

Summer Weddings



Be a Palette Pro

You can have your dream day draped in shades of blush and bashful, but there are a range of other colors out there you may have not thought of pairing up. Take a look at these palettes for some great ideas for your summer wedding.

MAGENTA, POPPY AND YELLOW

Wedding site The Knot recommends this palette for an outdoor summer wedding, and they're spot on. With colors this bold, though, dress the rest of your ceremony and reception in neutrals.

Flowers: Clematis (magenta), water lily (yellow), roses (magenta and yellow), anemone (magenta, poppy), tulips (magenta, poppy, yellow), dendrobium orchid (magenta), snapdragon (yellow), ranunculus (magenta, poppy, yellow), nerine (poppy), Icelandic poppy (magenta and, well, poppy), peony (magenta, poppy, yellow).

CORAL AND GREEN

Cool off a hot coral with cool, sagey greens. Martha Stewart Weddings recommends accents in shades of orange and yellow.

Flowers: Spirea (a green, flowering branch), fritillaria (light green), Icelandic poppy (coral), mokara orchid (green), mini calla lily (coral), rose (coral), sweet pea (coral), lady's slipper orchid (green), Florida beauty (speckled green leaf), snake grass (green, good for tying), eucalyptus (green), ferns (green), viburnum



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(green).

GOLD, GREEN AND WHITE

Pair these classic colors with warm rattan and for an inviting daytime ceremony, suggests Sunset magazine, maybe even a brunch. Keep your golds classy, not glitzy.

Flowers: Anemone (white and green), agapanthus (white), gardenia (white and green), calla lily (white and

green), ranunculus (white and green), stephanotis (white), phalaenopsis orchid (white, green), veronica (white and green).

DOVE GRAY AND ECRU

This neutral natural palette is great for upscale rustic weddings, The Knot says. Let wood, rock and other natural elements into your ceremony to set off this elegant palette, along with

bouquets of white flowers.

Flowers: Succulents (gray), Oriental lily (white), cherry blossom (white, woody), peony (white), lisianthus (cream), rose (white, ecru), Queen Anne's lace (white).

As always, your local florist can help you pick flowers and arrange a palette that best suits you, your ceremony and your venue. And don't forget the budget.

Headgear Is Back

One wedding trend making its way back down the aisle is the bridal chapeau.

There are lots of reasons for this, like a spate of royal weddings, but no matter what moves you to pick up a new hat, we're glad you did. Here are some tips for picking the perfect hat for your wedding.

HOW TO PICK A HAT

For these hat tips, we turned to Good Housekeeping UK because, as we saw at the royal weddings, the British are obviously the professionals.

The magazine says the first step is to pick the rest of your outfit, as the hat should complement the look in color, size and proportion. Make sure your hat accentuates the silhouette of your outfit and the shape of your face. People with a round face, for instance, should choose an angular hat.

Some rules: Wear your hair up with most hats and never don sunglasses with a hat.

CONSIDER THE VENUE

For most venues, Good Housekeeping says, avoid a floppy hat in favor of a structured hat, like a pillbox. Mothers of the bride and groom should make sure their faces are visible under their hats, and the mother of the bride always gets to wear the larger hat, unless both bride and groom are hosting the ceremony. Only guests going to an outdoor country



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wedding may choose a floppier hat with loose locks. Guests at an evening ceremony should choose smaller accessories, like an elegant comb.

HEADBANDS

This year's head accessories aren't your heavy 1990s tiara. Sleek bandeaus with minimal embellishments

are in, as are smaller tiaras. It's more elegant than blingy. Your bridal boutique will be able to recommend pieces to perfectly accentuate your dress.



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Lighting: The New Rental

When you're looking for a wedding venue, you may not think of adding lighting.

Depending on the venue's rules and regulations, you may be able to add some extra wattage to your ceremony. Keep reading for tips on how to get the best and brightest big day.

GO BIG OR THINK SMALL

Lighting can be as simple as adding candles or lanterns (look for battery-operated LEDs if your venue doesn't allow open flames). Or it could be as big as color washes on the walls, disco balls and a labyrinth of neon. Either way, you need your lighting to fit your budget and your venue. You need a lighting designer. Your venue may be able to recom-

mend someone who has worked there in the past, or one of your other vendors may be able to point you in the right direction.

MAKE A SITE VISIT

Once you've found your pro, make a site visit. If you're indoors, look at how the sunlight comes in at different times of day so you don't overwhelm any one space. If you're

outside, go after dark so you can make sure the areas that need illumination, both for looks and for safety, get it.

Also talk to your planner and venue personnel about electricity needs. You don't want a blown fuse to flip off the lights just as you hit the dance floor. Ask if you'll need any permits, especially for extra lighting outside, and be mindful of the neighbors.

GET IT IN WRITING

Of course, as with all your other vendors, get all the details of your lighting package in writing, along with a complete estimate of costs. Don't be afraid to ask any questions up front and lay out all your expectations before signing on the dotted line.

Also make sure your lighting vendor is property insured and permitted.

Nontraditional Florals

Your wedding bouquet should be just as unique as you are. Don't be afraid to look beyond the traditional tulips, roses and baby's breath to find some florals that are just as special and creative as you are.

FIND A FLORIST

The first step to crafting your unique bouquet is to find the perfect local florist. Look for someone who shares your vision but also understands your budget. Bring images of flowers you like, especially if you're going to get outside the box. After an interview, your florist should create a detailed proposal for you.

UNCONVENTIONAL BUDS

Here are some different flowers for you to consider in your bouquet.

Baby cactus: Pale gray-green globes are perfect foils for frilly feminine flowers.

Olive branches: Gorgeous silvery stems bunch together in an elegant bouquet.

Wheat: Pair these amber waves of grain with jewel-toned flowers. Perfect for a rustic wedding.

Succulents: Not only will you have an eye-catching bouquet on your wedding day, but you can put these succulents in a terrarium for your ever-after.

Veggies: No, really. Artichokes, tiny cabbages, even sprigs of hops all have beautiful color and can join together in a quirky bouquet.

Herbs: Lightly fragrant and in gorgeous shades of green and even flowering, a bouquet of herbs can be a meaningful and beautiful addition to your big



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day.

Magnolias: Classic creamy white flowers with deep green, shiny leaves

and a brilliant red seed pod. These huge flowers make a statement.

You can also get away from the florals

and look toward other materials like feathers, vintage brooches, wire, textiles and more. The sky's the limit.

Inside Out

Outdoor weddings, especially in the balmy days of summer, are always a great choice. You can go one of two ways: Playing up the natural, or, in a new trend, setting it off by bringing traditionally inside elements out. Keep reading to learn more about one of 2019's hottest wedding trends.

UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE

See you later, folding chairs. Try bringing out upholstered pieces, like wingback chairs in luxe fabrics for the bride and groom. Create conversation areas with pretty settees and benches. Make sure to put them in spots where the pieces won't be soiled, especially if it's something borrowed.

RUGS

Scatter rugs around to create warm, inviting areas. Choose palettes and designs that accentuate your venue and your theme. Don't get too attached to any of these pieces; this may well be your only use.

TABLES

The easiest (and possibly most budget friendly) way to bring inside elements out is to place tables. Use coffee tables to create gathering places, dining tables for food and drink ser-



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vice. Side tables can be landing spots for drinks, plates and lighting.

LIGHTING

Speaking of lighting, in addition to your usual outdoor string lights, put some lamps around. Have your lighting vendor or venue check your elec-

trical connections for safety.

CONSIDERATIONS

This is an excellent and visually appealing idea, but there are some things to think about. Acquiring these pieces (unless you have lots of very good friends) may stretch your bud-

get. There's also the matter of getting all this furniture to and fro. You might have to scale back plans to just chairs for the bride and groom, or one vintage dining table for the guestbook. If you do borrow or rent the furniture, see if you can get an insurance policy to cover it in case disaster strikes.

Silicone: It's a Ring Thing

Wedding rings have been exchanged for thousands of years. But today's rings tend to be more space age than the traditional gold and silver bands. The latest trend, perfect for active lifestyles, is a silicone band.

WHAT IS IT?

Silicone bands are very light, and they stretch, bend and break away, so if you work in a field that's hazardous to your digits, you can still wear your ring. Or if you play sports, work out or maybe just have fingers that tend to swell, a silicone band may be right for you.

Unlike traditional metal bands, silicone rings come in a dazzling array of colors and finishes, even iridescent. They also come in different widths, patterns and textures, and can even be engraved. Some are meant to be stackable, and they come with different edges for your comfort. Several companies also offer limited edition designs by artists for a once-in-a-lifetime band at an affordable price.

This may also be a good option if you have an expensive or heirloom wedding set you don't want on you at all times. You can have the permanent, traditional set, and then a silicone ring for everyday wear.

HOW MUCH DO THEY COST?

Silicone bands are much cheaper than bands made of precious metals, starting at around \$20. Customization such as engraving or fancy finishes, of course, cost more. If you're prone to losing jewelry, these bands may be a cost-effective solution for you.

WHERE DO I GET THEM?

Some jewelers have started carrying silicone bands as an option for their customers, but you can also find them at local sporting goods and outdoors stores.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

Just like with any ring, you may prove to be allergic to the material. If you have a silicone allergy, obviously, this isn't the ring for you.

You also need to make sure your siz-

ing is on point; a too-snug ring of any kind will cause irritation.

As with any jewelry, be careful around chemicals. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for cleaning.



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Get Creative with Favors

Wedding favors of yore were almost always consigned to the bottom of a drawer or, worse, the trash bin.

The new trend is for usable, creative wedding favors.

Keep reading for some great ideas.

COFFEE, TEA, CANDY AND MORE

There is no better usable gift that one you can eat. Or drink. Even better if it has a sense of place. Does the town where you met or married have a great coffee shop? Order up some bags of beans, personalized with your special date. Same with tea bags, candies, beer or anything else.

GROW THE LOVE

Bags of wildflower seeds, tiny pots of succulents or a transplantable native plant all make perfect wedding favors that also give back. Bonus points if you used whatever plants you're giving out in your arrangements.

TO-GO SNACKS

This is an even better idea if you expect your party to go late into the night. Ask your caterer to set up boxes of snacks for your guests to take with them on the way out. Chocolate chip cookies, macarons, homemade chips — as long as it's portable, it's a possibility.

FOR THE KIDDOS

If there are going to be little ones at your ceremony, have special favors just for them. A bag full of toys, a pack of crayons and a table covered in paper tablecloths ensure little

hands stay busy.

SUN'S OUT

Keep your guests cool in the shade with favors they can use to beat the heat at your summer ceremony. Sunglasses, parasols, paper fans and water bottles all rank high on this list, and are easily customized and good for the bottom line.

CHARITY DONATIONS

Here's one that's sure not to end up in the trash bin. Take the money you would've spent on favors for your guests and make a donation

to your favorite charity instead. Leave room in the budget for printing cards to place on tables explaining your donation.



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