



Race ahead

For the fun loving buck, you can't go past a day at the races.

6

Of course, you don't want to spend your special lad's day out battling the crowds. Brisbane Racing Club offers exclusive function areas for groups of 10 – 20 including The Moreton Terraces, with private wait staff, the option to have private tote facilities and superior views of the track. Mingle with Brisbane's finest from the comfort of the members' reserve at either Eagle Farm's prestigious Champagne Bar or the new Falvelon Bar and Celebration Lawn, Doomben Racecourse. Place your bets and enjoy the action on and off the track – but do remember to dress for the occasion. ■

→ www.brc.com.au



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the modern groom

Q&A

Victoria Cameron from the Little White Wedding Co offers some advice for the groom of 2011...

the planning

❓ I'm happy for my fiancée to plan our wedding, but worried that I'll appear disinterested.

❗ This is a common issue - a bride who is ready to put a lifetime of dreams, ideas and inspiration into her one perfect day - and a groom who appears, by comparison, uninterested. The key to resolving this is to communicate early on - ask your fiancée what she has in mind and then say the magic words: "I don't want to take over the things you're excited about, but I do want to be involved - how about I handle the..." and insert a few suggestions, then wait for her response. Sounds simple? It is! Here's another suggestion: If you're concerned that despite her assurances, you'll get it wrong, make it your responsibility to provide the 'top

three options' of whatever is required - photographer, MC, DJ, hire car, etc and then make the final choice together.

last minute nerves

❓ Is there anything I can do to reduce the effects of any last minute nerves on my wedding day?

❗ My best piece of advice to both the bride and groom for their wedding day is to spend some time by yourself before the wedding. If you get married in the afternoon you can schedule some down time earlier in the day. Remember that once the ceremony starts, you are unlikely to get even a second alone on your wedding day! A little physical activity also helps take your mind off your nerves. Book in a round of golf with your groomsmen or make time for a massage if that takes your fancy. A pre-game beer with the boys also never hurts! If it's the physical side-effects of your nerves that concern you, such as perspiration, you can purchase some underarm garment protectors. Place these in the underarm area of your shirt and the perspiration

will be absorbed and your guests will be none the wiser! You can buy these online at: www.sweax.com.au

the best man

❓ I have a few really close mates... how do I choose my best man?

❗ If you have a close group of friends this can be a hard decision to make. Luckily these days, there are no set rules. If you don't want to single anyone out, or are having too much trouble making a decision, don't have a best man. Simply ask them all to be groomsmen on equal footing and divide the traditional best man duties amongst them all. For example, you could ask one to plan your buck's night, another to read a special something during the ceremony and another again to act as an usher as guests arrive for the ceremony.

dress code

❓ How can I bring my personality into my outfit on my wedding day?

❗ Your wedding day is one of the most important days of your life, so there's no doubt you'll want to look dashing. It's likely you will have listed a dress code on your invitations so it is important

to keep this in mind when selecting your own outfit for the day. You may have also chosen certain colours for your wedding stationery so use this as the second clue. You can use these colours and certain items to add a pinch of your personality to your outfit. Some grooms choose a tailored suit for their wedding day and this is my preference. Once you have this taken care of, it's all about the accessories! Personally I'm a huge fan of the pocket square, bow tie and brogues (or wingtips). These items are available in a huge range of fabrics, colours, and patterns so you're bound to find something that you love and that reflects who you are.

black tie

❓ I'm not a black tie kind of guy... what are my other options?

❗ The dress code for your wedding is usually something that is printed on your invitations, so I would recommend thinking about this quite early on. If you don't like the whole black tie kit and caboodle then you need to speak up - your fiancée may be dreaming of a black tie affair with the men in tails and the women in flowing gowns! Most guests will expect to dress up a little, purely out of respect for the importance of the occasion. However, the dress code you choose should reflect your venue



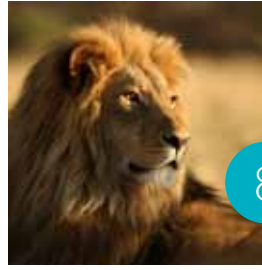
7

ROAD TRIP

Cruise the Gold Coast in one, or two, (or three?) of the cars you always dreamed of.

Rent a Dream Car is about speed, style and fulfilling not a few of your recurring motor-fantasies. Every Sunday or by appointment for groups of four-six boys, Rent A Dream Car runs 'Drive Days', giving you a once-in-a-lifetime chance to drive the legendary Ferrari Modena 360 Lamborghini Gallardo and either a Maserati 3200GT, Lotus Elise, or Nissan 370z convertible. A self-drive experience following a route that takes in winding mountain climbs, beachside drives and highway cruising, the full- or half-day tour allows drivers to swap cars and compare notes, in their very own version of 'Top Gear'. All cars are also available to hire on a full- or half-day basis, allowing you to get your hands on the keys to a very well-appointed garage. ■

→ www.rentadreamcar.com.au



8

ADVENTURE

If you and the boys can dream it up, Adventure 1000 will help you do it.

From bespoke armed and escorted walking safaris through the big game areas of Africa, to climbing the high altitude mountains of the world. Harley Davidson tours over the Nullarbor, driving quad bikes across the Simpson Desert, a summit trip to Mt Kilimanjaro, or their signature experience – the Kokoda Trail in Papua New Guinea. Down the east coast of Australia, there's diving with Great White sharks, abseiling in the Blue Mountains, remote fishing escapes, and 'Survivor'-style experiences through remote islands of the Whitsundays. In fact there's everything from a quick getaway, a half-day adrenalin-hit to a weeks-long odyssey – and they promise to deliver you back in time and in good shape to get to the altar. ■

→ www.adventure1000.com.au



9

GOLF

Swing out in style at Victoria Park Golf Course, which is open to the public seven days a week.

With the popular Caddy Shack Café and Bar open for breakfast and dinner, choose from three great options: nine or 18 holes of golf on the challenging Par 65 course (don't worry, a drinks and snacks cart regularly passes by), a fun group lesson with a PGA golf professional, or every boy's favourite - the 18 hole fully licensed putt putt course. ■

→ www.vpgc.com.au



10

TOGETHERNESS TIME

We hear modern couples are adding a 'hucks' (hens and bucks) experience into their pre-wedding celebrations. So why not get together both the girls and the guys for some serious fun? You can adapt any of these suggestions to a 'his and hers' experience, or let each gender choose an activity for the other to complete. Either way there'll be more stories to tell during the speeches at your wedding! ■



and the type of wedding you want to have and formal attire is not always appropriate. If you want a more relaxed feel, opt for a garden, country or beach wedding where more casual attire doesn't look out of place. In any of these settings you could easily get away with a less formal or lighter-coloured suit or a nice collared shirt and trousers.

the honeymoon

② It seems as though all the money for our wedding is being spent on... the wedding! I really wanted to plan an amazing honeymoon – and we can't afford to do both.

① The honeymoon is often the domain of the groom – where, when, and for how long. If you're working to a combined budget for wedding and honeymoon, you might find your slice of the pie getting thinner as the weeks go by and the wedding grows. Again, get onto this one early. Remind your fiancé that while your wedding is an important day for the two of you, it is just that, one day. Your honeymoon on the other hand, could be weeks together enjoying amazing places and activities. Establish what portion of the overall budget is to be spent on the

honeymoon – and if possible transfer this money to a different account. Alternatively you could opt to combine your wedding and honeymoon by getting married overseas. This approach also gives your family and friends the perfect excuse to plan their next overseas adventure. If this sounds like something that would suit you and your fiancée, be sure to advise your guests well in advance so they can book their flights and accommodation.

after 'i do'

② Apart from saying "I do" what are my responsibilities on my wedding day?

① While the day is a celebration of you and your fiancée, you need to keep in mind that you are also the hosts. Your guests will all be eager to say hello to you and you will no doubt want to thank them for being there with you. A novel way to achieve this is to place one spare chair at each table and move between them throughout the reception. If you split this task with your new wife, your guests will all be visited in no time at all. As one half of the newlyweds, it is likely you will be dancing, giving a speech and cutting the cake (depending of course on which traditions you adopt).

the anniversary

② What are some ways to commemorate our wedding once it's all over?

① Each couple varies in their dedication to observing their wedding anniversary – some go all out every year, some forget, or in unfortunate circumstances, – one will go all out and one will forget! The first tip is: Don't forget! Tattoo your wedding date on your arm if you have to, or at least put an annual reminder into your phone, set to go off a week prior so you have plenty of time to plan something amazing. Secondly – talk about this – ask your new wife whether she would like to take turns each year planning anniversaries, or if she would prefer to plan them together. Milestone years – five, ten, fifteen, twenty – can be wonderful if they are celebrated with friends and family or at a special dinner party or destination holiday. Ensuring you've invested in wonderful photos of your wedding day will give you an opportunity to get special memories re-printed, re-framed or made into personalised photo books – for example, a "then and now" themed photo book for a five-year anniversary gift could start with wedding photos, include honeymoon photos, and photos from subsequent years. ■