

## Catering to suit your style

by **Adrienne Hartley**

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From sit-down dinners to cocktail receptions, there's a catering style to fit every wedding reception.

"The food is the one thing everyone always remembers and more couples are looking to express themselves and provide something different for their guests," says Shelly Coyle, owner of Wonderful Ideas for Entertaining Inc. and V.I.P. Catering.

"Many couples are still leaning towards traditional sit-down dinners, but they're customizing their menus, for example, by including dishes that reflect their ethnicity."

For example, last year Coyle catered a Hawaiian-luau-themed wedding with customized menus that included Hawaiian dishes.

She has also catered a medieval-style wedding with authentic 15th century dishes and serving wenches to boot.

A cocktail reception is another way for couples to express themselves, says Coyle.

"For a cocktail party to work well, the couple has to be open-minded and interested in the way the evening progresses and they have to be willing to bend tradition — cocktail parties are not for traditionalists; they don't work well if people are sitting rather than mingling," she says.

Couples may also find a cocktail reception is more expensive than a traditional sit-down dinner because it's more labour-intensive for the caterer.

"The catering style also depends on the level of the wedding — if it's simple or if it's top elegance," says Charlene Weed, a wedding planner with Dream-Maker Wedding Consultants.

She adds many couples choose to express themselves in the décor of the venue.

"Many couples are leaning towards a more elegant look and feel," says Weed.

Couples are choosing all white décor or white with silver or gold accents. Table centerpieces are also more creative and elaborate — some couples have chosen bowls with goldfish or full flower arrangements as opposed to a single rosebud in a vase.

"More and more couples want to make their reception an interesting experience for their guests," adds Coyle.

