



Tara MacMurray of Wilmington married Ryan Curran of Chadds Ford in Cape May, New Jersey, on August 28, 2008. The couple used sand dollars as place cards.

Everything in Its Place

Instead of formal reception place cards and table numbers, some couples are using less-traditional options that better reflect their interests and personalities.

"We had a bride and groom who chased storms as a hobby, so they named the reception tables after different storms and marked them with a photo taken by the bride of that type of storm," says Kelly Loiseau, wedding coordinator for Becket & Burke Catering in Wilmington. "Place cards were cut into cloud shapes to complement the theme."

Lizzie Clayton of Especial Day Shop in Wilmington's Trolley Square recalls bride and groom wine connoisseurs. They named each table after a favorite wine.

Some couples name tables after different stages of their lives, such as "Matt's childhood" or "Cindy's college years," Loiseau says. They decorate the table with laminated photos of the bride or groom from that time, then seat people at appropriate places—family at baby and child photo tables, and friends at school, work and hobby-related tables. The photos make nice take-home mementos for guests.

A place card is often tied to a favor such as a flower or a chocolate lollipop. Sometimes, though, the place card is the favor. Guests' names can be inserted into luggage tags or small photo frames, for example.

A place card can even be edible, such as an individually labeled chocolate bar or a cookie frosted with each guest's name. U Oughtta Be On Chocolates in Dover specializes in the such favors.

Couples striving for greener weddings might choose eco-friendly place cards. For an autumn wedding, names can be written in metallic marker on colorful leaves. Names also can be painted on small rocks that later serve as paperweights or garden ornaments. —Theresa Gawlas Medoff

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