



Our top 10 tips for planning a stress free wedding!



10 Tips for planning your dream wedding

Recently engaged and feeling completely overwhelmed? We feel you. But while it might seem daunting right now, we think the wedding planning journey can actually be fun, enjoyable and stress-free (yes, really!).

With a couple of thousand successful weddings under our belt, it's safe to say we have some insight on what makes a truly memorable celebration. From nailing down your priorities to creating checklists and booking your vendors, read on for 10 super practical tips to help you plan a seamless event.



Tip 1 - Know your priorities

Before making any big decisions, we'd suggest taking some time to really think about your priorities for the day. There are so many moving parts involved in planning a wedding, so getting crystal clear on what's actually important to you both will make it much easier to invest your time and budget accordingly. We often find that other vendors are suggesting that perhaps the venue, celebrant and photographer are the three most important vendors but we think that's highly subjective. It may be less important to get your first-choice venue than it is to have your chosen date as your guests are likely to celebrate with you no matter where you are.

Try to nail down your top 5 "must-haves" for the day - whether that's live music, beautiful flowers, creative styling, comfortable seating or delicious food. Now write them down and keep these priorities front of mind as you start getting deeper into the wedding planning process! You'll want to dedicate more time (and funds) towards your bigger priorities, while the less important details can be lower on your list (with less budget allocated).

Whenever you start to feel overwhelmed, revisit the list to remind yourself of the bigger picture. If your key elements for the day have been sorted, there's simply no need to stress about the small stuff!



Tip 2 - Define your wedding concept

Something else you should think about before booking your wedding venue or suppliers is your overall vision or theme for the day. Your wedding vendors will need to understand this vision to help them bring it to life for you.

Are you guys picturing an intimate dinner party with lots of moody lighting and colourful flowers? A luxe marquee wedding in the family garden? A bohemian cocktail party underneath the stars? Start saving your favourite inspo on Pinterest, put together a mood board, and really narrow down your colour palette, aesthetic and vibe for the day. Remember Pinterest can be a great tool but with so many people posting their ideas from across the world you need to be smart with which ideas you take on board. In the Wide Bay a clear roof marquee is glorious in the Winter months of June, July and August but becomes very uncomfortable and unusable in the heat of February...



Tip 3 - Create a checklist

One last thing you might want to do before getting the ball rolling with your wedding planning is creating a master checklist. This checklist should include everything (big and small!) that needs to be done before the wedding, with a rough due date for each one.

Think about what needs to be organised by the 12-month mark, 8-month mark, 6-month mark, and so on. This will be a huge help when it comes to time management and ensuring you don't accidentally overlook any important details!

You can also create an individual checklist for each vendor with your requirements, such as your florist, caterer and furniture hire. Having a physical checklist - whether that's in a binder, excel spreadsheet or Google doc - will help you feel organised and at ease, especially when you start ticking those tasks off your list.



Tip 4 - Book your key vendors first

Speaking of timelines, you'll want to make sure you book your key vendors ASAP to avoid missing out. Refer back to your priorities for the day to determine who you need to secure first. Keep in mind that the most in-demand vendors can book out well in advance, particularly during peak season or around public holidays. If you know that you definitely want a specific vendor or product, we recommend locking them in as soon as possible to give you peace of mind.



Tip 5 - Make it personal

Thanks to social media, it's all too easy to get swept up in the latest wedding trends. But before you get too deep in the Pinterest rabbit hole, stop and think about how you can ensure your day is truly personal and authentic to you and your partner. Just because so and so had something at their wedding doesn't mean you have to as well.

Pinterest and Instagram are great resources, but try to draw inspiration from your own personalities, style and preferences, too. Keeping things personal will ensure your wedding styling remains timeless and won't "date" quickly.



Tip 6- Have a wet weather plan

Guys, having a wet weather plan is soooo important - trust us! The last thing you want to be dealing with on the morning of your big day is finding a last-minute plan B as you get your hair and makeup done. No matter what season your wedding date falls in, unfortunately the weather in the Wide Bay is totally unpredictable. It can be a perfect beach day at Bargara while raining heavily at Branyan. If you're planning an outdoor wedding, make sure you have a practical wet weather plan sorted for each element of your day (ceremony, cocktail hour, reception), and ensure all of your vendors have a copy of your plan, too. Opting for a marquee, tent or tipi wedding as opposed to a totally alfresco setting is a great way to alleviate some of those weather worries!



Tip 7- Be mindful with DIY

Going DIY with your wedding styling can seem like a great way to save some extra dollars - but we'd recommend being mindful of how much you choose to put on your own plate.

Choosing to DIY your entire wedding can often lead to some stressful moments closer to the day if you have limited time at your disposal. Did you allow for the friend that was setting up for you to fall ill... If you are going down the DIY route, be realistic about what you can actually achieve in the time you have available, and maybe focus on just a few elements while outsourcing others - don't overcommit yourself!

At Elegant Events we take on work based on the information we have. It's not as easy as asking a professional to assemble your items that week because you didn't realise you were having your nails done before you had access to the venue and you don't want to chip them... we and others are likely to be otherwise engaged.



Tip 8- Aim to finalise everything early

The week leading up to your wedding day can be seriously crazy, with guests travelling, pre-wedding celebrations, beauty appointments and rehearsals. With this in mind, try to have all of your wedding tasks well and truly ticked off by the 1-week mark (ideally, even earlier) - don't procrastinate!

Getting everything out of the way early means you can spend your wedding week relaxing, getting pampered and enjoying yourself instead of feeling frazzled.



Tip 9- Ask for help

Planning a wedding can get overwhelming and there are times you may feel lost, confused or simply a little out of your depth. If so, don't be afraid to ask for help, and remember that every other couple is in the same boat!

Once you're a client with Elegant Events we're always happy to assist with your questions and concerns as much as possible - you'll find other wedding vendors are the same. There's no such thing as a silly question when it comes to wedding planning and we have Bundaberg's most experienced planner in house and at your disposal, so ask the experts for help when you need it.



Tip 10- Take a moment to soak it all in

Our final tip is a piece of feedback we hear from so many of our couples after the big day has been and gone. Your wedding day is going to absolutely FLY by, so don't forget to sneak away for a quiet moment amongst all of the craziness to really soak up the atmosphere and see all of your hard work come together!
