

# Local Flavor

Wedding planners give us the goods on the best Colorado favors BY ERIKA RASMUSSEN JANES

If you're still trying to determine the perfect wedding favor to give your guests, consider something that comes from the heart and the home: a favor made in Colorado. Introducing your guests to local favorites is an easy way to personalize the wedding-favor tradition. Better yet: Your out-of-town guests will appreciate something they can't get elsewhere.

For a sweet treat, event planner Michelle Gillette of Dramatic Event Design in Denver recommends **Das Meyer Fine Pastry Chalet** for its cookies. The 24-year-old family-owned company is a favorite with local brides-to-be. It offers large cookie favors made of Scottish shortbread that are shaped like three-tier wedding cakes. The cookies are then dipped in fondant and frosted with buttercream, and can be decorated with your wedding colors (just bring in a swatch) or your monogram. The cookies run from \$4 to \$5 each. Another option: petits fours, made of Scottish shortbread, apricot or raspberry jam and marzipan, then dipped in fondant. The petits fours can also be personalized with your colors or monogram, and come in various shapes. They're \$1.50 to \$2 each. 13251 West 64th Ave., Arvada; 303/425-5616

If you'd rather give out chocolate than cake, Tanya Porter of Weddings, Etc., in Englewood suggests **Stephany's Chocolates**. "They're well-known for their Colorado almond toffee," she says, but the company also offers truffles, mints and assorted chocolates. A two-piece truffle box (gold or silver) tied with raffia in one of 15 different colors is \$2.99. A four-piece box of assorted chocolates—including that famous toffee—is \$4.95, and is available in

seasonal packaging or gold foil boxes. 6770 West 52nd Ave., Arvada; 800/888-1522 x111; [stephanychocolates.com](http://stephanychocolates.com)

Porter also recommends Colorado blue spruce seedlings. "We use them as favors as well as seating assignments," she says, noting that cards with names and table numbers can be easily attached to the trees, then carried to the tables. You can order Colorado blue spruce seedlings from **The GreenWorld Project** for \$1.80 each, or choose "Mail-a-Tree" favors, packaged in clear cylinder tubes and adorned with your choice of ribbon color, for \$2.50 to \$3.25; the company's "Treemendous Tree Starts" give you about 10 blue spruce or Meyer spruce seeds in a personalized packet for \$.80 each. 800/825-5122; [greenworldproject.net](http://greenworldproject.net)

Another favor that your guests will want to take home and use is a Colorado-made candle from **Bath Happy**. Wedding planner Michelle Bennewitz of An Occasion to Remember in Lone Tree likes the personalized labels that the company can put on its products. Bath Happy's 5-ounce jar candles use lead-free wicks, and are made from a soy blend that doesn't produce soot and burns longer than traditional candles. They can be custom designed in any scent and color you want—a cream-colored, lavender-scented candle for a garden ceremony, or an amber-colored apple-cider scent for a fall fete—and labeled with a design and phrase of your choosing. (Allow a few weeks for custom orders.) The candles are \$9.95 each, with a 10 percent discount for orders of 50 and a 15 percent discount on orders of 100. 2885 Cherry St., Denver; 303/917-0497; [bathhappy.com](http://bathhappy.com)

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# \*Hot List

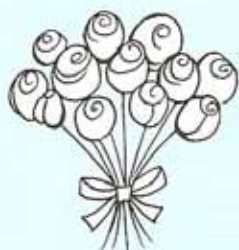
Sizzling ideas from **COLORADO** pros BY ERIKA RASMUSSEN JANES



## Cakes

Give your cake a truly personal touch by incorporating your monogram into the design. Choose a monogrammed topper, or have your initials frosted onto the side of one of the tiers.

—DAWN WICK, CHILD'S PASTRY SHOP, DENVER AND LITTLETON



## Blooms

Asian-inspired looks, with bamboo, black river rocks, moss and orchids, are the new big thing with Colorado brides. Cymbidium orchids are especially popular, and make great boutonnieres, too, with bear grass looped around them.

—ALICIA SCHWEDE, BELLA FIORI, LAKEWOOD



## Colors

Colorado couples are picking their color schemes—choosing bright, tropical hues like pink and exotic blooms like orchids—based on what they love, not when they're tying the knot.

—MICHELLE GILLETTE, DRAMATIC EVENT DESIGN, DENVER



## Entertainment

Your honeymoon destination can inspire the final song of the evening. For example, if you're going to Jamaica, pick a reggae tune to end your party. Transitioning from a slow last dance song to a fun honeymoon song sets the mood for the next part of your wedding journey.

—BOB MENDELSON, ARTSONG MOBILE MUSIC, INC., EVERGREEN



## Food

Set up a refreshment stand for guests at outdoor weddings, with bottled water or glasses of raspberry lemonade with mint leaves. It's a great way to help guests cool off and relax while they wait for your ceremony to start.

—JULS GUNDERSON, A SPICE OF LIFE, BOULDER