

Plan a special wedding

by **Sharmini Angela**

After delivering the great news to your parents, the planning starts. Planning a wedding takes a lot of effort, time and money. There are too many factors involved and couples usually don't have the time to think of every tiny detail.

That is how wedding planners came about. Touching Hearts, for example, helps coordinate weddings while the couple sit back and enjoy every moment without stressing themselves out over the preparations.

The company conceptualises ideas and offers tailored packages in line with the couple's budget and requirements. It coordinates the activities scheduled, making sure they fall into place without a hitch.

Pioneers in the business, they are able to source for suppliers who can deliver the best quality, saving the legwork and keeping in mind the budget.

The company often liaises with out of town and overseas clients, guiding the couple through the planning process until the big day. It covers the initial budget up to the planning of your honeymoon. So if you want those who know how, to plan your wedding for you, Touching Hearts may be what you need.

However, for those who prefer to plan their own wedding, to be a part of the joyous, romantic and momentous event it is, here is a timetable put together by wedding planner Leticia Hsu of Events Wizard to help you along.

However, bear in mind, that these are just suggestions.

The guidelines start from the engagement right up to your wedding day. You have to judge for yourselves whether you need to do more or

cut down on certain steps as you go along. Happy planning!

The engagement

The first thing is to get yourself an organiser as there are just too many things to remember.

Also, keep track of all appointments, payments, invitations, choice of vendors and the like.

The couple should write to family and friends to inform them of the wedding date, unless an engagement party is scheduled. If so, decide whether it is going to be formal or informal, the venue, food, photographer, musicians, the master of ceremonies, and how you plan to get the invitations out.

Prepare your thank you notes. The best time to write these is immediately after opening the gifts, unless there are just too many. However, it is polite to send an acknowledgment for gifts received.

Six months before

Generally speaking, a bigger part of the budget is spent on the reception, so it may be wise to limit the number of guests.

Usually, everything boils down to the budget. How much can you spend? After you have decided your budget, it will be easier to select the venue.

Traditionally, the parents on both sides will contribute and take charge of certain aspects of the wedding.

Determine the style of wedding you want - formal or informal, big or small - and the time of year and the time of day at which you want it to take place.

If you haven't selected your date, this would be the right time, as there would other factors to consider, such as booking a venue



Personal touch ... it is easier to decide on gowns, location, food and decorations when you have a theme.

for the reception. To avoid disappointment, book early.

Hotels are often preferred. Hotel wedding planners are aware that more couples are paying special attention to their budgets

standard price ranges from RM35++ to RM60++ per pax, for a minimum of 50 and maximum of 200.

Currently, the hotel is having the Citrarasa Masakan Malaysia promotion with dishes from the different cultures in

Final check list as the big day nears

(From page 2)

Now, for the bookings. Flowers set the mood and add that special touch. So, it is important to look at examples of the florist's work first.

The music you choose should linger on after the wedding. You can opt for a live band or play selected music that has some significance to your relationship. Also remember the photographer and videographer for your chosen date.

The wedding cake is the focal point of the reception and is usually fruitcake, chocolate or sponge. This would also be a good time to plan and make bookings for your honeymoon.

Four to six months before

If you are planning an outdoor event, reserve equipment such as tables, chairs and tents. Make necessary arrangements for transport for family and friends on the wedding day, especially if they are from overseas or out of town.

Order invitation cards and stationery as you will need these when you write thank-you notes. You would also need to decide what to put on your gift registry. Although not a common practice in Malaysia, there are couples who are adopting the idea.

Today, the average age for those getting married is late 20's, by which time you would have accumulated several household items. This would be relevant when planning your registry. So, place your list at the departmental store and mark the items you want. You would be doing your guests



a big favour by giving them a list of gifts to choose from.

You might now want to think about buying wedding rings or having them engraved. Also, don't forget to book a room for your wedding night, which will often be included in the hotel's package.

The groom can buy or reserve his attire. Choose and order attire for your attendants, flowergirls, bridesmaids and best man, or arrange for a tailor to make them.

Choose an appropriate time to have a bridal party or hen's night and list your gifts.

Remember wedding souvenirs, which have been around for as long as couples have been getting married. This is a wonderful way to express your appreciation to guests for being a part of your wedding.

Couples would prefer to have something unique, but keep in mind the budget and make sure it goes with the wedding theme.

Reserve accommodation for out of town guests.

If you are planning to have the first dance, don't forget to sign up for dance lessons if you don't know how.

Two to four months before

Discuss the menu with the caterer or the hotel.

Discuss and finalise the service with the person officiating the ceremony. Christians usually have to decide on readings for the ceremony and choose their wedding vows. By this time, you should be ready to schedule the wedding and dinner rehearsals.

The bride should have a trial for her makeup and

hairstyle, just in case she is allergic to a product or doesn't like the outcome.

Last but not least, mail the invitations so they reach in time, allowing sufficient time to expect a RSVP.

One to two months before

Christians, having decided on hymns, readings and vows, should have the programme for the wedding service printed. Others would need to think of sending out to be printed, items such as the menu or table numbers.

Couples are advised to submit their marriage licence at the registration office. Where places of worship have registrars, this can wait until the wedding day.

As for transportation, you should make a confirmation and pay a deposit if hiring. If you want to make a grand entrance, you may opt for a horse drawn carriage or a limousine.

Two weeks before

The bride needs to make sure her dress goes with her shoes, jewellery and lingerie. It might also be a good idea to get used to your wedding shoes to prevent having to grit your teeth from blisters during the wedding.

Then, begins the seating plan and writing place cards. By this time, you will have the guest attendance list, so notify the caterer or hotel. Also write the speech for the rehearsal dinner.

(see next page)

It might also be a good idea to get used to your wedding shoes to prevent having to grit your teeth from blisters during the wedding.



WEDDING BLISS



Assign specific responsibilities like handing out corsages and boutonnieres to members of your wedding party.

Now relax and savour the mood

You should also designate a person to look after your home while away on your honeymoon.

One week before

Do final checks on catering, seating arrangements, the photographer, videographer, florist, musician, the person officiating the wedding, rehearsal and honeymoon.

If you need foreign currency for the honeymoon, make arrangements to get it. Don't forget to pack for your honeymoon: Assign specific responsibilities like handing out corsages and boutonnieres to members of your wedding party.

The day before

Make sure everyone arriving from out of town is met,

knows where everyone else is staying and is well taken care of.

Attend the rehearsal and rehearsal dinner. You may choose to give gifts to each other and to attendants at the rehearsal or during a more private moment.

Prepare payment envelopes for vendors and make arrangements for someone to distribute them. Lastly, the bride might want to get a manicure and pedicure.

Your wedding day

Relax and savour the day. If some tiny details don't fall into place, don't let it get you down, because chances are, everyone will be enjoying themselves and won't even notice.

Have fun and good luck!

planners are aware that more couples are paying special attention to their budgets when choosing wedding packages. They have therefore come up with "little extras" in their wedding packages to attract couples.

Federal Hotel Kuala Lumpur's new wedding packages, for a minimum spending of RM22,000 in a single receipt, offer couples extras such as a complimentary wedding photograph presentation on a Barco system.

This is for those who want to show their wedding photos at the reception but cannot afford a professional cameraman.

Couples can also choose to enjoy either the complimentary use for 10 hours of a TD 2000 vintage car as the bridal car, a gift voucher for RM1,088 on the wedding photography services and gown package, two barrels of draught beer or 24 bottles of wine, or a two-night honeymoon stay with breakfast at a selected destination.

Choose a venue which can cater to your tastes as well as that of your guests, for example for those who are vegetarian.

The Coronade Hotel Kuala Lumpur has a flexible wedding dinner package, allowing you to choose from a Western, Malay, Indian or Chinese menu - either a buffet or set meal, or a combination of both. The stan-

Currently, the hotel is having the Citrarasa Masakan Malaysia promotion with dishes from the different cultures in Malaysia. This would be ideal if you have a mixed guest list.

The next step is to select a theme for your wedding to give it a personal touch. It is easier to decide on gowns, location, food, decorations and other items with a theme.

You would now have decided on a place to have the wedding ceremony. Some places of worship have qualified registrars, but if there isn't one, you would need to register your marriage at the registration office before the ceremony.

Some may opt for a civil ceremony at the registration office. Have a discussion with an official to determine if there are requirements to be met before the ceremony.

Select the attendants for your big day. It is perfectly normal, however, not to single out attendants at this early stage.

If you want to look your best and be different from the rest, have your outfit and accessories tailor-made.

However, some may prefer to choose from bridal houses, which carry various designs.

(See page 4)

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