

green WE

TODAY more THAN ever

people are realizing just how important it is to protect and conserve the natural resources that have been taken for granted for so long. As a result, a new consideration for brides as they begin to plan their wedding day may be how they can make their wedding as “green” as possible. With some help from these eco-friendly companies, brides are able to accomplish this goal without sacrificing any of the style or elegance they had in mind for their dream wedding.



THE ELEGANT & ECO-FRIENDLY MOVEMENT

DDINGS

by Allison McCrave

SEAPORT (www.seaportboston.com) in Boston, Massachusetts, has created Seaport Saves, a ground-breaking environmental program, and the Seaport Green Wedding Package. Nikki Westcott, Director of Weddings, explains their mission for green weddings. “This package is the culmination of months of planning to ensure that we were able to provide ecologically conscious couples with an environmentally friendly wedding.” Just a few of the many groundbreaking efforts Seaport has implemented include: dimmable energy efficient lighting in all ballrooms; composted food through Seaport’s all-natural BioX system; organic beer and wine; allergy-friendly rooms; organic fresh, local foods, whenever possible; soy-based votive candles and a contribution made to the New England Wind Fund in your name to offset the electricity used during your wedding. “We are thrilled to be able to provide an elegant wedding while limiting the impact to the environment.” Westcott states.

OLIVIA LUCA (www.olivialuca.com), is just the place to turn when designing a dress for a green wedding. Based in Portland, Oregon, they currently offer a variety of eco-friendly fabric options ranging from organic linen to bamboo/organic cotton knit to organic printed cotton. They will soon be offering a soy knit fabric option as well. Terri Spaeth-Merrick, owner and designer, says, “I’ve been doing custom dresses since 2000. Our goal is to have dresses that fall into the category of affordable.” Brides are able to select the perfect design that best suits their individual style and taste right from the website, which automatically calculates the price as brides create the wedding gown of their dreams. The result is a beautiful wedding gown that is affordable, sustainable and fashion forward.

For couples seeking a transportation service for their wedding day that is both elegant and eco-friendly, **ECOLIMO** (www.eco-limo.com) is more than accommodating in both respects. By relying solely on alternative fuel, ECOLIMO has found a way to provide chauffeured transportation that is fuel efficient. ECOLIMO was founded by Y. Fray in 2004. “Y. Fray has been in the limousine business for quite awhile,” said Dot Findlater, vice president of ECOLIMO.

Originally based in Los Angeles, ECOLIMO now has offices in San Francisco and Washington, D.C., “D.C. is now up and running,” Findlater said. “Las Vegas will be open relatively soon.” ECOLIMO has a variety of stylish transportation options in their fleet including gas/electric, bio-diesel, CNG and natural gas fueled vehicles.



All dresses by Olivia Luca



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When preparing for the big day, it is important to keep in mind just how much paper is involved in the planning process.

SIGNED SEALED & DELIVERED

{www.ssdinvitations.com},

a company based in Brunswick, Maine, was founded in 2004 by calligrapher, Ellen Knipe, and graphic designer, Lauren Watkinson. The company not only creates custom-

designed wedding invitations, but also save the date cards, ceremony programs, escort and place cards, table names, menus, itinerary cards, thank you notes, and more. "That's a lot of paper," said owner Ellen Knipe. "It can add up really quickly." Signed Sealed & Delivered offers paper from a variety of different lines, but most have at least some recycled content. One hundred percent post consumer paper is becoming more popular now, and therefore, prices are more reasonable than they were even eighteen months ago. "Paper companies are doing what they can to keep post consumer products at the front of their line," Knipe explained. "So many people are going green."

In addition to using post consumer paper, brides may also choose to use soy ink. While there is still some debate over just how eco-friendly soy ink really is, many believe that this is a step in the right direction as opposed to oil and petroleum based inks.

For catering options, couples can turn to **FANCY GIRL CATERING & EVENTS** (www.fancygirlcatering.com), a New York City based company that is owned by Jeanette Maier. Maier previously opened *Herban Kitchen*, an organic restaurant and caterer located in Soho, where she worked for eight years as Executive Chef.

Manager Heather Umlah described their menus as "chic, elegant, organic, and sustainable." The company has established relationships with local farmers and markets. "What makes us green is that we use a lot of organic products," Umlah explained. "Whether it be the Organic Hudson Valley lunch menu or the Organic Vegan menu, brides can select the green menu option that is right for them.

Green weddings will most likely continue to grow in popularity as more companies make these eco-friendly options available. From wedding gowns and invitation designers, to caterers and transportation options, companies are providing the tools couples need to create a wedding that is sophisticated, unique, eco-friendly, and truly unforgettable. **LB**