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this one's for the girls

There's no better way to celebrate your impending "I dos" than to spend time alongside your best friends. Replace the typically cheeky X-rated agenda with a bachelorette theme that will make for a weekend to remember. »

BY ALYSSA LONGBUCCO
PHOTOGRAPH BY
ROBERT EVANS STUDIOS

Your bachelorette party can be one of the most anticipated events of the whole wedding process. There's nothing more fun than setting aside an entire weekend (or even just a day) to celebrate the incredible friendships in your life. If you're a bride (or the bridesmaid of a gal) who is more sweet and serene than saucy and scandalous, trade in G-strings and scantily clad entertainers for a bash that will be a blast and Facebook appropriate.

Go all out with a glamette

A little confused by the lingo? Allow us to explain—think of a glamette as the over-the-top, indulgent big sister of the traditional bachelorette. The Bridal Bar founder Harmony Walton coined the phrase after planning a honeymoon-esque getaway for a bride and her gals in Deer Valley at the luxe St. Regis hotel. Walton made sure the weekend included lots of good food, high-end moments and even a picnic hike (see previous page). “Do what you love to do together as friends, but bigger and better,” Walton says. “Make it a trip you will all remember.” A glamette-themed weekend should be packed full of activities that spoil you and your girls, like spa appointments, private yoga sessions and luxe accommodations. You'll want to get pampered, dress up in your party finest and eat like queens, so seek out a resort with a top-notch spa and grounds, or a city where you can go all out on the little luxuries.

Escape on a wellness retreat

Whether you're an avocado toast obsessive who can't get enough of hot yoga, or are planning a party for a gal that is basically Gwyneth Paltrow 2.0, a wellness-themed bash may be perfect for your crew. Focus on mind-, body- and soul-fulfilling activities for a weekend that will leave you and your friends feeling Zen and refreshed. You can pack your schedule with a variety of classes and events around your home city (think: meditation sessions followed by green juices), or head to a destination retreat organized through companies like Pravassa (Pravassa.com), Fit & Fly Girl (FitandFlyGirl.com) and The Runaway Experience (TheRunawayExperience.com).

Make a splash at a pool party

Fla-mingle with your favorite ladies and work on your prewedding glow at a grown-up pool party. If you don't already know a friend willing to lend out her pool for the afternoon, look into nearby hotels or rooftops—many rent spaces on an hourly or daily basis for events. Then, fill the water with tons of cute floats, mix some margs and pile baskets high with pool party essentials like fun sunnies, magazines, sunscreen, towels and more. Hire a bartender through a local joint or app like GigMasters to act as your personal cabana boy. Piña coladas at the snap of a finger? We're in! »»



bachelorette planning 101

Make sure you cover all your party basics with this foolproof guide to planning the ultimate bash.

Decide who is hosting

The maid of honor typically takes the lead when it comes to the bachelorette party, but anyone can play hostess for the weekend. Volunteer your services or, if you're the MOH, task the rest of the bridal party with jobs like securing travel and accommodations.

Make the guest list

All bridesmaids get an invite, as do any friends the bride wants to include in the celebration. It's not necessary to invite everyone who attends the shower (typically all women invited to the wedding) to the bachelorette—try to keep it on the smaller side with 10-20 guests.

Figure out a date

If the bride has any must-attend guests, coordinate with them first on preliminary dates (roughly anywhere from three months out to a month before the wedding). Arranging one weekend that works for dozens of people can get complicated, so do your best to pick a date that's doable for the majority of the group and stick to it.

Spread the word

If you want to splurge on fun themed paper invites then go for it, but it's not a must. Digital invites will work great for a bachelorette bash and will help you track RSVPs easily. Make sure you get responses at least two weeks before the party, but allow for more time if you're planning a destination affair that requires a hotel.