

SHOVVER OF

by ERIN MESSNER photography by BRIO ART

Step aside, lame party games and cheesy décor today's bridal shower is a stylish soirée that'll impress the bride-to-be and your guests.





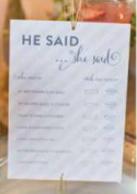


FACING PAGES: Pink champagne, lush blooms, delicious desserts and plenty of gold glitter—these are the makings of a super chic bridal shower.









Bridal showers life. It you think to throw a classy, moder to shower any bride in style.

HOST WITH THE MOST

The role of shower hostess typically falls to the maid of honor. However it's common for bridesmaids to hel by splitting costs and duties. While some still consider it a faux pas for mother of the bride to host, rules I relaxed over the years. "Bridal show ers have changed in the same way I weddings have changed," says Saral Trotter, owner of Lasting Impressic Weddings in Minnetonka, who's se everyone from bridesmaids to closs friends, sisters and coworkers host shower. In fact, many of them may their chance, as the bride will likely have multiple showers.

MAKING THE CUT

Bridal shower invitees should incluthe bride's and groom's mother, gramothers, sisters, bridal party and the bride's closest friends. Have the brigive you a list of whom she wants ed. If the bride has a large family a social circle, Trotter encourages splithem up among different showers, don't need to overlap invitees, but close women friends and family she invited to at least one shower, says. Anyone invited to a shower slaso be on the wedding guest list.

Lately, grooms are getting in on action via the couples shower. "Th days, couples are approaching wed planning as a team effort, so it onl makes sense that showers would st to reflect that," says Stephanie John owner of Park Place Planning & E in Edina. Note, showering the brid and groom doesn't mean it's a "cou only" shower; make sure single frie get the invite, too. Couples shower also tend to be more casual, focusi food and drink over traditional gar and gift opening.

COME ON OVER

"Homes [of family or friends] are t the go-to venue for showers," says