

Word on the Suite



Sure, your invitations share the venue, date, and time of your wedding. But they're also your first chance to set the tone. We asked some talented stationery experts to create suites in five styles to inspire you to do just that—and we added a primer to help you get the wording right.

TEXT BY CLAIRE SULLIVAN PHOTOGRAPHS BY AARON CAMERON MUNTZ

Updated Formal

Though framed in chic, modern design, this invite is classic at heart. (Maybe a bit like you?) It begins with standard host and request lines, introducing the couple.

1. The hosts come first. If your parents are divorced, list their names on separate lines. If remarried, as here, the spouse can be named as well.

2. The request line counts. The phrase *the pleasure of your company* doesn't just have a nice ring—it also indicates a nonreligious venue. (The term *honor/honour* is reserved for religious spaces.)

¹ MR. *and* MRS.
CHARLES LEE ROWLAND
and MR. RICHARD
JAMES CLARKE

² REQUEST
the PLEASURE *of*
YOUR COMPANY
AT THE WEDDING
of THEIR
DAUGHTER

JENN/FER
BROOKS
CLARKE
to EVAN
THOMAS
STRAND

SATURDAY,
the TWELFTH *of* AUGUST
TWO THOUSAND EIGHTEEN
at FIVE O'CLOCK
TRAPP FAMILY LODGE
STOWE, VERMONT
and AFTERWARD *at*
the RECEPTION

3. The RSVP card matches the invitation's tone. Note the optional British spelling of *favour*; this is often considered more formal.

THE DETAILS: Rosemoon Wedding Collection invite and RSVP with envelopes by Pancake & Franks, from \$890 for 100, pancakeandfranks.com.

³ THE FAVOUR *of a* REPLY
is REQUESTED BEFORE
the FIRST *of* JULY

M _____

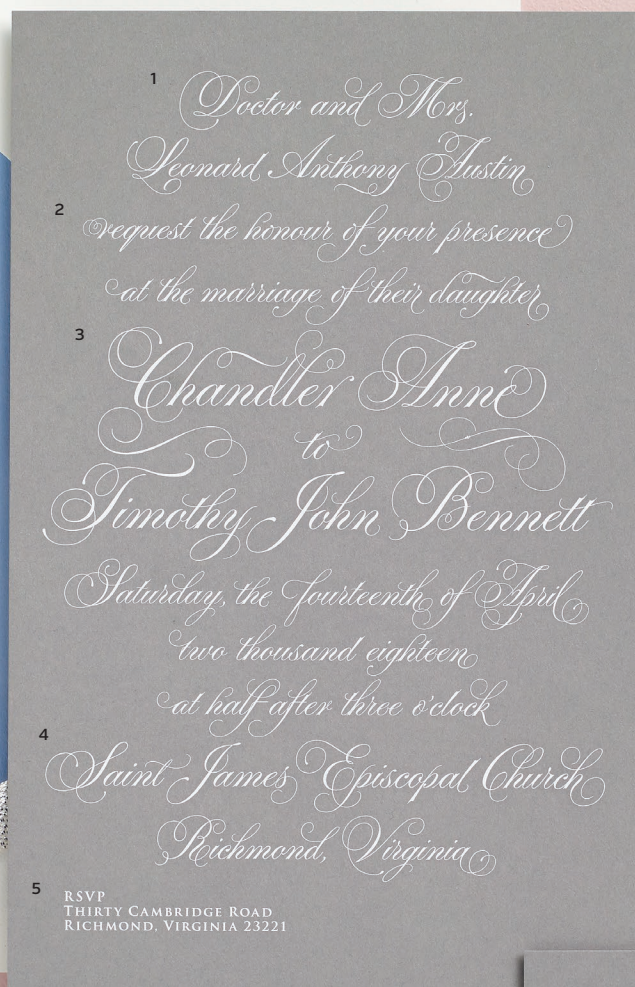
WILL _____ ATTEND

↑
An RSVP card is typically accompanied by a stamped return envelope. Don't forget to account for that postage!

Traditional Religious

This enchanting set follows conventional etiquette to a T, complete with classic script. This is the model to follow if one set of parents is hosting the day, starting with a joyful ceremony in your family church, temple, or other place of worship.

THE DETAILS: Kleinfeld Paper "Unconditionally" wedding invitation suite, price upon request, kleinfeldpaper.com.



1. Titles get their own line. If one parent has a professional title, it should be spelled out and can be listed first.

2. Extend a formal request, if you please. For a sacred space, a request line conventionally asks for the honour of your presence.

3. The bride's name is brief. The traditional approach is to list her first and middle name, while including the full name of her fiancé.

4. The venue speaks for itself. It's appropriate to omit the street address, as long as the location won't be confusing. City and state (like everything else) are spelled out fully.

5. A personal response is desired. The RSVP address is at the bottom left corner. Guests use their own stationery to reply.

Please join us at a reception
immediately following the ceremony at
Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
1800 Lakeside Avenue
Richmond, Virginia

If the reception
is at a different
venue from
the ceremony,
a separate
invitation
is included in
the suite.

Sweet Semiformal

This elegant design takes minimal to the max with pared-down wording that leaves room for a nature-inspired design to come to life. The flexible structure of the suite allows for the expected *who, what, where, and when*—but skips unnecessary info.

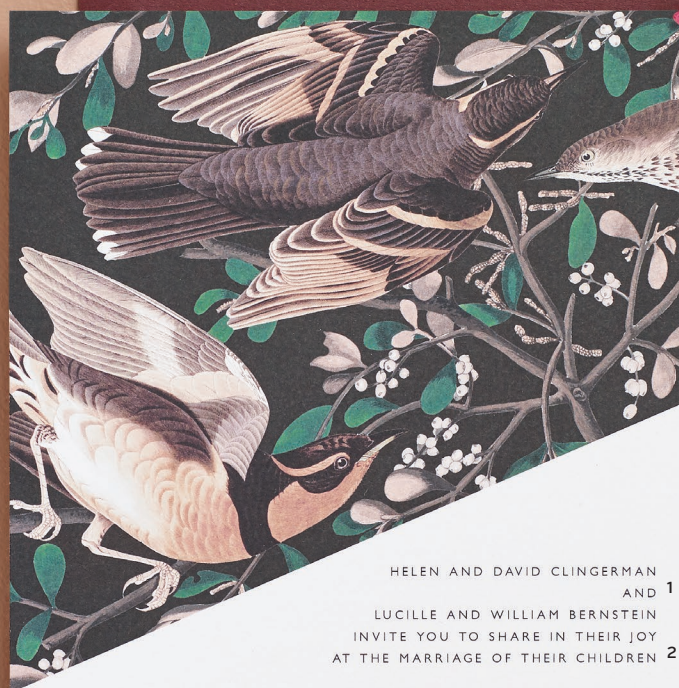
THE DETAILS: Rachel Marvin Creative “Brenna” invitation suite, price upon request, rachelmarvincreative.com.

1. Host lines are flexible. If both sets of parents are playing this role, the first and last names of each couple are included. With more casual wording, middle names are often omitted. (Same goes for the bride and groom.)

2. The request line is all-inclusive. This example takes a modern approach by inviting guests to *share in their joy*—a warm welcome that suits an event with dual sets of hosts.

3. It's fine to add digits. Semiformal rules mean you don't need to fully spell out numbers.

4. Timing and details are simplified. A general statement of *dinner and dancing to follow* is plenty. The website card directs guests online for any other necessary information.



HELEN AND DAVID CLINGERMAN
AND
LUCILLE AND WILLIAM BERNSTEIN
INVITE YOU TO SHARE IN THEIR JOY
AT THE MARRIAGE OF THEIR CHILDREN

KATE CLINGERMAN
&
HENRY BERNSTEIN

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2018
AT 6 O'CLOCK
MOONSTONE MANOR
ELIZABETHTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA
DINNER AND DANCING TO FOLLOW

DETAILS

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR
ACCOMMODATIONS, DIRECTIONS,
AND TO RSVP

WWW.KATEANDHARRYBERNSTEIN.COM



No return envelope,
no maps ... a website
is another way to collect
responses and share
directions to your venue.

Casual and Colorful

Some couples are less worried about traditional etiquette and more concerned with throwing a fabulous party. A lively suite like this confetti-inspired one can cue that right up (particularly when guests see the postwedding brunch invite!).

THE DETAILS: Jill Means “Modern Fun” wedding invitation suite, from \$234 for 100 invites, minted.com.



1. Skirt the “who’s paying” question. Maybe others are pitching in, or maybe you’re funding your wedding alone. In any case, a *together with their families* host line is useful for honoring parents. (Vague wording can also ease a delicate stepparent situation.)

2. Break with traditional etiquette. Conversational wording is fine for an informal request line (and throughout the suite), so have fun with it!

3. Abbreviate away. Dates and details can be indicated with numerals and abbreviations, such as *P.M.* instead of *o’clock*.

When filling envelopes with multiple pieces, place the invite on the bottom, and top with other elements, largest to smallest.

Low-Key Chic

Keeping your ceremony super-simple? Your invitations should reflect the laid-back nature of the festivities. This trifold all-in-one suite features informal wording that resembles an invite to a dinner party with close friends—which is exactly what this postnuptials party will be.

THE DETAILS: Paper & Type “Statement Flowers” suite, price upon request, paperandtype.com.

A casual, personal invite like this one can take any form—even written out like a personal letter, if you like.



1. Full sentences are fair game. A conversational tone communicates the date, time, and location.

2. It's okay to assume. A simple reply line hints that it'll be a tight-knit crew, and friends already have your contact info.

3. A sign-off can be extra-sweet. This goes with the chatty vibe of the suite. Note that this is also the only place where the couples' names (first only) are listed.