

## A universal language of love

During the early 19th century, the language of love was often spoken through flowers.

True to the marriage vows, sensitive suitors courted their sweethearts with carefully selected flowers that conveyed thoughts like "Love at first sight" (one single red-stemmed rose), "Will you marry me?" or the announcement of a pending marriage, was represented by the combination of one red and one white long-stem rose tied together with ribbon or lace.

Practical and wedding flowers symbolize the beauty of marriage; and the growth of love and devotion between you and your groom. You can make your wedding day extra special by choosing flowers that convey your love to every one around.

American grown roses are the perennial favorite for wedding flowers. They exude joy or a brilliant splash of color, and help to express the beautiful sentiments you hold within.

Each rose color has a translation in "rose language" dating back to Victorian times. Many courtesans began with the gift of a single rose which later led to the gift of becoming a central theme in a couple's wedding plans.

Today, you can personalize your wedding by selecting roses that communicate special feelings to your groom, family members, attendants and close friends.

Matching up the rainbow of rose colors and "definitions" that will express your thoughts is one of the most delightful aspects of wedding planning. To give your thoughts on the right track, the fresh-cut rose growers of the United States and Canada provide these suggestions:

• **For your groom**—Forever-kisses a simple rose means "I love you," making it a most perfect statement. The roses you carry in your bouquet can also send a private message to your groom. Red hybrid tea roses that long "thank you" to special friends, or purple ones for every party attendant.

• **Available in literally dozens of different hues and textures, roses complete the wedding occasion.**

• **Helpful advice from an expert on how to plan a romantic honeymoon.**

Barbara Brass, the editor and publisher of *Romantic Honeymoon*, a monthly newsletter reviewing these special little adventures, offers a fine selection of spots where newlyweds can enjoy the kind of time together about which lovers dream and fantasize, offers some fun for planning that special special of trip... the honeymoon.

• **Talk honeymoons with your partner** about what your dream of the "perfect honeymoon" is. Don't set yourself up for disappointment by assuming your partner's dream is the same as yours.

• **Make sure the destination** is one that encourages privacy and provides all the services you expect.

• **Do your homework!** Researching a romantic honeymoon honeymoon can be great fun. Read periodicals and guides published by accredited travel writers. You can receive a year's subscription to



A PERSONAL FAVORITE for wedding flowers. American grown roses symbolize the loving sentiments of the wedding day.

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## Advice for catering your wedding

Few people can afford to hire from the list of the top 25 food experts in the country when planning catering for a wedding. But fortunately, advice columnist members of our list offer unique suggestions for readers' weddings.

• **Some of their delectable and diverse tips can be found below in this concise sampling of ideas.**

• **Stephen Lisowski, partner, Creative Gourmet in Boston, Mass.** "The best parties—whether intimate or very large—involve a lot of good interaction. That's why I like to do food stations—small tables or stands set up around the room that feature an array of dishes—which encourage guests to mingle.

• **Food stations also provide entertainment.** Chiefs cutting and arranging meats, cooking crepes, toasting pastas, salads. Try new foods to inspire!

• **When hiring a caterer:** "Remember: Never sign a contract for a menu that you haven't first tasted."

• **Frise Kramer, executive chef, The Beverly Hotel, in New York, N.Y.** "In the New York area, wedding cake is almost always accompanied by dessert. Use imagination!

• **Consider a raspberry and passion fruit souffle garnished with fresh raspberries and mint, and served with an orange sauce or something simpler. Like**

pastry shells filled with homemade ice cream."

• **Gregory Luby, owner, Cafe des Artistes in New York, N.Y.** "Don't serve 'finger foods'—like mini loafs that will crumble that might add an unwanted design to a guest's dress."

• **Alfred Hickey, executive chef, The Manor in West Chester, N.J.** "Simple is best. Don't worry about being gourmet. After all, very complicated dishes often require guests to stand in long lines to get to the food, instead of you, the party. Food should enhance your celebration, not distract from it."

• **John F. Wilson, executive chef, The Albany in Albany, Ga.** "My strongest advice is to work with a reputable place, career Chef employees."

• **Paul Pralognan, chef and owner, La Pin's Louisiana Kitchen, in New Orleans, La.** "Big, traditional family parties are still planned in the south. The white, tiered cake is ever popular—perhaps topped with big sugarberries when in season."

• **Around here:** guests often bring dishes to the reception. Don't let us discourage! Deep-dish turkey filled with spices, Blackened Fish, Cuban. Guests like to try some spicy food; it's exciting."

• **Be nice, forever chef, owner's of Houston in Houston, Tex.** "Today,

people are more imaginative when it comes to their wedding cakes. Consider a raspberry cake with moose filling, a cream cheese mousse cake garnished with fresh strawberries."

• **Kelly Mills, executive chef, The Four Seasons City Hotel, in San Francisco, Calif.** "For cocktail receptions, choose finger foods that are bite-sized, not messy. Consider creative loaves stuffed with goat cheese, brisole toasts with the grill. Keep in mind that food is the fashion and art—always changing, always evolving!"

## Romantic folklore that continues to delight

Superstition and folklore have long been associated with love and romance. In ancient times, charms, magic potions and other supernatural or magical forces frequently were employed as a way of trying to control one's destiny—especially in matters of the heart.

• **Love Potions.** A Book of Charms and Ancient Celtic Hymns, published by Robert Appleton and illustrated by Hans Winkler, refers to the reader a variety of ancient love potions, incantations and beliefs in a way that is as once

whimsical and informative. Five incenses, according to Addison, a dove, the symbol of peace and gentleness, was often given to the bride as a wedding gift, with the promise of a happy life. However, it was considered very unlucky if the dove had put money for the bride, so something else was usually offered in exchange for this.

It was also thought, explains Addison, that if the bride did not cut her wedding cake that the world would be chaotic.



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## Helping Make YOUR Day Special



Wedding Cakes that are so good to eat