

ÉPICA

BODAS Y EVENTOS

Glamour and elegance

Eduardo Moya
revolutionises the world of
events in Querétaro

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Adrián Pavía
Capítulo Sudamérica
Director IADWP

It is a pleasure for me to address you, our beloved community, which grows day by day thanks to your unwavering support and passion for the world of weddings and events. There are not enough words to express our gratitude for your constant companionship in this wonderful journey. Every page you read, every comment you leave us and every story you share with us, drives us to keep improving and providing quality content.

The LAT Weddings and Spectacular Events Congress, which took place in León, Mexico, on July 16, 17 and 18, was a true success. This event allowed us to connect, learn and grow together as a community. The speakers, each with an impressive track record, gave us inspiring and knowledgeable presentations. From new trends in wedding planning to innovative techniques in spectacular events, each presentation was an invaluable source of learning and motivation.

I would also like to dedicate a special space to recognize the work of the Capítulo Sudamérica and its Chapter Heads. Their dedication and

effort have been fundamental to the growth and consolidation of our network in this region. Thanks to their leadership, we have been able to expand our borders and bring knowledge and best practices to more professionals.

I cannot fail to thank the "first timers" of the congress. Their enthusiasm and eagerness to learn were palpable and filled us with energy. Seeing new faces and feeling their passion for this industry reminds us why we do what we do. Welcome to our family; we look forward to seeing you at many more events.

The romance industry is in a moment of great strength and constant professionalization. Increasingly, industry professionals are striving to achieve high standards of excellence, offering brides, grooms and clients events that exceed all expectations. This commitment to quality and innovation is what allows us to continue to grow and raise the bar for our industry.

Finally, I would like to send an emotional and sincere greeting to all of you. To have been the Master of Ceremonies of this congress was an immense honor. Your warmth and receptiveness made this event an unforgettable experience. Thank you for allowing me to be part of this wonderful community and for your constant support.

With all my gratitude,

Adrián Pavía

Capítulo
Sudamérica
Director IADWP



Real wedding

*Mexico of
my heart:
Je T'aime.*



Fabiola and Nicolás' wedding was an unforgettable celebration, organized with precision and elegance at the charming Ex-Hacienda La Pitaya, located on the borders of Querétaro and Guanajuato. Originally from France, this couple trusted Eduardo Moya Wedding & Event Expert to make their dream of a high-production destination wedding come true. During the 12 months of planning, only two face-to-face and four virtual appointments were made, proving that, with a clear vision and a well-defined Inspiration Board, it is possible to pull off a spectacular wedding without putting pressure on the bride and groom. Precision planning was key. The couple wanted a ceremony that reflected both their Mexican and French roots, and Eduardo Moya was able to capture that essence perfectly.

The idea of a full weekend motivated the couple to pamper their national and foreign guests. For this reason the destination wedding included not only the main ceremony, but also an exclusive pre-wedding dinner for the French guests at the hotel, and a Sunday brunch for the 80 guests staying at the Ex-Hacienda. This structure allowed for a stress-free and harmonious coexistence for all present. Adding additional activities added to the overall experience so that emotions flowed more naturally among all attendees.

For the wedding planner, one of the biggest challenges was meeting the groom's request to keep appointments to a minimum and to be very precise in every detail. Eduardo and his team proved that, with clear communication and meticulous planning, it is possible to organize a magnificent long-distance event without the need for endless meetings. The involvement of Fabiola's family, especially her mother, was crucial, as they actively participated in important decisions such as the choice of the venue and the banquet, since they live in Mexico.

The charm of the Ex-Hacienda La Pitaya, with its path full of cactus and organs, captured the hearts of the guests, especially Nicolás' French friends.

The accessibility of the place and its accommodation capacity were decisive factors in choosing this venue, which offered the perfect setting for the wedding. The choice of the Patio de los Naranjos for the ceremony added a touch of magic and authenticity to the celebration.

For Eduardo Moya, this wedding represented a milestone in his career. Organizing a marriage between a Mexican woman and a foreigner presented unique challenges, such as the need for bilingual staff and meeting the high standards of service required by the couple. The confidence and collaboration between Eduardo and the bride and groom were fundamental to the success of the event. Eduardo's dedication and passion were reflected in every detail, making the wedding exceed Fabiola and Nicolás' expectations.





The perfect accomplices in the destination.

Wedding Planner: Eduardo Moya Wedding & Event Expert

Hotel: Hotel Spa Ex-Hacienda La Pitaya

Venue: Patio los Naranjos, Hotel Spa Ex-Hacienda la Pitaya

Religious Ceremony: Parroquia de Santa Teresita del Niño Jesús El Campanario

Photo & Video: History Moments

Hair and Makeup: MC Centro de Belleza By Miriam Chávez

Furniture: Inventiva Mobiliario & Eventos

Decoration & Production: Eduardo Moya Wedding & Event Expert

Music: Grupo Musical Europa

Banquet: Banquetes Pilo'ss asistentes.

Audio & Lighting: NLighting Producciones

Transportation: Personnel and Corporate

Transportation Turismo Lunas

Fireworks: Fireworks Querétaro

Hostess: Quintanar Hostess

Tent: La nueva Hera

Invitations: Samsara Invitaciones

Cake: Dolce Gusto Pastelería

Snacks: Pastelería Mariely

Waiters: Grupo HJ Servicio para Eventos

Wines and Spirits: La Europea

Constituyentes Querétaro

Wedding Dress: Mademoiselle a dit oui

Nicolás' Suit: Atelier Blatin

The wedding of Fabiola and Nicolás was not only a testimony of love and the union of two cultures, but also a sample of the beauty and essence of the destination. Querétaro is the ideal destination for weddings because of its colonial charm and cultural richness. With its cobblestone streets, majestic ranch estates, and exquisite vineyards, it offers a dream setting for any celebration. Its strategic location in the heart of Mexico, combined with its excellent infrastructure and hospitality, guarantees an unforgettable experience for both the couple and their guests. In addition, the city is known for its safety and cleanliness, making it a perfect place to enjoy a carefree wedding weekend. The magic of Queretaro lies in its people, and in its ability to merge the traditional with the modern, providing a warm and romantic atmosphere that leaves a lasting impression on all attendees.

Eduardo Moya and his team demonstrated that, with professionalism and passion, it is possible to create memorable events that exceed all expectations.

Ilse Diamant

Luxury Romance Ambassador





Ping-Pong

**Learn more about our Chapter
Head Panama, Julie E. Franco.**

What is your favorite food?

My favorite food without a doubt is seafood. The fried fish with *patacones* is my favorite, and black shell ceviche, I love it!

What kind of music do you prefer to listen to in your free time?

Well, I like all kinds of music, but I prefer merengue, salsa, bachata, they fascinate me, they make me happy and I do some exercise. You have to move your skeleton from time to time.

Do you have any hobbies or interests that you are passionate about?

I love the sea, I love it, I can spend the whole day there, it doesn't matter the place as long as it's quiet. Although the beaches are close to the city here in Panama, the truth is that it takes time to get there... But I really enjoy the Panamanian Caribbean.

What is your favorite film and why?

Hahaha! You won't believe it, but I'm a fan of children's movies, I've seen almost all of them, but the one I like the most is Madagascar. Each one of them carries a message, it highlights the value of friendship, teamwork, confidence and love.

What book would you recommend reading to everyone?

Without a doubt *The Greatest Salesman in the World* by Og Mandino, it is inspiring and motivating.



Do you practice any sport or physical activity

Not really, I've always been lazy to do physical activity, so when there's a dance of any of my friends I don't miss it for anything. That's my favorite sport, dancing.

What is your dream vacation destination?

My destination is the beaches, but I would like to visit Greece, I haven't had the opportunity to be there yet, but I hope to do it soon.

Do you have a pet? What is its name?

I had a pet, but I said I'm not going to have any more. The pet is really a member of your family. He was a Chihuahua, his name was Mickey. Unfortunately he died in the pandemic, it was a very painful mourning for me. I remember that every time I would go on a trip, he would get very sad and cry, I don't know how he knew. But the truth is that it affected him a lot.



What is your favorite season of the year and why?

Well here in Panama, we have 2 seasons so to speak, the dry season and the rainy season, and without a doubt I prefer the dry season, which although it is hotter I like it because one can enjoy the beaches more, and there are many places to visit, even the mountains of Panama.

Do you like to cook? What is your favorite dish?

Well, I'll tell you in secret that I'm not a lover of cooking, but I do have a good palate.

What inspires you when planning a wedding?

Everything that is planning from 0. I really love planning, I love it. I think my expertise is the planning of an event, as such. From there on the rest is a walk in the park. Definitely planning from 0.

What is your favorite flower to use in a wedding?

I love peonies, I consider that they give a very special touch not only in the decoration, but also in the bridal bouquet, they have a very particular and unique color that makes you feel very romantic, very willing.

Are you religious, how does this influence your work?

Well actually, I am Catholic by heritage. I believe in God above all things, he is the Supreme being. But I don't profess any particular religion, I can go to a Catholic church, ecumenical, Evangelical, I consider that God is interested in your actions, not the religion you practice.

What would you like to do in the future that you have not yet had the opportunity to do?

I would like to position Panama in the Destination Weddings segment.

What has been the biggest challenge you have faced in organizing a wedding and how did you overcome it?

I wouldn't say it was a challenge as such, but rather an opportunity. At the beginning I don't deny it was a challenge yes, but at the same time I enjoyed it, it's not that I'm a masochist, I love challenges. It was when I had to do the first wedding, I remember so much that it was with some passengers from Cartagena, Colombia, and they wanted their wedding on a private island so to speak, but on the island there was nothing, literally nothing. I had to take the chef, kitchen, food,



drinks, table linens, among others, especially because they were VIP clients, (the kind that don't bargain anything and I love it haha). I don't deny it was stressful, the chef at the time was very supportive. This was 20 years ago, when this beautiful industry did not exist, and since then I am dedicated to the Wedding segment, as such.

How do you handle stress during the planning and on the wedding day?

I tell you that I don't get stressed about the planning, I love planning as such, because I love it, it fascinates me. But I do get stressed out on the day of the wedding; I get stressed out by the vendors, although since 2019 to date I started working with other colleagues and wedding coordinators, and I am in charge of overseeing all the logistics. It stresses me out when some of the very confined vendors don't deliver on time and show up a little late. In general I always like everything a little earlier, and precisely, in order not to get stressed on the wedding day, I work with colleagues who are friends in the wedding industry, who tell me relax, they are coming!

Can you share a memorable success story from your career as a wedding planner?

I really consider every wedding to be a memorable success story, just being memorable for the couple, is memorable for me, as it is the most important day of their lives. Seeing that smile and that happiness on the surface combined with the nervousness makes every wedding a different story, and



you are part of that indelible moment for the memories of each of the bride and groom. However, I will never forget my first wedding 20 years ago on a private island in the archipelago of Las Perlas, it was definitely unique.

What advice would you give to someone who is just starting out in the world of wedding planning?

Well, to anyone who is interested in starting in the world of wedding planning I would say that first of all you have to like it. You have to do what you like, what you love to do, prepare yourself, educate yourself, as in any profession, desire alone is not enough. It is a profession and like any profession it requires specialization and knowledge, that is why you have to keep up to date in the wedding industry. It is not just throwing a party, it is planning the most memorable event of a couple and a memory that will last a lifetime.

Julie E. Franco

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Gastronomy

If you are having your Destination Wedding in Costa Rica, these are the dishes that should be on the menu.





Ana María Basadre, professional chef from Costa Rica with specialization in Le CordonBleu, shares essential tips for organizing your event in this exuberant Central American country. Get ready to receive invaluable information that will guarantee the success of your celebration.

The catering service started in 2012 in the home kitchen as a hobby, initially offering gourmet frozen food. As it grew, thanks to word of mouth, it became impossible to continue producing there. So, they built a professional kitchen workshop that facilitated their expansion to their current position. Ana shares with us that she has had the privilege of training a wonderful group of women, many of them heads of households, who are now part of her team. Together, they have proudly cooked for numerous weddings, corporate events, international artists and even royalty.

The road has been stressful but rewarding, full of moments of high stress but also of immense joy. "We enjoy enormously what we do and we feel very proud," Ana María Basadre tells us.

What are the traditional Costa Rican dishes that you would recommend for a wedding menu?

I think Costa Rican cuisine has remained in lethargy for many years, focusing mainly on the traditional. Today, thanks to the freedom to mix ingredients and experiment with them, incredible dishes and flavors are being achieved.

At weddings, I enjoy using the freshness of Costa Rican ingredients according to the season. For example, during the summer there are certain ingredients that are not as readily available in winter. The climates sometimes inspire us to serve fresh dishes and other times lead us to comforting recipes that evoke the cuisine of our grandmothers, but with a modern twist.





I am passionate about salads full of vibrant colors, where I use local fruits and French-based dressings, combined with local products such as a jocote vinaigrette, for example. I believe it is essential to include ingredients such as malanga and arracacha, as well as meat cuts that stand out for their unique texture and flavor in Costa Rica. In addition, fish and seafood, which allow us to add characteristic flavors of our coasts, cannot be missing.

What are the most popular main dishes at Costa Rican weddings? The ones that people request the most!

Undoubtedly red meat in its different presentations, and Costa Rican-based purees, such as cassava, malanga, green plantain, among others.

What traditional Costa Rican desserts should not be missing in an event?

In my opinion, you can't miss the flavors of rice pudding, *cajetas*, pitahaya cheesecake, mango mousse, pineapple pie, to give some examples.

Could you suggest some typical Costa Rican drinks to offer to our guests?

Cas (a fruit that is practically only available in Costa Rica) is a very important protagonist here, people love it, and to close the night there is nothing like a good serving of fresh water.

Is there any street food or casual dish that we could adapt for an event?

Actually all of them can be adapted, from a mini-size pot of meat, a good picadillo in any of its versions, which is also very fun to play with the presentation of them, green plantain ceviche, papaya, fish and seafood, and fruits that lend themselves well as mango, for example.

What local ingredients can't be missing in your kitchen to capture the authentic flavors of Costa Rica?

Local herbs, culantro coyote, some chiles, pejibaye, palm heart, jocote leaves, brown sugar and salt which I love to use flavored.



Is there any secret that Ana María Basadre can share with us?

We can achieve everything in the kitchen if we have a good knife, high heat and the love we need to put into what we do.

Do you have any recommendations for adapting local menus to destination weddings?

It is always important to mix the local with what is known by the client, especially if they are foreigners, thus achieving a Costa Rican fusion dish or a menu of what we know today as signature cuisine.



Tell us an anecdote that happened to you. How did you manage to solve the incident?

In so many years in this business, thousands of things have happened to us, some were fun, others stressful.

What I would definitely highlight is that, with the support of my team, we have managed to get out of any situation, even without the guests noticing!

At Costa Rican weddings, the most requested dishes include various red meat preparations and traditional purées. Must-try desserts include rice pudding, *cajetas*, pitahaya cheesecake, mango mousse and pineapple pie. To capture the authentic flavors of Costa Rica, it is essential to use local herbs. Ana María Basadre emphasizes that in the kitchen, a good knife, high heat and love for what is being done are fundamental. She recommends mixing the local with what the client is familiar with in menus for destination weddings, creating Costa Rican fusion or signature dishes.

You can follow the Chef on her different social networks:

Instagram: [anamariabasadrecatering_cr](#)

Instagram: [chefanamariabasadre](#)

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Samira Beltrán Director Corporativo Romance y Cuentas Clave

es.krystal-hotels.com/romance



Exploring Panama

A paradise of history, culture and romance.



Panama: We are a country with a unique blend of paradisiacal beaches, majestic mountains, rich history and vibrant culture. Perfect for couples looking for a romantic and enchanting wedding retreat. Panama offers a variety of venues that will delight any couple looking for that perfect destination for that unique and special wedding.

A country where you can have the wedding of your dreams, with paradises and facilities that will make you fall in love.

Panama is full of destinations that you will fall in love with at first sight. Imagine combining any of these places with the wedding you always dreamed of and with the person you are in love with. It would become the most important and incredible event of your life.



Among some of the destinations we can mention are:

In the Panamanian Caribbean: Bocas Del Toro, San Blas Islands, Portobelo and its surroundings, to mention a few.

Bocas del Toro: With its crystal clear waters and white sands, it is a must-see destination for its paradisiacal landscapes. Playa Estrella is famous for its starfish and is ideal for a honeymoon or romantic getaway. It is one of the most remote destinations in Panama for weddings. However, getting married in a marine paradise has its sacrifices and it is worth it, since this destination offers the possibility of having your wedding at sea, with a rich marine life full of exotic fish, manta rays, and even dolphins that come to visit you.



An aquatic and enchanting environment that no other destination with hotel infrastructure can offer. Doing a wedding in this paradise costs a little more because of the logistics of moving many things by ferry or boat to the hotel or island where it will take place, but it is the opportunity that we wedding planners have to unleash our creativity and make the most of the resources available to the destination.



San Blas Archipelago: Made up of 365 islands, this archipelago is an exotic and culturally enriching destination. Here weddings are unique and enjoying the natural beauty that surrounds this destination is one of a kind.

However, we can not leave aside our beaches near the city as the Riviera del Pacífico.

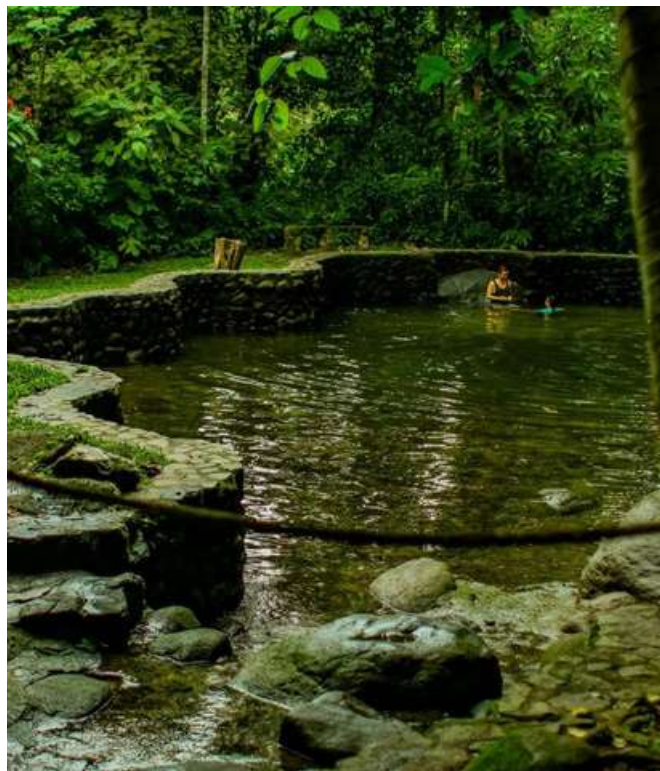


As we know the sea is always magical in every way, but it is also one of the favorite places for weddings, especially in Panama, with hundreds of miles of coastline on both oceans. However, in the Riviera del Pacífico is where you will find the largest number of places with the necessary infrastructure to mount an event at the height of your expectations and guests. Here you can find the most romantic and exotic weddings in places with many options to choose from.

And if you want some History and Culture, we have:

Portobelo and its surroundings: Rich in history and culture, in addition to its natural beauty. This historic colonial port offers a unique setting for weddings. The ruins of the forts and the church of San Felipe, which houses the Black Christ, provide an impressive backdrop, where we can also incorporate elements of Afro-Caribbean culture into the ceremony, including traditional music and dances, offering a perfect balance for that special wedding, especially for the privacy that the destination offers.

Casco Antiguo: In Panama City, Casco Antiguo is a historic site dating back to the 17th century. It contains a colonial architecture, including Spanish, French architecture and Caribbean Neoclassical Republican architecture that makes us unique in the world. This tourist destination has no problems if you want to get married for the Catholic Faith, since it is the area of Panama with the most churches, and with a history that dates back to Spanish Colonial times and the construction of the Panama Canal. The majority of the Panamanian population is Catholic, for this reason many couples decide to celebrate their marriage in one of the religious monuments found in this historic site of the city.



The natural surroundings of the Barú Volcano will make your wedding an unforgettable romantic experience.



Boquete Mountains and Nature: Located in the highlands of Chiriquí, Boquete is known for its cool climate and romantic and breathtaking scenery, a sure attraction for a special wedding.

A romantic destination known for its flowers and coffee production. It has a totally different climate than many other wedding destinations, as it has cooler temperatures.

Valle de Antón: This picturesque valley is the crater of an extinct volcano and offers a variety of activities such as hiking, hot springs and bird watching. It is a perfect place for a romantic getaway in nature. The sound of nature and the cool climate of El Valle become an ideal setting for intimate ceremonies or for a large number of people. The feeling of being surrounded by mountains and geological history of the destination generate a unique energy to organize an unforgettable reception and make a dream wedding.

Julie E. Franco

Chapter Head Panamá IADWP

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An Embodiment of Elegance

The essential style of a luxury
wedding planner.



In the sophisticated world of luxury weddings, the planner is not just an organizer, but an embodiment of style and grace. To execute state-of-art events that set new benchmarks, a luxury wedding planner must possess a personal style that exudes elegance and confidence. Without this, trust and credibility can be elusive. Here we explore the indispensable qualities of personal style that define an exceptional planner, capable of orchestrating stunning and exquisite weddings.

The Power of First Impressions: Appearance and Attire

First impressions are lasting. A luxury wedding planner's appearance must be impeccable, reflecting the high standards of the events they create. Chic and sophisticated attire is essential, conveying professionalism and an eye for detail. Whether it's a tailored suit or a couture dress, the planner's wardrobe should speak volumes about their commitment to elegance and style. Each garment should be carefully selected to complement their role as a luxury provider.

Personal Care and Presentation: The Signature of Sophistication

Impeccable grooming is nonnegotiable for a luxury wedding planner. Flawless grooming—from well-groomed hair to polished nails to subtle, elegant makeup—demonstrates a dedication to maintaining the highest standards. This attention to personal presentation assures clients that the planner will apply the same meticulous care to their



wedding. A well-groomed appearance is a testament to the planner's discipline and respect for their role.

Poise & Posture: The Language of Confidence.

How a planner carries themselves is as important as what they wear. Poise and posture communicate confidence and authority, essential qualities for a luxury wedding planner. Standing tall with an air of grace, maintaining eye contact and moving with deliberation all contribute to an imposing presence. This physical demeanor not only inspires confidence in clients, but also ensures effective leadership in managing vendors and overseeing the execution of the event.

The Art of Communication: Elegance in Interaction.

A luxury wedding planner must possess exceptional communication skills, delivered with elegance and confidence. This includes a warm and inviting smile, a firm handshake and the ability to listen attentively. Every interaction must reflect the planner's commitment to understanding and fulfilling the client's vision. The way a planner speaks –articulately, with a calm, composed tone– further reinforces their ability and reliability.

Attention to Detail: Extending Personal Style to Every Aspect

The planner's personal style extends beyond their physical appearance to every aspect of their professional demeanor. This includes punctuality, preparation, and the ability to anticipate needs. A luxury wedding planner who is consistently organized and detail-oriented in their personal habits is more likely to ensure that every detail of the wedding is executed to perfection. This comprehensive attention to detail assures clients of the planner's dedication to excellence.

The Aura of Elegance: Creating an Inspiring Presence

A luxury wedding planner's presence should be inspiring and aspirational. This signifies cultivating an aura of elegance that goes beyond physical appearance. It includes a sophisticated understanding of current trends balanced with timeless style, the ability to maintain composure under pressure and a genuine passion for creating



beautiful and unforgettable events. This aura is what finally convinces clients that they are in the hands of a true professional who can make their dreams come true.

Conclusion: Embodying Elegance and Confidence.

In the realm of luxury wedding planning, a planner's personal style is as crucial as the events they create. By embodying elegance and grace in all aspects of their appearance and demeanor, a planner can inspire confidence in their clients. The ability to present oneself with sophistication and confidence is what sets a luxury wedding planner apart, ensuring that every wedding they organize is a testament to the art of elegance.

As Coco Chanel said, "Elegance is when the inside is as beautiful as the outside." For a luxury wedding planner, this means living the elegance he or she wishes to create, ensuring that each wedding is as beautiful and sophisticated as they are, and leaving an indelible mark on the world of luxury events.

Diana Sciarrillo

Chapter Head Guatemala
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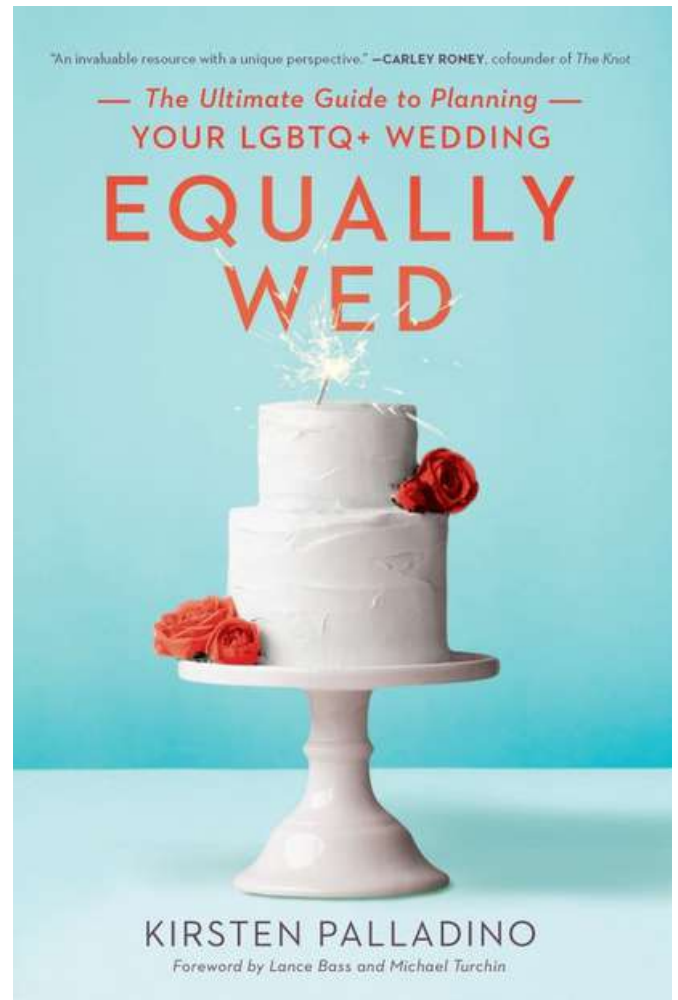


Welcoming inclusivity

Inclusive practices generate confidence with LGBTQ+ couples.

Photo by Kari Bjorn Photography

No matter who marries, love is love. The phrase has become a cliché, but it is the simplest and purest message that has helped increase social support for LGBTQ+ love. Most wedding professionals I know appreciate and support LGBTQ+ weddings, even if same-sex marriage is not yet legally recognized in their region, and perhaps hearing those three little words, love is love, has helped them understand how love between two LGBTQ+ people is no different than love between cisgender (your gender identity and your sex assigned at birth are the same) and heterosexual (attracted only to a gender other than one's own) people. While love is love is a beautiful and truthful statement, it is not enough when working with LGBTQ+ couples. My community deserves to work with wedding professionals who not only believe in our right to marry the one we love, but who are also committed to providing an inclusive and affirming experience.



To achieve LGBTQ+ inclusive and affirmative business practices, we first need to understand the LGBTQ+ community beyond the idea that we are made up of only gays and lesbians. We are much more than these two categories. Not all LGBTQ+ people identify as male or female. Some do not identify as either gender. Some LGBTQ+ men do not identify with masculine words and expressions, just as some LGBTQ+ women do not identify with feminine words and expressions. The number of LGBTQ+ gender identities and sexual orientations is vast and deep. And while you don't need to understand them all to respect our people, it's important to know how to convey your inclusive values. One of the most frequent challenges in the LGBTQ+ community is knowing who we can trust. In my own magazine, *Equally Wed*, our readers express to me how difficult it is to know which wedding vendors and venues will accept them.

But it's not just about mere acceptance. We need more affirmation than simply knowing we're welcome in your business. One of the ways we offer affirmation is through inclusive language. When we talk about heteronormativity and cisgenderism in society, it's crucial to understand that this is the environment that humans built with limited expectations and views of who people are and who they should be. And one of the ways we, as humans, set parameters is with language. Language can be expansive or limiting. The same is true with word choice. It's not necessarily that there is no language for LGBTQ+ people getting married, but that most of the wedding industry either doesn't know what words are best to use to ensure everyone feels equally comfortable or that there is a lack of understanding of how important it is to make these changes. As we mentioned earlier, one of the most prevalent challenges in the LGBTQ+ community is knowing who we can trust.

One of the ways inclusive professionals can signal their inclusive and affirming ideals is with the language they use to communicate with current and potential clients, as well as their colleagues and team.

Being intentionally inclusive and affirming at all times is hard work because it's hard to think about what you're saying when for so long you didn't have to. But think of it this way: no matter what marginalized community you are part of, if you also belong to some dominant community, especially white, Christian, heterosexual, or even just cisgender, you have the privilege to choose when to be inclusive. You have the privilege to hang up your hat and give up because this is hard. But marginalized people don't have that privilege.



Photo by Thru Deez Lens

People of color can't stop thinking about equity and inclusion. And LGBTQ+ people don't have the luxury of pretending to be okay with exclusion. Even if it's what we're used to, we shouldn't have to get used to it, especially when there are easy solutions to choosing words with gender-neutral alternatives. Here are some gender-neutral alternatives for you to consider. If there is no gender-neutral option available in your language, consider a different word that is gender-neutral or simply use client names. You can also do an online search for gender-neutral words in your language - there's a movement happening and the resources are available!

BRIDE - WEDDING

BRIDE AND GROOM - COUPLE

BRIDE OR GROOM - NEARLYWEDS

FIANCÉ, PROMETIDO, PROMETIDA -

WHILE BOTH WORDS ARE GENDERED WHEN WRITTEN, THEY ARE NOT GENDERED WHEN SPOKEN. SO IF YOU ARE WRITING IT, YOU COULD USE FUTURE SPOUSE, YOUR INTENDED, YOUR BELOVED, YOUR PARTNER.

BRIDAL PARTY - WEDDING PROCESSION
 BRIDE'S DRESS - WEDDING DRESS
 BRIDAL EXHIBITION - WEDDING EXHIBITION
 BRIDAL SUITE - WEDDING SUITE, DRESSING ROOM, NEARLYWED SUITE
 BRIDAL BOUQUET - BOUQUET (OR MAIN BOUQUET)
 BRIDAL GOWN - WEDDING DRESS
 GROOMSMEN - ATTENDANTS
 BRIDESMAIDS - ATTENDANTS
 MAID OF HONOR - COMPANION OF HONOR, FRIEND OF HONOR, PERSON OF HONOR HONOR
 KNIGHT OF HONOR - PERSON OF HONOR, HONORED COMPANION, HONORED FRIEND, PERSON OF HONOR
 BRIDAL PROCESSION - WEDDING PROCESSION
 MOTHER/FATHER OF THE BRIDE/GROOM - FATHER(S) OF THE ENGAGED PARTY(IES)
 DANCE
 FATHER/Daughter - FATHER/CHILD DANCE
 MOTHER/CHILD DANCE - FATHER/CHILD DANCE
 BRIDAL SHOWER - WEDDING PARTY
 BRIDAL REGISTRY - GIFT REGISTRY, WEDDING REGISTRY
 GROOM'S BOUTONNIERE - BOUTONNIERE (OR MAIN BOUTONNIERE)
 MEN'S RESTROOM / WOMEN'S RESTROOM - RESTROOM FOR ALL GENDERS
 LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! - HONORABLE GUESTS; DISTINGUISHED GUESTS; LADIES, GENTLEMEN AND NON-BINARY FRIENDS
 HUSBAND AND WIFE - HUSBANDS, WIVES, SPOUSES, PARTNERS SHE/HE (WRITTEN THROUGHOUT AS THE ONLY PRONOUN CHOICES IN SOMETHING LIKE A CONTRACT OR REFERRING TO A CLIENT WHOSE PRONOUNS ARE UNKNOWN) - SHE/HER/HE/HE/ELLE OR JUST THEM

FATHER AND MOTHER - PARENT(S), GUARDIAN(S), CAREGIVER(S)
 UNCLE OR AUNT - PIBLING
 BROTHER OR SISTER - SIBLING
 NEPHEW OR NIECE - NEIPH, NIEPHEW
 LADIES - PEOPLE, FRIENDS, DARLINGS, SWEETHEARTS, SWEETHEARTS, EVERYONE, CHARMS
 GIRLS - PEOPLE, FRIENDS, DEAREST, DEAREST, ALL, CHARMS
 BOYS - PEOPLE, FRIENDS, DEAR, LOVING, CARING, ALL, BEAUTIFUL PERSONS
 MAN OR WOMAN - PERSON
 MEN'S CLOTHING - DESCRIBES CLOTHING FOR WHAT IT IS, SUCH AS STRAIGHT LINES, ATHLETIC, MENSWEAR-INSPIRED, MASCULINE, MANLY, WEDDING ATTIRE
 WOMEN'S CLOTHING - FEMININE, CURVY, ATHLETIC, WEDDING ATTIRE.

Here's a really important point to keep in mind: there's nothing inherently wrong with any of the gendered words when that's what people want. The majority of Equally Wed readers, which is the largest concentration



of LGBTQ+ couples and contracted couples planning weddings around the world, making it the richest data point, use or plan to use bride or groom for themselves at their wedding. Gender words are fine if they're what your customers use. But don't assume what they will want. When talking generally about everyone you serve and the services or products you offer, use gender-neutral terms. Then, when working with a specific client, reflect the language they are using. What's even more helpful is if you ask for their pronouns, honorific titles and wedding titles on your contact forms or via email. This gives you the opportunity to provide them with authentically inclusive and affirming service, and lets them know they are talking to an inclusive professional who cares about the LGBTQ+ community.

But it's equally important that you (and your team) use gender-neutral language and pronouns for people whose identities you don't know beyond your clients or the nearlyweds. Take some time to think about



Photo by Phillipvn Photography

how you might apply these words in your everyday conversations with your clients and colleagues. If you are interested in learning more about best practices for working with the LGBTQ+ community, I invite you to check out my LGBTQ+ wedding certification course online at equallywedpro.com.

Author's Bio:

Kirsten Palladino is a multiple award-winning entrepreneurial educator, DEI consultant, sought-after international speaker and published author. She is co-founder and editorial director of *Equally Wed*, the world's leading LGBTQ+ wedding magazine, as well as creator of *Equally Wed Pro*, an educational resource and community for inclusively-minded wedding and event professionals. Her book, *Equally Wed: The Ultimate Guide to Planning Your LGBTQ+ Wedding*, the first and only gender-neutral wedding planning book for LGBTQ+ couples, is available wherever books are sold.

Kirsten Palladino

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Post tour Latin American Wedding Congress

Developing your creativity in San Miguel Allende.



We are thrilled to have shared our beautiful city of San Miguel de Allende with you. As a company with over 19 years of experience in the wedding and event industry, our passion has been to create unforgettable moments.

As part of the post tour of the Latin American Wedding Congress, we were delighted to invite all the planners who visited us to visit our facilities. It was a wonderful opportunity to share not only our experiences and methods, but also the elements that make each event unique and special.

Penzi is a company that was created at a time when there were not many planners and services in San Miguel, so we decided not only to dedicate ourselves to planning, but also to offer banquet services, decoration, logistics and rentals.

After much discussion among the team, we decided that it was important for us that the



planners who visit us have fun, that they let their imagination and creativity run wild.

For this, we called on the entire Penzi planning team, 11 of us, and decided to "teach" them how the tin elements are made: a flashlight, a lantern and, in this case, a small star. Angel, a fabulous craftsman, showed us how each piece is made, the art of making these little orifices to bring out the light and give the warmth we desire at weddings. With his hammer and chisel, he makes works of art. It was lovely to see how Mirta, from the Dominican Republic, got to work with her hands and created some small pieces; her determination was inspiring.

The other planners decorated little stars with paint, ribbons or pom-poms. It was very rewarding to see how they all took it very seriously to be creative and enjoy this time to themselves.

Margaritas and *Carajillos* are typical Mexican drinks and it was important that we learned how to make them. We learned how to "shake" a margarita on the rocks, how much lime to put in it to make it perfect and what type of tequila to use to enjoy it.



Carajillos are drinks with coffee and liquor 43, and are usually taken after the meal. Not only are they delicious, but they give a "little kick" to keep the guests filling the dance floor for total enjoyment. We were delighted to see how the planners were excited to learn not only how to make them, but how to enjoy them.



And to accompany these drinks, Panio, a company in San Miguel de Allende, gave us some delicious Petits Fours that the planners enjoyed, of course, along with their carajillo.

Hermes Arrollo, international master craftsman of the "mojigangas", took the time to help unleash the creativity of each of the participants. He formed a heart with wings for each of the planners and provided us with paint, glitter, brushes, ribbons and aprons. We loved that each heart was different and special; each of the planners demonstrated that we are all capable of doing different and unique things. None of us are the same, we all bring out what we have within our spirit.



This reminded us that we don't need to do what the person next to us does; what we need to do is to be inspired, look within our creativity and express it for our clients.

Finally, the Penzi team organized an activity where each group set up a table with different themes: Mexican, Modern and Classic. They were given the elements to do so: base plates, tableware, glasses, flowers, candles, decoration. They had to choose the tablecloth or table runner that matched their theme. It was so much fun to see how each team had leaders telling everyone what to do or what to set up, and how they changed their minds until they made their table look amazing. It was a very fun experience, as teamwork brings out the best in everyone.

We were delighted to welcome them, show them what we did and talk about how, together, we were able to make each couple's dreams come true. We hope to see them soon and to have created unforgettable memories!

Guadalupe Álvarez

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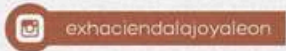
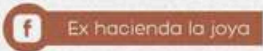


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Ancestral Weddings Peru.



At present, also called: MYSTIC-ANDEAN WEDDINGS consist of a spiritual marriage of pure and true love test where no documents are signed, the objective is to unite the bride and groom for life through the wisdom of the Pachamama (Mother Earth), apus and sacred plants.

Ancestral Weddings in Peru have antecedents dating back to the Inca Empire.



Marriages were performed in public ceremonies and with certain solemnity. The groom received the bride from the hands of the Inca monarch or some representative of his, only in this way did it become a legal act.

The state established specific dates every 1 or 2 years. Everyone went to the main square of each provincial capital where they formed separate lines according to sex, rank and kinship, in order to be paired and married by the Inca. They had to take advantage of the occasion to get married. The elders gave lessons to the newlyweds, while the guests ate, and drank chicha until they got drunk.



Kasarakuy: Andean Wedding / Marriage in The Andes

Kasarakuy comes from Quechua and means "to get married". This festivity in which couples get married in the same way their parents and ancestors did is preferably carried out in August, month in which we celebrate the Pachamama - Mother Earth.

The Ancestral Marriage is also a ritual where the elements of nature: water, wind, sun and earth, are fundamental pillars to symbolize the solemnity of the union of a couple, the respect to mother earth (Pachamama), as well as the balance and physical and spiritual harmony between the human being and the environment, understood as the Universe. A payment (offering) is presented and who officiates them are masters (pacos) *taytas* who are at the service of Andean spirituality.

Ancestral Weddings nowadays have gained popularity around the world, travelers are looking for another type of connection and experiences different from the traditional ones of their own culture, increasing the need to have a greater offer of romance destinations, since it is the best way to demonstrate that the couple's connection with the Pachamama is as solid as their love.

Kerly Heald

Junior Cusco

@kerlyheald_wp_cusco_peru

A top-down view of a meal. The main focus is a black bowl filled with a thick, yellow-orange stew. The stew contains several pieces of chicken, two round meatballs, and two ears of yellow corn. The bowl sits on a blue textured placemat. To the right of the bowl is a silver fork and some fresh green cilantro leaves. In the foreground, a smaller black bowl is filled with fluffy white rice. To the right of the rice is a sliced avocado showing its green flesh. A red and white checkered cloth is visible in the bottom left corner.

Dominican Cuisine

A journey through the typical flavors of the Dominican Republic.

Distinguished by its unique flavors, it is a rich mix of indigenous, Taino, African, European, mainly Spanish, and more recently, American influences.

Each of these groups has left its mark on the country's cuisine creating a diverse and tasty culinary tradition. Their flavors are intense and varied, coming from the combination of fresh ingredients, spices and traditional cooking techniques.

Historical Influences

1. Taino Indians

The Tainos, the first inhabitants of the Island, cultivated corn, cassava, sweet potato, and other tubers, and consumed fish and seafood. From them they inherited the use of cassava bread and cooking techniques such as roasting.

2. Europeans (Spanish)

The arrival of the Spanish brought with them ingredients such as rice, wheat, citrus fruits, cattle and European cooking methods. Dishes such as *bandera*, rice, beans, and meat are a mixture of this influence.

3. Africans

African slaves introduced techniques and dishes such as mofongo, made from mashed



plantains, the intensive use of spices and new ways of preparing meat and fish.

4. Modern influence

Globalization and U.S. influence have brought modern ingredients and techniques, although traditional cuisine remains very popular.

Characteristic flavors

1. Salty and Umami

Many Dominican dishes stand out for their salty and umami flavor, especially those that include seasoned meats such as chicken, beef and pork. The use of products such as chicken broth and soy sauce also contributes to these flavors.

2. Sweet

Dominicans enjoy sweets in their desserts as well as in certain main dishes.

Examples include ripe plantains in *pastelón* and desserts such as beans with dulce or dulce de leche.

3. Acidic

Acidic flavors are introduced mainly through the use of citrus fruits such as sour orange and lemon.

These are used in marinades and marinades for meats and fish, as well as in sauces and salads.

4. Spicy

Although Dominican cuisine is not known for being extremely spicy, chili peppers and spices are used to add a touch of heat. Hot sauces and chili peppers are used to season certain dishes.

5. Herbal and Spiced

Herbs and spices play a crucial role in Dominican cuisine. Coriander, oregano, basil, cumin and garlic are common in many recipes. The use of fresh herbs and dried spices add depth and complexity to dishes.



Typical Dominican Dishes

La Bandera Dominicana: Consists of white rice, stewed beans and meat (chicken, beef or pork), often accompanied by salad and fried plantains.

Sancocho: A thick stew made with various meats (chicken, beef, pork), tubers (yucca,



yam, sweet potato) and vegetables. It is a festive dish and is consumed on special occasions.

Mangú: Mashed boiled green plantains, usually served with sautéed red onion, fried cheese, salami and fried or scrambled eggs. It is usually eaten for breakfast.

Mofongo: Fried and mashed green plantains, mixed with chicharron (fried pork) and garlic. Sometimes served with chicken or shrimp broth.

Moro de Guandules: Rice cooked with pigeon peas (gandules) and sometimes coconut. It is a very popular dish in the Cibao region.

Pastelón de Plátano Maduro: Casserole made with layers of fried ripe plantains and a minced meat filling, covered with cheese.



Chicharrón de Pollo: Chicken marinated and fried until crispy. Served with tostones (fried green plantains) or fried cassava.

El Chivo liniero: This meat (young goat) owes its flavor, aroma and texture to the fact that this animal grows wild in the fields of the Northwest Line of the Dominican Republic. What makes this meat so unique is that it is said to be fed, above all, on oregano.

Pescado Frito (Fried Fish): It consists of frying certain fish in hot olive oil, after having been salted and coated with wheat flour.

Yaniqueques: It is a fried flour dough, in the shape of a sheet.

Side Dishes

Tostones: Twice fried green plantains, mashed between frying for a crunchy texture.



Yuca Frita: Cassava (manioc) cut into pieces and fried until golden brown and crispy.

Ensalada verde: Simple green salad made with lettuce, tomato, cucumber and sometimes onion, dressed with vinegar and oil.

Soups and Broths

Sopa de Res: Soup made with beef, vegetables (carrot, potato, pumpkin) and noodles.



Asopao de Pollo: A thick rice soup with chicken, similar to a risotto, with a rich and tasty broth.

Desserts

Habichuelas con Dulce: Traditional Easter dessert, made with red beans, milk, sugar, coconut, sweet potatoes and spices.

Dulce de Leche: Milk and sugar, sometimes with cinnamon or vanilla.

Majarete: Corn pudding made with ground corn, milk, sugar and cinnamon.

Beverages

Morir Soñando: Refreshing drink made with orange juice, evaporated milk and sugar.

Mamajuana: Alcoholic drink made with a mixture of rum, wine, honey and local herbs.

Jugo de Chinola: Passion fruit juice, refreshing and slightly acidic.

These typical Dominican dishes showcase the richness and diversity of the country's cuisine, combining fresh ingredients and traditional culinary techniques to create unique and delicious flavors.

Mirta Sánchez

Chapter Head República Dominicana
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Audrey Hepburn's Bridal Icon

A dress for history.

History and Context

On September 25, 1954, Audrey Hepburn married actor Mel Ferrer in a private ceremony in Bürgenstock, Switzerland. This event not only marked a milestone in the personal life of the iconic actress, but also left an indelible mark on the history of bridal fashion. Hepburn, known for her elegance and unmistakable style, chose a gown designed by Hubert de Givenchy, who had created many of her most memorable looks off and on screen. However, for this special occasion, Hepburn opted for a design by Balmain, which at the time was synonymous with sophistication and haute couture.

The Dress: Materials and Tailoring

Audrey Hepburn's wedding dress was a masterpiece of haute couture, made of silk satin. This material, known for its sheen and softness, is a favorite in bridal fashion because of its luxurious appearance and ability to drape beautifully.



Balmain's design featured a wide tea-length skirt, which was a popular trend in the 1950s. The tea-length skirt, which falls between the knee and ankle, offered an elegant alternative to traditional long skirts, allowing for greater ease of movement and a touch of modernity.

Styling Details

Hepburn's dress stood out for its elegant simplicity. The fitted bodice and wide skirt created a classic silhouette that accentuated her petite figure. Complementing the dress, Hepburn wore a pair of elbow-length white gloves, an accessory that added an air of sophistication and refinement. The look was completed with a short veil, which added a traditional touch without overpowering the simplicity of the ensemble.

The Impact on Bridal Fashion

Audrey Hepburn's gown generated enormous influence on brides of the time and in the decades that followed. Her choice of a simpler, more elegant design contrasted with the more ornate and voluminous bridal gowns that were popular at the time. This choice reflected Hepburn's personality and her signature style, which always leaned toward effortless elegance.

Brides of the time were delighted with the idea of a wedding dress that combined tradition and modernity. The tea length became a popular choice, especially for more casual weddings or second weddings. The simplicity of the design also opened the way for brides to express their personal style in more varied ways, without feeling obliged to strictly follow conventions.



Tailoring and Collaborators

The dress was made at the Balmain atelier in Paris, known for its impeccable craftsmanship and attention to detail. Balmain's team of in-house seamstresses worked meticulously to ensure that every fold and seam was perfectly aligned. The collaboration between Hepburn and Balmain resulted in a design that was not only beautiful, but also practical and comfortable for the bride.

Conclusion

Audrey Hepburn's wedding dress for her wedding to Mel Ferrer remains a benchmark in bridal fashion. Its combination of elegant simplicity, high quality materials and expert tailoring set a new standard for wedding dresses. Hepburn proved that true elegance lies in simplicity and attention to detail, a lesson that continues to resonate with modern brides looking to reflect their own style and personality on their special day.



Adrián Pavía

Director Capitulo Sudamérica
IADWP



***The Unique Beauty
of Ecuadorian
Roses***

A world treasure.

Ecuador has become one of the world's leading exporters of roses, and it is no coincidence. Ecuadorian roses are recognized for their exceptional quality, which is due to a combination of unique factors: their impressive size, vibrant colors, and unparalleled durability.

The secret behind the magnificence of these flowers lies in their cultivation. Located in a privileged region between 2,800 and 3,000 meters above sea level, Ecuadorian roses benefit from an ideal climate and almost continuous natural light.



This environment contributes to the roses growing large, robust buds, characteristics that distinguish them globally. In addition, the minimal use of artificial light and meticulous care in their cultivation enhance their strength and longevity.

One of the main reasons why Ecuadorian roses stand out is their size. Cultivated varieties can reach from 30 cm to 120 cm in height, a size considerably larger than other roses cultivated in the world. This characteristic not only makes them visually



more impressive, but also makes them highly coveted in the international market. The durability of these roses is another relevant aspect; they can be kept fresh in a vase for more than 15 days, which makes them ideal for long events.

Ecuador produces around 500 varieties of roses, from the traditional ones such as red, white and yellow, to the more exotic ones such as black, blue and rainbow roses. The ability of Ecuadorian floriculture to create innovative and customized colors has contributed to their global renown. In addition, the freeze drying technique has enabled the export of preserved flowers, which can maintain their natural beauty for 3 to 5 years, further expanding the reach of the Ecuadorian market.



The international market shows a high demand for these roses. Russia imports the purchase, with 25% of the investment in Russian Women season, followed by the United States with 40%. They are also exported to countries such as Holland, Canada, Italy, Chile, Japan, Spain, Germany and Ukraine. Ecuadorian floriculturalists have a prominent presence in international exhibitions such as the Milan Expo, where they have demonstrated their ability to create impressive spaces. This year, Ecuador received the award for Best Stand at FITUR in Spain, standing out with a decoration of thousands of roses that became one of the most photographed spaces at the event.



With more than 600 certified flower farms, mainly in the north of the country, Ecuador produces highly prized varieties such as Brighton, Mondial, Vendela, Freedom, and Pink. These farms not only contribute to the local economy, but also beautify events and venues with the majesty of Ecuadorian roses.



In short, the beauty and quality of Ecuadorian roses are the result of a privileged natural environment, careful cultivation and constant innovation. These flowers not only adorn weddings and events in Ecuador, but also conquer international markets, reaffirming Ecuador as a leader in the production of roses of excellence. The majesty of Ecuadorian roses continues to be a symbol of beauty and sophistication around the world.



Within Ecuador, roses also play an important role in local culture and celebrations. They are in high demand during Mother's Day, Valentine's Day, and other holidays.

Lissner Ortiz G.

Wedding Planner Chapter
Head IADWP Ecuador @
my_sweetliss



In the heart of Mexico

San Miguel de Allende.

Welcome to a place of infinite inspiration! Where tradition warmly embraces you, merging seamlessly with modernity. Here, culture dances hand in hand with glamour, and every street is a palette of vibrant colors that awaken creativity and imagination. Welcome to a city that might as well be called Paradise! Welcome to the best of Mexico. Welcome to a place where the rainbow has found its home. Welcome to San Miguel de Allende.

A journey of inspiration and rebellion in San Miguel de Allende

San Miguel de Allende is not just a city; it is a vibrant tapestry of culture, tradition and color. My recent visit to this Mexican gem was an inspiring journey that stirred my soul and awakened a rebellious spirit within me. From the moment I arrived, I felt an irresistible attraction to the city's charming streets, every corner full of surprises and bursting with life.

My trip to San Miguel de Allende was the perfect conclusion to the LAT Wedding Congress organized by the IADWP. This gathering at SMA brought together incredible professionals from all over the world, including Mexico, Panama, Chile, Colombia, Portugal, Argentina, the United States, the Dominican Republic and Australia. The opportunity to share, learn and connect with such a diverse group was deeply enriching, and the vibrant atmosphere of the city only amplified our inspiration.

The first day set the tone for the entire experience. I arrived at Our Habitats, a stunning paradise nestled in nature where peace and harmony reign.



The hotel's serene surroundings provided the perfect backdrop for introspection and a deep connection to the natural world. The air was charged with tranquility, allowing me to release the stresses of daily life.

San Miguel de Allende itself is an explosion of colors: vibrant walls, bustling markets and the warm hues of sunset over cobblestone streets. This city is a canvas painted with the essence of Mexican culture, where every sight and sound is a source of inspiration. As I wandered through its lively plazas and historic monuments, I couldn't help but feel a sense of rebellion against the mundane, inspired to embrace the city's spirit of creativity and innovation.

A visit to El Santuario hotel was another highlight, a retreat where one can fully immerse oneself in the rich tapestry of Mexican culture and tradition. The hotel's architecture and décor are a beautiful homage to the region's heritage, offering a sanctuary where guests can experience the authentic spirit of San Miguel. It was here that I was most drawn into the narrative of the town, each detail telling a story of its past and present.

The city's bold combination of tradition and modernity inspired me to rebel against the limits of my own creativity. Its rebellious spirit encouraged me to be more daring, to keep exploring new ideas. This energy, palpable in every corner of the city, awakened in me the desire to create with even more courage and passion.

One of the most unforgettable experiences was at Penzi Weddings, where I participated in workshops that engaged all my senses. This was not just a visit; it was a haven for creativity, where every moment was designed to perfection by Guadalupe Alvarez and her team. The workshops were an exploration of tradition and modernity, blending them seamlessly to create an experience that was both educational and deeply moving.

San Miguel de Allende is more than a destination; it is an experience that leaves an indelible mark on the soul. It is a place where one can find inspiration in the smallest details, where tradition and modernity dance together in a vibrant celebration of life.

A particularly memorable experience was the visit to a local fashion designer. The designer's studio was an explosion of colors and intricate designs, showcasing how the culture and vibrant spirit of San Miguel de Allende inspire his creations. The rich textures and vivid patterns in the clothes reflected the essence of the city, embodying the combination of tradition and modernity that define San Miguel. It was a vivid reminder of how the city's artistic and cultural heritage deeply influence and inspire local craftsmanship.

The last day offered a fantastic experience, capturing the essence of San Miguel de Allende in a photo shoot with the talented Erik Suarez.



As we walked through the beautiful streets, each frame captured the vibrant energy and stunning architecture of the city. This shoot wasn't just about photography; it was a journey through the soul of the city, highlighting its colorful facades, charming corners and the warm spirit of its people.

My time in this enchanting city was a journey of self-discovery, filled with moments of introspection and a renewed appreciation for the beauty of the world. Around every corner, I found a story waiting to be told, an explosion of color waiting to be painted on the tapestry of life.

Leaving San Miguel de Allende, I took with me not only memories, but a new perspective on life. This city, with its charm and boundless energy, had rekindled my passion for creativity and rebellion. It reminded me that inspiration can be found in the most unexpected places, and that sometimes, the journey itself is the greatest teacher.

Rui Mota Pinto
Chapter Director Portugal
IADWP

Looking for the music for your wedding?

We are the soundtrack of your love story.



Music has the power to transport us back in time, taking us to unique and important moments in our lives. Weddings bring with them stories that have inspired thousands of songwriters to turn them into the most beautiful songs.

Hi, I'm LuisaViolin, Colombian musician, professional violinist certified in weddings and events, winner of the award for best musician influencer 2023 by InstafestAwards, winner in the category best entrepreneur in the wedding and events industry at the coffee axis and national level in the LAWA Awards 2024. I am CEO of Music Colombia Show and content creator with more than 40,000 followers on Instagram around the world. I was born in the coffee axis, the land of charm and a vast green sea that has allowed me to witness more than 100 weddings mostly destination during these marathon 4 years. Today I want to share with you some aspects to keep in mind when choosing the music for your wedding.



Let's get down to business. The ceremony, the welcome cocktail or reception of the guests, the dinner, the triumphant entrance of the bride and groom, their first dance, and even the happy hour, are some moments in which the musical accompaniment has become indispensable to contribute to the concept of the wedding, from the musical tastes of the bride and groom. Each couple is unique and music, being a universal language, offers native rhythms and a wide variety of musical genres with which couples can identify themselves.

The soundtracks of movies and series, popular songs trending on social networks, melodies of contemporary or modern music and very romantic lyrics and different rhythms are the favorites to accompany the entrances and dances of couples. The more unique and different the songs you choose, the more DNA you want to give to every moment of your wedding.



It is important to keep in mind that you, as a client, have the right to choose what you want to listen to on that special day and the experience you want to give to your guests. Music services these days are totally personalized. You can ask your music provider for recommendations from their clients, supporting videos and images, playlists, meetings to adjust details and to receive advice in case you don't have a clear idea. Contracts for booking dates and quotes should include clear and precise information about the contracted service. Music is a world of possibilities and through it we can positively or negatively impact weddings. Therefore this information is very useful for future brides and grooms and wedding planners.

It is crucial that the wedding planner and the music provider maintain direct contact. They should provide each other with minute-to-minute details in a timely manner, agree on arrival times and sound checks, and inform each other if there are any delays or last minute changes.



Let's normalize that sometimes there are situations beyond our control, so assertive communication between both parties is vital to be able to support each other in case of any eventuality. Let's remember that on that day we are a team that works in favor of the bride and groom not to worry about anything. As vendors, it is our duty to provide peace of mind and confidence to couples.

There are many musical formats available. In our case, we handle different options: from accompaniment for ceremonies with at least 2 musicians up to 5 or 6 (depending on the taste of the bride and groom), also instrumental soloists such as violinists, saxophonists and cellists, as well as a string show of 4 or 3 musicians, perfect for welcome cocktails and dinners. We also have Cuban, jazz and crossover sound groups, acoustic instrumental and vocal groups, typical Colombian groups such as *chirimías* or *papayeras*, or vallenato groups and orchestras for moments such as parties and happy hours.

In short, there's no accounting for taste. I say goodbye thanking you for this space where I could share with you a little of what we bring from our musical field to the world of weddings. There is much more to tell, but until next time, may music continue to be an accomplice of many more love stories.

***Luisa Fernanda
González Martínez***

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*Inspiration for
a Destination
Wedding*

Are you dreaming of a wedding that is both romantic and adventurous? Or even a wedding that almost plans itself, leaving you free to enjoy the moments? A destination wedding could be the perfect choice for you! Destination weddings offer a unique and unforgettable experience for both the couple and their guests. Whether you're envisioning exchanging vows on a tropical beach, in a charming European village, or against a stunning mountain backdrop, the possibilities for destination weddings are truly infinite.

One of the most wonderful aspects of a destination wedding is the opportunity to spend quality time with your closest friends and family in a beautiful and significant setting. Unlike traditional weddings, where the celebration is limited to a single day, destination weddings often involve several days of festivities, allowing you to savor every moment with your loved ones.



A destination wedding also provides the perfect excuse for a mini-vacation, allowing you and your guests to escape the hustle and bustle of everyday life and immerse yourselves in a new and enchanting location. Whether you choose to explore local attractions, enjoy regional cuisine or simply relax and enjoy the stunning surroundings, a destination wedding can be a truly rejuvenating and enriching experience for everyone involved.





Plus, the stunning natural scenery and rich culture of a destination wedding venue can add an extra layer of magic to your special day. Imagine saying your vows as the sun sets over the ocean, dancing under the stars in a historic courtyard or exchanging rings surrounded by lush vineyards. The beauty of your chosen destination will undoubtedly infuse your wedding with an atmosphere of romance and wonder, creating memories that will last a lifetime.

In addition to the inherent beauty and romance of a destination wedding, many couples find that having their wedding in a faraway location allows them to customize their wedding celebration in a way that reflects their unique style and personality. From incorporating local traditions and customs to choosing a unique venue, a destination wedding provides the opportunity to create a wedding that is truly and authentically yours.

Finally, a destination wedding offers the opportunity to embark on a remarkable and joyous adventure with your loved one and your beloved guests. It is an opportunity to celebrate your love in a way that is as extraordinary and exceptional as your relationship itself. So, if you are looking for an inspiring, romantic and unforgettable wedding experience, a destination wedding may be the perfect choice for you.

To begin planning your destination wedding, contact experienced professionals. You'll want to work with an experienced travel agent to help you decide on the perfect destination and location. They will help you get the best rates and will be there for your guests to help them navigate the travel portion of the trip. You'll also want to work with a destination wedding planner who will guide you through the myriad of wedding design issues, creating the wedding of your dreams, big or small. If you find one of these professionals, they can probably give you recommendations for the other.

Planning a wedding can be a daunting task, but a destination wedding, working with the right professionals, can be a true joy. It will leave you and your guests with memories that will last a lifetime.

Alicia Geiger

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***The Essential
role of the
Bridesmaids***

Beauty, complicity and magic.

"A well-organized wedding has a lot to do with the people who are around."

-Martha Stewart

In any wedding, bridesmaids are an essential component. Not only is their emotional support valuable, but also their practical and symbolic contribution to the event. As a wedding planner, I have seen how these remarkable women can make the day even more memorable for the bride, groom and all the guests. In this article, I'll give you some tips and suggestions on how to make the most of their involvement.



Rigorous selection: Careful selection of bridesmaids is essential. They should be close and trusted by the bride and groom, capable of handling both practical and



emotional responsibilities. Make sure they are willing and able to commit the time and associated expenses.

Emotional support: Bridesmaids represent the main emotional team for the bride. They should be there to listen to her, help her make decisions and even mitigate pre-nuptial stress. Try to make sure there is a calm and positive atmosphere among the bridesmaids themselves.

Practical help: Bridesmaids will be very helpful during the preparation for the wedding, their contribution can be invaluable. From choosing outfits to handling minor logistical things, their involvement is essential to ease the bride and groom's stress and ensure that everyone is being treated with care.

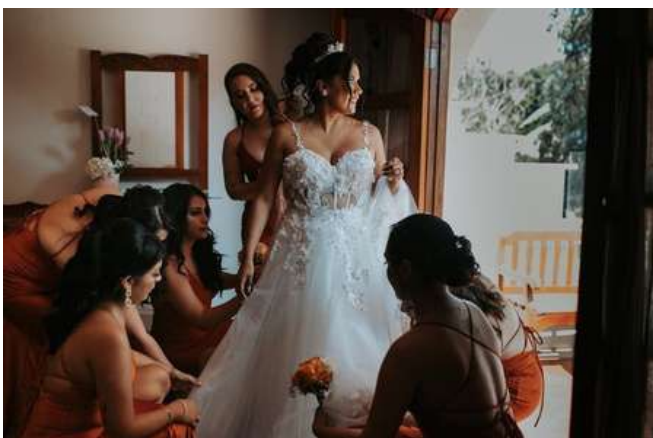




Attire and style: Make sure the bridesmaids' choice of dresses complements the overall theme and style of the wedding. Consider options that are flattering for everyone and allow for some individuality within a cohesive framework.

Specific roles: Clearly define the responsibilities of each bridesmaid, from the main coordinator to the one in charge of the bride's veil or someone who assists in speeches.

Enjoy your party: Once the wedding day arrives, encourage the bridesmaids to enjoy the moment and keep a positive attitude. They are an extension of your happiness and their energy will rub off on everyone present.



Recognition: Don't forget to thank your maid of honor for her time and effort. Small gestures such as sincere words of thanks mean a lot and strengthen the bonds of friendship.

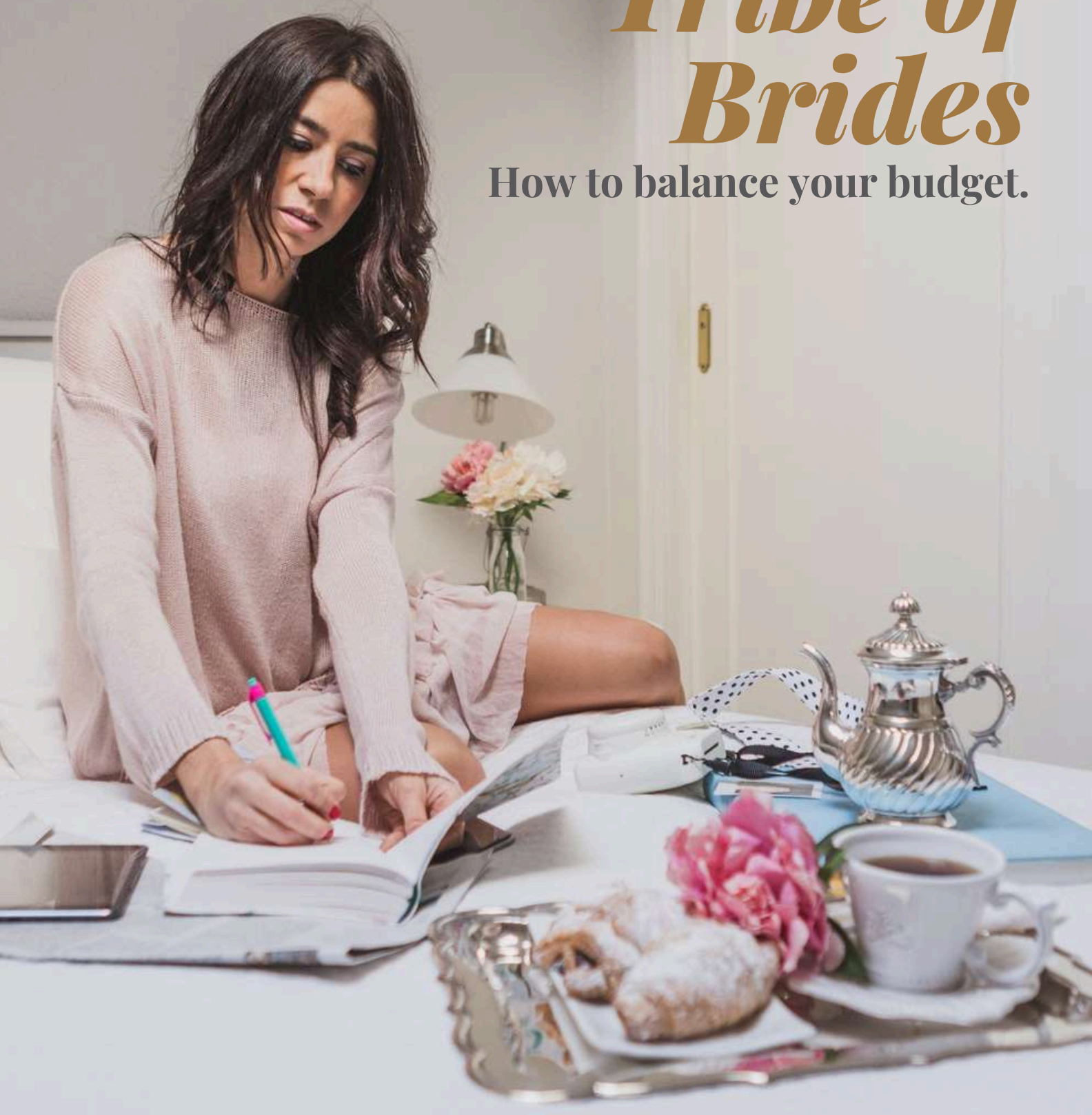
In conclusion, bridesmaids are not just ceremonial escorts; they are pillars of a successful wedding. Their commitment and support not only ease the burdens of the couple, but also enrich the experience of everyone involved. Remember to choose your bridesmaids wisely!

Rachel Lavi

Junior Chapter La Libertad
@rachellavi_weddingplanner

Tribe of Brides

How to balance your budget.



Hello dear Tribe of Brides! How are you?

Surely this topic is one of the most complicated to define and of course it may even result in difference between you, but it is definitely a BASIC to talk about from the beginning, it is absolutely one of your first and most important decisions as a couple, to talk about finances! And your first financial goal may be to pay for your wedding!

It is important that you could define the budget you wish to invest in it, if you will do it only with what you plan to pay or if you will accept financial help from someone else. And, of course, you must define what that budget will cover, if it will be 100% of the wedding expenses or if it is only for the party and the rest will be considered separately!

Here are my recommendations for maintaining a balanced budget!



You must consider that this is a general overview, so I suggest that you talk and define what your priorities are or what you want to give more budget to.



Always listen and share what is most important to you, because this is a special moment for both of you, the beginning of the rest of your life together!

I hope these recommendations will help you solve your doubts about whether or not a Destination Wedding is for you... But if you have any comments or questions between now and the next edition, I will be happy to read them in DM.

Read you soon!

Sandra Alas

Professional Event Planner
@sandraalaspw Mexico
#YoSoyLiderAlfa



A full-page photograph of a wedding couple in a grand, ornate hall. The groom is on the left, wearing a white suit and a light purple bow tie, holding the bride's hand. The bride is on the right, wearing a long, lace wedding dress with a long train and a white veil, holding a bouquet. They are standing on a black and white geometric patterned floor. In the background, there is a large, ornate chandelier hanging from the ceiling, a fountain with water, and a wall of gold-colored lights. The ceiling is decorated with white fabric and gold fringe. The overall atmosphere is warm and elegant.

*There is a piece of
heaven in
destination weddings*

Cali, Colombia.

As that minstrel, maestro Jairo Varela, would say in one of his most important salsa hymns "Cali Pachanguero": *"Paris the city of light, New York the capital of the world, Cali the piece of heaven"*. And it is that our city Santiago de Cali, bathed by imposing rivers, raised in the middle of two mountain ranges, crossed by the greatest diversity of birds in the world, close, cheerful, diverse, partying, is the third city in importance for Colombia, capital of the Colombian southwest, cradle of the main musical festivals of the country as the Petronio Álvarez and the gigantic Fair of Cali; it is also the World Capital of Salsa and the cheerful city of the country.



Cali, is the dream destination for those couples who plan to have fun with everything in their marriage, or spend days of celebration in their destination event. Its climate, its landscapes, its extensive valley honoring the department of which it is the capital (Valle del Cauca), which enjoys one of the greatest diversities of the continent, with its pacific sea, its coffee towns, its urban centers, its industry, its history and its gastronomy. However, the greatest attribute of our land is our people, the warmth of a Caleño and the kindness of a Vallecaucano, are difficult to find anywhere else in the world. A Caleño does not invite you to his house, for us, you are a member of our family, we do not give you a location, we take you wherever you go, we do not party, we "pull" tremendous rumba where we are all friends and almost brothers.

That is why celebrating in Cali is to guarantee the best experiences for your guests, because we also have one of the most specialized industries for social events in the country, with wonderful locations, charming non-traditional venues and a wide variety of options for all the supply of an event: furniture, technical production, entertainment companies, photography and video, artists, among others. Most of our professionals are recognized nationally and internationally for their high quality and above all for their valuable spirit of service.



As an industry we have learned to team up, to move things forward in unity, excellence and healthy camaraderie. About 18% of the country's events are held in Cali.

I am proud to introduce you to my destination, my city and my department. I have been an enterprising dreamer for 17 years, in what I believe is and will be my life project; to make weddings and events an eternal memory worth enjoying from beginning to finish, with this unique flavor that is lived here, this sweet taste of sugar cane that forces us to remember the thriving past of our land and invites us to see the future as a huge celebration from the soul.

Diego Mazabel

@diegomazabeloficial
CEO: @mazabelplanners
Director de: @calicelebra



Magical moments that make the difference in a wedding

A guide for future brides and grooms.



A wedding is much more than an event; it is a celebration of love and union that is reflected in every detail and moment lived. There are certain magical moments that really make the difference and make a wedding unforgettable. These are the moments that the future bride and groom should consider and value while planning their big day.

1. The First Look

One of the most emotional moments of any wedding is the first look between the bride and groom. Whether it's during the ceremony or in a private meeting before the ceremony, that instant when they first see each other in their wedding attire is full of emotion and love. Capturing this moment is essential, as it reflects the pure happiness and anticipation of the bride and groom.



2. The Entrance of the Bride

The entrance of the bride is another emotional moment. The looks of the guests, the music chosen and the groom's reaction create an emotionally charged atmosphere. This moment marks the formal beginning of the ceremony and is usually one of the most vivid memories for everyone present.

3. The Vows

The wedding vows are the heart of the ceremony. Whether traditional or personalized, the vows allow the bride and groom to express their feelings and promises in a profound and personal way. This exchange is an intimate moment that touches the hearts of all present and seals the couple's commitment.

4. The First Kiss

The first kiss as husband and wife is an iconic moment that symbolizes the official union of the bride and groom. This instant, full of joy

and celebration, is usually followed by the applause and cheers of the guests, marking the beginning of a new stage in the couple's life.

5. Exit of the bride and groom from the ceremony

When the bride and groom leave the ceremony, the atmosphere is filled with an incredible and magical energy. It is an exciting moment where all the guests rise and celebrate with applause, smiles and, often, a shower of petals or rice, symbolizing good wishes and prosperity. The newlyweds, beaming with happiness, walk together for the first time as husband and wife, feeling the love and support of all present. This instant not only marks the beginning of their new life together, but also creates an indelible memory full of joy and connection with their loved ones.

6. The Entrance to the Reception

The entrance of the bride and groom to the reception is a moment of celebration and joy. It is the first time the bride and groom are introduced as a married couple to their guests in a festive atmosphere. The choice of music, the energy of the guests and the excitement of the bride and groom make this moment truly special.



7. The First Dance

The bride and groom's first dance is another magical moment that makes all the difference. It is a time for the couple to lose themselves in their own moment by sharing an intimate and significant dance. The song chosen usually has sentimental value and creates a romantic atmosphere that touches everyone present.

8. Speeches at the toast

The speeches and toasts during the reception are moments full of emotion and sincerity. Friends and family members have the opportunity to share their feelings and wishes for the couple. These speeches often include anecdotes, advice and words of love that add a layer of emotional depth to the celebration.

In Conclusion

The magical moments at a wedding are the ones that truly make the difference and are etched in the memories of everyone present. From the first look to the last dance, each of these moments has the power to make your wedding truly unforgettable. As you plan your big day, focus on creating and enjoying these special moments that celebrate your love and your new life together.

***Rosemary R. Ramsay
de Mendoza***

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V I S I O N L E A D

- DISEÑO GRÁFICO
- DISEÑO WEB
- E-COMMERCE
- MEDIA KIT
- COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT
- MARKETING DIGITAL 360
- IMAGEN CORPORATIVA



**¿Eres
Wedding Planner?**



*The importance of
choosing the right wedding
filmmaker for you*

General tips for any bride and groom.



Your wedding is one of the most important days of your life. It is a unique moment full of emotions that you and your family will want to treasure forever. That is why it is necessary that you know how to choose an excellent filmmaker who is able to create a visual narrative that will allow you to relive every special moment.

In this article, I will explain why it is crucial to choose the right wedding filmmaker for you and offer you some key criteria for choosing the right one.

Why is a good wedding filmmaker important?

1. Because they can capture unique emotions and details

A talented filmmaker has the ability to capture those fleeting (sometimes



imperceptible) moments that make your wedding unique: your groom watching you walk down the aisle, the heartfelt laughter of family and friends, dad's expression as he saw you for the first time in your wedding dress. These are the details you'll want to relive over and over again forever.

2. Because they can create a truly lasting memory.



Photos are wonderful, but a wedding film allows you to relive the entire day. From the getting ready to the party, every sound, smile and tear will be represented forever in audio-visual format. It's an investment in a memory that will become more precious over time.

3. Because they are sensitive artists and professional in their craft.

his craft.

A professional filmmaker uses high quality equipment and has the experience to handle any unforeseen event at a wedding, ensuring that every shot is perfect. In addition, he has editing skills (such as storytelling, digital editing, music and colorization) that will transform your video into a true cinematic piece. He will also be able to interpret and recreate in a credible and unique way your feelings and personality creating a truly special film for you.

Criteria for choosing the perfect film maker.

1. Style and Vision.

All filmmakers have their own style. Some people prefer a cinematic approach, while others opt for a more documentary style. Review the portfolio they show you and make sure their style matches your vision and personality.

2. Experience and Reputation.

Research the filmmaker's experience in the wedding field. Read reviews and testimonials from other clients (comments on social media can also help) to get an idea of their reputation. A filmmaker with a solid background in weddings will be better equipped to capture your day flawlessly.

3. Personal Connection.

It is essential that you feel comfortable with whoever is filming your wedding. This professional will be by your side most of the day during intimate and emotional moments, so it is crucial to have a good relationship and feel that they understand you and you can trust them.

4. Packages and Prices.

Compare the different packages and prices they offer, always giving prime importance to the style you want for your film. Make sure the package includes everything you need and want; from number and types of pieces delivered, hours of coverage and delivery times. Remember that cheap can be expensive; invest in quality!

5. Check out their social media and portfolio.

Today there are millions of wedding videos on the internet, and typing "wedding videos" in your search engine will bring up hundreds, so you can get overwhelmed by seeing so much work and that can sabotage your selection process. One tip is to check their portfolios to make sure that each film they show is different from each other, as it



shows that these are filmmakers who care about personalizing their work to each couple.

Final Tips

Meet in Person

If possible, have a face-to-face meeting with the professional before making a decision. This will allow you to get to know them better and discuss your expectations.

Make a Priority List

Decide which aspects of the video are most important to you and be sure to communicate this clearly.

Trust Your Instinct

If something doesn't feel right, keep looking. It's critical that you feel confident and excited about your choice.

Choosing the perfect wedding filmmaker may seem like an overwhelming task, but with these tips you will be well on your way to finding that professional who will interpret the magic of your special day into a cinematic piece. Remember, your wedding is a unique moment and deserves to be immortalized in the best way possible. Good luck and may you have a beautiful and lifelong movie of love!

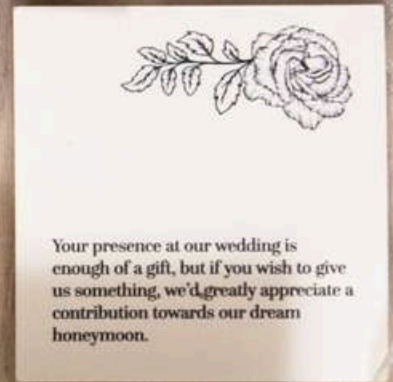
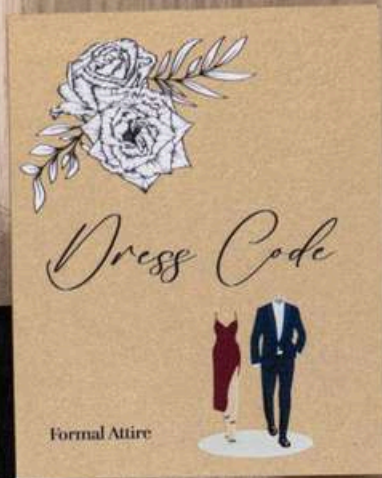
Charlie Rodriguez

Wedding and documentary filmmaker.
CEO en @matrimonios_films
www.matrimoniosfilms.com



The art of invitations

Creating unforgettable experiences.



There are many ways to announce a celebration, but without a doubt, a physical invitation is the prelude to an unforgettable event. Like all first impressions, invitations are the "appetizer" that excites, generates expectation and captivates.

Inspiration comes automatically when we listen carefully to all the emotions with which our clients carefully plan every detail of their special moment. This is our main raw material so that through our work we manage to capture all those ideas and illusions with which they make us fly too.

After that first meeting where they tell us what they are looking for in *aManoGallery*, we embark on an adventure without turning back where we are already part of that illusion.

With our designs we seek to transmit the same feeling that our client came with: elegant, contemporary, wild, fun, formal, rustic... but it must always be unforgettable.



We are often told "the invitation is thrown away" and possibly there will be cases like that, but the experience generated by receiving a product designed exclusively to make you feel special, always remains tattooed in the soul. The smell of the papers, the texture of the materials involved, the elegance of opening an envelope meticulously sealed to preserve that treasure; it is a feast of sensations that can hardly be felt through a screen. Receiving a physical invitation will never be the same as receiving one of the thousands of notifications that arrive daily.

Events become unforgettable, once we manage, through sensations, to touch the hearts and minds not only of those who look for us, but also of those who attend the event.



Each piece we create is a perfect fusion of creativity, elegance and personalization. Every detail that comes out of the gallery must, as a matter of principle, convey an optimistic and creative message that invites those who receive the invitation to fly with us.

Let us tell a unique and unrepeatable story with you. In our design gallery, each invitation is a tribute to creativity, dedication and passion to make every moment truly unforgettable.

The invitation is the first impression, but there are thousands of opportunities for you, as the honorees, to show off at your event and take ownership of the celebration; make it yours!

From a very young age, manual work was my obsession, and today I can proudly say that I work in the place where I always wanted to create experiences, fulfilling the dreams of my clients. Surrounded by colors, textures, paints and thousands of materials that turn a working day into a creative amusement park where the simplest thing is transformed into art through the dedication of my entire team and the technology that accompanies us in the fulfillment of our work.



Diana Vásquez

CEO en aManoGallery
www.amanogallery.com
Instagram: @amanogallery

A romantic pre-wedding session featuring a couple standing in front of a large, ornate wooden door. The woman, on the left, has long dark hair blowing in the wind and is wearing a vibrant orange and pink floral print dress. The man, on the right, is wearing a crisp white short-sleeved button-down shirt and light-colored trousers. The scene is bathed in warm, golden sunlight, creating a soft and intimate atmosphere. The background shows the top of the door with decorative scrollwork and palm fronds visible above the frame.

5 Must-haves for your pre-wedding outfit

Pre-wedding session.

A pre-wedding session is a wonderful opportunity to capture the magic and excitement of your engagement. Choosing the right outfit for this session can make a huge difference in the final outcome of the photos. Here are five essential tips for dressing for a pre-wedding session, ensuring you look and feel amazing while creating unforgettable memories.

1. **Color Coordination: Harmony Without Excess**

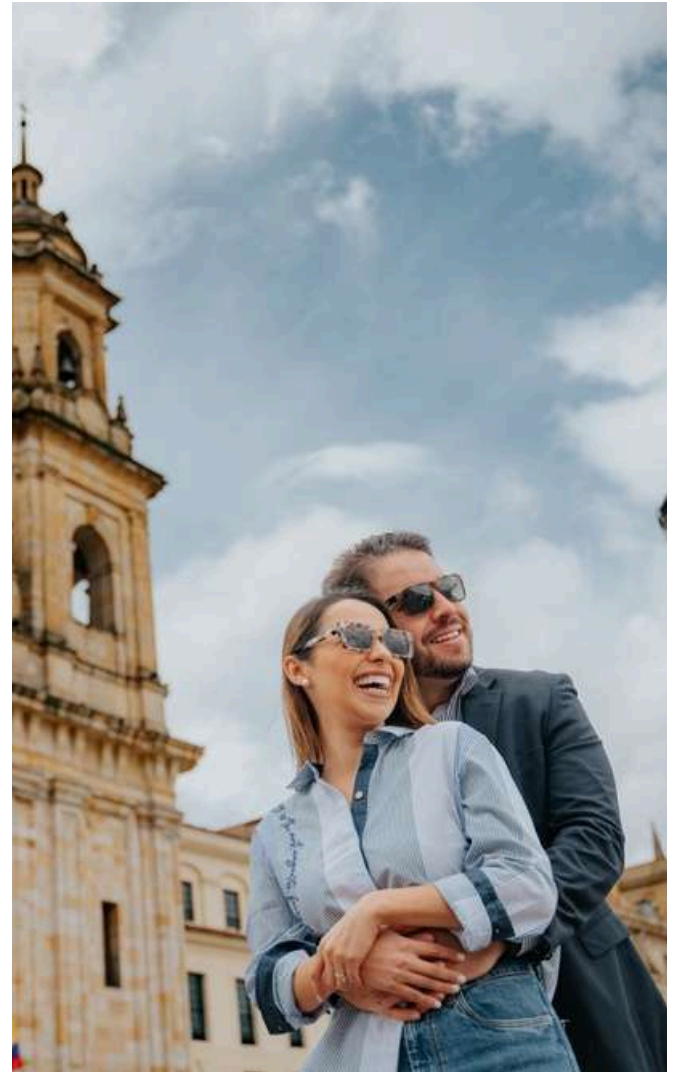
Color coordination between you and your partner is crucial. Opting for colors that complement each other can give your photos a harmonious look. Here are some specific tips:

- **Neutrals and Pastels:** These colors are soft and tend to look good in most environments. Shades such as beige, cream, light pink, and pastel blue can be excellent choices.
- **Avoid Bright Colors:** Neon or very saturated colors can distract and draw attention away from the emotions and connection between the two of you.
- **Complement the Environment:** If the session will be in a place with lots of vegetation, earthy colors or soft greens can complement the environment. On a beach, white, blue and beige tones can look spectacular.

2. **Comfort and Style: Be Yourself**

It's critical that the clothes you choose make you feel comfortable and reflect your personal style. Here are some points to consider:

Don't wear new clothes: Although it is tempting to buy a new outfit, it is better to wear something you already feel comfortable in. New clothes may cause discomfort or not fit as well as you expected.



Consider Your Everyday Style: If you're a person who prefers a casual style, don't feel pressured to dress too formally. Authenticity is reflected in photos.

3. **Layers and Props: Add Interesting Details**

Layers and props can add depth and character to your photos. Here are a few ideas:

- **Layers:** A light jacket, sweater, or scarf can be easily added or removed during the shoot to vary the shots.
- **Accessories:** Hats, jewelry, and watches can add a special touch. However, avoid overloading with too many accessories that can draw attention away from the emotions between you and your partner.

4. Match the Place: Adjust your Attire to the Environment.

The location of the shoot should influence your wardrobe choice. Here are some suggestions based on different environments:

- **Park or Forest:** Casual, relaxed clothing is perfect. Jeans, plaid shirts, and light dresses can be ideal.
- **Urban:** A more chic or elegant style may be appropriate. Consider blazers, pencil skirts, or elegant dresses.
- **Beach:** Choose light, comfortable clothing. Loose-fitting dresses, linen shirts, and shorts can work well. Avoid clothing that might look out of place in a natural, relaxed setting.

5. Appropriate Footwear: Comfort without sacrificing style.

Footwear is a crucial part of your attire. Make sure it is comfortable and appropriate for the venue. Here are some tips:

- **Comfortable Shoes:** You're going to be walking and standing during the session, so choose shoes that won't cause you pain.
- **Setting:** If the shoot is in a park or forest, avoid high heels that may sink into the grass. In a city, more formal shoes may be a good choice.
- **Complementing Style:** Make sure your shoes complement your outfit. Brown or beige shoes are often versatile and work well with many styles.



Final Considerations

Remember that the key is to feel comfortable and authentic. The best pre-wedding photos are those where the couple feels relaxed and in tune. Take the time to try different outfit combinations before the day of the shoot and make sure everything is ready and planned in advance.

Finally, don't forget to coordinate with your photographer about the style and mood you want for your photos. A good photographer will be able to give you more personalized advice based on your vision and the location of the shoot.

Enjoy your pre-wedding session and the opportunity to capture these special moments before your big day!

Christian Florez Rodriguez

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7 tips that will allow you to enhance your wedding

Even if you have a limited budget.



When we start planning a wedding, one of the most important questions is: how much budget do we want to invest? For some couples the budget is not a problem, others do not know exactly how much to spend, and others decide to determine a figure and limit their budget. Now, for the latter, it is often difficult to know in which items to prioritize and in which ones to spend what is necessary to still have the wedding of their dreams.

Here are 7 tips that will allow you to elevate your wedding even if you have a limited budget.

1. Hire a Wedding Planner:

Contrary to what many may think, a wedding planner will help you so that even if your wedding has a limited budget it can be a beautiful celebration, with special details and maintained quality. The wedding experience of a wedding planner will allow you to handle any situation calmly and will help you find the right vendors. In addition, they will help you enjoy the process without being overwhelmed, which in the end makes it an investment that will make a difference in the final outcome of your special day.

2. Choose an affordable, but charming venue:

Look for affordable options where to have your wedding. You should be open to options that have spaces already set up for events and that do not require a lot of investment in the details. It is important to be realistic and be able to adapt your budget, wedding style and details to the place you find.



Keep in mind that if your dream wedding is on a beach for example, you will spend more than in a hall; since the beach will require much more logistics and infrastructure to set up an event, compared to a hall or a garden that is already designed and prepared to provide you with the service.

3. Minimalist but stunning decor:

Pinterest is a great source of inspiration when looking for decorating options, but not everything will work if your budget is limited. Keep in mind that many decorations we find on the internet, use expensive or export flowers, also that the photos may be retouched and that changes the colors, etc. When we can't spend much on decoration, the rule is simple: Less is more. Use simple elements, but well selected, a great help will be the lighting and ambiance of the place, and leave aside the centerpiece that will have 1000 roses. Use Christmas lights, candles, flowers and seasonal foliage to create a charming atmosphere without spending too much.

4. Take advantage of natural light and ambiance:

Complement your event venue and décor by taking into account the timing of your event. Celebrating your wedding during the day to take advantage of natural light is also something that will help you significantly reduce the costs involved in a nighttime event that requires more lighting.

Many event halls or gardens, have cheaper prices and options for events that are held during the day, so take advantage of this and save a little more. In addition, a good ambiance with appropriate music can elevate the atmosphere in an economical way and will allow you to still have a special day.

5. Creative catering

Food will be one of the most important services on your wedding day, guests often forget how the decoration or the venue was, but they never forget if the food was good or not. Consider options such as buffets with homemade food options, but with nice presentation, food trucks or carts of your favorite fast food and substitute a formal meal of three or more times for a simpler menu. Another option that will help you stay within your budget is to opt for a caterer that has brunch options or have a casual cocktail party instead of a formal lunch or dinner. It is important that you also consider limiting alcoholic beverages for the meal, as they tend to raise the cost of this service.

6. Take advantage of technology and opt for digital invitations

A practical and modern way to save on details is to make digital invitations instead of the traditional printed ones. Design and printing costs can be high, especially if you have several guests, so sending a digital invitation can help you.



Nowadays, you can find many options of free platforms and also some paid ones; they allow you to design and send invitations in an elegant way and are very easy to use. In addition, a digital invitation will be more accessible to your guests, since they will have it on their phone, in their email or through a virtual platform, and it will not get lost in the traditional mail.

7. Celebrate your big day with the most significant people in your life.

Finally, your final guest list. Having close and significant people at your wedding will create a warmer and more personalized atmosphere. So don't be afraid and focus on inviting those who have a connection to you and your partner, such as close family members and close friends. This will also make it easier to explain why others were not included. So be prepared to purge your guest list and share more with those you love the most.

Of course there are many other ways you can elevate your big day significantly and stay within your budget, but start with these 7 tips to optimize your resources and maximize your planning, time and money!

Gaby Maldonado

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Fotografías: Gutierrez Gramajo

A photograph of two women in wedding attire. The woman on the left is wearing a light pink, sleeveless, high-necked dress with five decorative buttons down the front. The woman on the right is wearing a light pink, sleeveless, ruffled dress and a tiara. They are both smiling and posing together in a bright, white setting.

*Styling and looks
for bridesmaids
and in-laws*

On the big day of the wedding.

During all these years sharing with brides and grooms and organizing weddings, I have been able to observe first hand the important role of the bridesmaids and bridesmaids-in-law on the big day.

Their attention to detail and desire to look gorgeous is a reflection of their love and dedication to the bride and groom.

Today we will talk about trends in bridesmaid dresses colors, which are presented for this season 2024-2025, as well as tips for them to shine with their own light.

Differentiating Winter and Summer Bridesmaids.

The choice of outfit for bridesmaids and bridesmaids-in-law can vary significantly depending on the season. Whether it is the weather, the use of fabrics varies.

While in summer you choose lighter and more vaporous fabrics, in winter you can play with textures and heavier fabrics.

Below, we explore some of the top trends for each season.



Madrinas de Verano

Full Yellow: El amarillo se posiciona como uno de los colores en tendencia para la primavera-verano de 2024. Con sus diversas tonalidades, este color alegre y vibrante es ideal para aquellas madrinas que desean romper con lo tradicional y apostar por una opción más atrevida.



Pastels: Pastel tones are a classic that never goes out of style. Colors such as pink, light blue and light green bring softness and elegance, creating a distinguished and sophisticated look that inspires calm and freshness.

Pure Red: Intense, eye-catching red is another standout color for 2024. Whether in simple or more elaborate cuts, red works perfectly and adds a touch of glamour and confidence. Dresses with asymmetrical cuts and an exposed shoulder are especially popular.



Navy Blue: Navy blue is a timeless color that delivers elegance and sophistication. It works well with a variety of silhouettes and is a safe choice for any bridesmaid.

In addition, other shades of blue, such as light blue or steel blue, are also excellent choices for a refined look.



Shine!: Shiny dresses are gaining popularity. Gold and silver tones, along with shiny fabrics and sequins, add a festive and fun touch. For balance, it is advisable to opt for simple and classic cuts, letting the shiny details take center stage. It works for both winter and summer.



Winter Bridesmaids

In winter, darker colors and heavier fabrics take center stage. Here are some trends for winter bridesmaids.

Burgundy

Burgundy is a deep, rich color, perfect for the colder months. This shade adds a touch of warmth and luxury, ideal for elegant and sophisticated weddings.



Emerald green

This is another elegant and vibrant option for winter. This color is not only elegant, but also brings a touch of freshness and nature to any look.



Dark Florals: Dark floral prints are an emerging trend. These designs add a romantic and bohemian touch, perfect for bridesmaids looking for a unique and charming look.



The bridesmaids and bridesmaids-in-law play a pivotal role in the ceremony and it is crucial that they feel comfortable and relaxed. Choosing the right silhouette should enhance their personality and allow them to enjoy the event without worries. At the end of the day, the most important thing is that they feel confident and happy with their choice of outfit.

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Enology

Champagne: the symbol that distinguishes a wedding.

"Champagne y Bodas"

During the year 1693, a French monk spent a lot of time perfecting the art of making white wine from red grapes. To do so, he avoided their skins, which were responsible for the color, and blended different types of wine from various vineyards in the Champagne region of France to improve the taste of his product. This was the case of Dom Pierre Pérignon, a blind Benedictine from the Abbey of Hautvillers de Epernay and the inventor of champagne by mistake.

Legend has it that Champagne was born from a mistake that eventually became the "Traditional Method" with which not only the best sparkling wines are produced in Champagne, but also great sparkling wines worldwide that have adopted this double fermentation method to obtain great wines capable of generating delicate notes and bubbles, always with selected grapes and the magic of great winemakers and Sommeliers who put their passion and experience in each bubble.

Pérignon managed to produce an extraordinary white wine from red grapes, but there was always a problem: bubbles were constantly appearing in the bottles. This Benedictine monk did not understand what was happening, a great irony of fate as he spent a long time trying to avoid them.

However, the English, to whom the monks sent this white wine, began to prefer the "failed" version of the monk, they liked the "bubbly" Dom Pérignon better than the classic version.

With the arrival of spring and warm weather, bacterial activity was reactivated, and as each bottle was covered (with pieces of wood wrapped in rags), the bubbles were trapped and under pressure many of them burst. This also occurred because the glass of the time was weak and thin. In addition, a "chain reaction" was common: when one bubble burst, many others would follow. Dom Pérignon did not know why this was happening and called his wine "mad wine".



It is said that the instability of this wine was the cause of many concerns, and then new bottles with thicker glass emerged. Also, the stopper used until then was replaced by a cork used by pilgrims from Sant Feliu de Guíxols (in the lower Empordà, Girona) to stopper their canteens.

With these improvements, Monk Pérignon strove to optimize the process of this fizzy wine and devoted himself to studying and perfecting it; the monks' perception changed completely, and over time it became the drink of choice for celebrations.

As a master winemaker, Dom Perignon was one of the best producers of sparkling wine, but he was never able to explain the reason for the bubbles. It was the French chemist, Louis Pasteur, 150 years later, who deduced the natural process of fermentation by which bacteria assimilate sugar and convert it into alcohol, generating heat and CO₂, i.e. carbon dioxide gas.



Las burbujas se deben a la fermentación del vino
Images/iStockphoto

Undoubtedly a great discovery for those of us who enjoy and celebrate those exceptional moments in life, where a good sparkling wine opens the evening with bubbles that evoke the good wishes shared among those who are part of that unique celebratory experience.

An important detail! It is important to understand that Champagne is certainly a white wine that uses only three types of grapes: Pinot Noir, Pinot Meunier and Chardonnay, but its name is mainly due to its appellation of origin, June 29, 1936: it was marked for the Champagne appellation. In the mid-nineteenth century, Champagne producers joined forces to defend Champagne against the misleading uses of sparkling wine producers who sought to enhance the value of their wines by presenting them under the Champagne appellation.

Champagne is a symbol of joy, celebration, luxury and distinction. No wonder, since the seventeenth century when the French court made it fashionable, it became the favorite drink of the European nobility and bourgeoisie. Undoubtedly, it met all the requirements to be a wine of the elite, it was expensive, novel and scarce, which remains to this day. Champagne adds a sophisticated and elegant touch to the evening, either because it can be served at the toast, or it can be served throughout the evening to guests who choose it as their drink for the entire experience. I have even had more elegant evenings where it has been the only drink or main drink, always paired with snacks and dishes as appropriate, of sophisticated preparation and service, based on freshwater and saltwater fish with seafood such as trout, salmon, caviar, ceviche, mature cheeses, unctuous canapés and delicate bruschetta with exquisite grilled vegetables such as

asparagus, mushrooms, including desserts with bitter chocolate, sour strawberries and delicious pear, apricot, plum and other macerated fruits, without leaving out puff pastries and short crust pastries.

Champagne is a noble, versatile elixir that maintains its elegance with the five senses, undoubtedly the five senses, flirtatiously bubbly and round to the palate, enhances the flavors, captivating to the sense of smell, attractive to the eye in its tones and bubbles with its straw yellow looking for the golden gold; around it there will always be smiles to enjoy to the ear, and why not? To the touch, a handshake, a hug or a sensual caress will come as a consequence of sharing a glass of champagne.

Weddings and Champagne, a marriage of sophistication and joy for life, a casual mistake of a French monk that became a legacy that transcends bubble by bubble in time, even to modernity, because its essence will always be in its traditional method of double fermentation where the passion of its winemaker will be evident in every bottle, in every glass, in every "cheers"!

I'll see you next time, I'll leave you my coordinates, write me and we'll continue sharing content like this, Cheers!



Juan Salvador

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*The evolution of
the wedding gift
list*

Adapting to the needs of
modern couples.

The reality today is that gift lists are no longer as fundamental in helping modern couples settle into their married home. Most couples already have all the household items before they get married, as many have already spent years buying the essentials and decorating their shared space as they live together or are financially independent, which means they don't need the traditional gifts like dishes, towels or household appliances as they did a few years ago. Lifestyles have changed and with it so have their needs and priorities.

The new priorities of today's couples value flexibility and experience more.

They prefer gifts that allow them to live new adventures and enjoy moments of unique experiences together, such as trips or events that bring relaxation, wellness and beauty.

The ability to receive cash aligns perfectly with these priorities, offering the freedom to choose how to use that money for their needs, personal desires and significant experiences for the couple.



Cash has become the "Ideal Gift", since it offers numerous advantages to modern couples and also multiple uses for its flexibility to be able to decide for themselves what to buy and what suits them best is the purchase of items according to their lifestyle, decorative design in their new married life. Also, why not, to be able to cover the expenses of their own wedding, honeymoon and travel expenses among many others.

I remember one couple who were able to cover several months of the mortgage on their new home, even for a year after returning from their honeymoon, because all the gifts from relatives were in cash.

Everything is more practical and functional for couples before and on their wedding day, receiving these gifts in cash in designated and well guarded spaces during the wedding reception, but the safest thing for everyone is a bank transfer in the currency allowed by the country where they live.

And as it has happened to me so many times before, I await the bride and groom's question.

What is the best way to let our friends and family know that we prefer this option? In cash without making them feel that it is an obligation or that we are asking them for money, because I tell you, the most important thing is that they feel that it is something very spontaneous to please them if it is their preference. I recommend that you write in a little card apart from the invitation and that goes inside the envelope of this, let them know how significant they are for you with their assistance, and with words of invitation, precise and concise ask them for their presence reminding them with this quote very well known from the hands of an expert, A GIFT IS OPTIONAL, ATTENDANCE MANDATORY, and we want them to accompany us to our most important day of our lives.

Recommending cash-based gift lists can simplify planning for us wedding planners and reduce stress for both the bride and groom and guests.

In addition, it allows us wedding planners to offer a more personalized and adaptable service to each couple's needs and desires.

Two of my couples who are getting married this coming January 2025, have opted themselves from the beginning for cash based gift lists, since they both live together for a few years and have everything, but in addition, they coincide with their preferences for adventure travel around the world. For these their priorities in this new stage of their married life they can take advantage of it for their travels, it allows them to personalize their decisions and attend to their priorities, personal projects or any immediate or future needs of the couple making the most of your gift, and believe me they will never forget what you gave them.



I've been married 31 years, and I can remember all my cash gifts, as I know every single action we took with them. And even though we were financially independent when we got married, it always comes in handy to feel comfortable paying for new utilities and mortgage payments on your new home if you choose to do so.

In short, the importance of adapting to modern times can be led by the wedding planner. You are invited to consider this option and to see cash not as an impersonal gift, but as an opportunity to give couples the freedom to decide.

I invite us to be that change by educating and letting our partners see the advantages of a flexible gift list and to explore modern and practical options. And if you do not opt for this modality there are platforms where you can manage this type of gift lists, such as Zankyou, Honeyfund, Amazon, among others. It is important to know how to communicate this type of gift lists to the guests in a delicate and respectful way.

Nydia Alegria

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LAT Wedding Congress Social Events

Discover the unforgettable parties that made the difference.

The evenings promised to be unforgettable, and they certainly did not disappoint any of the attendees. The IADWP (International Association of Destination Wedding Professionals) LAT Wedding & Event Spectacular Congress exceeded expectations day after day with its inspiring talks and enriching workshops, and each night culminated with a spectacular party that brought everyone together in an atmosphere of camaraderie and celebration. From the moment the doors opened, a vibrant energy flooded every venue. Dazzling lights, immersive music, and carefully designed themed décor transformed the space into an authentic fantasy world. Participants from around the world put aside their roles as Wedding Planners and immersed themselves in nights filled with laughter, dancing, and new friendships. These parties were not only the perfect ending to each day of the congress, but also a reminder of the power of human connection and the magic of sharing unforgettable moments.

Welcoming event “A flor de piel”

The event began in spectacular fashion with a catwalk of wedding gowns for men. The models, one by one, walked down the runway half-naked, followed by assistants who were in charge of dressing them in their elegant attire. Once all the models were ready, they continued their runway to show off these stunning outfits, each with a unique



story, as they had been worn by brides and grooms at their weddings in the past. Without a doubt, Gilberto Brizuela of Sereno del Sordo left all the attendees speechless with his dazzling presentation.

After the catwalk, we enjoyed a spectacular dinner courtesy of Rita Campos Banquetes, who surprised us with their incredible cuisine. The evening was accompanied by live music by Grupo Aura from Guadalajara and MIC (Music Innovation Company), who delighted all attendees. But the night did not end there, we had an incredible after party by DJ El Chico del Apartamento 5-12, where we did not stop dancing until late at night, making the evening a truly unforgettable experience at the IADWP level.

I would like to express our deepest gratitude to the Ministry of Tourism of the Government of the State of Guanajuato and the Municipality of León for their invaluable support. We also thank the former Hacienda La Joya for providing us with such a lovely venue. And last but not least a special recognition to Grupo Produce for their excellence in audio, visual and logistics.

Back toSchoolDays. Exclusive event for us IADWP members.

The party was truly amazing and transported us back in time with its theme of "Back toSchool." The decor at the Mathurin at Grupo Ex Hacienda Cruz de Cantera was impeccable, and the catering delighted us attendees. AMEDEUS Production - Delicious Mexican Taco Events, which became a real hit with attendees, impressed us with a state-of-the-art dance floor and audio equipment, creating a vibrant and fun atmosphere that evoked memories of our school days.

Ambar Films added a special touch with its innovative Dance Cam, capturing unforgettable moments of the night.



Cattaleya Productions surprised us with an amazing show, and MIC (Music Innovation Company), along with the amazing DJ Jay Cee, kept us grooving and dancing non-stop all night long. It was an experience that exceeded all expectations, which I give a 1000 out of 100.

Eclectic Closing Party: Dare to Look Differently

Oh my God, I have no words to describe what Fernanda Diaz from Argentina made us experience with this incredible, spectacular and dreamy party she designed! As the doors opened, we stepped into a completely unknown world; the lights came on as we went along and, with our mouths agape, we could only ask, "What is this crazy production?" It was a magical place that exceeded all expectations of those in attendance.

The Wedding Congress could not have closed in a better way. The Ministry of Tourism of the State of Guanajuato, the City of León, and Poliforum León really shined. Grupo Produce deployed all their technology in audiovisuals, creating a dazzling ambiance, all those lights were complete madness. Paco Granados from BJX MODA surprised us with an innovative runway that encouraged us all to model our own outfits Alex Bribiesca, the TOP DJ, and Walter Vazquez, a member of the IADWP, kept us moving all night long on the majestic dance floor of AMADEUS Producción - Eventos.

The luxurious furnishings that complemented Fernanda's decor were provided by A Coppa Diseño de Evento by Andrea Álvarez and AldrukaTrendyFurniture by Alejandra Zermeno. TheCartoonistas created fabulous caricatures for us, and a special thanks to Fernanda Leon for her excellent coordination of the event. It was a truly unforgettable evening.



IADWP exceeded all expectations with its themed parties. Each night offered a unique experience, highlighting the welcome event "A Flor de Piel" with a stunning runway of bridal gowns and a culminating evening with an exquisite dinner and a vibrant after party. The exclusive "Back toSchoolDays" party transported us back in time with impeccable décor and a state-of-the-art dance floor, while the eclectic closing party designed by Fernanda Diaz offered a magical and dazzling show. We thank all the collaborators and sponsors who made this congress a truly unforgettable experience.

MSc. Jeffrey Cervantes Calderón

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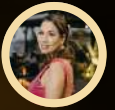
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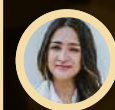
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PLATINUM MEMBER

2024



Welcome to the exclusive Platinum section of IADWP! We are pleased to introduce our most distinguished members, who represent excellence in the destination wedding industry:



Alejandra Villaseñor

Si Acepto! Viajes y bodas en playa

 @alejandrasiacepto


I am Alejandra Villaseñor Vidrio my passion for destination weddings began 6 years ago when my best friend wanted to get married on the beach, there I discovered that this was something I could not leave and since then I am a bridge between couples and their dreams, between having a unique and incomparable wedding in any part of Mexico and the world.

I believe that love is the greatest force, that's why I work for love, with love and from love. Si Acepto! the materialization of many dreams for the couples and their guests as well as for my team that is behind the scenes supporting me in every activity, in every wedding and in every dream. I can only define myself as a tireless dreamer and in love with love.



Luz Hernández

Hacienda Real

 @haciendarealrecinto

I was born in Leon, Guanajuato, I am 29 years old, I am currently studying a master's degree in organizational development, I am passionate about customer service and I am a specialist in human capital. I speak Japanese and Italian as well as English, I seek to learn constantly and unstoppably. I love culture and languages, I am visionary, dedicated to my work and I am driven by excellence and dedication. This Hacienda Real project is the most important of my professional career and I enjoy making it a reality every day.



Karla Gómez

ELÔ EVENTS


 @@elo.weddingsandevents

I am Karla Gómez, founder and creative director of Elô events. With Dominican roots and training in Hospitality Management and Le Cordon Bleu, my career began at the Renaissance Jaragua Hotel by Marriott in the Dominican Republic. My passion for culinary led me to France and then to Toronto, Canada, where I worked at Terroni Restaurant Group. With experience and creativity, I founded Elô to celebrate love, offering customized solutions in event planning and understanding each client's story.



María F. Sánchez

**MFS Group
MFS Bridal Agency**

 @MariaFernandaSanchezOfficial

Maria Fernanda Sanchez is an entrepreneur and creator of the brand MFS Group, MFS Bridal Agency, with seventeen years of experience in the wedding and social events market, Public Accountant graduated from the Universidad Javeriana Cali. International Wedding Planner Certification from Atlantis University in Miami, Certification in Jewish wedding planning, Specialist in art and floral design, Lecturer and Workshop in training of human talent for events focused on branding strategies, cost management and floral design; she is also a member of ABC and Asocolwep, director of the regional chapter of Asocolwep valley.

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2024



Lisa Álvarez

Eye4getaways
Eye4destinationweddings



@eye4destinationweddings

As an adventurous Verified Travel Agent and Certified Wedding Planner with a decade of experience, I've explored resorts and countries globally, gaining priceless firsthand knowledge. Oh, and I've racked up a few certifications along the way! I live in the wedding capital of the world Las Vegas NV!



Gail Johnson

Gail Johnson Weddings,
Events & Travel



@wedgail

Gail has been in the business of wedding for over 20 years. Her educational background speaks for itself: she is a published author, speaker and graduate of Georgia Perimeter College's Wedding Coordinator Certificate program. She also earned a Bachelor of Arts (B.A. cum laude) degree from Spelman College and a Master of Science (MS) from Mercer University. Gail resides in the suburbs of Atlanta, Georgia with her husband and daughter.



María C. Chau

Chau Event Planners



@chauseventplanners

Hi, I'm Maria Carolina Chau, founder and CEO of Chau Event Planners. I allowed myself to follow my dreams and in 2015 I started this great project, my own event planning company. During these years, I have confirmed my passion for creating memorable moments, especially those that are celebrated once in a lifetime. The smile of our clients and the words of gratitude after each event, are the confirmation of a high quality and team work.

Throughout my professional career, it has been of great relevance to keep myself updated. I have a Master's Degree in Event Design and Production (NYU - New York) and I am a member of national and international event planners associations. When I'm not creating unique events, I'm usually enjoying family time, getting to know new places and cultures.



Eduardo Moya

Eduardo Moya Wedding &
Event Expert



@eduardo.moya.weddingplanner

Wedding Planner, Designer and Event Producer Originally from Querétaro, Qro. Mexico. With 12 years of experience in the romance industry with 5 certifications as Wedding Planner.

Every celebration we do is planned and designed with love, magic and glamour.

"The magic is in doing everything with love from the inside of our heart".

From idyllic venues to meticulous details, each of these professionals has demonstrated an **unwavering** commitment to creating truly memorable wedding experiences. Join us as we celebrate **creativity, innovation** and the art of making wedding **dreams come true** in destinations around the world.

BECOME A PLATINUM MEMBER

Contact us at members@iadwp.com

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