

# Palmdale Beach BRIDES

June 2010

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*Hear from the experts when it comes to making your dreams come true!*



TAXI

# The Perfect Wedding

## Tips From The Experts On Planning Your Special Day

STORY BY DEBORAH WELKY ♡ PHOTOS BY JENNY SCHATNER

If every month were given a color, June would definitely be white — white gowns, white cakes, white lace and flowers and ribbon. For scores of brides-to-be and their grooms, the knot is about to be tied. Months of planning have brought them to this day, and each couple expects nothing less than perfection.

Fortunately, a team of trained professionals has been there to assist them toward this goal. Along the way, many couples discovered a happy truth — perfection doesn't always come in white.

In this special bridal feature, we retrace the steps many happy brides have walked — from finding the perfect dress to designing an exquisite cake. As in real estate, they learned that a successful reception relies heavily on location, location, location; and then, of course, the entire day must be happily recorded for posterity.

Where to turn if you're a bride? Here are some tips for getting started...



Bacio Bacio at 9160 Forest Hill Blvd. in Kobosko's Crossing is Wellington's own bridal salon. Owner Lenyce Boyd said the No. 1 piece of advice she gives brides is "not to get too crazy." With so many options out there, it's sometimes hard for a bride to choose. "They really need to keep in mind their personal style and, once we find that and what they're looking to do, we'll capitalize on it," Boyd said.

Bacio Bacio has a large selection of sample dresses in-house but, unless a woman is planning to get married immediately, each gown is custom-created. "Allow six months to a year to order the gown," Boyd suggested. "These dresses are not hanging on a rack somewhere; they're made to order. We may need to order a sample dress in another size. The bride may want to change the color from white to ivory or

have a sweetheart neckline instead of one that goes straight across. Our veils and our headpieces are also custom."

Boyd said trends are leaning away from the basic strapless. She's getting more requests for one-shoulder gowns and an introduction of color. "We've had a lot of brides do a really crazy and fun shoe — vibrant blues, a leopard print — a shoe is easy and it's safe. They also add sashes or beaded belts," Boyd said. "We try to encourage them to keep it classic and, if they want to do something fun, they can add a sash or a shoe at the reception. Many brides come in here very focused, and we really like that."

On June 13, Bacio Bacio will be the only outside vendor at the Gardens Mall bridal show. They also do fashion shows at other bridal events. Trunk shows held at the shop monthly (except July and August) help brides-to-be get an idea what's on the horizon.

"A designer will send or bring their newest or most classic best-sellers, and we'll dedicate the whole weekend to that designer's style," Boyd explained. "It's a good idea for brides to go to the trunk shows because they'll see gowns that are not in the stores yet, styles that are not available yet, the newest collections out of New York, things that are not even in the magazines yet. We do all our buying out of Manhattan and, remember, the gowns take three to five months to make."

For information about trunk shows and more, call Bacio Bacio at (561) 792-6111 or visit [www.baciobacio.com](http://www.baciobacio.com). ▶



Jennifer Johnson of Johnson's Custom Cakes still creates many white wedding cakes, but they are not always the frilly, rose-encrusted designs one might expect. "There has been a departure from the traditional white cake to one with a more chic, modern look," Johnson said. "Here in Florida, we do a lot of sea-themed wedding cakes — cakes decorated with shells made from white chocolate."

Johnson's best advice for brides-to-be? "You have to make sure that you plan in advance, so when you come in for your tasting, you can bring some ideas you have. Investigate it," she said. "Sometimes that works out the best — when brides are creative and design their own cake. We can do anything that they dream of. Nowadays we can do magical things, custom to the bride's taste. Right now we're doing a pirate cake."

Speaking of taste, Johnson noted that many brides request a fruit filling, particularly raspberry, or a liqueur filling. "We also do mocha or a mint chocolate chip flavor," she said. "My best-selling cakes are the white sour cream almond and the white sour cream vanilla. Although this week we have three chocolate cakes ordered. We offer them in fudge, milk or white chocolate."

The tallest cake Johnson has done was six feet; the longest, a six-foot alligator (although not for a wedding). Groom's cakes are where her artistic talents can really shine. "It's usually a cake from the bride to the groom, and it's themed on what the groom is interested in," Johnson said. "We've done a four-wheeler, a baseball cap, a boat, a firefighter..."

Of two age-old wedding cake traditions, only one remains — that of removing the top layer to be stored until the couple's first anniversary. "They definitely still take the top," she said. "The resorts or country clubs take care of removing it for them, and we provide a box."

And what about single girls taking a slice of cake home and putting it under their pillow





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so they'll dream of whom they are going to marry? "Never heard of that one," Johnson laughed.

For more information, call Johnson's Custom Cakes at (561) 358-5477.



Choosing the right venue is perhaps one of the most important decisions to be made. "Always seek an established, reputable venue," said Donna Szczepanski, catering director at Breakers West Country Club. "I also would recommend word-of-mouth suggestions for selecting a florist, musical entertainment, etc."

Many brides tremble at the thought of attempting their big day without the help of a wedding planner, but at Breakers West, a planner isn't always necessary. "I would guide the bride and groom throughout the entire wedding planning process and,

with our supportive catering staff, seamlessly execute from conception to the fulfillment of the event," Szczepanski said. "An outdoor ceremony on the lawn with beautiful tropical florals overlooking the fairway creates a stunning backdrop. For the reception, the Design Studio from The Breakers can create sophisticated settings that include awe-inspiring florals, theatrical lighting and décor."

Szczepanski does suggest that brides get several questions answered before they make a final decision on a reception hall — things like whether there will be another wedding or event scheduled at the same time and, if so, what steps the venue will take to make sure there is no conflict. It's also important to know the maximum number of guests the ballroom will comfortably accommodate, with or without a dance floor, and if there is a hotel nearby for out-of-town guests. Some halls charge extra for linens, cleanup and cake-cutting,

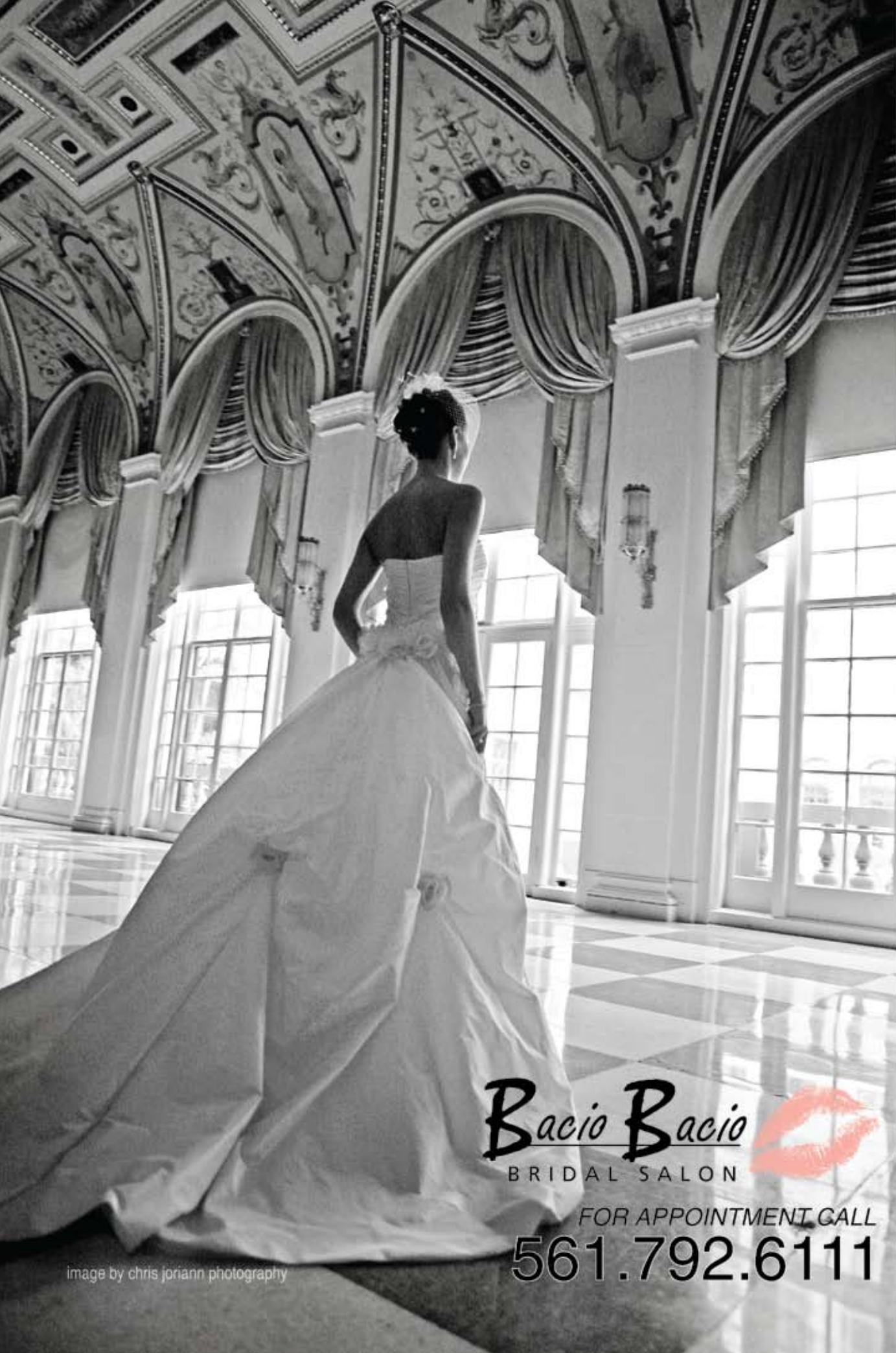
so brides and grooms should make sure they get all the financial details before they sign a contract.

A new trend in receptions is to have a "sweetheart table" for the bride and groom only, rather than a long banquet table for all members of the bridal party. Menu selections and music often reflect the bride and/or groom's heritage or personal tastes, particularly at hors d'oeuvres stations or in a special dinner course.

Centerpieces have been upgraded to include LED or fiber-optic lighting, adding a new dimension to the décor and a bit of drama to the evening. "Some brides have two changes during the course of the evening — from formal gown to trendy cocktail dress — getting ready for a late night after-hours party," Szczepanski said.

To contact Szczepanski at Breakers West, call (561) 653-6310. ►





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When selecting a photographer, getting the answers to a few key questions may mean the difference between satisfaction and disappointment, said Jenny Schartner of Captured Photography & Videography.

First, get referrals from other brides who were pleased with their photographer. When you meet with a photographer, make sure you like their personality. Ask how many photographers will be there and how long they can stay. Ask if the quoted price includes the editing of photos and any extras like an album, prints and/or CDs. If extras are included in the price, make sure they are something that you want. If not, ask the price for each item. Ask how long it will take to get your photos and the extras.

“Also, know what style of photography you like,” Schartner said. “Photography is very much a form of art. The photographer you

choose is going to capture their version of your day, how they saw it. After all, they are the ones with the camera. So make sure you have looked at a ton of their work and like what they do.”

While some couples consider photography an after-thought or rely on friends with cameras, Schartner said a certain degree of professionalism is needed. “A wedding is not complete without a photographer, but not just *any* photographer,” Schartner said. “There are so many sad stories that go around — the photographer didn’t back up photos and they all got deleted, it took years to get the photos back, or they never got them back at all... I’ll be honest, photography is expensive. But it’s so worth it.”

All Schartner’s packages include a second photographer, editing of all images, and an online gallery for proofing and purchasing. “I have one package that is called the ‘Most Popular Package’ and it truly is the most popular,” she said. “Almost ev-

eryone chooses it. It has everything they need.”

Schartner’s “Most Popular” includes unlimited time on the day of the wedding with her and her assistant photographer. It also includes a disk with all of the images in high resolution — a must-have nowadays. The package also includes a custom-designed flush mount album and a small credit they can use to buy whatever extras they want (prints, thank-you cards, canvas prints, etc). “I began offering the credit because it gives my couples freedom to get something that fits their needs, instead of including a bunch of random prints they may not even want,” Schartner said.

Schartner has noticed that more and more people are choosing to do the majority of their photos before the wedding begins, breaking a long-held taboo that the groom should not see the bride in advance of the ceremony. “Couples are realizing the benefit,” she said. “One, you get to see each





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other 'before' in your own intimate and private way, which often ends up with sweet, precious photos and reactions. Two, it gets all of that out of the way! You won't need an hour in between the ceremony and reception to take photos. Your guests won't have to wait, and you can just go right to the party!"

Schartner suggests that even if couples aren't up for seeing each other "before," they should at least try to get some separate shots out of the way, like bride and bridesmaids, groom and groomsmen, etc. Traditional posed shots of the bouquet, the rings, the shoes and so on have given way to candid shots that capture the energy of the day.

"Brides and grooms are the most concerned about getting some really great ones of just the two of them, which is totally understandable and my biggest priority," she said. "My personal favorite candid shots are the groom seeing his bride for

the first time, the father giving away his daughter and the first dance shots. They always get me emotional when I look at them."

The wedding day goes by incredibly fast. Capturing it well helps build a lifetime of memories. "You may remember a few things here and there from the wedding day, but you can guarantee vivid lifelong memories with the help of a great photographer and videographer," Schartner said.

For more info., call Schartner at (561) 253-4928 or visit [www.capturedbyjen.com](http://www.capturedbyjen.com).



Back in the day, wedding ceremonies were elegant, refined and cookie-cutter perfect. Today's weddings are just as elegant and refined, but each also bears the unmistakable personal stamp of the bride and groom. There's personality. There's life. And there is definitely color. ■

## PHOTOGRAPHY CREDITS

*Wellington The Magazine* thanks Lenyce Boyd of Bacio Bacio Bridal Salon for providing bridal dresses for all of the models and Jenny Schartner of Captured Photography for the professional imagery seen throughout this special feature section.

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