

Weddings

InStyle

Planning Like a Pro

Make the Most of Your Budget

Find a Location That Dazzles

Shop the Best Web Sites

Gorgeous Hair Looks

Fantasy Gowns

Great Styles for Every Figure

Las Vegas Star

Nikki Cox

on Marrying Jay Mohr

INSTYLE SPECIAL ISSUE DISPLAY UNTIL JUNE 13

\$5.99US \$6.99CAN

62



SPRING 2006 INSTYLE.COM AOL KEYWORD: INSTYLE



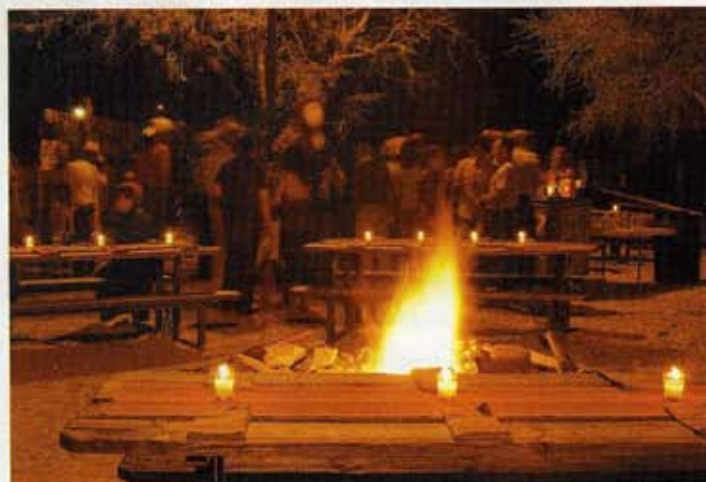
You may also save money because you won't have the extra expense of transporting your guests from event to event, says Rebecca Grinnals of Engaging Concepts in Florida, who adds, "The more events you have at one resort, the more you can negotiate. You can say, 'I'm having three functions here; can you throw in a free breakfast?'" Waikoloa, Hawaii, planner Debbie Cravatta says, however, that if you host all events at one resort, they may all feel the same: "By utilizing more than one venue, you experience different atmospheres, different views and different chefs."

Q If I don't hire a wedding coordinator, how do I go about getting the names and numbers of local vendors?

A Ask around. Start by inquiring with any friends who live in the area, then check with the concierge at the hotel where your guests will be staying the weekend of the wedding. Tara Guérard also suggests asking the staff at a furniture- or linen-rental company. "They have to work with all the different caterers and florists," she says, "so they know better than anybody who has a good reputation and whom you would want to work with." In addition to soliciting opinions from others, you should also do your own research, says planner Jung Lee of Fête in New York City: "Evaluate how responsive the vendors are to you when you call."

Q Aside from the wedding itself, what are my fiancé and I and our parents expected to pay for during the course of the weekend, and what expenses will our guests cover?

A You or your parents should pay for the welcome dinner, rehearsal dinner and morning-after brunch and provide transportation—such as a shuttle bus—for your guests to and from each event. Also arrange round-trip airport transportation for the wedding party and, says Michalena Lloyd of the Chicago event firm Vegas to Venice, cover a portion of the cost of the bridesmaids' wedding attire—such as their dresses, shoes or jewelry. Guests typically pay for their airfare, hotel room and incidentals, but, says JoAnn Gregoli, "I find that most people don't want to spend more than \$200 per night for a room or more than \$600 for a flight. Make it affordable for your guests. If that means subsidizing the cost of the hotel rooms, then factor that into your budget." Or reserve rooms at a less expensive hotel within walking distance of the wedding, Lee says.



SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA

John Schwartz, co-founder of the N.Y.C. planning firm Eventquest, chose Scottsdale for his wedding because the desert terrain is so different from what his guests, most of whom live in Manhattan, are accustomed to. At the outdoor reception (top), low, square glass vases filled with succulents, wheat and desert flowers graced the tables. The casual Western-style rehearsal dinner (bottom) in nearby Cave Creek featured three roaring fire pits surrounded by rustic tables and benches.