

LOS ANGELES WEDDINGS



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103 FABULOUS GOWNS

CREATE YOUR OWN DREAM

GIRLS NIGHT!

How and where to celebrate with your bridesmaids to honor the next phase of your life *By Bekah Wright*

Of all the celebrations surrounding a wedding, perhaps the most fun and stress-free is the bachelorette party. No longer just a night of debauchery, the bachelorette party is a time for bonding with friends and honoring the next phase of your life. Whether you choose a weekend getaway or an in-town soiree, with the right location and our experts' simple guidelines you can create the event of a lifetime.

Do's and Don'ts

To alleviate bumps in the road and ensure a successful bachelorette bash, heed these recommendations from Diann R. Valentine, president of the event planning firm D. R. Valentine & Associates, Inc., and Pamela Yager, creator of *Bride's Night Out*, a company dedicated to bachelorette party planning.

DO

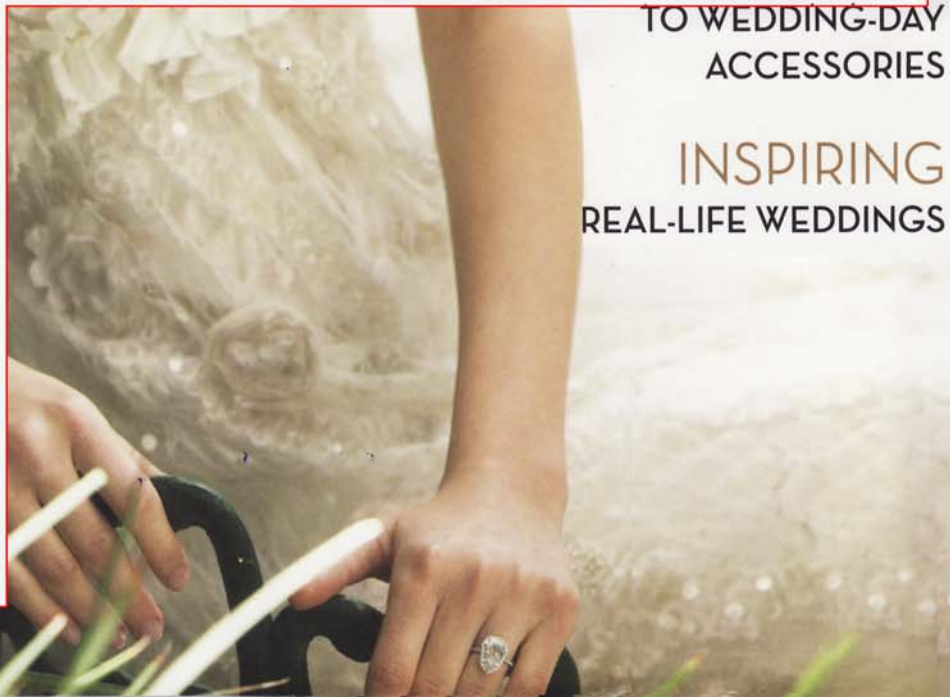
- Consult the calendar. Consider everyone's schedule and plan months ahead.
- Invite female age-appropriate members of the groom's family.
- Be budget-conscious. Unless you're picking up the whole tab, take your guests' pocketbooks into consideration.
- Be considerate of guests' tolerance for naughty or nice games.
- Incorporate details into the event that reflect the bride's personality.
- Plan enough activities so everyone is engaged while celebrating with the bride.
- Pack a camera. Later, you can design an album of photos so guests will always remember the party.

DON'T

- Don't neglect to ask about guests' dietary restrictions or food allergies.
- Don't include elements that could make the bride uncomfortable.
- Don't plan anything that the bride's future husband may not approve of.
- Don't drink and drive. Have a designated driver or schedule a car service.
- Don't let the bride leave empty-handed. Create activity stations where party members can make something memorable for the bride, whether it's a personalized tote bag, T-shirt, or scrapbook.
- Don't go it alone. If planning becomes overwhelming, hire a professional.

GET OUT OF TOWN

Nothing builds excitement like the anticipation of a girls' getaway. "Weekend-long events allow guests an opportunity for extra bonding time and a chance to combine daytime and nighttime activities," says Pamela Yager, creator of *Bride's Night Out*, a company dedicated to bachelorette party planning.



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