

GOOD THINGS

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COOL TWIST

I scream, you scream . . . for this crowd-pleasing old-school dessert.

A rental soft-serve ice cream machine will trigger summer nostalgia among your grown-up guests and delighted squeals from the young ones.

Add mix-in concentrates to churn out a frozen treat in dreamy hues that fit your décor, and flavors that complement your menu. (We used grape, peach, pistachio, and lemon.) For an ultracool presentation, set up a station with acrylic cone holders and metallic-paper wrappers.

THE DETAILS: Ice cream machine rental, price upon request, conradsconcessions.com. Flavor concentrates, \$18 per qt., msconcession.com. Winco acrylic ice cream cone holder stand, \$12, foodservicedirect.com.



MIDAS TOUCHES

Two Ways to Add Shimmer to Big-Day Details

Try a Transfer

Go for the gold (or silver): Foil metallic appliqués can turn any notebook or journal into a chic, personalized photo album, thank-you gift, or guest book. It's as simple as choosing a finish you like online, then uploading your design—which might be your wedding date, your monogram, or a simple message. You'll receive rub-on transfer sheets in the mail. For a smooth application, use a dull, flat object (like a Popsicle stick or bone folder) to apply the design to the desired surface.

THE DETAILS: ReproGraphX custom transfer sheet, from \$20, customrubontransfers.com. From top: Sketchbook (similar to shown), \$7, jacksonsart.com. Sketchbook (similar to shown), \$25, kunst-papier.com. "Volant" pocket plain notebook, \$12 for 2, moleskine.com.

Go Freestyle

If you'd rather create designs by hand, you can apply metallic doodles, dashes, dots—or whatever strikes your fancy—using a **"Heatwave" pen** (\$30, wermemorykeepers.com). This kit comes with ready-to-apply sheets of foil in various shiny tones. Place the sheets on a matte surface, then use the pen to transfer the metallic color for a tiny detail or an allover pattern. Here we added a touch of gold to **jewelry boxes** (in Teal Matte and Pink Matte, \$63 for 100, theboxdepot.com).

For an even transfer, hold the pen with a slant-free grip, and apply steady pressure as you write.





SECRET SOURCE: GOURMET SWEET BOTANICALS

Ordinary crudités may be ho-hum, but watch the reaction when you bring out piles of veggies in miniature—like these Lilliputian carrots, squash blossoms, radishes, and onions. The pint-size produce is fun-and-easy finger food, ideal for preceremony bridal-party nibbles. Serve with green goddess dip (visit marthastewart.com/green-goddess-dip for the recipe). These veggies are just our latest love from Gourmet Sweet Botanicals. The San Diego-based company sells a variety of microgreens, herbs, and—one of our favorite wedding-cake finishers—crystallized and edible flowers.

THE DETAILS: “Tiny Veggies” bunches (carrot, onion, squash blossoms, and radish), \$14 each, gourmetsweetbotanicals.com. Square and rectangular wooden dishes, from \$16.75 for 20; and wooden spoon, \$13.50 for 100, bioandchic.com.



THE CHERRY ON TOP

Make your wedding cake even sweeter with a topper that feels uniquely you—whether that means vintage smooching newlyweds or a more modern, playful motif. These figurines are big on charm and will remain keepsakes long after the last crumbs are gone.

THE DETAILS: **1.** Pink-and-gold tassel bunting, \$10, steelpennycakes.etsy.com. **2.** Vintage bride and groom (similar to shown), \$28, rustbelttreasures.etsy.com. **3.** "Windsor" crown, \$23, mypaperperformance.etsy.com. **4.** "Me & Him" custom, \$150, other custom options available as well, lollipopworkshop.etsy.com. **5.** "Woodland" animals, \$52, coralandtusk.com. **6.** Porcelain monogram, \$17, weddingcollectibles.com. **7.** "Doves and Ferns" keepsake box, \$250, wendyaddisonstudio.com. **8.** Cat and English pointer (similar to shown), starting at \$58, alishascaystudio.etsy.com. **9.** "Kissing Swans," \$695, herendusa.com. **10.** Vintage wedding couple (similar to shown), \$35, efinegifts.etsy.com.





TO HAVE AND TO HOLD

Your bouquet can be more than a memory after the day. Try one of these ideas for preserving it: **1.** Press flowers between sheets of parchment and under heavy books for 7 to 10 days. Once the flowers are papery and dry, use acid-free archival glue to secure them to thick paper to use as a **card** or to frame (in Light Pink, \$8.75; and envelope, \$6.25, paperpresentation.com). **2.** Mail flowers to artist Cara Marie Piazza, and she'll use them to embellish a **silk slip**, robe, scarf, or your own garment, steaming impressions into the fabric (\$635, caramarienyc.com). **3.** Use blooms in a custom memory **candle** that won't melt away—this one is hollow and comes with an illuminated base (not shown)—or you can use a battery-operated tea light (from \$90, theisleco.com).

4. Enclose dried petals in a **sachet**: Stitch two ribbons (10" long by 2½" wide) lengthwise. Fold the combined ribbons in half, then sew the outer edges to create a pouch; flip inside out, fill with flowers, and cinch with a string (hand-dyed silk-satin ribbon, in various colors, \$8 per yd., mjtrim.com).

SNAP YOUR ENERGY

Capture the spirit of the night: Hire an aura photographer to take portraits of your guests and their psychedelic “energy fields.” An aura reading is said to shed light on personality and temperament with colors that correspond to certain traits: For instance, yellow indicates creativity, blue shows sensitivity, and red suggests power. For the reading and portrait, guests place their hands on a sensor plate and look into an attached camera. The instant prints make fun favors—and a bright dose of color for the wedding album.

An online search should reveal aura-photography professionals in your area; we worked with the Brooklyn-based Family of Light Holistic Center (event price upon request, familyoflight.center/aura-photography).

Conversation starter! Encourage guests to compare readings.

There's an App for That

If you're curious about aura imagery, you can give it a low-commitment test run via the Aura and Energy Photo-Magic Detector app (free, from the App Store). Use your phone to snap a picture, and the true colors of the subject will appear onscreen.

