

# GOOD THINGS

TEXT BY LEIGH CRANDALL PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRYAN GARDNER



## PATCH IT UP

These retro decorations are having a moment, and a denim jacket trimmed with colorful emblems that recall your shared adventures is a playful and an on-trend way to say thank-you to your besties. Pick patches that represent places you've traveled, your favorite activities, or even inside jokes, then organize a gathering so the group can put them on together (or stitch them on yourself and present the jackets when you ask friends to be in your wedding). Have your 'maids wear them at the bachelorette party or shower, and join in by wearing your own in—what else?—white.

**THE DETAILS:** "Ciao," "Bonjour," "Red Lips," and "Oui" patches, \$3.50 each, [clarev.com](http://clarev.com). "Gambling Hearts" appliqués, \$4 for 4; "Metallic Star" appliqués, \$2.75; heat-seal-chenille varsity numbers and letters, 4½", \$10 each; and "Rainbow" appliqué, \$5, [mjtrim.com](http://mjtrim.com). "Rose Champagne" embroidered patch, \$7, [wildflower.co](http://wildflower.co). "NYC Apple" patch, \$10, [urbanoutfitters.com](http://urbanoutfitters.com).



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Tequila is ideal for spiking hot cocoa. It's inherently fruity and slightly salty—great complements to chocolate.

## WINTER WARMERS

Start your celebration on a cozy note by offering guests hot drinks as they arrive at cocktail hour. Ian Hardie of Huckleberry Bar, in Brooklyn, created this trio of spiked sips (get the recipes at [marthastewartweddings.com/hot-drinks](http://marthastewartweddings.com/hot-drinks)), which include creamy hot chocolate with tequila, topped with mini marshmallows; apple cider with whiskey, apple-cinnamon syrup, and bitters; and hot buttered rum.



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## TAKE YOUR PLACE

Even leading guests to their seat can feel more personal with place card-holder pairings that are design-forward, location-inspired, or just plain fun, like the gold animals below.

**THE DETAILS:** **1.** Birch place-card holder and card, from \$10 for 6 sets, [beau-coup.com](#). **2.** "Overlapping Triangles" place card, \$70 for 100, [minted.com](#). Nautical rope holder, \$8 for 6, [beau-coup.com](#). **3.** "Aviary and Ink" place card, \$70 for 100, [minted.com](#). Coral holder, \$12 for 6, [save-on-crafts.com](#). **4.** "Lush Life" place card, \$84 for 100, [weddingpaperdivas.com](#). Marble holder, \$25 for 4, [williams-sonoma.com](#). **5.** "Gilded Marble" place card, \$84 for 100, [weddingpaperdivas.com](#). Giraffe magnet holder, \$165 for 100, [originalanimalmagnet.etsy.com](#). **6.** "Tropical Romance" place card, \$84 for 100, [weddingpaperdivas.com](#). Resin holder, \$44 for 6, [essellesf.com](#). **7.** "Dreamy Watercolor" place card, from \$87 for 25, [invitations.davidsbridal.com](#). "Bubble" vase holder, \$4.75, [graciousbridal.com](#). **8.** Kate Aspen "Copper" pipe holder and card, \$16 for 6 sets, [amazon.com](#). **9.** "Elegant Sky" place card, \$84 for 100, [weddingpaperdivas.com](#). Pig magnet holder, \$165 for 100, [originalanimalmagnet.etsy.com](#). **10.** "Midnight and Gold" place card, \$70 for 100, [minted.com](#). Beech hexagon holder, \$28 for 6, [essellesf.com](#).



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## DRY GOODS

It's time to dust off dried flowers' stodgy, fussy reputation. They can feel fun, and, well, fresh.

They're practical, too—arrangements can be made much further ahead than those with just-cut blooms. To achieve an elegant look, keep displays spare and clean: Stick with one type of bloom per vase, and remove any cracked, dry leaves from stems. And experiment with scale. One large piece, like a palm frond, may make a statement on its own, while smaller blooms, like these globe thistles, look more artful when clustered as a group in a variety of vessels.

**THE DETAILS:** Globe thistles, \$9 for about 6, [drieddecor.com](http://drieddecor.com).

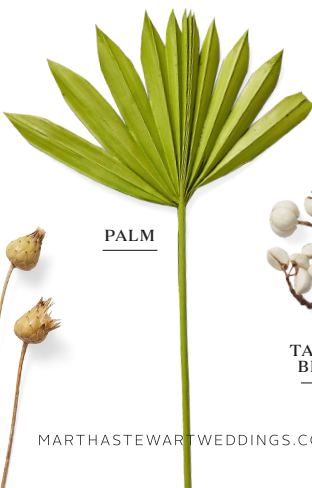


Other  
Great-Looking  
Dried Plants  
to Try



WHEAT

PODS



PALM



TALLO  
BERRY



FOXTAIL



COTTON



## SWATCH WATCH

A little fabric can go a long way. Just choose complementary patterns in your palette to liven up details of the day: **1.** Embossed metallic fabric adhered with linen tape transforms blank journals into gracious **guest books** (metallic geometric cloqué, \$63 per yd., and metallic damask, \$63 per yd.\*). **2.** Accessorize your bouquet by wrapping a wide **sash** around its base (silk-blend-organza cloqué, \$83 per yd.). **3.** For a **ring pillow** that really shines, pair a glittery ribbon with a metallic brocade (brocade, \$63 per yd.; Studio Carta metallic ribbon, in Graphite, \$9 for 5 yd., [shopangelaliguori.com](http://shopangelaliguori.com)). **4.** To make a romantic **escort-card display**, cover a foam board or corkboard with a floral motif, and pin on coordinating solid-color cards (silk-warp taffeta, similar to shown, \$83 per yd.). \*All fabric from [bandjfabrics.com](http://bandjfabrics.com).



Post-mount mailboxes will work, too. Just set them out on the table.

## LOVE LETTERS

Here's an old-school way for guests to send their good thoughts and wishes to you: Stage a letter-writing station, complete with cards, envelopes, and pens. Friends and family can drop congratulatory notes or words of wisdom in a mounted mailbox, which you can take with you (or ask a friend to collect) at the end of the night. The bright-red catchall can also hold any gift cards your guests might bring to the wedding. The best part? No stamps required.

**THE DETAILS:** Nach French Euro mailbox, \$51, [amazon.com](http://amazon.com). PS Collection A6 cards, \$5 for 25, and envelopes, in Pure White, Ecowhite, and Superfine White, \$4.50 for 10; and LePen pens, in Black and Red, \$2 each, [papersource.com](http://papersource.com).



## R SPELL IT OUT

For a nostalgic touch that evokes diner specials and bingo halls, bring out a vintage-style letter board. You can use it to display menu info or the evening's itinerary, or as a prop for your photo booth.

White letters set against a black vinyl background are classic, but the boards also come in a range of colors if you want to pick up a hue from your palette (from \$95 for a 20-by-30-inch board and 290 characters, [letterboards4sale.com](http://letterboards4sale.com)).



## GO FOR A DIP

Everything looks better by candlelight, even your color palette. Show off the hues of the day with white taper and pillar candles that have a broad stripe of colored wax. It's easy to do yourself (for a how-to, see *The Guide*). For the most eye-catching arrangement, vary the heights of the candles, as we did here, and use several shades of one color.

**THE DETAILS:** Taper candles, from \$9 for 6, and pillar candles, from \$11 for 6, *candles4less.com*. Beeswax pearls, \$8.75 per lb., *bulkapothecary.com*. Candle Shop candle-wax dye, \$24 for 2 oz., *amazon.com*. "Drohgo" taper candleholder, \$7, *cb2.com*.

See *The Guide* for more story details

