

lakeside style inside

aking it to the church on time

Tis the season to be thinking about weddings.

While few women in New Orleans dare brave having a ceremony in summer, many are planning fervently.

Of course, Lakeside Shopping Center is a reliable resource for any bride.

1. First Impressions

The wedding's invitation—as well as all of the invitations to the wedding parties and rehearsal dinner—often reflects the bride's and groom's personalities. Scriptura is not only known for its diverse selection of invitations, but for its personalized service in helping the bride choose just the right invitation. While top stationery lines are available at the store, for a local flavor many brides turn to La Cartoleria, a line of stationery and invitations made by Alexa Pulitzer.



All brides—and bridesmaids want to look their best for the big day. Earthsavers not only has great beauty products, but also has the services that will make the bride shine (a good shine, that is). One spa package,

"The Bride's Day," includes a manicure or French manicure, pedicure,

paraffin hand treatment and a therapeutic massage. But if she can't sustain the calm, an aromatic candle or a buckwheat pillow can help her relax ... that is until she gets to the church's aisle.



3. The Ties that Bind

Diamonds really are a girl's best friend—especially when it comes to engagement and wedding rings. Lakeside Shopping Center has a number of jewelers—Lee Michael's Fine Jewelry; Coleman E. Adler & Sons; Mignon Faget; Zales; and Bailey, Banks & Biddle—that can make a girl's dream come true.

The Diamond Life

What should a groom look for when choosing a diamond ring? Most importantly he needs to remember the "4 Cs": cut, clarity, carat and color. Cut refers to the diamond's proportions; clarity is the presence or absence of flaws; carat is the stone's weight; and color, which is rated on a scale of D to Z, can range from colorless to white, yellow or brown. What is the best diamond? One that is crystal clear in color, unless the bride wants a diamond in a specific color.

Grooms also need to keep in mind the cut of the main stone. Cuts include: emerald, oval, pear, round, heart, marquise (named after the French King LouisXV's mistress,

4. Signing on the Dotted Line

The bridal registry: a dreaded, but necessary task for any bridal duo. For generations, New Orleans women—and men—have turned to Coleman E. Adler & Sons. Adler's professionally guides the bride and groom to choose their china and silver, as well as other important items. Adler's also makes it easy for family and friends to pick gifts, especially with its toll-free number, (800) 925-7912, which eases the stress of out-of-town family and