

2.2 Wedding Shower Themes and Ideas

Note: Later in the course you will learn the A6 formula for event planning. We recommend you utilize this knowledge and return to this assignment to further detail your shower and party themes.

Guests should be prepared to explain their choices. This usually lends much laughter and merriment to the occasion

The Alphabet Shower

The premise of the alphabet shower is, of course, the alphabet. Each guest is assigned a letter, and should select a gift accordingly. For example, the guest assigned with the letter "C" might bring a corkscrew, cookie sheets, ceramic bowls, cashmere, etc.

Make it a luncheon. Design the menu to correspond with letters of the alphabet. For example, your first course might be Asparagus Soup, and Bruschetta, followed by Chicken Dijon on a bed of Endive and Field Greens. For dessert, what could be more scrumptious than Godiva Gateau?

The Kitchen Shower

Ask guests to choose gifts the bride will need to establish an ideal newlywed kitchen. Gifts might include tools, utensils, cookware, bake ware, appliances, kitchen linens, and cookbooks.

A Kitchen Shower is the perfect occasion to go potluck. If your kitchen can manage, request that a few dishes be brought assembled, but uncooked. When your guests arrive, pop their culinary creations into the oven, and serve wine in the kitchen while you enjoy the aroma of what is soon to come. Guests might also bring along their signature recipe, written on an index card. At the end of the shower, present the bride with a recipe box full of favorite recipes from her favorite people.

The Round the Clock Shower

With a premise similar to The Alphabet Shower, guests are assigned one of the twenty-four hours in a day. They then select a shower gift that corresponds to their assigned time. For example, the guest assigned with 7 a.m. might bring assorted coffees, mugs, an alarm clock, an espresso maker, breakfast trays, bath towels; whatever the hour of day inspires.

Garden Shower

Is the bride one of those people with a gift for gardening? If so, what could be more perfect than a Garden Shower? If she loves all things green, request that your guests shower her with lovely potted flowers, plants, ferns, and bulbs. Guests can also bring garden tools, watering cans, bulb forcers, planters, and arrangements.

Les Amis Du Vin Shower

Pronounced "layz zam mee doo van", this shower literally translates, "The Friends of Wine." And you don't have to be a connoisseur of the grape to enjoy a good year. Ask your guests to bring two selections of wine; one to enjoy at the party and one to add to the collection you are quickly establishing for the happy couple.

Think of your Les Amis Du Vin Shower as an intimate, elegant wine tasting for good friends. Select a timeless invitation; evocative of an elegant, refined mood.

If you decide to hold your soiree at home, serve a fresh fruit plate complete with pears, grapes, melons, and all her favorites. Set out boards of delicious cheeses, accompanied by crostini, focaccia, and other rustic breads. If you decide to hold your Les Amis Du Vin party at a restaurant, they may charge you to open the wine, so be sure to inquire in advance about corkage fees.



2.2 Engagement Party Themes and Ideas

Wine and Dine Theme

Set the Mood Flowers

If the couple has a taste for the finer side of life, treat them to a night out at the best restaurant in town, a dinner theater, a table at the comedy club, or a concert. Or bring the high life home and have each guest bring a bottle of wine and stage your own wine tasting, with participants evaluating wines from bottles with their labels masked. Afterwards, see which bottle scored best with the group.

Food and Beverage

Serve caviar, pate, and imported aged cheese before you head out of town. If you return home for dessert, serve petit fours, liqueurs, and gourmet coffee.

Gifts

Encourage guests to give gifts such as a gift certificate to a favorite restaurant, gourmet cooking classes, or membership in a wine club. Also appropriate would be items from the couple's gift registry, such as white or red wine glasses, or chef's pans. Want to go all out? Consider asking all guests to contribute to one big, themed present, such as a trip to California's famous Napa Valley.

Home and Garden Theme

Set the Mood

Pick a location that combines the indoors and the outdoors; perhaps your own home, patio, or yard. Set up inside and out. If you hold the party during the day, let sunshine light the event. At night, you can light the outside with strands of little white twinkle lights and candles, or garden torches. Decorate tables naturally with glass bowls of colorful fresh fruits and vegetables.

Food and Beverage

Garden fresh and hearty is the way to go. Grilled chicken, hamburgers, fresh corn, pasta salad, watermelon, homemade pie and ice cream, sun-brewed iced tea, lemonade, and fruity sangria are excellent menu choices.

Gifts

Have each guest bring a gift for a certain area of the house or garden, like picture frames, vases and ceramic pots, lively shrubs and flowers, home and garden tools, and do-it-yourself home improvement manuals.

Love and Lingerie Theme

Set the Mood

This risqué shower is full of humor and grownup fun. Hire a trunk show and bring in models for a "his and hers" lingerie fashion show.

Food and Beverage

Set out a fresh fruit and vegetable tray, mini quiches, strawberries dipped in chocolate, champagne and chilled mineral water with lemon and lime slices.

Gifts

Encourage each guest to bring two gifts; one naughty and one nice! Nice gifts would be his and hers monogrammed bathrobes, bath towels from their registry, aromatherapy oils, and engraved champagne glasses. Naughty gifts for the honeymoon could be sexy his and her lingerie and romantic books and products.

Health and Fitness Theme

Set the Mood

Reserve the rock climbing wall at a local sport center or take this coed shower to a park or beach. Organize a 1K run or a golf, tennis, volleyball, or racquetball tournament.

Food and Beverage

Serve healthy snacks like crispy vegetable crudités followed by turkey or veggie burgers, a mixed green salad, fruit kabobs, and sun brewed iced tea, or set up a juice bar and let guests design their own healthy drinks.

Gifts

Encourage guests to give tickets to a professional sporting event, fitness equipment for the newlyweds' home, or personalized golf balls. Acupuncture and massage sessions make great gifts too.

