

COLUMBIA METROPOLITAN MAGAZINE'S GUIDE TO

Tying the Knot



EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PLANNING A WEDDIN

Consider this scene ... He pops the question; she says, "Yes," grabs her cell phone and speed dials the church and the caterer.

What's a guy to think?

Our answer is ... "Smart girl!"

Savvy brides know that if they want the place, time and date of their choosing for the wedding and reception, they'd better get cracking. The Midlands loves weddings and premier bridal services stay booked way in advance.

"The most popular months – March, April, May and June – book about a year out," says Laurice Meares of Golden Hills Country Club. "The same is true for December. Couples who want to be married then will find the calendar is already crowded with holiday celebrations."



www.michaelkoska.com

Get Cracking!

*Kimberly Thomas and
Charlie Flake at Forest
Lake Country Club.*

Barrie notes the abundant and ever-changing availability of local flowers and greenery. She says, "South Carolina is a year-round treasure trove of growing things. We're always glad to use flowers from someone's yard. We'll even come and cut them if they'd like."

She lists some of her springtime favorites: "With their large heads, hydrangeas make a great statement, and they can be lightly sprayed to bring out a desired color. We use a lot of dusty miller and artemisia in bouquets and arrangements. Then there's crocus, all the beautiful irises, lilies and grape hyacinths, budlea, hosta, gardenias, Lady Banks roses and scented geraniums. Roses are available any time year-round. And don't forget the great roadside plants. We love to work with these."

Barrie suggests that brides keep "the large stage" in mind when planning their flowers and wedding décor. "The key is to keep everything coordinated so the visual picture is complete. You don't want a lot of little 'polka dots' punctuating the design. Scale, drama and impact are so important when you're working with large spaces. Big rooms take big stuff! If a bride has family and friends who are willing to help decorate, she can definitely save money on labor costs. We're always comfortable with other people participating, but it's vital that the overall design maintains its integrity. For example, we can do a prototype for a pew decoration which her friends can then copy for the remaining pews."

"I always encourage brides to give their weddings a personal touch. Including special treasures, words or memories can mean so much. An antique handkerchief tucked into the bouquet, something special and personal for the mothers or the attendants ... things like this make the wedding her very own," says Barrie.

"These personal touches are not expensive to do. You just have to think of them early on." She recalls one rehearsal dinner where each table was decorated around the interests and family backgrounds of the wedding couple. "We used toys, little books and all kinds of childhood treasures that had belonged to each of them and made table arrangements based on their memories. Not only did they make for great decorations, but they were also good ice breakers to get conversation flowing easily between family and friends from both sides."

PRESERVING THE MEMORIES

Plan to make use of your flowers beyond the wedding itself. You might ask the florist to rework the arrangements and deliver them to special friends and family members on the day after the wedding. Or you might have the blooms preserved as special heirlooms. Toss a throwaway bouquet to your friends, and have your bridal bouquet preserved by pressing or drying the flowers. Dried flowers can be attached to photo frames or mirrors, converted into potpourri or pressed under glass in charming Victorian style frames. Ask your florist for more ideas. You're sure to treasure these beautiful mementos of your special day. ♥

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