



Top 2012 Wedding Trends

I am delighted to introduce Bonnie Swanson as a special guest columnist for *Aisle Dish*, about the Top Six Wedding Trends of 2012. Bonnie is the Event Sales Manager at Musket Ridge Golf Club (a sister Club of Stoneleigh), a Certified Event Planner and a tremendous wealth of knowledge about wedding trends.

Recently, Bonnie attended a Special Event Convention in Tampa and I invited her to share those with you. Without further adieu...

Weddings are anchored in tradition, but they can also be a great opportunity to introduce new ideas that reflect the personality of the bride and groom. Here are some ideas that stood out from my recent trip to the conference I consider the wedding idea treasure trove:

Location Amenities

Once you book your venue, plan your event to enhance and take advantage of the location's amenities. Whether it's the view, the décor or the food, make the most of what attracted you there.

Porches

Front, back and sideways. If the venue you selected doesn't have a porch already, rent one. Add beautiful lighting, cushioned bench seating and a fire pit. For a special touch, add some country swings and rocking chairs. Make sure your seating options are comfortable and arranged to allow guests to mingle. It is possible to add a porch to virtually any reception space. Use your imagination and look to your venue for guidance.

Signature Cocktails

Some things to consider when creating a signature drink: elaborate or simple; modern vs. classic; organic, local ingredients and color. Bear in mind the seasonality of ingredients. Spring and summer recipes should include fresh berries and herbs while fall and winter recipes should lean more towards apples or pears and spices such as cinnamon or nutmeg. Gin, tequila, and mezcal are very HOT right now. Use exotic syrups like dragon fruit, passion fruit, guava and cardamom. Star anise syrup is very popular at the moment. People tend to be drinking outside of the box so don't be afraid to try something new.

Gobos

Use smaller lights to highlight a few spots within your reception such as shining a gobo light with your monogram. Lighting experts can make a metal form and project it on any wall or the dance floor. The metal form is typically a gobo of your initials or names. Some couples are now opting to create a special weddings logo and using it on everything from the save the date, invitations, menus, green screen backgrounds and gobo lighting. Sometimes the logo is as simple as a specific font and the couple's monogram and other times it's a more elaborate graphic design.

Decorative Linen

Tables and chair covers are getting fancier! Using bold colors in weddings is very popular. Any color that you choose will offer a huge variety of shades that are stylish and classy. With texture, some newer options are a crushed look, pintuck fabrics, damasks or other tone-on-tone fabrics. Texture can also be shown through layers, such as using sheer overlays on tables or buffets. Colors such as silver, gold, aluminum or nickel are very of the moment right now! There are endless styles and shades of linens in grey and metallic tones that can create a beautiful, trendy look. Lace table linens are also coming back into style and come in a variety of tone-on-tone laces as well as colorful options. Adding a lace overlay to a solid color fabric can add a special, classic touch.

Square Tables

Square Tables are a big hit! Set the room up with square tables that seat eight people. Squares and rectangle tables tend to work best in larger spaces. Keep in mind that square tables often require special tablecloths as well as symmetrical seating. Another popular option is using a combination of squares, rectangle and rounds.

Aisle Dish is written by Meredith Thomas, Stoneleigh's in-house Event Consultant. If you would like assistance planning your special day, Meredith offers a complimentary one-hour consultation to all brides hosting their wedding at the Club and is available for further planning services at an additional fee. Contact Meredith at mthomas@stoneleighgolf.com or 540.338.4653 ext. 303.