



BACHELORETTE PARTY

Planning 101

The bachelorette party has been a long standing bridal tradition and is often one of the most anticipated events for your female friends and family members. Whether planning a weekend spa trip or a wild evening with girlfriends, try to take in consideration what will be comfortable for the majority of the girls attending. Many times this will depend upon the ages and preferences of those organizing the activities- normally the maid of honor and bridesmaids. That being the case, here are some tips that a bride might want to pass along in order to insure her bachelorette party is one that she will actually want to remember... and have photos as proof.

Discuss potential dates and find one that works for the bride and those she wishes to attend the most. Often times the same date that the groom's bachelor party is being held is a good choice.

Try not to involve the bride in anything except choosing the date, the venue and the invitation list. Everything else should be left to the organizers. This includes picking up the tab for themselves and the bride. All other attendees should pay their own way and normally chip in to pay for the brides fun too.

Tailor the party to fit the personality of the bride-to-be and the majority she wants to attend. While a night out at a male revue or hot dance club might be fun for one of the organizers, it might not be quite so cool to the bride's married sister or best friend. This should be taken into consideration. Remember, this is supposed to be "for the bride" and anything that might put her in an uncomfortable position with anyone she wants there is not the thing to do. As an example, consider making sure nonalcoholic drinks are available for those attending who don't drink.

Arrange taxis or designated drivers if drinking alcohol is part of the evening's plans. The last thing any bride wants is someone getting a DUI after leaving her party... or even worse.

Warn guests ahead of time if you plan something that the majority are agreeable to but still might be offensive to some. Allow them to back out gracefully if the party is not their cup of tea... or rum... and don't give them a hard time about doing so. Remember, a cowboy with nothing but chaps on, jumping out of a paper cake is not for everyone.

Consider a joint bachelorette / bachelor party. These have become increasingly popular and can even entail the girls getting together for one event- such as a spa visit, while the guys enjoy another- maybe swinging some clubs. Afterwards the two groups can meet for dinner, drinks and a night out together. Keep in mind that this works best if the groom's people and the bride's people both have their dates or mates there. The last thing the bride or groom need is for any indiscreet behaviorism to take place between their two groups.

Try to plan the party to take place at least a month before the wedding. As most weddings draw near, people may or may not be excited to partake in yet another event for the bride-to-be, so try to plan it a few weeks off from any other shower or bridal event. Most of all, have fun, be safe and take lots of photos. This could be the last big party as a single gal.

- CHANNING ELIZABETH



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