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Thrifty Wedding Gifts



It really is the thought that counts

BY LISA MARIE ROVITO

Summer is the season for weddings, and you've gotten enough invitations to prove it. What to wear? How to get there? Most importantly, how to afford all those gifts? Here are some ideas for giving thoughtfully yet thriftily:

Together is better

Pool resources with other invitees. Great group gifts: a big-ticket registry item, a couples' spa treatment, a bed-and-breakfast gift certificate applicable at more than 1,500 inns (visit bnbfinder.com).

Add on

Supplement a modest registry gift with a bottle of wine, a trio of custom-mix CDs (one of classic romance, one for a road trip, one for a lazy Saturday afternoon), cookbooks, a coffee table book about the honeymoon destination, a gorgeous photo album or luxurious bath items.

Watch for sales

Keep an eye out for registry or related items on discount sites like Overstock.com. (The drawback: The item won't appear as purchased on their registry site, so someone else may end up buying the same gift.)

Members only

A museum membership, a national or state parks pass, or Netflix subscription speaks louder than its price tag.

Date night

What couple wouldn't appreciate a gift certificate to their favorite restaurant in town?

Do your homework

Find out colors, styles and interests from the couple's registry, then get a complementary but less costly gift on your own.

Something old

A vintage find from a flea market or eBay makes a one-of-a-kind gift. Use their registry for inspiration: If an ice cream maker is listed, look for 1950s malt shop-style dessert dishes. Deck out your treasure with beautiful gift wrap.

Make it personal

Newlyweds love to display wedding-day photos, and the Mr. and Mrs. Frame from agiftpersonalized.com is less than \$35. Monogrammed towels or pillowcases are also surprisingly affordable. You can get cases custom-embroidered at stitchessoweet.com. The couple's wedding date, a line from their invitation or a quote about love will ensure sweet dreams.

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