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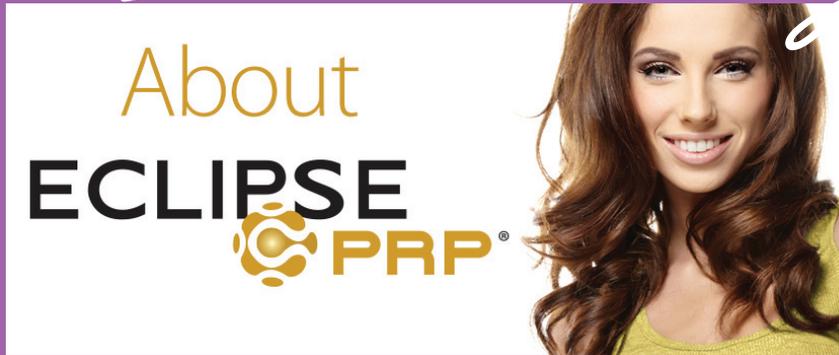
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## 2018 Prescott Bridal Affaire Expo *Poised for Splendor*

By **MAX EFREIN** - *The Daily Courier*

**W**hether you're getting married or just toying with the idea, you may wish to save the date for the 2018 Prescott Bridal Affaire Expo.

The annual event is set to take place on Sunday, March 4, at the Hassayampa Inn, 122 E. Gurley St. (corner of Gurley and Marina streets), in downtown Prescott. Parking and admission is free.

Filled with fun and excitement, raffle drawings every 30-minutes and a grand prize worth thousands of dollars, the Prescott Bridal Affaire Expo is considered the largest expo of its kind in the quad-city area, said Hazel Bowman, publisher of PrescottWeddings.com and host of the event.



Bowman started the Prescott Bridal Affaire Expo in 2005 and has diligently kept it going these 13 years.

"I must confess, it's a lot of fun, and a lot of work," Bowman said.

To help run the event, Bowman has brought on Tahna Falk, owner of StarStruck Event Planning, to co-present it this year. Falk is a native of Prescott and has been a vendor at the expo the past three years.

"The woman is absolutely awesome," Bowman said. "I'm

delighted to have her professional expertise, her eye for detail and she is a tremendous asset for the Prescott Bridal Affaire Expo."

With about 70 vendors signed up this year – the max amount permitted – just about every inch of the Hassayampa Inn will be overflowing with information on wedding-related goods and services.

"We have ministers, photographers, videographers, florists, rental companies, jewelers, cakes, bakers; you name it, our expo has it," Bowman said.

As in the past, there will be an interactive fashion show with models walking around the venue in wedding wear, and a strolling violinist to keep the event whimsical.

One of the new features to expect this year are pink stickers for engaged couples, Bowman said. This will assist vendors in knowing who to address when speaking to attendees about their products.

There will also be a drone flying around taking photos and video. Those not wishing to be photographed or videoed may request a wristband upon admission that lets the drone operator know who to avoid or crop out during the editing process, Bowman said.

Lastly, for anyone wishing to participate in some pre-expo fun, The Daily Courier has a wedding quiz available on its website and on social media titled "Which Wedding Style Are You?" After answering a series of questions and providing an email address, the Courier will tell quiz takers what celebrity wedding couple they most resemble. A raffle ticket will also be emailed to quiz takers the week of the Prescott Bridal Affaire Expo that they may bring to the event for a chance to win a \$50 gift card.

To find out more about the Prescott Bridal Affaire Expo – including what vendors will be there – visit [PrescottBridalAffaireExpo.com](http://PrescottBridalAffaireExpo.com).

Follow Max Efrein on Twitter @mefrein, email him at [mefrein@prescottaz.com](mailto:mefrein@prescottaz.com) or call him at 928-445-3333 ext. 1105.



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# Top tips for Best Man/Maid of Honor speeches

## *Do's and don'ts*

By MAX EFREIN - *The Daily Courier*



A best man's speech is so important, it is likely to be remembered and discussed (whether negatively or positively) for years after the wedding.

And lately, it's not only the best man who makes a speech at a wedding reception, said Hazel Bowman, publisher and editor of PrescottWeddings.com.

"We're also seeing the maid of honor or matron of honor also give her own toast," Bowman said.

If one is a practiced public speaker, this may be an easy task to accomplish without much planning. For others, forethought may be needed.

Bowman said one her firm rules for such speeches is to keep it PG.

"For myself, I would always take the position: never say anything that your grandparents might not want to hear," she said.

Otherwise, she believes in sticking to the following dos or don'ts, which are also listed on her website:

### **Do...**

Start off by introducing yourself and thanking everyone for attending, as well as the couple's parents if they're hosting the event. Explain your connection to the groom/bride and tell a funny (but tasteful) story or two about your friendship, skipping the inside jokes.

Feel free to share a little bit about the groom/bride, from their fashion sense to their culinary skills or their singing or dancing abilities (or lack thereof).

Talk about what a bright future the bride and groom will have together and wish them well in their new life together.

Some such speeches will also incorporate a little relationship advice – from personal experience or from quotations, song lyrics, poems or passages from spiritual literature.

Practice. You'll feel calmer in giving the toast when you know it well. Make sure it's no longer than 3 to 5 minutes. Go for quality over quantity; even a 1-minute speech can be a winner if it's heartfelt.



Use notecards to remember the key talking points. Stiff cards work better in shaky hands than flimsy sheets of paper. Try not to read your entire toast from the notecards.

Pause if you get a laugh. Wait until it dies down before moving on to your next line.



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## Don't...

Forget to talk about the bride and why she's a perfect match for the groom. Instead, tell a quick story about the first time you met her or how you knew the groom was falling in love with her. Make your words personal, as if they couldn't possibly be used to describe any other bride or any other couple.

Mention ex-girlfriends, former bachelor "stud" status, alcohol or drug use, violence, anything sexist or negative about the wedding or family members.

Forget a conclusion. Instead, raise your glass and ask the other guests to join you. Look directly at the happy couple, say "Here's to (fill in the blank)," and take a sip from your glass.

Have more than one drink before giving your toast. You want to make sure you can enunciate and not slur your words. Plus your judgment on what's funny, or not, won't be impaired.

Rush. Instead, take a deep breath and look around the room before starting your speech. Stand away from the microphone to avoid any screeching noises, so guests aren't backing away from the sound.

Lose confidence if one of your funny jokes misses the mark. You may be the only one who noticed. Just keep going and don't give it a second thought.

Follow Max Efrein on Twitter @mefrein, email him at [mefrein@prescottaz.com](mailto:mefrein@prescottaz.com) or call him at 928-445-3333 ext. 1105.

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## What to do, now that you are engaged

By DOUG COOK - *The Daily Courier*

**I**f your significant other has just popped the question, remember, marriage counselors suggest tying the knot only after you and your future spouse are prepared.

What follows are 11 of Glamour Magazine's 12 do's and don'ts that couples should follow once the ring's on his or her finger.



**Share the news:** Call family members and friends to tell them about your engagement, rather than sending an email, Tweet or Facebook message. Glamour recommends asking your mother, a sister, an aunt or another close family member for help with the announcement, possible at a party or even by budgeting a few hours to make calls.

**Size the rings:** Glamour warns against waiting too long to buy your wedding rings. If they don't fit after you receive them, be sure to get them resized "ASAP... The process can take just a few hours or, at most, a few days."

### **Insure the bride's ring:**

Those with homeowners' or renters' insurance may add a bride's engagement ring to their policies, Glamour reports. The reason? If the ring is lost or stolen, you or your future spouse can get your money back. An official appraisal of the ring may be necessary before adding it to an insurance policy, the magazine adds, "so call [an] insurance broker to see what paperwork is required." It can be cheaper to buy homeowners' or renters' insurance if you don't already have it, and put the ring on your coverage at that time with a broker's help, Glamour adds.

**Set a wedding date, even if only generally:** Even if you and your future spouse haven't planned a specific wedding date, it's best to give friends and relatives an approximate timeframe, such as "late 2019" or "we are leaning toward summer of 2010," to avoid surprises.

**Launch a wedding blog:** After announcing your engagement, Glamour recommends launching a website or a blog to keep friends and family members abreast of wedding plans and updates.



**Daydream:** Generating ideas about how to best carry out the wedding you do or don't want may involve reading wedding magazines and engagement websites or looking at maps for honeymoon plans, among other things. Buy a wedding-planning binder to store "inspirational ideas."

**Schedule nights out together:** Wedding planning often detracts from moments when you and your intended are together as a couple, so celebrate with a dinner or a movie without discussing marriage details. And plan other times, too, when you can relax and enjoy the moment without worrying about wedding plans.

**Get organized:** Glamour recommends using an app on your cellphone and/or using a datebook to keep track of timelines for completing significant "wedding-related tasks."

**Hire a wedding planner:** It can be expensive to hire a wedding planner, so make sure before you do that your wedding budget can bear that cost. According to Glamour, planners complete the most complicated tasks, like "negotiating with bakers and caterers for the best prices, finding the ideal venue, [and] organizing party favors." Wedding planners can help to reduce a



couple's stress before and on the big day and can also save time, particularly important for couples who have a busy work schedule.

**Open a wedding savings account:** Every wedding, no matter the size, costs something. Opening a savings account strictly for wedding costs is one way to prevent charging too much on credit cards. You can open a basic account at a local bank or savings-and-loan and deposit a predetermined amount of money from each of your paychecks into it. Glamour says "higher-interest accounts" are available on websites such as ally.com and etrade.com.

**Ask your parents for their 'ideal' guest lists:** If you can't invite everyone who your parents and in-laws want to see at your wedding, ask them to prepare a list, in descending order, of which guests they would most like to attend the wedding. Although such a guest list is "preliminary," having it on paper will help when the time comes later to decide on a final list, Glamour says.

*Doug Cook is a reporter for The Daily Courier. Follow him on Twitter at @dougout\_dc. Email him at dcook@prescottaz.com or call 928-445-3333, ext. 2039.*

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# How to budget for your wedding

## Know what you're working with

By JASON WHEELER - *The Daily Courier*

**B**udgeting – it's something nobody wants to do, but it's something most of us have to do, including when planning a wedding.

Taking out a loan or using credit cards might seem like a good idea in the moment, yet those can come back to become a burden later. Though many do, some might be set against going into debt for a wedding. The advice below from [www.herecomestheguide.com](http://www.herecomestheguide.com) can help couples decide what they can spend on with a realistic budget whether it's \$100 or \$10,000.

The site encourages beginning the budget process by finding out who is willing and able to cover the costs of the wedding, either in whole or in part. The bride and groom might be paying for it all, or the bride's parents might be, or it could be others. Other family members might want to contribute in some way.

"Try to ascertain how much each party is willing to spend, or what particular aspect of the wedding they'd like to take care of," the site suggests "(For example, maybe Grandma has her heart set on buying you a wedding dress.)"

Next, the site recommends answering a few questions: How much of a wedding and reception can you – or you and your betrothed -- realistically and comfortably afford, based on the expenses you already have?

Based on your monthly income, how much can you reasonably save between now and the wedding? Do either of you have savings you can use for these festivities? And don't forget honeymoon plans, too.

Once those questions are answered and the contributions from others are calculated, an estimated budget is in place, the site states.

Next the website advises considering how many guests

can realistically be invited. Guest-count determines number of invitations to order, number of tables and chairs to rent, size of cake and number of wedding favors, for some examples of expenses.

"The number of guests in attendance will determine not only the size of your venue, but also how much alcohol you'll have to provide," the website states.

The bride and groom should decide on the wedding item that top their priorities, the site reads. That might be rings, venue, delectable dishes and drinks, honeymoon, dress or other. Budget appropriately, based on the priorities that you agree on with your intended.

Keep in mind, however, some costs aren't as apparent as others, the site warns. The wedding cake can be pricey – or homemade – but there could be a fee for cutting it at the venue.

The venue will have an upfront rental fee, but there might also be charges for setting up in advance and breaking down afterwards. Capacity of the venue and the season it is rented are also critical factors in rental cost.

"Obviously a wedding in (a) New York City hotel is going to cost more than one in a public park in Tucson, Arizona. Same goes for hosting your wedding on a Saturday in June versus a Wednesday in March," the site states. "Do your research on the type of wedding you want, be honest as to whether or not it fits into your budget, and adjust your plan accordingly."

When all is said and done, the site suggests doing the math and creating a spreadsheet, assigning a dollar amount to each expense. Share it with others too, so they can help you stay within your budget.

In the best of all possible worlds, your budget will match the cost of your ideal wedding. If not, however, don't worry. You can still live happily ever after with a smaller celebration.

# Is airbrushed makeup the way to go?



**H**air and makeup is an important part of wedding day planning. Brides and grooms want to look their best on their wedding days, when they will no doubt take dozens of photos, if not more. Men may apply some oil-absorbing powder to tone down shine on their skin, but women tend to pull out all the stops when selecting bridal makeup. It's often hiring professional makeup artists to create a signature look.

Airbrush-applied makeup is an option women may want to explore. The wedding resource *The Knot* says that makeup airbrushing is quite popular in the world of movies and modeling and is now becoming more popular among brides-to-be. When applied correctly by a professional, airbrush makeup can have a number of perks.

Understanding airbrush makeup can help brides determine if it's the best choice for them.

Airbrush makeup is comprised of a very thin liquid makeup that is applied with the use of an air gun. This produces a thin, even layer of foundation, often creating a matte finish. Makeup artists can custom-blend shades to get the right match for their customers' skin tones. And because the fine mist of airbrush makeup enables true skin tone to show through, it can appear much more natural.

Many airbrushed formulations are silicone-based, enabling long-lasting wear and water-resistant properties. This is advantageous when hugging and kissing on one's wedding day. Some airbrush makeup can last up to 16 hours.

Some airbrush formulations are water- or alcohol-based. Alcohol-based options can be used to cover tattoos or birthmarks.

Touchups are minimal with airbrush makeup, and the formulations can be layered to cover blemishes. Airbrush makeup also creates a pristine finish for applying other makeup.

Airbrush makeup is compatible with well-moisturized skin and takes to it well, but dry skin may flake, crack and look flat, advises *Essence Designs*.

Brides who end up shedding tears of joy on their wedding days might find that airbrush makeup can streak, which can be difficult to cover up.

Because it requires a certain skillset and equipment, airbrush makeup tends to be more expensive than traditional makeup when done by a professional.

Airbrush makeup can create a flawless look and may be an option for brides to consider. ♦ METRO Creative Connection





# What to know about sending invitations

## Etiquette for wedding invites and save-the-date notices



By SUE TONE - Prescott Valley Tribune

The date is set.  
Let the wedding preparations begin!

To ensure everyone you invite can make it to your big day, wedding invitations should go out six-to-eight weeks in advance.

However, if you know some guests will have difficulty clearing their calendars or will need to make travel arrangements, give them more notice by sending a save-the-date card, whether through social media or by mail.

### Save the date

Customized postcards notifying guests of the date need not be formal or expensive. Send them out six months in advance if the wedding falls during peak travel times, holiday weekends, or involves air travel. This courtesy gesture allows time to book flights, save money and arrange for vacation time.

It is also essential for bridesmaids, groomsmen, family members and anyone who will be an important part of the wedding party.

In the notice, include the couple's names, wedding date and location, and a note that a formal invitation will follow.

Be clear about whether the person invited can bring a guest and whether children are welcome. It is considered bad taste to include wedding registry information with such notices, but if you have a wedding website, you may include a URL to it.

And there's nothing wrong with family and close friends spreading the word about your registry.

### Invitation etiquette

Written invitations sent by post should be mailed roughly two months ahead of the wedding date.

The RSVP envelopes sent with the invitations should include a return address and postage. If the mother of the bride is available and willing to handle RSVPs, her mailing address can be used on the RSVP envelopes. If not, a close friend of the bride might be willing to assume responsibility for this important detail in the wedding plans. In that case, include her (or his) mailing address on the RSVP envelopes. Or the bride can include her own mailing address on the RSVP envelope, and attend to RSVPs herself.

An RSVP date two-to-three weeks prior to the wedding date will

allow the caterer to get a final head count and allow you and your planner to decide on seating arrangements.

But not everyone will respond in a timely manner. In such cases, call laggardly wedding guests to remind them of the RSVP and ask them to mail it.

If the invitation is formal, guests may conclude attire will be formal, too. Make it clear by adding in the lower righthand corner "black tie," "cocktail attire" or "casual."

The full name(s), including appropriate social titles, and address should be neatly handwritten on the envelope.

### What to include

If the bride's parents are hosting the wedding, the invitation begins with their name: "Mr. and Mrs. John Doe request the pleasure of your presence at the marriage of their daughter," and the bride's first name (include her surname only if it is different from the parents').

Include the full name of the groom, the date (including the day of the week), the time, location, and, if a reception follows, it's location.

If both parents are hosting, the groom's parents' names are added, and it becomes "at the marriage of their children," with bride and groom's names.

When parents are not involved, the invitation can be issued in the bride and groom's name: "Jane Smith and John Doe request the honor of your presence at their wedding," etc.

In same sex weddings, the name of the hosting party goes first. When the couple is hosting, usually the names are listed in alphabetical order.

"A lot of younger people order their invitations online," said Tracy Homer, owner of Prescott's French Hen Boutique. "Gift registries are all online, too. Amazon makes it easy."

Prescott has no dedicated stationery store. But several companies -- such as Staples, Office Max and Costco -- provide printing services for invitations and thank-you notes. Some brides like to coordinate invitations with the colors of their wedding party's clothing.

Follow Sue Tone on Twitter @ToneNotes. Reach her at [stone@prescottaz.com](mailto:stone@prescottaz.com) or 928-445-3333, ext. 2043.

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# Bridesmaids have one thing in common... the bride!

By SUE TONE  
The Daily Courier

## How to introduce bridesmaids to each other

If your bridesmaids don't know each other, you might be wondering what you can do before your big day to create a cohesive group of supportive participants in this life-changing moment.

Hopefully, you have time before the big day, maybe at a traditional bridesmaids' luncheon or some other get together, to make introductions.

A bridal shower is an ideal occasion for bridesmaids to meet if they have not previously, especially if one or more of your bridesmaids is from out of town. Another occasion for spending time together could be shopping for their dresses. Sometimes, it's the rehearsal dinner where they meet each other.

But if your bridesmaids are all local, an informal setting such as a small wine and cheese party hosted by a willing bridesmaid can provide the opportunity to convene and connect. Or the bride can take them out for coffee, lunch, cocktails or something else casual, so they can meet and share stories.

You might want to create a group email or Facebook account and ask each of your bridesmaids to write a short introduction and explain how they met you. If possible, post favorite photos of you with each of your bridesmaids. You also might want to ask each of them tell the story behind the photo.

A short questionnaire also can be fun. This gives everyone a reference point in which to start a conversation.

The bride is the star around which her bridesmaid revolve, but be sure to let each bridesmaid know why you asked her to be a part of your wedding and how special she is to you.

Some brides invite their bridesmaids to a wine and craft party or to a local winetasting event. One bride had her bridesmaid get together with a psychic, who did readings for everyone.

Keep in mind that if there are underage bridesmaids, the bridal shower or meet-and-greet activities and beverages may need age-appropriate tweaking.

Even though bridesmaids are all close friends of the bride, there may be some who don't get along with each other. In such cases, delegate duties by giving them different responsibilities and tasks.



Expressing gratitude to your bridesmaids is always appreciated and can also help to soothe any ruffled feathers.

If you feel the need, remind your bridesmaids that they have to play nice during rehearsals and any get-togethers. After the wedding, they never have to see or speak to each other again if they don't want to.

Be sure to provide an itinerary of the planning timeline and the wedding,

so everyone knows where they are supposed to be before, during and after the vows, photographs and reception.

At the wedding and reception, there will be plenty going on, and bridesmaids will be mingling with others, so enjoy your day.

Follow Sue Tone on Twitter @ToneNotes. Reach her at stone@prescottaz.com or 928-445-3333, ext. 2043.

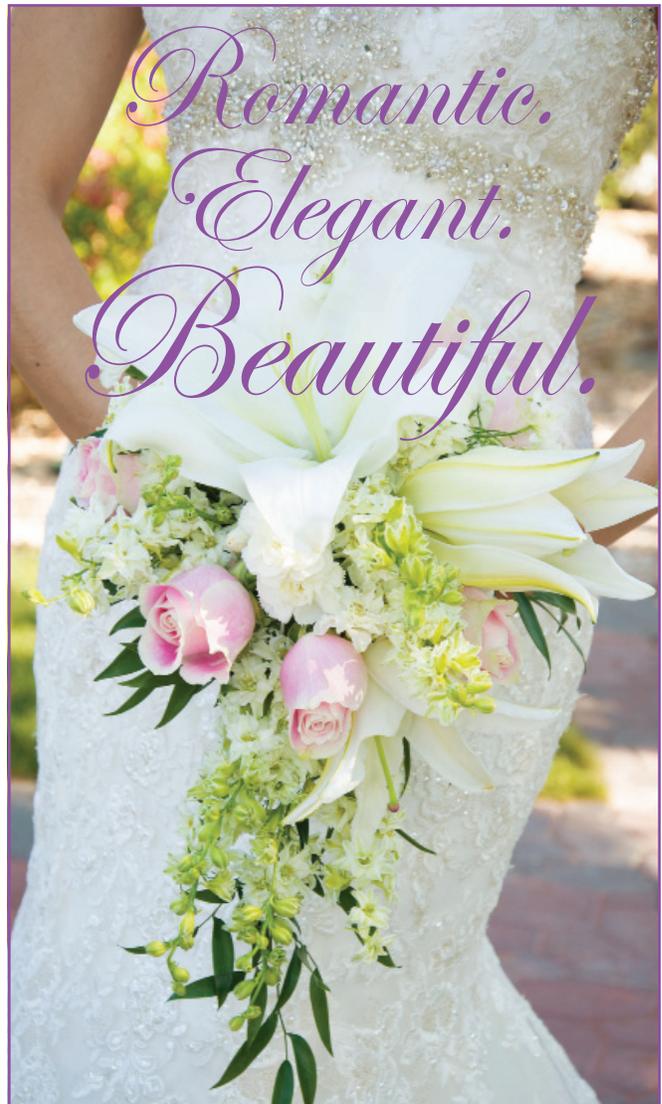


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## Traditional vows still resound, but personalized promises have become more common

By Nanci Hutson - *The Daily Courier*

**W**hen it comes to wedding vows, some couples in recent years are forsaking the tried and true.

According to clergy, wedding planners and wedding social media sites, engaged couples nowadays are likely to prefer that the vows they speak to their betrothed to embody the essence of their personal love and devotion. They want vows that are unique, heartfelt, even humorous.

Some can do it in a few, poetic words; others write a short essay.

With self-crafted wedding vows, the bride and groom might prepare vows never before shared with their beloved, according to some social media sites that focus on weddings. Other couples compose joint vows appropriate for both to recite.

But many personalized vows will mimic, or borrow from, traditional or religious wedding vows.

Dr. Robert Terrell, a pastor for more than 35 years, serving at Prescott Light and Life Free Methodist Church, said he finds that most couples don't want to stray too far from the familiar.

"They may want to add a little flavor, and they don't want King James scripture language, but they want traditional vows," Terrell said. "They want it to be understandable, but with a traditional feel."

### ***Wedding vows tips offered by various social media sites:***

- Articulate one's love: when did they fall in love and how do they envision staying in love.
- How will you tackle challenges in the future
- How do you support each other today, and how will you support one another in all the tomorrows you share.
- Promises of inspiration, devotion and commitment
- Share what you admire most about one another

In 2006, Mary Richards and her soon-to-be husband, Doug, wrote their own vows, combining shared spirituality with conventional promises of devotion in sickness and health. Where they departed from more standard vows was their articulation of a love they discovered later in life: their promises revolved around devotion to being each other's best friend, to laugh and cry together, to be an encouragement to the other as they pursued future life goals. They promised to grow together "in mind and spirit," but they also expressed the traditional commitment to "cherish you for as long as we both shall live."

"I give you all of my trust, all of my tomorrows, all of my life," Richards recited from the last line of their four-sentence, reciprocal vows.

"The whole thing was so emotional," Richards said. "I cried through the whole thing. I was just blubbering away."

Her son from a prior marriage, William, officiated over the informal ceremony held in California, and he, too, wrote his remarks to the bride and groom, rather than reading from prepared text.





Again, Richards said, the goal was to create a once-in-a-lifetime moment with words of devotion that would resound in their lives long after the celebration was over.

“It makes it more meaningful when you speak from the heart,” Richards said, reflecting on how she and Doug worked together to write the words they would recite together on their wedding day. “They’re not just words. These are words you’ve taken time to think about ... how you feel about someone, what you see in your future. It makes it all more intense.”

When a friend asked if she could borrow her vows as a template for her marriage ceremony, Richards said she was honored to share.

“To me, it was all very touching,” said Richards, who was widowed six years ago.

“I still have the (original copy of the) vows, and I still wear my wedding ring.”

*Follow Nanci Hutson on Twitter @HutsonNanci. Reach her at 928-445-3333, ext. 2041.*



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# Prince Harry & Meghan Markle **Celebrity nuptials to watch in 2018**

## *Royal weddings tend to set trends for years to come, says local expert*

By **CINDY BARKS** - *The Daily Courier*

**W**hen Great Britain's Prince Harry marries Meghan Markle, an American actress, in May, royal-wedding ripples are likely on both sides of the Atlantic.

Local wedding planner Hazel Bowman, of [prescottweddings.com](http://prescottweddings.com), expects the Windsor-Markle nuptials to be the most anticipated celebrity wedding of the year -- and a major trend-setter, too.

"Certainly, the big celebrity wedding will be Harry and Meghan," Bowman said. "It will be one of the more watched events of the year."

Still, Bowman notes that early indications suggest that the latest royal wedding will be more low-key than earlier Windsor weddings.

That difference could lead to a shift in local weddings, as well, Bowman said, pointing out that British royal weddings have had long-term impacts on U.S. wedding trends.

"We're more likely to follow the trends of Europe," Bowman said.

For one example, consider Queen Victoria's nuptials in 1840. Bowman credits the 20-year-old queen's choice of a white dress establishing the trend that has continued by now for generations, of brides in all-

white dresses.

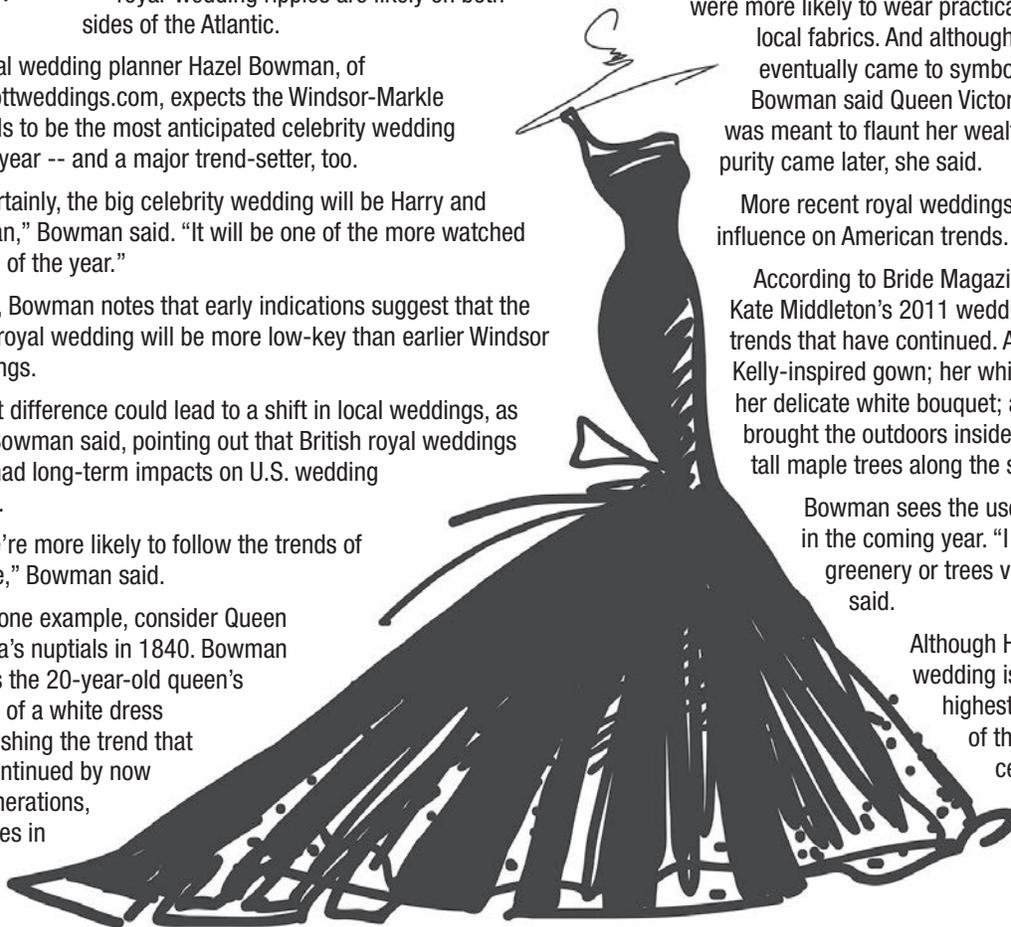
Prior to Victoria's wedding, Bowman said, American brides were more likely to wear practical dresses made from local fabrics. And although a white wedding dress eventually came to symbolize a bride's chastity, Bowman said Queen Victoria's choice of the color was meant to flaunt her wealth. The image of bridal purity came later, she said.

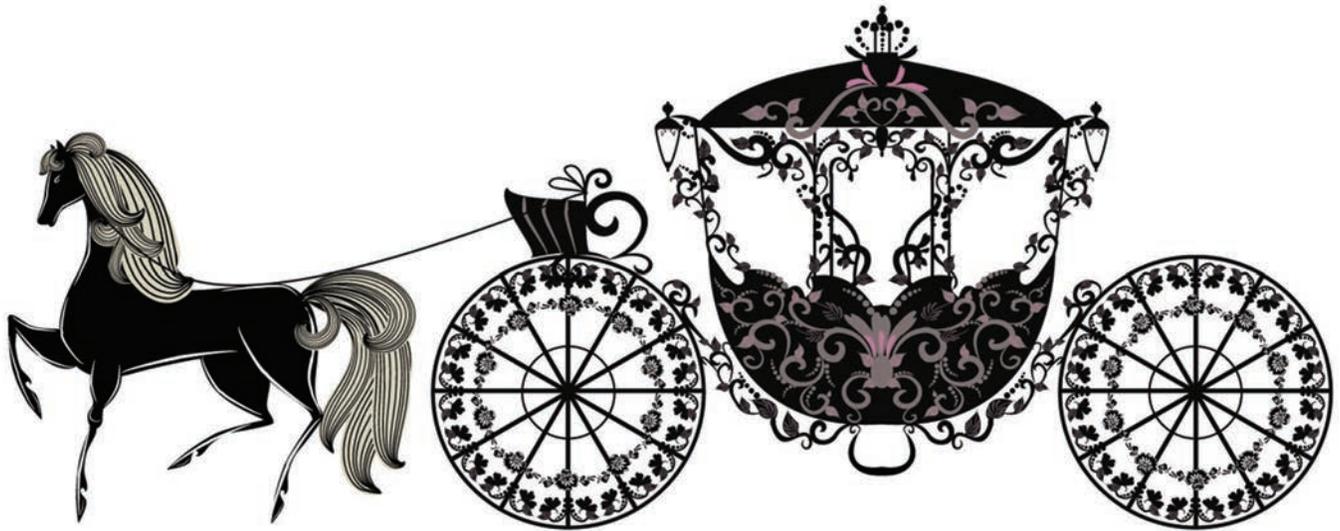
More recent royal weddings have also had plenty of influence on American trends.

According to *Bride Magazine*, Prince William and Kate Middleton's 2011 wedding set a number of trends that have continued. Among them: Kate's Grace Kelly-inspired gown; her white bridesmaid dresses; her delicate white bouquet; and the chapel décor that brought the outdoors inside by using eight 20-foot-tall maple trees along the sides of the main aisle.

Bowman sees the use of greenery continuing in the coming year. "I think there will be more greenery or trees vs. excessive flowers," she said.

Although Harry and Meghan's wedding is expected to be the highest-profile celebrity wedding of the year, a number of other celebrities also became engaged in 2017 and could tie the knot this year.





The Martha Stewart Weddings Magazine reports that Game of Thrones star Kit Harrington, who plays Jon Snow in the HBO series, became engaged to Rose Leslie, who played his love interest, Ygritte. A late-2018 wedding is anticipated for the couple.

Also from Game of Thrones, Sophie Turner, who plays Sansa Stark, became engaged to American singer Joe Jonas, and their wedding is expected in this year. The magazine also lists possible nuptials for actor John Stamos; pop star Miley Cyrus and actor Liam Hemsworth; and actor Miles Teller.

Other celebrity-influenced wedding trends that Bowman foresees include the use of industrial venues, such as warehouses, or even old barns; reception “grazing tables” that allow guests to wander from table to table sampling salads, cheeses, and appetizers; bold and dramatic floral patterns in magenta and hot turquoise; and a move away from cocktails toward beverages like rose wine.

Follow Cindy Barks on Twitter @Cindy\_Barks. Reach her at 928-445-3333, ext. 2034, or [cbarks@prescottaz.com](mailto:cbarks@prescottaz.com).



Britain's Prince Harry and his fiancée, Meghan Markle, arrive at Edinburgh Castle in Edinburgh, Scotland, Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2018. The recently engaged couple are on a one day tour to Edinburgh, and will visit the Castle and observe the firing of the One O'clock Gun. (Frank Augstein/AP)



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# Wedding Venues: *Know What to Ask*

By **SCOTT ORR** - *The Daily Courier*



Choosing a venue for a wedding or reception is a major part of the planning process, so ask a lot of questions before making any location selection.

That's Tahna Falk's advice to engaged couples. Falk is the owner of Prescott's StarStruck Event Planning.

"Is there a discount for doing it a different time of the year?" Falk said, offering an example of the kind of questions that engaged couples should ask when considering a venue for their special day.

"A lot of venues will give discounts if it's in the heat of the summer or in the colder months," Falk said.

Another question to ask is whether other weddings will be occurring at the same location on the same day.

"Most venues are good about letting (the couple) know that," Falk said, "but some (couples) don't think it all the way through."

However, a location that can multi-task can have advantages.

"If you're more like a 'budget bride,' and you want a brunch at a venue, some (venues) will do that," Falk said.

Because many places will take care of a lot of details for you

— but at a price — it's also important to ask what's included in your rental fee.

"Is there a separate fee for set-up or clean-up? Is there a separate fee for cake cutting?" Falk said.

"I've had a client who booked a venue in the Phoenix area, and they were under the impression it was pretty much all-inclusive," she said. "They thought it even came with a wedding planner."

She said the couple put down a deposit on the venue, only to learn later that those amenities cost more. They ended up canceling and losing their deposit, Falk said.

Amy Petrovsky, owner of Sensational Events in Sedona, agreed that couples shouldn't assume anything is included with the basic rental rate.

"Assuming really sets you up for failure," Petrovsky said. "The biggest mistake people make is when they love a venue, but they don't ask the questions."

She said the couple should ask what they're allowed and not allowed to do, as well as what they're allowed to bring and not allowed to bring.





“It’s all about discovery and finding what best fits the bride and the groom.”

Another critical question concerns the capacity of the room or venue. Make sure the location can comfortably accommodate all guests expected to attend.

Among the considerations Petrovsky counts as important includes who carries the liquor license and who will be liable if something goes wrong.

“Where does the liability fall?” she said. “Does it fall with the

caterer? Does it fall with the venue?”

“Whenever you serve alcohol, you have to know who’s covered and where the coverage is coming from,” she said.

And Petrovsky offered some advice for couples doing their own wedding planning: “Write down everything,” she said. “Do your homework. It’s really hard, when you’re comparing, if you don’t compare apples to apples.”

Follow Scott Orr on Twitter @AZNewsguy. Call him at 928-642-6999. Email him at [sorr@prescottaz.com](mailto:sorr@prescottaz.com).

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# Wedding trends for 2018: *Do what you want!*

By SCOTT ORR - *The Daily Courier*

Every year, new trends develop in the “wedding industry,” and with the power of social media driving them, the trends can quickly spread around the country.

According to Amy Petrovsky, a wedding planner in Sedona and owner of Sensational Events, “old-school” weddings are popular.

“People are doing the more casual, intimate weddings, going back to the old-school type of affairs.”

“They’re becoming more intimate and personal,” she said.

Just don’t call them “traditional,” she added. “‘Traditional’ is an awkward word, because tradition is different for everybody.”

Petrovsky’s also noticed that her customers are older lately than before.

“They’re in their late 20s; they’re in their 30s ... so they have their set of friends, they have their own ideas (of what kind of wedding they want), so now, they’re looking at things from a different perspective, and their wants are different,” she said. “They are looking at it with a whole new set of eyes.”

Petrovsky said that the younger the bride is, the more likely she is to follow her parents’ advice in terms of wedding plans.

Petrovsky said her job is to be creative.

“How do we make the bar more interesting and fun? Do we do a sangria bar? Do we do a mimosa bar?”

And small servings, finger-food, is favored over sit-down meals, she said.

“A big trend in food now is doing small plates, where it’s somewhat like tapas,” Petrovsky said, and the food comes from “action stations, so people have an eclectic type of food experience.”

Tahna Falk, owner of Prescott’s StarStruck Event Planning, said, “A lot of it’s been theme trends. Garland started to be popular last year, garland and greenery, as far as themes go ... seems even more popular this year.”

If you’re hoping to catch the bouquet at the reception, you might be disappointed.

“A lot of couples don’t do the bouquet toss or garter toss as much anymore,” she said. Others do a sort of countdown, she said, where the disc jockey calls everyone to the dance floor and winnows down the couples by how long they’ve been married.

“The last standing couple, who’s been together the longest, the bride will give the bouquet to them.”

Even dessert can be part of a non-traditional reception, Falk said.

“Instead of a cake, people are loving a dessert table and having a variety of options,” like donuts, for example.



Popular wedding-themed website TheKnot.com lists some new ideas for 2018. Among them:

- Non-traditional venues, such as “boxing gyms, pop-up barns, historic libraries and large homes with sprawling backyards;”

- Unexpected entertainment, “including experiential theater performances, roaming sketch artists, tarot card readers, astrologists and magicians.”

- Balloons, which “can be strung like garlands, suspended from the ceiling or shaped into a mural-like wall installation,” are a hit; and

- Single-stem bouquets and baby's breath for the bride: Choose a “sculptural stem, like an oversize tropical leaf, a calla lily or a big-headed bloom like a peony or dinner-plate dahlia.”

“Traditions seem to be changing,” Falk said. “I love it. I love to do something different each time.”

Follow Scott Orr on Twitter @AZNewsguy. Call him at 928-642-6999. Email him at [sorr@prescottaz.com](mailto:sorr@prescottaz.com).



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# Tips for outdoor wedding planning

By DOUG COOK - *The Daily Courier*

**P**lanning an outdoor wedding can be tricky.

First, there's the potential for bad weather. Second, there's the challenge of finding the right setting. Third, there's the need to book the space to accommodate the wedding party and guests.

**TheKnot.com**, a wedding-planning website, lists "13 Tricks to a Flawless Outdoor Wedding." What follows are seven of the more important tips to consider in preparing for an outdoor ceremony.

**Choosing the best spot:** You may crave a picturesque location for your wedding, which could work out quite well. However, take into account whether the venue is easily accessible, "noisy or windy" and/or costly for a reception. Keep the guests' needs in mind, too.

**Booking a back-up location:** What if the wedding-day forecast calls for heavy rain at your preferred location, for example, and you can't avoid the bad weather? **TheKnot.com** suggests reserving an indoor room or a "tent with roll-up or roll-down sides" as a backup.

**Buying the proper permits:** If you plan to get married on public property, written permission may be necessary, along with acquiring noise and liquor permits. "Some venues will require a site fee to hold an event on their property, while others will only need appropriate documentation from the city," **TheKnot.com** says. "You may also need an additional certificate of insurance [as example, for a museum or historic building] in case of damage." The point is: Know who you should contact – whether it's those in charge of the venue or a local government agency, for example.

**Transporting your guests:** If the wedding venue is difficult for your guests to reach by car, "arrange for buses, trollies or vans to shuttle them from area hotels to your wedding location," **TheKnot.com** says. Ensuring that your venue "has a designated parking area" for guests who travel there by themselves is important, too. Give them detailed directions, and perhaps GPS coordinates, to make it easier.

**Recommending the proper attire:** Don't forget about what's on the ground beneath your feet at the outdoor locale, whether it's "grass," "sand" or stone. You'll want your guests to wear comfortable shoes. "Location" and "temperature" dictate attire, **TheKnot.com** says. "If you're hosting an afternoon wedding in the garden, request suits, but not formal black tie. Same goes for your wedding party – select seasonally appropriate fabrics that will keep your attendants comfortable."



Courtesy art from **TheKnot.com**



**Taking the best photos:** Keep an eye on where and when the sun rises and sets in relation to your wedding venue, so that the photographer can snap the best photos in the most preferable lighting, and your guests aren't squinting the entire time. The venue's owner or its employees "can usually offer guidance" on this.



**Feeding the crowd:** "Choose a caterer who has experience cooking and serving guests in an outdoor setting," [TheKnot.com](http://TheKnot.com) recommends, and make sure there's enough electricity to keep the food at the proper and preferred temperature. "Keep your menu choices in mind, too – will guests want to wolf down a heavy dish, or will they be craving light bites?" [TheKnot.com](http://TheKnot.com) adds. "And definitely don't forget cake. Talk to your baker about the elements, so you can choose a cake that works outside."

Doug Cook is a reporter for *The Daily Courier*. Follow him on Twitter at @dougout\_dc. Email him at [dcook@prescottaz.com](mailto:dcook@prescottaz.com) or call 928-445-3333, ext. 2039.

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# W I S H L I S T

## Don't forget to register for these items

### The must-haves for wedding registries

By JASON WHEELER  
The Daily Courier

Whether the wedding registry is at Bed, Bath & Beyond, Crate and Barrel, IKEA, or Bloomingdales, there are some items it just won't do to forget.

Here's a few of them, found on [brides.com](http://brides.com)

» A blender. They're not just for making smoothies! With today's technology and high-powered motors, blenders can make anything from soups to desserts to butters.

» A set of pots and pans. It doesn't matter whether the bride and groom are novices or masters in the kitchen, a 10-piece pot and pan collection provides everything necessary to make a good meal. The best pans conduct heat well, have tight-fitting lids and handles with good grips that stay cool.

» A food processor. Newlyweds don't have time to stand in the kitchen slicing, dicing and shredding everything. A food processor can quickly shred cheese or even mixing dough for pie crusts.

» A Dutch oven. Many dishes -- including roasted vegetables, soups and stews, homemade bread and a whole chicken -- are best prepared in a cast-iron Dutch oven.

» A set of knives. No kitchen is complete without one. Look for stainless steel blades, strong handles and a sturdy block in which to store them.

» Serving trays. When company's around, it'll be nice to have some food out on these, and serving trays are perfect for breakfast in bed.

» Decorative pillows. They can splash a little bit more color onto the furniture and brighten up the home.

» Picture Frames. Where else are all wedding photos going to go?

» Vases. There's going to be a flower or two leftover from the wedding. Not only that, but someone might come home with flowers, and they will need to be placed in a vase.

» Quality bedsheets -- when getting married, outfitting the bedroom is just as important as outfitting the kitchen. Two or three high-quality sheet sets will help make the bed a cozy spot to sleep or cuddle.

» Towels. They don't have to have "his" and "hers" stitched on them, but matching sets of bath towels, hand towels and washcloths can't hurt when starting out in married life.

» Board games. The newlyweds have to have something to do once planning the wedding is over. If it's portable, it can be packed to go on the honeymoon, too.

» Luggage. Chances are, the newlyweds are going to be traveling at least once. New suitcases can be a useful and stylish gift.

Where in Prescott is a good place to register for a wedding? There's Target, 1851 E. Highway 69, in Frontier Village. Visit <https://www.target.com/gift-registry> or guest services inside the store.

Gateway Mall has Bed, Bath & Beyond, 3250 Gateway Blvd. Ste. 508. A registry can be created at [www.bedbathandbeyond.com/store/page/Registry](http://www.bedbathandbeyond.com/store/page/Registry). Appointments for in-store consultations to create a registry can also be made on the site. The mall has Dillard's too, 3100 Gateway Blvd. Create a registry at [www.dillard.com/registry](http://www.dillard.com/registry).

In Prescott Valley, there's Kohls, 3280 N. Glassford Hill Road, where registry creation is available at <https://www.kohls.com/gift-registry/wedding-registry.jsp>.

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