

# Something New Takes the Cake



By Kate Cebik

As the crown jewel of the reception, the wedding cake sets the stage for the overall feel of the celebration. A trend toward the uncommon has today's brides wanting something above and beyond the traditional white, tiered cakes, and shoreline bakers are up to the task.

"TV shows have shined a new light on what we do," noted Frank Apuzzo, owner and head baker at Pastry Fusions in North Branford. "This last month, I've been getting call after call for outrageous cakes inspired by programs like *Cake Boss*."

Suddenly the world has a backstage pass to the pastry kitchen, with shows such as *Ace of Cakes* and *Ultimate Cake Off* captivating the minds and palates of America. Although Apuzzo built his reputation on clean, smooth designs highlighted by fresh flowers and elegant decorations, he expanded his repertoire to meet the increased demand for something a little different.

"A bride can achieve a very unique cake by adding tiers and height, crazy design elements, or by using bold, loud colors," he said.



Apuzzo begins by sitting down with the couple to get a feel for their style and tastes.

"I ask what they are doing, if there is any type of theme. I throw out ideas but want them to be a big part of it."

A subtle theme can really launch the cake in a new direction. For example, a couple can embrace the beautiful backdrop of the ocean by incorporating beach elements into the cake. To create a striking and tasty shoreline cake, Apuzzo said, "We make fondant shells and use brown sugar to create sand."



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