



NATE HENDERSON



ANGELA HOPPER

A HOSTESS CITY WELCOME

Savannah comes by its nickname, the "Hostess City," honestly. The city and her residents don't believe in strangers—particularly when it comes to wedding guests.

By Jessica Denmark

WHILE THE OFFICIAL WELCOME BAG surely didn't start in Savannah, it's nearing perfection here, thanks to a variety of artisanal gifts and signature experiences that epitomize Southern hospitality.

"Because of the local talent we have in the area, we're able to fill welcome bags with gifts and treats that are made right here," says Mikaela Marra, owner of Savannah Welcome Totes. "From scented candles to Southern cheese biscuits, everything we use is made by a Savannah business."

Tuck a Bird Girl postcard

next to a map of downtown that pinpoints favorite spots like Leopold's Ice Cream and Mrs. Wilkes' Dining Room.

Sweet Memories

Planner Tara Skinner of Posh Petals & Pearls suggests starting with ever-popular pralines.

“These seem to be a staple in welcome bags and favors,” she says. “A close runner-up would be miniature jars of Savannah Bee Company honey. Both of these items are small enough to fit in welcome bags or add to a place setting—and they easily transport back home on a plane.”

Fragrant Touches

At Nourish, a natural bath-product store on Broughton Street, Shoshanna Walker and her staffers handcraft soaps, soy candles, lip balm, body scrubs and lotions—must-haves in any welcome bag.

“Our handmade bar soaps have always been a best-seller for wedding favors,” Walker says. “We also work closely with brides to create one-of-a-kind gift baskets and welcome gifts. We’re local and unique—exactly in line with the reasons why couples choose to tie the knot in Savannah.”

Something to Sip On

It’s said that the first thing people are asked in Savannah is, “What can I get you to drink?” Honor that tradition by inviting your guests to join you for a pre-rehearsal happy hour with a sampling of Chatham Artillery Punch (recipe online at Savannahweddingsmag.com). This signature Savannah cocktail has a long history—and an equally long list of ingredients. Tuck a recipe card inside a Mason jar for a friendly takeaway.

Show and Tell

What guest wouldn’t love a Savannah Toile tote bag filled with Southern recipes, honey and fragrant soaps? Tuck a Bird Girl postcard next to a map of downtown that pinpoints favorite spots like Leopold’s Ice Cream and Mrs. Wilkes’ Dining Room, and show the ones you love why you love Savannah. S



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