



Washington Duke
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Top Three Last Minute Details to Perfect Your Wedding

Diane Tighe, director of catering & conference services at father and son AAA Four Diamond properties, shares finishing touches for brides to remember on their big day

DURHAM, N.C., February 27, 2018 – A couple's wedding day is considered one of the biggest milestones in a bride and groom's lives; it kicks off a lifetime full of new experiences, devotion and memories. With so much weighing on curating a remarkable ceremony, couples tend to put executing that new Pinterest idea sure to wow the guests at the top of the list, while deep-in-the-details decisions are left as a last priority.

To evade falling vulnerable to piecing together eleventh-hour details right before nuptials, Diane Tighe, who plans events for father and son properties Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club and the JB Duke Hotel on the campus of Duke University in Durham, NC, details three last minute touches you should incorporate to perfect your wedding. With more than 19 years of experience at the property, Diane is a Certified Professional Catering Executive (CPCE) and active member of NACE since 2001.

- 1. Surprise guests with welcome bags.** Attendees travel near and far to share the excitement of your nuptials and celebrate your journey. Acknowledge their effort with a welcome gift and personalized note in their hotel rooms to make guests feel extra special. These small tokens can consist of small goodies like snacks, but also serve as a go-to source for logistical details surrounding events, such as time and location. In addition, include these particulars on your wedding website so need-to-know information is always readily available via mobile. This will not only keep guests feeling confident and informed, but will alleviate the wedding party and family members from an inundation of questions.
- 2. House a readily available safety kit.** After all the planning and money that goes into a wedding, the last thing couples need is a red wine spill or broken shoe to ruin the moment. Build a backup safety kit and designate a close friend to oversee it so what would have been a full-blown crisis is simply a momentary set back. This kit could include a backup pair of shoes, perfume, mouthwash, band aids, gum, bobby pins and deodorant. As an added layer, this person can also be responsible for bustling your dress after the ceremony if your gown does not have a built-in feature so you can easily dance and move around.
- 3. Identify and communicate reception seating arrangements.** While menu decisions may seem like the largest consideration of the seated dinner, place cards are also one of the most important and surprisingly time-consuming elements of a wedding day. After identifying the flow of the reception, work with your planner to determine how to best group guests and share seating arrangements. If you select a buffet or one-option menu, you can offer guests to seat themselves, but need to acknowledge with signage. If a more formal layout is present, include signage that outlines assignments so guests can see who else will be dining at their table. Either way, it is important to set these plans weeks before the wedding, and will prevent major stress as the wedding approaches.



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Not only is it my mission to help couples plan the wedding of their dreams, including crafting personalized details to make the day feel extra special, but also to help couples prioritize details on an ideal timeline so otherwise after-thoughts aren't adding unnecessary stress as the event gets closer. As part of the wedding and event planning industry for over 30 years, this guidance is a big responsibility of the planner," said Tighe, director of catering & conference services at Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club and JB Duke Hotel. "One of our biggest priorities at the Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club and JB Duke Hotel is to help brides plan the perfect wedding ahead of schedule, so they can feel calm and relaxed leading up to the big day. We continue to strive for our weddings to seamlessly exude the celebratory spirit without adding planning burdens, as we want our brides to feel every bit of the happiness that stems from all their hard work."

Request more information about the Durham wedding venues and packages at the [Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club](#) or [JB Duke Hotel](#), or contact our wedding specialists to arrange a site visit at 919.313.9618 or 919.660.6400.

About JB Duke Hotel

The JB Duke Hotel is a AAA Four Diamond contemporary hotel located on the campus of Duke University, conveniently near both athletic and academic facilities, as well as only 20 minutes from Raleigh-Durham International Airport and 10 minutes from Research Triangle Park. It features 198 guestrooms and 25,000 square feet of meeting and event space and is home to a full-service restaurant and two bars.

The hotel is owned by Duke University and is managed by JBD Hospitality, LLC of Durham, North Carolina, which has operated progeny property Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club for decades. For more information or reservations call (919) 660-6400 or (844) 490-7100, or visit jbdukehotel.com. Follow JB Duke Hotel on Facebook at facebook.com/jbdukehotel, Twitter at twitter.com/jbdukehotel, or Instagram at instagram.com/jbdukehotel.

About The Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club

The Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club is located on the campus of Duke University, only 20 minutes from Raleigh-Durham International Airport and 10 minutes from Research Triangle Park. The Washington Duke Inn is the original AAA Four Diamond hotel in Durham, North Carolina. Nestled on 300 acres filled with tall pines and hardwoods, the Inn is known for its beautiful facility and grounds, 271 elegantly appointed guest rooms and suites, marvelous cuisine in the Fairview Dining Room — winner of the AAA Four Diamond Award, U.S. News Top 15 Best Hotels in North Carolina and Wine Spectator Award of Excellence — the Bull Durham Bar, the Robert Trent Jones-designed 18-hole championship Duke University golf course, and its convenience to local points of interest. It is set apart from other area hotels and conference centers by unparalleled service, a gracious staff, luxurious interiors and attention to detail. The Inn is owned by Duke University and is managed by WDI Hospitality, LLC of Durham, North Carolina. For more information or reservations call (919) 490-0999 or (800) 443-3853, or by visiting washingtondukeinn.com, Facebook at facebook.com/WashingtonDukeInn, Twitter at twitter.com/WashingtonDuke and Instagram at instagram.com/WashingtonDukeInn

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