



# *T*ricks of THE TRADE

Flower professionals share the secret to show-stopping ceremony and reception blooms, plus how to save money at the same time

## *Diana Moore – Flowers by Teresa*

**Hottest bouquet shapes?** "There's been a return to old-fashioned wired bouquets and cascading and basic teardrop shapes with a modern twist, using clusters of orchids and seasonal flowers. This also includes bridal-party flowers, where the classic wrist corsage is making a modern and stylish statement on the arms of bridesmaids."

**Next big thing in flowers?** "Chinoiserie and all things Asian reflecting ancient Chinese art with rich, opulent colours and bouquets with simple structures and classic shapes. In terms of bloom shades, rich, fruity colours inspired by nature, including dark plums, purples and berry tones are in."

**Your three golden rules?** "Use flowers to tell your story and bring together your entire decorating theme – from church to bridal party to reception. Have faith in your florist and let them use a little creative licence. And most importantly on the day, stop! Dressed in your gown, hold your bouquet in front of you in the mirror, both to see how best to carry it and to capture that moment in your memory. The day goes so fast!"

**Most common wedding pitfall?** "Not allowing enough room in the budget for flowers to make a difference to the whole day – at least 15 percent of overall cost."

**Best sources of inspiration?** "Colour and nature – a deep purple orchid in season or the crisp white cherry blossom as we drive along a country road can be a starting point for a colour scheme or floral installation."

**Favourite floral style?** "It's a mood thing. As fashions change our tastes revolve and invariably return to old favourites and standards. At the moment though, we're in love with the carnation for its ability to reinvent itself time and again."

**Top money-saving strategy?** "Bulk – either lots of one colour or one type of flower. It has more impact and your money goes further when you repeat the same element throughout a floral story."

## *Samantha Perry – Perry Madison*

**What's new for receptions?** "Simple, clear glass vases at varying heights with groups of all the one type of flower in the same colour placed at different angles. If it's done well, it looks amazing – really simple and effective. For tablecentres, try using smaller vases in the centre of the table with posies of flowers to create a garden feel. I've also seen a lot of latte 'Julia' roses at weddings recently."

**Trend you can't stop talking about?**

"The trees I learned how to design in New York. They're a huge focal piece and create

magic at the ceremony and reception. We hang guests' names and table numbers in alphabetical order around the tree, so it acts as a name board as well as a feature. The guests love it because it's the first thing they see at the reception and it's interactive."

**Hottest new bouquet ideas?** "Don't be afraid to do something different. Use berries, pods and succulents with soft-petalled flowers like roses, peonies and gardenias. The feel will still be stylish and romantic, yet will have a unique feel to it. Don't just stick to green foliage. Dusty miller has beautiful soft grey foliage and the rich chocolate brown of smoke bush looks stunning with latte dresses. Instead of simple ribbon, try wrapping dodda vine around the stems or a fancier thick grosgrain ribbon."

**Your wedding flower philosophy?**

"Flowers make the wedding. They are in every photograph, turn a venue into magic, set the mood for the ceremony and complement a wedding gown as much as – or even more than – a veil or jewellery. Flowers can be understated or extravagant, they can be modern or romantic... and they smell great, too."

**Best ways to save?** "Stick to one variety of flower that is very much in season.

This allows your florist to buy in bulk and also gives them the freedom to pick what



Personalise your tablecentres at the reception and create something different for each group of guests. Use the same flowers, such as roses (left) but in different colours. Adding fruit to arrangements (right) can reduce your flower bill.



*short & chic* **THIS PAGE, LEFT:** Madame Marie silk strapless dress, \$539. Andea & Joen heels, \$245. Bulgari 'Elisia' necklace, \$6950. Melissa Harris necklace worn as bracelet, \$695, and ring, \$2995. **RIGHT:** Jovani fuchsia silk dress, \$715. Antica Murrina earrings, \$75. Flowers by Teresa bouquet. **OPPOSITE PAGE:** Jayson Brunsdon navy silk dress, \$899. Rupert Sanderson heels from Evelyn Miles, \$898. Bulgari 'Allegra' earrings, \$7250. Palas beaded necklace worn as bracelet, \$163. *For stockists, see page 283*  
 Hair: Samir Samaali for Vidal Sasson. Make-up: Emma Haddock, using Chanel. Fashion assistant: Aziza Shaban. Shot on location at Elouera Tony Mundine Gym, Redfern. See redferngym.org