

PLANNING YOUR WEDDING

By Lizelle Furter – Bride's Diary

You're bombarded with questions: "Have you set a date yet?", "What venue are you going to use?", "What will your dress look like?" You become overwhelmed as you suddenly realise how many decisions need to be made before you can walk down the aisle to marry the man you love.

These days planning a wedding is both easy and difficult at the same time. Luckily we have no lack of professional wedding service providers in South Africa, the problem is choosing the right one for your requirements. This is why you will need as much information as possible.

You need to start making decisions as a couple. What type of wedding would you like to have? Take time out to ask one another this simple question; you might be surprised to discover that your fiancé also has ideas and thoughts about the wedding. It's important that you are in agreement about the type of wedding you would like to have as well as the degree of formality you want to incorporate. If you disagree at this point, planning the rest of the wedding can be a very daunting task.

Once you have agreed on these basics, you can start with the planning. Let your creativity guide you – you will be amazed and overwhelmed by what services are available. Although you are excited to get married and would do it next week if you could, you need to be aware that good wedding service providers are booked out in advance.

Request references for the service providers that you would like to use. Good references are readily available from wedding venues as well as friends who recently got married. No one would give a reference if this could damage their reputation which is why you can be assured that references from venues are valuable. You should also find out if there are Bridal or Wedding Exhibitions being held during the period of your planning. These Expo's can be a bit of an information overload, but they are an actual showcase where you can see the product or service and also have a chance to meet the professional.

Bridal magazines are a must-have item while planning. Not only will they provide the details of service providers, they can also provide ideas, tips and helpful hints. Remember, the service providers who are consulted in these magazines are experts in their field and as this will probably be the first time you will be planning a wedding, you could only benefit from their advice.

However, don't ever lose sight of the fact that this is YOUR wedding. No one should be telling you what to do or how to do it. Your wedding should reflect your personality and be the dream wedding you've always imagined. You should enjoy every second of it – even the little fights and disagreements that arise between you and your fiancé during the months of planning. Before you know it, the day has arrived, and time flies where you are having fun! Enjoy your planning!

