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HERE COME THE BRIDESMAIDS

June 2006

From chi-chi bars to rowdy clubs, here's where to throw a memorable bachelorette party

**El Convento Rico**

On Saturday night, clubland fixture [Devil's Martini](#) is stagette central. The club now offers room for strutting your stuff, but get there early to avoid the lineup. The music is a mainstream mix of Top 40, disco and '80s hits. The frat party atmosphere of this 25-plus spot encourages embarrassing bridal dares.

It seems that everybody wants to be a stripper these days. [Flirty Girl Fitness](#) (462 Wellington St. W., 416-920-1400), Toronto's newest pole-dancing studio, doubles as a girls-only party venue, where brides are taught seductive moves for the wedding night. The sleek space, outfitted with an open-concept bar, hosts private bachelorette functions. Parties include one hour of dance instruction—choose from pole dancing, striptease and lap dancing. Optional extras include Flirtini cocktails, makeovers, and manicures and pedicures; following your soirée, limo service and VIP club access can be arranged.

Bring the future missus to [El Convento Rico](#), where she can boogie to a Latin beat and get makeup tips from drag queens. This high-camp salsa club welcomes gay, straight and everything in-between—patrons won't bat an eye at a gaggle of girls on a stagette. Free dance lessons are offered on Friday night starting in June; Friday and Saturday feature a drag show.

[The Gladstone Hotel](#) appeals to a diverse crowd of bachelorettes. It's stylish enough to attract hipsters but still maintains its gritty Parkdale roots. The brave—or inebriated—can take part in karaoke Thursday to Saturday, hosted by Gladstone veteran Peter Styles. With a selection of 5,000 ditties (including stagette anthem "Girls Just Want To Have Fun") there's plenty of fodder for drunken singalongs.

For a retro-flavoured bachelorette bash, throw a party at the [Mod Club Theatre](#). The groovy, '60s-style decor features oversized pop art paintings. The Britpop soundtrack spans the decades, from The Kinks to Blur. It's a good place for a themed party: for a touch of Austin Powers, get the girls to dress in go-go boots and psychedelic dresses.

If you're saying sayonara to your *Sex and the City* days, do it in style at [Ultra Supper Club](#). With an upscale crowd and swanky decor—16-foot ceilings and sleek, contemporary furniture—this is not the venue for male strippers and drunken singsongs. Instead, bid farewell to single life while sipping martinis in civilized company. In summer, take in the city skyline from the rooftop patio.

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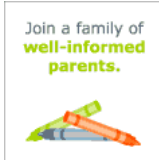
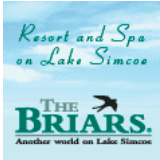
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