



Justin Goldfarb (far left) and his crew looking groomed and ready on the Chicago streets.

## For the Boys

Memo to grooms: You may have gotten away with keeping a low profile during the planning process, but go-to time is just around the corner and you need to look your best. Luckily there's the Gym + Spa at The James to whip you into shape. The hotel's **Grooming the Groom** workout program is an eight-week, pre-wedding countdown of one-hour sessions, three times a week with

celebrity fitness trainer Jim Karas. Get buff (seriously, Hugh Jackman is one of his clients) and honeymoon-ready as *The New York Times*-best-selling author keeps you focused on strength training, muscle sculpting, nutrition, stress management and more. And it gets better: If you book your wedding at The James, you and the boys will receive 50 percent off the training package. Done and done. *\$90 per hour (plus \$30 for each additional person); wedding parties are welcome. 312.337.1000, 55 E. Ontario St., jameshotels.com. —V.C.*

### Burning Question

## What's the chicest setting for a 2010 winter wedding in Chicago?



**Ursula Guyer,**  
co-owner of  
**White Chicago**  
"The Modern  
Wing at the Art

Institute of Chicago. Classic yet hip, the sleek white surroundings make it the perfect scene and backdrop for a winter wedding. Keeping the eco-chic, green architecture as the focal point, I would use all-white accents as well as crystal icicles dripping from the floral arrangements. What's better than dancing the night away overlooking Millennium Park?!"



**Jesse Deckard,** senior design consultant at **Botanicals**

"Krehbiel Gallery at the Chicago Botanic Garden. I see exaggerated, rectangular feasting tables running down either side of the reflection pond, each one covered in light blue, silver and white plaid dupioni silk; mirrored troughs filled with ice-sculpted poppies growing from beds of unruly fresh white peonies; and hundreds of candles."



**Lori Mills,**  
co-owner of  
**Madeline Veil & Co.**

"North Pond restaurant, with a fresh blanket of snow on the ground—the weather will seem like just another planned detail. For a cozy yet elegant reception, I'd mix accents like evergreen boughs, birch logs, white blooms, lanterns and berries sprayed with fantastic metallics. Add twinkling lights and *voilà!* Winter Wonderland cool."



Settle in for hair and makeup trails at The Wedding Salon on October 4.

## Bridal Party!

The bridal elite of Manhattan, Miami and L.A. hold their breath each fall for inspirational fête **The Wedding Salon**—five hours of taste-testing cakes, critiquing orchestras and finding the season's "it" flowers to pull together your dream day. This year, the plan-your-wedding extravaganza hits Chicago for the first time, kicking off October 4 at the Sofitel. But don't expect TWS to be anything like your typical wedding vendor meet-and-greet. "The Wedding Salon is designed like a mock wedding," says founder Tatiana Byron. Meaning: Guests enter through a staged ceremony boasting a bride and groom. There's a luxe ballroom where florists and event designers set up camp like it's the real deal. And believe us, Byron, the founder of New York-based event planning company 4pm Events and a 20-year vet in the biz, knows how to put on the ultimate bash, having worked with celebs from Diana Ross to P. Diddy. "No matter what part of the planning stages a bride is in, she'll find what's she's looking for from a vendor she can trust." *October 4. 4-9PM. \$50 for a bride and guest; \$15 if you mention CS Brides. [weddingsalon.com](http://weddingsalon.com). —Marissa Conrad*

...AISLE FILE CONTINUED Said, "Yes!" engagement package includes a manicure, tickets to The Chicago History Museum's I Do! Chicago Ties the Knot exhibition and more... Sax Chicago plans to re-paint and paper its Chicago Room that overlooks State Street... Palomar Chicago opened its 261 rooms (and Gallery Ballroom) in March at State and Illinois... Russell Menkes has been named general manager of The Drake Hotel... JW Marriott's \$396 million restoration of a Burnham building at 151 W. Adams St. opens in September. ► **AND THIS** Margo Lastick (Le Royale Icing) has joined forces with The Baking Institute to launch a new luxury line of cakes.