

The Southern Wedding Charm Cake Tradition and Bride's Maid Luncheon Charm Cake

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Southern wedding cake charms is a longtime tradition that started in the South. This tradition is part of the fun of selecting wedding cake accessories for your wedding. Wedding charms date back to Victorian times. Known as the Victorian tradition of "ribbon pulling." In those days, charms of luck and good fortune were placed into the wedding cake by the bride for her single friends. Now a days, bakers place sterling silver charms attached to ribbons, with specific meanings, inside the bottom layer of the bride's cake or bride's maid luncheon cake. The Bride's Maids/Attendants are given the opportunity to pull a charm from the cake just before the cake is cut.

Today, cake charms aren't just limited to the attendants. Children, parents of the bride and groom, and other guests can all gather around the cake. The ribbons are fanned out, and before the cake is cut, the Bride's appointed guests pull the ribbons out of the cake. Each charm tells a fortune or prediction for the future and is a special memento of the wedding celebration. Also, many Brides will present their special "Charm Cake" at their Bride's Maid Luncheon now instead of having them in their wedding cake.

Charms are not baked into the cake, but added during the icing process for easy removal. The attendant will clean off the charm to reveal the style. Some even just "lick" the icing off.

Easy steps in making a Charm Cake:

- Bake the cake layers.
- Ice the cake tiers and decorate except for the edging of your bottom tier. This will be added after the charms and ribbons are inserted.
- Insert the charms between the bottom layer and the cake board or plateau.
- Be sure you insert the charms all around the cake so that the ribbons fan out around the entire perimeter of the cake. Ribbon colors and style are usually decided by the Bride.
- Last, ice and decorate the edges of the cake tier.

Different cake charms sets include different symbols, but most of my brides choose individual charms to coordinate with the wedding theme or special interest for each of their Bride's Maids/Attendants. I have also had Brides embroider the names on each ribbon or have different color ribbons to indicate the person they want a particular charm to go to. It's always fun for the Bride's Maid to pull her ribbon and be surprised at the charm she receives. I have also had Brides write a sweet story of each Bride's Maid/Attendant they have a charm for and what the meaning of the charm is for that particular person. This is always such a sweet celebration time during the Bride's Maids Luncheon.

During my 25 year career of making wedding cakes, I have done a few actual wedding cakes that have had charms in them. The attendants gather around the wedding cake for a most precious picture moment as they pull the ribbons at the same time to reveal the charm. This event takes place before the Bride and Groom cut their wedding cake. I have made mostly Brides Maid Luncheon Charm cakes for the Bride's luncheon that's held the day before the wedding. It's always a joy to hear the stories behind this sweet tradition. 🍷



Each charm has a specific and special meaning and here are a few:

Eiffel Tower – A life full of adventure and travel

Butterfly – Eternal Beauty

Baby Carriage – Baby is in your future.

Ring – Next to get married.

Star – Your wish will come true!

Anchor – Adventure is around the corner.

Four Leaf Clover – Good luck!

Flower – Blossoming love.

Heart – New Love!

Fleur-de-Lis – Love and Prosperity.

Airplane – Travel and adventure is in your future.

Wishbone – Success!

Cross – You will have a life filled with peace and tranquility.

Key – You will have much success.