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PERSONALLY YOURS

From adventure seekers to philanthropists, couples are finding their perfect match in today's registry options

BY REBECCA CHAPPELL



IF YOU'RE LIKE MOST MODERN COUPLES, your relationship is a marriage of different approaches, styles, wants and tastes. You like traditional, he likes modern. He wants a power mower, you want 800-thread-count Turkish cotton sheets. And like most couples, you realize that the oddities and dissimilarities make up the tie that binds you. But how do you create a registry that excites you both? Before you start scanning pots and pans, consider registries

that match your personalities and offer experiences and intangible benefits—not just products.

FOR THE ADVENTURE SEEKERS

One of the most popular registries is the honeymoon registry. Dreaming of Africa? You can register your honeymoon wishes online—from airfare and lodging to dining, spa treatments and ecoadventures. Though some folks frown on "cash" gifts, younger couples view honeymoon registries as a way to avoid post-wedding debt. When planning their wedding, Cheryl Monahan and her husband were finishing school and hadn't yet settled into full-time careers. "We chose a honeymoon registry so we could do things that we would not have done without it," says Monahan. "We got hotel-suite upgrades, massages, horseback tours and some amazing dinners!" **What's Hot:** Online honeymoon registry services such as [HoneymoonWishes.com](#) and [TheBigDay.com](#). **What's Not:** Displaying a honeymoon donation jar at the reception.

COLIN COWIE FANS

Sharon Naylor, author of 35 wedding books, including *The Ultimate Wedding Registry Workbook*, says registry choices no longer depend on age, but on the life circumstances of the couple marrying. Home entertaining, however, is a growing trend among all age groups. Naylor says more and more couples are registering for stylish martini sets, espresso machines, serving platters and all the accessories that help create a sophisticated soirée. Group-friendly items like karaoke machines and video game consoles are popping up on registry lists, too. **What's Hot:** Gold-leaf dinnerware by Bernardaud at Bloomingdale's, the Jura-Capresso Impresa Z6 fully automatic espresso coffee maker at Williams-Sonoma, and a class on how to throw an appetizer and dessert party at Sur La Table. **What's Not:** Registering for a foosball table—unless, of course, you can theme a wine dinner around it.



EXQUISITE WEDDINGS

by San Diego Magazine

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NEW RULES OF TRADITIONAL REGISTRIES

For the 100th anniversary, here are 10 new guidelines to achieve a balanced registry.

1. **Be specific.** Don't register for "cash" or "anything you want." Instead, register for specific items that you both want and need. "We got hotel-suite upgrades, massages, horseback tours and some amazing dinners!"

2. **Be realistic.** Don't register for items that are too expensive or too impractical. Focus on items that you both want and need.

3. **Be thoughtful.** Register for items that show you care about each other and your future together.

4. **Be flexible.** Don't be too rigid about your registry. Be open to suggestions from family and friends.

5. **Be generous.** Don't forget to register for items that you can give to others.

6. **Be creative.** Register for unique and personalized items.

7. **Be practical.** Register for items that you will use every day.

8. **Be fun.** Register for items that you both enjoy.

9. **Be smart.** Register for items that are on sale or discounted.

10. **Be kind.** Register for items that you can give to charity.

11. **Be honest.** Register for items that you really want.

12. **Be patient.** Don't rush to register. Take your time.

13. **Be organized.** Keep track of your registry items.

14. **Be consistent.** Register for items that you both agree on.

15. **Be flexible.** Be open to suggestions from family and friends.

16. **Be thoughtful.** Register for items that show you care about each other and your future together.

17. **Be realistic.** Don't register for items that are too expensive or too impractical. Focus on items that you both want and need.

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