

THE ENGAGED EDIT

A CONSIDERED GUIDE FOR COUPLES
PLANNING THEIR OWN WEDDING

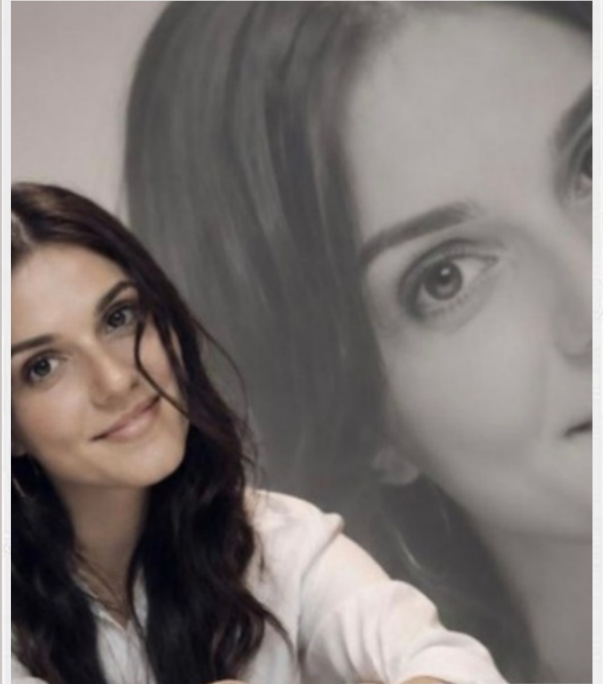
BY

Isadora

ISADORA MARQUES
WEDDINGS



Welcome



Congratulations on your engagement! My name is Davina isadora and I created the engaged edit for couples who have decided they don't need a planner and want to embark on this planning journey together.

Planning your own wedding can be one of the most rewarding things you ever do. It can also be surprisingly complex.

There are venues to compare, suppliers to brief, contracts to understand, guests to consider, payments to track, timings to build and hundreds of small decisions that eventually have to work together as one seamless day.

The beautiful photographs are only one part of a successful wedding. A truly memorable wedding is one that looks beautiful, feels effortless and works beautifully for the people experiencing it.

That is what this guide is designed to help you achieve, you do not need to become a wedding planner, you simply need to understand how to think like one.

Throughout this guide, you will find practical advice, questions worth asking, decisions worth making early and the details that are surprisingly easy to overlook.

Some are things couples rarely think about until the wedding is almost upon them. Consider this your head start.

Begin with the wedding not the checklist

Before choosing a venue, booking a photographer or creating a Pinterest board, ask yourselves:

What do we want our wedding to feel like?
Not look like, but feel like.

Perhaps:

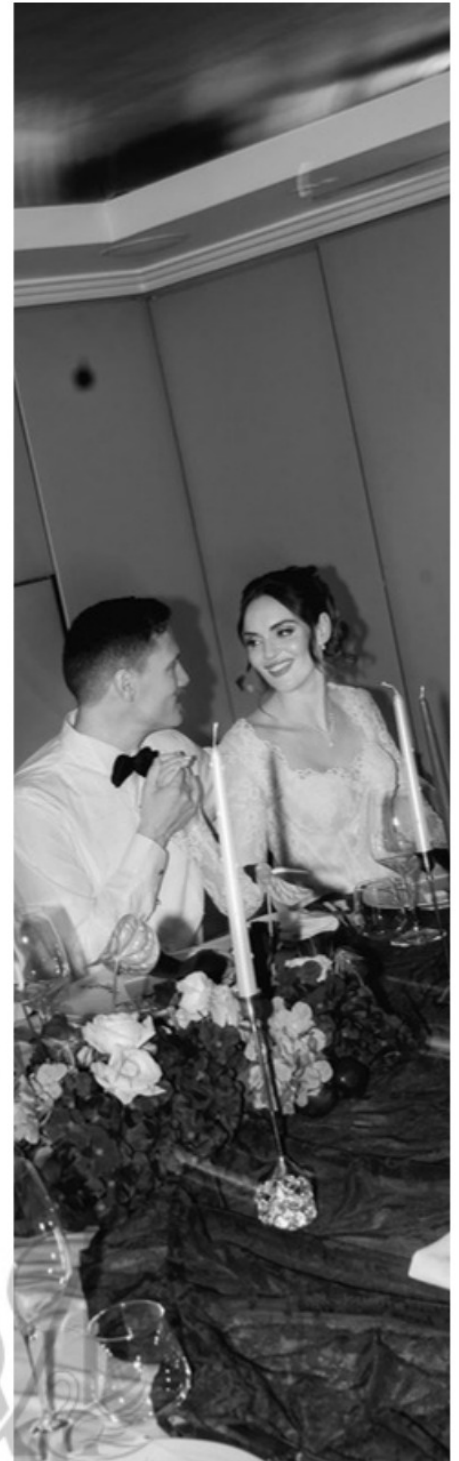
- intimate
- celebratory
- romantic
- relaxed
- theatrical
- elegant
- joyful
- convivial
- understated
- adventurous
- deeply personal

Choose five words

These become your decision-making filter

When faced with two beautiful options, ask:
Which one feels more like us?

This sounds simple, but it will save you an enormous amount of time.



A planner's perspective

Pinterest is excellent for discovering possibilities.

It is less useful for making decisions.

Save everything initially, then edit ruthlessly.

A wedding becomes cohesive not because every element is beautiful, but because the elements belong together.

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THE 5 WORD TEST

OUR WEDDING SHOULD FEEL:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



DECIDE WHAT MATTERS MOST

A CONSIDERED GUIDE FOR COUPLES
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*"You cannot make everything the
priority & you shouldn't try"*

Sit down together and separately choose your top five
priorities

For example:

Person A

1. Food
2. Photography
3. Music
4. Flowers
5. Guest experience

Person B

1. Venue
2. Photography
3. Atmosphere
4. Food
5. Dancing

Now compare notes:

Your overlapping priorities are where your budget and
attention should go.

THE PRIORITY TEST

For every significant decision, ask:

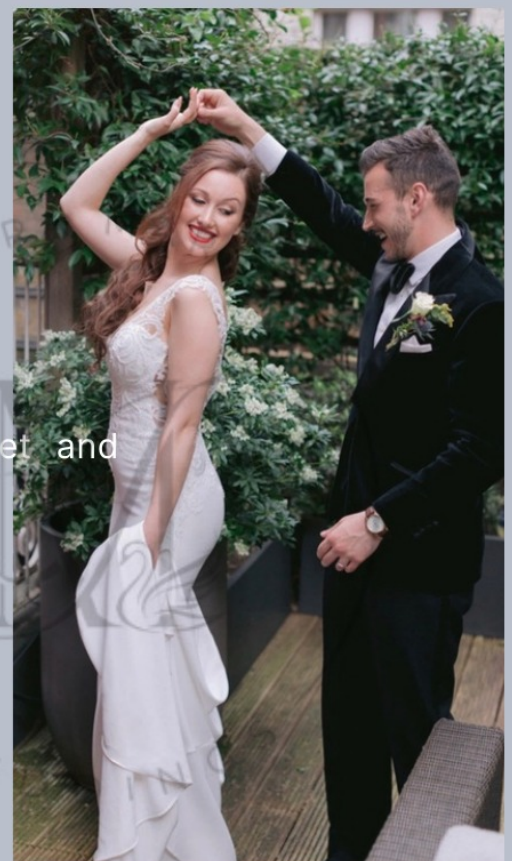
Will our guests notice this?

Will we notice this?

Does this materially improve the experience?

Does this support the atmosphere we want?

If the answer is no to all four, reconsider the spend.



BUILD THE BUDGET



Your wedding budget isn't simply a number. It is a series of decisions.

Start by establishing:

Total amount available: £_____

Amount already saved: £_____

Expected future contributions: £_____

Contingency: £_____

Always keep a contingency

Unexpected costs are not necessarily mistakes.

They are part of planning an event.

Set aside an amount that you deliberately do not allocate to suppliers.

This protects you when prices change, plans evolve or you realise that something important has been overlooked.

WEDDING BUDGET CATEGORIES

VENUE

VENUE HIRE
CEREMONY FEE
ACCOMMODATION
CORKAGE
MINIMUM SPEND
SECURITY
CLEANING
OVERTIME
FURNITURE
STAFFING

FOOD & DRINK

WEDDING BREAKFAST
CANAPÉS
DRINKS RECEPTION
WINE
CHAMPAGNE
EVENING FOOD
CHILDREN'S MEALS
SUPPLIER MEALS
CORKAGE
LATE-NIGHT REFRESHMENTS

PHOTOGRAPHY & FILM

PHOTOGRAPHY
SECOND PHOTOGRAPHER
VIDEOGRAPHY
DRONE COVERAGE WHERE PERMITTED
ALBUMS
ADDITIONAL HOURS
TRAVEL

*Your budget may
include:*



WEDDING BUDGET CATEGORIES

DESIGN & FLOWERS

CEREMONY FLOWERS
BRIDAL BOUQUET
BUTTONHOLES
TABLE FLOWERS
INSTALLATION
CANDLES
LINEN
CROCKERY
GLASSWARE
FURNITURE
SIGNAGE
STYLING LABOUR
COLLECTION/RETURN FEES

STATIONERY

SAVE THE DATES
INVITATIONS
ENVELOPES
POSTAGE
MENUS
PLACE CARDS
TABLE PLAN
WELCOME SIGNAGE
STATIONERY ON THE DAY

ATTIRE

DRESS
ALTERATIONS
VEIL
SHOES
JEWELLERY
ACCESSORIES
GROOM'S ATTIRE
BRIDESMAIDS
STEAMING/PRESSING

Your budget may

include:



WEDDING BUDGET CATEGORIES

BEAUTY

HAIR
MAKEUP
TRIALS
TOUCH-UPS
ADDITIONAL PEOPLE
TRAVEL

ENTERTAINMENT

CEREMONY MUSICIANS
DRINKS RECEPTION
DJ/BAND
EVENING ENTERTAINMENT
SOUND EQUIPMENT
LIGHTING
MICROPHONES

CAKE

CAKE
DELIVERY
SETUP
STAND
CUTTING FEE

TRANSPORT

COUPLE
GUESTS
WEDDING PARTY
LATE-NIGHT TRANSPORT
PARKING

ADMINISTRATION

MARRIAGE/CIVIL CEREMONY COSTS
LICENCES WHERE APPLICABLE
INSURANCE
POSTAGE
ACCOMMODATION
TRAVEL

Your budget may

include:



COSTS COUPLES FORGET

Before you assume you have finished the budget, check:

- ☐ SUPPLIER MEALS
- ☐ DELIVERY CHARGES
- ☐ SETUP AND BREAKDOWN
- ☐ VAT
- ☐ TRAVEL
- ☐ ACCOMMODATION
- ☐ OVERTIME
- ☐ ALTERATIONS
- ☐ POSTAGE
- ☐ CORKAGE
- ☐ CAKE CUTTING FEES
- ☐ CLEANING FEES
- ☐ SECURITY
- ☐ FURNITURE HIRE
- ☐ LINEN
- ☐ CANDLES
- ☐ LIGHTING
- ☐ GENERATOR/POWER REQUIREMENTS
- ☐ TAXI/GUEST TRANSPORT
- ☐ WEATHER CONTINGENCY
- ☐ LAST-MINUTE STATIONERY
- ☐ TIPS/GRATUITIES WHERE APPROPRIATE
- ☐ DAMAGE DEPOSITS

Planner's rule:

Never ask only:

"How much does it cost?"

Ask:

"What is included, what is not included, and what additional costs should we realistically allow for?"

That question alone can save you from unpleasant surprises later.

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CHOOSING THE VENUE

Don't just fall in love with the photographs

A venue can be spectacular in photographs and completely wrong
for your wedding

When viewing a venue, don't just look at the room
Walk through the wedding day in your head



WALK THROUGH THE WEDDING DAY IN YOUR HEAD

WHERE DO GUESTS ARRIVE?

WHERE DO THEY WAIT?

WHERE DO THEY GO AFTER THE CEREMONY?

WHERE ARE DRINKS SERVED?

WHERE DO ELDERLY GUESTS SIT?

WHERE DO SUPPLIERS UNLOAD?

WHERE DOES THE BRIDE GET READY?

WHERE DOES THE GROOM GET READY?

WHERE DOES THE CAKE GO?

WHERE DOES THE BAND SET UP?

WHERE DOES THE DJ GO?

WHERE DO THE FLOWERS ARRIVE?

WHERE ARE SPEECHES HELD?

WHERE DO GUESTS DANCE?

WHERE DOES EVERYONE GO IF IT RAINS?

WEDDING

Questions for the venue

PRACTICAL

- ☐ WHAT IS THE MAXIMUM CAPACITY?
 - ☐ WHAT IS THE COMFORTABLE CAPACITY?
 - ☐ WHAT IS THE MINIMUM GUEST NUMBER?
 - ☐ IS THE VENUE EXCLUSIVE USE?
- ☐ WHAT TIME CAN SUPPLIERS ACCESS THE VENUE?
 - ☐ WHAT TIME MUST SUPPLIERS LEAVE?
 - ☐ WHEN CAN WE START SETUP?
 - ☐ WHO HANDLES FURNITURE?
 - ☐ WHO HANDLES CLEANING?
- ☐ IS THERE A PREFERRED SUPPLIER LIST?
 - ☐ ARE OUTSIDE SUPPLIERS PERMITTED?
 - ☐ ARE THERE RESTRICTIONS ON CANDLES?
 - ☐ ARE THERE RESTRICTIONS ON CONFETTI?
 - ☐ ARE THERE NOISE RESTRICTIONS?
 - ☐ WHAT TIME MUST MUSIC FINISH?
- ☐ IS THERE A LICENCE FOR ALCOHOL?
 - ☐ IS THERE A CORKAGE CHARGE?
 - ☐ IS THERE A MINIMUM SPEND?
 - ☐ WHAT HAPPENS IF WE EXCEED IT?



Questions for the venue

GUEST EXPERIENCE

- ☐ WHERE DO GUESTS ARRIVE?
- ☐ IS THERE ACCESSIBLE ACCESS?
 - ☐ WHERE CAN GUESTS PARK?
- ☐ IS THERE ACCOMMODATION?
- ☐ WHERE DO GUESTS WAIT BETWEEN EVENTS?
- ☐ IS THERE A WET-WEATHER OPTION?
 - ☐ ARE TOILETS CONVENIENT?
 - ☐ IS THERE HEATING/AIR CONDITIONING?
- ☐ IS THERE SOMEWHERE QUIET FOR GUESTS WHO NEED IT?

SUPPLIER LOGISTICS

- ☐ WHERE DO SUPPLIERS LOAD AND UNLOAD?
 - ☐ IS THERE A GOODS LIFT?
- ☐ WHERE CAN FLORISTS WORK?
- ☐ WHERE CAN THE CAKE BE STORED?
 - ☐ IS THERE REFRIGERATION?
 - ☐ IS THERE A PREP KITCHEN?
- ☐ IS THERE SOMEWHERE FOR SUPPLIER BELONGINGS?
- ☐ ARE SUPPLIER MEALS PROVIDED?
 - ☐ IS THERE WI-FI?
- ☐ IS THERE ADEQUATE POWER?

These aren't glamorous questions.
They are exactly the questions that make a
wedding run well.





BEFORE PAYING A DEPOSIT, READ THE CONTRACT CAREFULLY

LOOK FOR:

- PAYMENT SCHEDULE
- CANCELLATION TERMS
- POSTPONEMENT TERMS
- MINIMUM NUMBERS
- FINAL GUEST NUMBER DEADLINE
- OVERTIME
- DAMAGE DEPOSITS
- SUPPLIER RESTRICTIONS
- CATERING RESTRICTIONS
- ALCOHOL RULES
- CORKAGE
- INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS
- ACCESS TIMES
- NOISE RESTRICTIONS
- FORCE MAJEURE
- WEATHER ARRANGEMENTS
- WHAT HAPPENS IF THE VENUE BECOMES UNAVAILABLE

The venue contract

If something isn't clear:

Ask.

Never rely on a verbal promise for something important.

If an agreement matters to you, have it reflected in writing.

Building your supplier team

Choose your suppliers for more than
their instagram



A beautiful Instagram feed tells you something.
It does not tell you everything.

When comparing suppliers, consider:

STYLE

DOES THEIR WORK GENUINELY ALIGN WITH
YOURS?

EXPERIENCE

HAVE THEY WORKED AT THE SCALE AND TYPE OF
WEDDING YOU'RE PLANNING?

COMMUNICATION

DO THEY ANSWER CLEARLY AND
PROFESSIONALLY?

RELIABILITY

DO THEY HAVE SYSTEMS?

CONTRACT

ARE THE TERMS CLEAR?

VALUE

WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU RECEIVING?

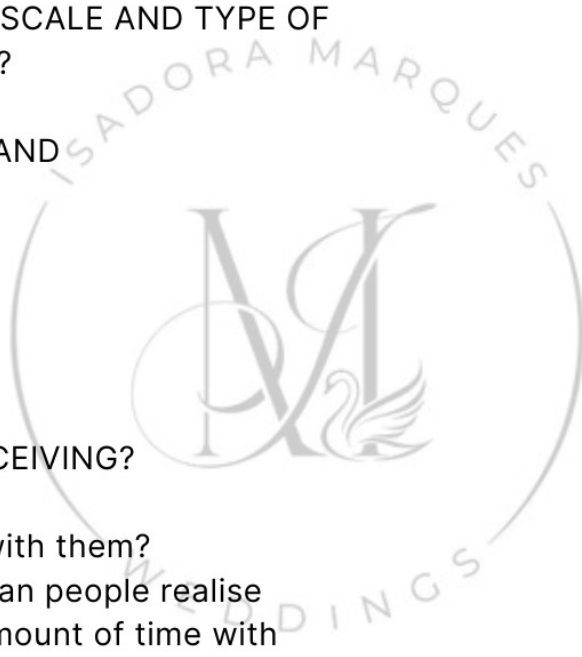
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Do you actually like working with them?

The final one matters more than people realise

You will spend a significant amount of time with
your key suppliers.

Choose people you trust.



SUPPLIER INTERVIEW

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Ask:

What would you recommend for our wedding?

A good supplier should not simply say:

"Whatever you want."

They should be able to use their expertise to advise you.

Also ask:

What do couples usually overlook when booking this service?

That question can produce some of the most useful information you receive.

BEFORE BOOKING, CONFIRM:

- ☐ EXACT SERVICES
- ☐ DATE
- ☐ HOURS
- ☐ NUMBER OF PEOPLE INCLUDED
- ☐ DELIVERABLES
- ☐ SETUP
- ☐ BREAKDOWN
- ☐ TRAVEL
- ☐ ACCOMMODATION
- ☐ VAT
- ☐ PAYMENT SCHEDULE
- ☐ CANCELLATION
- ☐ POSTPONEMENT
- ☐ SUBSTITUTION
- ☐ OVERTIME
- ☐ COPYRIGHT/USE OF IMAGES
- ☐ LIABILITY
- ☐ FORCE MAJEURE

Don't be embarrassed to ask for clarification.

You aren't being difficult

You are planning an event involving significant money and multiple businesses.





Your wedding doesn't need a theme, it needs a point of view.

Instead of asking:

"What colour scheme should we have?"

Start with:

"What should the room feel like?"

Then consider:

- COLOUR
- TEXTURE
- FLOWERS
- CANDLELIGHT
- STATIONERY
- FURNITURE
- LINEN
- GLASSWARE
- CROCKERY
- MENUS
- TYPOGRAPHY
- LIGHTING
- MUSIC

Designing the wedding

The objective isn't to make every element match.

It is to make every element belong.



Table scape thinking

A beautiful table isn't simply flowers in the middle

Consider the entire composition

ABOVE THE TABLE

- CHANDELIERS
- HANGING FLOWERS
- LIGHTING
- ROOM ARCHITECTURE

AT EYE LEVEL

- FLOWERS
- CANDLES
- GLASSWARE
- MENUS

ON THE TABLE

- LINEN
- CROCKERY
- CUTLERY
- GLASSWARE
- STATIONERY
- FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS
-

AROUND THE TABLE

- CHAIRS
- FLOORING
- SURROUNDING FURNITURE
- ROOM LIGHTING

Your table exists inside a room.
Design the room, not just the table.

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GUEST EXPERIENCE

Your guests don't experience your wedding as a spreadsheet, they experience a sequence.

**ARRIVAL → WELCOME → CEREMONY → DRINKS → DINNER → SPEECHES
→ DANCING → DEPARTURE**

AT EACH STAGE ASK:

WHAT DO THEY KNOW?

WHERE DO THEY GO?

WHAT DO THEY NEED?

WHAT MIGHT CONFUSE THEM?

WHAT MIGHT MAKE THEM UNCOMFORTABLE?

WHAT COULD MAKE THE EXPERIENCE MEMORABLE?

THIS IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SIMPLY ORGANISING A WEDDING
AND HOSTING ONE.



THE DETAILS GUESTS REMEMBER

**GUESTS MAY NOT REMEMBER THE EXACT SHADE OF YOUR
NAPKINS**

THEY WILL REMEMBER:

HOW THEY WERE WELCOMED

WHETHER THEY KNEW WHERE TO GO

WHETHER THEY WERE COMFORTABLE

WHETHER THEY WERE WELL FED

WHETHER THE ATMOSPHERE FELT WARM

WHETHER THEY COULD HEAR THE SPEECHES

WHETHER THE MUSIC MADE THEM WANT TO DANCE

WHETHER THE EVENING FLOWED

WHETHER THEY FELT CONSIDERED

**Beautiful design is wonderful, Hospitality is what makes it
memorable**

Begin with the wedding, not the checklist

A WEDDING TIMELINE SHOULD INCLUDE FAR MORE THAN:

12:00 CEREMONY
14:00 DINNER
19:00 FIRST DANCE

YOUR WORKING TIMELINE SHOULD ACCOUNT FOR:

- SUPPLIER ARRIVAL
- DELIVERIES
- SETUP
- HAIR
- MAKEUP
- DRESSING
- PHOTOGRAPHY
- FIRST LOOK
- CEREMONY
- DRINKS
- PHOTOGRAPHS
- ROOM TURNAROUND
- GUEST SEATING
- SPEECHES
- DINNER SERVICE
- CAKE CUTTING
- FIRST DANCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- EVENING FOOD
- FINAL MUSIC
- BREAKDOWN
- COLLECTION

The golden rule

If it matters, put it in the timeline.
and include the person responsible.



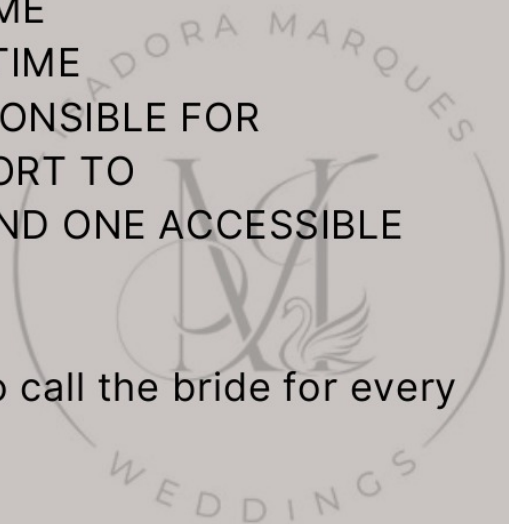
BUILD A CONTACT SHEET



Create one master document containing:

SUPPLIER
CONTACT NAME
TELEPHONE
EMAIL
ARRIVAL TIME
DEPARTURE TIME
WHAT THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR
WHO THEY REPORT TO
KEEP ONE COPY DIGITALLY AND ONE ACCESSIBLE
OFFLINE

Your suppliers should not need to call the bride for every
question





Appoint a wedding day decision maker

This is one of the most important pieces of advice in this guide.

Do not make yourselves the operational contact on your wedding day

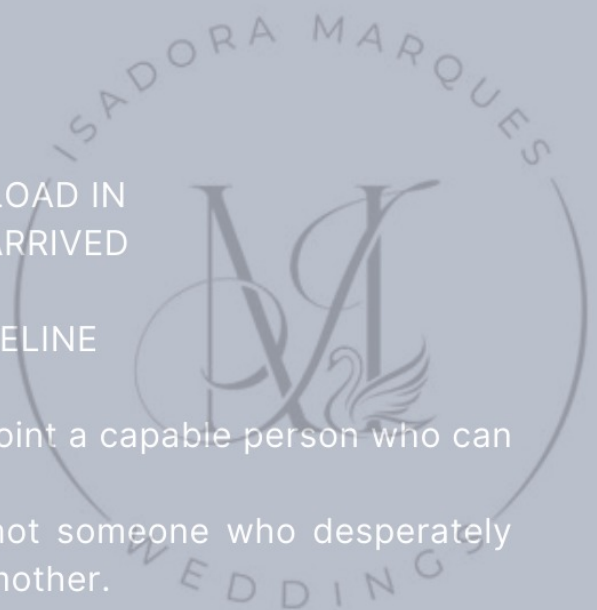
YOU SHOULD NOT BE:

- ANSWERING SUPPLIER CALLS
- CHECKING DELIVERIES
- FINDING MISSING BUTTONHOLES
- CHASING THE CAKE
- EXPLAINING WHERE THE BAND SHOULD LOAD IN
- CHECKING WHETHER THE FLORIST HAS ARRIVED
- SOLVING SEATING ISSUES
- ANSWERING QUESTIONS ABOUT THE TIMELINE

If you don't hire a planner or coordinator, appoint a capable person who can genuinely take responsibility.

Not someone who is also giving a speech, not someone who desperately wants to enjoy the wedding, not the grooms mother.

Choose someone who can calmly make decisions and communicate with suppliers. At least for the important bits.



6 WEEKS BEFORE

- ☐ CONFIRM FINAL DESIGN
- ☐ CONFIRM SUPPLIER DETAILS
- ☐ REVIEW OUTSTANDING BALANCES
 - ☐ CONFIRM GUEST NUMBERS
- ☐ CONFIRM DIETARY REQUIREMENTS
 - ☐ FINALISE TABLE PLAN
 - ☐ FINALISE STATIONERY
 - ☐ CONFIRM TRANSPORT
- ☐ CONFIRM ACCOMMODATION
 - ☐ REVIEW TIMELINE
- ☐ CONFIRM CEREMONY DETAILS
 - ☐ CONFIRM MUSIC
 - ☐ CONFIRM SPEECHES
 - ☐ CONFIRM READINGS
- ☐ CONFIRM PHOTOGRAPHY PRIORITIES
- ☐ CONFIRM WET-WEATHER ARRANGEMENTS

2 WEEKS BEFORE

- ☐ SEND FINAL TIMELINE TO SUPPLIERS
 - ☐ CONFIRM FINAL PAYMENTS
 - ☐ CONFIRM DELIVERY DETAILS
 - ☐ PREPARE EMERGENCY KIT
 - ☐ PREPARE PERSONAL ITEMS
 - ☐ CONFIRM WHO HAS THE RINGS
- ☐ CONFIRM WHO HAS THE MARRIAGE DOCUMENTS WHERE APPLICABLE
 - ☐ CONFIRM TRANSPORT
 - ☐ CONFIRM GUEST CHANGES
 - ☐ CONFIRM SUPPLIER MEALS
- ☐ CONFIRM FINAL ROOM LAYOUT
 - ☐ CONFIRM CAKE DELIVERY
 - ☐ CONFIRM FLORAL DELIVERY
- ☐ CONFIRM STATIONERY QUANTITIES

48 HOURS TO GO

FINAL BITS

- ☐ STEAM ATTIRE
- ☐ PACK ACCESSORIES
- ☐ PREPARE WEDDING-DAY BAGS
 - ☐ PREPARE DOCUMENTS
 - ☐ PREPARE RINGS
- ☐ PREPARE EMERGENCY KIT
- ☐ CONFIRM KEY CONTACTS
 - ☐ CHECK WEATHER
- ☐ GIVE THE WEDDING-DAY CONTACT THE MASTER TIMELINE
- ☐ GIVE THE WEDDING-DAY CONTACT AUTHORITY TO MAKE DECISIONS

THEN BREATHE!



Emergency kit

Keep a small wedding-day kit containing useful essentials such as:

- SAFETY PINS
- FASHION TAPE
- SEWING KIT
- PLASTERS
- TISSUES
- STAIN REMOVER
- BLISTER PLASTERS
- SCISSORS
- CLEAR TAPE
- PHONE CHARGER
- POWER BANK
- SPARE TIGHTS/STOCKINGS
- HAIR PINS
- HAIR TIES
- DEODORANT
- MINTS
- PAIN RELIEF YOU NORMALLY USE
- UMBRELLAS
- SEWING SCISSORS
- LINT ROLLER
- SPARE STATIONERY
- PEN
- BOTTLED WATER
- SNACKS



You probably won't need everything.
The point is being prepared.

THINGS NOBODY TELLS YOU

Your wedding is an event, this sounds obvious.

But it changes everything

You aren't simply buying:

**FLOWERS + DRESS + VENUE + PHOTOGRAPHER.
YOU ARE CREATING AN EXPERIENCE INVOLVING:
PEOPLE + SPACE + TIME + MOVEMENT + ATMOSPHERE + LOGISTICS.
EVERY DECISION AFFECTS ANOTHER DECISION.**

MOVE DINNER LATER?
YOU MAY AFFECT PHOTOGRAPHY.
MOVE THE CEREMONY?
YOU MAY AFFECT DRINKS RECEPTION.
CHANGE THE TABLE LAYOUT?
YOU MAY AFFECT SERVICE.
ADD ANOTHER SPEECH?

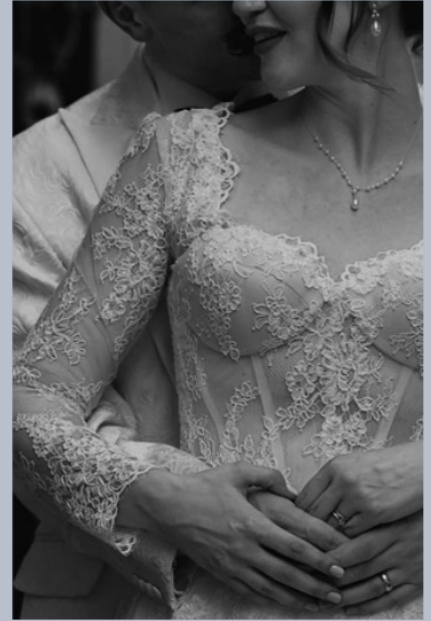
You may affect the evening schedule.

This is why wedding planning can become complicated surprisingly quickly.



BEAUTIFUL DOESN'T ALWAYS MEAN PRACTICAL

A candle-filled room might look incredible.
Can guests comfortably see their food?
A dramatic floral installation might be spectacular.
Does it obstruct sightlines?
A long banquet table might look wonderful.
Can the venue service it efficiently?
A late ceremony might feel romantic.
Will elderly guests be comfortable waiting until dinner?
A beautiful venue might be perfect for 120 people.
Is it actually comfortable for 120?
Always design for both the photograph and the experience.



“don't leave logistics until the end”

THE EARLIER YOU UNDERSTAND:

ACCESS
SETUP
TIMINGS
SUPPLIER RESTRICTIONS
POWER
CATERING
TRANSPORT
WEATHER
SOUND
STAFFING

The more freedom you have to make beautiful decisions.
Good logistics don't make a wedding less romantic, they allow the romance to happen without interruption.



YOUR MASTER WEDDING CONTROL CENTRE

Use this overview as your at-a-glance wedding planning guide. Keep all of the key details, costs, suppliers and important dates in one place so you always know what has been booked, what still needs to be paid, and what needs to happen next.

1. Your Wedding at a Glance

These are the essential details of your wedding day.

- Wedding date:
- Venue:
- Expected guest count:
- Ceremony:
- Reception:

2. Wedding Budget

Keeping track of your budget throughout the planning process will help you understand what has already been committed and what you still have available to spend.

- Total wedding budget:
- Amount spent/committed:
- Outstanding payments:
- Contingency/emergency fund:

Tip: Keep a contingency amount aside for any unexpected costs or last-minute changes. Try not to allocate every penny of your budget before the wedding day.

Create one master document

containing:

Wedding overview



YOUR MASTER WEDDING CONTROL CENTRE

3. Your Wedding Suppliers

Use this section to keep track of everyone involved in bringing your wedding day together. Include their contact details, booking information and payment deadlines separately if needed.

- Venue:
- Planner/Coordinator:
- Photographer:
- Videographer:
- Florist:
- Stationery:
- Cake:
- Catering:
- Entertainment:
- Hair:
- Makeup:
- Dress:
- Suit:
- Transport:
- Decor/Hire:

Tip: Make sure you know what each supplier is responsible for, what time they are arriving, what they need from you, and when their final payment is due.

*Create one master document
containing:
Wedding overview*



YOUR MASTER WEDDING CONTROL CENTRE

4. Key Wedding-Day Contacts

These are the people who should be contacted on the wedding day instead of you wherever possible. Your wedding day should be about enjoying yourself, not answering supplier questions.

- Wedding-day lead:
- Entertainment contact:
- Transport contact:

Tip: Share these contact details with your suppliers in advance and make sure your wedding-day lead has access to the final timeline and all important information.

Create one master document

containing:

Wedding overview



YOUR MASTER WEDDING CONTROL CENTRE

5. Important Dates & Deadlines

Keep a record of the key deadlines leading up to your wedding. Knowing these dates in advance will help prevent last-minute stress.

- Venue final payment:
- Supplier final payments/balances:
- Final guest count:
- Final menu selection:
- Final wedding-day timeline:
- Rehearsal:
- Wedding day:

Tip: Don't leave final decisions and payments until the last minute. Add reminders to your calendar well ahead of each deadline so you have time to deal with any questions or changes.

Your Final Check

Before the wedding day, make sure you have:

- Confirmed all supplier bookings
- Paid or scheduled all outstanding balances
- Confirmed your final guest numbers
- Finalised the menu
- Shared the final timeline with your key suppliers
- Confirmed transport arrangements
- Given your wedding-day lead all important contact details
- Set aside your contingency fund
- Checked that everyone knows where they need to be and when

*Create one master document containing:
Wedding overview*



12-18 Month timeline

18-12 MONTHS

Vision & priorities → Budget → Guest numbers → Wedding planner → Venue & date → Legal & ceremony requirements

12-10 MONTHS

Photographer → Videographer → Caterer → Band / DJ → Key entertainment

10-8 MONTHS

Florist → Wedding dress → Stationery → Cake → Guest accommodation → Save the Dates

8-6 MONTHS

Hair & makeup → Bridesmaid attire → Décor & styling → Lighting & production → Transport

6-4 MONTHS

Groom / partner attire → Wedding rings → Honeymoon → Invitations → Menu & drinks tasting → Beauty trials

4-3 MONTHS

Finalise flowers & décor → Ceremony details → On-the-day stationery → Seating plan

3-2 MONTHS

Final supplier confirmations → Final guest numbers → Menu & drinks → Transport & accommodation → Wedding-day timeline

2-1 MONTHS

Final fittings → Final stationery → Seating plan → Final payments → Supplier briefing

2 WEEKS

Final confirmations → Venue walkthrough → Personal items handed over → Rehearsal arrangements

WEDDING WEEK

Final beauty → Rehearsal → Planner takes over → Wedding day



ONE LAST THING...

There is a strange expectation that planning your own wedding means you should be able to know everything instinctively. Well you don't.

You are organising an event you've probably never organised before.

You are allowed to ask questions.

You are allowed to change your mind.

You are allowed to negotiate.

You are allowed to say that something isn't right.

And you are allowed to seek professional advice even if you don't want to hire a planner.

The goal isn't to create a wedding that looks perfect on paper.

It is to create a wedding that feels unmistakably yours and to arrive at the day knowing that the details have been considered.

Because when everything has been thought through properly, good planning becomes almost invisible.

And that is exactly what you want.

Plan beautifully, Host generously, Enjoy completely