

# Love, Lamorinda Style!

**By Cathy Tyson**

Can you really put a price tag on the most important day of your life? Actually yes, you can, and you must. Engaged Lamorinda couples, and in most instances their parents, need to work within a nuptial budget while planning the Big Day.

The average cost of a wedding is reported to be \$30,000, according to The Wedding Report and The Knot. What would happen if local brides and grooms spent that money locally, thinking Shop Lafayette, Moraga, and Orinda First? Imagine if some of those dollars went via the sales tax to fix area roads. True love and fewer potholes – mazel tov!

Lucky for us, Lamorinda has a number of wonderful sites, at a variety of price points, which would satisfy the most discriminating couple. Food and drink are usually the biggest expenses with any type of event. A modest bash may feature a lunch buffet with limited alcohol in the bride's backyard, on the other end of the spectrum, a sit down dinner for 200 close friends and family, live music, a full bar, ice sculptures, and a horse drawn carriage comes with a premium price tag.

Many local venues offer one-stop shopping, for example The Lafayette Park Hotel, Postino, Wildwood Acres, Moraga and Orinda Country Clubs make it easy. Other facilities like The Hacienda De Las Flores, and a Veteran's Memorial Building require a separate caterer, and finally the Soda Center at Saint Mary's college has a contract with the school food service provider Sodexo that couples must use when renting the facility. See chart for specific rental information.

"Let me tell ya, the Hacienda is the most reasonable place," said Vickie Bowhay, a teacher at CP, whose daughter Melissa is getting married this summer. In organizing the wedding, "Picking the caterer was the hardest part, it's where you really spend your money."

Where to save and where to splurge? The food will be long gone, the rice thrown, the dress will be packed away, but the photos will remain forever. There are a number of area photographers able to capture the moment. Jamie Westdal Photography even puts together a DVD of wedding pictures accompanied by music the couple chooses. Most photographers have unique individual

pricing, so it's best to do some homework.

From Safeway to Patisserie Lafayette to Toot Sweets, there's no shortage of places to purchase a delicious wedding cake locally. All Safeway stores offer surprisingly good-looking cakes at quite reasonable prices. Patisserie Lafayette's award winning cakes come in a variety of flavor combinations and can be designed in a myriad of styles. In addition, the bakery also has a feminine tearoom, Maison de Thé, perfect for bridal showers. "We met in Petar's and three months later happened to be in Hawaii at the same time," said summer bride Maren Haag of the start of her romance with John Kelly. Referring to her dreams of the perfect wedding, "All the images I've had since I was a little girl, it's great seeing them come to life. I'm really excited."

For better or worse, richer or poorer, Lamorinda couples will be tying the knot this summer, wouldn't it be nice if they fixed a pothole or two on the road to wedded bliss?



Cake by Lynn Appleton, Pastry Chef and Proprietor Patisserie Lafayette

**Lynds Photography**  
Wedding & Socials  
Wedding Packages  
Family Portraits  
Event Photography  
www.lyndsphoto.com  
925-967-0180  
2400 Golden Gate Way, Suite 2  
Lafayette, CA 94501

**Ware Designs**  
Fine Jewelry since 1977  
• Custom Designed Jewelry  
• Remodel Heirloom Jewelry  
• Expert Repair  
• Appraisals  
• Pearls Restrung  
Tues 12-5 Wed-Sat 10-5  
Valentine's Day Feb. 14th  
"The Forge" 3416 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette  
283-2988 www.waredesigns.com

**PAPYRUS**  
3645-C Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette  
925-283-2391  
New Store Hours:  
Monday - Saturday 10 am - 6 pm

**Get your lips ready for Valentines Day!**  
**ASPEN MED SPA**  
The Nature of Science & Beauty  
\*10 free units of botox with any dermal filler\*  
Get \$ 125 off any Radiessse dermal filler  
Get \$50 off any Juvederm dermal filler  
Get \$25 off any spa facial for all new clients  
925-283-6975  
William Birdsong, MD • The Clocktower, 3579 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette  
(925) 283-6975 • www.aspenmedspa.com  
Call Today for a free Clarity Pro Computerized Skin Analysis! Value \$50. Expires 2/29/08

**A Whole New Level of Pampering!**  
**Lavande**  
Spa & Boutique  
A brand new beautiful day spa in Lafayette with eucalyptus steam room, cedar wood sauna, wet body treatment room, a romantic couple's massage suite and a relaxation lounge with jacuzzi.  
Call 925-299-8877 for appointments  
Visit us at 3589 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette

Wedding Venues	Capacity	Price per person	What it includes	Extra charges	Notes
<b>Lafayette Park Hotel</b> 3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette 299-4388 www.weddinghotels.com/lafayette	10 - 200	Dinner, from \$88 to \$125 per person	For 125 - hot and cold food (if desired) including: buffet, drinks, music, open bar, parking, chairs, tables, linens, etc.	20% taxable service charge, 8.25% sales tax	If booking 5 or more rooms, receive a discount. Three hour bar service with champagne included.
<b>Postino</b> 3565 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette 299-8700 www.postinorestaurant.com	For the entire building, 250 guests, but the 5 separate rooms can be rented individually or combined as needed	For the entire building, 250 guests, but the 5 separate rooms can be rented individually or combined as needed	For the entire building, 250 guests, but the 5 separate rooms can be rented individually or combined as needed	20% taxable service charge, 8.25% sales tax	Their lawn area may be used for the ceremony, wedding reception, and/or rehearsal. Another venue is available.
<b>Wildwood Acres Resort</b> 1055 Hunsaker Canyon Road, Lafayette 283-2600 www.wildwoodacres.com	Outdoor: 300 seated, 400 standing Indoors: 160 seated, 250 standing	Outdoor: 300 seated, 400 standing Indoors: 160 seated, 250 standing	Working Vegetarian Buffet starts at \$59 to "Simply Exquisite" banquet menu at \$105 per person Saturday Marriage Reception starting from \$24	15% service fee Beverage service \$8-\$19 per person Facility fee from \$1500 for Sat + Sunday, Saturday night \$3000 8.25% sales tax	Bar/entertainment stocked cocktail bar available. Need not be a member to host a function at MCC.
<b>Moraga Country Club</b> 1600 St. Andrews Drive, Moraga 376-2200 Front Desk 631-1903 Catering www.moragacc.com	Pool area 400 - 500	Dining room 125, Pool area 400 - 500	Because MCC is a private club, those interested in the facility, should call for more information	Facility rental non-residents \$2250, Residents \$1500	Bar/entertainment that are Veterans are available for \$25/hr.
<b>Orinda Country Club</b> 315 Camino Schenck, Orinda 254-4313 www.orindacc.org	Outdoor: 200	Outdoor: 200		Room set up, take down of chairs + tables and cleaning	Bar/entertainment that are Veterans are available for \$25/hr.
<b>Hacienda de las Flores</b> Pavilion 2100 Donald Drive Moraga 376-2520 www.moragacc.com	Indoors room for 110 for set down dinner	Indoors room for 110 for set down dinner		Small room \$250/hour Full Bar \$8.50 per person, hosts to provide alcohol.	No sales tax, 11:00 p.m. curfew
<b>Veteran's Memorial Building</b> 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette 283-1153 www.lafayetteveterans.org	1 large room 256 with tables, 1 small room 250, 200 with a choice floor	1 large room 256 with tables, 1 small room 250, 200 with a choice floor		Sake, entree, starch, fresh vegetables, breads, coffee and prepared vase service Chairs, tables, linens	\$3450 facility fee for entire Center, \$2475 for main three spaces 22% service charge 8.25% sales tax
<b>St. Mary's College</b> Soda Center 1928 St. Mary's Road, Moraga 631-4030 Soda Events 631-8013 Catering Director www.stmarys-ca.edu	300 for set down reception in main 3 rooms - Can break up the facility into smaller spaces	300 for set down reception in main 3 rooms - Can break up the facility into smaller spaces		Dinner around \$50 per person	Soberos do not have a liquor house to sell alcohol, but can have alcohol in the chapel, but anyone can have their reception at the Soda Center.

Photo provided by Caroline Somary, Client and Event Director, SpringLoaf Catering

**Toot Sweets Bakery Open 7 Days**  
3518 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette  
284-3111

SOUL CREAM CHOCOLATE ON VANILLA  
CHOCOLATE! CHOCOLATE!  
Peppermint  
Mocha Latte  
LEMON  
CHOCOLATE PEANUT BUTTER CUP  
VANILLA! VANILLA!  
CHOCOLATE MINT (for after dinner!)VICTORIAN VANILLA ON CHOCOLATE  
COCONUT, YEAH!  
Beehive on COCONUT-PEACH

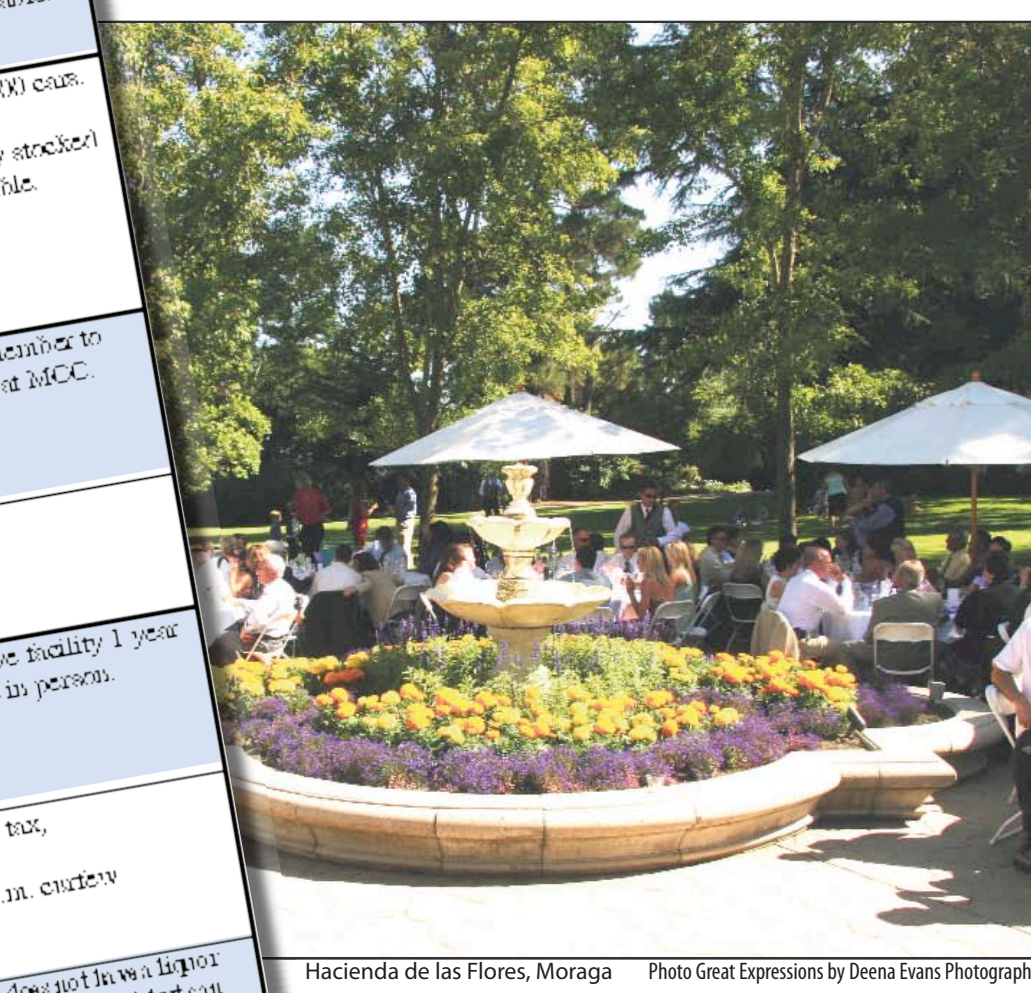
20% off your cupcake order with this coupon valid until 3/31/08

# Life in LAMORINDA



Wildwood Acres Resort, Lafayette

Photo Lynds Photography



Hacienda de las Flores, Moraga

Photo Great Expressions by Deena Evans Photography

**Front Page Picture:**  
Left: Santa Maria Church in Orinda, Photo courtesy of Photo Great Expressions by Deena Evans Photography  
Middle: Hacienda de las Flores, Photo courtesy of Photo Great Expressions by Deena Evans Photography  
Right: Lafayette Park Hotel Photo courtesy of Lynds Photography

**Local Caterers**

**SpringLoaf Catering**  
3325 Beedwood Drive  
Lafayette  
925-9363  
www.springloaf.com

**Susan Food Catering & Chow Ciao**  
965 Mountain View Drive  
Lafayette  
299-7616  
www.susanfoodcatering.com

**Toast Catering and Private Chefs**  
Lafayette  
(415) 606-7537 / (925) 933-5322  
toast@comcast.net

**Wild Thyme Catering & Event Management**  
2770 Camino Diablo  
Walnut Creek - the edge of Lafayette  
945-7939  
www.wildthymecatering.com

**NOVINA**  
FINE JEWELRY  
TISSOT OMEGA  
Diamonds • Anniversary Bands • Wedding Rings  
3559 Mt. Diablo Blvd. • Lafayette  
925-283-1800  
Custom Designs • Manufacturing in Gold & Platinum  
Jewelry & Watch Repair Done on Premises

Refreshing contemporary catering and event planning.  
Creative, global and sustainable cuisines that bring your ideas for any event to life. Call (925) 962-9369  
www.springloaf.com info@springloaf.com  
Visit us at The Modern Event Show, San Francisco Convention Center, February 24th

**SpringLoaf Catering**  
3344 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Suite #309, Lafayette

**Pixel Outpost**  
Fine Art for your Sweetheart 15% Off  
Create a special gift with a print on Fine Art paper and save 15% off through February 14th  
If you've got a great shot ... create a great gift  
Process online at www.pixeloutpost.com or visit our studio at 331 Rheem Blvd. • Moraga 925-376-7216

**ENTOURAGE INC.**  
Day NIGHT Spa, Salon & Café  
Northern California's most famous Day and Night Spa  
Entourage is For Lovers this Valentine's Day

**Celebrate Valentine's Day at Entourage!**  
"Massage into the Midnight Hour"  
February 14th - 16th  
Set in a romantic candle lit setting  
Includes:  
- Relaxing 50 minute Swedish massage -  
- Refresh with our shower built for two -  
- Champagne and Entourage's Famous Chocolate Buffet -  
Come early, Stay Late  
\$135 per person  
Book early - last four years have sold out!  
www.entouragespa.com  
Theatre Square • Orinda • 925-254-9721

