

I do! I do!

Even Encore Brides Can Have Huge Splashy Weddings!

by Mary E. Hart



You can hold your encore reception in a elegant, yet intimate, dining room, as seen here at **The Castle, (802) 226-7361**, at your home, or in a lavish ballroom.

When I used to think of *Encore Brides*, women who are getting married for the second or third time — or more!, I always imagined a ceremony held in City Hall followed by a small reception held afterwards in a cozy restaurant for 15 - 30 of the bride and groom's family and friends. Well... forget that antiquated notion! >

As an encore bride, you can have *any* type of wedding you wish - from the smallest, most intimate affair to the grandest bash you've ever thrown! It's up to you!

THE WHOLE NINE YARDS

When you're planning your encore wedding, "Go full blown," advises Robert Weidner of **Rolling Green Inn & Conference Center, Ramada**, (978) 475-5400. "Generally, the bride and groom are well in to their higher earning years at this point, and can afford to spend more."

"You should do everything you wished you could have done the first time around," states Kelly Soucy of the **Center of New Hampshire Holiday Inn**, (603) 625-1000. If you weren't able to afford a big band as entertainment for your first wedding, you should hire a band for your encore wedding.

Kelly continues, "I think that it is up to the bride and groom to decide what is best for them, be it a small or a large wedding and reception. The couple should express their love for one another the way they feel is right."

"Second marriages today can be as small or as elaborate as the bridal couple wishes," says Mary Brown, Wedding Manager at **The Bethel Inn & Country Club**, (800) 654-0125. "Sometimes, it is a first marriage for one part of the couple and it is important for them to have a traditional wedding."

"Encore brides generally go the step above," comments Christine Langevin of **Charter Oak Country Club**, (978) 562-0800. "The reception now becomes not so traditional and it is a representation of themselves. For example, no formal cake cutting or special dances. Your dinner can be a plated dinner or stations, with a band or DJ to dance the night away."

FREEDOM

"When planning an encore wedding," notes Tanya Matthews, Senior Sales Manager of the **Holiday Inn Brookline**, (617) 277-1200, "the bride tends to have a lot more flexibility than first-time brides. The encore bride has the freedom to incorporate colors in dress, change traditions and add a more personalized touch to her reception and wedding. The encore bride is usually older and therefore has already learned to celebrate who she is so when it comes time to personalize her wedding, it will be a piece of cake!"

"Most encore brides want *simple elegance*," asserts Mary. "Family participation is very important to them. They tend to spend their money on a more elegant cocktail hour and meal with smaller numbers invited. I think that most couples who are getting married for the second time will want to think about keeping more sophistication in their plans than a younger first-time couple might."

Continued on page 32



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Encore brides have the freedom to choose any style of gown they wish, from a sleek sheath gown to a full ball gown. The choice is yours!