



Love ALWAYS

REFLECT YOUR PROMISE OF FOREVER WITH VINTAGE STYLING THAT STANDS THE TEST OF TIME

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CAROLYN HASLETT
STYLING BY CASEY ASSINK AT THE HEIRLOOM

FACING PAGE Borrow wooden furniture from loved ones to bring character and a sense of history to the scene.
RIGHT Flowers and metallics create a boho-luxe feel," says Casey. Pair with faceted glasses or patterned vases and a mix of candles, from tall candlesticks to individual tealights.



BELOW Making your own bunting is fun and easy. Try different shapes, dollies or coloured fabric. "Use lots," says Casey. "The odd strand here or there looks limp, but stringing up line after line creates a festive atmosphere."



You know he's the one and there's no looking back – except... In your search for a theme to suit your nuptials, let the fantasy of the occasion steal you away to a time gone by. Start by selecting the era to which you feel a connection, says Casey Assink of boutique wedding design, event styling and rental company The Heirloom. "From rustic barn weddings, to decadent art deco dreams, to flirty '50s frocks, a vintage wedding can be whatever your heart desires."

Next, decide on a colour palette. "Lighter, warmer tones are more playful and romantic," says Casey, "whereas darker hues can be more stylish and refined. Here, the vintage brass and aged wood pair nicely with the warmer pastel tones.

"Create a little colour palette card as a reference, then hit vintage stores, charity shops, antique fairs, garage sales and online second-hand traders. Or visit a prop-hire company – they do the hard work for you, can be a one-stop shop and are usually much cheaper than buying." For a rustic-style event such as this, set your sights on metal vessels, vases, crystal, candlesticks and pre-loved cutlery and crockery, aiming for recurring colours and textures.

A key trend right now is calligraphy. Casey explains: "It introduces another texture and shows you've put your heart and soul into your décor. If you're doing it yourself, start well ahead and give yourself plenty of time to learn, or find a specialist to do it for you." ▶





LEFT A plainly decorated cake has a simple old-world charm.
FACING PAGE Beautify your stationery suite with calligraphy, then echo the sentiment by personalising table runners and banners, plus menu cards, favour tags and dessert bar labels.

Past with flying colours

- ◆ Rustic wooden crates can be integral to a vintage look, and well-worn suitcases and hat boxes are both sentimental and functional. Place your favours, disposable cameras or photobooth props inside them, or pile them up and rest your guest book on top.
- ◆ When styling your reception, consider what will be on the tables once they're set and your guests are seated. Make sure your loved ones will be comfortable and able to converse easily by opting for low centrepieces interspersed with tall, thin taper candles and vases. As an alternative to a single large floral display, try small posies in stout vessels that will fill the space at a low height.
- ◆ Lighting that illuminates the walls, windows and ceiling can draw attention away from the centre of the room. Instead, direct your focus to your tables and dance floor. Choose bulbs that deliver warm, inviting lighting and cluster flickering candles in groups dotted with tealights.
- ◆ Festoon lights hint at the past and will bring a radiant twinkle to the trees outside your venue and the pillars inside.
- ◆ Schedule your ceremony for the late afternoon and the setting sun will splash your event with pink and gold.
- ◆ For a dessert bar with the mostest, set it up on an old dresser or wine barrels. Wrap boxes in coloured paper and stack to use as stands, and layer heavy plates on sturdy candlesticks for goodies to sit on.
- ◆ Pile or scatter seasonal fruit about the place for a homegrown colourful touch. Try lemons for a burst of yellow in spring, and vibrant berries in summer.
- ◆ Hark back to the once ubiquitous 'ladies, a plate' tradition and ask family and friends who love to bake to contribute an old-fashioned dish to your sweets table. ▶



ABOVE AND RIGHT With spring's abundant blooms, you're spoilt for choice. Extend them into wreaths you can use as a backdrop to the head table, or on the back of your chairs. Suspend an oversized version overhead, hang minis along the aisle, or give your flower girls baby's-breath crowns.




GOOD TASTE Devise a menu that ties in with your chosen era. Foodies might start with their favourite classic dishes and develop their wedding theme from there. For a warm-weather event, an ice cream cart is ideal for dessert. Stock it with toppings that will see guests return for seconds and thirds!



SWEET BERRY PIE JARS
by Holly McMahon of Old Forest School
(oldforestschool.co.nz)

- 2 cups fresh or frozen berries
- 1 tbsp sugar
- 3 tbsp cornflour
- ¼ tsp vanilla essence
- 200g sweet short pastry
- 4 Mason jars (250-400ml capacity)

- 1 Preheat the oven to 180°C.
- 2 Mix the berries, sugar, cornflour and vanilla essence together in a saucepan. Place on the stovetop over a medium heat until the berries soften and the mixture thickens to a jam-like consistency.
- 3 Remove the pan from the heat and set aside to cool for about 15 minutes.
- 4 Roll the pastry out to approximately half a centimetre thick. Place a jar on the pastry and cut around the base to make small circles of pastry.
- 5 Place a pastry circle in the bottom of each jar to create a pie base.
- 6 Use a heart-shaped cookie cutter or a knife to create a small pastry heart for each jar. Place the hearts on a tray lined with baking paper.
- 7 Pour the cooled berry mixture into each jar to about three-quarters full, then place the jars on the tray.
- 8 Put the jars and pastry hearts into the oven for 8-10 minutes or until the hearts turn golden and the berry mixture begins to bubble.
- 9 Remove from oven, leave to cool for a minute, then place a heart on top of the berry mixture in each jar.
- 10 Serve hot or cold with a dusting of icing sugar or a dollop of whipped cream. 

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The perfect place to celebrate your wedding day

Ceremony



Reception



Accommodation



Water views



For personal assistance contact our Wedding Coordinator Michelle Gain on 09 526 3029 spec.events@waipunahotel.co.nz waipunahotel.co.nz

