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Wedding Cakes  
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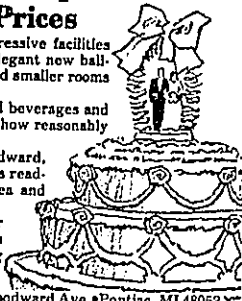
The Quality Inn offers superb in-house food and beverages and outstanding service. And you will be surprised at how reasonably priced everything is.

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**Quality Inn**

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## Choosing the cake

Continued from Page 2

also decorates the cakes.

"It (decorating the cakes) isn't difficult, but you have to practice until you get good at it," she said. "I usually put a coat of frosting on it and then refrost it to make it look smooth. That way there's no crumbs in the frosting."

Like many of the bakeries dealing in wedding cakes, Thomas sells the top ornaments for its creations. "Some people want to bring their own, and others use fresh flowers or silk flowers," McCourt said.

Cheese cake is a popular — and expensive — alternative to the traditional butter wedding cake, according to McCourt. "I've had quite a few orders," she said. "I have one for the second of June and it was for 275 people."

There are many different kinds of cheese cake, "but most people order plain cheese cake," McCourt said, adding that it cost \$1.50 a slice compared to about 90 cents a slice for the store's traditional cake.

"Cheese cake is very expensive, but it's good . . . and it's different," McCourt said.

PASTRY CHEF Michael Baugh of the Sheraton Oaks Hotel in Novi makes about two special-order wedding cakes a month.

"It's a very special day in someone's life and she should have the best," Baugh said. "Your basic pastries are inexpensive . . . but you're paying for the chef's time and all the care he's taken with it."

Continued Baugh, "What makes a

wedding cake special to me is that it's a cake you should have only once in your life. With that reasoning, you can put anything you want in it.

"You should make it extra, extra special. It should be better than any cake you've bought before."

AT THE GARDEN City Bake Shop, manager Nancy Watkins sells flower and tier wedding cakes. Flower cakes are six small cakes arranged to form a flower petal.

"We offer white, yellow, banana, chocolate, marble, cherry nut, banana nut and apple spice," Watkins said. "Cherry nut is one of the most popular. It's a white cake with cherries and nuts and we use a raspberry filling."

Garden City Bake Shop's specialties are a freshly-made icing flowers. The shop offers 30 varieties of cake toppings. Bride-and-groom figures, bells (both plastic and porcelain) and silk flowers are popular, Watkins said.

Watkins and her helpers attempt to color coordinate the cake icing with the bridesmaids' dresses.

"It (the cake) means a great deal to most of them," she said. "We try to match the colors so it's a continuation of the whole theme of the wedding."

Watch out, warns Watkins, if you plan on having a wedding cake with nut batter.

"You have to have a really sharp knife to cut a cake like that," she said. "But if the caterers know their business and know how to cut a cake like that, everything'll be fine."

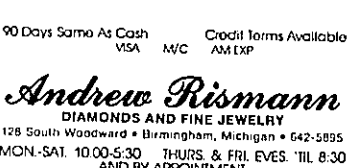
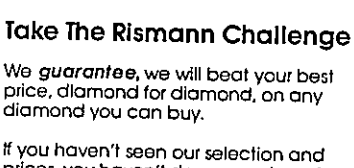
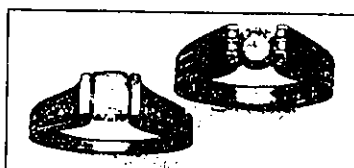
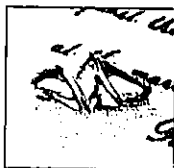
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