



*Dreaming About your
Wedding?*

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10 Little Things to Think About

Weddings are meant to be times to rejoice and take the next step to the start of a new life as a couple. Though this time can be wonderful, it has also led to stress and at some points even ruined a bride and grooms day. Although you may be thinking, “this will not happen to me,” the stress of a wedding happens even under the best of circumstances.

We have created this section to invite you to make things a little easier for yourself, by going through the valuable options for your perfect day. You may be thinking, “I just want to have a nice wedding, in a nice place, with all of my family,” but there are several factors that can impinge on that lovely day.

Some of the biggest factors affecting a wedding include –

1. **Budget** – A budget is a piece of information that combines what the bride, groom, and family are contributing to the wedding ceremony. This does not include your honeymoon and should never be followed by that honeymoon budget. This is the budget for location, catering, accommodations, and airline tickets that are to be paid for by the family. The catering is to include the cake and food items. Once you have your budget set, you can begin to list the items one by one.
2. **Location** - Most people dream about having their wedding in a big ballroom or on the beach on some tropical island, yet these are not your only options. *A location, like a budget, needs to meet your needs and should NEVER be TOO overwhelming for your particular budget.* If you are planning to have a wedding which can be upwards of 100 people, you should consider having the wedding central to all of your travelers. You don’t want to think about putting yourself in a position where people who want to attend, cannot attend, because of location. You will also need to be sure that the location matches your needs, in capacity as well as in parking for your guests. For instance, if it is at a small boutique hotel, you do not want guests to have to walk two miles to the wedding or reception.

3. **Accommodations** – When you decide on Budget and Location, be sure you take into consideration the accommodations for your guests. Will there be ample hotel rooms? Will there be affordable as well as luxury hotel rooms? Can we find villas near one another for our family to help with the cost? All of these questions need to be answered, so that you may choose the right budget, location, to make your accommodations work for your group.
4. **Guest Strategy** – Each time we come to some sort of agreement (man and wife to be) there is always that big question lingering, “how many guests should we invite and who?” Right about now you’re looking at one another and thinking the total opposite from one another. Your strategy should never be personal, that is one point I should make. When choosing who should come, think of these few items.
 1. How often do you see that person?
 2. How often do they stay in touch?
 3. Were you close growing up?
 4. Do you foresee a problem with location for this person?
 5. Does your significant other not like this person (you should never invite an ex girlfriend, ex boyfriend, someone who has had a crush, someone who has offended your significant other, or someone who has a disregard for your significant others feelings).

Don’t think too hard, you know who these people are. Weddings are about you and the other person. Send a message to those people who you know cannot make it due to location and those that you have not seen in a while or have not stayed in touch, tell them that you are thinking of them and would like to keep an invitation open to a private visit after you return from your honeymoon. This will make it so much easier for you, trust me. You did not offend someone, you sent a nice note saying that you wanted them to know you were thinking of them and that after your ceremony you would like to reach out for a private lunch or dinner. If they are offended, well then that has little to do with you, this is your day and other people’s feelings should be the last on this list to fret over.

5. **Catering** - Traditionally people have called several different caterers to see what works best for them, this is probably a good tactic if you are having a wedding where the location is separate from a caterer or referrals for caterers for the event. If you are looking for someone and the owner or agency can offer you a few good options, go with it. Why do you need to make your life harder than it has to be? Every caterer will also have a cake designer they use, so take that number down too. And even better, if you book a yacht, villa, or overseas luxury villa, you may find the caterer comes with the wedding package which will make your life SO much easier. All you’ll need to do is choose what you want to eat.
6. **Flower Arrangements** – This is part of the budget, as is catering and location, but this is also a matter of distinction. Flowers should always be on your mind when planning a wedding. Your location will most likely dictate what is in season and what is not in season. Generally speaking we tell the bride to stick with white or light colored flowers. Something in a Lilly or Soft colored rose. When you get into brightly colored flowers the accent pieces, the tux, the dress, may be off in photos. This is a big NO NO for your wedding since the flowers will always guide the caterers in what little extras to use. Remember also that less is more, too many arrangements will throw off the view and now is the season for using potted plants, such as Orchids, that can be taken home as a centerpiece by your guests.
7. **Your Dress** – Also part of your budget, this is something that some brides find takes the longest, not because it has to, but because it just does take a long time. As a bride, you may feel the need to diet, so that on your wedding day you will feel like a princess. That is great, we are all for diets. Just don’t start looking for a dress till you’ve reached your goals in weight. Why, you may ask. The Dress you liked at 180 pounds will not be the same dress you’ll like at 140 pounds or less. A dress has lines and fits a body like a fine glove. When you alter the dress over and over, you are taking away from the fabric, the design, and the integrity of the dress. Certain pieces of your perfect gown will be obsolete if the whole back portion needs to be tucked.

As you reach your desired goal, start browsing based on what you like, not what is “in.” People get into the habit of buying up all the magazines to find the right dress, but most of us will never find the right dress in a magazine. Dresses are not meant to be browsed through, they are meant to be touched and felt. And the mainstream dress may not be what suits you best. You should experiment with what you think makes you feel extraordinary. Don’t necessarily think that you have to shop new either. Some brides have found their favorite dress on the rack of a 2nd hand store or at a vintage boutique. These are amazing options because you can have a dress maker change little things here and there to suit your needs. And what better way to get a 5,000 dress than to shop ebay or one of these auction sites. Finally, the dress should make a statement about you, if white is not what you want to wear, than by all means, go for a soft color or an off white, never do what the rest of the world is doing.

8. **Your Tux** – For the groom, a tux should be fit by a professional. This is something that he must do in order to ensure that the Tux does not bunch or wrinkle easily. This will also ensure that the lines of the tux are symmetrical and that in photos the tux will appear well tailored. A gentleman’s tux should compliment his build. A man who tries to fit into a smaller tux than is specified may find he looks awkward in photos and appear larger than he really is. If the tux is tailored correctly every groom should look streamline with no obvious lumps or bumps. And finally, when combining the colors of your cummerbund and ties, you should never do anything too shimmery. A shimmery tie and cummerbund spells disaster these days. Try for a flat, soft color, matching that of the bride at some level. And when it comes to shoes and socks, black is the way to go.
9. **Brides Maids Dresses** – We all feel our bridesmaids should look great, but one problem brides always have is choosing a dress that would go with the feel of the wedding. Let’s make this simple for everyone. A dress for a Bride and a dress for a Bridesmaid are two totally different things. If you theme the wedding than you will need to think about making them wear spring time, fall, or winter dresses. The one thing you should remember is that not everyone wants to wear a strapless dress. This is always an issue with women and choosing their dresses.

A bridesmaid should be comfortable, so we do not recommend strapless. She should feel elegant, so no short dresses. A bridesmaid should feel cute and not SEXY, this we’ve seen too often and it makes for very awkward photos. A bridesmaid will not appreciate a dress that makes them appear fat, so stay streamline. Do straps for spring, shawl for fall, and sleeves for winter. A bridesmaid dress should also always be easy coordinate. You do not want a silk dress because then it means the men will need silk, try for a light weight fiber, something that is appealing and has a romantic appeal. Bridesmaids always look stunning in soft pinks, eggshells, or even light blues. Stay away from purple, this combo for a guy is not always the best and if you go with darker shades, it will throw off the photos and take away from the whole look. And last but not least, a bridesmaid does not want “another” dress she will not use ever again. So, by all means, shop designer store not wedding store. You can find some amazing dresses at Bloomingdales, Macys, and even JC Penny in their Gown Section.

10. **Hiring a wedding planner** – Everyone knows that hiring a wedding planner takes some “get to know you,” kind of time. Wedding planners are not necessary but they can ease some of your tensions. Although you may find that you have one additional person to argue with, she/he can help find the location, pick out colors, and do seating charts. It may save you time that you don’t have. Let us know and we can help with that.

We will be here for any questions you may have regarding any of the locations and venues that you may see that you like. We can also help with your honeymoon planning through our extensive list of villas or through our affiliates that can help with air, land, and sea travel.