

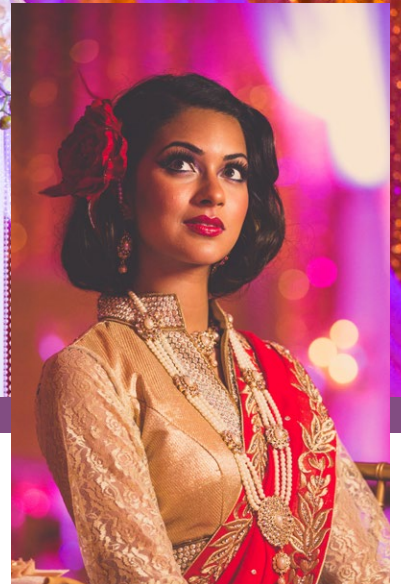


The TOP 5 Wedding Planning TIPS FOR *Couples*



EVENTS BY C

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Congratulations!

YOU'RE GETTING MARRIED AND PREPARING TO ENTER A WHOLE NEW PHASE IN YOUR LIFE! WHAT A WONDERFUL TIME TO BRING TOGETHER THE PEOPLE YOU LOVE AND CELEBRATE A TRULY MOMENTOUS OCCASION. YET BEFORE YOU PREPARE TO TAKE THAT LONG WALK DOWN THE AISLE AND TOWARDS MARITAL BLISS, YOU MUST FIRST GET THROUGH ANOTHER PHASE: THE PLANNING PROCESS.

So many women spend years of their life dreaming of their wedding day and planning ideas in their heads, on Pinterest, or in self-designed wedding books. The pressure and expectations are high, both for the bride and the couple's families and loved ones as well. However, it is far too easy to quickly become overwhelmed and disillusioned as you find yourself lost in the vast sea of ideas, advice, numbers, and expectations that will inevitably be thrown your way. The wedding planning process you dreamed of for so long can quickly become an overly stressful, dramatic and emotionally trying experience. However, it doesn't have to be this way.

Everyone deserves to have an amazing wedding, but what brides hear far less often is that they *also* deserve to have an equally amazing wedding planning experience. When tackled properly, the planning process can help bring you even closer to the people you love as you include them in one of the most important days of your life. It can be fun, rewarding, romantic, and filled with memorable moments of its own.

We, here at **Events by C**, want to help every bride begin walking on the right path towards a successful and unforgettable wedding. There are many wedding planning tips out there that you are going to come across, but we narrowed it down to just 5. Alas, this was not an easy feat, but we took on the challenge and bring to you what we find to be the ***Top 5 Most Important Tips to Remember*** during your wedding planning process.



Tip 1

Pick a budget and stick to it.

THIS FIRST TIP IS ONE OF THE MOST CRUCIAL OF THEM ALL. FAILURE TO PROPERLY SET A REASONABLE BUDGET FROM THE GET-GO IS A SUREFIRE RECIPE FOR DISASTER AND IS AMONGST THE WORST MISTAKES A COUPLE COULD MAKE. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO START OFF ON THE RIGHT FOOT BECAUSE THIS WILL SET THE TONE FOR EVERYTHING YOU DO FROM THEN ON OUT.



Be sure to:

- Set a budget by determining the absolute *max* amount you are comfortable spending on your wedding, including any amount of help you'll be getting from others.
- Create or download a spreadsheet with a list of *all* the wedding expenses.
- Distribute your max budget amongst the list of expenses to get an estimate on how much to spend on each item.
- Leave some extra money for wiggle room.
- Update your spreadsheet with your list of actual costs as you begin to purchase items and services.
- ***Stick to*** your budget as much as you possibly can. Money adds up quickly so don't let your emotions get the best of you and make any decisions you will later regret.



Tip 2

Do your research.

RESEARCH IS IMPORTANT. READING THESE TIPS IS A GREAT START! THE TRUTH IS THAT THE MORE YOU KNOW, THE LESS LIKELY IT IS THAT YOU WILL FALL INTO COMMON MISTAKES THAT CAN PUT YOU IN DIFFICULT SITUATIONS.

Be sure to:

- Research all venue options – there are always a lot of unique venues out there that you are likely unaware of.
- When looking at venues, be wary of things that will affect you dramatically, like preferred vendor lists, tent requirements, maximum capacities, location, parking, restrictions on décor, children, food and alcohol, etc.
- Read every contract **thoroughly** before you sign it.
- Know what to look for in a vendor.
- Make appointments to meet your vendors before you book them. Look at samples of their work, have tastings, etc.
- Look around for inspiration and research ideas to help you add fun, personal touches.



Tip 3

Prioritize, compromise, and categorize your guest list.

THROUGHOUT THE PLANNING PROCESS PRIORITIZING WILL BE VITAL TO YOUR DECISION MAKING PROCESS. AS A COUPLE, YOU WILL ALSO BECOME NO STRANGER TO COMPROMISE. THE FORMATION OF THE GUEST LIST IS GOING TO BE AMONGST THE MOST IMPORTANT OF YOUR EARLY DECISIONS.



For the best drama-free way to tackle this difficult part of the process, be sure to:

- Make a list of all the essential non-negotiable guests to get your minimum guest count.
- Make a list of the tentative guests you'd like to invite.
- When shopping for venues you like, note the maximum capacities.
- When looking at catering costs, do the math and factor in what works with your budget.
- Remember that every extra person will affect not *just* your venue options and catering costs, but also your linens, décor, DJ, cake, favors, entertainment and virtually every other aspect of the wedding – so don't take these numbers lightly.

Tip 4

Get creative, personalize, and have fun!

YOUR WEDDING IS A ONE OF A KIND OCCASION AND SHOULD BE AS BEAUTIFUL AS IT IS MEMORABLE AND UNIQUE. THE DAYS OF COOKIE-CUTTER WEDDINGS ARE IN THE PAST. AS A COUPLE, YOU ARE TWO INDIVIDUALS UNLIKE ANY OTHER, AND YOUR WEDDING SHOULD REFLECT THAT. YOUR GUESTS ARE HERE TO CELEBRATE YOU SO IT IS IMPORTANT TO INCLUDE LITTLE TOUCHES OF YOURSELF INTO YOUR BIG DAY.

Be sure to:

- Incorporate a theme that represents your individual personalities.
- Celebrate the story of your love as a couple by incorporating elements of the journey that led you to that day. Everyone loves a good love story and not all the guests might know yours.
- Above all, be sure to *have fun*. This is your day! You and your guests deserve to have a great time.



Tip 5

Don't over-stress or forget what the occasion is *really* all about.

THE TRUTH IS THAT IT'S VERY EASY TO GET SWEEPED UP IN WEDDING FEVER; SO MUCH SO THAT YOU FORGET WHAT YOUR BIG DAY IS REALLY SUPPOSED TO BE ALL ABOUT. FURTHERMORE, THERE IS SO MUCH THAT GOES INTO THE PLANNING OF A WEDDING THAT THERE IS NO WAY FOR IT TO NOT CAUSE STRESS ON A COUPLE AT SOME POINT. HOWEVER, IF YOU KEEP YOURSELF GROUNDED, YOU WILL HELP ALLEVIATE STRESS AND GENUINELY ENJOY YOUR BIG DAY MORE.



Try to remind yourself of a few key things:

- The wedding is all about celebrating your love and declaring your marriage before the people you treasure most. Don't get so caught up in planning that you neglect the ones you love. As long as you're together and you're happy – that's what counts.
- Don't get too stressed about details. Ask yourself: decades later, what will your guests remember? What will *you* remember? Those are the things that are most important.
- Your wedding is still, at the end of the day, just a couple of hours on a single day. It happens, and then it ends. Give importance to the things that will last – like the foundation you are creating for your beautiful marriage.



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Keep these 5 major tips in mind and you'll be off to a great start! We can't promise that it won't still be a bumpy road or that you won't come across all sorts of potholes. The planning process is rarely ever easy sailing, and rough waters are bound to ensue. During these strenuous times, however, perhaps it is most important to remember the most valuable tip of all – not just in your wedding planning, but in life: don't be afraid to ask for help when you need it.

Here at Events by C, it is vital to us that we ensure every wedding AND every wedding planning experience is as painless and memorable as possible. We work with each client to create a personalized, unique, one of a kind experience, paved with the type of yellow brick road that can only lead to a magical ending. We have the tools and experience necessary to help build you that road. Though they can't keep you from getting lost here and there, hopefully, our top 5 tips will give you the courage to get behind the wheel and drive forth with confidence.

Oh, and should you still get lost, you know who to call...

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