

DIRECTORY

Wedding trends at the table

With the flurry of activity that goes into planning a wedding, it can be easy for the smaller details to get lost. Table settings were once low on the priority list, but nowadays couples are likely to give them more thought, with a meaningful edge.

“Couples are adding more creative touches to their table settings by opting for fancy show plates, napkin rings, glassware and flatware, cutlery and chopsticks,” says Evelyn Mills, founder and creative director of Marriage Maestros. “Some are also adding personal touches such as personalised menus, monogrammed napkins and even custom-made table linens and wine rings.”

Many couples are following the green trend by including environmentally friendly elements in their place settings.

“The idea is to still have your own signature look but without being wasteful. Mixing and matching plates, flatware and glassware, and opting for a family-style service have become very popular among couples lately,” Mills says. “Doubling up on

Place settings get more creative and personal

the functionality of certain items can also be a fun and unique way of making one’s wedding more eco-friendly.”

A family-style service, where food is served on shared plates, is ideal for informal weddings. The rustic theme can be extended by placing cutlery in tin buckets or ceramic pots, while fancy jam jars can be recycled to serve drinks in, and used wine corks can become place card holders.

Other couples opt to add a personal touch to certain items in their place settings, which allows them to double as favours for the wedding guests.

“Personalising each guest’s show plate with their names hand-painted onto them can be a creative way to replace the use of

place cards, and couples can add a punch of colour by using a tinted water tumbler or Champagne flute that can be personalised and taken home after the wedding,” Mills says.

If you do plan to use pieces that can be taken away as favours, opt for items that are sustainable, make arrangements to have them cleaned before guests leave, and provide a carry bag to take them away in, Mills says.

When it comes to place settings, be selective in the number of items used to avoid a messy appearance. Apply a style appropriate to the type of wedding, and use creativity with practical application.

“If it is a formal event, pay attention to etiquette and the flow of the menu,” Mills says. “Also make sure not to clutter [the table] with too many items that may tip over, or that could easily catch fire if you have candles on the table.”

Finally, plan an adequate amount of space between each guest at the tables, Mills says.



Couples are focused on creating distinctive table settings. Photo: Thinkstock