

# Deconstructing the Registry

Advice for choosing things you need, things you love and things that make you happy. *By* **DIANE M. STERRETT**

WEDDING GIFT REGISTRIES ARE GREAT TOOLS TO help your guests know what you need to start your new life together. But if china and crystal aren't your thing, you might want to seek out some new and different local options that better suit your lifestyle.

**The sippers** Your idea of bliss is kicking back with a '96 vintage reserve or uncorking that Beaujolais you've been saving for a special occasion. But do your friends and family know whether you prefer red or white? Visit The Savory Grape in East Greenwich, choose your favorites and set up a wine registry to guide them.

"Our most popular registry item is our wine club membership. People can give you a month at a time, choosing from four levels, starting from an everyday bottle to one to keep in the cellar for future anniversaries," says Sabrina Solares, their registry expert.

Wine baskets are also popular, and can be assembled with traditional or humorous collections. For the humorous, guests choose wines for events, such as a bottle to make up with after your first fight. "They pick the events and we'll help them choose the wine to mature at the right time," Solares says.

*Steven Wynn, Solares's colleague in wine sales, offers a few more ideas for your registry:*

- **Wine cookbooks** that can help you match wine with your meals.
- **Glassware, decanters and other accessories:** "We carry some really beautiful Luigi Bormioli, Spiegelau and Riedel."
- **Anything with a year is trendy:** "The year the couple met or the year you were born. We have some older scotches from the '70s and '80s that people have been registering for."

**The stressed** You're pulled in seven different directions at once: wedding planning, meeting new family members, figuring out where to live...not to mention keeping up with your career. The Alayne White Spa gift registry, in Bristol and Providence, is for you.

"Giving a gift of a spa treatment is about taking care of the people who are getting married, as opposed to



all the peripheral stuff that can take over our lives," says owner Alayne White. "It gives the bride and groom the gift of time to come in together and remind themselves why they got married in the first place.

"We have a lot of couples who come have a treatment and then go out to dinner, sort of like date night," she says. >>

Setting up a wine registry will allow you to always have a bottle to toast that special occasion, or just to enjoy with dinner.

The spa's registry is as laid back as the treatments make you feel. You can register for specific services or dollar amounts, you can change your mind over which service to get and there's no expiration. Purchasers can buy online and print out a certificate, or stop by in person and the spa will create a nice package to be given at the shower or wedding.

Popular registry treatments include the Spassage (a one-hour-and-twenty-minute, head-to-toe extravaganza), bridal makeup, or bridal party treatments.

*Combination services are also proving popular:*

- **“Delicious,”** a new two-and-a-half-hour treatment that includes a facial and full body massage, nice after coming home from the honeymoon when perhaps your skin needs hydrating after all the tanning and partying.
- **“Everything But the Kitchen Sink”** is popular for bridal shower gifts. It includes a Best Facial, a Multi Peel, Smooth as a Baby's Butt Body Exfoliation, plus warm stones and more.
- **“Almost Better than Sex Body Treatment”** is a Spassage and Smooth as a Baby's Butt combo rolled into one dreamy treatment.

- There are also several treatments designed especially for men inspired by White's husband, including a **sports pedicure, and back and shoulder massage.**

**The honeymooners** You're looking forward to a post-wedding getaway that's more than lounging on the beach. Use your registry to help guests make your honeymoon an experience to remember. Ann Petronio, owner of Annie's Escapes Custom Travel Planning, can guide you in setting up a honeymoon registry.

“More and more couples want to get out and experience their destination with day trips, tours and activities. What they choose really depends on the destination itself. For example, if you're on a Mediterranean cruise, you could register for shore excursions in Athens to tour the Acropolis and the Parthenon,” Petronio says.

*More destination ideas:*

- **St. Lucia:** an excursion to La Soufriere, the world's only drive-in volcano
- **Italy:** a wine tasting tour from Florence into the Chianti region
- **Mexico:** guided visit to the Mayan ruins at Tulum or Chichen Itza

- **Jamaica:** river rafting or a slide down the famous Jamaican Bobsled course
- **Costa Rica:** ziplining through the jungle or a relaxing soak in the thermal springs at Tabacon.

**The remodelers** You're buying or moving into a new home, and you've discovered making it your own will take more than monogrammed towels. Fortunately, Adler's Design Center and Hardware in Providence offers a new groom's registry where you can register for a fun and non-traditional combination of products and services.

“I think we're the only place where you can register for everything from high-end window fabrics like Scalamandré to roach traps, should you need them,” says Harry Adler, president. “And while we call it a groom's registry, women are welcome, too.”

*Some ideas for your registry:*

- **Paint and painting tools.** You can even register for the labor through Adler's list of skilled and qualified paint contractors.
- **New locks and hardware.** Always change the locks when you buy a new house.
- **Tools and/or a tool chest, power tools and hand tools.** Don't forget the laser level so

you can hang your new artwork straight.

- **Design consultations,** available by the hour, can help you make decisions on paint color, wall coverings and upholstery.
- **Window treatments** (measurement, fabrication and installation).

**The nest featherers** You're sitting on the floor, using milk crates for a dinner table and your TV console is cinderblocks and a plank: You need some grown-up furniture, fast. McKay's Furniture is a great choice to register for practical things, such as a sofa and a dining set.

Theirs is an open registry where people can put money on your account so you have a credit to spend on anything you want, or toward a specific piece of furniture you've pre-selected. The gift-giver receives a certificate they can present at the wedding.

“Because these are bigger items, it's usually a bunch of friends who get together to give couples money toward something they couldn't afford on their own right away, like a dining room set. The credit approach is helpful if they pick something out when they register and months later they change their minds. And they're fully refundable if

*From furniture to registering for your honeymoon, there are many options for the untraditional bride and groom.*

anything should happen,” says co-owner Scott McKay.

He's seeing a trend toward neutral colors and softer, more comfortable pieces, such as ottomans. “With the trend away from formal living rooms to big family rooms that open onto the kitchen, casual comfort is the key,” McKay says.

*Popular registry items and gifts include:*

- **Deck furniture, umbrellas, beach chairs**
- **Mattress and box spring**
- **Flat screen television console**
- **Sofas and recliners**
- **Casual dining room furniture**

**The artful entertainers** You fill your home with beautiful, artistic pieces that also serve a purpose, and you love to entertain. The wedding registry at Yes! Gallery in Wickford has you covered.

There you can register for unique home decor, many of which are items that are made by American artists, plus tableware and serving pieces. “We have a lot of functional art, like bowls, platters and olive

dishes, that are also works of art,” says co-owner Palmer Beebe.

This being Rhode Island, many of their pieces have a nautical theme, such as decorative pieces made with mussel shells, a glass octopus from Soul Glass, or Wave Bowls, which have lips shaped like waves. *Yes! Gallery has pieces from hundreds of artists, but a few area favorites include:*

- **Glass jellyfish lamps** from Joel Bloomberg will make you wish for the dark so you can turn them on.
- **Mariposa cast-aluminum serving pieces** (trays, napkin holders, salad servers) with nautical, beachy designs. Yes! can also order any Mariposa item they don't have in stock.
- **Hudson Beach Glass bowls** hand-crafted to be both sculptural (think table centerpiece) and functional.

To register, stop in and choose (that won't be easy) your favorites, and they'll keep track of what is purchased and advise gift-givers of what's on your list. And as always, gift wrapping is included. ●