

A Black-Tie Wedding

A black-tie wedding is the ultimate formal occasion; it's simply impossible to be overdressed for this event. Everyone's looking their absolute best and you're here to celebrate the loving union of two wonderful people whom you love, or at least have met once or twice. This is a marathon, ladies; you've got to train for it and you must have the proper equipment or you'll be stuck on the sidelines. You must be able to stand in your heels without wincing *and* sit in your dress without worrying about the strength of its seams. This is style-ninja stuff, and only the tough and savvy make it.

Dressing up.

People just don't do it anymore.

We need to change that.

JOHN GALLIANO



BLACK-TIE WEDDING *DON'TS*

- **DON'T WEAR WHITE.** This is one rule that I support wholeheartedly; you should never upstage the bride. Even if you know the bride won't be wearing it, white is far too fraught with symbolism on this day.
- **DON'T WEAR DARK LIPSTICK.** This is more of a recommendation than a "don't," but sport scarlet lips at your own risk and be prepared for frequent mirror checks if you do.
- **DON'T WEAR ANYTHING SKINTIGHT.** You've got to be able to shake what your mama gave you to the Michael Jackson medley at the reception.

My favorite black tie-worthy ensemble for an afternoon wedding is a flirty, floral print dress in a sumptuous fabric with a fitted bodice, nipped in at the waist, and a full, cocktail-length skirt for twirling on the dance floor. Or a gorgeous Little Black Dress with a bit of beading or lace embellishment if I want to keep my look simple. You are definitely not required to wear stockings with formal wear. If the weather allows, a faux tan and a luxurious pedicure are all you need. If you want the coverage, choose an ultra sheer stocking.

hair
TODAY

When I'm going all-out formal I prefer to wear my hair up in a chic chignon, or pulled back into a smooth ponytail. A low ponytail, mind you—we're not trying out for the cheerleading squad.

