

Calling All Wood Nymphs to a Gorgeous Green Gala  
 Front and Center: Cool Trends in Centerpieces

# SPECIAL EVENTS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2011



a hospital, the team created a series of events including a parade before 2,000 spectators; an elegant cocktail reception and open house for major donors; a sponsor tea; and a black-tie fundraising gala. Challenges included coping with temperatures over 100 degrees Fahrenheit, which posed a threat to elderly VIPs, and giving tours of the hospital when some areas were still under construction.

**18. SENSIX COMMUNICATIONS AND EVENTS, MONTREAL**

Angel motifs ran throughout the "Angel Ball" fundraiser for a hospital's cancer center in elements such as a 17-foot "tree of life" wishing tree, hosts wearing angel halos, and an "angel" harpist playing high above the crowd. To keep the focus on the center's mission, only one speaker—a two-time cancer survivor—addressed the guests.

**BEST WEDDING: BUDGET UNDER \$1,000 PER GUEST**

**19. AFFAIR WITH FLAIR, CHERRY HILLS VILLAGE, COLO.**

Guests enjoyed elements of surprise throughout this white-and-silver theme wedding, which mixed a cool, elegant look with lighthearted touches. After the ceremony, held beneath an 18-foot domed floral chuppah, the song "Love Train" began to play; monitors at each guest's seat displayed the message "get on board the love train," encouraging guests to follow the grooving bridal couple as they led the way to the reception.

**20. EVENTS OF DISTINCTION, SAN FRANCISCO**

A couple who loved the look of Old World doorways inspired the planner to create a "door" and

"key" theme for their wedding, shown in key motifs on invitations, a "key in life" sharing ceremony, antique doors used as tables at the reception and a chocolate "door" atop the wedding cake. To cut costs for the couple, the planner turned to a lower-end but serviceable caterer, sourced a DJ rather than a live band, and used the same chiavaris for the ceremony as the reception dinner—even though this meant the event team had to make five trips over rough roads to move the chairs.

**21. VP EVENTS, WESTLAKE VILLAGE, CALIF.**

The planner helped a couple give a modern edge to Indian marriage traditions by contrasting customary essentials such as the mandap (ceremony stage) and baraat (groom's procession) with a contemporary color palette of white and icy blues. To make all guests feel part of the festivities—which included CO2 blasters and working waterfalls in the ice bars—the event team seated guests on the fringes of the ballroom on bar stools set at custom tables, and provided video screens around the perimeter.

**BEST WEDDING: BUDGET \$1,000 AND ABOVE PER GUEST**

**22. FRANK: MASTER BRIDAL CONSULTANT AND EVENT EXPERT, CHICAGO**

A "dream" couple who approved virtually all the planner's suggestions enjoyed a classically elegant wedding with some unexpected surprises. The color palette at the Catholic mass mixed traditional ivory with contemporary purple, lilac and lavender; twists included a save-the-date on DVD, a doughnut machine at the reception, and



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*Gala*  
**AWARD NOMINEES**

**THEY ARE READY FOR THEIR  
CLOSE-UP—OUTSTANDING EVENTS  
FROM THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.  
JUST TURN TO PAGE 19.**

**EXCLUSIVE:  
9TH ANNUAL EVENT  
INDUSTRY FORECAST  
P. 15**

**PREDICTIONS FOR  
PARTY RENTAL IN 2011  
P. 48**





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