



Ultimate stags and stagettes

Some of the most over-the-top pre-wedding bashes

By Jennifer Cox

Bachelor and bachelorette parties have become a huge industry. While a night of bar-hopping and cabbie-ing it home is still a classic way to celebrate a stag, today's wedding parties are seeking out more

adventurous and unique ways to honour their brides- and grooms-to-be (picture party buses with stripper poles and renting out floors of nightclubs).

Angelo D'Ambra of Montreal Nitelife has been helping organize bachelor and bachelorette parties for years. He told B&G about two of the wildest "dos" he's planned, as well as offered his suggestions for one-of-a-kind stag and stagettes to make all of the festivities memorable.



For him

Where should the guys take the groom for a night of good, clean fun (mostly)? Where else – Montreal! D’Ambra let us in on one of the biggest shindigs he’s planned for the boys. “We organized a bachelor party that was memorable because of the sheer size – it was a group of grad students from an Ivy League school in the States. There were 14 bachelor parties in one with a total of 54 people on one bus for a one-night affair in Montreal,” he says. “We booked an entire restaurant and then a strip club for them, they went to the casino, it ended at six in the morning, and they drove back.”

Dinner at a cool restaurant like Milsa and then bar-hopping on St. Laurent or Crescent is the tried-and-true guys’ night out, but grooms and groomsmen are more willing to think (way) outside the box. “Some guys are really into extreme sports – they like combat, so there are combat-karate classes. Skydiving is also something completely out-of-the-ordinary and it’s sort of a rite of passage,” D’Ambra says. “You can also go white-water rafting. And then there are gun ranges and skeet shooting.”

What about the customary strip clubs? Are they still applicable to today’s stags? “With all the bachelor parties we’ve done, strip clubs make up 10-20% of the whole itinerary,” he explains. “There’s a misconception about what happens at bachelor parties – it’s not what you think. It can be, but generally, most people our age have experienced everything they wanted to when they were younger.”

For her

The girls like to have as much fun as the boys, and a bachelorette party that stands out to D’Ambra involved not just one night of excitement, but an extended weekend of activities. “There were out-of-town girls that came in from Miami – a group of 14 who all flew into Montreal, and our company took care of flights, hotels, and the entire itinerary, from limos picking them up at the airport to plans from Thursday to Sunday. This was a group who weren’t afraid to try new things – they went to the spa, white-water rafting, and then one night they went to all the supper clubs. The girls just loved the nightlife scene here.”

While the men may be more inclined to go out on a limb (literally) for their final hurrah, the ladies tend to choose more relaxing activities that require less adrenaline. “Women prefer the spas or booking a hotel room and having massage therapists or makeup artists come to the room,” D’Ambra explains. There are several health spas on and off the island who offer at-home services. A few select spas in Mont Tremblant and Saint-Saveur are also ideal settings for bridal parties to turn their weekend in to a bash.

So whether it’s an intimate group of 54 or a weekend of pampering and livin’ the high life, bachelor and bachelorette parties are really only about one thing – the bride and groom. “The most important person to focus on is the guest of honour,” D’Ambra says. “Then the people in the group can opt in or out of the activities. It’s as simple as that.”

