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Our Top 10 Wedding Planning Tips

We have really enjoyed sharing in some incredible days with our clients over the past nine years. Experience shows that great wedding days don't just happen by accident – its all in the planning. The more time you and your suppliers invest up front, the better able you will be able to relax on the day and let your incredible day unfurl before you...

We hope you find the following useful in putting your ideas together for your own amazing day.

1. Getting your priorities right ...

Decide what's important to you about your day (other than the getting hitched bit...) and apportion your budget accordingly. Remember that in life (and certainly with weddings) you generally get what you pay for – things will be cheap for a reason.

But hey – that doesn't mean you can't make the budget stretch – it's about knowing where you can cut corners, and where not to. For example – if you fancy having champagne cocktails as a reception drink – how about substituting the champagne for a quality sparkling wine instead – in a cocktail you are unlikely to notice the difference.

2. It's a gift...

If your budget is getting tight, include items you would like on your day on your gift list – i.e. 1 hour of a string quartet, a guestbook, pages in your wedding album, cake, fireworks display, chocolate fountain. It's a great way of letting people play a big part in your special day.

3. Out of time...

Timings on wedding days go awry for a number of reasons, some of which can be addressed in the planning stages of a wedding day.

Try to avoid travelling long distances between the ceremony and the reception venue – the longer the distance the more chance of traffic hold ups on route. If you can plan routes without motorways involved – being trapped in traffic, with nowhere to get off is a sure-fire way to wedding day stress.

Build in 5 minutes leeway a number of times throughout the day – it will mean overall your timings on the day will be more accurate.

4. The travel bug...

If you are going to be travelling between ceremony and reception venues, it is worth checking any local or national events that may affect your travel routes.

5. Let's get together...

Don't forget what the day is about! Give yourself some time to be together, to take in your special day. Take a step back and watch it all happen – the day will rush past, so give yourselves opportunities to savour it.

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6. It's all about trust...

When you are choosing your suppliers, think about how you want to feel on your day. Select suppliers as much for how much you trust them to deliver, and deliver on time, as much as the price – otherwise stressing about non-delivery, or a supplier being late can really spoil your wedding day experience.

7. All by yourself...

If you are choosing between a number of dates with your venue, and you don't have exclusive use, ask which are likely to have lower booking levels. Then you'll have more of the venue to yourselves.

If you don't like the notion of having to share your venue, check out midweek rates for exclusive use. Or make your day a more intimate affair, and spend a bit more on securing the venue you'd like for yourself.

8. In the loop...

Once your plans are in place – tell people about them. If the ushers, bridesmaids, maids of honour, best man all know what you are planning, they'll be able to help the plans become a reality on the day itself. Also, if your guests know what is going on, they'll tend to relax more and events will run smoothly.

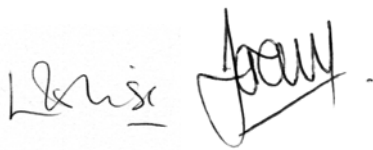
9. The chosen one...

Make sure you have one person on the day that you can totally trust to be your 'problem solver' on the day, if you don't have a wedding planner. Being able to delegate to this person, and knowing that they will do what is required to make things happen, will allow you to relax and enjoy your day.

10. Making a meal of it...

Consider having your speeches at the start of the meal – this will allow those people making speeches to be able to enjoy the food you have paid for!

Happy Planning!



Louise & Jeremy

*Mason Photography is a small but perfectly formed boutique photography company - our business is a passion, not a job. [Talk to us](#) about how we can tell the story of your incredible day with exquisite images that will transport you back every time you see them. If you'd like to talk to us about your plans, **we'd be happy to arrange a consultation.***

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