exposed | **tanya posavatz**

owner, clink weddings

One hardly thinks of Croatia as the training ground for wedding planners, but for Austin wedding expert Tanya Posavatz it was the perfect beginning! First-generation American Tanya (whose parents immigrated to the United States from Croatia) graduated from Georgetown University and went to work for the Embassy of the Republic of Croatia in Washington D.C.; she's been going strong ever since. Her worldly experience–she's lived in Prague, St. Petersburg (Russia, not Florida) and Athens, just to name a few–and willingness to experiment with new ideas put her in high demand. Tanya's planned events for diplomats and international corporations, but her favorite clients are hip Austin brides who want to throw the cookie cutter out of the window!

What do you do on Friday nights?
I will direct a couple's wedding rehearsal and often attend their rehearsal dinner (many brides end up considering me one of the family and insist that I attend the dinner). Afterwards, I may meet my friends out for a little salsa dancing, or go to OSLO or Red Fez.

What's the best compliment on your style?
"You're like Martha Stewart, but cool."

What's the most memorable insult?
"You're like Franck!" (from the remake of Father of the Bride). It wasn't meant as an insult. Most people say J-LO, from The Wedding Planner.

Who would you like to hear on the radio?
I'm Croatian so I enjoy the Croatian band Parni Valjakand Gazde; for American music - Sheryl Crow, Lenny Kravitz, The Black Crowes.

What three people would you like to have as dinner guests?
Oprah, Queen Noor, Mindy Weiss (wedding planner to the stars).

Who would you most like to trade jobs with?
This IS my dream job, so it's difficult to imagine something I'd enjoy more. I enjoyed working in Washington, so I could see going back to speechwriting or foreign policy work.

Where do you go for inspiration?
The Special Event Industry conference held every year. I come back teeming with ideas to help make weddings "different". Living and traveling all over Europe has inspired ideas as well. I'm fascinated by international wedding traditions and love to incorporate them into weddings in Texas.

What book should every person read?
Emily Post's Wedding Etiquette - just kidding! Kitchen Confidential by Anthony Bourdain. It's a hilarious, informative, and sometimes scary look behind the scenes of the restaurant business.

What are you looking forward to?
My OWN wedding, of course! People always ask me if I have my own wedding already planned. I don't, just the location (Dubrovnik). But I'll wait to find a groom in order to plan the specifics!