



Winter Weddings

A Second Look

For many couples, the wedding outfit is no longer limited to a single look.

A growing trend is changing clothes between the ceremony and the reception, allowing couples to express different sides of their personalities while staying comfortable throughout the celebration.

Some choose a dramatic reveal, while others simply trade formal attire for something easier to dance in. Whatever the reason, a second outfit has become another opportunity to make the wedding feel uniquely personal.

MORE THAN A FASHION STATEMENT

While outfit changes certainly create memorable photo opportunities, they're often about much more than style.

Some couples choose different colors or designs to symbolize an important part of their relationship. Others reserve traditional attire for the ceremony before changing into clothing that better reflects their everyday personalities or shared interests.

A second look can honor cultural traditions. Some weddings include attire for multiple ceremonies, allowing couples to celebrate different aspects of their heritage throughout the day or weekend.

Others simply enjoy sur-



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prising their guests with an unexpected reveal before the reception begins.

COMFORT COUNTS

Practicality is another reason outfit changes have become increasingly popular.

Formal gowns, trains, tuxedos and dress shoes look stunning during a ceremony but can become cumbersome after several hours.

Changing into lighter fabrics, shorter dresses, tailored suits without jackets or more

comfortable footwear allows couples to fully enjoy dinner, dancing and visiting with guests.

For winter weddings, couples can adapt their clothing to different settings. A formal outdoor ceremony might call for elegant wraps or coats, while an indoor reception allows for lighter, more relaxed attire.

The goal isn't to abandon elegance. It's to stay comfortable enough to enjoy every moment of the celebration.

TELL YOUR STORY

One of the most meaningful aspects of this trend is its flexibility. There are no rules about what a second outfit should look like.

Some couples choose colors that represent their personalities before changing into coordinating outfits that symbolize the beginning of their shared life together. Others incorporate meaningful fabrics, family heirlooms or custom details that reflect their journey as a couple.

Whether the change is dramatic or subtle, the clothing becomes another chapter in the wedding story.

Today's weddings are increasingly centered on authenticity rather than tradition for tradition's sake. An outfit change gives couples another opportunity to express who they are, celebrate what brought them together and ensure they can comfortably enjoy one of the happiest days of their lives from the first look to the last dance.

Beyond Black Tie

Bold colors are redefining men's wedding fashion.

For generations, a classic black tuxedo has been the standard choice for grooms. While that timeless look remains popular, many couples are embracing a more colorful approach for winter weddings. According to wedding venue and planning resource The Springs and Vogue Magazine, forest green, jewel-tones, burgundy, crisp white and luxurious velvet tuxedos are among the standout trends for the 2026 wedding season. Vogue said grooms are going for playful personal details and want individually curated looks rather than going for an off-the-rack standard.

These rich colors not only complement the season but also help create a distinctive look that reflects the couple's personal style.

COLOR TAKES CENTER STAGE

Winter naturally lends itself to deeper, more dramatic color palettes. Forest green evokes evergreen trees and holiday celebrations, while burgundy pairs beautifully with winter florals and candlelit receptions. White dinner jackets offer a formal, elegant alternative that stands out against snowy backdrops or evening settings.

Velvet jackets have also made a strong comeback. Their rich texture adds visual depth and photographs especially well



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under warm indoor lighting, making them a favorite for winter celebrations.

While bold colors may feel like a departure from tradition, they can still be surprisingly

versatile. Many grooms choose a colored jacket with classic black trousers, allowing them to embrace the trend without completely abandoning timeless formalwear.

COORDINATING WITHOUT MATCHING

Today's wedding parties are moving away from perfectly matched outfits in favor of coordinated styles that comple-

ment one another.

Rather than trying to match the wedding colors exactly, consider choosing shades that harmonize with the overall palette. A forest green tuxedo might pair beautifully with ivory flowers and gold accents, while burgundy complements deep reds, blush tones and warm metallics.

Accessories offer opportunities to personalize the look. Pocket squares, ties, bow ties, cuff links and boutonnieres can reflect individual personalities while tying together the wedding's overall design.

The goal isn't uniformity. It's creating a cohesive look that feels natural and authentic.

DRESS FOR THE SEASON

Winter weddings provide opportunities to incorporate fabrics that may feel too heavy during warmer months. Velvet, wool blends and textured jacquard jackets add warmth, comfort and visual interest while remaining formal enough for the occasion.

As with any trend, fit remains the most important consideration. A well-tailored suit or tuxedo in a classic cut will always make a stronger impression than a trendy color in an ill-fitting garment.

Whether a groom chooses a traditional black tuxedo with colorful accessories or fully embraces rich seasonal hues, today's formalwear offers more opportunities than ever to celebrate personal style while honoring the elegance of the occasion.

Careful Budgeting

Every couple has a wedding budget. Today's celebrations are showing that memorable doesn't have to mean extravagant.

According to bridal retailer Kennedy Blue, one of the biggest trends for 2026 is thoughtfully mixing do-it-yourself projects, secondhand finds and professional services to create celebrations that reflect both a couple's personality and their priorities.

Rather than feeling pressure to purchase everything new, many couples are discovering that meaningful details often come from creative thinking, family traditions and a little imagination.

MIX NEW WITH 'NEW TO YOU'

Vintage and secondhand decor has become increasingly popular, not only because it can save money but because it adds character.

Thrift stores, antique shops, estate sales and online marketplaces can be excellent places to find candleholders, picture frames, table numbers, baskets, decorative mirrors and other reception accents. Family members may have serving pieces, lanterns or decorative items they are happy to lend for the occasion.

Using a mix of new pur-



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chases and carefully selected vintage pieces creates a look that feels collected rather than mass-produced. It reduces waste by giving beautiful items a second life.

CHOOSE WHERE TO INVEST

Not every part of a wedding has to be handled the same way.

Some couples decide to hire

professionals for photography, catering or entertainment while taking on projects such as welcome signs, favors or centerpieces themselves. Others enjoy gathering friends

and family for a flower-arranging party using blooms from local markets or grocery stores.

Professional florists can work within a range of budgets. Some offer à la carte services or create bouquets and personal flowers while couples assemble simpler reception arrangements themselves. The key is deciding which elements are most important and allocating the budget accordingly.

CELEBRATE WHAT MATTERS MOST

Thoughtful budgeting isn't about cutting corners. It's about making intentional choices.

Guests are far more likely to remember heartfelt vows, joyful conversations and time spent celebrating together than whether every candle holder came from a specialty rental company.

As Kennedy Blue notes, many couples are embracing thrifted decor, borrowed treasures and hands-on creativity as part of their wedding planning. By blending professional expertise with meaningful personal touches, couples can create a beautiful celebration that reflects their values, respects their budget and tells their unique story.

In the end, the most memorable weddings aren't defined by how much was spent. They're remembered for the love, hospitality and shared moments that everyone carries home.

Let's Talk Dress Code

A wedding invitation does more than announce a date and location. It offers guests a glimpse of the celebration to come.

According to bridal retailer Kennedy Blue, more couples are replacing simple dress codes like “formal” or “casual” with creative themes that reflect the personality of their wedding.

Whether it's “coastal cocktail,” “fairytale forest” or “black tie with a twist,” these imaginative dress codes help establish the atmosphere before guests even arrive. They can encourage everyone to become part of the celebration rather than simply attend it.

SET THE TONE

A themed dress code can tie together every aspect of a wedding, from the decor and flowers to the venue and photography.

For example, a winter wedding might invite guests to wear jewel tones, rich velvets or elegant metallic accents. A fantasy celebration could encourage tunics and princess gowns, while an Art Deco reception might inspire vintage glamour.

The key is to offer inspiration rather than strict rules. Guests appreciate knowing the overall style of the event, especially when the theme is unusual or highly



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personalized.

Providing a few examples on the wedding website can help everyone understand the vision while reducing uncertainty.

ENCOURAGE, DON'T REQUIRE

The best themed dress codes make participation fun, not stressful.

If your wedding has a literary, fantasy or holiday theme, consider inviting guests to embrace it if they wish while making it clear that traditional

wedding attire is equally welcome. This approach allows enthusiastic guests to enjoy dressing up while ensuring that others feel comfortable attending in clothing they already own.

Remember that guests have different budgets, comfort levels and accessibility needs. A welcoming dress code leaves room for everyone to celebrate without feeling pressured to purchase a new outfit or costume.

The goal is for guests to feel

included, not evaluated.

CELEBRATE PERSONALITY

One reason themed dress codes have become so popular is that they reflect today's more personalized weddings. Couples are increasingly choosing celebrations that tell their own story rather than following a traditional formula.

Whether inspired by a favorite season, travel destination, hobby or shared interest, a thoughtfully chosen dress

theme invites guests to become part of that story in a memorable way.

As Kennedy Blue notes, creative dress codes help build excitement while creating beautiful, cohesive photographs. Most importantly, they remind everyone that weddings are celebrations of love and community. When guests feel comfortable, welcomed and free to express themselves, they help create the joyful atmosphere every couple hopes to share on their wedding day.

Maximize Guest Comfort

Winter weddings naturally invite a sense of warmth and hospitality.

While beautiful decor and elegant attire remain desirable, many couples place just as much emphasis on guest comfort. According to wedding venue and planning resource The Springs, one of the biggest trends for 2026 is creating cozy experiences through warming stations and practical wedding favors that guests can enjoy during the celebration and long after it's over.

These thoughtful details do more than complement the season. They help create an atmosphere where everyone feels welcomed, relaxed and cared for.

CREATE A COZY CORNER

If part of your wedding takes place outdoors or in a drafty venue, consider setting aside a warming station where guests can take a break from the cold.

A basket of soft blankets encourages guests to linger during an outdoor ceremony or while visiting around a fire pit. Disposable hand warmers are inexpensive and easy to distribute, especially for evening events.

Complete the space with comfortable seating, soft lighting and seasonal decorations. Lanterns, candles, evergreen branches and pillows in warm



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textures create an inviting retreat where guests can visit between dances or while waiting for photographs.

If children or older adults will be attending, a warming

station can be an especially appreciated addition.

FAVORS THEY'LL ACTUALLY USE

Wedding favors have be-

come increasingly practical, and winter offers plenty of opportunities to send guests home with something they'll enjoy.

The Springs notes that mini

scarves, hot chocolate kits and locally made candles are all popular choices this season. Other thoughtful ideas include artisan tea blends, gourmet coffee, homemade cookie mixes or small jars of locally produced honey.

Presentation can be simple but elegant. Kraft boxes, glass jars, ribbon, custom tags and handwritten notes add personality without requiring elaborate packaging.

Choosing favors from local businesses supports your community while giving guests a meaningful reminder of your wedding day.

SMALL DETAILS, LASTING MEMORIES

The most memorable weddings aren't always the most elaborate. Often, they're the ones where guests felt genuinely welcomed and comfortable.

Think about the little moments that might make someone smile: offering blankets before an outdoor ceremony, providing warm drinks on a chilly evening or sending everyone home with a small gift they'll enjoy the next morning.

These thoughtful touches communicate something simple but powerful: "We're glad you're here."

Whether couples create an elaborate warming lounge or simply offer a basket of blankets and a few cozy favors, these gestures help transform a beautiful wedding into an unforgettable celebration of hospitality.

Vintage Meets Modern Style

Wedding fashion is often a reflection of its time, but in 2026, many couples are finding inspiration by looking to the past.

According to wedding venue and planning resource The Springs, vintage-inspired details are enjoying a resurgence, with white wedding gloves, pearl accents, delicate lace, puff sleeves and structured bodices appearing in many of today's bridal collections.

The look isn't about recreating another era exactly. Instead, designers are blending classic elegance with modern comfort and personal style, creating gowns and accessories that feel both timeless and fresh.

A NOD TO THE PAST

Many of today's trends draw inspiration from weddings of the 1940s through the 1960s, when gloves, heirloom jewelry and refined silhouettes were staples of bridal fashion. Pearls have become especially popular, appearing not only in necklaces and earrings but also embroidered into veils, shoes and even handbags.

Structured bodices and corset-inspired designs offer a romantic silhouette while incorporating modern fabrics and construction techniques that improve comfort and movement. Likewise, dramatic



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puff sleeves and intricate lace details recall vintage gowns without feeling like costumes.

Even accessories are embracing nostalgia. Elbow-length gloves, birdcage veils, satin shoes and vintage-inspired hairpieces add a touch of old-world glamour while allowing brides to personalize their look.

FAMILY HISTORY BECOMES FASHION

The popularity of vintage-inspired weddings has

encouraged many couples to incorporate meaningful family heirlooms into their attire.

Some brides wear a grandmother's pearls, sew lace from a mother's wedding gown into a veil or carry a handkerchief that has been passed down through generations. Others choose to restore a family wedding dress or incorporate portions of it into a newly designed gown.

These personal touches connect generations and create stories that become part of the

wedding day itself. Even couples without family heirlooms can achieve a similar look by shopping vintage boutiques or selecting new pieces inspired by classic designs.

MAKING TRADITION YOUR OWN

Perhaps the biggest reason vintage styles continue to resonate is their versatility. A bride might pair elegant gloves with a sleek, minimalist gown or combine antique-inspired lace with contemporary jewelry.

Others embrace vintage influences throughout the wedding, from classic hairstyles and tailored tuxedos to timeless floral arrangements and historic venues.

The result is a celebration that honors tradition while reflecting the couple's own personality.

Whether couples choose a single pearl necklace or fully embrace vintage elegance, these classic details demonstrate that beautiful style never truly goes out of fashion.

Warm Up the Celebration

There's something special about wrapping your hands around a warm mug on a cold winter evening.

That's one reason interactive coffee, hot cocoa and chai stations have become one of the most popular trends for winter weddings. According to wedding venue and planning resource The Springs, beverage bars offer guests a cozy way to warm up while adding a charming focal point to the reception.

The best part? While many couples hire caterers to create these displays, a beautiful beverage station can also be assembled by family members or friends with a little planning.

START WITH THE BASICS

Begin by deciding which beverages to serve. Freshly brewed coffee and decaf coffee are staples, but many couples also include hot chocolate, hot tea or chai for guests who prefer something different. If possible, use insulated beverage dispensers or coffee urns to keep drinks hot throughout the evening.

Arrange cups, lids and napkins in one area, followed by cream, milk, sugar and sugar substitutes. Placing everything in the order guests will use it helps keep lines moving smoothly.

Next comes the fun part: toppings.



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Mini marshmallows, whipped cream, cinnamon sticks, chocolate curls, peppermint pieces, caramel sauce and flavored syrups allow guests to customize their drinks. Small labels help everyone quickly identify each option.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

A beverage station can also reflect the couple's personality.

Consider naming signature drinks after favorite places, shared hobbies or memorable moments from your relation-

ship. A favorite coffee blend from a first date or a family hot chocolate recipe can make the station feel uniquely yours.

The Springs also notes the growing popularity of personalized mugs or custom stir sticks that double as wedding favors. Unlike many favors that are left behind, these practical keepsakes are likely to be used long after the celebration ends.

Decorative signs, greenery, candles, seasonal flowers and coordinated linens can help the beverage station blend

seamlessly with the rest of the reception decor.

THINK THROUGH THE DETAILS

If you're creating the station yourself, ask one or two trusted friends or relatives to keep an eye on it during the reception. They can refill supplies, wipe up spills and replenish toppings as needed, allowing everyone else to enjoy the celebration.

Estimate enough supplies for every guest to enjoy at least one hot drink, and remember

that winter evenings often inspire second cups, especially if dancing continues late into the night.

Whether guests gather for a cup of coffee while catching up with old friends or enjoy a mug of hot cocoa before heading home, a thoughtfully planned beverage station creates more than refreshments. It creates a welcoming place for conversation, laughter and shared memories, making everyone feel a little warmer on a winter wedding day.