

Tradition versus Changing Times

Tradition tells us that wedding shoes should be white, feminine, and simply beautiful. But times are changing, and with that, the trends on bridal shoes. A bride's wedding shoes are not limited to stilettos, mules, pumps, and kitten heels in ivory and satin. Today, the added flexibility of themed weddings allows brides to express themselves with the footwear of their choice.

It is heart breaking whenever I come across brides that are bounded by customs whereby parents or in-laws insist on them wearing closed toed shoes when the bride's foot structure or personality is clearly unsuitable.

The elderly often explain that opened toed shoes are too casual and signify poverty with toes exposed.

My suggestion to tackle sticky situations like these is to bring them shopping.

Tire them out! When they realize how frustrating and difficult it is to find a beautiful shoe in your comfort and style, these well-meaning relatives will give up on their insistence.

Don't underestimate the power of your own wit!



Outdoor garden weddings are getting popular. To complement the "airiness" of the bridal dress, shoes should be airy and lightweight like sandals. As too pointy heels can sink in the ground, flat or platform sandals are best. Jeweled slippers with beads and embellishments are also good choices. This way, the bride does not have to worry about sinking or balancing on uneven grounds. Wedding shoes for outdoor wedding should be comfortable and relaxed to complement the relaxed and summery setting.

More adventurous brides prefer beach weddings. Beaches are usually chosen as venues if there are sentimental moments between the couple that happened in the beach like the first kiss or engagement. These are moments of surprise and the whole bridal ensemble should echo the excitement of those moments.

Since the usual dresses for beach weddings show a lot of skin (think tube, haltered, short dresses), the wedding shoes should follow. Strapped heels are out because of the sand and this makes for an opportunity to use funky flip-flops and flat thong sandals. Embellished flip-flops and thong sandals with sparkly rhinestone details complement the beach vibe.

Recently, travel-themed and ethnic weddings are getting popular with jetsetter couples. Popular inspirations are Japanese, Arabian, and African cultures. Wedding dresses and the decors of the venue evoke images from the theme.

The gradual flexibility of wedding traditions allows for more personal and intimate weddings. There is no reason why brides should restrain their individual styles. Wedding shoes provide opportunities for little surprises and brides are welcome to take them.

A wedding is, first and foremost, the bride's day. She can proclaim lace-up boots or track shoes as her wedding shoes and no one is allowed to object.

