

one thing *Couples share the experiences that really made a difference I learned*

“A **single flower** can inspire your whole wedding theme. I love orchids, so we wove them into every detail—on the cake, in the centerpieces and bouquets, and even the car decoration.” —Alicia Brady (Alicia and Jon Winton Brady were married on October 9, 2004, in Charleston, South Carolina)



Clockwise from top left: A wreath of green dendrobium orchids and moss tied with satin ribbon hangs outside the reception area. The bride and groom; her gown is from Modern Classics, his tuxedo is Tommy Hilfiger. An antique Rolls-Royce bears cymbidium orchids and ribbons strung with a fishing line, and a “Just Married” sign. Set on a base of green santini mums, the cake is piped with a graphic design and the couple’s monogram in green buttercream; cymbidium orchids adorn each tier. White phalaenopsis orchids and white-and-green cymbidiums form Alicia’s bouquet.



“Plan your toasts ahead of time. At the reception, I thanked our guests for traveling to be with us but forgot to thank our parents for making it all happen. I am still kicking myself for the oversight.” —Briana Tiberti (Briana stands for a photo at her July 2003 wedding to Travis Price in Santa Rosa, California)

“We had the photographer capture the wedding mostly through candid shots. Our photos turned out natural and casual, and reflected the relaxed tone of the event.” —Cathy Tedone Newman (Cathy and Brad walk to the reception with guests after their March 2004 ceremony in Brickell Key, Florida)



“When you meet with vendors such as florists or hairstylists, bring photos along. This helped me narrow down the choices and illustrate my preferences.” —Ellen Browning Price (Ellen and her husband, Edward Price, stroll through grounds at the site of their April 2003 ceremony in Palos Verdes, California)

“In addition to a traditional guest book, we asked guests to offer their **marital wisdom** in a separate book. People seemed to have fun writing their entries, and we received a lot of valuable input. One of the best pieces of advice we got was, ‘Live simply, laugh often, love deeply.’”

—David Younger (David and his wife, Gina, take their guests' advice at their October 2004 wedding in Pasadena, California)



“**Follow your heart.** My grandfather always wanted to walk me down the aisle in a white tuxedo, but the groomsmen were wearing all black. At the last minute, I got him a white tux, even if he wouldn't match. He couldn't have looked more handsome or proud.” —Cathy Baeker (Cathy's grandfather, Dewitt Hobbs, escorts her down the aisle at her August 2004 wedding to Wilfried Baeker in Middleburg, Virginia)

“After my dress was altered, I used the **leftover fabric** to have a tie made for my fiancé and handkerchiefs sewn for our parents and siblings. I loved giving such sentimental gifts.”

—Audrey Puente (Audrey and her husband, Jay Thompson, pose in Times Square after their September 2004 ceremony in New York City)

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