wedding traditions

As you plan this meaningful milestone, make your event authentically Italian. For generations, couples have found connection, entertainment, and fun in these enduring Italian traditions.

Before the Vows

Lucky green
The night before their nuptials, Italian brides wear green— symbolic of fertility. As with other cultures, Italian brides wear a white gown and veil on their wedding day. White stands for purity; and the veil keeps the groom from seeing his intended before taking vows. Sometimes, the veil is torn for good luck.

"Something borrowed…"
Italian brides add one more "must" besides donning something borrowed, something blue, something old, and something new. They also carry a *gift* from someone special, to remind them of important people in their lives.

On the way to the chapel
In villages of the Veneto region, the groom escorts the bride to the chapel, as townsfolk place obstacles in their way. The bride's response to these obstacles is said to reveal her virtues. For instance, picking up a broom foretells of her good housekeeping, and comforting a crying child speaks to her mothering.

A symbol of unity
Upon arriving at the chapel, lovers find a ribbon tied at the entrance doors to represent their union. In parts of northern Italy, the groom waits at the doors bearing an armful of flowers for his bride.

Fending off spirits
The groom carries a piece of iron in his pocket and the bride wears a veil to keep evil at bay. The bride also is advised not to wear gold until wedding rings are exchanged at the ceremony.

Lucky day
Sunday is believed to be the luckiest day to wed.

Grand Celebration

Birds of peace
Following the ceremony, some Italians release a pair of doves to bode the newlyweds a life of peace.

Confetti showers
Whether tossed at the couple as they exit from church, or delivered to guests as party favors, white lace (*tulle*) bundles of candied almonds are Italian wedding essentials. The bags must be filled with an *odd* number of items (five or seven—an even number is considered bad luck) to represent health, fertility, longevity, happiness, and wealth.

Party favors
Given to guests as tokens of love and thanks, traditional Italian favors are made of crystal, silver or Limoges porcelain—and everyone receives the same souvenir to show they are equally important to the newlyweds.

Money matters
Carrying a satin bag called *la borsa,* the bride is the keeper of money from guests, often collecting donations in exchange for a dance. In another custom beginning in northern Italy, the groom cuts up his tie and "sells off" the pieces to pay for the honeymoon.

Infinite happiness
The newlyweds shatter a glass for good luck. The number of shards foretells the number of years they will spend together.

Evviva gli sposi! Hurray for the Newlyweds!

Food and Pageantry

Traditional Italian toasts
Sweet liquor and strong drinks flow generously at all Italian weddings. Guests raise their glasses in continuous well-wishing, with these time-honored words:

- **Evviva gli sposi!** Hurray for the Newlyweds!
- **Per cent'anni** For one-hundred years!
- **Bacio, bacio!** We want a kiss! (Kiss for the bride!)

Breaking bread
Some couples honor the start of the meal by breaking bread above the bride's head. Guests then gather up the crumbs to grace her with fertility and good luck.

Abundant feast
Italian weddings are synonymous with food. Consider these favorites that signify celebration:

- Antipasto salad
- Pasta
- Pickled peppers
- Fried calamari
- Olives
- Roast lamb or veal
- Wanda (twist of fried dough dipped in powdered sugar)
- Multi-layered wedding cake with bride and groom toppers

Let Carlucci help you create your dream wedding event that honors closely held traditions. Whether incorporating established Italian customs—or introducing your own new traditions—Carlucci Rosemont makes it memorable and magnificent!

Work with a personal wedding planner to bring your visions to life.

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