

CHICAGO SOCIAL

Brides

Endless

LOVE!

THE COOLEST GOWNS FOR WINTER WEDDINGS

Maid to Measure: Cynthia Rowley Does Bridesmaid Dresses

SUGAR BUZZ! *Desserts Get Downsized*

War of the Registries (Who's On Top?) > CITY-CHIC HONEYMOONS

and 75 of Chicago's Sweetest Couples!

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BY THE PUBLISHERS OF CS



A Euro-chic table set by Debi Lilly.

Simply Red

ROUGE TABLETOP DÉCOR Debi Lilly, chief eventeur at **A Perfect Event**, has a knack for romantic wedding décor. Maybe it's the month she spends every summer in Paris on the hunt for the next big trend. All we know is that our jaws dropped when we saw this reception spread in rich shades of red—from brilliant candy apple to deep crimson. Set atop a pale aqua cloth, Lilly found just the right balance for her arrangement of heirloom crystal compotes and double-mouthed glass bowls filled with pyramids of apples, pears and red mokara orchids; cylinder vases housing black Baccara rose bouquets, and that dramatic bundle of branches at the center. Straight from the city of love, indeed. *3050 N. Lincoln Ave., 773.244.9333, aperfectevent.com.*

And... Action!

SHORT-FORM VIDEO Videography used to have a bum rap—well not anymore. Consider the work of Rogie Cruz, owner of **RAC Visual Imaging**, for example. It's hard to do it justice with the printed page—book a viewing and you'll get the real picture—but his short-form wedding videos (approximately 30 minutes long) retell your story with a mini movie that's got plot arches and



Short-form wedding videos are all the rage.

spot-on composition. "My videos are cinematic in feel and documentary in nature," adds Cruz. And with his DSLR camera, he can make still prints, too. Smile! *401 W. Ontario St., 312.404.4470, racvisual.com.*

The High Life

ROOM 1520 FOR WEDDINGS Owners Leah and Stephen Hamilton got it right when they combined something old with something new at **Room 1520** in the West Loop. Hosting weddings and events since it opened last fall, the Sky Loft, located on the second floor of the one-time factory, oozes urban charm. The 5,300-square-foot space features the building's original high ceilings, worn cement pillars, exposed brick and an outstanding view of the city through its eight-foot-tall, wrap-

around windows. Guests will love gathering around the fieldstone fireplace while your catering team puts the two top-of-the-line, exposed kitchens to good use (think Imperial ovens and prep tables that beg for creative food stations). But wait, there's more: The Room 1520 group has another, slightly smaller space called the Cocoa Loft around the corner on Justine Street (perfect for parties of about 150). And their third space, Aerie Loft, is set to open this summer. *1520 W. Fulton St., 312.733.4583, room1520.com.*
—Lesley L. Stanley

Snap, Crackle, Pop!

CHICAGO-CHIC FAVORS Nothing says "Chicago" like Garrett's salty, sweet and savory popcorn. At least that's what the smart and savvy stylists at **LOLA Event Productions** (*lolaeventproductions.com*) thought when they designed brown paper gift bags filled with the snack. Seal 'em with customized labels and bands from **Anjénu** (*anjenu.com*) and you've got yourself a pretty parting gift that won't get tossed.



A posh parfait by Blue Plate.

Gimmie the Beet

OUT-OF-THE-ORDINARY SWEETS Desserts should never be dull. That's why we love the indulgent parfaits by **Weddings by Blue Plate**. Our favorite is the beet flavor. A yummy blend of red beets, chocolate brittle gel, raspberry coulis, cocoa nibs and coconut milk powder, the layered cups look as good as they taste. Want more? Try the West Loop caterer's mango ginger parfait, or mix things up with banana and chocolate wontons with caramel dipping sauce, upside-down lemon meringue pies and cheesecake lollipops rolled in colored sprinkles. *1061 W. Van Buren St., 312.421.6666, blueplateweddings.com.*



Davis Imperial Cleaners.

Nice Packaging

DRESS PRESERVATION The big day is all about the dress. Just don't forget that the day after the big day should be, too. (Do you know what church dust and Champagne can do to silk organza?!) Luckily for brides, there's **Davis Imperial Cleaners** to save the day. The museum-quality preservation shop hand-cleans and hand-presses every gown before it undergoes a series of white-glove inspections in the preservation laboratory—the only one of its kind in the Midwest. Then, when it looks as good as new, they'll wrap your dress in pre-washed, chemical-free muslin before storing it in an acid-free, archival-quality chest (each one is decorated with lace, silk ribbon, cording and satin roses). All you have to do is make room for the big box in your closet. *3325 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., 773.267.4560, davisimperial.com.*