



5 Wedding Trends To Watch Out For In 2016

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You're ready to tie the knot this year, but the ol' cookie cutter traditions and hefty wedding price tag turns your stomach. It's time to say "ciao" to the days of "'til death do us part" vows and march to the beat of your own Spotify playlist.

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These five wedding trends for 2016 are all about focusing on *your* love and *your* quirks to create *your* own authentic wedding vision, not your parents'.

1. Elopement Ceremonies

Let's get real. If you want a simple, no-frills, all-love wedding ceremony, THEN you probably care most about your vows, the pronouncement that you're officially married, and that big juicy kiss that seals the wedded deal, right?!

More couples are opting to invite a handful of their closest friends and family to a truly intimate love affair, tying the knot in fun and unconventional locations with naturally gorgeous backdrops. This cost-effective wedding trend isn't just a hassle-free option, it's one that delivers breathtaking photos every single time. Not to mention, all the feels!

2. Inventive Unity Traditions

Unity traditions symbolize the fusion between two individuals into one love-filled partnership. Lately, it's evolved from the classic hand fasting and lighting of the unity candle to unity cocktails, beer blendings, and unity paintings.

Couples are getting creative, involving their kiddos, putting a spin on unity traditions, or inventing their own. This 2016 wedding trend is all about exploring your shared passions, regardless of if it's crazy, dorky, or **literally cheesy**, to create a wedding ceremony that speaks volumes to you.

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3. Offbeat Locale

Bookstores, beer gardens, and **carousels**... OH MY! There are limitless offbeat wedding ceremony or reception locations to choose from when you keep your eyes peeled, your mind open, and a sweetly tenacious attitude.

This new year is all about finding affordable yet AWE-MAZING finds for your wedding day. Skip those pricey wedding venues and check out your local small businesses instead. If you walk by an inspiring art gallery, winery, or coffee shop with a space that was practically made for you, then talk to the owner. Chances are they'd love to work with you! Since they're not marketing themselves as an overpriced "wedding venue," you score cool points for originality and bargain hunting.

4. In Tandem Vows

We've all heard the "In Sickness and In Health" wedding vow staple and while it's a solid go-to, vows should include promises (big and small) that are meaningful to you. Whether that is, "I promise to be in your corner even when you get on my last nerve" or "I will wash the dishes every time you cook," vows are your lifetime pinky swears to love each other and have each other's backs, no matter what.

Couples who opt to **write their own vows** are choosing to say them together, alternating promises to each other or saying them in sync. This sentimental ceremony trend is a sweet pre-marriage exercise that speaks to the heart of your relationship, where you figure out what's most important to you and your future together.

5. Pop Up Weddings

You refuse to become another tantrum-throwing Bridezilla reality show cliché, but you get super stressed over the idea of

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5. Pop Up Weddings

You refuse to become another tantrum-throwing Bridezilla reality show cliché, but you get super stressed over the idea of planning anything, let alone a wedding. So, what to do? Jump on the ultimate wedding trend of 2016, obviously.

Pop up weddings are perfect for those radically cool couples who crave the experience of a lifetime without lifting a finger! Everything is taken care of. From your wedding officiant to your photographer and the flowers to the sweets, all you have to do is show up in love and ready to say "I Do."

Luckily for my fellow New Yorkers, the first ever group pop up wedding celebration will be held at the end of March. Yup, like Queen Latifah's Grammy wedding, minus the Macklemore and Ryan Lewis live performance. This two-day Instagram-worthy event is your Kimye moment to revel in the lavishness of your very own bridal brunch, welcome party, and live-streamed Hollywood-esque wedding. [Pop Bliss](#) registration is now open, so squash the stress and take it easy knowing that you're about to be one trendsetting newlywed!

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