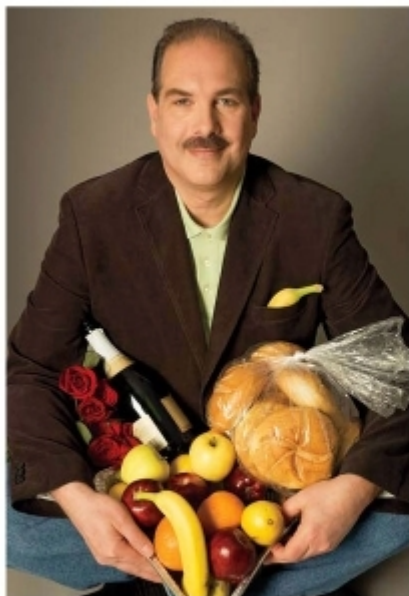




## THE TOP 25 TRENDSETTERS OF 2009

MEET THIS YEAR'S WEDDING MAESTROS: 25 TALENTED PROS WHO CRAFT CAKES, FLOWERS, FASHION AND MORE IN TO MASTERPIECES THAT HAVE TRANSFORMED THE WAY WE MARRY. LEARN HOW THEIR CREATIVE INNOVATIONS AND IDEAS CAN INSPIRE YOUR OWN CELEBRATION.

EDITED BY AMY GOLDWASSER



ROBERT KALT

ECO-HUMANITARIAN

Hurricane Katrina inspired Robert Kalt's new mission: repurposing leftovers from events. "I saw so many people that lost everything they own," says the former corporate event producer, who came up with the idea of putting post-party leftovers to good use and getting them to people in need. Where there's a will...there's a way. Since then, Kalt and his "rescue squads" have started showing up after events for clients including newly married couples, the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, Gap Inc., the Fragrance Foundation and more. For a nominal fee, they'll find philanthropic uses for what's left behind. That may mean transporting food to shelters, donating bridesmaid dresses to facilities where disadvantaged girls can pick out something pretty to wear to their senior prom, or delivering leftover flowers to hospitals and nursing homes. "We get calls from nursing home directors, crying that 'angels' have shown up with flowers. This kind of feedback is extremely gratifying and reinforces the importance of the service we're providing." Officially founded in 2008, "Special E" serves 30 major U.S. markets. "It sets the right tone at a wedding," says Kalt. "On a day that's as all-about-you as it gets, you're giving something back to help people in need. It's a great way to start off a marriage!" (www.thespeciale.com) —Liz Arnold

“FINDING PHILANTHROPIC USES FOR WHATEVER'S LEFT BEHIND.”