

ARIZONA
WEDDINGS

*Wedding Planning
Guide*



Checklists and worksheets to
help you plan your Arizona wedding.



12 Month Planning Countdown

0 to 12 months

- Grab a copy of Arizona Weddings Magazine for local Arizona wedding inspiration.
- Choose a date (or up to 3) so you can be flexible with your favorite venue and book it!
- Talk budget and decide who's contributing what.
- Start assembling your wedding pros on your Arizona Weddings Bridal Profile.
- Begin compiling a guest list.
- Get engagement ring appraised and insured.
- Be inspired! Follow us on Instagram for daily local inspiration.
- Create a wedding website.
- Propose to your bridesmaids and groomsmen to see if they are up for being in your wedding party.
- Choose your the officiant.

6 to 0 months

- Reserve a block of guest rooms at a nearby hotel for your out-of-town guests!
- Find the perfect dress and schedule your fittings.
- Book your photographer and set up an engagement photo session to get comfortable with them.
- Decide on a wedding planner or day-of coordinator.
- Hire your florist, musicians, caterers, cake bakers, and other pros.
- Register and put the links on your wedding website.
- Decide on the bridesmaids' dresses and schedule alterations if needed.
- Begin planning honeymoon and apply for any needed passports or visas.
- Order the invitations and "Thank You" notes.
- Shop for wedding bands.

3 to 5 months

- Iron out the rehearsal dinner details, like the time and location, and invite your wedding party.
- Team up with a beauty stylist team and schedule a trial run.
- Select the getaway car.
- Choose the groom's and groomsmen's attire - to rent or to buy!
- Finalize guest list.
- Write "Thank You" notes for registry gifts as they arrive.

1 to 2 months

- Mail out wedding invitations with a RSVP cut-off of three weeks before the wedding date.
- Begin writing vows if you plan to personalize them.
- Call vendors to confirm date, times and location.
- Enjoy a bachelorette weekend with your ladies.
- Obtain a marriage license.
- Send playlists to your musicians.
- Begin breaking in wedding shoes.
- Check off your "something old, new, borrowed and blue".
- Put together a day-of emergency kit (bandages, deodorant, fashion tape, concealer, sewing kit).
- Prepare final payments to vendors.
- Plan ceremony and reception seating.

1 week before

- Buy new clothes for your honeymoon.
- Missing RSVPs? Follow up now!
- Send wedding timeline to the bridal party and include day-of contact information.
- Pack an overnight bag for the wedding night. Include outfits for any day-after events, like a goodbye brunch.
- Leave your honeymoon itinerary with a family member.
- Pamper yourself with a mani-pedi.

1 day before

- Put vendor tips in envelopes and ask maid-of-honor to distribute them.
- Rehearse the ceremony and go to dinner.
- Give gifts to the bridal party and parents.
- Give rings to the best man and maid-of-honor.

Day of

- Eat breakfast!
- Beautify, relax and get married.

Post-wedding to-dos

- Freeze the top layer of your cake for your first anniversary.
- Have your dress and formal wear cleaned and preserved.
- Write "Thank You" notes for any day-of gifts.
- Enjoy your honeymoon!



Who Pays the Bills

There are no set rules regarding who pays for what anymore, but if you are interested in following traditional guidelines use this handy breakdown.

When you take a moment to think about it, weddings are all about traditions. The bride wears white, guests throw rice, the best man toasts the newlyweds, and the father of the bride foots the bill for it all. But times change and so do traditions. Today's brides wear whatever color they choose, guests toss everything from birdseed to rose petals, and a toast from the maid of honor is as common as one from the best man.

Even paying for the wedding has become more equalitarian, with more couples choosing to share in the wedding expenses with both sets of parents. This change has come about for a couple of reasons: Since today's couples are marrying later in life and are usually somewhat established in their careers, many feel silly asking their parents to foot the bill for a wedding after they've been on their own for so long. Also, weddings have become increasingly expensive and many couples want to do their part to relieve some of the financial burden this once-in-a-lifetime event can place on a family. After all, this is supposed to be a happy, joyous time and worrying about money and who's paying for which expense can only lead to tension. Clear communication right from the beginning, along with a well thought-out budget should keep all contributing parties on the same page and avoid any monetary misunderstandings.



If you choose to go the traditional route by asking your parents for financial assistance, let them come up with an actual figure. That way no one is embarrassed about asking for too much, and everyone can contribute based on what they can comfortably afford. For guidance, here's a traditional breakdown of the expenses each family is usually responsible for.

Breakdown at a Glance

The bride

- The groom's wedding band
- Gifts for her bridal attendants
- A gift for the groom

The bride's parents

- Wedding invitations and postage
- Bridal gown
- Bridal accessories such as headpiece, jewelry, lingerie, and shoes
- The fee for the ceremony location, along with all decorations and any music costs
- Bridesmaid bouquets
- The entire cost of the reception, including rental fees, decorations, music and entertainment, the wedding cake, and food.
- The initial fees for the photographer and videographer (Each family is responsible for choosing and purchasing their own photos and video after the wedding)
- Transportation

The groom

- The bride's wedding band
- The marriage license
- Gifts for his attendants
- The officiant's fee
- His formal wear
- The honeymoon
- A gift for the bride

The groom's parents

- The entire cost of the pre-nuptial dinner, including any location fees, decorations, and invitations

The attendants

- Their wedding attire and accessories
- A portion of the bridal shower, bachelorette party, or bachelor party
- A wedding gift for the newlyweds
- Travel expenses to and from the event

Remember, the key word in this breakdown is traditional; this is the way costs are traditionally divided but you can divide the cost of your wedding however you choose. And in case you didn't notice, the traditional list is extremely lopsided, so you might want to sit down with all the involved parties and let everyone discuss which portions they'd like to be responsible for. Open communication, patience, and flexibility will keep all contributing parties happy in the long run, giving you more time to enjoy your engagement without worrying about monetary misunderstandings.



Budget

When it comes to wedding planning, a wedding budget is absolutely essential.

Establishing a realistic budget should be one of the first things you do.

By knowing how much money you have to spend and on what it should be spent, you will be able to make the right decisions when making choices.

Discuss these questions before developing your final budget.

Budget: How much do you want to spend? Are the necessary funds available?

Size: How many guests will be invited?

Location: Where will you be married?
Near or Far? Indoors or Outdoors? Ballroom or Hall? Does the venue you like provide services like catering and bar service?

Reception: Formal or casual?

Attire: Designer Gown or off-the-rack?
Purchase or rent formalwear?

Photography: What style do you prefer, posed or photojournalistic? Will you want video? Do you want a beautiful leather bound photo book or something less expensive?

Wedding Cake: Do you want an over-the-top custom designed cake or something smaller with sheet cake service? Will you be using a bakery or will your caterer be providing the cake?

Food/Catering: Do you want a caterer separate from your venue? Sit down service or buffet? Will special food be served during cocktail hour?

Alcohol: Will there be alcohol at all? Full bar or limited to beer, champagne and wine?

Entertainment: Will you have an orchestra or organist at the ceremony? Band, DJ or both? Do you want any other sort of entertainment?

Invitations: Letterpress or printed? Custom designed or just customized? Will you be sending save-the-date? How many inserts will be required with the invitations?

Transportation: Will you be making a grand entrance in a stretch Hummer or do you see yourself arriving in a less extravagant manner? Will you provide rented transportation for the entire wedding party? Will your venue location require valet parking or shuttle service?



Tipping Your Vendors

Tipping is never mandatory (unless your contract warrants it). But if a vendor went above and beyond for you, let them know with a little extra cash. Here are some guidelines that will help you figure out who it's customary to tip.

If the vendor owns the business, it's not customary to tip. This is because the entire profit will be going to him or her, rather than it being shared with the rest of the business.

For a house of worship, it's customary to make a donation of \$500 to \$1,000. Nondenominational officiants should get approximately \$50 to \$100. Court clerks are prohibited from accepting monetary gifts, but not tokens of appreciation such as home-baked cookies.

Bartenders: 10% (Of the total liquor bill)

Musician: 15% For ceremony;

\$25 to \$50 Per musician for reception

Catering Managers: \$200

Photographer/Videographer:
\$200 - \$300

Hairstylist: 15% to 20%

Limo Drivers: 15% to 20%

Wedding Planner: 15%

Makeup Artist: 15% to 20%





Guest List

One of the most difficult things you will probably have to do when planning your wedding ceremony and reception is to narrow down the guest list. It can be difficult to get the number of wedding guests down to a reasonable number. Here are some tips and a worksheet to help you create your list.

Have a limit

Before you even start talking names, make sure that you have a limit of people that you can invite to your nuptials. It can be far too easy to keep adding to your guest list until it gets out of control. Discuss how many people you can afford to have at your wedding, come up with a number, and then stick to it.

Avoid inviting people you aren't close to

Sure, at one time you may have been close to your high school friend, but if you are no longer close and you have not spoken to her in years, then there is no need to invite her. Anyone that you have not been close to or spoken to in years can safely be cut from the wedding guest list.

Make it adults only

If you need to cut down on the number of wedding guests on your list, then a fairly easy way to do so is to cut out the children. This can help cut down your cost and will make room for some other people you really need at your wedding ceremony and reception.

Make two lists

Another way that you can come up with the wedding guest list is to initially come up with two separate lists. On the one list, write down the people who you definitely want to be there. Then, on the other list, have the people who you would only like to be there. If it comes to cutting people from the list, only cut people from the second list.

(copy this worksheet and list all potential guests)

GUEST NAME	Must Invite	Want to Invite	Invite if Room	Out of Town Y/N
Name(s)				
Children				
Name(s)				
Children				
Name(s)				
Children				
Name(s)				
Children				
Name(s)				
Children				
Name(s)				
Children				
Name(s)				
Children				
Name(s)				
Children				
Name(s)				
Children				



Bridal Gown

Finding just the right ensemble for a special occasion is rarely easy, but with the right direction you can get dressed in the perfect gown for your wedding with ease and confidence.

Find your style

First things first. What do you want? Have you always dreamt of sashaying down the aisle in a satin and tulle ball gown? Or perhaps your taste runs more classic, and you crave a Jackie O style gown. Maybe you're a "less is more" kind of girl and want a simple sheath. Whatever your style, there's something out there waiting for you. If you don't have a certain look in mind, dust off all those bridal magazines you've been hoarding. Flip through the pages that feature gowns and mark those that you like. Looking at the details and comparing those you like will give you an idea of what you want before you head to the salon.

Where to go

Do your research. If you love a particular designer, find out which local salons carry them. The web is also a great place to find reputable salons check out the salons listed on websites like www.arizonaweddings.com. Once you've chosen three or four locations (too many can be overwhelming) it's a good idea to phone ahead before venturing out. Many require appointments, and those that don't will be able to recommend a time to visit when you'll receive one-on-one attention.

What to look for

The type of gown you choose should directly relate to the style and formality of the wedding you're planning. Each possible scenario begs for a different style of gown, so be sure to share this information with the salesperson. They can then guide you toward styles that will best complement the formality of your affair.

Who to bring along

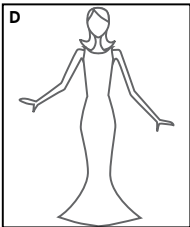
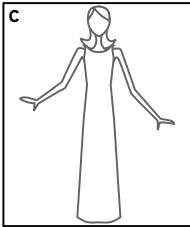
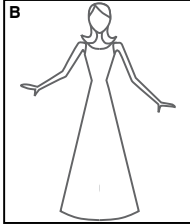
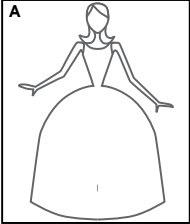
It's best to invite only one or two close friends or family members. Be sure the people you have around you are not only supportive, but also objective. Remember, you'll be relying on them to help you make a decision on your attire for one of the most important days of your life.

What to bring

It's a good idea to bring a few special items with you to the salon. A strapless bra is a must, along with a pair of heels. You will also want to bring a digital camera; it's a great way to see how you really look in the gown and how you will look in all your wedding photos.

Wedding Gown Styles

Silhouettes



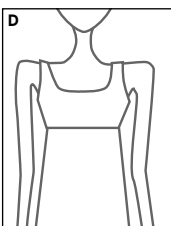
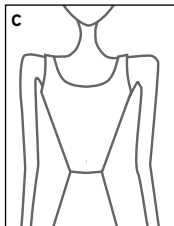
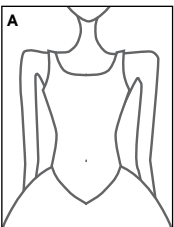
A. BALL GOWN For most women, when they hear the words ball gown a Cinderella look comes to mind. Well, that assumption is essentially correct. The classic ball gown is comprised of a form-fitting bodice that leads to a large, billowing skirt often made of tulle or satin. A ball gown is flattering for most shapes, but especially for pear-shaped brides because the full skirt hides a heavier bottom half while drawing the eye up to the bodice. Petite brides should shy away from a voluminous ball gown because the size and shape of the gown tends to swallow up a smaller-framed woman.

B. A-LINE With a skirt that's shaped like an "A" (fitted at the waist with a wider, more flared bottom) the A-line gown is the most common silhouette for today's bride. This gown is as versatile as it is popular; depending on the embellishment and the fabric it's created from, the A-line is as perfect for a super-casual backyard celebration as it is an upscale country club affair. It's flattering for brides of all shapes and sizes, and nearly every designer features A-line gowns in their collections.

C. SHEATH Sleek and sophisticated, a sheath gown either hugs the natural curves of the body or falls in a straight line from the shoulders to the hemline. It's especially flattering on tall and thin brides (what isn't?) but is surprisingly stunning on slim, petite brides because it adds length to shorter statures. However if you have problem areas that you'd rather not reveal to your wedding guests, a sheath might not be your best bet.

D. MERMAID The mermaid silhouette is a sheath that contours to the body from the chest to the knee, then flares out to the hem. This is a very sexy look that highlights the curves of the body. The mermaid is most flattering on taller, thin brides, but confident curvy brides will also look great in this silhouette. You really must be confident and comfortable in your skin to pull off this dramatic look.

Waistlines



A. BASQUE The very slimming Basque waist begins at the natural waist and dips to a slight V shape in the front. The shape elongates the torso, trimming the tummy and providing a sleek appearance. It looks especially stunning when paired with a sweetheart neckline, which makes it the perfect choice for fuller-figured and pear-shaped brides.

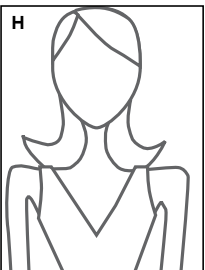
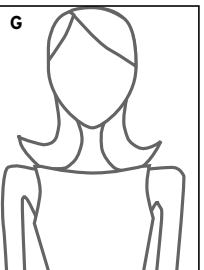
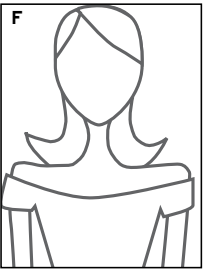
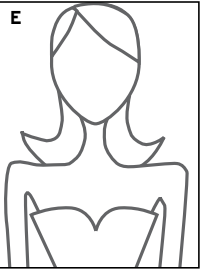
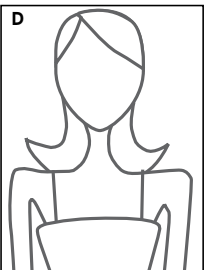
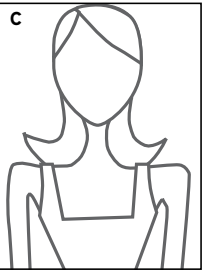
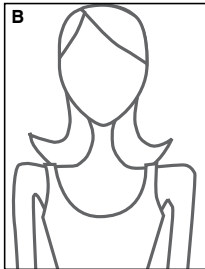
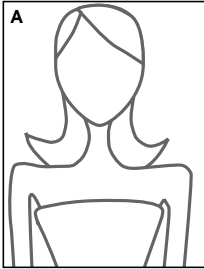
B. DROPPED Falling lower across the hips, the dropped waist gown is a classic look for A-line and ball gowns. It adds curves to brides with thick waists, and is equally flattering to the ultra-thin. Most necklines look smashing with a dropped waist gown; just be sure you don't have a long torso or the dropped waist might add too much length, making your legs appear short.

C. NATURAL A natural waist gown falls right across the waist, and is a popular choice for brides of all shapes and sizes. If you have an hourglass figure, this is definitely the look for you because it accentuates your best attributes. If you tend to have a thicker waistline, you might want to look at a dropped or empire waist gown.

D. EMPIRE The empire waist gown sports a tiny bodice and high waist that begins at the base of the bust line and falls to a slightly flared hemline. If you have a thicker waist, this is a very slimming gown for your silhouette because it softly skims your curves. If you have very full hips or a larger bust line, you should consider a different style.

Wedding Gown Styles

Necklines



A. STRAPLESS This neckline speaks for itself. A strapless gown is usually cut straight across above the bust line, and will sometimes feature a notch or v detail in the center. Strapless gowns are flattering on nearly everyone; however if you're lacking in the cleavage category, you might want to look for something with straps.

B. SCOOP The popular scoop neckline is shaped like a U and can be cut either high or low. Held up by straps, this neckline is equally flattering on all brides. It's important to remember, though, that larger cup sizes should be careful of very low cut scoop necklines to reduce the appearance of the breasts spilling out the top.

C. SQUARE A square neckline is similar to a scoop neckline, except the neckline falls in a square shape instead of rounding downward. This style is perfect for those who need the support of straps, but don't want to bear too much cleavage.

D. SPAGHETTI STRAP Very thin straps (much like spaghetti) anchor the bodice of a spaghetti strap gown. Many strapless gowns can be altered to include spaghetti straps, which makes this neckline a popular option for those who like the strapless look but crave the safety of straps. It's a flattering neckline for most, however spaghetti straps may not provide enough support for the very well endowed.

E. SWEETHEART Shaped like the top of a heart, this neckline is especially flattering on the well endowed because it provides a seductive glimpse of the décolletage, without looking too risqué. However, if your cup size is closer to an A than a C, you might want to consider a different style.

F. OFF-THE-SHOULDER Yep, you guessed it. The off-the-shoulder neckline sits off your shoulders, highlighting your fabulously sculpted collarbone. This style is great for brides who want the feel of a strapless, without baring too much skin. It's also a great alternative if your house of worship frowns upon strapless gowns. Brides with more cleavage to manage will get the added support of the off-shoulder straps. But if you're broad shouldered, consider checking out other avenues, like square or scoop necklines.

G. BATEAU Also called the Sabrina, this neckline follows your collarbone nearly straight across. It's a great look for smaller busted brides, because it gives the appearance of a larger bosom. Broad-shouldered brides should move on because the bateau neckline will draw the eye up, therefore bringing more attention to the shoulders.

H. V-NECK The V-neck drops the neckline down in a "V" shape between the shoulders. It can range from very subtle to plunging. The V-neck works well with both large and small breasted women. A high "V" can conceal large breasts in a feminine manner by highlighting their natural shape while maintaining coverage, while a small breasted women can wear a low cut or wide set "V" that will draw attention to the chest and create the illusion of a fuller bust. A V-neck is a good option for brides with all upper-body types since it can be used with any sleeve length, from thin spaghetti straps to long sleeves and anything in-between.

Bridal Jewelry

The bridal jewelry you select should coordinate with the your wedding gown and formality of your celebration. The jewelry you choose should finish off your look and bring the entire ensemble together.

Open Backed Dress

A lariat is a beautiful addition to most open backed gowns. It is a necklace that is longer in the back than the front. Another great choice is a choker or shorter necklace that has a hanging jewel embellishment in the back.

V-Neck

A Y-drop necklace is perfect with a V neck dress. The Y-drop necklace takes the same angles as the v neck wedding gown line. Chokers are also a great choice because it create clean lines and does not distract from the v neck style of dress.

Square Neckline

A simple single strand or double strand necklace works great. They bring contrast and attract the eye towards the cut of the dress.

Sweetheart Neckline

A Y-drop necklace or pendant will work well and won't distract from the lovely neckline too much.

Strapless

There are many options with the strapless, as most styles will work. This is when you may want to choose a statement piece.

Halter

Lariat, Y-drop and pendants all work well with a halter neckline.

Off The Shoulder

Single or double strand simple necklace or choker works best, you will want to keep it simple.

Scoop Neck Gown

Single or double strand simple necklace or choker works best, you will also want to keep it simple because the neckline draws more attention.

Other Things to Consider

1. Keep your earrings simple if your necklace is large or grand.
2. Bracelets can be worn with sleeveless, short-sleeve and three-quarter sleeve gowns.
3. A watch can be worn if it is an unusual antique or family heirloom, but most watches are not appropriate wedding jewelry.

Bridal Salon Contact Sheet

Bridal Salon: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Web Address: _____

Contact Name: _____

Dress Description or Number: _____

Notes: _____

Bridal Salon: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Web Address: _____

Contact Name: _____

Dress Description or Number: _____

Notes: _____

Bridal Salon: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Web Address: _____

Contact Name: _____

Dress Description or Number: _____

Notes: _____



Reception Venue

After putting on your ring, telling your family and friends the good news, and picking a time frame and budget, there's one big job to tackle. You have to locate the ideal place to celebrate your nuptials.

Stay focused on what you want and what you can afford. Keep your options open. You don't know or appreciate booking somewhere if you don't see what other places have to offer.

Before you book a ceremony and reception, consider the extra details. What's the menu like? The décor? How accessible is the venue? Is it a hard-to-find location? You don't want your guests to get lost on the way to your wedding or have problems finding a place to park. Ideally, your venue is easy to find, has ample parking and is an all-around convenient choice for you and your guests.

Will the venue allow you to decorate, or is it "what you see is what you get?" If decorating isn't a problem, look for ways to dress up the space. Don't be fooled by an empty room. Look at a banquet hall or a dining room as a blank canvas.

Timing is everything, and the experts agree: you need to book your wedding venue about a year before you plan to get hitched and before you make any announcements regarding your wedding date. If you fall in love with a venue and your first choice date is not available, you may need to consider changing your date.

Your style and your budget will help dictate what site is right for you and your groom. So ask all the right questions and choose a venue where you can craft the ceremony and reception of your dreams.

Reception Venue Contact Sheet

Venue Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Web Address: _____

Contact Name: _____

Venue: Ceremony _____

Cocktails Yes No

Dinner Seated Buffet _____

Dance Floor Yes No

Catering: On-site Yes No

Preferred Caterer List _____

Fee, if using your own _____

Includes Cake Yes No

Table & Chairs Included Yes No

Includes Linen Yes No

Additional Features:

Site for Photographs Yes No

On-site Parking Yes No

Bridal Room Available Yes No

Restrictions: _____

Down Payment: _____

Notes: _____

Venue Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Web Address: _____

Contact Name: _____

Venue:

Ceremony _____

Cocktails Yes No

Dinner Seated Buffet _____

Dance Floor Yes No

Catering: On-site Yes No

Preferred Caterer List _____

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Includes Cake Yes No

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Dinner Seated Buffet _____

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Catering: On-site Yes No

Preferred Caterer List _____

Fee, if using your own _____

Includes Cake Yes No

Table & Chairs Included Yes No

Includes Linen Yes No

Additional Features:

Site for Photographs Yes No

On-site Parking Yes No

Bridal Room Available Yes No

Restrictions: _____

Down Payment: _____

Notes: _____

Venue Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Web Address: _____

Contact Name: _____

Venue:

Ceremony _____

Cocktails Yes No

Dinner Seated Buffet _____

Dance Floor Yes No

Catering: On-site Yes No

Preferred Caterer List _____

Fee, if using your own _____

Includes Cake Yes No

Table & Chairs Included Yes No

Includes Linen Yes No

Additional Features:

Site for Photographs Yes No

On-site Parking Yes No

Bridal Room Available Yes No

Restrictions: _____

Down Payment: _____

Notes: _____



Catering

A great dinner is about more than just food.
The presentation and service also play an important role in your enjoyment, and can truly make or break a meal.

Service Styles

Buffets

Most everyone has experienced a buffet line, but for those who've forgotten, here's a refresher course. A buffet usually consists of long tables laden with both hot and cold menu items. Guests make their way down the line with a plate in hand and serve themselves as little or as much food as they'd like. It's not uncommon to see large ice sculptures surrounded by chilled seafood or elaborate displays of fresh fruits and vegetables.

Plated Service

Usually considered the most formal style of service, plated dinners are served individually to each table by professionally attired wait staff. Since plated service is considered upscale, many couples mistakenly believe it to be expensive. Sure, if you're serving a top-of-the-line entrée you'll pay more than average, but plated service can be as affordable as a buffet.

Food Stations

Similar to a buffet, in that you serve yourself, stations are individual tables scattered around the room. Foods served station style are usually grouped by theme or cuisine and guests are invited to mingle throughout the room and sample the different dishes. Stations are a great alternative to buffets because it keeps everyone moving instead of waiting in a long line at the buffet. Also, you're able to serve a variety of different foods when you choose stations, and that keeps even the most finicky guest content.

Family Style

For a warm, inviting atmosphere where everyone is treated like family. Family style centers around platters heaped with meat and bowls brimming with side dishes that are passed among those seated at each table.

Catering Contact Sheet

Caterer: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Web Address: _____

Contact Name: _____

Rates/Charges: Per Person _____ Flat Rate _____

Services Provided:

Cocktails/Beverages Yes No

Wait staff Yes No

Tables/Chairs Yes No

Linens Yes No

China/Flatware/Glasses Yes No

Other: _____

Interview Notes: _____

Menu Favorites: _____

Down Payment: _____

Tasting Notes: _____

Caterer: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Web Address: _____

Contact Name: _____

Rates/Charges: Per Person _____ Flat Rate _____

Services Provided:

Cocktails/Beverages Yes No

Wait staff Yes No

Tables/Chairs Yes No

Linens Yes No

China/Flatware/Glasses Yes No

Other: _____

Interview Notes: _____

Menu Favorites: _____

Down Payment: _____

Tasting Notes: _____



Wedding Cake

Finding the right wedding cake for your wedding is a big decision and finding the just perfect combination of flavors, filling and frosting can be a lot easier if know exactly what makes a great cake.

Your wedding cake is more than flour, sugar, and eggs. It's the one dessert that your guests will talk about for months to come, raving over its size, its appearance, and most of all, its taste.

Selecting the perfect cake for your wedding can be a daunting task - there are so many choices! Ask some important questions and selecting your cake will be a "piece of cake."

Today's cake designers are coming up with incredibly unique designs that are beautiful to look at as well as yummy to eat. The fancier your cake, the more it will cost. You can expect to pay \$5 to \$20 per slice, depending on the style, designer, and ingredients you chose.

You'll need to start shopping for your cake early, and reserve your order about two months in advance of your wedding. Your designer may also provide you with flavor recommendations based on the food you are planning to serve at the reception. Spending some extra time with your cake designer will pay off in the long run and ensure you get the perfect cake for your taste.



Filling, Frosting, Icings & Decorations

Yummy fillings

The icing may create a beautiful cake, but it's what's inside that counts. A cake falls flat if it doesn't taste as great as it looks, and the best way to give it flavor is with the batter and the filling. Wedding cake batter is usually a very simple flavor so that it won't compete too heavily with the sweetness of the icing or the filling.

The filling is what really gives a wedding cake its personality. Filling separates the layers of a cake, adding additional flavor and richness. Filling is usually fruit or cream based and depending on the number of tiers, many brides choose two or three different fillings.

Frosting

BUTTER CREAM A creamy, spreadable icing that's made from butter and sugar.

FONDANT A thick concoction made from sugar and gelatin that is rolled out flat and then draped over the cake to provide a completely smooth, firm surface for decorating.

ROYAL A frosting made by beating together sugar and egg whites. It hardens when dried, so it is great for dots, lace or lattice work.

GANACHE This fancy term is simply chocolate melted with heavy cream. This frosting makes a beautiful shiny glaze on cakes and cookies. If you chill a ganache, beat it until it's fluffy and stiff, then form it into balls, you'll end up with truffles. You can also chill and beat a ganache

and use the fluffy result to quickly frost a layer cake.

Icings

MARZIPAN a rolled paste of ground almonds, egg whites and sugar that can be draped and shaped.

SUGARPASTE Also called gum paste, it is used like marzipan to make beautiful flowers and decorations.

Dragees Hard little sugar balls are painted with edible gold or silver paint.

Pulled Sugar Boiled sugar, water, and corn syrup used to create beautiful designs like roses and bows

Top it off

Today's cake toppers have personality and style that mimic the bride and groom. While fresh flowers that coordinate with the bridal bouquet are perennial favorites, there are many other options to make your cake as unique as you are. Handcrafted sugar or gum paste flowers, a flowing ribbon created from marzipan, or even a shiny, spun-sugar bow create drama atop a stacked confection. Consider having a topper created just for the two of you. Incorporate your hobbies or interests into the design idea, and they'll sculpt a one-of-a-kind topper in your likenesses. After the wedding, you'll have a great keepsake (and conversation piece) for your home.

Bakery Contact Sheet

Bakery: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Web Address: _____

Contact Name: _____ Email _____

Tasting Notes: _____

Bakery: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Web Address: _____

Contact Name: _____ Email _____

Tasting Notes: _____

Bakery: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Web Address: _____

Contact Name: _____ Email _____

Tasting Notes: _____

Bakery: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Web Address: _____

Contact Name: _____ Email _____

Tasting Notes: _____



Wedding Flowers

For almost as long as there have been weddings, flowers have played an important role in the celebration. In selecting the flowers for your bridal bouquet, you'll want to consider blooms that best express your personality, compliment your wedding gown, and tie-in with the general look and theme you've selected for the day.

Bouquet Styles

Cascade

A cascade bouquet, also called a "shower" bouquet, is very formal and the most traditional bridal bouquet. Like a waterfall, this bouquet flows and is designed to gently cascade downward. This bouquet is often designed with larger flowers at the top, using smaller blooms as it begins to taper down and land gracefully over the bride's hands. Lisianthus, lilies of the valley, stephanotis, dendrobium orchids, and other smaller flowers are commonly used in this shape of bouquet, along with accents of trailing ivy, vinca, or other delicate greenery. If you are wearing a full-skirted or ball gown-style wedding dress, this shape of bouquet may work for you. However, if you are a very petite woman, another shape of bouquet may be a better choice. or family members. Be sure the people you have around you are not only supportive, but also objective. Remember, you'll be relying on them to help you make a decision on your attire for one of the most important days of your life.

Composite

If you're looking for a truly unique look in your wedding flowers, and you can't find a particular variety of flower that appeals to you, a composite bouquet might be the perfect choice. This intricate creation is composed by taking individual petals from flowers (such as amaryllis, roses, or lilies), wiring them together on a single stem and creating the look of one giant bloom. This style of bouquet would be the ideal complement to a simple gown with little ornamentation, or one with a very sleek silhouette.

Hand-Tied

For this more relaxed style of bouquet, a variety of blooms that tie in with the wedding theme are wired or loosely gathered together and tied with a satin ribbon or a combination of ribbon and lace. Some popular flower varieties for this style of bouquet are French tulips, day lilies, coneflowers, purple statice, lisianthus, stem roses, and other hardy garden flowers.

With its natural, just-picked from the garden look, this bouquet is a nice choice for an informal wedding.

Nosegay

A combination of simple style and elegance, the nosegay is a densely packed mound of flowers and greenery. When choosing flowers for a nosegay, compact blooms such as roses, tulips, peonies, hydrangeas, calla lilies, and ranunculus work best. These blooms may be mixed, or for a simple look, you can stick to just one variety. An ideal choice for any style of wedding, a nosegay bouquet can be dressed up or down depending on the flowers you choose and how it's tied together, with a wire, ribbon or other stem treatment.

Posy

Similar to the nosegay but smaller in size, the posy bouquet is perfect for a petite bride with delicate hands, or for a bridesmaid's bouquet. When selecting flowers for a posy, those with smaller blooms are ideal, such as spray roses, grape hyacinths, ranunculus, and pansies. However, some large-headed flowers such as gardenias or peonies can also make quite an impact

Pomander

A less-traditional bouquet, the pomander is a small, compact bloom-covered ball that is usually four to six inches in diameter, and then suspended from a ribbon that is worn around the wrist. This is a good choice for the bride who wants her hands to be free. A classic floral choice for a pomander is roses, but it may also be

made with hydrangeas, delphinium, dendrobium orchids, or any other flowers suggested by your floral designer. While a pomander may not be the look for you, it's an adorable alternative for junior bridesmaids or flower girls. Just remember to have it sized accordingly so its shape is appropriate for their age and size.

Pageant

The pageant bouquet, also known as a "presentation" bouquet (think of the flowers presented to Miss America when she is crowned), is a bunch of long-stemmed flowers that the bride carries cradled in her arms. A pageant bouquet can be as simple or elaborate as you'd like, depending on the style and formality of your wedding. Some of the best floral choices for this type of bouquet are those with long stems or branches such as, calla lilies, roses, delphinium, tuberose, lisianthus, or French tulips. The blooms are then secured together with a beautiful satin or fabric ribbon. However, when selecting the flowers for your pageant bouquet, make sure the blooms are not longer than what can fit comfortably along the length of your lower arm.

Round

The classic round bridal bouquet is usually compiled of large flowers that are loosely arranged. This shape and style of bouquet is a good choice for a formal wedding, or for the bride who wants a look less conspicuous than a cascade bouquet, yet bolder than a simple nosegay. Many varieties of flowers will work in the round bouquet, but some popular choices are roses, tulips, lilacs, stephanotis, hydrangeas, day lilies, peonies, and seeded eucalyptus.

Florist Contact Sheet

Florist/Designer: _____

Ceremony Reception Both

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Web Address: _____

Contact Name: _____ Email _____

Price: _____ Delivery Method: _____

Notes: _____

Florist/Designer: _____

Ceremony Reception Both

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Web Address: _____

Contact Name: _____ Email _____

Price: _____ Delivery Method: _____

Notes: _____

Florist/Designer: _____

Ceremony Reception Both

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Web Address: _____

Contact Name: _____ Email _____

Price: _____ Delivery Method: _____

Notes: _____

Florist/Designer: _____

Ceremony Reception Both

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Web Address: _____

Contact Name: _____ Email _____

Price: _____ Delivery Method: _____

Notes: _____



Questions

to ask when selecting a
florist

- How many years of professional experience do you have?
- Do you have photos or samples of your work?
- What type of flowers will be best for the type, time, and duration of our wedding?
- What flowers will be in season at the time of my wedding?
- Do you have access to out-of-season flowers?
- Can you build a flower scheme around fabric swatches?
- Can you coordinate the flowers for the wedding party, mothers, and special guests?
- Will you show us how to carry the bouquets?
- Will you deliver and distribute the flowers at the site and pin on the corsages and boutonnieres?
- Do you charge extra for delivery and set-up?
- Do you preserve bouquets?
- Do you require a deposit, and is it refundable?

Flower Checklist

Wedding party

- ___ Brides Bouquet
- ___ Tossing Bouquet for Bride
- ___ Maid of Honor Bouquet
- ___ Bridesmaid Bouquets
- ___ Flower Girl
- ___ Groom's Boutonniere
- ___ Best Man's & Groomsmen's Boutonnieres
- ___ Ring Bearer's Boutonniere
- ___ Mothers' Corsages
- ___ Fathers' Boutonnieres
- ___ Flower Girl
- ___ Corsages for Special Guests
- ___ Boutonnieres for Special Guests
- ___ Other _____

Ceremony

- ___ Aisle Runner
- ___ Pew or Chair Decorations
- ___ Alter or Huppa Arrangements
- ___ Candles and Candle Holders
- ___ Other _____

Reception

- ___ Door or Entry Arrangements
- ___ Bar Decorations
- ___ Cake Decorations (if needed)
- ___ Cake Table Decorations
- ___ Centerpieces
- ___ Chair Decorations
- ___ Other _____



Wedding Photography

Long after your wedding day is over your photographs and video will provide lasting memories. With that in mind, you not only need to find a photographer and videographer that you feel comfortable with, but you also need to do some homework to know what photo options are available and what shots should not be missed.

Digital vs. Film

These days, digital photography is probably more common among wedding photographers and more familiar to couples preparing to wed than film, but the art of film photography is far from dead. In fact, many professionals are passionate about shooting on film.

With both film and digital holding their own in the wedding industry, many photographers shoot both. The selection of film or digital initially comes down to desired aesthetic. Therefore, the best way to determine which medium you prefer is to view samples of both, from at least two or three photographers so you can become familiar with each and decide which medium you prefer.

Most wedding photographers that shoot film use digital labs to process the film, therefore you will be able to view your photos digitally, just like with digital photos.

Whether you choose film or digital photography, do ask your photographer how many images you can expect to receive—the answer will range widely from photographers across both mediums. Don't be afraid to explore film, but as both film and digital have their strengths—so many

of which vary more so from photographer to photographer rather than medium—what's most important is choosing the photographer whose style and portfolio you most admire, regardless of what's behind the lens.

Color vs. Black and White

To bring out the emotion on a face, there is nothing like a black and white photograph. Still there is no fixed rule of thumb for when a picture is better in black and white or color.

Unless color is the main point of the picture, say photographers, the beautiful hues of your bouquet or the luster of your bridesmaids' dresses, most pictures look fabulous in black and white.

The Rest

Of course finding a good photographer is more than just the technology they use.

The most important factor in choosing a photographer is whether you like their style. Remember, your photographer will be the eyes for capturing your memories. You want someone who has a vision similar to your own.

Photographer/Videographer Contact Sheet

Name of Photographer/Videographer: _____

Ceremony Reception Both

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Web Address: _____

Contact Name: _____ Email _____

Price: _____

Notes: _____

Name of Photographer/Videographer: _____

Ceremony Reception Both

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Web Address: _____

Contact Name: _____ Email _____

Price: _____

Notes: _____

Name of Photographer/Videographer: _____

Ceremony Reception Both

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Web Address: _____

Contact Name: _____ Email _____

Price: _____

Notes: _____



Entertainment

Great smells, pretty sights and delightful sounds—just some of the ways your wedding day stimulates the senses. There’s nothing like the sound of music to help you set the tone for your big day.

Music plays an important role at your ceremony and your reception. From entrance hymns at the ceremony to slow dances at your reception, you want music that fits the mood.

Music can make or break your celebration. If you had unlimited resources, a live band/DJ combo would be bliss. In the real world, you might have to choose. If so, here are some steps you can follow to help you make that decision.

1 Know your budget.

Some entertainment may be out of your price range, so make sure you only consider music and entertainment that fits within your given budget

2 Timeframe

Bands tire more easily than DJs and may not be able to work as long.

3 Venue

Is it too small to house a full band? Are there restrictions on the types of music played?

4 Level of formality

Live music is often considered the more traditional and dignified choice. DJs are the rowdier, hipper option.

5 Listen to them perform

Sit in on an event, attend the band’s auditions or ask for a recorded tape.

6 Personality

Check out the bandleader or DJ. Is he or she charismatic? Can they also double as a master of ceremonies?

7 Music selection

DJs typically have a much broader repertoire than a live band and can easily add any special songs you desire.

8 Make the decision

Consider your priorities and weigh the pros and cons of each. Then make a choice and book your entertainment. Bands and DJs should be booked a year in advance.

Music Checklist

SONGS OR PERFORMER

CEREMONY

Prelude

Processional

Ceremony

Recessional

RECEPTION

First Dance

Bride & Father Dance

Groom & Mother Dance

Dancing

Last Dance

OTHER FAVORITES

DO NOT PLAY LIST

Entertainment Contact Sheet

Name of Entertainment: _____

Ceremony Reception Both

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Web Address: _____

Contact Name: _____ Email _____

Price: _____

Notes: _____

Name of Entertainment: _____

Ceremony Reception Both

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Web Address: _____

Contact Name: _____ Email _____

Price: _____

Notes: _____

Name of Entertainment: _____

Ceremony Reception Both

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Web Address: _____

Contact Name: _____ Email _____

Price: _____

Notes: _____

Name of Entertainment: _____

Ceremony Reception Both

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Web Address: _____

Contact Name: _____ Email _____

Price: _____

Notes: _____



Bridal Registry Checklist

For the kitchen

- 1 toaster
- 1 blender
- 1 standing mixer
- 1 food processor
- 1 coffee maker
- 1 knife set
- 1 cutting board
- 1 10-inch skillet
- 1 12-inch skillet
- 1 2-quart saucepan
- 1 6-quart stockpot
- 1 large multi-use stockpot
- 1 Dutch oven
- 1 set of measuring spoons
- 1 set of measuring cups
- 1 set of mixing bowls
- 1 set of serving spoons
- 2 wooden spoons
- 1 rubber spatula
- 1 whisk
- 1 set of cooking utensils
- 2 baking sheets
- 1 round cake pan
- 1 rectangle-baking pan
- 1 round pie pan
- 2 oven mitts

For the dining room

- 8-12 place settings
(formal, casual or both)
- 8-12 cups and saucers
- 8-12 drinking glasses
- 8-12 wine glasses
- 8-12 sets of silverware
- 8-12 steak knives
- 1 set of serving utensils
- 1 large salad bowl and servers
- 8-12 cloth napkins
- 8-12 napkin rings
- 8-12 placemats
- 1 tablecloth
- 1 set of salt and pepper shakers
- 1 set of serving plates and bowls
- 1 set of covered dishes or bowls
- 2 serving platters



Wedding Day Responsibilities

Here are some lists to help you plan what and who will be involved with the last minute details.

Ceremony Items

Guest book & pen

Who will be responsible _____

Where to place item _____

Where does it go when finished _____

Programs

Who will be responsible _____

Where to place item _____

Where does it go when finished _____

Brides gown

Who will be responsible _____

Where to place item _____

Where does it go when finished _____

Flowers

Who will be responsible _____

Where to place item _____

Where does it go when finished _____

Gifts

Who will be responsible _____

Where to place item _____

Where does it go when finished _____

Ringbearer pillow

Who will be responsible _____

Where to place item _____

Where does it go when finished _____

Gown & accessories

Who will be responsible _____

Where to place item _____

Where does it go when finished _____

Other

Reception Items

Bridal & family portraits

Who will be responsible _____

Where to place item _____

Where does it go when finished _____

Cake knife & server

Who will be responsible _____

Where to place item _____

Where does it go when finished _____

Toasting glasses

Who will be responsible _____

Where to place item _____

Where does it go when finished _____

Bride's flowers

Who will be responsible _____

Where to place item _____

Where does it go when finished _____

Gifts

Who will be responsible _____

Where to place item _____

Where does it go when finished _____

Cake top

Who will be responsible _____

Where to place item _____

Where does it go when finished _____

Brides going away clothing

Who will be responsible _____

Where to place item _____

Where does it go when finished _____

Gown & accessories

Who will be responsible _____

Where to place item _____

Where does it go when finished _____

Misc. items



Important Contacts

NAME: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

NAME: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

NAME: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

NAME: _____

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Phone Number: _____ Cell: _____

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Email: _____

NAME: _____
Address: _____
Phone Number: _____ Cell: _____
Email: _____

BRIDAL SALON: _____

CAKE DESIGNER: _____

CATERER: _____

CEREMONY LOCATION: _____

CEREMONY MUSICIANS: _____

FLORAL & EVENT DESIGNER: _____

FLORAL PRESERVATIONIST: _____

FORMAL WEAR: _____

GOWN PRESERVATION: _____

HAIR SALON: _____

INVITATIONS: _____

JEWELER: _____

TRANSPORTATION: _____

MAKEUP ARTIST: _____

NAIL SALON: _____

PHOTOGRAPHER: _____

VIDEOGRAPHER: _____

RECEPTION ENTERTAINMENT: _____

RECEPTION LOCATION: _____

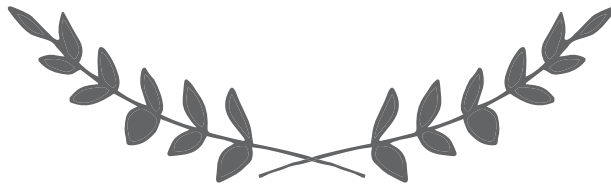
REHEARSAL DINNER: _____

RENTAL COMPANY: _____

TRAVEL AGENT: _____

WEDDING CONSULTANT: _____

WEDDING OFFICIANT: _____



We're *ALL* You Need!

Arizona Weddings Magazine & Website
has everything you need to plan your Arizona wedding.

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