

OUTDOOR DINING GEMS (pg. 30)

minnesota

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100 IDEAS FOR HOT SUMMER EVENTS

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[plus]
**LESSONS
LEARNED**
SHAWNA SUCKOW,
COOKIE COLEMAN +
JULIE ANN SCHMIDT
SHARE WAR STORIES

Floral arrangement
by The Late Bloomer,
photographed at
Cowles Conservatory.

**VENUE
REPORT**
Take 'em
Out to the
Ball Game
(PG. 28)



BEST PRACTICES

WEIRDEST REQUESTS



True Tales

MEMORABLE CLIENT WHIMS AND WISHES. BY SHERI O'MEARA

WHAT'S THE STRANGEST REQUEST you ever received from a client while planning an event? We asked around. Here are some responses too good not to share ...

GRAVEYARD GATHERING

THE REQUEST: Host a VIP dinner in a cemetery on Halloween night.

SUBMITTED BY: Laura Fryberger, president, Flings Event Design.

THE DETAILS: "At a former employer, we were asked to host film festival VIPs in Georgia at a spooky, but incredibly classy, Halloween dinner for 25 at Bonaventure Cemetery, which was featured in the book and movie *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*. The caterer offered the very best in Southern, high-end food. We had a port-a-potty and these cool green globe lights on cast-iron stakes along the paths. We also used up lighting on the gravestones and crypts. I sourced the nice throws on the back of the chairs—they were like \$70 each and they were the giveaway. The best part—we rented the cemetery (or at least that part of it) for \$65!"

SPECIAL TOUCHES

THE REQUEST: Gift-wrap tampons for hostess baskets in restroom.

SUBMITTED BY: Don Jensen, Linen Effects.

THE DETAILS: "Some time ago I was working on a large wedding that merged two very prominent

families. No detail was left untouched. I thought I had covered absolutely everything. I tested the burn time on the candles, handmade 400 napkin rings, freshly starched napkins, wrapped sweetener packets in foiled envelopes. But, obviously, I missed something. The hostess baskets in the ladies room were to be filled with mints, sewing kits, aspirin, nail polish for pantyhose repair, lotions, perfumes, bandages and—last but not least—giftwrapped tampons. Yes, indeed—when my client wanted wrapped tampons, I took them home and wrapped them in beautiful wedding paper to match the dining room exactly. No detail too much for Linen Effects. That's not too weird is it?"

FORE!

THE REQUEST: Provide glow-in-the dark golf balls at a resort conference.

SUBMITTED BY: Leah Wong, independent event planner and vice president of events and marketing, Minneapolis Downtown Council.

THE DETAILS: "A few attendees wanted glow-in-the-dark golf balls so they could golf around the resort at night. They were in meetings, trainings and sessions all day so they didn't have an opportunity to get out on the course during daylight hours." 🏌️

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