



My Big Fat Greek, Israeli, Hungarian, Celtic Wedding

by Heather E. Schwartz

Need some creative ideas that will bring your heritage into your ceremony and celebration? You've come to the right place. These European and Middle Eastern traditions work stateside, too, so you can plan the wedding you've always dreamed of: one that reflects where you're from as well as where you're going.

CELTIC, ITALIAN OR GREEK

If your heritage is Western European (think Ireland, England, France, etc.), consider adding cultural flair from the start with your walk down the aisle. In many countries, it's customary for bride and groom to travel the aisle together, according to the Rev. Laurie Sue Brockway, interfaith minister and author of *Wedding Goddess: A Divine Guide to Transforming Wedding Stress into Wedding Bliss* (Perigee Books, May 2005). Other ideas: A Greek bride could have single girlfriends sign the bottom of her shoes before the wedding; the lucky lady whose name remains at the end of the night can plan on being the next to wed. And an English bride might place a sixpence in her shoe or tape one underneath in a spot that won't upset her balance. The ritual "symbolizes wealth on all levels, happiness and joy throughout married life," Brockway said.