



# A "Tasteful" Halloween Wedding

"Double, double toil and trouble. Fire burn and cauldron bubble." To this Shakespearean witches' chant, add eye of neut and toe of frog. Then Poof! as if by magic, one Halloween theme wedding. If only it had been that easy! As their main objective, the Bride and Groom have one request: make it fun. And their 200 friends expect no less. It comes as no surprise that the Groom, having been born the end of October, loves the idea of a Halloween theme. The Bride loves it, too, but only if it can incorporate a touch of elegance and tradition – and, please, no costume for her.

With these goals in mind, it becomes our job at A Divine Event as the event planner, designer and caterer to mix these ingredients into a "tasteful" Halloween theme wedding – seemingly a contradiction in terms. At 8:00 pm under a full moon on October

26, Matt and Katie marry with 200 oddly dressed guests as witnesses on the grounds of Primrose Cottage.

And how is this tasteful? Perhaps just a bit more explanation is needed. A beautiful invitation sets the tone from the beginning. At first glance, what seems to be a traditional invitation slowly reveals another side. It is this idea of transformation that runs throughout the event. All is not what it seems. Beware!

Miss Havisham from Great Expectations provides the missing link between wedding and Halloween allowing the connection to make sense. This theme within a theme weaves a lacy web creating a level of sophistication that transcends the ordinary Halloween theme.

*The Arrival* (From a Guest's Viewpoint)  
Under a full moon, the historic venue glows with a warm welcome, but those crows along the drive seem an odd touch. And that music – is that from the "Twilight Zone"? Cute stuffed scarecrow propped against the steps. (Oh, now I get the crows.) Good grief, it's alive! Quick, strike the gong.

"You rang?" vibrates the deep voice of Lurch from the Addams Family as the door opens for each guest.

*The Cocktail Hour*  
Bride and Groom greet guests encouraging all to sample "treats" scattered throughout the house. Tragic love songs (Madam Butterfly, Laura's Theme, Romeo and Juliet) add a sense of drama. Clever hand signs, like the one at the front door, point the way to the following stations:

**PUMPKIN TRIO STATION**  
In the Dining Room, a note from Pip, the novel's young male lead, repeats the opening paragraph from the invitation setting the stage for Miss Havisham.

*Quote from Great Expectations:*  
"I crossed the staircase landing, and entered the room she indicated...It was spacious, and I dare say had once been handsome, but every discernible thing in it was covered with dust and mould, and dropping to pieces. The most prominent object was a long table with a table-cloth spread on it, as if a feast had been in preparation when the house and the clocks all stopped together. An epergne or centerpiece of some kind was in the middle of this cloth; it was so heavily overhung with cobwebs that its form was quite undistinguishable..."





### SUGAR & SPICE SIGNATURE MARTINIS

The Wicked Witch of the West sneers, "Have a sip, my pretty!"

### SMASHED POTATOES WITH BEEF BOURGUIGNON

In the cellar, Dracula serves root vegetables with his special "Red" sauce. Behind an ornate, iron door lured by the ponderous sounds of an organ, guests discover Dracula's open coffin.

### THE BAR

Strobe lights, blinking in rhythm to up beat Halloween classics (Monster Mash; Witch Doctor; Shake, Shake, Shake Senora) entice guests to the bar where mad scientists in lab coats mix their concoctions among bubbling beakers and twisted tubing.

### THE COFFEE STATION

As a guest reaches for a cup, "Thing" jumps out of a custom built box to offer a sugar packet.

### "SWEET ENDINGS" STATION

A R.I.P. sign (Rascals, Imposters and Pretenders) instructs guests to pack a miniature take-home coffin with Halloween treats. Dig in!

Butler Passed include the Groom's favorite, popcorn size fried okra served in Trick or Treat bags.

### DRACULA'S CHOCOLATE FOUNTAIN

The picture says it all.

### *The Wedding*

Groomsmen escort guests to the front lawn to the haunting sound of ancient Gregorian chants. A hush falls over the crowd as Lurch sounds the hour striking the gong. For a few moments, the Halloween theme is suspended as the Bride and Groom exchange vows. "I Put a Spell on You" by CCR breaks the solemnity of the moment as the bridal party exit into the mansion for a quick change into their costume.

### *The Reception:*

An oversized invitation welcomes guests to Primrose Cottage. Replacing Pip's description are the words: "Enough! Reset the clocks. There will be a wedding after all."

Ivory Battenberg linens on the guest tables mimic a spider's lacy web much like the bride's dress and the intricate piping on the wedding cake.

A small mist filled terrace provides a hideaway for King Kong and his Bride protected by a massive Tiki god and beating drums. Eyes peer from the foliage.



### *The Departure*

Lurch strikes the midnight hour. A witch passes a large cauldron filled with rolls of crepe paper. Streamers in orange, yellow and black fall over the newly weds as they run through a writhing arch of color. Appropriate for the season, the surprised Bride and Groom fall victim to the most classic Halloween prank of all: They got rolled!

*Beating his chest, King Kong scoops up his Bride and races off to the delight of a cheering crowd.*