

Making an Impression

When it came time for Trish Kinsella to plan her wedding, in 1998, the California graphic designer drew on her knowledge of the oldest traditional printing method. She designed her own invitations using letterpress, a relief process invented in the 15th century that employs a raised surface to press an image onto paper, leaving an inked indentation. "There's a great three-dimensional quality to it," says Kinsella, who was so intrigued by the vintage-looking results that she founded DAUPHINE PRESS, a

custom-stationery studio in Sonoma County that specializes in letterpress. Kinsella modernizes the labor-intensive, increasingly rare technique by adding digital technology to create her own elegant typography as well as oversized or intricate decorative elements, such as flora and fauna or a palazzo in Venice where one client was married. "No two occasions are exactly alike, so the invitations shouldn't be either," she says. A set of 100 invitations begins at \$1,100. 888-869-0659; dauphinepress.com. ALEXIS CLARK



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