

CAKE

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the favorite flavors of the couple — but make sure you talk about with your baker to see what they offer.

The cupcakes can also be decorated to match the theme of the wedding. With cupcakes, Glanzmann said, there are a lot of different liner colors to match your color scheme.

Now some people might say “what about the cake cutting part of the reception?” Some bakers and pro-cake people will say that one of the most memorable parts of the reception is the cake cutting.

Glanzmann said that often times couples who go with cupcakes will also order a smaller cake — that can sit atop a cupcake display — and use that for the traditional cake cutting and pictures.

One of the biggest topics of debate is the cost. Glanzmann says that depending on the baker you choose, the difference in cost may not be much different.

When the cupcake trend started years ago, it was touted as being a great way to save money on your wedding. But many bakers have since caught on and now the cost is not much different depending on how many cupcakes you order and how elaborate you want them decorated. It's best to talk with your baker.

When it comes to decorating a wedding cake you have to take into consideration you are paying for a topper, flowers, ribbon, stands — and some bakers do have a small charge for the tier support system.

“The cost of a large cake does add up. Especially if you want sugar flowers or detailed piping work,” Glanzmann said.

“Cupakes are time consuming to make, they are just a little more simple.”

As for wedding cakes, Glanzmann said it really depends on the couple, but she has seen brides leaning towards the more modern look. She adds that some are going with a monochromatic look



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SUGAR MOMMA'S CUSTOM CAKERY

with maybe one large flower.

“We see a lot more geometrical dots,” she said.

The traditional fountains, lace, pillars and fancy piping are not so hot anymore — but again it depends on the couple and if they want to stick with the traditional — like if they are having a very formal wedding.

If the bride can't decide between a cake and cupcakes the solution can be easy — get both. Glanzmann said some brides have decided to go with a smaller tired

traditional wedding cake and also have the cupcakes.

Really the decision between cake or cupcakes rests with the couple. There are valid points to both. The best thing to do is talk with the bakers you are considering — see what they can do for you.

Unique Reception Touches

Over the course of their lifetimes, many people will be wedding guests on several occasions. During the height of wedding season, weddings can run into one another, as the format and the festivities are similar at various ceremonies. Couples interested in setting their nuptials apart may want to enhance the wedding reception with a few unique ideas.

Who hasn't attended a wedding that seems formulaic? The couple enters, they do their spotlight dance, there's food, a bouquet toss and then the cake cutting. Guests may actually be able to predict what's coming next. While it is often customary and easy to follow tradition, that doesn't mean you cannot buck with tradition and offer a few creative ideas to make your event stand out.

Here are several ideas you can introduce into your wedding to add something special to the reception.

- Skip the big entrance. Those who were kind enough to attend the ceremony have already been introduced to the newly minted happy couple. Instead of spending the cocktail hour in the isolation of the wedding suite, mingle with your guests from start to finish. So much time is spent posing for pictures or being out of touch with guests, the cocktail hour can be a great time to sit and chat. Being with guests during the cocktail hour means you don't have to make that big entrance from behind closed doors. Guests will have all eyes on you when you step on the dance floor for your first dance together.

- Dance to an upbeat number. Guests are expecting a slow, sappy tune. What they may not expect is an upbeat song that shows you are willing to have a little fun. If you haven't mastered the waltz but enjoy a little quick step now and again, feel free to choose a tune that shows your excitement and love for each other.

- Encourage couples to dance together. It's often customary for the bridal party to join the bride and groom on the dance floor midway through the first dance. However, that leaves spouses or significant others waiting in the wings while their dates tango with groomsmen or bridesmaids. Instead, don't have assigned partners. Rather, encourage your bridal party members to dance with whomever they choose.

- Swap the garter/bouquet toss for something more meaningful. If you're part of a couple who feels the garter and bouquet toss has become trite, there are other ways to create special moments in your celebration -- ones that don't single out the singletons who haven't yet found their special someone. Use this time to present a small gift or token of your affection to someone on the guest list who has served as a mentor or source of inspiration.

- Choose one special component as an extra goodie for guests. Some couples feel the more they offer the better guests will view their wedding. Spending more money doesn't necessarily mean guests will have a better time. If you want to go above and beyond the ordinary, find one thing that you absolutely love and offer that at the party. It



Use the bouquets of the bridal party as the centerpieces of some of the reception tables as one way to bring something different to your wedding.

could be a flambe presentation, a chocolate or candy bar, a carving station with your all-time favorite food (even if that's PB&J), or a carnival-inspired automatic photo booth.

- Hire a live performer. Although it's hard to beat the performance quality of your wedding song being performed by the original artist, unless you're cousins with Celine Dion, chances are she won't be available to sing "My Heart Will Go On" at your reception. However, a live band adds a certain level of excitement that a disk jockey may not be able to provide. Those who are adding a cultural or ethnic component to their wedding may want to hire a dance troupe or another type of performer, like a bagpiper, as an added measure of entertainment for guests.

- Let them eat ... cookies? Some people just don't like cake. Therefore, why should a couple have to cut a seven-tiered white confection? Towers of different types of treats can be created from just about anything and serve as the perfect backdrop for that classic cake-cutting photo. A pyramid of cream puffs, stacks of brownies, a cookie castle, or cereal-cake concoctions can work. Some bakeries will decorate a "dummy" styrofoam cake, and then you can serve apple pie a la mode, if you desire.

- Stage a costume switch. Let's face it, dancing all night in a long gown takes some stamina. As the bride, have a more comfortable cocktail dress available to switch into for the latter part of the reception. It will also add some variety to your wedding photos.

Origins Of The Term ‘Honeymoon’

It has become tradition for married couples to jet off on a post-wedding vacation.

This honeymoon is a way for the bride and groom to enjoy quiet time together and start off their married life together on an intimate level. Although the word “honeymoon” has happy connotations today, the original meanings of the word may not be so blissful. There are varying accounts of the evolution of the word “honeymoon,” but many

believe it to be a Norse tradition deriving from the word “hjunottsmanathr.”

Northern European history describes women being abducted from their families and forced into marriage with a man from a neighboring village. This husband would take his new bride into hiding and stay there for a while until it was certain the bride's family had given up the hunt and retreated.

It was also tradition for

Scandinavian couples to drink a sweet, honey-infused wine known as mead for a month after getting married. This may be where the “honey,” for the sweet drink, and the “moon,” for the one-month period of time, originated.

Others say “honeymoon” refers to a sarcastic quip that a marriage starts out sweet as honey, but then wanes much as the moon will each cycle.

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