

# Wedding Bells!



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## Today's brides favour a mix of traditional and modern concepts

When it comes to her wedding, the contemporary bride often mixes traditional and modern concepts that influence not only the ceremony and her gown, but also the wider arena of marriage and her relationships.

Brides today are older than they were, but that does not rule out a large, traditional ceremony and a long white

gown. These days, however, it is also chic to be married in a tailored suit.

The key to a successful wedding is deciding on one with which the bride and groom are comfortable. The new trend in weddings for the '90s is the freedom of expression to create their own unique ceremony and a reception that reflects their ideas.

Because today's bride is older, she often has an education and career experience behind her. Her tastes are more sophisticated and so are her expectations of her relationship with her spouse.

Not only does she value her marriage, but also the career she has worked to obtain. Chances are she will strive to create a balance between the time she spends with her husband and the time she allocates for her job. Time management is important to most young couples making the transition between single and married life.

Matrimony has experienced a resurgence in the '90s, but it incorporates a new breed of togetherness. Women today enjoy more career freedom than their mothers, but also have rediscovered traditional ideas. Today's bride is likely to advocate equality, dual careers and sharing the tasks of parenthood, but have more tradi-

tional values as well.

With education and career freedom comes the fact that the bride of today has travelled outside of her hometown. She may have gone away to college or university and then relocated to a city with career opportunities. Therefore, it is less likely that the '90s bride will marry her high school sweetheart.

Chances are that the bride and groom are from different parts of the country. This leads to innovative ideas to get the friends and relatives from both sides to mix and mingle at different weekend events such as barbecues, picnics and cocktail parties.

What this translates about the new trend in weddings for the '90s is that they are an intimate interpretation of the couple to be married, reflecting their ideals and goals.

Today's couples have a new maturity and freedom reflected in how they choose to celebrate their marriage. Wedding choices are varied and numerous - and the '90s wedding is certainly one characterized by freedom of expression.



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