



8 *Dessert tables.* "Instead of a traditional wedding cake, the table might include a variety of pies or sheet cakes and we're finding guests really enjoy this," Wofford said. "The traditional wedding cake really limits how much of a selection you can provide but by offering this wider range of desserts it really enables guests to choose something they really enjoy."

9 *Chalkboards.* "Chalkboard design is really, really in right now," Wofford said. "We've even been in contact with a chalkboard artist." Particularly in rustic, outdoor weddings, couples are using chalkboards as seating charts, as programs and as ways to welcome guests to the wedding.



10 *A break from traditional attire.* Gone are the days where the groom has to wear a tux and the bride has to wear a gown — even for some more traditional weddings. "Today it's kind of anything goes; you're free to do whatever makes you feel more comfortable," Wofford said. They've had grooms who've worn their favorite sneakers and a suit because that's what they're comfortable in, and brides have strayed away from traditional gowns to maybe go with something more vintage. Wofford has also seen brides go with blush tones or lighter pinks as opposed to ivory or white.

11 *Stationary packages.* Tabitha McGarvey, of Hello Beautiful Designs in Moon Township, said that more and more couples are providing as much information as possible for their guests so she's designing a lot of layered formal invitations that include pockets not just for an RSVP card but also an accommodations card, directions card and celebration card. In addition, many brides are now opting to carry the theme of their invitations throughout the event, from programs to menus to cards that credit and thank the contributors to the cookie table or explain what the cookie table is to out-of-town guests.



12 *Metallics.* McGarvey said she's also seeing a rise in the popularity of metallics, and that trend seems to be carrying over into other aspects of a couple's big day, as well, including décor and desserts. Gold metallic seems to be a particular favorite, McGarvey said, which works well not only paired with a more traditional ivory or white but also with a pop of more vibrant color, such as eggplant for a fall wedding. Rose gold and mixing of metals is also poised to be big in 2016.

13 *Videos for use during the reception.* Videography is trending toward instant gratification packages with same-day edits and even the use of drones

in capturing wedding footage. But Ariella Furman, of Just Hitched Wedding Films, said they do often get asked to put together short videos to be shown while guests are eating or just after that feature images and clips of the bride and groom as children and/or during dating as well as tributes to family members. "Sometime it's a surprise from mom to daughter or something the bride and groom do together to surprise the rest of the family," she said. "It's always a memorable part of the reception where people get really emotional."

14 *Mix-and-match décor.* Shari Zatman of Perfectly Planned by Shari said that one emerging trend is to incorporate sofas, chairs and other pieces of home décor into wedding décor with less of an emphasis on everything matching. "People are no longer limited to the typical, traditional chairs with chair covers and having everything look the same," she said.

15 DJ Mark Raich said that as the trend toward vintage receptions has been gaining in popularity, he's encouraged his couples to *inject that same feel into musical choices*. An example of one of his cocktail hour playlists features music with a very soulful, almost class R&B feel, he said, but with music made in the 21st century from artists such as Joss Stone, Michael Kiwanuka, Gotye and The Phenomenal Handclap Band. While DJs have long incorporated the bride and groom's favorite songs into their playlists, some couples are now including the option for their guests to list a favorite song on the RSVP. Mixing in some of their choices as well encourages even more time on the dance floor.

16 *His and hers cocktails* highlighting the bride's and groom's favorite libation. This one's been around for a little while, but as couples emphasize cocktail hour more as part of the overall wedding experience, highlighting and serving their favorite drinks or beer is another way to personalize the day.