

HOT TREND

## foodie fads

Looking for a culinary twist for your wedding dinner? Here are our three fave food trends.

### 1 Family-style Dinners

We're not just talking about bowls of pasta; nowadays, couples are offering trays of steamed lobsters and platters of jerk chicken.

"Family-style is getting more popular because it's less formal," says Bior Guigni, wedding specialist at The Fairmont Hamilton Princess in Bermuda. "Plus, communal tables make the dinner more interactive." Another idea: Serve plated entrees with family-style sides.

### 2 Locavore Receptions

Many resorts now have programs that let you and the chef visit farmers markets and herb gardens to pick your own reception produce. "These days, people are more health-conscious and want

fresh, quality ingredients," says Jason Robinson, chef at The Inn at Dos Brisas in Washington, Texas. A portion of the inn's four-acre organic farm can even be sectioned off to grow your produce choices for your event.

### 3 Midnight Snacks

Brides are sending guests off with more than just a favor, ending parties with a slew of snacks, like s'mores, fresh-baked cookies and milk, or even comfort food (mac 'n' cheese, anyone?). Executive banquet chef Peter Betz, of The Waldorf-Astoria in New York City, counts sliders as one of his most requested items. "Late-night snacks are a great way to cap off a formal day with something fun and casual," he says. — *Jill Fergus*



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## fab favors

Searching for that one-of-a-kind guest gift? We found three crowd pleasers.

**CITY SLICKER** Guests can use Moleskine's City notebooks to jot down memories, trace routes, collect phone numbers, and record favorite restaurants, shops and attractions. The pocket-size journals also contain maps and public-transit info. Available for 45 cities, from Amsterdam to Zurich. *\$17.95 each.*

**GOODIE GOODIE** Treat your guests with an all-natural cupcake mix from vintagebakeshop.com. The 3-inch by 3-inch favor boxes come in white or natural, and flavors include chocolate, red velvet, vanilla, chocolate mint, ginger spice and — our favorite — champagne. Choose from more than 20 customizable labels, or design your own. *A dozen boxes with labels from \$60.*

**MERRYMAKER** Remind your guests of their experience year after year with a handcrafted ornament. Sceau.com's six designs — scallop shell, mushroom coral, sea urchin, five-finger starfish, armored starfish and sugar starfish — are all inspired by the ocean. Personalize the wording on the packaging, and pick from six gold wax seals. *From \$6 each.* — *EH*

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