SELECTING FINE STEMWARE

In the months before a wedding, the bride and groom face a whirl of decision-making. Somewhere among these decisions will be the choice of crystal, a decision you will live with for many years.

How do you judge the quality of the glass? What kind of pieces will you need? What should you consider when choosing a pattern?

Here are a few quick hints from Robert Fahlbusch, general manager of Schott's Consumer Glass Division.

- The bowl of the glass should be uniformly clear so that the color of the beverage is shown to its best advantage. A fine wine glass will also have thin bowl walls, a long, elegant stem and a stable foot. Finally, the lip should be absolutely smooth and without a discernible rim. A heavy lip interferes with the flow of the beverage from the glass to your tongue and is the sign of lesser-quality glassware.
- What types of glassware will you need? Basically, there are three main categories:
  - Goblets
  - Tumblers
  - Wine glasses

Goblets are stemmed glasses used for water. Tumblers have no stem and are used for water or other iced beverages.

You may want just one all-purpose wine glass per setting, or perhaps one for white wine and one for red. Red wines need room to "breathe" to fully release their aroma and flavor, so a larger wine glass is recommended. Since white wines are best served chilled, they should be served in smaller glasses that are refilled more often to keep the wine from getting warm.

STEMWARE WORKSHEET:
Formal

Store:_____
Location: _____
Manufacturer:_____
Pattern: _____
_____Goblets
_____Liqueur
_____Wine/red
_____Wine/white
_____Double old-fashioneds
_____Highballs
_____Champagne flutes
_____Iced tea
_____Tumblers
_____Other:_____
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STEMWARE WORKSHEET:
Informal

Store:_____
Location: _____
Manufacturer:_____
Pattern: _____
_____Goblets
_____Wine/red
_____Wine/white
_____Tumblers
_____Other:_____
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BARWARE WORKSHEET

Store: _____
Location:_____
Manufacturer: _____
Pattern:_____
_____High balls
_____Pilsners
_____Beer mugs
_____Brandy snifters
_____Martinis
_____Margaritas
_____Decanter
_____Pitcher
_____Ice bucket
_____Cocktail shaker
_____Tray
_____Swizzle sticks
_____Bottle opener
_____Cocktail picks
_____Bottle stoppers
_____ Cheese tray
_____Coasters
_____Canapé plates
_____Wine glass charms
_____Wine rack
_____Other:_____
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