

The Wedding Chronicles

August 2009 Edition

WHAT ARE YOU WEARING TO THE CEREMONY?

My attire is sort of all decided upon. I'm going to be the one in the big ivory gown and the veil. Chris gets to wear a lovely monkey suit, oops, tuxedo, (I keep getting that wrong), as do his groomsmen. My attendants will be in lovely gowns that are just about floor length. So basically, those in the wedding party are being coerced into dressing up. =) The ceremony will be a traditional formal ceremony, and we'll all be dressed as such. I want to have the formal portraits of us all pretty.

Now as for you our dear guests, you have options. You can dress up as much as you'd like. If you'd like to wear a tux or a gown and get all jazzed up, go for it! If you'd like to be more comfy in a sundress or a pair of khakis, that's fine too. I'd like you to be comfortable for the ceremony and the rest of the day. For those guys who haven't worn their suit since the last funeral, please don't go breaking it out now!

Also, keep in mind the climate difference. It's a whole lot warmer in Miami in January than it is in RI. I probably wouldn't wear a sweater, okay, well maybe I would. I'm always cold, but it would be a nice cardigan that I can take off!

Just keep in the back of your minds, pictures will be taken. =) So, Dad, if you've really got your heart set on wearing that floral shirt and sandals, it will be captured on film. =) After pictures, I get to change in to another dress, and you don't need to keep what you wore to the ceremony on all day either. I don't think I'll be able to keep Quentin in his tux. I'll be happy if he lasts through the reception. Alaina I'll have to argue with not to sleep in her dress. So again, be comfy, be you, and be as formal or informal as you wish. =)

SHIP HIGHLIGHTS - MIDNIGHT BUFFETS

Do we have any fans of eating 7 meals a day here? Well, I am! I love that you can eat constantly on the cruise! And that I don't have to prepare it OR do the dishes! It's great. Makes me feel so spoiled. One of my favorite things is the midnight buffet. On the Victory, they had one huge buffet. The culinary creations they made were amazing. On the Valor, they had a scaled down version each night. Instead of the huge buffet, it was a smaller version, but each night. It was wonderful. After your show, you could go and get a beautiful little snack. Like the cream puffs made to look like swans. Those were tasty!

We'll have to see how the Liberty handles the midnight buffets. And, if you're not in the mood for something there, don't forget about the 24 hour pizza, ice cream, room service (they make a mean BLT and chocolate cake) or the deli, which closes at 11. Check your Carnival Caper each night to see what buffets and food choices are available the next evening. I mean, come on now, you have to know where your next meal is coming from. =)

They also do another type of buffet on board. It's the Chocolate buffet. Yes, you heard me correctly, I said



I thought this was the coolest thing! It's a CHIICKEN BAND!!!! Entirely edible!! Where else are you going to see one of these!!!! They really pull out all the culinary tricks to decorate the buffets. If I were only 1/2 as talented!

CHOCOLATE BUFFET!! It's great, they have a huge selection of chocolate desserts, and a chocolate fountain to dip them all in. And milkshakes to wash all that chocolate down! Chris was at the pool, and I decided to check it out. I came back with an entire tray loaded with dessert. You should have seen the look on his face!! I think I got one of everything for us to sample. Umm, what a yummy fond memory. I could go for some of those confections right now!

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THE GUESTS'S AREA

This month we're going to focus on the Grandparents of the Groom, Mildred & Richard Patnaude.

Mildred Patnaude & Richard Patnaude -

Chris' maternal grandparents are expert cruisers! They've been to see all sorts of exotic places, most recently Panama and San Diego to see the great grandchildren!

They love to camp, and some of the stories they told us about "real" camping were amazing. I'm an awful parent, I take my kids "fake" camping. We go where there are 4 pools, super clean showers and of course, for Chris, internet access!

One of Chris' earliest memories of Ma and Dad were the trips to Slater Park and camping on the Cape. Chris and Becky lucked out and had exclusive grandparent rights for quite a few years. Now they have piles of grandchildren, and even great grandchildren to occupy their time!



Richard & Mildred Patnaude - Otherwise known as Ma & Dad!

NITPICKING -NOTHING IS PERFECT

I'll try to say this as delicately as possible. I know that none of you will behave this way, but I've seen it in the past and it's really disheartening. The crew aboard the Liberty work their buns off to make sure that we have a great vacation. That being said, there are 2200 passengers on the ship. The crew has to "cater" to each of them and provide a very high level of service. I have not had a bad experience with Carnival. They've been great both times I've sailed with them.

On the Valor, there was a woman berating one of the cooks at the breakfast buffet because her oatmeal was too lumpy. HELLO! I felt so bad for him, and the oatmeal was fine! I had just eaten mine! I wanted to tell her how well would her oatmeal turn out if she had to make it for 1,000 people? Keep in mind that these people need to do everything on such a large scale. They are doing their best to make your trip everything you want it to be.

I don't want you to be disappointed. Please keep your expectations in check and at a reasonable level. Yes, you may have to wait 2 minutes to get your drink in the lounge. Yes, you may have to wait for the cook to make more burgers because the person in front of you just took four. They cannot promise perfection. Way too many variables exist in this type of environment.

With that being said, my expectations have ALWAYS been exceeded. On the ship, the dining experiences have been phenomenal, the room stewards are top notch and the staff has been wonderful. If you don't expect miracles, when they perform one, it makes it that much more special. Like when my steak was a little overdone, how quickly they had a new one to me? Let's put it in perspective. How many times has Wendy's messed up your burger? And how happy are they to correct the mistake? It's more of a pain to them, and they make you feel it.

On the ships, there's not that feeling at all. That crew is there to serve you, and I think they do an incredible job. Your cruise director pulls all the activities together to keep you entertained and happy. The Hospitality manager ensures that his room stewards are top notch. The Maitre' D keeps his wait staff and kitchen staff trained in how to serve your dining needs completely. All of these folks work 14-16 hour days to provide you service that is second to none.

If you feel that you have received excellent service, make it known. There are comment cards that are distributed and if someone has gone the extra step to make your trip enjoyable, thank them for it in writing. Also certainly thank them for it in writing. Just like you like to receive praise for a job well done, so do they. And they get entered in a cool drawing each month. You can also thank them monetarily, but you already do so with your tip.

By the end of the trip, some staff members will know your routine better than you do. It's amazing how well they come to know you in a week. Their attention to detail is stunning. Especially in the dining room. Our waiter knew that I liked my soda without ice. When we entered the dining room each night, I was delivered a soda without ice, without ordering it! They knew me! That's a great feeling. That they pay attention and care.

So please, show the crew how they are appreciated. Tell them thank you and be gracious in your demands. Like how I like TWO desserts and how I like certain rolls from the bread basket. => It's okay to be a pest, just smile as you be a pest. Sort of like I do. => Keep in mind how hard they work to make us happy. I would NEVER in a million years be able to deal with all of those people. They would drive me nuts. I'd be sticking my finger in their mashed potatoes because they annoyed me. I'm so glad they're so much more professional than me!! =>

MARRIAGE HUMOR

Wife: "You always carry my photo in your wallet. Why?"
Hubby: "When there is a problem, no matter how impossible, I look at your picture and the problem disappears."
Wife: "You see how miraculous and powerful I am for you?"
Hubby: "Yes! I see your picture and ask myself, 'what problem could be greater than this one?'"
Boy: "When we get married, I want to share all your worries and troubles and lighten your burden."
Girl: "It's very kind of you, darling, but I don't have any worries or troubles."
Boy: "Well, that's because we aren't married yet."
Husband: "What are you doing?"
Wife: "Nothing."
Husband: "Nothing? You've been reading our marriage certificate for an hour."
Wife: "I was looking for the expiration date."
Wife: "Do you want dinner?"
Husband: "Sure. What are my choices?"
Wife: "Yes or no."



CRUISE SHIP HUMOR

Does the crew sleep onboard?

 Which elevator do I take to get to the front of the ship?

 What time is the Midnight Buffet?

 Why do the inside staterooms not have windows?

On a stormy day at sea, a passenger on the pool deck kept watching the swimming pool as the water sloshed out first from one side of the pool, then the other. After a while, the captain walked by, and the passenger asked him, "Is it fresh water or sea water in the swimming pool?" The captain answered immediately, "It's sea water. Didn't you notice how rough it is?"

AIRLINE HUMOR

Heard on Southwest Airlines just after a very hard landing in Salt Lake City: The flight attendant came on the intercom and said, "That was quite a bump, and I know what y'all are thinking. I'm here to tell you it wasn't the airline's fault, it wasn't the pilot's fault, it wasn't the flight attendant's fault...it was the asphalt!"
 Your seat cushions can be used for flotation; and, in the event of an emergency water landing, please paddle to shore and take them with our compliments."
 "Should the cabin lose pressure, oxygen masks will drop from the overhead area. Please place the bag over your own mouth and nose before assisting children... or other adults acting like children."
 "As you exit the plane, make sure to gather all of your belongings. Anything left behind will be distributed evenly among the flight attendants. Please do not leave children or spouses."
 And from the pilot during his welcome message: "Delta airlines is pleased to have some of the best flight attendants in the industry. Unfortunately, none of them are on this flight!"

WEDDING INFO - QUICK REFERENCE

Saturday, Sep 04	Miami, FL	4:00pm		
Sunday, Sep 05	Half Moon Cay, Bahamas	9:00am	5:00pm	
Monday, Sep 06	Fun Day At Sea			
Tuesday, Sep 07	St. Thomas, USVI	9:00am	6:00pm	
Wednesday, Sep 08	San Juan, Puerto Rico	7:00am	3:30pm	
Thursday, Sep 09	Grand Turk	11:00am	5:30pm	s
Friday, Sep 10	Fun Day At Sea			
Saturday, Sep 11	Miami, FL	8:00am		

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