

PORTLAND BRIDAL SHOW

2015 WEDDING PLANNING GUIDE

BRIDAL TRENDS FOR

2015

BY TAMARA ALAZRI

A WOMAN'S WEDDING is often thought of as the most important event in her life. For all you brides out there, you know what we mean. You have probably spent countless hours dreaming of this perfect day, choosing the venue in your mind, thinking about the flowers and how the music would sound, and how this day

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TRENDS

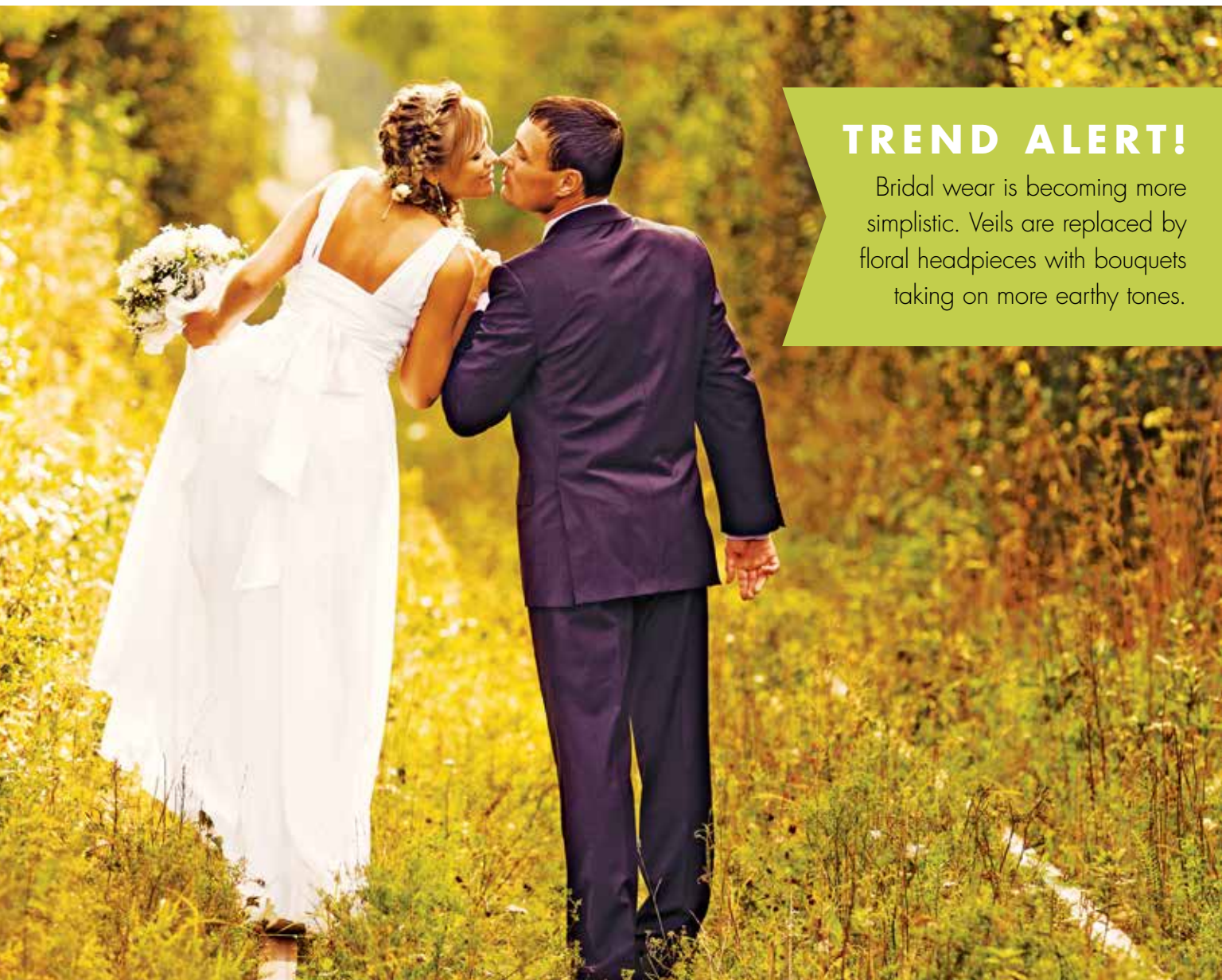
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would mark your new beginnings with your prince charming. What girl doesn't love the idea of a beautiful white dress? A wedding is an iconic moment that we want to tuck safely away in a thousand picture frames, and have it be a day on which we can look back with our loved ones. As the year 2015 begins, here is a look at the newest bridal trends forecast for this year and beyond.

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TREND ALERT!

Bridal wear is becoming more simplistic. Veils are replaced by floral headpieces with bouquets taking on more earthy tones.



2015
WEDDING
PLANNING
GUIDE

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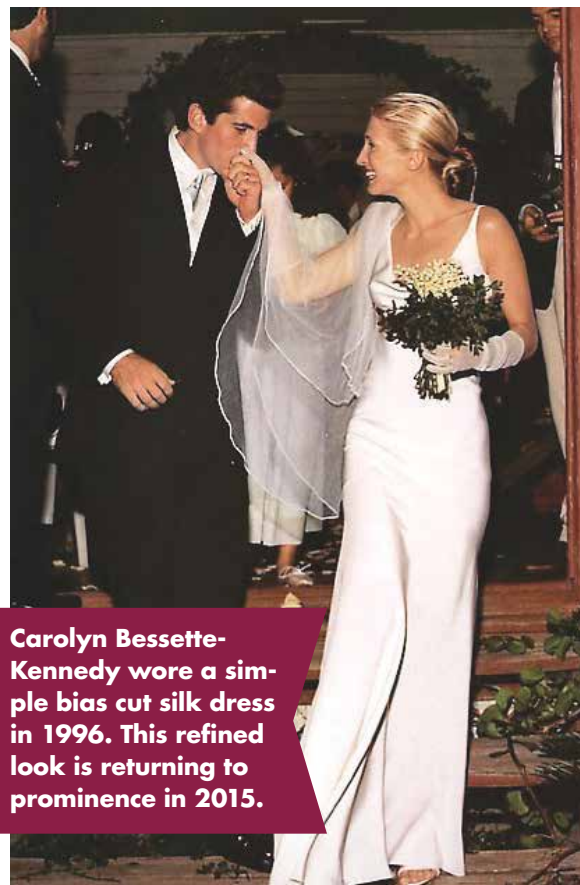
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AU NATURAL/LACE

WHILE THE POOFY STRAPLESS ball gown with the cinched waist (widely known as the cake topper dress) has remained on the forefront of what is considered to be ideal for brides, this look is slowly moving away from bridal wear, and is being replaced by a more refined and simplistic look. Think Carolyn Bessette-Kennedy's 1996 wedding to John F. Kennedy Jr. when she was photographed in a Narciso Rodriguez bias cut silk dress.

OSCAR DE LA RENTA'S spring 2015 bridal collection debuted models walking the runway, barefoot, in loose slip dresses. Dramatic veils were replaced with floral headpieces, and bouquets are taking on more earthy tones and shapes rather than being perfectly rounded.

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Carolyn Bessette-Kennedy wore a simple bias cut silk dress in 1996. This refined look is returning to prominence in 2015.

2015

TRENDS

OUT WITH STRAPLESS, IN WITH SLEEVES



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BELIEVE IT OR NOT, most brides still prefer a little modesty on their wedding day. Things like the cap sleeve, a three-quarter sleeve or full-length sleeve are very much on trend, and have been since Kate Middleton donned her influential lace-designed wedding dress in 2011.

“You wouldn’t believe it, but more brides ask for something with sleeves,” said Elizabeth Gross, owner at SE Portland’s Xtabay Vintage and The English Dept., a small downtown bridal boutique. Opting for sleeves can give a woman so many more choices for her wedding, and can add a touch of demureness and sophistication like Grace Kelly’s memorable lace ball gown when she married the Prince of Monaco.

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TREND ALERT!

More brides are asking for sleeves since fashion icon Kate Middleton, Duchess of Cambridge, made headlines with her gorgeous gown in 2011.

2015 TRENDS

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SEPARATES

BRIDES ARE LOVING the idea of having a dress that is detachable – one that makes it easy for them to go from the alter to the reception. Ashlee Simpson wore a two-piece bridal set for her wedding with full lace sleeves. Socialite Olivia Palermo shocked her fans when she wore an off-white cashmere sweater over a lace Carolina Herrera skirt. It's appealing to know that ready-to-wear looks can also inspire a bride's choice of wear.

SUNJIN LEE is a local bridal designer who seems to challenge the more traditional bridal looks by modernizing her aesthetic. Perhaps her background in Architectural Design and Urban Planning has led her to create more interesting silhouettes for the bride who wishes to look younger and fresher. "We see a lot of young girls wearing the high-waisted pencil skirt and midriff crop-top, which translated into bridal," said Lee.

RUSTIC CHIC

TRADITIONAL-THEMED WEDDINGS in America may be thought of as sort of grandiose celebrations that take place in churches, but there seems to have been a shift with brides opting for something a bit more authentic such as country-style, barn weddings. "About 95 percent of Oregon weddings take place outdoors," said Gross. "Brides are definitely becoming more environmentally conscious, and Mount Hood Organic Farms has been a popular place for weddings this year." Living in Oregon, it's no surprise that the whole farm-to-table concept has been widely common among brides, as they want to keep things as simple and relaxed for their guests as possible. Remember Kate Moss's garden wedding to rocker Jamie Hince? Yeah, that sort of romantic, carefree theme of a bride looking casually pretty in her French lace and English netting seems to be the new norm. ■

THE OREGONIAN'S

Wedding Planning

{✓} CHECKLIST

12 MONTHS BEFORE THE WEDDING

RESPONSIBLE PARTY

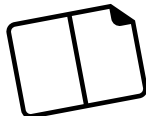
DONE?

TO DO//DETAILS

{ }

CHOOSE THE DATE

An important first step!



{ }

START PREVIEWING WEDDING VENUES

{ }

WRITE THE FIRST DRAFT OF YOUR GUEST LIST

A rough # is okay. You'll need this for upcoming planning.

{ }

BOOK VENUE

Venues book up very quickly – don't delay!



11 MONTHS BEFORE THE WEDDING

{ }

BOOK PHOTOGRAPHER

Another important item to book quickly.

{ }

FINALIZE WEDDING PARTY

Key to get your team together early.

{ }

GET CATERING QUOTES

One of the best parts of wedding planning – tastings!



{ }

BOOK CATERER

Be ready for at least a 50% deposit.

10 MONTHS BEFORE THE WEDDING

{ }

DETERMINE COLOR PALETTE

Choose a range of colors – much easier to plan around.

{ }

START HONEYMOON TALKS

At least narrow it down to a continent!



{ }

GET DRESS

It may seem early, but dresses can take up to 8 months to come in.



9 MONTHS BEFORE THE WEDDING

RESPONSIBLE PARTY

DONE?

TO DO//DETAILS

{ }

RESEARCH SAVE THE DATES

Decide if it'll be digital, postcard, carrier pigeon, etc.

{ }

BOOK OFFICIANT

Whether it will be clergy, a hired hand, or a friend, nail it down!

{ }

BOOK FLORIST

Trust the florist to guide you with seasonal blooms that match your budget.

{ }

CHOOSE YOUR WEDDING WEBSITE

A great hub for information about the wedding, registries, etc.

{ }

DECIDE ON FAVORS

If you go DIY, you may need time to create these.



8 MONTHS BEFORE THE WEDDING

{ }

REGISTER

Registering can take a couple months – but it's fun!

{ }

DECIDE WEDDING PARTY APPAREL

Colors, ties, jewelry – there's a lot to decide.

{ }

DECIDE THE DJ, BAND, PLAYLIST, ETC.

Find a DJ, band, or iPod to provide the music.

{ }

FINALIZE GUEST LIST

Trim down to an A-list and B-list.



7 MONTHS BEFORE THE WEDDING

{ }

DECIDE BRIDAL SHOWER, BACHELOR/ETTE PARTIES

Give everyone plenty of time to make before-wedding travel plans.

{ }

PRINT AND SEND SAVE THE DATES

Send your Save the Dates NO LATER than 5 months prior.

FOLLOW THESE STEPS to help you create a successful, stress-free wedding plan, compiled by Rachel Coddington, Professional Wedding & Event Planner. For more information contact Rachel Coddington at 559-430-5618 or me@rachelcoddington.com.

6 MONTHS BEFORE THE WEDDING

RESPONSIBLE PARTY	DONE?	TO DO//DETAILS
_____	{ }	CREATE INVITATIONS Research wording and choose a design that fits your vibe.
_____	{ }	BOOK A HOTEL BLOCK FOR YOUR GUESTS Once your Save the Dates go out, flights will be booked, and guests will need hotels!
_____	{ }	ORDER BRIDESMAID DRESSES Help your girls coordinate their ordering.
_____	{ }	ORDER GROOMSMEN'S SUITS Coordinate with the guys to get their apparel worked out.



5 MONTHS BEFORE THE WEDDING

_____	{ }	BOOK RENTALS Linens, chair covers, silverware, candlesticks, etc
_____	{ }	ORDER GROOM'S SUIT, SHOES, TIE, ETC. Make sure there's at least 12 weeks before the date for this to be ordered.
_____	{ }	RECEIVE BRIDAL GOWN Yes!



4 MONTHS BEFORE THE WEDDING

_____	{ }	SCHEDULE ALTERATIONS APPOINTMENTS Be prepared for 2-4 fittings for your gown.
_____	{ }	BOOK HONEYMOON If you don't nail down flights now, you'll let it slip through the cracks!



3 MONTHS BEFORE THE WEDDING

_____	{ }	BUY JEWELRY, SHOES FOR BRIDE Give yourself time to break in those shoes!
_____	{ }	GET WEDDING BAND FOR GROOM Put a ring on it.
_____	{ }	GET INVITATIONS PRINTED Be sure to ask for a proof.



2 MONTHS BEFORE THE WEDDING

RESPONSIBLE PARTY	DONE?	TO DO//DETAILS
_____	{ }	ASSEMBLE AND SEND INVITATIONS 6-8 weeks is the standard for sending out invites.
_____	{ }	CREATE FLOOR PLAN (TENTATIVE) Have your venue's event planner help with flow.
_____	{ }	DETERMINE CEREMONY Work with your officiant to choose readings, unity ceremonies, etc.



1 MONTH BEFORE THE WEDDING

_____	{ }	CREATE PLACECARDS Printed or DIY, these should be done long before the big day.
_____	{ }	CREATE PROGRAMS Don't do these too early – last minute changes always happen!
_____	{ }	ASSIGN DAY-OF JOBS Delegate, delegate, delegate.
_____	{ }	CONFIRM VENUE Confirm arrival and departure times as well as the day-of contact.
_____	{ }	CONFIRM CATERER Finalize numbers once your RSVPs have all been received.
_____	{ }	CONFIRM FLORIST Ask about arrival and breakdown details.
_____	{ }	CONFIRM PHOTOGRAPHER Confirm shot list and arrival times.
_____	{ }	CONFIRM DAY-OF SCHEDULE Confirm transportation and meals.
_____	{ }	CONFIRM OFFICIANT Make final payments.
_____	{ }	GET GROOMSMEN GIFTS Wrap them early!
_____	{ }	GET BRIDESMAID GIFTS Delegate someone to bring them to the venue.
_____	{ }	GET MARRIAGE LICENSE You will need to go in together and bring ID.
_____	{ }	PRINT PROGRAMS Print less than half of your number of attendees.
_____	{ }	FINAL DRESS FITTING Bring all your undergarments, shoes and accessories to your final fitting.
_____	{ }	FINAL TABLE ASSIGNMENTS Give yourself plenty of time – this can be tough.
_____	{ }	BUY BRIDE/GROOM GIFTS Something sentimental and small.





WEDDING DON'Ts & DOs

Streamline your planning by knowing what merits a commitment — and what you can cut

BY ANNA SACHSE
CTW Features

WHEN IT COMES TO wedding planning, some details are expendable while others, let's face it, truly are essential. Here, the experts offer 10 bridal don'ts and do's that can help you save money, time and your sanity. **1** You **DON'T** need to be a slave to wedding magazines. • These bridal bibles may serve as inspiration, but they also are chock-full of unrealistic timelines and checklists and ads for expensive products. "No magazine can tell you that 'X' percentage of your budget must go to a specific item, or that you even need that item in the first place," says Brooke Sheldon, owner of Lilybrooke Events in Kennebunkport, Maine. Instead, allow your event to take shape based on personal taste and the unique nature of your guests, location, venue and vendors.

2 You **DON'T** need elaborate invitations

“The heavier the invitation, the more expensive the postage,” says Anja Winikka, editor for TheKnot.com. She advises skipping unnecessary extras like invitation liners and enclosure cards, and, if you’re a less traditional couple, you can even have your guests RSVP via e-mail or on your wedding website.

3 You **DON'T** need to mail a map

Most guests forget to bring them anyway, or they prefer to use a more detailed mapping website, such as Google Maps or Mapquest.com, notes Sheldon.



4 You **DON'T** need fancy favors

Rather than splurge on a bunch of mini-items, donate to your favorite charity on behalf of your guests, suggests Winikka. “Most guests will be happy to help a good cause rather than take home another mini-picture frame.”

5 You **DON'T** need to follow the rules

“Weddings have many traditions,” says Sheldon. “Choose the ones you want and ignore the ones you don’t.” For example, feel free to skip the bouquet/garter toss if you think it’s outdated, or personalize the tradition of walking down the aisle by marching to your favorite Metallica song played by a string quartet.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF ASHLEY FORRETTE PHOTOGRAPHY

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6 You **DO** need to research marriage license requirements

Read up on the rules for the location where you will get married well in advance to make sure you can meet them in a timely fashion.

7 You **DO** need to practice dancing

Hone your hoofing with both your husband-to-be and your father, says Sheldon. "It's so important — why wing it?"

8 You **DO** need to provide gratis alcohol

"Even in a recession, a cash bar is simply NOT ACCEPTABLE," says Winikka. If you have a tight budget, limit the hours the bar is open or go wine- and beer-only with a signature cocktail that matches your color scheme.

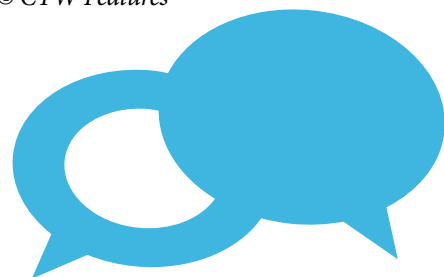
9 You **DO** need a real photographer

"Friends can't shoot your photos, unless, of course, they are professionals," says Winikka. Your pictures are the most lasting keepsake of your wedding, so you want to ensure they are both comprehensive and the best quality possible.

10 You **DO** need to greet all your guests

Most guests will likely have traveled from far away, at great expense, so if you don't have a receiving line, be sure to visit each table during dinner and thank your loved ones for attending, says Sheldon.

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The **SMART COUPLE'S** Guide to Financially Planning a Wedding

Don't start your marriage in debt. Here's how to set priorities that will lead to a prosperous future.

BY TANIESHA ROBINSON

CTW Features

A DREAM WEDDING with all its pomp and circumstance easily can turn into a nightmare if a couple still is paying for it years after walking down the aisle. If there's one thing couples should take to heart when planning their wedding, it's this: Get real about the bottom line and what matters most for creating lifelong memories.

"In deciding how to fund your wedding, to a certain extent, you're setting a precedent for how you're going to manage your finances together when you're married," says Linda Leitz, a certified financial planner with Pinnacle Financial Concepts in Colorado Springs, Colo. Here are some smart steps for starting your financial future on the right foot.



PRE-WEDDING PLANNING

It's important to get a "values-based vision" of your wedding first, says William Timpson, a certified financial planner at Financial Focus, in Livingston, N.J. This vision addresses all of the must-haves for the celebration rather than every whim. "Once you have that vision down, then you can begin financial planning," Timpson says. He also suggests creating a separate savings account to add to regularly in preparation.

Couples who have more time tend to spend more, says Laura West, a certified financial planner with West Financial Advisors Certified in Nevada, Iowa. She suggests spending only three to six months planning:

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A longer engagement allows more time to save

“You have to make quicker decisions, and you don’t add as much of those bells and whistles.”

CUTTING COSTS

“All those shows that are on TV really get women thinking that they need to have this off-the-charts wedding,” West says. But budget-friendly elegance is possible when a couple focuses on what’s important to them personally. After finalizing their “values-based vision,” they can target areas where costs can really add up, such as the dress, flowers and food.

Planner Leitz advises couples to travel off the beaten path for deals. Thinking about not only the time of day but the day of the week and the time of year has always been a way to save money on a wedding. Off-season and weekday plans don’t put you in high competition for venues.

ASK FOR HELP

When couples have beaten the unconventional path down to dust and are still coming up short in funding their wedding. It’s time to turn to family and friends for help.

Timpson suggests couples start with their parents. “They’ll be pleased to see that you’ve put together a budget and that you have a vision and that there’s a reason why you’re doing this,” he says. If the bottom line still lies overhead after exploring all cost-saving options, a smart couple



will know it’s time to amend their plans, such as opting for a longer engagement period to allow for saving more for the wedding.

Whatever you do, don’t go into debt, Timpson says. “It’s a really tough way to start a relationship.”

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