

Champagne Fountains for Weddings?

By Lettie Teague

Maybe I've watched a few too many silly Hollywood movies, but I've always wanted to attend a wedding that featured a Champagne fountain. What says 'wedded bliss' better than a free-flowing stream of Salon Le Mesnil? (Or, more likely, Mionetto Prosecco?) Yet I seem to be alone in this particular fantasy. The few wedding caterers I called could scarcely keep the scorn out of their voices when I inquired about this particular wedding-related amenity. One Washington, D.C.-based caterer, whom I'll resist naming, seemed shocked that I'd been given their name by the Champagne Information Bureau as a Champagne fountain source. "We don't really do that," she said. "Who ever told you we did?" I cited my source. She denied it. Why not? I asked. "It's, it's ..." she searched for le mot juste "cheesy."



I couldn't get off the phone fast enough. But I decided to try one more caterer, Blue Plate in Chicago, which came highly recommended from a Chicago-based friend. According to Ken Kevin Severin, Blue Plate's division manager, he has "absolutely never" received a request for a Champagne fountain.

I had one last idea: I'd call my sister, who lives in Dallas. She is a designer and loves a good display. "Would you have a Champagne fountain at your wedding?" (She's getting married in a year or two.) I was shocked by the vehemence of her reply. "That sounds so hideous, so tacky," she replied. "And so Dallas—there are fountains everywhere in Dallas. They even have fountains in the sidewalks in Dallas!"

For more practical ideas on wines for weddings, see my new column.