

with personalized labels; miniature bottles of wine, champagne or cider; or even treats that reflect your cultural heritage, like koufetta, the traditional Greek sugarcoated almonds, or a sachet of cardamom pods to make the tea served at Hindu weddings.

"Brides are going with things you can eat," Cellini notes. "I had one girl just do hand-made, chocolate-covered pretzels, wrapped really beautifully." Bon appétit!

### GIVING A GIFT

Many brides like the idea of giving their guests a gift that can be enjoyed for longer than a day or two, like picture frames, salt and pepper shakers, olive oil, champagne flutes, coffee mugs, incense, potted plants or bulbs that can be taken home and planted, and candles of every size and type, from elegant tapers to small votives nestled in shot glasses.

"I'm a big fan of candles, especially fragrance candles," says Villar. "I've also had brides give personalized CDs of the songs played at the wedding, and the guests were very happy with it."

Personalized items are a good way to give a gift that doubles as a wedding remembrance. T-shirts imprinted with your names, embossed pens, and packets of Post-it notes with your names and wedding date in the corner all make useful mementos. Perhaps the ultimate "gift that keeps giving" would be a lottery ticket presented in a decorative envelope, or scratch-off tickets that everyone can scratch at the same time.

### JUST FOR KIDS

If your wedding will include children — and most do — remember them with crayons and coloring books, yo-yos, decks of cards, puzzles, bubble or neon necklaces and special treats like gummy bears or jellybeans (lollipops and chocolate might be too messy, especially for younger children).

"If kids are in or at the wedding, and they're at an age where they can manage themselves, I set up a table for them," Villar says. "And instead of having a regular centerpiece, I get things from the dollar store, like travel games for road trips, stuff that will keep them entertained and out of everybody's way."

### AND DON'T FORGET

Your guests will need assistance in giving you the royal send-off as you leave the reception. Doily cones filled with confetti, small bags of bird seed or potpourri, baskets of rose petals, bottles of blow-bubbles or even sparklers (but not for the kids) can either be set on each table at the reception or distributed just before you make your grand exit. ♥



Upscale Photo

J. Kevin Foltz

Upscale Photo