

20

Fabulous

FINALE

I D E A S

You've just had the best day of your life, so make sure it has a happy ending with one of these fab finale ideas... Words: Rowena Carr-Allinson

1 FLOAT AWAY IN STYLE

If you really want to make an impression, forget a car with empty tin cans tied to the back and go for a stylish exit in a hot air balloon! That will give them something to talk about for a while! Find out more at www.hotair.co.uk

2 BILLOWING BUBBLES

For just £15 you can acquire a bubble blowing machine that will provide a constant stream of bubbles! It's a brilliantly romantic way to

add a fairytale touch to your departure. Buy it at www.thedecentthings.co.uk

3 BUTTERFLY RELEASE

If your wedding is a daytime event, why not set up a butterfly release as the grand finale? Colourful and symbolic of peace, beauty and harmony it's a novel idea that updates the traditional dove release. And it'll make for some wonderful wedding photographs. See more at www.butterflywedding.org

4 99 BALLOONS

Organise for the day to end with a massive balloon release and watch as the sky fills with your colour themed bubbles! Find out more about balloons at www.balloonchampions.co.uk

5 CANDLE LIGHT MAGIC

Light up the way out with fire – with a thousand fairylike tea lights on the steps or flaming torches on the driveway – romantic and very dramatic! See www.johnlewis.com or www.gonegardening.com



YOUR BIG DAY

is available for your departing guests... an unusual sweet treat on departure to cure the midnight munchies! Find out more at www.bigfunuk.com

Deliver a special gift directly to a friend's room



KEVIN SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY

9 A GIFT IN THE ROOM

It's one thing thanking your guests for coming, but how about surprising them and having a little something delivered to their rooms during the evening? A bottle of local or wine or something special from the area is a perfect solution.

10 BREAKFAST MUFFINS

If it's an all-night party, it's a brilliant idea to provide fresh takeaway coffee and muffins. Your hungry guests will leave truly happy and ready for a new day.

11 GOODIE BAGS

Remember when you went to parties as a child, the best thing about them was usually the goodie

JANE BRISCOE-PRICE

6 FIREWORKS

Whether you want your new married initials lighting up the sky or a pyrotechnic feast set to classical music, a fireworks display is one way to finish your wedding with a bang! Remember to check with your venue first, though, as many don't allow this. See www.fantasticfireworks.co.uk

7 LASER SHOW

Jean Michel Jarre, eat your heart out! A great alternative to fireworks is a laser show. Dazzling outdoor laser displays can be personalised and set up for midnight to finish your special day with a 'wow'. Find out more at www.laservisuals.com

8 CANDY FLOSS

Hire a Victorian hand cart from which freshly spun candy floss or sweet caramel popcorn

planning ideas

bag. So why not do the same for your wedding and organise adult versions with a few sweet treats, a memento of the wedding, and possibly some Alka Seltzer!

12 THE SOUNDTRACK
A grand idea for a wedding souvenir is a copy of the music you played during the day – your song, the first waltz and some of the party's hottest dancing tunes all on one CD. It'll provide a lasting memento of the night.

13 BEFORE AND AFTER
Get a photographer to snap your guests on arrival and have the pictures ready for pick up on departure, that way everyone will have a keepsake of your special day.

14 DO IT WITH A SONG
This might sound cheesy but everyone loves a good sing along, especially after a night of

15 THROW YOUR BOUQUET
Why not pick the very end of the day to throw your bouquet at your single girlfriends? After all, they are your faithful supporters and the winner will go home grinning!

16 FLOWER POWER
If you have plenty of flowers floating about from the reception, why not share the love and ask your florist to recycle them into smaller bunches and present them to your special guests on departure? They will appreciate taking a little piece of the day home with them and it means they won't go to waste.

partying. Pick one of your old favourites and take to the stage as Mr & Mrs and get everyone to join in before calling it a night.

17 CHOPPER PICK UP
If you've ever dreamed of being a celebrity, go all 'Hollywood' and get whisked away from the wedding reception in a helicopter.

Flash and rather noisy, you won't be able to slip off unnoticed! Not that you'd want to... Find out more at www.heliserve.co.uk

18 KING AND QUEEN OF THE CASTLE
How about asking your loved ones to pick up the happy couple to help them on their way? Organise for old fashioned thrones with long poles or Jewish Simcha chairs, that can be picked up by the crowd – regal and splendid! Just make sure they haven't had one glass too many!

19 A SPEECH FROM THE BRIDE
Usually the bride doesn't get a word in edgeways during the traditional speech making, so take a few moments when the day is over to thank everyone for coming and say a few, heartfelt words to your new husband.

20 SLIDESHOW-STOPPER
Organise a slide show of photos of you both growing up, to play in the background, so as your guests leave the party, they are reminded of your whole romantic story – and finish off the show with a nice smiley shot of the bride and groom – of course!



DAN JOHNSON