

Photo perfection a snap

By Julie Gordon
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The wedding album: either a gorgeous keepsake you want to show every visitor who walks through your door or something you sort of hide underneath a stack of coffee-table books.

Brian Marcus, of Fred Marcus Photography in Manhattan, gave us insider tricks to producing shots you'll want to show off for years.

What position should a bride stand in to look slimmer in photos?

If you have a bride who has a belly, I would turn her 70 degrees to the right, bring her back just a little bit and lean her toward the camera.

How can brides and grooms make their noses appear smaller?

Put your chin up and lean toward the camera. If the chin is down, it not only accentuates a double chin but also makes the nose look bigger.

How can a bride avoid being overshadowed by a large gown?

I would use the dress to my



Guests should be turned toward the bride and groom when taking a group photograph. (Brian Marcus/Fred Marcus Photography)

advantage. Now, if you're talking about a close-up and the dress getting in way, the key is to almost lay the gown over what you're sitting on as opposed to sitting on the dress. If you're posing with other people, pose the other people around the dress.

What other tips do you have for group shots?

The key is having the bride and groom in the center and turning everybody toward the center of the photograph. I like cohesive posing, having people look like they love each other.

What colors work best for bridesmaid dresses?

Softer colors and pastels, especially for summer and spring. [For example], a lime green color ... will reflect into the photograph. Though it won't look terrible, there will be a sense of green to the photograph.

What type of hairstyles do you recommend?

Have nothing in front of your eyes and nothing that when the head moves, hair goes in front of the face.

How about makeup?

Soft and natural ... Stay true to who you are.

More than a band of gold

By Claudia Grywatz Copquin
Special to amNewYork

In no time, you'll be saying "I do." But with which ring will thee wed?

Years ago, selecting a ring was a relatively simple affair. These days, however, the wedding ring is more sophisticated, ornate and elegant — a statement on its own, with or without the engagement ring.

In fact, wearing the engagement ring on the right hand with the wedding ring on the left is an increasingly popular trend, according to jeweler Brad Gross of H. L. Gross & Bros. in Garden City.

So for a singular sensation, many brides are opting for eternity bands — rings with diamonds or gemstones all the way around.

One of the hottest looks is the pavé setting, in which numerous tiny diamonds or gemstones are set closely together.

Stackable wedding rings are in, as well. They can be mixed and matched with differently shaped bands and stones for a custom look, based on desired thickness, and of course, according to the couple's budget.

This article first appeared in *New York*.



Wedding bands are increasingly becoming statement pieces. (GJBDesigns.com)

Paging brides-to-be: Help for your big day

From a guide on keeping your big day simple to using astrology to help make planning decisions, the following reviews will help brides-to-be decide what to read.



Weddings that were coordinated by Manhattan-based Jung Lee and her party-planning company, Fête, have been featured in *Modern Bride* and *Vogue* magazines.

Now she's published

the details of nine such affairs in "Fête: The Wedding Experience." The elegant hardcover book is filled with beautiful photos and honest, refreshing advice.

"Fête: The Wedding Experience"

By Jung Lee and Kathleen Boyes Stewart, \$45

"Real Simple Weddings,"

By editors of *Real Simple*, \$12.95

In January, *Real Simple* magazine joined forces with Crate & Barrel and released its first foray into the wedding business. What do you get? Checklists and worksheets, but not page after obnoxious page of them, just enough for the on-the-go bride-to-be, whose war cry is: Make it simple, real simple.

"One Perfect Day: The Selling of the American Wedding,"

By Rebecca Mead, \$25.95

When it comes to weddings, a



keeping-up-with-the-other-brides mentality is about as common as a drunken uncle at a reception: Everybody is aware of the problem, but you'd be hard-pressed to get them to admit it.

That is every body except for author Rebecca Mead. Mead, who's honed her reporting chops as a staff writer for *The New Yorker*, explores the wedding industry — the good, the bad and the ugly. And there is plenty of ugly.

"One Perfect Day: The Selling of the American Wedding" raises questions about one of our most enduring institutions — perhaps the most important being: "What is a wedding really for?"

"Never Throw Rice at a Pisces,"

By Stacey Wolf, \$13.95

Psychic-astrologer Wolf offers up what she terms "sign-specific advice on everything from invitations ... to honeymoon activities." Whether you buy into this book largely depends on whether you're a believer.

After a short primer on the history of astrology, Wolf advises how to pick the right day for your wedding. After that, most every aspect a bride needs to plan is astrologically covered, down to what type of floral arrangement to choose. This book might make a good engagement gift for the woman who reads her horoscope daily. Nonbelievers will probably just scoff at it.

(New York)

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