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Melissa Bradley Diskin

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About this blog

Our Local Scout serves up your daily dose of wedding trends and planning tips from Atlanta.

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JUNE 11, 2008

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Peachtree Weddings and Events



Courtesy of Big Day Photography

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JUNE 10, 2008

PERMALINK EMAIL

Inexpensive chic: monogrammed wine bag and stopper



Courtesy of Vivid Boutique

One of my favorite boutiques for gifts and just browsing (for myself, if truth be told) is Vivid, on the Decatur square (next to Starbucks). On a recent jaunt, I found a couple of items that put together make a sweet off-registry gift: monogrammed wine accoutrements for only \$20 for the pair.

The wine bags feature monogrammed letters on oat-colored linen—take your pick of an ivory feminine script or a more masculine chocolate block initial. The bags are only \$8—a steal that fancies up just about anything (they're easily used to house more than just bottles - they could even protect lingerie on a honeymoon). Next up: wine stoppers, also monogrammed, for only \$12. Pair the two and add a special bottle of wine for a great wedding gift, or dress up a more ordinary bottle for several welcome baskets.

I love small ideas that make great gifts, and if you're paying entirely too much these days for gas and groceries, pairing up these chic items can keep you within budget, with elegance to spare.

Vivid Boutique: 133 East Court Square Decatur, GA 30030

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category: Favors & Gifts

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Wedding Reception Sites

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Glendalough Manor
Hazlehurst House

Wedding Photographers

- White Rose Studios
Cohen Photographic Art
Solstice Images

Wedding Videography

- Bob Franklin Films

Wedding Music & Entertainment (DJ's, Bands, Entertainment)

- Deanna Jones Orchestra
Axtell Productions Intl / MOXIE Band
Atlanta's Uptown Entertainment

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Wedding Rings & Jewelers

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The Silver Platter

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BeauMonde
Perfect Petals

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- Le Belle Weddings
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JUNE 9, 2008

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Sean Randall Photography



Courtesy of Sean Randall

I love this wedding pic by photographer [Sean Randall](#) (not least because it's at the Old Decatur Courthouse, where I got married).

Sean is a full-service photographer, not stopping until you get your final wedding album. Traditional enough to still shoot on film and personally hand print all black and white enlargement, but with modern influences, including fashion, photojournalism, "band CD cover" and more, Sean also makes sure to help you find out which of these styles suits you as a couple.

Another cool option Sean offers is a photo booth for unique shots of guests (and you)—how fun to send extra prints of these to guests in a thank-you note! And Sean isn't above helping out with things like bustling your dress or moving chairs—or even "playing the bad guy so the bride doesn't have to." (He's British, so this is all done in an accent that somehow makes it all nice.) Peace of mind, fun photography—a winning combination. Check out Sean's blog at <http://www.seanrandallphotography.blogspot.com/>.

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JUNE 6, 2008

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Save the Date event at Paisley Umbrella



Courtesy of Paisley Umbrella

[Paisley Umbrella](#) is hosting a "Save the Date" event on Thursday, June 26 from 6-9pm in Buckhead. Sign up now!

Haven't made it to the 'Brella yet? Here's what you can expect: a fab party with benefits, like closeup views of all the Paisley folks' fine, fine wares and works: Olive, Ashley Baber Weddings, Christine Gallagher Photography, Flower Bar, AC Lynn handbags, Sweet Pockets, B and L Hair and Makeup, Bumblebee Press, Nichola bridal jewelry, New Moon Skincare, Ann Roth Shoes, East Coast Entertainment, Bloomingdales and more.

Oh, and the complimentary wine, champagne and cocktail buffet by Gloriosa Events is a nice touch. And if you're one of the first 50 to RSVP, you'll snag a schwag bag, too - I'm still using all the cute fun stuff that came in mine from the last event! Admission is complimentary with RSVP to (404) 274-5432 or www.paisleyumbrella.com.

Paisley Umbrella: 2971 N. Fulton Drive, 30305 (in Buckhead)

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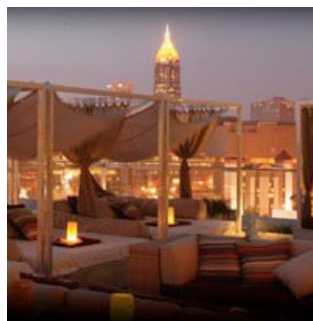
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JUNE 5, 2008

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Bachelor party food: Maxim Prime Steakhouse



Courtesy of Maxim Prime Steakhouse

Here's what's great about [Maxim Prime Steakhouse](#) downtown (in the Glenn Hotel): the food is good, it's part of a great boutique hotel, and it's manly enough to stand in for a bachelor dinner if your guy isn't up for the usual cheesy bachelor party gags.

Don't get me wrong: there are plenty of guy cliches to read "party": sexy waitrons just the other side of underdressed, huge-screen TVs with random images (penguins, anyone?), and a backlit bar, to say nothing of a VIP area in the rooftop lounge. (Frankly, all it needs is to be called "ESPN Maxim Prime" to mean nothing less than a Manly-Man Place.)

But the food is good! I gorged on wild salmon with crab dumplings, truffled fries, and some great summery desserts. There's a flatiron steak and hearty stuff on the menu, too, but it was nice to see a great fish dish and some tasty salads on the bill of fare. At any rate, it's good eats, for either your guy and his pals, or as a

place for Midtown wedding guests to congregate. And if you're feeling Very Important, you can

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rent out the gated lounge area starting at a mere \$250. Who says you can't put a price on cool?

Maxim Prime: 110 Marietta St NW, 30303, 404-469-0700

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Get organized with a CEO bag!



Courtesy of CEO Bags

I'm always on the lookout for tools to keep myself orderly and organized. Wish I'd had this to help me plan my own wedding: the [CEO Wedding Bag](#). By the way, that's C for Chic, E for Elegant, and O for organized!

Think of it as your take-with personal planner, but for your wedding. It's a briefcase of sorts, with room for all your notes, cards, lists, phone numbers, and contracts. You unzip the bag (which conveniently lays completely flat) and voila—your own instant workspace. There's a tool section for pens, highlighters, stapler and more, along with an accordion file and binders with dividers and customizable tabs. There's also a notepad, a business card holder, and holders for CDs and DVDs! And you can fit your laptop into a sleeved compartment, too.

Check out the ladylike styling of the case—I like the orange canvas one with brown croc trim. Prices range from \$189-\$229 depending on style. It sounds a bit expensive for a bag for your wedding planning, but when you figure in how easy it is to lose receipts, you may actually save

money just by having all your wedding info in one organized place, easily transported to your planning meetings, tastings, and site tours.

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Gorgeous photography from LaCour



Courtesy of LaCour

Photography is so personal that it's rare to see a team of more than, say, one husband and wife. But [LaCour](#) is comprised of not one but two couples, all of them photojournalists who have worked for newspapers and magazines all over the world. And as photog Rachel LaCour Niesen explains, that training makes them sensitive to "photos that are found rather than choreographed."

This wonderful team has had photos appear in the *London Times*, *The New York Times*, and all over the world, from Cape Canaveral to Capetown. Their goal: to capture tender moments that happen naturally. As Andrew Niesen puts it, "If one of our clients looks at a photograph and has any memory of me, then I have compromised the authenticity of the moment. Our greatest success is when photographs trigger the viewer's memory and enable them to pass their memories on to future generations."

The Niesens work with photographers Erin Reed Adams and her husband, Mark Adams. It's good karma when your wedding is covered by photographers in loving marriages themselves! But their focus is on you and your wedding, and their unobtrusive, professional manner of work enables your photos to transcend the literal record of an event, and instead elicit an

emotional response to each moment as it's recorded and remembered. Their site says it all, so go and be wowed.

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JUNE 2, 2008

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Special desserts: local tres leches cakes



Tipsy cake layers— so 5 years ago! What you may want to try for a special cake this year is my personal favorite: tres leches cake. It's not exactly wedding cake material since it's a single-layer cake, but it works great for rehearsal dinners or parties. Here are two



Courtesy of AJC

great restaurants whose Tres Leches are very different and incredibly tasty. Just remember to order a few days in advance.

I'm serious about these cakes. I. Love. Them. And so far I've seen two fab incarnations, both OTP. First, at the Taqueria Los Hermanos in Tucker—it's in a strip mall next to the Publix on Hugh Howell. Nothing fancy, but the food is good and the cakes are luscious: light, moist, and covered with whipped cream and topped

with glazed fruit. This is the cake I always get for my birthday. And we always get a cake for 40 people and eat it all that night. I have a large extended family, but still: this cake makes absolute gluttons of even hardcore dieters.

Next up is another tres leches cake I tasted last week at [Toni's Casa Napoli](#) in Dunwoody. (It's also a neighborhood restaurant, in a strip mall, on Mt Vernon Rd.) The restaurant is Italian and lovely (I'll talk more about it later), and this cake comes by way of the owners' combined Italian-Colombian heritage. It's moist and gorgeously simple, but has a subtle caramel flavor. Incredibly delicious, too—as I started to gobble my husband gave me the hairy eyeball and told me to "leave something for Miss Manners." I managed to leave one tiny bite on the plate, but I'm still grumpy about it. Cake that good shouldn't be left for anyone, I tell you!

Toni's Casa Napoli: 2486 Mount Vernon Rd, Dunwoody, 30338, 770-394-9359

Taqueria Los Hermanos: 4418 Hugh Howell Rd, Tucker, 30084, 678-937-0660

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MAY 30, 2008

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Shaun's patio for receptions and special dinners



Courtesy of Shaun's

I've long been a fan of Shaun Doty's, and if you haven't trekked into Inman Park to his eponymous resto [Shaun's](#), you're missing a prime party spot that's perfect for a hip reception, rehearsal dinner, or even a wedding-weekend after party.

The restaurant itself is sage and ivory, a great backdrop for any wedding theme, but the patio is a little bit of heaven under the stars—it's private, a tad rugged, and not the least bit precious considering Doty's status as our city's (dare we say it) sexiest chef. [Note to bridesmaids and single guests: I believe Chef Doty is married to his work.]

What we love: you can choose from a tiered menu of fabulous, seasonal food, ranging from \$35 to \$65 per-person, with lower prices for buffet-style eats and higher prices for a seated, three-course dinner. Rental of the patio or even the entire restaurant works best for smaller weddings - you can seat about 50 people on the patio or have a standing reception for double the number. (And yes, I just may crash your wedding.)

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MAY 29, 2008

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Angel Sanchez Trunk Show at Kelly's Closet!



Thinking of something a little naughty and nice for your wedding gown? Zip over to [Kelly's Closet](#) to catch a rare glimpse of designs by Angel Sanchez up close.

Angel Sanchez designed the wedding dresses of both Sandra Bullock and Eva Longoria, so channel that "girl next door" vibe and mix it up with "red carpet screen siren" for your own bridal bash. (Remember, [Kelly's Closet](#) is the go-to boutique in town for dresses that have that *je ne sais quoi* factor. Think: indie bride, tasteful, elegant, and oh-so-cool.)

The deets: Friday's trunk show is by appointment, so call Kelly's at 404-377-9923 and get yourself set up. There's a cocktail reception later that night from 6-8pm, and you can catch the dress mania again on Saturday from 10am-6pm. The key words here are Two. Days. Only.

Angel Sanchez Trunk Show: Kelly's Closet, 1649 McLendon Ave., Candler Park

Courtesy of Angel Sanchez

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