

LIFESTYLE

Lifestyle Writing Portfolio



Lifestyle Watch

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What's going on? Create a community newsletter to inform people about interesting people and places, upcoming events, newly opened local businesses, exciting community news, or share information about lifestyle tips and tricks.

For the front page, give a breakdown of what others can expect from reading the entire newsletter. Keep the focus on a particular theme (may be seasonal news, like a summer theme), and use it as a starting point to write interesting as well as heartwarming articles.

SNEAK PEEK

02

Celebrity Engagement Rings: Bling It On!

03

What To Do When Party Guests Behave Badly

04

14 Beach-themed Wedding Tips and Ideas

Celebrity Engagement Rings: Bling It On!



For the general public, celebrities are larger than life. Every little thing they do is of public interest. So when they do have some big event in their lives, like getting engaged, it looks like the whole world wants to know all the details. Many people would want to see pictures of celebrity engagement rings.

What do the big celebrities favor when it comes to engagement rings?

Make It Big

When talking of jewelry in general and engagement rings in particular, "the bigger and costlier the better" seems to be the prevailing mindset among celebrities. Never mind if some engagements don't even materialize into an actual wedding. Or if it does, some marriages don't last long enough to mark the love child's first walk.

Size definitely matters to celebrity couples. Imagine the stunning 30-carat diamond ring of Elizabeth Taylor when she got engaged to Michael Todd. There's also the 24-carat white diamond ring given to Paris Hilton by her namesake, shipping heir Paris Latsis. While reality star Kim Kardashian had an impressive 20.5-carat diamond ring on her engagement to Kris Humphries, the question of who actually bought the ring with a whopping \$2 million price tag is still the subject of much speculation. When it comes to price though, few could probably beat the \$5 million ring that Jay-Z gave Beyonce. Maybe she gave him tips on how to put a ring on it?

Diamonds Are A Girl's Best Friend

A diamond sparkler is an obvious choice for an engagement ring. Aren't diamonds a girl's best friend?

Fancy colored diamond rings are getting to be a favorite. Singer Carrie Underwood got a pretty yellow diamond ring from husband Mike Fisher.

When it comes to engagement rings, size definitely matters to celebrity couples.

Blake Lively's ring from Ryan Reynolds is a beautiful light pink oval diamond. Mariah Carey also got a pink diamond ring from Nick Cannon. As for the setting, gold and platinum bands are the most popular.

Favored Designers

Top celebrity engagement rings are custom-designed by the jewelers of the rich and famous.

Harry Winston and Neil Lane are two names that often crop up on this subject. Brad Pitt is said to have designed the ring he gave to Angelina Jolie. The same is true for the engagement ring that adorned the hand of first wife Jennifer Aniston. Coincidentally, both women got engaged again this year.

Royal Jewelries

What about the royal celebrities? They have the advantage of having an option to dip into the family's crown jewels. The sapphire ring surrounded by diamonds set in white diamond that Prince William gave Kate Middleton was his mother's, Princess Diana. That gorgeous ring was bought for the late princess by Prince Charles.

Much as they claim otherwise, celebrities are not regular people. They usually think big and over-the-top. For them, money is no hindrance to have the most unique and most beautiful engagement ring. For regular mortals though, perhaps celebrity engagement ring replicas will do.



What To Do When Party Guests Behave Badly

After you have carefully planned your perfect party, you think you have everything under control.

That's not entirely true. One thing you can't control is the way your guests behave. There will come a time when you'll have to deal with party guests behaving badly, from the surprise guests to the ones who've had too much to drink.

Here's what you can do when faced with guests behaving badly:

Unexpected Guests

When an invited guest arrives with an unexpected guest, do your best to accommodate them without disturbing the event. Be the gracious host and don't make a scene. Arrange for an extra chair or space. As a host, you should plan for times like these by factoring in extra food and drinks.

You see someone you don't recognise, and no one in your party has any idea who the person is. This usually happens in large gatherings held in places like hotels where multiple events take place. Ask your party planner or venue manager to quietly approach the party crasher and then escort them to the door.

Guests overstaying their welcome

When you're ready to call it a night but your guests still won't end the party, start to clear the plates, let out a big yawn and say, "It's been great having you here. Let's do this again sometime."

Kids behaving badly

In children's parties, there's always the possibility of kids having tantrums or having a crying fit.

If the parent is present, ask them to handle the situation. If not, offer another activity to redirect the child's attention. You may need to take a child to a quiet spot for him to calm down before rejoining the party. It helps a lot when there's another adult looking out for the kids during the party.

Rude / Drunk Guests

Bad behaviour during parties is often caused by drunkenness. A guest may talk too loudly, become argumentative, threaten other guests, or even become violent. Bad behaviour can disrupt your party and put others in awkward situations.

In a large party where there's an open bar, talk to the venue manager about serving the right amount of drinks to guests.

If you see a guest being unruly, take care of the situation before it gets worse. Ask the person that the unruly guest arrived with, or a good friend, to steer the unruly one to the bathroom or outside the venue and try to talk some sense into him or her. If that doesn't work, then it's time to call a cab for the bad guest to go home.

Anticipating possible scenarios will help you deal with inappropriate guest behavior. As the perfect party host, you have to be ready for anything, and be able to embrace the unexpected.



14 Beach-themed Wedding Tips and Ideas

What do you do when you want to have a romantic beach wedding, but, for one reason or another, can't have that wedding at a real beach? Create the next best thing --- a beach-themed wedding! You want everyone to have this mindset to have some serious fun, so make arrangements to have a laid back but beautifully organised affair.

1. If possible, hold it in an outdoor venue. Ask any of Delegate's wedding planners for ideas on excellent wedding venues.
2. Have a plan in place in case of a weather problem, in case it gets too hot or when it rains. Your venue manager should be able to handle this.
3. Have the sound of the sea as your faint background throughout the ceremony. The sound of the waves lapping as the cool breeze glides through will transport everyone to a magical place of calm and romance. Make sure this doesn't overpower the microphone for the wedding vows.
4. For a picture-perfect wedding, consider a sunset wedding and an all-white attire for everyone: men, women and children.
5. For footwear, the bride and bridesmaids can still look elegant in not so high wedges, flat sandals or ballet flats with delicate beading. Your flower girls can wear matching flip flops.

Whenever you hear "beach wedding", casual and carefree are two words that come to mind.

6. Ditch the over-styled, heavy gowns and formal suits. Wear something simpler, in fabrics that are light and airy.
7. As a colour motif, the beach theme makes extensive use of coral, blue and the natural shades of sand.
8. Line the aisle with traditional lanterns to light the bride and groom's path to the wedding ceremony. Or you can install tiki torches for added exotic touch.
9. The women of the wedding party (maid of honour, bridesmaids, mother of the bride and groom) can wear oversized straw hats for sun protection.
10. Make sure everyone is comfortable. Give out paper hand fans for your guests to fan themselves.
11. Make use of seashells, starfish, pebbles, sand, pearls and fresh flowers in your attire, decorations and wedding party favours.
12. Use linen table covers. For table centrepiece, use floating candles, with bits and pieces of seashells and loose petals scattered around.
13. Serve a variety of delectable seafood dishes, grilled meat and vegetables, and cold salads for the reception party. Ice cream would be a welcome treat on a hot day!
14. Treat your wedding guests to some piña colada, mai tai or mojito and other tropical cocktails, plus some lemonade, citrus punch or iced tea. Don't forget those cute cocktail umbrellas.

Remember, It's your big day. Go give yourselves and your guests a spectacular beach wedding experience to remember.