

# Those many marvelous wedding meals

BY CAROL SOUTH  
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When it comes to the wedding meal, today's bride often ignores convention and forges her own path to dining bliss.

While buffet is still a mainstay of many wedding receptions, an increasing trend is anything goes.

Instead of trays of meat and potatoes, brides are

choosing pasta bars, fall-themed dinners, barbeques and a variety of serve-yourself stations including ethnic themes, hors d'oeuvres or desserts. Other unusual feasts northern Michigan caterers have seen are a create-your-own s'mores bar for an outdoor campfire and Hawaiian style dinners.

"The rules are going out the window and I love that," said Jen Foltz, manager of

Grandview Catering in Traverse City, owned by Jeff and Trish Wiltse. "Brides are definitely looking to step out of the box."

For the past four years, Foltz and the catering staff have helped brides craft the dining experience for guests ranging from a few dozen to hundreds. The organization recently took over as the exclusive caterer at Frog Pond Village in Interlochen and is looking ahead to a busy wedding season.

Many engaged couples know what they like but are not sure whether or how it can be translated into a wedding experience. Foltz, noting that food and beverages are often the biggest portion of a wedding budget, is there to help do just that.

"I always tell my brides to figure out what's important to them and spend their money there," Foltz said. "I suggest building a menu based on their likes and dislikes, to create their own style."

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Top, Traverse City's Grandview Catering often creates flowing platters of food for weddings; above is a table setting using fruit to hold flavored butter.