

WISHLIST

Consider great registry advice from one recently married couple.



"Véga" martini glasses by Baccarat, \$155/each; Elements

"Malmaison" 5-piece place setting by Christofle, \$380; Bloomingdale's



"Infinity" pitcher by Nambé, \$150; Bloomingdale's



"Bar" double old-fashioned glass by Moser, \$190; Elements



"Malmaison" gravy boat by Christofle, \$450; Bloomingdale's



Tracy & Christopher Esbrook



"Fidelio" 5-piece place setting in silver plate by Christofle, \$394; Bloomingdale's



"Bleus d'Ailleurs" coffee/tea pot by Hermès, \$595; Elements

REGISTRY TIPS FROM TRACY AND CHRISTOPHER

Take stock. "Be conscious of what you want, need, and can fit in your home."

Accidents happen. "Register for a few extra place settings and glasses to replace those that break."

Have fun. "If you're starting to feel any stress during the process, just leave the store and try it again another day."

Give thanks. "Take a picture of yourself using your gift and send it to the person who gave it to you."

After purchasing the first home they would share, Tracy Clifford and Christopher Esbrook saw their registry as an opportunity to outfit it for their life together. "We both played significant roles in our wedding registry that were similar to those we have in our relationship: Chris selected practical items for the home; I chose beautiful items for the home," shares Tracy. "I was very excited about the process because you get to pick out great things that you ordinarily may not buy yourself!" recalls Christopher. "It can be a lot of fun if you look at it with that attitude."

Preferring a hands-on, personal approach, the couple

registered as a team for everything on their wish list in-store. "I am a fashion stylist and do not like purchasing anything online," explains Tracy. "I like to see and touch everything I buy, from clothing to kitchenware." Since home-good retailers carry much of the same type of merchandise, Christopher found that the expertise and constructive advice of sales personnel was not only useful in determining the best items for their specific needs, but influential in deciding where to register. "For instance, the associate at Williams-Sonoma that helped Tracy and me was really knowledgeable about the products and offered insight that allowed us to make good decisions," the groom says.

Tunisian handpainted mosaic tagine, \$59.95; Williams-Sonoma



Juliska Pewter Collection stoneware mug, \$29; Bloomingdale's



Fig leaf kabob platter with skewers by Michael Aram, \$239; Bloomingdale's



Vitamix Professional Series 750 blender, \$649.95; Williams-Sonoma



Elements, one of Tracy's favorite stores, was an easy choice for a wish list. She let her imagination soar selecting finishing touches for their abode, as well as pieces to wine and dine guests at get-togethers. "They carry the most exquisite home décor ranging from picture frames to serving platters," the bride explains. In fact, the Hermès tea set they requested is now proudly on display on a bar cart alongside their kitchen. "We actually received it, which was a dream come true for me," marvels Tracy.

A culinary maven, Christopher's domain is clearly the kitchen and he enjoyed perusing the new gadgets and devices on the market. He found a number of specialty tools and appliances that appealed to him at Williams-Sonoma, including a trusty omelet spatula. Tracy also discovered something eye-catching on this venture. She was captivated by the copper hue of a KitchenAid mixer and decided it would be a striking accent piece for their kitchen. The couple topped off their selections at Crate and Barrel with additional kitchenware and items for entertaining.

For Tracy and Christopher, creating their wedding wish lists turned out to be a fun

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Bodum Assam tea press, \$39.95; Crate and Barrel



Copper salt & pepper mill, \$29.95 each; Crate and Barrel



Zwilling J.A. Henckels Pro 8-piece knife block set, \$399.95; Williams-Sonoma



KitchenAid "Professional 620" stand mixer, \$899.95; Williams-Sonoma



French Kitchen mortar and pestle, \$29.95; Crate and Barrel

activity. So much so, that these outings seemed more like dates for the couple. Even at moments when the novelty began to wane, focusing on aspects of the home that interested them the most kept everything on track. "It truly felt like we were building a home based on both of our tastes and personalities," says the bride of the registry experience.

For individuals beginning the process, Christopher recommends they explore their options. "Talk to a few different people in the store until you find someone that gives you the amount of information you are looking for," he advises. "The registry process can be intimidating, but couples shouldn't feel pressured into working with whoever happens to talk to them on a certain day."

After four bridal showers, "we were very blessed to have received every item on our registry," says Tracy. Although the couple did not register for honeymoon activities, some guests were thoughtful enough to contribute in that manner. Christopher concludes, "One of the nice things about a registry is that the items all have such sentimental value because of the special time in your life when you receive them and because of the people gifting them."