

## THE MEDIUM-SIZED WEDDING

*(Between 50 and 150 guests)*

If you're inviting not just your family and your husband's but also a good number of friends, chances are you have a medium-sized guest list. But careful planning guarantees that the head count will be the only thing about the celebration that's average.

**INVITATIONS** You won't be able to personalize the invitations to a wedding of this size, but that doesn't mean you must compromise. An engraved invitation, with its raised type and distinctive "bruise," or indentation, on the reverse, is the classic choice. If you want something even more elegant and artful, seek out a stationer that still does custom hand engraving. You might ask one to hand-engrave calligraphy. A good source for this is Terrapin Stationers, in New York (212-260-6787; [terrapinstationers.com](http://terrapinstationers.com)).

**REGISTERING** As your guest list grows, you can branch out with your registry selections, keeping in mind that some guests are bound to be from out of town. Consider one or two national outlets as well as some local vendors, and remember that registering on-line is especially useful for a medium-sized wedding. "It helps guests of all ages and geographical locations select the perfect present right from their own homes," says event planner Tara P. Guérard, of Soirée, in Charleston (843-577-5006; [www.soireecharleston.com](http://www.soireecharleston.com)).

**VENUE** If you want to host a group of this size at your own home, you'll probably need a tent. A tent wedding lets a bride create the setting she wants. But be mindful of the cost that supplying everything from the chairs to the china will entail. Those not prepared to worry about providing basic amenities in addition to the music and the food will do better to book a club, a hotel ballroom or an elegant restaurant.

**MENU** You may not be able to include foie gras and caviar, but that doesn't mean the menu must be uninspired. If you're having a sit-down dinner, keep it to three courses and be considerate of the dietary needs of your guests by choosing dishes with wide appeal or by offering vegetarian options.

**PHOTOGRAPHY** With a larger wedding party, the photographer's responsibilities increase, so while a wedding of up to 150 attendees can generally be covered by one experienced photographer and an assistant, be sure that the professional you hire is used to working with a group of this size.

**GUEST FAVORS** While you may not be able to present your entourage with personalized presents, you can still give thoughtfully. Have useful tote bags or beach towels embroidered with the wedding date. Compile your favorite songs and wedding music on a CD. Showcase the place cards in small silver frames and invite guests to take them home. Planner Preston Bailey recalls a wedding at which gift certificates for facials were distributed on silver trays to the slightly more than 100 guests.



We had a medium-sized wedding, so we were able to hold it in the church across the road from the house.

Marina Rust Connor, *novelist*

Lovely for a bridesmaid or a guest, these spinel and garnet earrings, designed by **ERICA MOLINARI** at Fragments, add a burst of color. \$960; 888-6-FRAGMENTS.



A design-conscious couple will love this handblown Murano glass vase by **SEGUSO VIRO**, with an opening just large enough for a few well-chosen stems. \$1,000; 800-659-5210.

