

Brides

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Northern
California

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RECEPTION
SITES

Lovely Bouquets
{Same Look, Half Price}

A Well-Suited Groom
The Right Jacket
for Any Body Type

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IDEAS



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NoCal Invites, Flowers & Favors

Bride Tested, Editor Approved

Instead of doing a typical bouquet toss, **Yael Pasternak** decided to try something different at the reception following her September 2005 wedding to **Bryan Charles Valek**, held at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Her florist, **Miguel Torres**, of McCall Associates (415-552-8550, danmc call.com), created a "Fortune Bouquet": a cluster of five mini versions of her bridal bouquet of cymbidium orchids, fiddlehead ferns, purple amaranth, and Gloriosa lilies.

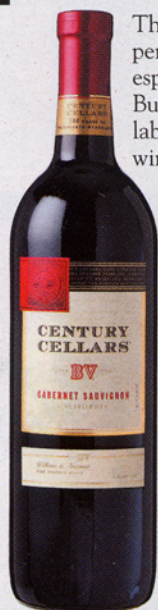
Tags bearing fortunes (phrases like "Your dreams will come true," "Good luck will soon find you," and "You will live a life filled with travel and adventure") were attached to each one. At the reception, all of the female guests—not just the single ones—were invited onto the dance floor to catch one of the five bouquets as Yael tossed them into the air.



GenesisPhoto.com

INVITES, FLOWERS & FAVORS

Personalized Wine Done Right



The idea of handing out bottles of wine with personalized labels as favors is a great one, and especially appropriate for a wedding in Napa. But the options are rarely ideal—personalized labels can veer too close to cheesy, plus the wine they adorn is often subpar.

So we're of course thrilled to see and sample the new personalization service offered by **Beaulieu Vineyard** (myweddingmywine.com), in Napa Valley.

The tasteful, customized designs mimic the vineyard's already smart everyday labels (think clean borders and elegant script), and the wines themselves are delicious. The labels are free; Beaulieu Vineyard's Century Cellars wine (choose from Chardonnay, Merlot, and Cabernet Sauvignon) retails for around \$10.99 per bottle, and is available at most fine wine retailers, including Beverages & More.

Thinking Inside the Box

Sure, they're pricey, but if your invite list is small and your event is luxe, box invitations are a dramatic option. New custom-invitation company **Alia Designs** (650-387-3330, aliadesigns.com), a sister duo based in the San Mateo and Chicago areas, works one-on-one with clients to design exquisite fantasy creations that arrive in silk boxes embellished with materials sourced from around the world. "The boxes become great keepsakes for guests, as well, because after the wedding they can use them to store photos or jewelry," says co-owner Puneet Messler. Cost: \$35 and up per invitation ensemble.



Photos, from left: Courtesy of Beaulieu Vineyard; Courtesy of Alia Designs

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