



Your Wedding

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Older woman is apprehensive as a bridesmaid

When an older, single woman is asked to be a bridesmaid for a younger relative or friend, her reaction is often mixed. She's pleased at the honor, but apprehensive, too: Will being part of all the wedding plans and traditions make her look and feel like an "old maid"?

A recent issue of *Bride's* magazine has this advice for the bride on how to make an older attendant most comfortable:

Understand her feelings. Realize that it's possible for your friend to be delighted for you — but still feel somewhat wistful. If she would like to be married herself, but "Mr. Right" has yet to show up, a woman might wonder what's keeping him. This can make close involvement with a wedding difficult for her.

Head off comments by others. Well-meaning wedding guests can make matters worse by asking your friend "And when are you getting married?" or announcing, "It's your turn next!" Your friend can most likely deal with these tactless comments herself, but you might help.

The best response is usually a light-hearted one that immediately changes the subject. If you notice your aunt interrogating your single maid, don't hesitate to interrupt by suggesting that your maid join you to greet your college roommate — at the other end of the room.

Plan with sensitivity. There are some practical considerations you might make for an older attendant. For instance, the dresses you've chosen for your younger maids may look, too "girlish" on an older woman: Perhaps she would wear a more sophisticated version of the style.

Another consideration is the bouquet tossing. If your older attendant is sensitive about being single, throwing the bouquet very deliberately in her direction is like hiring a skywriter to announce her eligibility.

Finally, while many of your friends may offer to host wedding showers for you, you might want to give priority to a shower given by your older attendant — to help her feel more a part of the celebration.

Good wines can keep down those wedding costs

Large, traditional weddings with the bride in an elaborate white gown and the groom in white tie and tails, seem to have gone the way of crew cuts...until recently.

Now, these original looks are showing up on fashion runways once again, men's haircuts are getting shorter, and larger, more elaborate weddings are making a comeback.

Hand in hand with bigger weddings, however, come bigger food, liquor, reception, transportation and florist bills. While no one wants to scrimp on this all-important occasion, there are ways to cut costs and impress guests — without sacrificing quality.

One major expense is the liquor bill. Serving a good table wine is one way to lower it, especially if French table wines, which need not

be expensive to be good, are used. A selection of white, red and rose wines will complement any reception dinner.

White wines are good with light chicken or fish entrees, while red goes well with beef, veal or heavily sauced poultry dishes. Rose wines are excellent companions for appetizers.

All three wine types are produced by French wine-makers and are moderately priced and are an appealing choice for large formal weddings.

Calling on the musical and photographic skills of friends and relatives can make a big dent in the wedding bill and make those you love feel a part of the ceremony. Ingenuity and careful planning can assure a wedding you'll always remember and a bill that's soon forgotten.

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