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Bachelorette Superlatives

There's something about a bachelorette party that's a little bit like high school. All of your girlfriends now have jobs, apartments, maybe even mortgages -- but somehow they revert back to shot-guzzling party chicks in honor of your upcoming nuptials. Because of this (tenuous) connection, I took that old high school yearbook treat -- the superlatives -- and gave it a local bachelorette twist. Read on for some of the best bachelorette party options around and add your suggestions in the comments field below.

Best Options for the Get-Wild Bachelorette: If there's one night to get crazy with your girlfriends, a bachelorette party is it. For my money, Adams Morgan's the best spot for girls who are looking to guzzle, giggle and find friendly strangers to buy them drinks. [Tom Tom](#) still reigns supreme as a bachelorette haven, but I've seen groups of girls surrounding veil-wearing to-be-weds at [Adams Mill Bar](#), [Chief Ike's](#), [Mille and Al's](#) and the [Angry Inch](#). Are these the classiest establishments in the city? Absolutely not. But the low-maintenance party vibe can be good for a bachelorette shindig. Dress code isn't an issue; no one cares if you talk some frat boys into giving you their boxers; and you can shout out the words to Journey's "Don't Stop Believin'" without anyone batting an eyelash. Don't expect classy cocktails at these spots: rail vodka and cranberry may be your best bet.

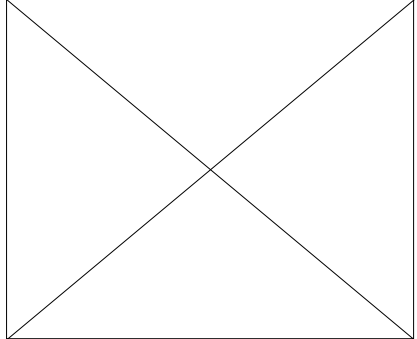
Classiest Affair: Not all brides-to-be want to go the bite-the-lifesaver-off-my-t-shirt route, and that's when an upscale lounge with yummy cocktails comes in handy. [Blue Gin](#), [Fly Lounge](#), [Modern](#), [Indebleu](#): any of the city's lounges work for this type of affair, but for me, a night at [Eighteenth Street Lounge](#) is always a cut above. The cocktails are strong and delicious, and the outdoor patio in back is perfect for a summer night. As any D.C.-clubber knows, ESL bouncers enforce dress codes, so leave the veils at home and look your best.

Best Karaoke: For me, this one's a tie. [Cafe Japonese](#) may have slow service and subpar sushi, but they do have bench tables long enough for all your friends and a song list that includes karaoke favorites like Whitesnake's "Here I Go Again" and the played-out, but somewhat-obligatory Cindy Lauper tune, "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun."

If your girl's a little bit country, take her to [Nick's Nightclub](#) in Alexandria. The back bar's full of wannabe country singers and the friendliest military men you'll ever meet. The song list tilts toward Reba and Garth, but if you want to fit some Bon Jovi in there, no one will stop you. Most of the crowd gets up for line dancing between karaoke songs, so if you want to brush up on your two-step, show up at 7:30 for \$5 line-dancing lessons.

Best Dancing: Line dancing's not for everyone, so for that multi-level, mega-club experience, you really can't beat a trip to [Love](#). With its yummy cocktails and fun blend of hip-hop and 80s music, [Play](#) is a good mid-size option for bachelorettes looking to barhop in Dupont. Want to avoid the lounge scene? Bachelorettes often get their groove

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on at that downtown mainstay, [Rumors](#).

Naughtiest Night Out: Strip clubs in the city that feature male dancers have pretty much disappeared since stadium construction got underway last year, but if you're willing to venture out to Camp Springs, Md., the [Hangar Club](#) serves up a male-dancing show on Friday and Saturday nights. The cover's \$18 or \$25 if you want stage-side seats. There is also a 2-drink minimum per person. Club staff requests that bachelorette parties call 301-449-6970 at least two weeks in advance to make reservations.

Naughtiest Night In: Michaela Brown's background may be in personal training, but the 26-year-old owner of the P Spot knows a thing or two about strip dancing. Groups of five to 10 girls can book a one- or two-hour session in Brown's Rhode Island Avenue studio, where she'll teach basic strip-tease moves or pole-dancing techniques. Fees for these sessions cost \$10 to \$20 per person, per hour. Feeling a little shy? Brown can bring her instruction to your home. A two-hour session costs \$500 (plus the cost of travel) for strip-tease lessons and \$600 (plus the cost of travel) for pole dancing. These private sessions work best with two to three people and can be arranged by calling 202-299-9604.

Dreamiest Day Spa Date: Kristen Page-Kirby, Express's spa expert, turned us on to [Nusta Spa](#), an environmentally friendly downtown spa that can arrange private pampering for bachelorette groups. Girls set up shop in the spa's private room with food and drink (you can bring your own or Nusta Spa will arrange catering). The party organizer just has to supply the spa with a list of attendees and the treatments they'd like and the spa will make sure they have enough technicians on hand to accommodate. Prices vary depending on the services your group picks, but Nusta Spa can arrange for creative payment plans (i.e. each girl pays for herself and a portion of the bride-to-be's fees). "We've been having groups come in for their treatments late in the afternoon on a Saturday, shower and change and then go out to dinner from here," said owner Elizabeth Snowdon. The spa recommends calling to arrange your group visit several weeks in advance; a month's notice is preferred. Call 202-530-5700.

For the Fanciest Palate: [The Curious Grape](#), a Shirlington wine shop, organizes in-home tasting events for the bride with a sophisticated palate. Over the course of the two-hour tasting, the wine consultant presents eight kinds of wine with a selection of cheese and chocolate pairings. For bridal celebrations, the shop can present wines from the bride and groom's favorite regions or the countries their families are from. According to events coordinator Jed Gray, tastings start at around \$500 and even though they can accommodate up to 200 people, groups of less than 50 work best. Gray assures me that the presentations aren't all notes-of-oak and aged barrels. "People aren't as interested in some bah-humbug presentation, they want something lighter and more fun," he says. Marylanders, take note: Curious Grape can only provide tastings in Virginia and the District. Call 703-671-8700 or find more information on the [Curious Grape Web site](#).

Bachelorettes in all three jurisdictions can take advantage of tastings organized by [Kelly Magyarics Wine Consulting](#). Magyarics offers one-, one-and-a-half- and two-hour tasting sessions that start at \$225 to \$295 per hour and can accommodate 15 to 18 people. Bachelorettes often opt for a celebratory tastings featuring champagnes and sparkling wines, she says, but she also offers a more sentimental option. For a "Dream Destinations" package, Magyarics selects wines from regions the bride and groom have visited or want to visit some day. Call 703-203-WINE or visit [trywine.net](#).

Haughtiest High Tea: Though it seems more fitting for an afternoon bridal shower than a bachelorette raunch-fest, some ladies have written into Got Plans? looking for a prim-and-proper afternoon tea. Erin laid out a bunch of options in this [February blog post](#), and any one of them fits the bill for the cucumber-sandwich set.

So here are my top picks for that special Girls' Night Out, but at the end of the day, this is only one girl's opinion. Bachelorettes, bridesmaids and friends-of-the-bride out there, chime in below with your favorite bachelorette party ideas.

--Julia

By Julia Beizer | June 14, 2007; 5:20 PM ET [Bars and Clubs](#)
Previous: ['To Be' Seeing Some Shakespeare](#) | Next: [Silver Diners](#)

Comments

Please [email us](#) to report offensive comments.

Another great alternative is a Passion Party! The bachelorette gets a lot of free products to take on the honeymoon! It's a very fun way to spend a Girl's Night Out.

<http://www.unleashyourpassion.biz>

Posted by: jennifer | June 14, 2007 7:24 PM

Try Going Out Tonight?

<http://www.goingout-tonight.com>

I used them to plan my bachelorette party and later my friend who got married used them to help plan outings for her guests from out of town.

From the best place to go for dinner to the best dance spot, we received a full itinerary complete with directions and descriptions. They made both hotel and transportation arrangements and we got great goodies bags with items from cute little boutiques in DC.

I would highly recommend their services!

Posted by: Alisa | June 14, 2007 10:18 PM

Another classy idea is a night in Chinatown. My girls and I have done a bachelorette party dinner at Rosa Mexicano, and then hit all the nicer lounge-y places in Chinatown- drinx, Oya, Zaytinya, 701, Poste. There are a lot of fun, super-nice places in Chinatown if you are interested in a non-Adams Morgan night.

Posted by: stephanie | June 15, 2007 3:36 AM

For another alternative, I would recommend a day trip for wine tasting. Hit a few VA wineries - the countryside is beautiful and it's a lot of fun.

Posted by: C | June 15, 2007 9:27 AM

Just giving a shout out to Kelly Magyarics Wine Consulting, which is mentioned in this article. My bridesmaids planned a wine tasting through her company as part of my bachelorette party last year, and it was loads of fun! She really knows her stuff, but the tasting was not at all pretentious or snobby. It was a great way to spend part of our evening.

Posted by: Natalie Rogers | June 18, 2007 2:19 PM

A great way to celebrate is to throw the bride to be a Slumber Party!! The bride gets tons of free goodies for the wedding night and honeymoon. Call today for more information.

Slumber Parties by Sarah
540.623.3310

Posted by: sarah Bittinger | June 19, 2007 2:09 PM

Vivian Thurman also offers great in-home striptease instruction for bachelorette parties. Her classes are called "stripography". She teaches at various gyms around the area. Her email is vthurman@juno.com


Posted by: Renee Cobb | June 19, 2007 2:34 PM

Celebrate in style at your slumber party with hand painted wine glasses, shot glasses, or even margarita glasses.

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Posted by: Peggy | June 21, 2007 4:46 PM

Goddess Fitness in the heart of Bethesda, MD teaches cutting-edge pole dancing aerobics and striptease/chair dancing is an awesome place for a bachelorette party, girls night out, and/or birthday parties without having to go downtown. Two blocks from the metro and a parking garage right next door. Check out their website at www.goddessfitness.com or give them a call at 301-654-2007.

Posted by: Tina | July 13, 2007 11:20 AM

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