

Have your cake...

TRENDS The wedding cake takes on new 3D avatars, matches the bride's dress or the groom's mood. It's no longer simply a towered creamy wonder, writes NEETI SARKAR



LADY IN RED Nitin and Ruchika Khurana take colour coordination to the next level

In a time and age when weddings have become unwieldy and complex, it is but natural to suppose the spotlight is on the garb of the couple or perhaps their choice of location. However, with cake boutiques burgeoning around the country, the cake has become the focal point at weddings.

Gone are the days when cakes had to be round, square or oval. And in the wedding circuit, there is no room for dummy cakes anymore. Wedding cakes have metamorphosed from cream-smattered blobs to 3D works of art.

With the *shaadi* season here already, we track and predict the most popular wedding cake trends. According to Chef Joonie Tan of Lavonne, "Modern minimalist designs are in and quite a few brides like sugar craft flowers on their wedding cake.

Edible lace cakes have also made a big impression. I've personally done ruffled icing cakes and also a few hand painted cakes, one of which was centred on an Oriental theme. But the most fun order I've taken up was a three tier cake with a fondant topper of the couple (bride holding a key and a sad looking groom whose leg is cuffed) and eight figurines of the bridesmaids and groomsmen surrounding the cake. It was quite a feat putting it together."

Destination matters

Smriti Kumar, a wedding planner finds: "Destination cakes are huge especially with more people opting for beach weddings. A whimsical or topsy-turvy three-tiered cake is perfect for a bride and groom who are very different from each other yet always manage to balance out their differences with the love they share. Interesting cake toppers

propped on lollipop sticks such as a moustache representing the groom and bright red cardboard lips symbolising the bride, are also among the newest trends in the world of wedding cakes."

Sabeetha Shyam who owns Sabeetha's Cakes in Chennai, says: "I've always loved flowers and recreating them in sugar paste gives me joy. Cakes today, however, seem to exclude flowers and take a more contemporary approach. Brides seem to prefer filigree work and embroidery or lace decor and are trying to stay away from the conventional varieties. One of the interesting cakes I've worked on recently was a mehendi cake."

Anuj Desai, a software engineer says: "My wife loves flowers but didn't want the ones made of sugar so our wedding cake was adorned with fresh flowers that matched the colour theme of our wedding. She had other options too - Swiss dots and a candy embellished cake."

Metallic wedding cakes have been popping up at funky dos. From gold and silver to even bronze iced cakes, everything about a wedding like this is dazzling. Geometrical patterns aren't limited to just clothes or accessories anymore. Elegant chevron detailed cakes are perfect for those planning a contemporary wedding. And if you

thought confetti was meant only for throwing, you'd be surprised to know that on foreign shores, these colourful little balls of thermocol have made their way onto wedding cakes too.

Since the end of last year, ombre has been a huge trend. "I had an ombre cake in pastel shades of pink and purple for my wedding. It looked fairytale like and romantic," says Marisha Patel, a homemaker. While a tower of themed cupcakes would make a pretty picture, wedding cake pops (colour coded) and vibrant French macaroon adorned cakes are gaining popularity.

Another trend catching up is having a cake that matches the bride's (and sometimes, if he's lucky, the groom's) outfit. Massive, elaborate and expensive, there are still takers. Nitin and Ruchika Khurana who own The Sweet Boutique in Delhi offer 4D cakes with light, sound and action.

Choosing the perfect wedding cake can be an ordeal. Joonie says: "Most of us wedding cake specialists try matching the cake to the theme of the wedding broadly at first (classic or modern, Indian/Oriental/Western) by looking at the invitation card and venue decoration.

"Sometimes going by the bride's gown/sari is the most common approach."

BAKED IN UNION

- Dummy and butter cream cakes are losing prominence at weddings
- Cakes with a metallic surface, geometric prints, ruffle icing and 3D and 4D figurines are trending
- Today's wedding cakes are considered sculpted works of art

trends

YOUR DAY

attend

Art
Foundation for Art and Culture for Deaf (FACD) and KalaRasa Art house present an exhibition called "Silent Hues", which will feature various styles and mediums created by 14 artists who are speech and hearing impaired.

Venue: KalaRasa Art House, 11th Main Jayanagar 4th Block
Contact: 26083500
An art exhibition by German artist Alfons Knogl is on.

Venue: 1 Shanthi Road
Date: On till October 22

Contact: 25205305
Book launch
Sudipto Das will launch his debut book *The Ekkos Clan* this evening.

Venue: Just Books, Near Raheja Residency, Koramangala
Time: 5.30 p.m.

Contact: 40982460

Music
Vespa Vibe presents a concert called Addicted to the House.

Venue: Pebbles

Shop Crafts

Soulbath Peace Foundation is having its annual craft bazaar as a fundraising event for Deepavali. Each product, sold, say the organisers, will raise funds towards Education for Sustainable Development for under-served children in rural India.

Venue: Soulbath Peace Foundation, SAHHEAL Centre, Domlur

Date: On October 19 and 20

Time: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Contact: 9591000090

Events

vanta by Taj on October 19 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Food Trails is organising the Bangalore Foodathon, which invites all foodies to explore street food and fine dining experience from the city. It will be held on October 20. For details Call 8105586553 or 8494900059.

K.V. Subbanna Apatha Rangamandira and Film Study Circle will screen the national award winning film *Bettada Jeeva*, which will be followed by a discussion with the director P. Sheshadri. The event will be held on October 20 at 4.30 p.m. at K.V. Subbanna Aaptasamuha.

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