

The Mother of all Parties

Your daughter or son is engaged and now there's a wedding to plan. As the mother of the bride or groom, you'll play a large part in making the special day—and all those leading up to it—a success. Here's how.

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engagement party



the venue
The Commons
Hotel in
Minneapolis



Rustic and luxurious, **The Commons Hotel** is sure to impress your guests (or future in-laws).



easy setup
TIP: If you're hosting at home, rent plateware and flatware instead of using your own.

1. Time to Celebrate. Even the groom can get on board with these not-too-feminine invites. *Invites* (prices vary), from *Dick & Jane Letterpress Co.*, 2500 University Ave., Ste. B8, St. Paul, 651-756-8990, dickandjaneletterpress.com

2. Dramatic Elegance. For the best effect, match your flowers to the vibe of the venue. *Centerpiece* (prices vary), from *Bachman's*, multiple locations including 6010 Lyndale Ave. S., Mpls., 612-861-7600, bachmans.com

3. Triple Crown Fashion. Embrace the equestrian trend with this Belmont-inspired bag. *Handbag* (\$390), by *J.W. Hulme Co.*, from *Pumpz & Company*, Galleria, 952-926-2252, pumpzco.com

4. Clean and Classic. Time to brush up on your table-plating etiquette. *Accent plate* (\$0.95), *bread plate* (\$0.95), *coffee cup* (\$0.95), *saucer* (\$0.95), *dinner plate* (\$0.95), *charger* (\$3), by *Monique Couturier*; *bouillon spoon* (\$0.45), *butter knife* (\$0.45), *dinner knife* (\$0.45), *dinner fork* (\$0.45), *salad fork* (\$0.45), *teaspoon* (\$0.45), by *Minuet*, all available for rent from *Ultimate Events*, 13405 15th Ave. N., Plymouth, 763-559-8368, ue-mn.com

5. Crisis Averted. Mascara, Advil, hairspray, tissues—you'll be prepared for anything with these MOB/MOG survival kits. *Kit* (\$25), by *Ms. & Mrs.*, from *dugo*, Galleria, 952-746-4440, dressupgoout.com

bring the party home
Surdyk's will customize a meat, cheese, and antipasti platter for your at-home engagement party.



FUN FACT:

In the past, the bride's parents always got first dibs on throwing the engagement party. Now the groom's parents, other relatives, or even friends of the couple will often host the celebration.



• *bridal shower* •



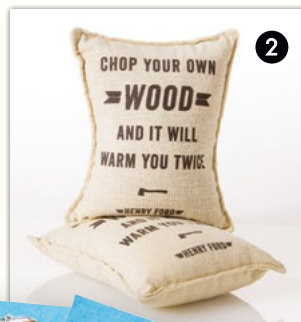
the venue

Larsmont Cottages on Lake Superior,
Odyssey Resorts

Escape for a cabin-chic girls' weekend getaway, complete with cozy fireplaces, luxury baths, and full-sized kitchens at **Larsmont Cottages**.



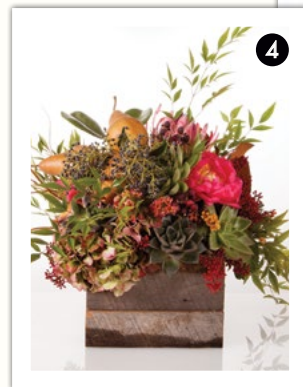
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bring the party home
Drool-inducing brisket, chicken, ribs, and all the fixings from Famous Dave's



EXPERT ADVICE:

"Create a memorable experience leading up to that special wedding day. Keep the venue and activities fresh, interesting, and doable for everyone invited."

BARB OSWELL, ODYSSEY RESORTS

1. Plot Your Escape. Play up the theme of the weekend with these handwritten invites from a Minnesota native son. *Invite and map design (\$500 each)*, by Pier Gustafson, 617-666-2975, piergustafson.com

2. Guest Gifts. These muslin-wrapped pillows filled with dried balsam needles make for fragrant favors. *Pillow (\$34)*, by Izola, from MartinPatrick 3, 212 3rd Ave. N., Ste. 106, Mpls., 612-746-5329, martinpatrick3.com

3. Time to Unwind. Nothing says relaxation quite like a bubble bath. *Bubbles (\$20)*, by Blithe and Bonny, from Statement Boutique, 212 3rd Ave. N., Ste. 105, Mpls., 651-808-7663, thestatementstore.com

4. Punch of Color. This woosy bouquet features coral charm peonies, antique hydrangeas, and succulents. *Centerpiece (prices vary)*, from Martha's Gardens, 1593 Selby Ave., St. Paul, 651-696-2993, marthasfloralstudio.com

5. Roll the Dice. A classic cottage game to bond with your daughter's maids. *Backgammon board (\$295)*, by Jonathan Adler, also from MartinPatrick 3

• rehearsal dinner •



the venue
Chiang Mai Thai
in Minneapolis

The eve of the wedding day has finally arrived. Before the bridal party takes a walk down the aisle, host an Asian-inspired rehearsal dinner at home or at **Chiang Mai Thai** (the guests will love the nontraditional food and fully stocked bar there).



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EXPERT ADVICE:

"Offer wine or beer—at least the first glass—as soon as people arrive. Often everyone is a bit tense, and this helps relax the crowd and lets the evening flow."

KATEY LEITCH, CHIANG MAI THAI

1. Squared Away. Hosting at home? Let the plateware set the tone. White plateware (\$0.60 each) and Zenith flatware (\$0.70 each), available for rent from *Après Party and Tent Rental*, 7625 Cahill Rd., Edina, 952-942-3399, apresparty.com; stainless steel chopsticks (\$12.99), by *Joyce Chen*, from *Kitchen Window*, 3001 Hennepin Ave., Mpls., 612-824-4417, kitchenwindow.com; resters (\$2.95), from *Sur La Table*, 3901 W. 50th St., Edina, 952-656-0045, surlatable.com

2. Center of Attention. Peonies, orchids, ornamental peppers, asclepias pods, and leucadendrons make up this bold centerpiece. *Centerpiece* (\$140), from *Magnolia & Twig*, 651-587-1533, magnoliaandtwig.com

3. Red with Glee. The image on the metal plaque means "happiness." *Clutch* (\$295), by *Dareen Hakim*, from *Arafina*, Galleria, 952-925-1565, arafina.com

4. Reserved for Mom. Celebrate the two most important ladies at the party. *Nameplates* (starting at \$1.60 each) and holders (rent for \$0.50 each), from *Paperista*, 5023 France Ave. S., Mpls., 612-886-3470, paperista.com



bring the party home

If you're going for exotic, you've got to try the seared duck breast with marinated ginger and scallions (below) or the Hoshi Sushi Boat assortment from CRAVE Catering.

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farewell brunch



the venue
Lake Elmo Inn
in Lake Elmo

Wind down the weekend with an award-winning Sunday brunch at **Lake Elmo Inn**, complete with champagne, shrimp cocktails, and fresh caramel rolls.



EXPERT ADVICE:

“Carry the wedding theme into the next day by bringing some of your centerpieces from the reception to your gift opening.”

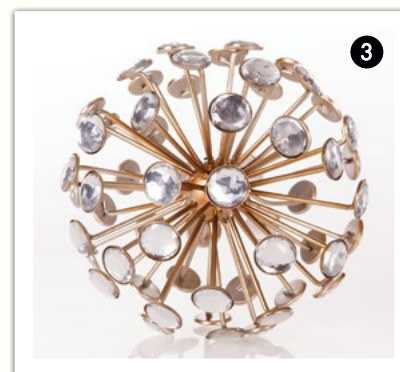
CHRISTINE SCHILTZ,
LAKE ELMO INN

1. Personalize It. Instantly customize this curly willow, delphinium, and aster flower arrangement with vases from home. *Centerpieces (prices vary), also from Bachman's*

2. Golden Touch. This plateware with a hint of metallic is right on trend. *Plates (\$60 for set of four), glasses (\$72 for set of four), mugs (\$66 for set of four), by Rosanna, from Prime and Polish, 612 W. 54th St., Mpls., 612-824-1743, primeandpolish.com*

3. Jeweled Out. Add a touch of sparkle to the table that will rival the bride's diamond. *Jeweled orb (\$35), also from Prime and Polish*

See page 122 for additional resources.



bring the party home

Lunds & Byerly's Catering can dish up the perfect breakfast buffet with fruit kabobs and petite pastries.

