

Wedding Tips from the Experts

TIPS TO CREATE THE WEDDING OF YOUR DREAMS FROM
PROFESSIONAL WEDDING COORDINATOR MICHAEL NOLTE

TIPS ON CATERING
FROM GOURMET CHEF CHERYL HARTELL

1 Let your wedding gown be a surprise to all. Don't show your dress to anyone other than the person who is paying for it, the florist, and the seamstress. Don't describe it to friends or try it on more than twice before the wedding.

2 Don't view the decorated wedding venue before the ceremony. Drink it in for the first time as you walk down the aisle.

3 Redefine the word "crisis." Surprises happen at most weddings, so relax, enjoy, and make the best of things.

4 Wear your veil every minute you want to feel like a bride. The minute you take off your veil, you become a married woman in a white dress.

5 Do not allow the post-ceremony photo shoot to last longer than 20 minutes. It's time to greet guests at the celebration.

1 Look for a caterer who prepares food that's out of the ordinary. Dare to go beyond meatballs and try a few dishes with international flair or ethnic cuisine that honors the heritage of the bride and groom.

2 Ask for references. Get a list of people who have used the caterer in the past few months, and then ask each one a host of questions about the quality of the food and the professionalism of the service.

3 Ask for a tasting. Before you sign the contract, see for yourself if the caterer is as good as everyone says. Pick a few items from the menu that you'd like to serve, or ask the chef to suggest something unusual.

4 Be up front with your budget and needs. If your event is too small or too large for the caterer, it's best to know that right up front so you can continue your search.

5 Find someone who will work around your party's special needs. If you have guests with food allergies or dietary concerns, it's important your caterer be willing to provide menu items that meet their needs.



TIPS ON THE ABCS OF PRINTED MATERIAL
FROM RSVP PROPRIETOR ABBY ALBERS

TIPS TO FABULOUS FLORALS
FROM FLORAL ARTIST KELLY ACOCK

1

Your invitations will set the tone for your entire wedding, giving guests a glimpse of what's in store. So, assemble an invitation packet that reflects the look and feel of your wedding.

2

Consider the printing process that you want to use. Options range from engraving and thermo-graphy, to letterpress, or flat printing.



3

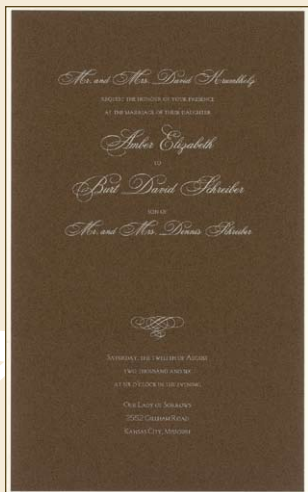
Allow yourself plenty of time to address and mail your invitations. Your materials should arrive at least two months before your wedding date, giving you a month to address the invitations and get them in the mail a month prior to the ceremony.

4

Ceremony programs should do much more than just list the order of events. They can be filled with thank-you sentiments, at-home information, and even brief bios on each member of the wedding party.

5

Finally, don't forget reception details like table menus, place cards, table assignments, and cocktail napkins for a total cohesive look and feel.



See if the florist has supplies you can rent. Rent items like vases, so you don't have to purchase them yourself.

1

Inquire what he or she can do for your budget. You want to work only with someone who is comfortable with the amount you are able to invest.

2

Instead of having separate flowers for the wedding and reception, you can use the same flowers for each. The secret is to present the flowers in completely different ways at the wedding and reception so guests never guess they are the same.

3

Get fruity. Fruits and vegetables like lemons, limes, sliced apples, cranberries, pomegranates, grapes, artichokes, asparagus, broccoli, and cauliflowers are being invited to the table to create knockout arrangements loaded with color and texture.

4

Light the fire. Candles have added spark to centerpieces for years. Now they're taking center stage.

5

Take the plunge. Submerged flowers are all the rage today.

6

