



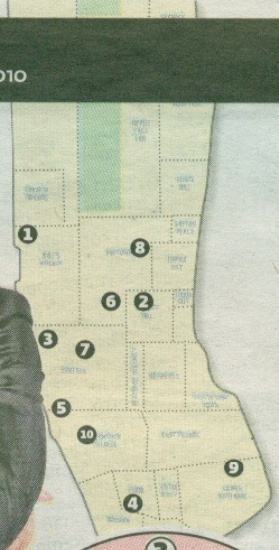
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## MY NEW YORK



# DAVID TUTERA



**1 Sonnier & Castle, 554 W. 48th St., at Eleventh Avenue**

"They're a boutique catering company. Nothing is traditional and nothing is heavy. Everything is couture, and they custom-create the menu. They really step out of the box."

**2 Bridal Reflections, 260 Fifth Ave., between 28th and 29th streets**

"[They] can make a girl go from 'like' to 'in love' with a dress. All brides getting a dress can have a meltdown, and they're very good at dealing with them."

**3 Chelsea Art Museum, 556 22nd St., at 11th Avenue**  
"I've transformed The Plaza into an enchanted forest and bathed a modern loft in colors. In October, we're doing a wedding at the Chelsea Art Museum. It's multileveled with stacked lofts, and the top has great views, so you can have the ceremony up there."



Ellen Christine makes Carrie Bradshaw-like headpieces.

Lorenzo Ciniglio

**7 Ellen Christine Millinery, 255 W. 18th St., near Eighth Avenue**

"Brides often forget accessories. Ellen used to work for the opera and is as talented as they come. She does amazing manipulations of feathers in an unexpected way. Kind of like Carrie Bradshaw, who always wears crazy headpieces."

**8 Michael C. Fina, 545 Fifth Ave., at 45th Street**

"It's an incredible one-stop shop offering a dazzling combination of china and jewelry that will impress even the pickiest of brides and grooms."



A couple is photographed on the gritty, artsy One Little West 12th Street.



Michael Andrews will personalize your suit!

Jonathan Baskin

**9 Michael Andrews Bespoke, 20 Clinton St., between Stanton and Houston streets**

"I would send my groom to a place that does custom suits and tuxedos. [Michael Andrews] will give you a tailored custom suit, but he'll put a colored thread in the stitching and go off-the-charts wild with the lining. And don't rush him. I would say go in a month to two months before the wedding to order the suit."



**4 Ron Ben-Israel Cakes, 42 Greene St., between Broome and Grand streets**

"He once did a cake seven tiers tall and completely covered in edible gold. It was so opulent. Nothing he does is understated."

Courtesy of Ron Ben-Israel Cakes

### The Meatpacking District

"I love having my brides and grooms take their wedding photos against a gritty 'real' New York background. Instead of the 'been there, done that' shot in Times Square, I think locations like One Little West 12th Street are better. The colorful graffiti makes for a stunning contrast against the pure white of a wedding gown and becomes an instant set. I also like to send my brides to neighborhoods that still are paved in cobblestone and therefore have a throwback feel to the old New York. The photos always turn out dramatic! And you know that I love the drama!"

**6 George Rallis Wholesale Flowers, 803 Sixth Ave., between 27th and 28th streets**

"People are going with tons of colors. We're staying away from whites, and purple and lavender are the hottest colors this year."



Robert Miller



Christian Johnston

**10 One if by Land, Two if by Sea, 17 Barrow St., between Bleeker and West Fourth streets**

"It feels like an oasis in NYC — almost like a secret hideaway with candles flickering. The fireplace and piano make for a romantic spot for dinner, and overall it's the perfect location for that big moment: the proposal."

**CELEBRITY** wedding planner David Tutera knows a thing or two about pulling off spectacular Big Apple weddings: The 44-year-old host of WE tv's "My Fair Wedding" planned Star Jones' epic, tabloid-frenzied nuptials. "That's the one everyone remembers," says Tutera, who had to flip the order of the ceremony due to diva Patti LaBelle getting stuck in traffic. "When she finally pulled up, I whisked her out of her limo and quickly escorted her into the church. Until today, no one knew I did this — including my bride!" he says.

The Gramercy Park resident claims weddings are more grand in New York — and the personalities are even grander. "New York brides are a little less ... patient."

Currently, he's grappling with a bride who wants to arrive at her wedding as an aerialist in her bridal gown, à la Pink at February's Grammys. "I get crazy requests every day of my life." This is his New York — nuptials-style.

— KIRSTEN FLEMING