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Introduction

Of all the special occasions none is more memorable than a wedding. We plan, organize, even agonize until that special day has arrived. Everyone wants that fantasy wedding where it is talked about for years to come. From the dress to the cake, to the reception hall, all must be so special to make it a day to remember.

Creating a memorable wedding is at the top of every new bride's list of things to do; after all, this is a day that they have been dreaming about all of their lives, and therefore want to have nothing but positive happy memories to look back on in the years to come. Creating a memorable wedding ceremony and reception does not have to be difficult, and definitely does not have to be expensive. In fact the only thing you need to create a memorable wedding is plenty of creativity and thought.

Making a memorable wedding isn't all about expensive venues or complicated themes. What it's really about is creating a day that is special to you. In the end the flavor of your cake icing probably will not be as important in your memory as the fact that you are standing there surrounded by people who love you. So don't stress the small stuff and think you need to pull off the wedding of the century. Just be happy with the choices that you make, and know that even if you don't have a six-foot tall wedding cake the memories of the event will be no less sweet.



Chapter One: GETTING ORGANIZED

A wedding is a very complicated affair, and you will soon be lost in a sea of details if you don't have some kind of a system to hold it all together. There are different options to choose from to do this: hire a professional, use wedding planning software, or make your own checklist.

Hire a professional wedding planner

Deciding on whether or not to use a wedding planner to help you with your ceremony is not a difficult decision; in fact the mitigating factors are fairly straightforward and easy to assess. It is important, however, that you make this assessment very early on in the initial stages of your wedding planning. After all, how useful is a wedding planner after you have already made all of the decisions? In fact the only thing you're going to want to come up with first is a rough budget that includes a total number of how much you want to spend, as well as estimates about how much of that money you wish to spend on individual categories, such as the caterer, music, the reception hall etc.

Your total budget will largely influence whether or not you choose to hire a wedding planner. In fact this is the first criteria you will use to see whether or not you will be hiring one. To put it simply, if you cannot afford a wedding planner there is no way that you can even think about hiring one; and since all of the functions of a wedding planner can be performed by yourself they are by no means necessary, just generally good to have.

The second criteria you will use to decide whether or not to hire a wedding planner is the total number of people you have helping you with the actual wedding. If you have a large group of friends or relatives who will be helping you, and they are fully committed to helping you with the entire process, then a wedding planner may be unnecessary because you already have a lot of extra hands to help you with the tough work. Keep in mind however that their commitment to the process is crucial; having people drop out halfway through the planning process can be very difficult on you, so make sure that they are in it for the long haul.



How to Plan a Memorable Wedding

A wedding is a very complicated affair, and you will soon be lost in a sea of details if you don't have some kind of a system to hold it all together. There are different options to choose from to do this: hire a professional, use wedding planning software, or make your own checklist.

Lastly, you will want to decide whether or not you need to have absolute and intimate control over the entire ceremony. If you are a control freak, then chances are you will not be getting the biggest bang for your buck out of a wedding planner because you will be undermining their every decision and wanting to do things your own way instead of using the methods they recommend. But if you are okay with letting go of a little bit of your control, then a wedding planner will work well for you. Hiring a wedding planner can be a great way to make sure your wedding goes smoothly, as well as reducing some of the stresses that you would otherwise have to deal with. A wedding planner is not for everyone, but if you meet the above criteria then chances are good that you will enjoy the experience of hiring a wedding planner and truly gain the most that they have to offer. If you do not meet the above criteria then don't feel bad, a wedding planner is not right for everybody and it is still possible to plan a fantastic and meaningful ceremony either on your own or with the help of friends and family.

Wedding Planning software

A quick search on the Internet is all you need to find a good selection of software applications that are designed to help people plan their weddings. They are much less expensive than hiring someone, and can be useful both for the organizing aspect and also to remind you of details that you might not have thought of.

