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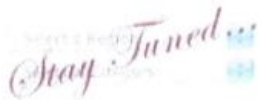
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## Sophisticated and Memorable Bachelorette Parties

By Emily Liebert

It's not often that the word "sophisticated" precedes the phrase "bachelorette parties." In fact, many brides' pre-nuptial last hurrahs with their friends still take place in male strip clubs or during beer-soaked jaunts to Vegas or wild weekends in Cancun.

More and more, however, brides and their closest friends are looking for ways to enjoy this special time together without the need for hangover remedies.

To suggest ways for brides-to-be and their attendants to enjoy wonderful (if decidedly high end!) pre-vow celebrations, we enlisted the advice of two top wedding planners.



Top wedding planners Mindy Weiss (left) and Kate Edmonds.

Based in Beverly Hills, Mindy Weiss is the owner and principal planner/designer of Mindy Weiss Party Consultants. She has created weddings and events for such high-profile celebrity clients as Shaquille O'Neal, Jessica Simpson, Gwen Stefani, Adam Sandler, Kate Beckinsale, and, most recently, Heidi Klum and Seal.

On the opposite coast, New York City planner Kate Edmonds, owner of Kate Edmonds Corporate and Private Events Ltd., has appeared on multiple television shows, including *The Apprentice*, and has designed fashion shoots for both magazines and movies.

Following are their suggestions for women who seek sophisticated, memorable, and very upscale bachelorette parties.

### PRE-NUPTIAL NAPA

"For girls who want to be rejuvenated, Callstoga Ranch is the place," says Weiss. "They're famous for their thermal waters and mud baths. A picture of the wedding party sitting in mud should definitely be released at the rehearsal dinner," Weiss suggests, with a laugh.

The 46-room lavish resort, nestled in a canyon in the Upper Napa Valley, is "breathtakingly beautiful. But it's not for partying," says Weiss. "The area is ideal for long hikes, enjoying wine, and eating delicious food." For the ultimate gastronomic experiences, Weiss suggests, "have lunch at Bouchon and dinner at The French Laundry," both of which are owned by famed restaurateur Thomas Keller. For reservations at these chic eateries, she advises, be sure to call far in advance.

On the other hand, for bridal parties that are on a budget, Weiss says, "You can find fabulous pizza all over town." There's also great shopping in St. Helena. And if you enjoy cooking, you can arrange a class with one of the area's numerous chefs.

For those who want to add a night on the town, she advises, "Dancing is a must! San Francisco is an hour away. Hire a driver so you can drink safely."

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### Sophisticated and Memorable Bachelorette Parties

#### LIVING IT UP IN LOS CABOS

"The One&Only Palmilla resort in Mexico is a dream," says Weiss. "I have planned several bachelorette parties there. They have beautiful accommodations, which all have awesome views and are large enough to house a few girls, at least three per room." Weiss adds, "There are a lot of private areas for friends to gather to party alone—on the beach, by the pool, on the outdoor patio with fireplace, and small banquet spaces."

On her list of things to do: "A visit to the spa, margaritas and tapas at the adult pool, dinner at Charlie Trotter's C restaurant, a group yoga class, and dancing at one of the area hot spots." The good news, says Weiss, "is that I've never had anyone get sick from the food or water, which is often a concern about Mexico."

For more information: [www.oneandonlyresorts.com](http://www.oneandonlyresorts.com)

#### TAKE FLIGHT

If a whole weekend or several-day getaway isn't in the cards, an extraordinarily lavish day trip, starting in New York, may do the trick. "A car and driver will take you to the airport where a chartered jet will be waiting to fly you and five friends to Nantucket for the day," says Edmonds. "Once there, you will have a divine luncheon with fine food and wine at The Ships Inn Restaurant," where California-French cuisine is prepared fresh on the premises.

On the return trip, "You can continue the celebration with champagne and desserts on the plane," says Edmonds. "A decadent day for food and wine lovers in dreamy, historical Nantucket is always a hit."

For more information: [www.bluestarjets.com](http://www.bluestarjets.com); [www.shipsinnnantucket.com](http://www.shipsinnnantucket.com)

#### BEACH BOUND

"Right in the heart of South Beach, the Delano in Miami is a spectacular spot for a chic bachelorette party," says Edmond. "The girls can relax by the pool in a private cabana, then get a sunset massage on the beach."

Later in the day, "A car and driver will whisk you off to The Shore Club for a delicious dinner at Nobu," says Edmonds. "My personal favorite for the following day is morning yoga on the beach with your own private instructor." Or, for the more athletic in the group, an organized game of beach volleyball or water sports are always fun. Edmonds promises, "Two days at the Delano equal a week anywhere else!"

For more information: [www.delano-hotel.com](http://www.delano-hotel.com)

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#### URBAN RETREAT

"Manhattan is my favorite destination," says Edmonds. "It elevates my mood and surprises me at every corner." Edmonds recommends a weekend stay at the exclusive Soho House New York in the famed Meatpacking district. In the morning, Edmonds suggests "brunch and people-watching at nearby Pastis, and then shopping." After that, she says, "Dash back to Soho House and enjoy a reflexology treatment at the Cowshed Spa to revive those tired tootsies."

After an afternoon of relaxation, and "with the sun setting over the Hudson River, enjoy refreshing cocktails and poolside nibbles, while kicking back to the latest British tunes," says Edmonds. "Then retreat to dinner in the private dining room."

For more information: [www.sohohouseny.com](http://www.sohohouseny.com)

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