



Glittering Gems

THE SPARKLE OF
JEWELRY ADDS A
SHIMMERING
SOPHISTICATION.
ADORN YOUR
BOUQUET, CAKE, OR
OTHER WEDDING
ACCOUTREMENTS
WITH BAUBLES
FOR DAZZLE ON
YOUR SPECIAL DAY.

*Written by Christine Riccelli
Photographed by Greg Scheidemann
Produced by Catby Kramer*

Jewels provide a novel touch to bouquets.

Clockwise, from top, subtle-colored faux pearls resemble the hues of a desert sky at sunset. The 6-inch pearl sticks are dotted throughout the bouquet. Next, an elegantly scripted monogram personalizes this bouquet. Mounted on 6-inch pins, each letter of the monogram sparkles with crystals and rhinestones. Finally, a colorful butterfly made of Swarovski crystals nests in a bouquet of roses and orchids. The changing tones—the crystal is darkest in the center and becomes increasingly lighter toward the edges—glitter in the light.

WEDDING JEWELRY

NO LONGER IS LIMITED TO RINGS AND A TRADITIONAL STRING OF PEARLS.

Today's brides use pearls, rhinestones, crystal beads, and more to add texture to decorations and complement their wedding's overall theme. So, you may want to skip the conventional bride-and-groom cake topper in favor of a bejeweled monogram or crown. Or use gems to embellish bouquets, hairstyles, and veils.

"You can be very creative in how you celebrate with jewelry," says Debra Moreland, designer and owner of Paris, a bridal accessories company. "There's been a resurgence in the past few years of embracing beautiful ornamentation."

However jewelry is used in a wedding, it shouldn't detract from the couple. The bride and groom, not the accessories and decorations, are the stars of the occasion. The best jewelry selections shouldn't compete with each other, either.

"Less is usually more," says Suzanne Taussig, president of Bouquet Jewelry by Floral Europa Inc. "You don't need a lot of bling to make a statement. You don't want to take away from your own ambience."

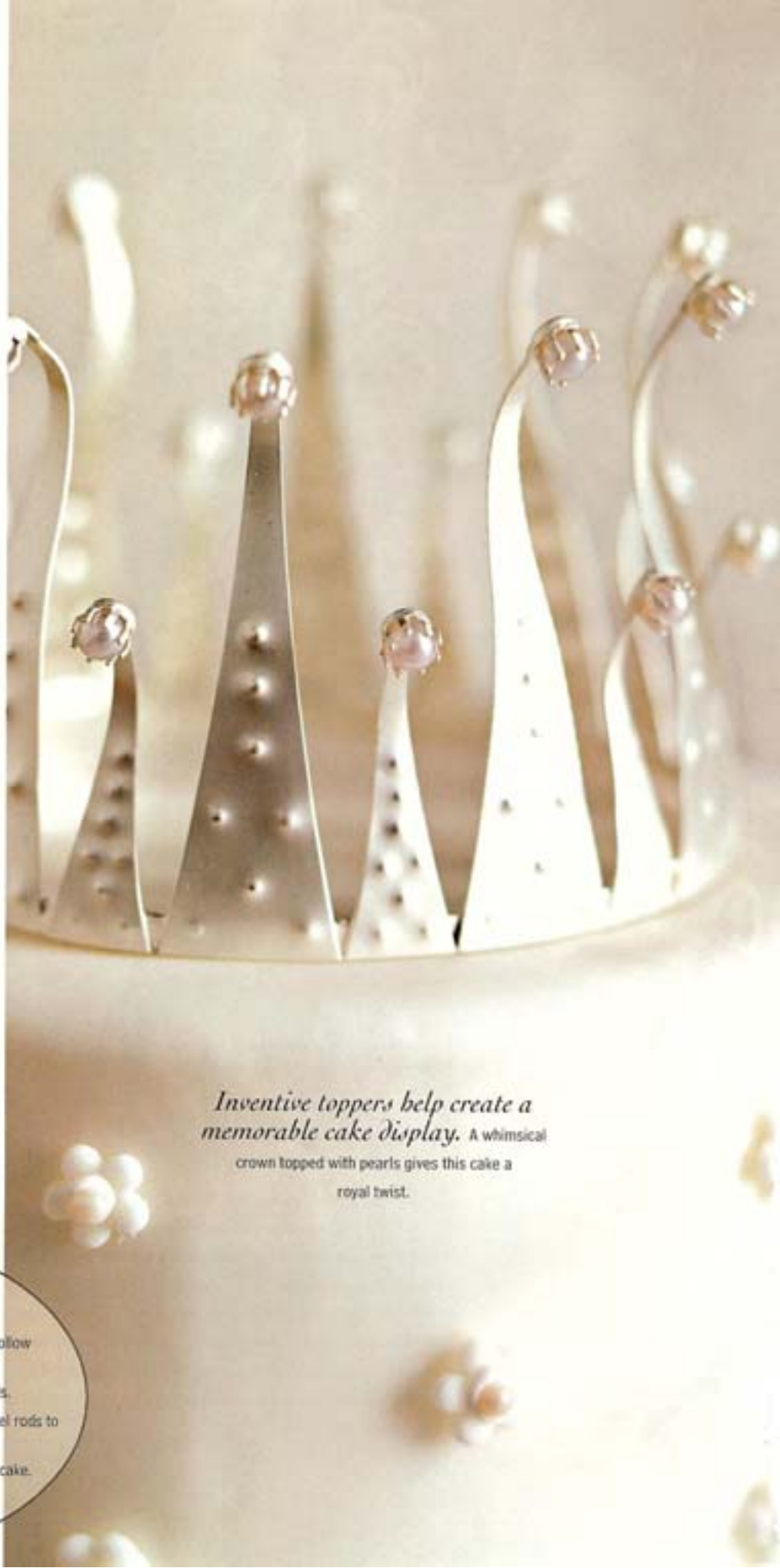
Choose pieces that reflect your personality. One bride may prefer the simple elegance of pearl sticks in her bouquet, while another may go for glittery multicolor rhinestones.

"There is no right or wrong jewelry choice," says Christina Garcia, designer of Christina Garcia Tiaras of Distinction. "Choose what feels right to you and what you love."

EMBELLISH WITH CARE

When using jeweled items as part of a cake topper, follow commonsense safety precautions:

- ▶ Make sure the topper is made of nontoxic materials.
- ▶ If the topper is heavy, reinforce the cake with dowel rods to prevent the cake top from being crushed.
- ▶ Remove the topper before cutting and serving the cake.



Inventive toppers help create a memorable cake display. A whimsical crown topped with pearls gives this cake a royal twist.



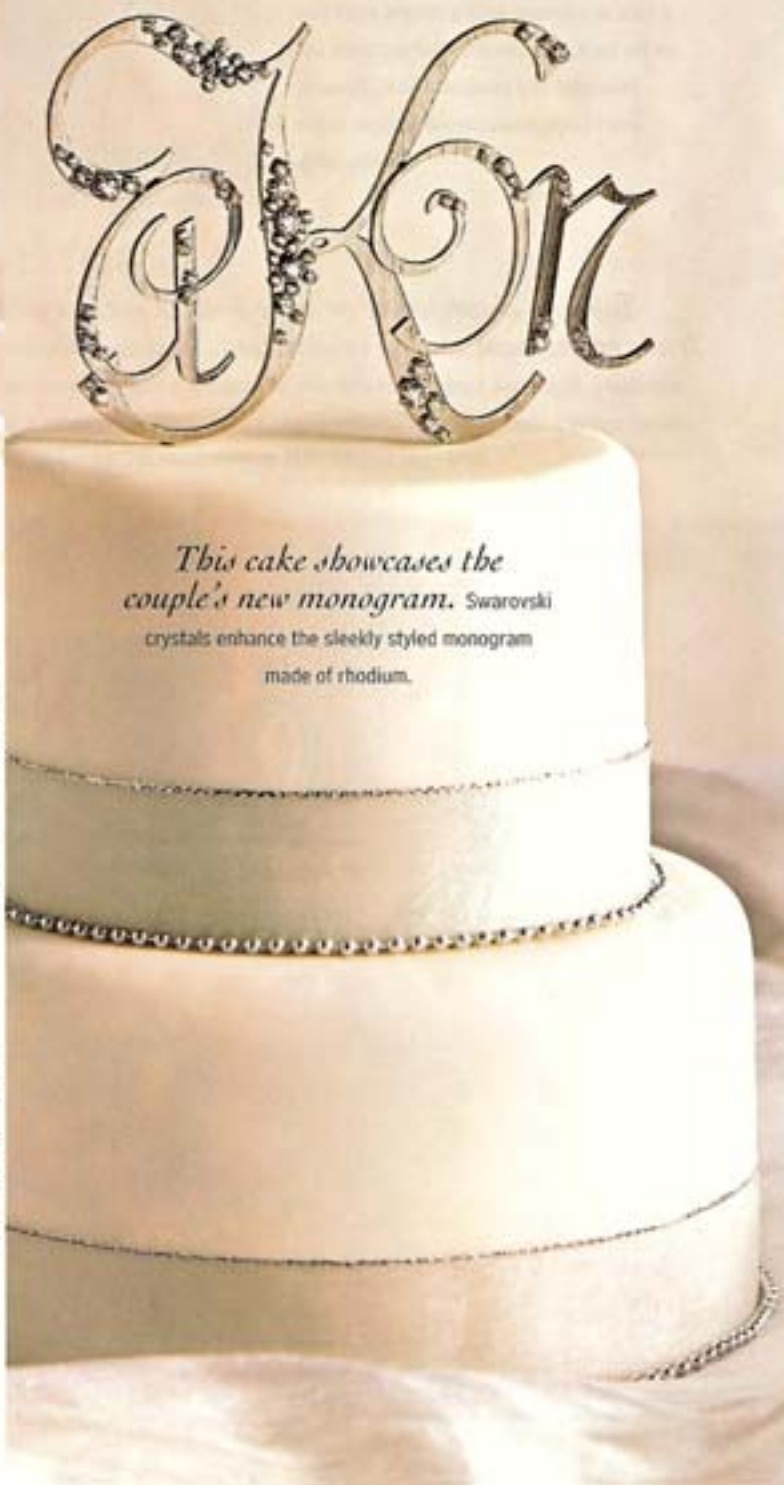
For an alternative to fresh blooms, top your cake with white metal flowers that become a treasured keepsake. Rhinestone centers add luster. Because each flower is separate, you can arrange them however you choose.



For a traditionally regal look, choose a gold-plated crown embellished with leaves and flowers and adorned with crystals and pearls, *left*. The crown is made of distressed enamel.

TOP IT OFF

Classic love doves get an updated look. Metal flowers with rhinestones highlight this fanciful cage, *right*.



This cake showcases the couple's new monogram. Swarovski crystals enhance the sleekly styled monogram made of rhodium.

HAIR WITH FLAIR

During the wedding ceremony, wear a comb with or without a veil. If you take off

your veil during the reception, a jeweled comb can keep your hair looking elegant.

Right, clockwise, from top: Ivory pearls and Swarovski crystals accent a golden-hue comb.

Next, made of sterling silver, a lace filigree comb is enhanced with pearls and Swarovski crystals. The headpiece can be converted into a tiara or a brooch. With a pin and small loop on the back, it can be attached to a chain and converted to a pendant as well. *Finally,* pearl beads evoke classic glamour in this dazzling comb.



ALL BOTTLED UP

Topping champagne or wine bottles with crystal stoppers lends refinement to any celebration. The stoppers also make perfect gifts for

attendants. *Right top,* hand-crafted crystal in the shape of a rose tops a chrome base. A piece of colored crystal accents the flower's center.

Right bottom, brides who prefer a sleek look may opt for a more angular style. Both stoppers are made with Swarovski crystals.



CHARMED BY TOKENS

Sterling silver cake pulls feature charms of traditional wedding symbols, left, including an anchor (travel and adventure), wedding bells (marriage), a ring (the next engagement), a flower (blossoming love), and a wishing well (wishes coming true). Attach each pull to a white satin ribbon for a finished look.

See Resources on page 118.