give Yourselves?

Never be afraid to communicate your feelings to one another – no matter how big or small. After all, a strong, healthy relationship will only endure so long as its built on a foundation of love and trust.



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Consider wedding flowers carefully

Here are some variables to consider when selecting wedding flowers.

Although many decorative elements help to create ambiance for a wedding celebration, perhaps none is more awe-inspiring than beautiful floral arrangements. Flowers offer visual appeal, captivating aromas and texture that can make a space more welcoming.

Engaged couples typically go to great lengths when planning their weddings, but flowers may not be as micromanaged as other elements. Some are content to let florists design their arrangements, but the average cost of wedding flowers in 2023 was \$2,800, according to The Knot Real Weddings Study. That price tag merits some input on the part of couples. Floral experts say couples should budget for floral arrangements coming in at 10 percent of the overall wedding budget, which is the industry standard. Therefore, for a \$60,000 wedding a couple should assume their florals will cost \$6,000. It's important to note that the cost of wedding flowers has been steadily increasing over the last few years due to inflation and climate change, says The Knot. So couples may need to be even more involved in floral decisions to maximize their dollars spent.

Here are some variables to consider when selecting wedding flowers.

- Greenery: Adding greenery to fill in spaces in floral arrangements can save some money. Centerpieces and bouquets that are floralheavy will certainly cost more.
- · Symbolism: Consider the meaning behind flowers to make choices even more personal. You also may want to select flowers that will complement the theme of the wedding. For example, traditional spring blooms like tulips and daffodils will coordinate with spring the season of the year. weddings.
- Flower varieties: Hardier varieties of flowers, such as daisies, mums, carnations, and protea, weddings.

are less likely to wilt quickly in bouquets or centerpieces than some other blooms, even when they are cut. Such blooms can hold up in any weather and last the entire day so that

 Venue: Couples may find that some venues already have faux flowers or other decor. That may mean couples do not need to have as many flowers or any elaborate arrangements.

arrangements will be picture-perfect no matter

- Size: A particularly large floral centerpiece can overwhelm a table, and a bouquet that is overly cumbersome may detract from the bride or her bridesmaids. Choose the correct scale for comfort in bouquets. For table arrangements, select a size that will not discourage conversation or block guests' view, nor take up too much real estate on the table.
- Allergies: Although they are cut, flowers in arrangements can trigger allergic responses in some people. Others may be bothered by overly aromatic flowers. Work with the florist to find blooms that will be best.
- Color scheme: Although white flowers always coordinate, many couples like some color in their arrangements. Be sure the flowers pick up the hues used in bridesmaid dresses or even

Couples should take an active role in deciding what to include in floral pieces for their

Did You Know?

Couples need not feel beholden to any particular tradition come their wedding day, and that freedom is perhaps reflected in the shifting attitudes toward white wedding dresses. Wedding trends come and go, so what's trending one year will not necessarily remain popular in any ensuing wedding season. However, a recent Etsy analysis of user data found that searches for colorful wedding dresses increased by 223 percent, suggesting that brides are looking to add at least a splash of color to their wedding day look. That

analysis reflects findings from other surveys as well. A 2021 survey conducted by Brides.com and Investopedia found that 28 percent of brides planned to forgo a white wedding dress in favor of an atypical alternative.



Questions to ask when shopping for a wedding reception venue

As couples begin shopping for a place Is our date available? to host their reception, they can ask themselves and venue representatives a multitude of questions to narrow down their options.

Engaged couples make plenty of decisions when planning their weddings, and some may be more significant than others. Choosing a wedding reception venue is among the most important decisions couples will make.

The reception venue is where couples and guests will spend the majority of the day, and no two venues are the same. As couples begin shopping for a place to host their reception, they can ask themselves and venue representatives a multitude of questions to narrow down their options and ultimately make the best decision for them.

What are we looking for in a venue?

Some couples may know precisely what they want their receptions to be like, while others may not have the slightest idea. Of course, some couples may be somewhere in the middle. Prior to beginning the process of choosing a venue, couples can identify what they're looking for. Is a venue with outdoor entertaining space a priority? Do you want to hold the ceremony and reception at the same venue? How many guests will the venue need to accommodate? Answering these questions and others can help couples narrow down their search.

How much can we afford?

Budget is a significant variable when shopping for a wedding venue. Some venues offer multiple spaces that can accommodate couples with a wide range of budgets, while others are singular spaces suited to receptions within a specified size. Itemizing a budget and determining how much can be alloted to a reception venue can serve as a guideline when couples begin searching for sites.

Once couples know what they want and what they can afford, they can prepare a number of questions that are worth asking at every venue they visit. Perhaps the most important, at least for those couples who have already chosen a wedding date, is the availability of the site on that date. If couples have not yet chosen a date, they can ask for a list of available dates at each venue they visit and perhaps use that knowledge to pick a day, particularly if they prefer a given venue.

Who will cater the meal?

Some venues do their own catering, while others may have working relationships with outside caterers. And some venues rent only the spaces and require couples to hire their own caterers and arrange all the details on their own. If a venue caters the meal, ask if they accommodate people with various restrictions, such as food allergies and gluten intolerances.

How many hours are included in the rental agreement?

It's important that couples know what they're getting, including how much time they get in each space they consider. The online wedding resource The Knot notes a standard wedding reception is five hours, the first of which is generally designated as cocktail hour.

What is the payment structure?

Identifying the payment structure, include down payment due date and when the final payment must be made, is important as well. This knowledge can allow couples to map out their expenses, the most significant of which is typically the reception venue.

These are just some of the questions couples can ask as they plan their wedding receptions.

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How Did You Meet?

We met at Expressive Hair in Richmond. Rich came in for a haircut from DeeAnn.

Who Proposed and How?

Well, it was really no proposal or anything. I guess could say that I just kind of said, "Hey, so I am losing insurance by the end of the year for health care coverage." And because the government said you had to have insurance, I just told Rich that we needed to be married by the end of the year if we are getting married!

Date of Marriage:

Oct. 31, 2005.

Place of Marriage:

American Inn in Litchfield.

How Large Was Your Wedding?

18 at the ceremony, including us!

What Food Was Served?

We went to what was the Old Chalet (Lindy's Cafe), and I believe at that time it was called The Perk. We loved their breakfast there, so that's where we went afterwards with the people that came to our wedding. Had to feed the kids before the girls headed off to school that morning. It was a early-morning wedding.

What Was the Most Memorable Moment at Your Wedding?

For one thing, Rich was sicker than a dog, so he likes to say that he doesn't know if it really happened...ha ha ha. The most memorable moment was having our immediate family come, even those from a couple hours away surprised us that morning, along with my grandparents, our parents, and our siblings, and significant others. We had gotten a call from Colorado right after our ceremony because Rich's sister and brother-in-law could not be there. Rich's dad Norb was the best man, DeeAnn's grandma Loretta Brutger was the matron of honor, the bridesmaids were our daughters Tori and Lexi, and the ring bearer was our son Rylan.

What Was Your Most Memorable Wedding Gift?

Wasn't necessarily a gift, but Rich's siblings had come dressed up in Halloween costumes to our wedding that totally made it the best!

What Wedding Gift Do You Use the Most Today?

I would have to say the dining room set; we still use the table and chairs. We had gotten that with the money people had given us.

Whose Relatives, or Friends, Had the Most Fun at the Reception? (To protect the guilty, no names, please.)

Our reception was about a month after the wedding. It was quite the snow storm during the day. We had it that at the Roadside Tavern in Roscoe. I believe everybody had a great time that night. Our daughter, Tori, sang "It's Your Love" by Tim McGraw and Faith Hill. Greg Michaels Huberty accompanied her on guitar while we had our first dance.

Where Did You Go for a Honeymoon?

Honeymoon? Ha ha ha...who has time for that?!? There was hunting to be done!

What Do You Do to Keep Romance Alive in Your Marriage?

Not necessarily keeping romance alive, but still being married because Rich works construction six months out of the year...ha ha ha!

If You Could Travel Back in Time to Your Wedding Day, What Advice for **Maintaining a Happy Marriage Would** You Give Yourselves?





Try to laugh more and make more time for each other.

I would marry Rich all over again even with lots of the ups and downs that we've had and how before we were even married he accept my daughters as his own and was willing to get married on my favorite day of the year and is willing to stay back from hunting to celebrate our special day by dressing up for Halloween every year for "just a photo." Rich shakes his head a lot at me for ideas I have about dumb stuff like how I want stuff done now for instance at my salon, etc. Everything is a hurryup-and-now situation in my mind...ha ha ha. He's a keeper! Don't ask him if I am a keeper (I know I drive him crazy...ha ha!).





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