

# Bridesmaids dresses show colorful looks

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Gazette Special Sections

Bridesmaid gowns will come in bright colors and several new styles this spring 2006 season, according to those in the bridal world.

Karen Canty, co-owner of Lily-Saratoga, said in an e-mail that the trend this season for bridesmaids is a tea-length gowns.

"Designers also showed halter styles to complement the bridal gowns of the same style," said Canty, who was just back from the Bridal Market in New York City. "Many styles showed low backs but overall less strapless silhouettes than before."

Rich colors are also available: Tiffany blue, chocolate brown, and bold, bright colors such as mango, melon, coral and fuchsia.

"Flowing chiffons and taffetas were prevalent fabric choices," Canty added.

Marylu Aragosa, owner of Ferri Formals and Bridals in Schenectady, said Amsale is a new line of bridesmaids gowns that she carries and which offers bright colors as well — watermelon, kiwi green, papaya, turquoise and green apple, to name a few.

"These are made with 'V'-

necked halters, tissue taffeta and dropped waists," she added.

Lazarro bridesmaid gowns are coming in many styles — including mermaid shapes and tea-length gowns. Colors like chocolate are still popular in the spring, but Aragosa said Lazarro also mixes colors like light blue and honeydew and wisteria.

Catalina Maddox, vice president for bridesmaids with David's Bridal in Conshohocken, Pa., said that company feels there are three distinct types of brides — and coming with it is the distinct bridesmaid style.

## NEW BAROQUE

The first bride is the traditional bride — they call her a "New Baroque" bride — one who wants to dress like a princess, with very feminine details, lace, ornamentation, ballgowns like a princess.

The Baroque bridesmaid will wear very romantic colors this spring, Maddox said.

"Think subtle pinks, neutrals, blues, nothing very bright," she said. "We are also seeing truffles — chocolate browns — earth tones like latte and black, and rosy hues like pink, chambord, which is a wine color and red."

The second bride is a "Town

and Country" bride — one that is having a non-traditional wedding or perhaps even a destination wedding. She likes uncomplicated styles and easy-to-wear fabrics.

The "Town and Country" bridesmaid wears very bright colors, Maddox said.

"She is nothing like the traditional bridesmaid," she continued. "She wears colors like turquoise, coral, canary yellow, honeydew green."

Maddox said this non-traditional bridesmaid also wears short lengths and crisp, breathable fabrics like soft chiffons, iridescent shimmers and cotton sateens.

"We also see stripes and dots for these bridesmaids," Maddox added.

The final bride is the "City Soiree" bride — someone who is not having a big bridal party, but having her best friend only stand up with her. She is very sophisticated and elegant and this may even be her second wedding.

"Her bridesmaid is wearing metallic colors, shiny fabrics and charmeuse," Maddox said. "These gowns are silhouettes, closer to the body and more revealing."

## WEAR-AGAIN OPTIONS

David's Bridal also focuses on



COURTESY OF DAVID'S BRIDAL

Here come the bridesmaids, wearing four different possibilities from David's Bridal Make a Match collection. Each top and skirt is sold separately, permitting bridesmaids to pick and choose tops and skirts in 14 colors.

wear-again options that have cleaner lines. The mix-and-match separates of skirts and tops also gives bridesmaids more options. So, they can buy the same color, but have different looks.

"This gives the bridal party the opportunity to customize and express themselves and to feel comfortable with their choices," Maddox said. "These can be based on their personality and body type."

Finally, David's gives bridesmaids creative element options. For example, one bridesmaid can wear a sash, one wear a ribbon and one wear a brooch.

"You can dress up your dress, to make it comfortable for you," Maddox said. "Our customers are embracing this and making the dress their own."



COURTESY OF LAZARO

A turquoise chiffon knee-length dress with ruffle-tiered skirt, left, has a fresh look. The satin-faced taffeta gown with a side draped panel, center, shows the strapless look popular for spring. At right, a dramatic rouge taffeta A-line gown with scoop neckline and a terracotta tie sash at the natural waist has a fringe detail.