



Vintner Grill



Spring is in:
Dining is out

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from the editor



Wedding season is upon us and I must admit to my one guilty pleasure that definitely involves the soon-to-be-betrothed. I so love, love, love TLC's wedding show "Say Yes to the Dress." Every episode offers a juicy amount of trauma, drama, and "I am the bride so I am entitled" surliness.

"Say Yes to the Dress" follows brides-to-be as they traipse about the humongous New York bridal salon, Kleinfeld's, seeking the perfect wedding dress. In business for over 60 years, giddy, over-the-moon girls love Kleinfeld Bridal because it carries the largest selection of couture wedding dresses, designer exclusives, plus size wedding gowns, headpieces and accessories *in the world*, or so the web site declares.

Just recently I was three episodes into a Saturday afternoon marathon when they hit on a theme of fiancés helping their beloveds select wedding gowns. Kleinfeld's fashion director suggested it was a recent trend that was becoming popular. I found this particularly intriguing. I did a quick mental review and decided that I have never dated anyone who would particularly care for this invitation even if I begged them to come along—but back to the show.

The first fiancé we follow is so not-down with what the bridal gown expert is selecting for his dearest that he gets into the act and actually goes into the storeroom and tries to pick out gowns. What? Are you kidding me? He was very quickly overwhelmed and pretty much gave up, wiping the sweat from his brow. Yes, this bridal gown shopping is definitely not for the faint of heart, please leave it to the professionals.

But my favorite was fiancé number two. He actually knew the terms I only thought we females were privy. He didn't like the ruching on one dress or the ruffles on another. He thought his blushing bride looked like a table runner in a third gown, and like she was wrapped in a bandage in the fourth. He was totally getting on my nerves with his rapid assessments of the bride's pre-selected dresses as she tried to conceal the crushing disappointment on her face. Turns out he selects all of her clothes because "she always gets compliments when I pick them." Who is this effeminate dolt and why does she let him watch so much "Project Runway"?

So what is to become of the time-honored tradition of the groom not seeing his future wife in her wedding dress until she cascades down the aisle? And what about the inner sanctum of the bridal boutique where only your mom, sisters and girlfriends are honored with the precious experience of the dress selection? All are relevant queries.

In my humble opinion, there aren't many surprises left in this world, so why would you want to rob yourself of this one? And if you don't want to go along with me on the notion of romance and surprise; how about this? There will be endless amounts of sharing and compromising once a couple vows to spend their lives together, so why start it before you ever say 'I do'?

Beth