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There's a scarlet lip for every bride. Find yours with our no-fail primer.

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## DETAILS

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Whether you're into soft shades or hot hues, these color schemes will make your night.

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Planner Kristin Newman throws some of the best fetes in the South, and she's sharing her wedding know-how with you.

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Because your great-aunt is going to want to get you something amazing.

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The guy at the end of the aisle needs your help! Get him started with this A-to-Z manual.

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## REAL WEDDINGS

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Two culture vultures descended on Atlanta's High Museum of Art for a mod black-and-white affair. By Elizabeth Jenkins

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Festivities kicked off with a bottle of Jack and ended with a fireworks show lighting up the North Carolina sky.

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Mini doughnuts, oceanside vows, and all-night tequila shots? Now that's a party. By Elizabeth Jenkins

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One Manhattan power couple brought their sleek aesthetic to an elegant upstate hotel. The result? Perfection on the Hudson.

### 320 BREATH OF FRESH AIR

How much does it really cost to put together a backyard wedding? A Minnesota pair tells all. By Lambeth Hochwald

## Behind the Scenes

OUR FAVORITE MOMENTS FROM THE COVER SHOOT



Just two weeks after her I do's, Elyse Taylor slipped back into bridal mode.



Between takes at our rooftop shoot overlooking the Hudson.



We're still swooning over this graphic Giambattista Valli gown.

BACKSTAGE: NICOLE HEAT

## DETAILS



Kristin used 64-foot-long tables and manzanita-tree centerpieces for this 212-person wedding at Atlanta's Piedmont Driving Club.



## KRISTIN'S SHORT LIST

# PLAN LIKE A PRO EVENT DESIGNER

Kristin Newman, a top party planner in Charleston, South Carolina, tells brides to get grooms involved early—and keep the wine flowing late. Here, more expert tips.

**If you're good at making decisions, a short engagement is fabulous.** A long one can be agonizing; it lets you rethink everything. Ten months is perfect, but planning can be done well in four.

**Before you book anything, do this with your groom first:** Write down five adjectives that describe your dream wedding, and determine your top five priorities—the things you feel are most important for you and your guests to experience.

**Build your reception style around what you love most.** For many couples, weddings are about an amazing Motown band and a packed dance floor. But not for everyone! For one of my couples, it was brunch. So we threw an English-style mid-day wedding, served crab-cake Benedict, and hired an orchestra to play jazz while everyone hung out.

**For the greatest impact, focus your budget on the sensory stuff—a calligraphed invite, great music, the best food.** And if you're looking for a place to save, skip the favors. Often guests don't even notice them!

**Another savings trick:** Have the caterer put table felt (she'll know what it is) beneath well-pressed standard rental linens. It makes them look thicker and more expensive.

**Be sure your photographer gets all the detail shots before the reception starts.** Also, put her on your guest list so she receives an invitation and can shoot that before the wedding too.

**When in doubt, go with my signature color scheme: blush, taupe, and tan.** I love a putty-colored palette! Add texture with linens and crystal. All white with candlelight is beautiful too.

**A rustic wedding can be really chic.** I worked on a riverside wedding with a Ralph Lauren-boho vibe: The bridesmaids wore braided updos and carried long boughs of viney blooms wrapped with suede. It was natural yet sophisticated.

**Before joining guests at cocktail hour, take a moment to celebrate privately.** Sit down, relax, have your caterer bring a tray of hors d'oeuvres, and toast each other! —As told to Heather Lee

### ▲ THE NECESSARY SPLURGE

"There's nothing lovelier than a fragrant clutch of lilies of the valley. I like my bouquets simple, not overworked."

### ▲ THE BEST BUBBLY

"My go-to is a glass of Schramsberg Brut Rosé."

### ▼ THE KILLER HEELS

"I'm crazy about these strappy sandals by Casadei. They would be fab for an engagement party!"

