

# the knot

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# 16 beautiful real weddings

chic reception ideas

gorgeous cakes

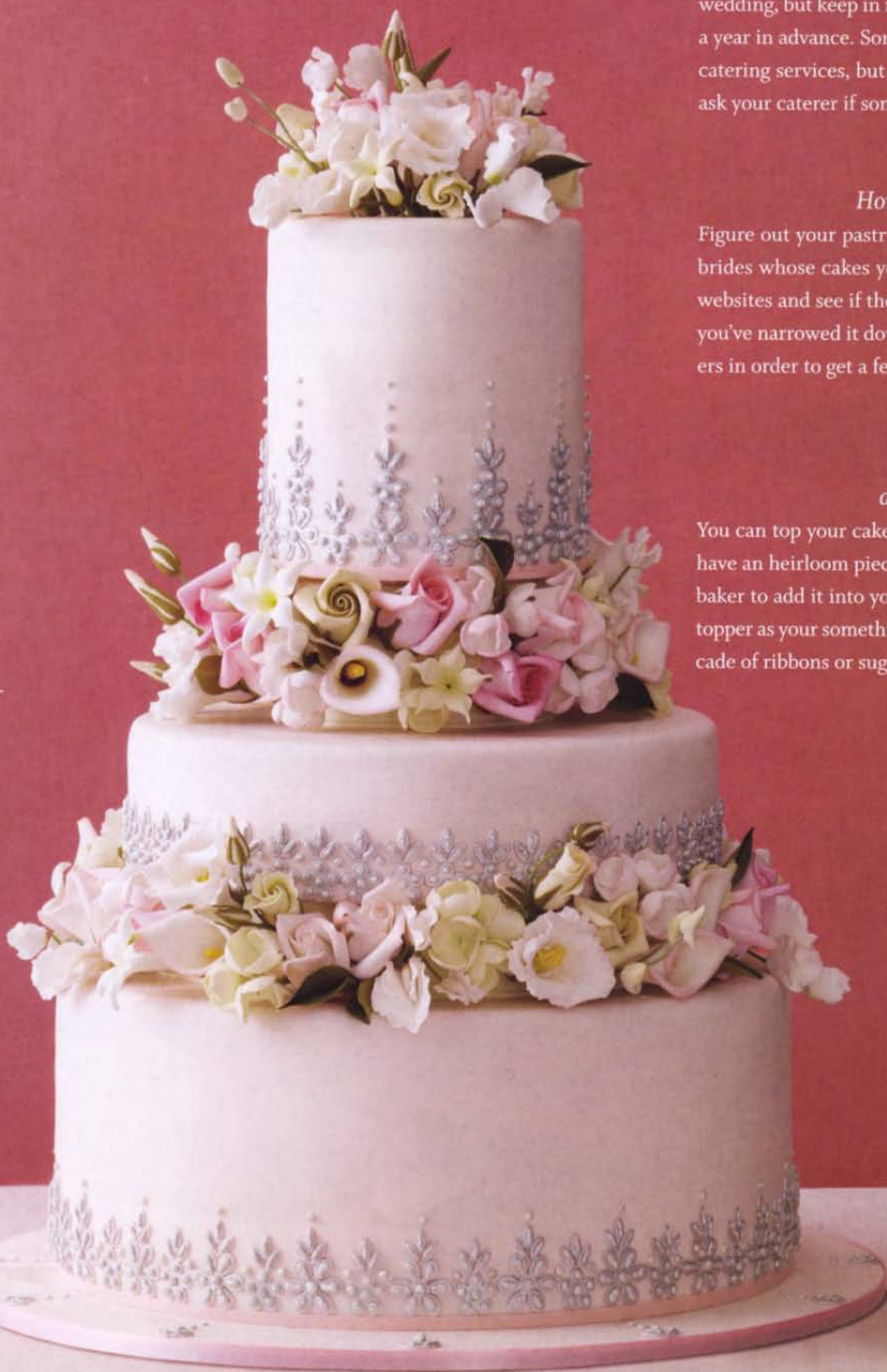
must-have flowers

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Q

*When should I start looking for a cake baker?*

Cake bakers should be booked within four to six months before your wedding, but keep in mind, some reputable bakers are often hired up to a year in advance. Some reception sites may require that you use their catering services, but stringent cake rules are less common. Definitely ask your caterer if someone on his staff is an experienced baker.

Q

*How do I find the right baker?*

Figure out your pastry priorities, then do a little research: Ask recent brides whose cakes you like for recommendations; check out bakers' websites and see if there's a cake similar to what you're thinking. Once you've narrowed it down, make appointments with a few different bakers in order to get a feel for which one fits you best.

Q

*Do you have to have a traditional cake topper?*

You can top your cake with whatever you like, or nothing at all. If you have an heirloom piece—perhaps an antique brooch—work with your baker to add it into your top tier. Or, consider using your parent's cake topper as your something old. Look to your locale too. Other ideas: a cascade of ribbons or sugar letters shaped as your new monogram. >>

**playful tiers** This powder pink fondant-covered cake makes an elegant statement with its silver accents and tiers of varying heights divided with gorgeous, lifelike sugar flowers.

Cake: Ron Ben-Israel Cakes

# cake q&a


Answers to your 10 most common wedding cake questions BY ANJA WINIKKA

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RITA MAAS

As bakers continue to create cakes with innovative shapes, bold fillings, and intricate detail, the infinite amount of options are enough to put you into a sugar coma. Here's what you need to know.

**Q** When should I start looking for a cake baker? Will my reception's caterer take care of this?

Cake bakers should be booked within four to six months before your wedding, but keep in mind, some reputable bakers are often hired up to a year in advance. If you have someone in mind, there's no reason to wait. Secure their services now, then nail down the specifics later. Some >>



Play with patterns for a fresh take on the wedding cake.  
Cake: Ron Ben-Israel Cakes