

TIPS FOR CHOOSING YOUR RECEPTION VENUE

Engaged couples must make assorted important decisions with regards to their wedding day. For some, the process of planning a wedding can be overwhelming, while others revel in each and every decision.

Among the many decisions couples must make is which venue to use for their reception. The wedding reception venue is where most of the day will be spent, and where the majority of the people will do their mingling. When looking for a wedding venue, there are a number of factors to take into consideration.

THE ACCOMMODATIONS

The facility itself should be able to accommodate the wedding size. Some weddings are grandiose events with large guests lists, while others are more understated and intimate, with only a small number of family and friends in attendance. Couples should know which type of wedding they will be having, and should have at least an estimate figure in mind of the number of guests before visiting any facilities. Once that estimate has been made, look for a facility that can comfortably accommodate that number of people, and ideally find one that has done so in the past. Couples won't want a facility where everyone is crammed together, nor will they want one where a relatively small number of guests are in a large ballroom with lots of empty space.

More minor details regarding the facility must also be considered. Ask if the facility is handicapped accessible. If the wedding is in the warmer months, make sure the venue is air conditioned. Since most weddings have a break in between the ceremony and the reception, ask if the facility has a room in which the bride and groom can freshen up before the reception begins.

THE DATE

Couples may choose the date of their wedding based on the availability of a church they attend or a specific wedding officiant they want to perform their ceremony. Once that date has been chosen, it's time to look for a reception venue. Couples who have a specific venue in mind might want to ask about the venue's availability before settling on a wedding date. When seeking out a reception venue, ask if the venue has any other events scheduled for that day. Some couples prefer to have the facility all to themselves and their guests.



THE LOCATION

The facility's location should be a priority. Couples won't want their guests to have to drive too far from the wedding ceremony to the reception venue or from the reception venue back to the hotel. Since many wedding guests come from out of town, they likely won't know the area well and could get lost if the facility is too far away from their hotel. Keep things simple by finding a reception venue that's close to the hotel or hotels where guests will be staying.

THE HOURS

Couples who want their receptions to last into the wee hours should inquire about the facility's hourly rate. A typical reception lasts five or six hours. If couples want to go beyond that, they might have to pay an hourly rate. Ask if the facility charges an hourly rate or if the venue

can simply be rented for as long as the party keeps going.

THE PRICE

Many facilities offer a flat rate to rent the venue. When discussing the rate, be sure to ask what's included. Will food, flowers, venue decor, and even staff tips be included in the rental fee? If not, is there room for negotiation? When facilities expand the services they include in their rental fee, that can save couples substantial amounts of money.

When choosing a reception venue, couples must consider a host of factors that stretch beyond a venue's aesthetic appeal.



WEDDING FUN FACTS

Every year millions of people walk down the aisle and begin the start of their new lives together as couples. December is one of the more popular months in which to get engaged, but other months of the year are more popular for weddings.

The decision on when to get married depends on a host of factors. Some couples choose the date based on availability with a church or reception hall, while others might prefer to walk down the aisle during a specific season. Some couples choose to coordinate their wedding with a special event, such as a birthday or another day of note.

Most couples decide on a wedding month primarily for the weather. That's why the spring and summer are the most popular times of the year in which to tie the knot. Here is a list of the most popular months to tie the knot.

1. June
2. August
3. May
4. July
5. September
6. October
7. December
8. November
9. April
10. February
11. March
12. January

Less popular months for weddings may be easier to book in terms of availability, and certain vendors may discount items because of a slower season. Having a wedding during this time can be advantageous if money is tight.



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