



COUNTRY CLUB *Receptions*

Wedding

PLANNING GUIDE





So much goes into planning a wedding that sometimes it's hard to know where to begin. Many brides start with the dress and go from there. Others have been dreaming about their wedding since childhood and need only a few months to organize and confirm everything they've been mentally planning for years. Whatever the case may be, a wedding is a very special event in a couple's life, so below we have gathered some important planning tips to help you put all the pieces of the puzzle together and create a memorable and beautiful wedding.

Where to Start



1. How Much is This Going to Cost?

BUDGET

As a couple, determining the appropriate and affordable finances is key. Money is a tough subject so getting ahead of it will help you avoid potential issues further down the line. All of your first steps will help answer your budget questions. Size of guest list, location, even day or time of day and the style / wardrobe.

2. You Invited Who?

CONSIDER THE SIZE

The first task to accomplish when planning a wedding is determining the size of the wedding party and guest list. Once the wedding party is formed, attention should be turned toward potential attendees. Maintaining a list of possible guests helps both the bride and the groom determine how much room is needed to host both the ceremony and the reception. Often, parents and grandparents want to include people on the guest list as well, which means the wedding ends up being larger than originally planned. However, the couple who creates their guest list before booking the little white church that only seats 100 people will be happy they took the time to consider the size of the wedding prior to making any reservations.

3. Where Are We Getting Married?

CHOOSE THE LOCATION

Once a couple has determined the number of guests they plan on inviting, as well as the size of the wedding party, it's time to select the location. Consider key factors when choosing where your wedding will take place:

- a. Will the ceremony and the reception be held in the same place?
- b. What type of venue is desired? Outdoors or indoors?
- c. What date or time of day do you prefer?
- d. Does the reception venue provide cuisine services?
- e. Does the venue include decorations? What do they provide?

The good news is that venue options are available to accommodate just about any couples' dream wedding. With manicured lawns providing a beautiful backdrop for outdoor weddings, and beautiful facilities that also support indoor ceremonies, a golf course is an excellent choice for hosting your perfect day.

4. What Are We Going to Wear?

CHOOSE THE ATTIRE

No one knows like a bride-to-be how important it is to find the right attire for her wedding—especially the wedding dress itself. By far the most exciting part of wedding planning for any bride is the search for the perfect dress. This should begin after the couple has decided on the type of wedding they plan to have. Details such as size, venue, and potential themes are all key factors that help determine the style of dress best suited for the occasion. And because finding that perfect gown can take a while, it's a good idea to start early to allow for any possible modifications, since alterations can take at least a month to complete.

Once a bride has chosen her dress, she's then ready to select attire for the rest of the wedding party. Many brides choose to complement their wedding gown by selecting bridesmaid dresses in the same color, or in a similar style. Others prefer to have their dress stand out from their bridesmaids', and so they pick something completely different. After the dresses have been chosen, the men's attire can then be selected—with care taken to ensure the style complements both the bride's and bridesmaids' dresses.

5. It's All in the Details

Now that the major decisions have been determined, it's a good idea to brainstorm about what is important and what is needed to plan the big day—early planning saves stress as the wedding day draws near. And remember: when it comes to planning a wedding, details are everything! A few planning details to consider:

- **What do you want to eat? The Food.** What type of cuisine do you want to have?
- **To Theme or Not to Theme?** Do you have a specific theme you want that you can incorporate in your details? Certain color choices that you prefer?
- **Stop and smell the Flowers.** How do they fit and accentuate your theme or color choices?
- **I Do! The Officiant.** Do you want a casual or formal ceremony?
- **Dance the Night Away? The Music.** What type of music do you want? Is a deejay or a band the better choice?

Couples who take time to plan for their big day will enjoy a more relaxed wedding celebration, and find themselves worrying less about small issues that might arise as the day goes on.

When it comes to planning, every couple is surrounded by well-meaning friends and family members who want to offer advice. But the most important thing to remember is that the wedding is a celebration of the love the couple has for one another—it should be a reflection of who they are and an expression of their future together.

Wedding Planning Checklist



In order to plan the perfect wedding celebration, it's advisable to use a series of checklists to ensure no detail, big or small, is overlooked. On average, couples within the United States are engaged for approximately 12-16 months; however, when using our checklists, you can make any necessary adjustments to fit your own personal timeframe.

9 to 12 Months Prior

GET INSPIRATION!

Organize a wedding binder or folder. Start by searching through bridal, fashion, gardening, and food magazines.

MONEY \$\$ - PLAN YOUR BUDGET.

Determine exactly how much you wish to spend based upon your own finances, and that of your family and friends.

SIDE BY SIDE - DECIDE WHO WILL BE PART OF YOUR WEDDING PARTY.

As soon as you become engaged, notify your best mates to make them part of your special day. This includes any little ones, like a ring bearer or flower girl, too.

THE RIGHT VENDORS ARE KEY.

Start researching and booking them in advance (ensuring you get who you want):

- VENUE | DATE AND LOCATION

- Decide whether you'd like to have the ceremony and reception in separate locations, or at the same venue.
- Hungry? Discuss food, menu and drink options with your venue. Schedule a tasting of your favorite items.

- PHOTOGRAPHER / VIDEOGRAPHER

While it's unnecessary to discuss specific arrangements this early in the planning process, it's a good idea to ensure the person you hire is willing to take the types of shots you want.

- DJ/MUSIC/ENTERTAINMENT

- Visit a few gigs performed by the groups you're considering, then choose your favorite.
- Photo booth fun anyone? Consider adding interactive entertainment for your guests. This could include games & interactive specialty food / drink stations.

- FLORIST

Go see samples, determine what flowers you like, what are in season and in your budget. Book your florist.

- OFFICIANT

What type of service do you want? Casual, formal, entertaining?

- CAKE / DESSERTS

YUM! Who doesn't like cake tasting? Start tasting and discussing what look you desire and flavors you and your partner desire.

COUNT ME IN! SAVE THE DATE

Start composing the guest list. Throughout your planning process, it's imperative to maintain a projected head count. Formulating a spreadsheet for this purpose is highly recommended. Take into consideration if you want children involved or who is responsible for making arrangements for kids to be entertained. Once the list is settled upon, send out save the date cards. Everyone's schedule is tight these days, so get your important date on their radar.

PLAN ON HELP.

If desired, hire a wedding planner. Wedding planners typically maintain a working relationship with local vendors and also possess insight into their particular area of expertise.

ANYONE UP FOR AN ENGAGEMENT PARTY?

Just remember that anyone invited will need to be included on your wedding list as well.

ATTIRE SHOPPING!

Purchase your wedding outfit. Allow time for three separate fittings. The veil can be purchased at a later date.

SLEEP WELL MY FRIENDS

Reserve multiple hotel rooms for any guests coming in from out of town. Choose a few different hotels that offer a range of pricing plans and are also located close to the venue.

GET THE GIFTS YOU WANT!

Visit at least three separate retailers and fill out a gift registry.

EVERYONE LOVES A WEDDING, KEEP THEM INFORMED!

Build a website for your wedding. Launch a personal page that provides details about your wedding - even about how your planning is going!

6 to 8 Months Prior

FINALIZE VENDORS.

Ensure all your vendors are booked and you are on track. Schedule any follow up meetings to iron out the details and expectations. This includes any entertainment or customized dessert stations.

WHAT'S ON THE MENU?

Finalize your menu, appetizers, main buffet or plated dinner, signature cocktails.

DRESS UP?

Final décor or expectations of venue. Does the venue need additional décor or themed items brought in? Finalize your choices with an event/décor company.

WHEN DO WE WALK DOWN THE AISLE?

Compile a timeline for the wedding day. Your venue or coordinator will help you with this task. Make sure you include any extras or customs into the details to ensure there is plenty of time to accomplish all that you want.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED.

Purchase and design your invitations, thank you cards, rehearsal dinner invites, menu cards, escort cards etc. Make sure you spell check and double, triple check the date, location and time.

RELAXATION PLEASE!

Decide on honeymoon plans. Book your travel.

WHAT TO WEAR?

Time for your bridal attire. Determine the look, style and options for your bridal party. Make a day of it, go shopping now, some items may need to be ordered or altered.

LIMO OR NOT TO LIMO?

Arrange your wedding-day transportation. There are plenty of choices from casual, luxury car, to limo, to horse and carriage.

3 to 5 Months Prior

PRACTICE RUN.

- Reserve the location for your rehearsal dinner.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED.

- Send out your invitations.

LET'S EAT CAKE!

- Complete your decision on the cake and order it. Ensure the bakery has the correct delivery time and location.

WHO DOESN'T WANT TO BE FIT?

- Begin wedding day attire fittings, and purchase your shoes.

LAST LOOKS!

- Schedule appointments and arrangements with your makeup artist and hairstylist for the day of.

AND THE WINNER IS?

- Finalize the choice of flowers, music choices / songs.

FAVOR POR PA VOUR.

- Order any desired party favors or extras for your guests.

CHEERS TO YOU!

- Determine who is going to give a toast at your reception and ask them.

READ THIS, PLEASE

- Finalize all readings for the ceremony and who is going to deliver them.

WHAT AN UNDERSTATEMENT!

- Purchase your undergarments.

TRADITIONS OR SPECIAL ADDITIONS.

- Make the final decisions on the ceremony and reception.

PROGRAMMABLE.

- Print any wedding programs, menu cards, and escort cards.

WITH THIS RING I THEE WED.

- Purchase wedding rings.

TIME LINE INSURANCE.

- Provide vendors with a schedule of events.

1 to 2 Months Prior

DRY RUN RECOMMENDED.

- Finalize your hairstyle and makeup choices. Test out which look you want the day of.

CHECKUP.

- Reconnect with vendors, make sure everything is on track. Any last minute details need to be ironed out. Review timelines and payments too.

PUBLICALLY DECLARE YOUR LOVE. NOW ANNOUNCING!

- Submit a newspaper announcement.

DID I HEAR YOU SAY PARTY?

- Have fun at your bachelor or bachelorette party!

MAKING IT OFFICIAL.

- Apply for the marriage license.
- Mail invitations for the rehearsal dinner.

YOU LOOK MARVELOUS.

- Make your final fitting for your wedding attire.

MONEY, MONEY, MONEY.

- Make as many final payments as you can so you are not rushing around on your actual wedding day.

YES! WE WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE.

- Enter RSVPs into your spreadsheet and take down food choices if applicable. Follow-up with the non-responses.

MUSICAL CHAIRS.

- Assign seating arrangements for your guests. Make sure you know how many people fit at each table.

FOR ALL THEY DO!

- Purchase bridesmaids' gifts.

I TAKE YOU, YOU TAKE ME.

- Compose your vows or choose traditional ones as needed.

Week of the Big Day

PUT YOUR MIND AT EASE.

- Reconfirm your vendors' arrival times and that they are on track.

CAN YOU SAY BRIDAL PARTY?

- Delegate a few select tasks for the wedding day.
- Make sure your bridal party is aware of the day's timeline.

HEAD COUNTS.

- Provide your venue the final head counts and food choices if applicable. Be sure the venue has received your final seating arrangement as well.

ATTIRE OF THE DAY!

- Pick up your outfit and make sure you have all the accessories and everything is ready to go.

PUT A RING ON IT.

- Get a manicure & pedicure. Your hand needs to look great with that new ring on it.

SLEEP TIGHT!

- Get a good night's sleep

The Day Of

CHECKS & TIPS!

- Put aside checks and gratuity for all remaining vendor payments.

DON'T FORGET THE SMALL STUFF.

- Have a bridal emergency kit with thread & needle, safety pins, clear nail polish and Band-Aids.
- Rings
- Ring bearer pillow
- Flower girl basket, signs etc.
- Pen for signing marriage certificate
- Marriage certificate
- Traditions (unity candle, sand bottle etc.)

DON'T SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF.

- If any detail is missed, don't fret. Everyone is rooting for you and willing to help. Just ask.

TAKE IN A DEEP BREATH.

- This is you and your partner's time to stop and relax. Take a moment to enjoy it. Sneak off and enjoy a few minutes together, just the two of you, to celebrate your long lasting love.

Day After / Upon Your Return

REVIEW US!

Write a review on your venue and vendors to let others know how great they were!

A BIG THANK YOU.

Thank your wedding party for all they did and reminisce about the amazing day it was.

GIFT IT.

Open your wedding gifts, create a gift log and send out thank you cards

FREEZE IT!

Freeze the top layer of the cake, open a year later and celebrate.

PRESERVE.

Make your bouquet a momento by dry preserving it.

PHOTOS OF ENJOYMENT.

Follow up with your photographer / videographer and get those proofs and prints.



Congratulations!



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