



Photograph by Carolyn Watson

TOP TEN WEDDING TRENDS OF 2011

by Leanne Silicato and Casey Kieffer
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Sophisticated Elegance makes a come back • Couples are turning the pages back and opting for custom monograms and simply understated décor and design. Brides will be back in their grandmother's pearls and men in their tuxedos, ditching the recently popular throw-back converse and casual groomsmen attire.

Outdoor Venues – all the rage • The Delaware beaches are perfect for this sustainable wedding trend! Engaged couples are setting their sights on unique locations that they can make their own. Rent a house on the beach and host a private beach ceremony with cocktails in the sand and a home-style reception. And the best part – you and your family and bridal party can stay there and party all night! Or, create a tented wedding at home or on a farm to keep your event ultra private and designed to reflect your wedding vision.

Grey and Navy are the new black • Plan to incorporate charcoal or deep navy to create a sophisticated look that provides a natural and organic tone against your other bold color choice(s) to create a real pop in your wedding décor/design. Bold color palettes with grey and metallic compliments will make your wedding unique and classic at the same time.

Inviting with Style • Brides are embracing old traditions and calligraphy-addressed invitations are making a HUGE comeback, right along with sending GREEN correspondence. We suggest directing your guests to an online site to RSVP to your wedding and for your wedding invitations; many established invitation companies are offering 100% recycled paper invitations. Visit Make My Day Event Planning of Rehoboth Beach to learn more about environmentally-friendly invitation options.

Cultural Celebration • Celebrate your heritage on your special day by highlighting cuisine from both the Bride and Groom's ethnicities to create a wedding reflective of you as individuals, coming together. Some of our other favorite ways to create a culturally-influenced wedding are through bold color choices, wedding traditions and musical selections which reflects each of your backgrounds.

Light up the Night • String small white globe string lights attached to tall bamboo poles around the perimeter of your outdoor venue and watch in amazement as the sky lights up with a soft white glow as the sun sets on your wedding night. We love hanging these romantic lights in a clear-top tent on the beach – now that's a wedding setting to remember!

"Cut" the Cake! • The newest and hottest trend for those who aren't cake lovers, is to opt for a summer pie station with freshly made pies – and you can even have personalized pie slice to-go boxes for your guests to take a slice home with them! This dessert can double as a "sweet" wedding favor!

Ball gown Bridal Attire – it's back • Forget the streamlined gowns with modern edge – ball gowns are back and are all over the fashion runways this season! Draping, ruching, layering and trains – now is the time to keep the volume up when you're dress shopping!

Stylish Snapshot • Hire a local artist or painter to capture a timeless image of you and your fiancé as you exchange vows. This artist will generate an original piece of artwork (a new version of a "snapshot" of your wedding) - a piece of your wedding day that you can display in your home for years to come!

Plan an After-Party • Traditionally a Rehearsal Dinner the night before the big day, a Bridal Lunch on the big day or a Sunday Brunch the day after the wedding is what we see in our clients' plans, but now the trend is something all-new; an after-party on the wedding night! Host a casual party after your reception concludes where your guests can drink, dance and even dine on comfort foods like pizza, popcorn and wings!

For assistance with executing any of these 2011 trends, or any planning aspects of your wedding, call to set-up a complimentary consultation with Leanne or Casey at Make My Day Event Planning of Rehoboth Beach!

TOP WEDDING PLANNING TIPS TO MAKE YOUR DREAM DELAWARE BEACH WEDDING A REALITY

by Leanne Silicato and Casey Kieffer of Make My Day Event Planning in Rehoboth Beach

So you've decided to plan your wedding at the Delaware beaches...congratulations! Planning an outdoor wedding can be picturesque and romantic, but we all know it comes with some challenges too.

Follow our tips and you'll surely be prepared for anything on your wedding day.

Keep Your Guests Comfortable

Sunny and hot? Cold and Rainy? Don't leave your guests melting or freezing. Make adjustments to your guest accommodations as your wedding day draws near. For instance, offer an ice cold beverage station on the beach or parasols for guests to shade themselves from the beating sun. In the cooler seasons inform guests to layer their attire, offer lap blankets at your wedding or rent space heaters to keep everyone comfortable and ready to celebrate. In some seasons the beach and those pesky bugs go hand in hand, so make sure you take the proper precautions. Our favorite tip to keep the bugs away is to line the perimeter of your wedding area with classy wrought iron citronella torches.

Mother Nature

Weather is unpredictable and we believe that when planning a beach wedding an alternative location in your plans is a necessity. One simple way to avoid being stressed about the weather conditions is to book an indoor reception which provides a simple backup ceremony strategy if intense weather does occur. For tented events, it's important that you contract a tent company who can provide an attendant that remains at your event to add/remove tent sides as needed and to make any structural adjustments that may arise. Also, be very mindful of the ocean tides and plan your beachfront set-up and wedding with plenty of cushion time in case a storm off the coast causes the tides to fluctuate. The Delaware Beach coast offers a beautiful landscape for sunset weddings and photos, but in some locations the view is unseen. We recommend visiting your wedding location(s) at the actual time you intend to have your wedding, to ensure that the natural light and view is exactly what you envisioned.

Lights Out!

When the sun goes down, it's important that the lights don't go out on your wedding. Make sure you visit your outdoor wedding location at dark as well to make sure you have the proper lighting installations for your event.

Adding torches, luminaries, lanterns, up and pin-spot lighting or festive strings of round bulb lights at your reception area can add romance and ambiance as well as the added glow of light that is needed.

Can You Hear Me Now?

When you picture your wedding at the beach you probably are not considering the outdoor sounds such as the whipping of the wind, roaring of the waves or the chatter of the beach goers. Renting a battery-operated sound system from a local rental company can make all the difference. You can arrange for a wind-proof clip-on lapel microphone for the bride and groom and wedding officiant and speakers for your music to make sure you and your guests enjoy every moment of your wedding ceremony.

Plan a Mindful Menu

The temperature at an outdoor wedding is a crucial factor to consider while planning your menu with your caterer. If you are planning your wedding in the heat of the summer we recommend avoiding stationary food and items that require intense refrigeration. We recommend planning to have most menu items served or butlered, to ensure they keep their integrity. Finding a caterer that is experienced in executing a customized menu at outdoor events will help you create a menu that can be served beautifully outdoors.

Play by the Rules

Most local beaches (private or public) have instituted some level of approval or permitting that must be obtained to legally hold a private event on their grounds. Some locations have time and specific set-up restrictions and allowances, which are important to follow. The help of a local event/wedding planner can be invaluable in this process and with managing many other of the challenges that play a part in planning a seamless outdoor wedding in Delaware.

