

A S S E E N I N SmartWEDDING

Bachelorette

By Jennifer Cox

*Y*ou've been planning, coordinating and stressing for months to prepare for your wedding day. Your bachelorette party is your final hoorah — a chance to let your hair down before going for the big up do.

J'aime Montreal!

"Montreal is a great place to celebrate because of the vibe," says Angelo D'Ambra of Montreal Nitelife Tours, a company that plays host to around 750 bachelor, bachelorette, and Jack and Jill parties every year. "It's different from any other city. There's so much to see and do here."

The classical ambiance and renowned cuisine in the Old Port, the trendy nightclubs on Crescent and St-Laurent, and the sparkle of streets like St. Catherine, all offer a vast array of

venues for a memorable "no boys allowed" bash.

However you choose to celebrate, here are a few tips to help make your celebration snazzy, safe and special.

Naughty or nice?

Bachelorette parties don't have to be carbon copies of a guy's stag, however you can't work out the details of your bachelorette without deciding how rowdy you want your party to get. Well-intentioned friends (often the ones who do most of the planning) may *think* they know what you want, but if you have any definite ideas, speak up! Only you know the particular sensibilities of some of the attendees and whether or not they will be comfortable with a more risqué evening. One alternative may be to plan two separate celebrations — a tasty and tasteful brunch at the Queen E with female family members and then a night out on the town with your closest girlfriends.



Graphic: Ashley Shepherd

Girls just wanna have fun — in style Tips for throwing a bachelorette you'll never forget or ever regret

On your mark, get set, go!

Where will you start things off? Ideally, you want everyone to meet in one location. A house big enough to accommodate everybody is a great place to mingle for drinks and hors d'oeuvres. It also provides a comfortable setting for everybody to get acquainted, since you might be bringing together ladies from different facets of your life.

If you want more central grounds, rent a hotel room in the vicinity of where you plan on celebrating. Penthouse or presidential suites are large enough for a bigger group of partygoers. And the best part is nobody will have to clean up afterwards.

Hitchin' a ride

We all know the cardinal party rule — if

you're drinking, you can't be driving. Plan how you're going to get to and from the festivities ahead of time, so no one person is stuck as designated chauffeur.

"Because drinking is often involved with a bachelorette celebration, arranging for either a car or limousine service in advance is a good idea," D'Ambra says. He adds, "FYI- the maximum passenger capacity for a limo is eight, and drinking in limos is no longer permitted." Limousine companies offer different services and rates, so be sure to shop around. Go and see what it is you are getting to steer clear of any unpleasant surprises.

What's the code?

Dress code, that is. On any given week-

end future brides and their maids are usually pretty easy to spot on the streets and at the bars in downtown Montreal, decked out in the "typical" bachelorette attire — makeshift veils, princess crowns, naughty t-shirts and armed with interesting "props." Just make sure everybody's on the same fashion page. You know your group's tolerance level. You don't want anyone's knickers in a knot before tying the knot.

So celebrate to your wedded heart's content. You only get one bachelorette party, and it should be a celebration you never forget. There's always a happy medium (as you will soon find out as a married woman) for a fun and memorable party everyone will enjoy. 🍷