

THE RADAR BRIDAL



LAY ON THE LOVE

Love may ultimately be intangible, but sharing the sentiment with a chic charm never hurts. Both Katie Holmes and Elton John have been wearing their emotions on their wrists with Cartier's 'Love' bracelet (301.654.5858, www.cartier.com). The platinum, gold and diamond 'Love' collection of rings, bracelets and necklaces symbolizes the bond between giver and recipient. For the woman who wants to keep her love under wraps, Baccarat's soon-to-be-released, clear-crystal-and-diamond-dust 'B in Love' ring (www.baccarat.fr) has a small latch, revealing a hidden compartment perfect for a photo or sweet nothing. And to show your lady she'll always be appreciated, try Vera Wang's '7 Days a Week I Love You' seven stackable 18-karat gold and diamond rings (available at Charleston Alexander, 301.951.6200, and www.verawang.com). Sometimes baubles do say it best. —Marjorie Korn



Katie Holmes



PICTURES PERFECT

We've all sat down with a new wife's wedding album and wondered why the washed-out bride on its pages is really the radiant creature we see every day. Let her be a lesson to you. Lighting, photo composition and photography style are key to ending up with photos that look like the day felt, but they're all hard to spot in a few sample albums. A company now exists in 12 cities—including Washington. Bella Pictures specializes in brides' needs and wants and matches them with a photographer from a pre-screened stable, then manages the entire process from creating a list to assembling an album and video iPods. Celebrity photographer Bob Davis, who has worked for Donald Trump, Oprah and many others, hand selects each of Bella's shutterbugs, and because Bella takes care of the marketing, customer services and photo delivery, Davis has had to attract big-ticket talents who may not normally do weddings. Do they deserve less? Bella Pictures, www.bellapictures.com, 866.501.5760. —Katie



Hitched's back garden

HOST IT AT HITCHED

Georgetown's Hitched has become DC's newest wedding mecca with everything from the perfect dress to gifts for your gal pals. But the bridal salon still has a few more tricks up its sleeves. Make your way through the celadon-hued store to the private back garden—the perfect spot to throw that next bridal shower. What could get the bride-to-be's family and friends more in the matrimonial spirit than to be surrounded by fabulous wedding finery? With a little help from one of Hitched's recommended caterers, you can turn the lovely garden patio into your own bridal bliss. 1523 Wisconsin Ave., NW, 202.333.6162, www.hitchedsalon.com. —Ann McCarthy

STAMPING DOWN THE AISLE

Brides have enough details to worry about without having to hunt down the perfect postage for those oh-so-fretted-about invitations. Most stamps clash with the invite's colors or, even worse, make a candy heart the recipient's first impression of the affair. But the U.S. Postal Service has finally come to its senses, offering up postage with a trite title ("Our Wedding") but a lovely appearance. Although white doves and calligraphy are present, the little stickers are contemporary enough to please even the most modern of brides. Designed by artist Michael Osborne, the 2006 stamps harken back to mid-19th century virtue of penmanship and are available in both 39- and 63-cent denominations to accommodate both understated and oversized summons. Finally a decision you don't have to make. Stamps available at www.usps.com. —M.K.

