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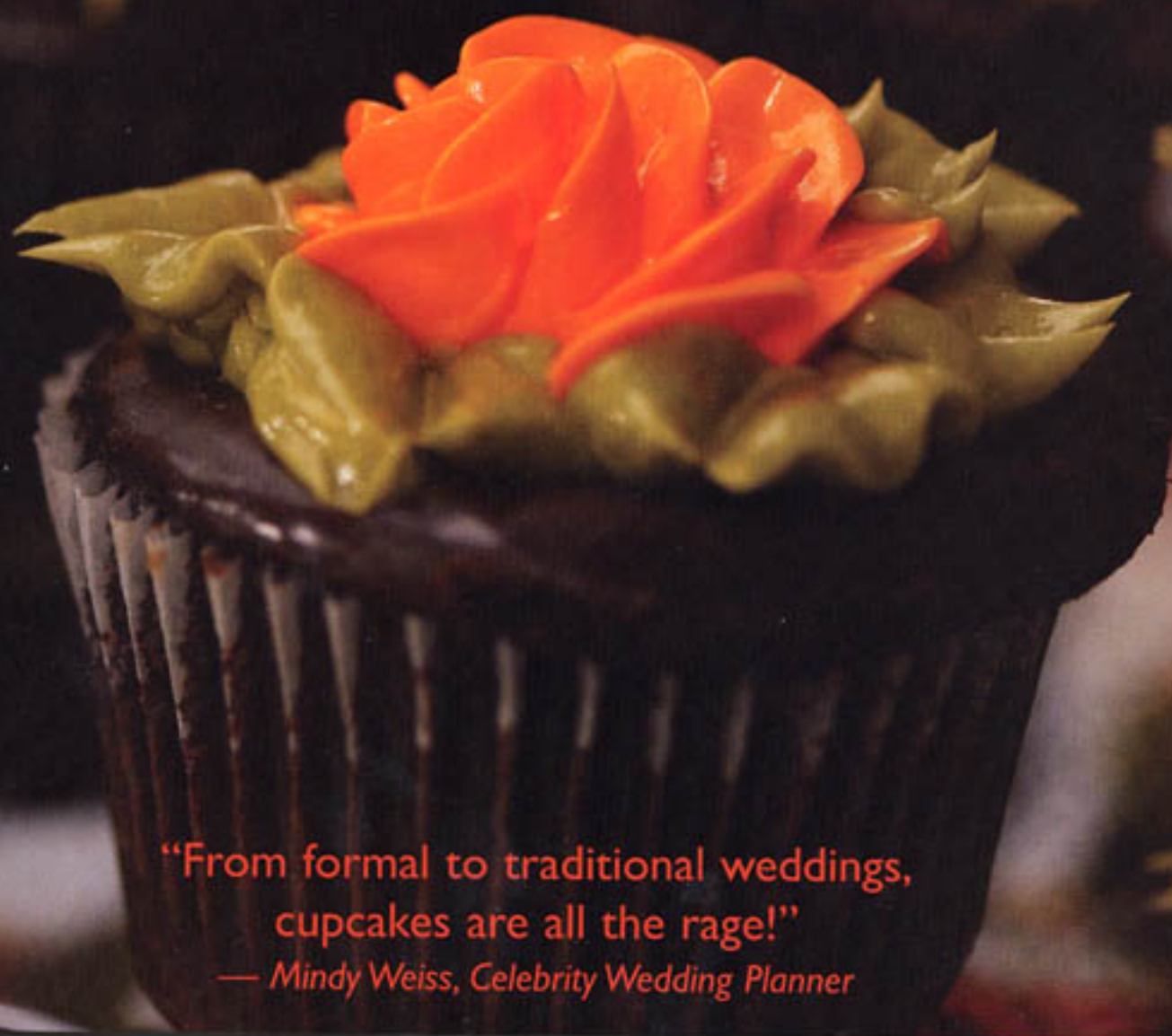
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Fall Trends 2006

BN planning 17



"From formal to traditional weddings, cupcakes are all the rage!"
— Mindy Weiss, Celebrity Wedding Planner



BN planning 19

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CAKES From formal to traditional weddings, cupcakes are all the rage. Big color trends for fall are chocolate brown, deep purple, ruby red, copper and metallic. **INVITATIONS** Create new and unique ways to enclose information with special treatments such as ribbons, pockets and grommets. **FLOWERS** An "unkempt garden" is the look for fall—overflowing with beautiful flowers, branches and leaves. **DÉCOR** Candles all over the table are a great way to give the room a warm, inviting finish. To cut costs, you can easily create these lovely accents yourself.



Brides Noir Fall/Winter 2005

Addressed for the Occasion

A wedding invitation, no matter how much we dress it up, is simply an informative piece of paper describing to your potential guests the who, what, where, and when of your wedding celebration. Your invitations give your guests the first glimpse of your wedding style. Guests can depict from your invitation whether your wedding will be formal or informal and how they should dress for the occasion. Your invitation is one of the first places you get to flex your individuality, so choose accordingly.

The Linings

There are several commonly used components to your invitations. The style, formality, and logistics will determine which components are essential to you.

The invitation informs your guests of the who, what, when, and where of your wedding ceremony.

Save-the-Date cards, calendars, and magnets give your guests the heads-up that you are getting married in the near future. They should be mailed out as soon as the date and location have been set and are extremely essential tools for couples who are planning destination weddings or couples who have a lot of out-of-town guests planning to attend.

Response cards are included in the invitation for guests to return to the wedding host with their intentions of attendance. To avoid incurring extra postage expenses, some couples choose to set up 800 numbers, email accounts, or websites for their guests' reply to their invitation. (Tip: Writing lightly with a pencil, place a number on the back of your response cards in case your guests forget to put their names on it.)

Maphead cards are included in the invitations for out-of-town guests. It gives the guests information on hotel accommodations as well as directions to the wedding and ceremony sites.

Reception cards are for couples who are hosting their reception at a different location from that of the ceremony or for couples who have two different guest lists.

Where to Shop

Stationery stores (ex. Hallmark) specialize in all types of stationery needs, not just wedding invi-

tations. You will be able to browse through large catalogue books and choose your wedding invitations. There is a salesperson available to help you with your invitation needs as well as assist you with placing your order.

The internet allows stationery stores to sell their collections online to a larger customer base. While the internet offers online shopping convenience, consumers will lose the one-on-one personal customer service they would receive from stores.

Department stores (ex. Wal-Mart, Target) offer invitation sets for couples who are looking for ways to cut their costs by

printing their own invitations. The downside of invitation sets is the limited designs and styles that are available.

Mail-order catalogues offer consumers the privilege of ordering their invitations directly from the company, bypassing the retail stores. Couples can order samples from the computer to assist in the decision-making process, just beware that ordering from a catalog carries a greater receipt risk, so make sure you order early.

Timing is Everything

Invitations should be ordered three to four months before the wedding date. You want to allow time for shipping, proof-

