

## 10 WAYS TO GET THE MOST FROM YOUR CATERER *courtesy of Il Bello Italian Favors*

Most of your wedding budget will be spent at your reception but you may be able to negotiate a few items to help you keep your costs down. In order to do so, consider the following:

1. Find a versatile location which can accommodate your ideal outdoor ceremony but is versatile and can easily switch your ceremony indoors should the weather be less than ideal for your wedding day.
2. Request a list of vendors (photographers, florists, etc.) exclusive to their catering hall which may result in a 20% to 30% discount.
3. Inquire about the caterer's willingness to include candles for your reception tables. You want to create an air of romance.
4. When reviewing the menu ensure that you select dishes which will please both vegetarians and meat lovers. If you have any vegans attending your wedding discuss your caterer's ability to accommodate their food preference.
5. Ask about centerpieces they may already have on the premises to eliminate the need to purchase floral centerpieces for your reception tables.
6. If they include the wedding cake, do they include a groom's cake too? Do they provide cake boxes so guests are able to take a little extra home with them? Simply enhance the cake with your own cake topper, rose petals, etc. and make it all your own.
7. Will they allow you to make arrangements for a homeless shelter or local center for the underprivileged to pick up any left over food? This could mean a tax write-off for you.
8. Can they offer table linens and napkins to match your color scheme?
9. Will they provide the place cards?
10. Do they have a kids menu? If not, can you pay half price for children under 8? Also, are willing to throw in the vendors (photographer, musician, DJ, etc.) meals?