

At Del Cielo co-ordinators, it is all about service. They strive to exceed the expectations of both the bride and the guests, from the service provided to their clients and prompt communication with suppliers, to the execution of a perfect day. Theresa Erlank has worked on international cruise lines for nearly six years, and has learned all about service providing from very demanding Americans. Upon her return, she was employed by an upmarket venue where she learned the wedding industry inside and out, and eventually decided to fly solo. Thus Del Cielo was born, offering you complete peace of mind on your very special day.



Co-ordinators - The Bride's most

Essential Accessory

By Theresa Erlank

Deciding whether you need a wedding planner is like being in love – no one can tell you you're in love, you just know it; likewise, no one can tell you whether you need a co-ordinator or not, so how will you decide? Will you be getting help from others, or have you been left to your own devices without a clue as to where to start? Maybe you are satisfied with the basics, but are oblivious to certain aspects of planning a wedding. Just getting started on the arrangements can be a very overwhelming exercise!

One fact is, you can save yourself a lot of heartache and headache by booking a professional wedding co-ordinator. He or she will save you time and money, because they know about all the little tips and hints that will make your wedding cost less, what vendors to book, what to say to them and what questions to ask them. Keep in mind

that they know where to find the best possible value for money because they have contacts in the industry.

The wedding co-ordinator provides a wide spectrum of ideas and will help plan your perfect day by listening to your ideas, arranging suppliers with a proven track record for superior service and do all the tedious work when it comes to planning the wedding. They negotiate on your behalf and deal with all the nitty gritty that may arise. All you have to do is sit back, relax, and watch everything fall into place.

So how do you choose such a service provider? First and foremost, you need to be comfortable with her and be certain that your needs and ideas are understood. The co-ordinator needs to understand that she is there to give ideas and implement

your choices, not force her ideas on you. Furthermore, it is very important that this person has excellent people skills, as the co-ordinator has to deal not only with you, but very often with all members of both families who want to have their say

Experience in the industry is an absolute must, as this will enable the co-ordinator to work under pressure and deal with all kinds of emergencies that may arise. Experience will also allow her to assist with various elements of the wedding, advising on what is feasible and what not. Which ideas can be perfectly executed and what might be expendable.

On your big day, your co-ordinator should be close by to assist with little things like pinning the buttonholes, making sure you receive your bouquet, being ready with a headache tablet for a guest, needle and thread for a broken strap on a bridesmaid dress, shoe polish for the groom's dusty shoes, or nail glue for a broken nail. Most importantly, your co-ordinator should be right by your side throughout the duration of formalities, making sure everything is taken care of and all emergencies being dealt with.

The wedding co-ordinator should be as involved with your wedding as you would like her to be. Maybe it is just to help you venue hunt and book the most trustworthy suppliers, maybe just being present on the day. Maybe you have a busy schedule, and know you will not get around to any of the planning yourself.

A wedding co-ordinator is a must-have add-on for most brides. Although this is the first time that you are planning a wedding, it's not the first for your co-ordinator. Their main purpose is to take the stress out of this very exciting time in your life, so that you can concentrate on the butterflies and fuzzy feelings instead.

