



SOMETHING NEW

VINTAGE CHARM
2014 Walt Blue Jay
Anderson Valley
Pinot Noir (\$40) and
2014 Walt La Brisa
Sonoma County
Pinot Noir (\$40)

NAPA

GRAPE EXPECTATIONS

With Napa Valley vino ranking among the world's best, it's no surprise that California brides tend to go local when it comes to wedding wine. And while keeping varietals within state lines narrows the selection, choosing from the Golden State's plentiful options can still be a lot to take in. Making the decision easier is **Hall and Walt Wines**—both helmed by industry vet Kathryn Walt Hall—new Weddings & Celebrations packages. The first of its kind from California wineries, the program is completely customizable to suit the size of the affair and, of course, the tastes of the bride- and groom-to-be. In addition to world-class vintages for your wedding day, packages include private tastings at Hall's St. Helena vineyard; a yearlong wine club membership; and a personalized etched bottle in either silver, gold or copper—a perfect keepsake from the big day. Cheers! From \$1,450, 401 St. Helena Highway, St. Helena, 707.967.2626, hallwines.com —Jess Charmoli



SWEET TOOTH
With flavors like
Sugar Cookie and
Coconut Caramel,
Bliss and Baker
takes the humble
Rice Krispie treat
to another level.

SAN DIEGO

Simple Pleasures

On the hunt for a new dessert to charm guests? San Diego's **Bliss and Baker** is putting a modern twist on a childhood classic. Using Rice Krispie treats as inspiration, the company—launched last year by mother-daughter duo Laura and Natalie Potter—starts with rice cereal and marshmallows before whipping up homemade sauces for flavors like El Churro as well as a gluten-free salty caramel. You can order bite-size squares for an event, or packaged favors in Kraft, white or black paper boxes with customized labels and a ribbon. Sweet! \$12 per dozen (four dozen minimum); favor box prices vary, blissandbaker.com —Archana Ram

LOS ANGELES

Rethinking the Registry

Beth Helmstetter helps couples put others first

By Elizabeth Jenkins

After visiting Haiti, which was devastated by an earthquake in 2010, Los Angeles event planner **Beth Helmstetter** vowed to find a way to connect her clients with charitable causes. "There are Haitian families still living in tents, and the tents cost \$6,000 apiece," explains Helmstetter, who orchestrated the nuptials of actresses Jenna Fischer and Nikki Reed. "I thought my clients would spend this in a second if they knew about it." Determined to find a simple way for engaged couples to offer their guests the chance to make a donation in lieu of a gift, Helmstetter spent nearly a year researching charitable organizations. The result? **The Good Beginning**, a registry platform targeting everything from the Flint water crisis to Syrian refugees to sex slavery to hunger. Now, in addition to—or instead of—fine china and crystal, couples can invite their guests to support the organization of their choice.

thegoodbeginning.com



DO-GOODER
Planner Beth Helmstetter created The Good Beginning, which allows couples to register for charity donations instead of traditional gifts.

BETH HELMSTETTER PHOTO BY STEVE STENHARDT