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Everyone agrees that weddings are joyous occasions, but in the past there wasn't much room for variety.

Today, couples are searching for ways to make their wedding an event uniquely their own.

Today's bride and groom want to make a statement about themselves throughout the planning of their marriage.

To do this, they are creating imaginative new wedding themes, settings and lavish celebrations.

Often, these untraditional ideas not only serve to satisfy the couple's imaginations, but to unite family and friends, that may be scattered around the world.

Wedding Weekend

This popular trend is the perfect way to ensure that family members spend time together and share in the celebration.

The weekend typically begins on a Friday evening when a friend or relative hosts a welcoming party. You may want to expand the rehearsal dinner to include out-of-town guests.

Activities move into Saturday, with breakfasts, barbecues and afternoon activities fol-

lowed by an evening wedding and reception. On Sunday, the bride and groom greet guests at informal brunches leading into afternoon activities. Sunday night, you may decide to leave or to have a going-away party and save the farewells for a Monday morning departure.

Honeymoon Wedding

A honeymoon wedding is similar to a weekend wedding, except that guests travel to a vacation spot to celebrate both the ceremony and the honeymoon with the couple.

This is perfect for couples who want to include children from previous marriages, as well as for those who desire a smaller, more intimate guest list. Guests typically pay their own way and the budget can be as small or lavish as you please. For ideas on where to go, contact a travel agent or consult with friends and family.

Progressive Wedding

Progressive weddings are another unique alternative for people with scattered friends and family, or with divorced parents not amenable to attending the same event.

In a progressive wedding, the bride and groom go to the guests, rather than having

family and friends travel to them. The couple are first married and then given a reception by the bride's parents. They then travel to the groom's parents, who will give the new couple a party with their family and friends.

Upon returning home, they attend a party given by their personal friends. Couples may repeat the ceremony in each location or simply choose to have a formal or informal celebration of the event.

Surprise Wedding

Surprise your family and friends by getting married at a party or dinner.

The surprise wedding is a perfect celebration for couples who don't want family and friends to make a fuss or feel obligated to send a gift. Usually both the bride and groom are in on the secret and plan a party or other special function like a cruise, barbecue or vacation and invite their friends and family.

All wedding arrangements are made in advance and the couple may include whomever they please in on the secret.

These are just some examples of how couples create an unique wedding.

There are limitless options to originate your own traditions.

This article was submitted by wedding expert Beverly Clark.



February 22, 1998

11:00am - 3:00pm

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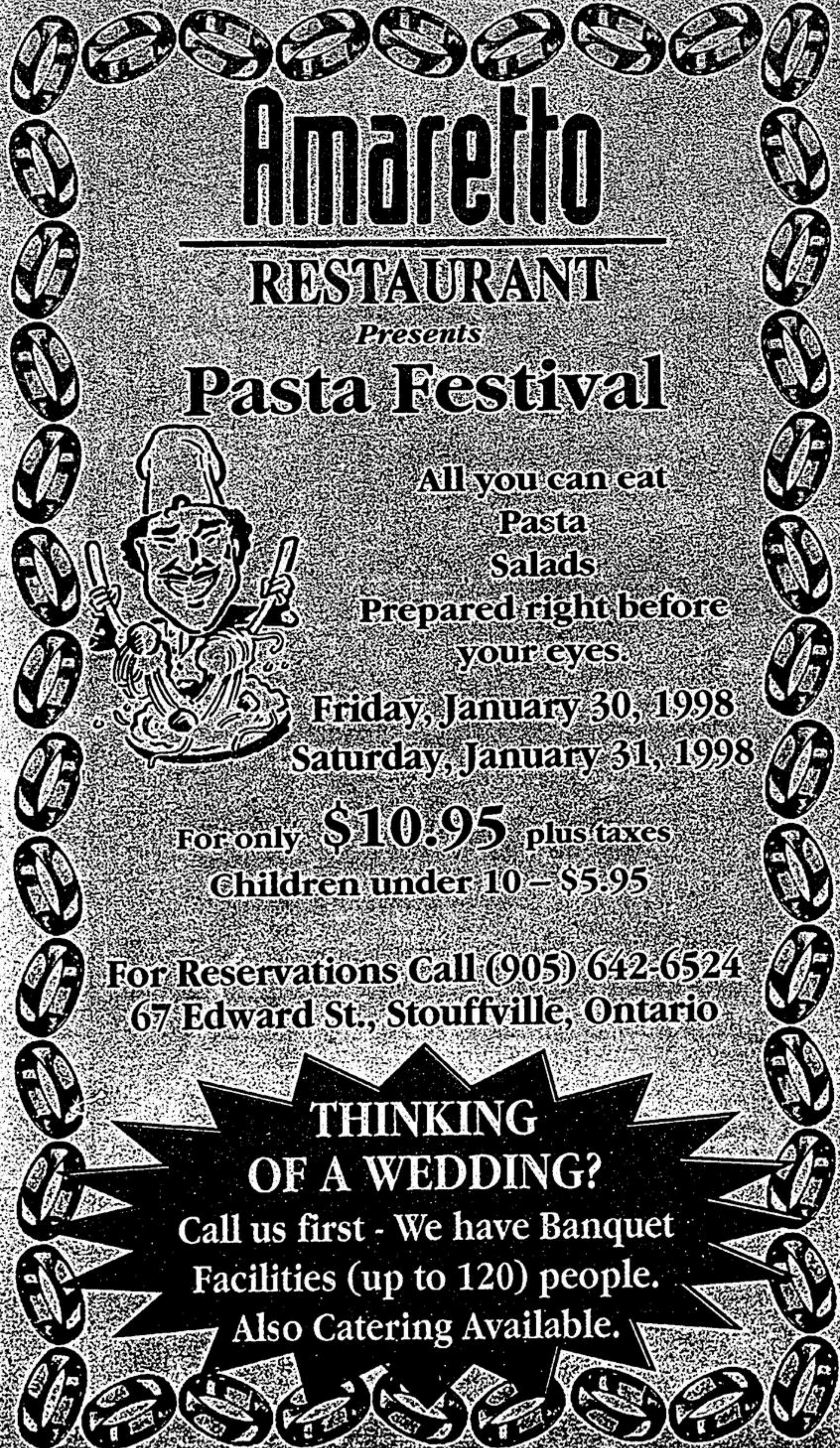
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