



Naked cakes.
Because isn't
taste most
important?

Sixteen for '16

By Karen Price | Trib Total Media

One thing that ties the latest trends in weddings for 2016 together is that couples are continuing to break from tradition and infuse their personalities into the experience from start to finish. We talked to some of Pittsburgh's top wedding industry pros to get their thoughts on the next big things from cakes to entertainment to décor and come up with 16 trends for 2016.

1 Either *rustic or vintage glamour* themes. Kourtney Wofford of Epic Event Planning in Gibsonia said that she and fellow consultant Jessica Long are seeing these two opposite ends of the theme spectrum frequently in upcoming weddings. "They're either very glamorous, vintage-inspired affairs or very rustic chic, outdoorsy, Pinterest-inspired affairs." Rustic weddings embrace nature, so many couples do a lot with wood, moss, hay and mason jars in their décor and use more wildflowers than roses or more upscale floral designs. On the glamorous side, couples are going with Great Gatsby-inspired events using rich jewel tones and carrying the theme through to include cigar bars and old Hollywood touches.

2 *Greater emphasis on cocktail hour.* Wofford said more and more couples are making cocktail hour a main staple of the wedding day and kicking it up a notch to include live music and specialty hors d'oeuvres that reflect the local Pittsburgh cuisine. She's even seen couples offer a self-serve Pittsburgh Popcorn bar and serve mini Primanti's sandwiches to help make the 'Burgh a part of their big day.

3 *Over-the-top bridal party tables.* Shayne Souleret, of Soiree by Souleret, said that increasingly couples are putting more of their attention and décor budgets into their bridal party tables, thus making them a focal point in the room. For instance, she said, she and Mocha Rose Floral Designs created a 24-foot wall of hanging flowers and candles for one client's wedding recently and a 16-foot overhead display for another client's wedding.

4 *Multiple forms of musical entertainment.* Wedding planner Ashley Moss of Hello Productions said that as weddings are becoming more of an overall experience, couples are beginning to choose a variety of acts for their entertainment. For instance, she said, they may have a singer and a quartet for cocktail hour, then have a band or DJ for the reception.

5 *Music that ties into the couple's culture and background.* Wofford is noticing a trend toward live music and couples looking for bands that reflect their heritage. "Whether that's bagpipes if you're Irish or Pittsburgh polka music if you're Polish, a lot of people are starting to incorporate that into their day," she said.

6 *Food trucks.* Moss said that some couples going with barn weddings or other outdoor venues have taken advantage of the trend in street cuisine. Even some with more formal venues have brought in food trucks to serve the after-party crowd when the celebration continues into the wee hours.

7 *Naked cakes.* Eschewing the frosting and fondant, these bare cakes are becoming big for rustic weddings in particular, Moss said. Just because they aren't wrapped in sugary goodness doesn't mean they can't be decorated, either, with adornments ranging from fresh berries and fruit to flowers and sprigs.