

# 50

TOP

## Tips & Trends 2008

### Janet Dunnington Destination Weddings and Events

[www.janetdunnington.com](http://www.janetdunnington.com)

**1** Orange is hot this year in shades of mango, tangerine, burnt orange. Create this color palette using linen in pintuck, taffeta or bengaline fabric. Accent colors of brown, green and orange can be used in floral, menus and seating cards to complete a chic look.

**2** Couples today are creating “logos” as their brand on everything from save-the-dates, to special “gobo” lighting that reflects off the ceiling or floor.

**3** Your budget starts with your guest list. Therefore, create a budget first - come up with a guest list that supports that and allows you to host a party that your guests won't forget!

### Temporarily Yours, Inc.

[www.temporarilyyoursinc.com](http://www.temporarilyyoursinc.com)

**4** Elegance is in the eye of the beholder, be it simple or extravagant. Incorporating your personality and style will leave a lasting impression.

**5** Before you select a venue, create a preliminary guest list. Be sure the venue you reserve has room to accommodate everyone. Don't let the groom choose a venue without consulting his bride!

### The Event Diva

[www.theeventdiva.com](http://www.theeventdiva.com)

**6** People admire chair covers the way they might admire a beautiful Chanel dress. Think of your chairs as an evening gown and splash them with color and motif. Just test the color palette and be open to the possibilities.

**7** Take your inspiration from the red carpet. Incorporating celebrity themes can redo the look and feel of your venue in a flash.

### Unique Weddings By Alexis

[www.weddingsbyalexis.com](http://www.weddingsbyalexis.com)

**8** Thursday weddings are more intimate, for the couples who want to spend more time with family and friends. Sunday morning weddings feature mimosas and brunch instead of the formal cocktail hour.

**9** Couples are still creating signature drinks for their weddings. I have a client incorporating the “Dizzy Lizzy” as a pale pink signature cocktail based on her color palette of pink, cream and chocolate!

### Traci Romano Events

[www.traciromano.com](http://www.traciromano.com)

**10** An ever-expanding trend in the honeymoon market is the concept of a “mini-moon”. Couples are opting to take a quick two or three night romantic escape.

**11** May I have some shaved chocolate in my coffee? Coffee bars are huge this year. Add decadent toppings and watch your guests enjoy.

### Couture Events & Designs

[www.couture-designs.com](http://www.couture-designs.com)

**12** A candy buffet is an added bonus for your guests. Use as a favor or just an extra treat. Create your own penny candy shop or customize candy to match your wedding colors – Everyone Loves Sweets!

### The Perfect Plan

[www.theperfect-plan.com](http://www.theperfect-plan.com)

**13** I recommend to my clients who need guest lodging rent a private home as a more feasible option for the wedding party and other guests. It often provides a location to host a rehearsal dinner the night before. They are really getting more bang for their buck!

### Rentals Unlimited

[www.rentals-unlimited.net](http://www.rentals-unlimited.net)

**14** Odd shape and size tables – we're seeing a lot of square tables, double wide banquets and mixed sizes.

**15** Charger plates complete a look for the tabletop, however the trend for “small plates” or “tapas” style entertaining is changing the traditional place setting.

The Best “Tips & Trends” for Right Now! Ideas for every aspect of your wedding planning from our poll of top wedding industry professionals.

### A Thyme To Cook, Inc.

[www.athymetocook.com](http://www.athymetocook.com)

**16** Comfort foods are still big – tiny hamburgers, reuben sandwiches, “grown-up” grilled sandwiches, and macaroni and cheese cups.

**17** Always try to use foods that are seasonal and indigenous, i.e. increased emphasis on local area ingredients and concern for being “green”.

**18** Unusual vehicles for hors d'oeuvres/ serviceware/presentation – use of forks, porcelain spoons, chopsticks, tiny boxes, small plates, martini glasses for salads.

### Glorious Affairs

[www.gloriousaffairs.net](http://www.gloriousaffairs.net)

**19** We are seeing more clients concern for the organic foods. Everyone has thoughts of “going green” on their minds and since we customize our menus – we are able to fulfill their wishes.

**20** For the past few years we've seen a trend to go back to the traditional sit down dinner versus food stations... more formality than casual ambiance.

### Dana Bartone

[www.danabartone.com](http://www.danabartone.com)

**21** In preparation for your big day, be sure to take care of what people will see the most – your radiant face and beautiful hairstyle. Moisturize hair and skin daily and reduce your exposure to the sun.

### Simply Devine Catering

[www.simplydevinecatering.com](http://www.simplydevinecatering.com)

**22** We are seeing more clients incorporate family traditions, ethnic foods, and regional cuisine into their menus. For example; southern Cajun foods, sweet teas or New England clam chowder.

**23** We find that there are 50% formal sit down dinners, and 50% food stations for receptions. One thing we are doing now is to create a more formal feel for food stations by serving a plated salad as a first course.

### Jessica's Country Flowers

[www.jesscountryflowers.com](http://www.jesscountryflowers.com)

**24** Lately we find ourselves designing beautiful bouquets filled with a variety of flowers, even seed pods or berries. Extra details added- crystal brooches or fabric.

**25** Simple glass vases filled with one type of bloom lend an elegant feel to the floral décor. Lush roses, hydrangea, tulips, with variegated banana leaves tucked around the stems, or a textured ribbon wrapped around the vase.





PHOTO CREDITS: (FROM TOP LEFT): ADELIN & GRACE WEDDINGS, ADRIENNE LABONTE, AND UNIQUE WEDDINGS BY ALEXIS

### Blooms Floral Artistry

[www.bloomsfloralartistry.com](http://www.bloomsfloralartistry.com)

**26** Rather than giving your bridesmaids the colorful bouquet and having white or ivory for yourself, why not do the reverse? Colorful flowers against a white or ivory dress is unexpected and looks spectacular in photographs!

**27** Brides are using non-floral centerpiece items more and more — citrus fruits, coffee beans, seashells, ribbon and crystals.

### Hana Floral Design

[www.hanafloraldesign.com](http://www.hanafloraldesign.com)

**28** I see more brides who are interested in texture. Bouquets have components such as wheat, oats and grasses. Greens are important and they can create an amazing impact.

**29** Floral budgets should be at least 10% to 15% of your budget. Consider spending more on bouquets than individual centerpieces — bouquets will be in the majority of your photos.

### The White Dress By The Shore

[www.thewhitedressbytheshore.com](http://www.thewhitedressbytheshore.com)

**30** Modern Trousseau, a CT based bridal designer offered at The White Dress by the Shore, sews the brides name in light blue thread into every gown that they produce. This signature element acts as the bride's 'something blue'.

**31** The trend is shifting from strapless. We have seen v-necklines and off the shoulder gowns emerge as popular silhouettes.

**32** For brides that have a loved one that cannot be at the wedding, Charming Expression.com sells sterling silver photo charms that can be affixed onto the bride's bouquet or even sewn into the inside of the gown so that the bride feels the presence of their loved one with them all day.

### Rockstar Limo

[www.rockstarlimo.net](http://www.rockstarlimo.net)

**33** Party buses are becoming the rage for weddings these days, allowing the entire wedding party to be transported together, and get the reception off to a great start!

**34** Black stretch limos are back in popularity. Brides like the "classy" look that black projects, and they photograph beautifully.

### Signed Sealed & Delivered, LLC

[www.ssdinvitations.com](http://www.ssdinvitations.com)

**35** The USPS now measures invitations by not only weight, but also envelope dimension and thickness. Keep the design simple and elegant and incorporate bulky embellishments into your table paper and programs as these items do not require shipping.

**36** Even if your wedding colors are pink and chocolate, you can still go GREEN! Using recycled paper and soy-based inks to incorporate an environmentally friendly aspect of your wedding will impress your guests.

### Double Happiness Creations, Inc.

[www.doublehappinesscreations.com](http://www.doublehappinesscreations.com)

**37** If your printing budget only allows you to print in one color, add another color via your envelopes! Choosing envelopes besides the normal white or eggshell will make your invitation stand out against all the regular mail that your guests receive.

**38** Personalizing each invitation with your guest name on a bellyband or tag has been a frequent request from my clients.

### Wedding Make-Up By Michelle

[www.weddingmakeupbymichelle.com](http://www.weddingmakeupbymichelle.com)

**39** Choose a classic, elegant style. Think of Grace Kelly, Princess Diana, or Jackie Onassis. You look back at timeless elegance, not at the time. Switch to waterproof formulas for make-up to give it lasting power.

### GENERATIONS videostories

[www.generationsvideostories.com](http://www.generationsvideostories.com)

**40** Real sound including conversations and on-camera stories has started to replace all-music soundtracks in wedding cinematography. Make sure your videographers have quality on-camera mics that record most of the day. Weddings filmed with several cameras (3-4) allow your videographers to be in several places at once.

### BKB Photography

[www.bkbphoto.com](http://www.bkbphoto.com)

**41** Doing formal photographs ahead of time eliminates the need to miss your cocktail hour. Having your photos done early in the day while your make-up and hair are fresh will give your photos the best results.

### James Hazelwood Photography

[www.jameshazelwood.com](http://www.jameshazelwood.com)

**42** The new hot trend I am seeing is photo guest books — which include photographs from the engagement session. Jones Book out of Oregon makes beautiful ones that we use.

### Adrienne LaBonte Photography

[www.adriennelabonte.net](http://www.adriennelabonte.net)

**43** What reflects your personal style? Imagination is showing up more and more in photo sessions — think whimsical!

### Daniel Doke Photography

[www.dandoke.com](http://www.dandoke.com)

**44** Consider seeing each other and getting your formal pictures out of the way before the ceremony. To make it special, set aside fifteen minutes for what we call "quiet time".

### Grazier Photography

[www.grazierphotography.com](http://www.grazierphotography.com)

**45** TRASH THE DRESS! One of our favorite new trends in photography is the "Trash The Dress" session... it's not really accurate to say we trash the dress, as it just gets a little dirty and sometimes wet. We take the bride to a beach or other fun spot and we really get creative with locations and posing. Always fun, and a great addition to the wedding album!

### Picture Everything KristinStudio

[www.pictureeverything.com](http://www.pictureeverything.com)

**46** Personality! Capture the real you with your photographer by telling them a little bit about where you met, or things you like doing as a couple. For instance, a recent couple of mine had a hot dog eating contest on their first date — we found a hot dog stand for their engagement session and they had a blast stuffing their faces!

### Landwehrle Photography

[www.lphoto.com](http://www.lphoto.com)

**47** A trend I am seeing is fun post wedding casual parties or bonfires. Most of the wedding guests are in for the weekend, so after the wedding, people are going back to the room, changing and getting together around a bonfire, or late night barbecue!

### Rich Pomerantz Photography

[www.richportraits.com](http://www.richportraits.com)

**48** Photojournalism, fine art, lifestyle, traditional, editorial, documentary—what is the visually discerning bride to do with so many words used to describe wedding photography? The best way to tell whether a photographer can create images to suit your tastes and style is to take a good hard look at lots of their images!

### Siman Entertainment

[www.simanentertainment.com](http://www.simanentertainment.com)

**49** Current trends are reflected in smaller bands — five to seven pieces — that are in touch with the music and fashion today. Horn sections and tuxedo's aren't as important as are having a great modern groove, high energy and that intangible "edge".

### Dr. Matrullo & Associates

[www.rismile.com](http://www.rismile.com)

**50** Updating existing crowns from dull, dark metal to natural porcelain crowns and in two short visits you can change the shape, color and length of your teeth with porcelain veneers. If your smile looks good, you look good!