

# *Beautiful Settings. Unforgettable Moments.*

## 10 TIPS FOR DESIGNING YOUR DREAM DAY.

### 1. KNOW YOUR PRIORITIES

- KNOWING WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU WILL HELP YOU MAKE KEY DECISIONS, ALLOT YOUR BUDGET AND MINIMISE WASTE.

### 2. BE TRUE TO YOURSELF

- DON'T MAKE YOUR WEDDING SOMETHING YOU DON'T ENJOY. ULTIMATELY YOU WON'T ENJOY THE DAY AS MUCH AS YOU MIGHT HAVE HOPED AND NEITHER WILL YOUR GUESTS.

### 3. INFUSE YOUR CELEBRATION WITH MEANING

- INCORPORATE TRADITIONS FROM YOUR RESPECTIVE CULTURES.
- INCLUDE SOMETHING MEANINGFUL IN YOUR CEREMONY PROGRAM OR ON YOUR MENU.
- GET GUESTS INVOLVED IN YOUR CEREMONY.
- MAKE SPECIAL MENTION OF THOSE WHO CAN'T BE WITH YOU.
- GIVE MEANINGFUL GIFTS TO YOUR GUESTS. REMEMBER IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS. CONSIDER A CD OF YOUR FAVOURITE LOVE SONGS, A POTTED PLANT, A DELICIOUS RECIPE OR A HAND-WRITTEN NOTE. THESE ARE THE GIFTS THAT TRULY SHOW YOUR GUESTS YOU CARE.

### 4. CHOOSE A UNIFYING THEME

- A THEME WILL UNIFY THE DESIGN OF YOUR CELEBRATION AND SIMPLIFY YOUR DECISION MAKING PROCESS. TAKE INSPIRATION FROM YOUR SETTING, AND YOUR OWN PERSONAL STYLE, TASTES AND HERITAGE.
- CARRY THIS THEME THROUGH EVERYTHING, YOUR STATIONERY, CUISINE, CAKE, CENTREPIECES, PARTY FAVOURS AND ATTIRE.
- A STYLIST WILL HELP YOU DETERMINE THIS UNIFYING THEME AND SUGGEST WAYS THAT IT MIGHT BE IMPLEMENTED.

### 5. BE INSPIRED BY YOUR SURROUNDINGS

- CHOOSE YOUR SETTING FIRST. ALL YOUR OTHER DECISIONS WILL FLOW OUT FROM THIS. RESIST THE URGE TO MAKE YOUR VENUE SOMETHING IT'S NOT; YOU WILL END UP NOT ACHIEVING THE DESIRED RESULT OR SPENDING A SMALL FORTUNE. CHOOSE VENUES THAT INSPIRE YOU AND THEN HONOUR THE SPACE YOU HAVE CHOSEN WITH WELL-PLACED, HARMONIOUS DETAIL.

- **A BEACHSIDE SETTING.** THINK RELAXED, ORGANIC, SIMPLE AND UNFUSSY. CONSIDER LOGISTICS OF ACCESS, WEATHER AND PERMITS. USE NATIVES, ORCHIDS, CALLA LILIES, CANDLES, ROCKS, DRIFTWOOD AND GLASS. CONTEMPLATE FRESH OCEAN INSPIRED COLOURS, BRIGHT TROPICAL HUES OR SUBTLE EARTHY TONES.
- **A VINEYARD SETTING.** THINK SOPHISTICATED, LUSCIOUS, GOURMET, OPULENT. USE ROSES, PEONIES, HYDRANGEA, FRUIT, WOOD, WROUGHT IRON AND TERRACOTTA. CONSIDER A RICH FRUIT INSPIRED PALETTE.
- **A HOTEL SETTING.** THINK BLANK CANVAS! HOTELS ARE PERFECT FOR CREATING YOUR OWN SIGNATURE LOOK. DO DECIDE ON AN OVERALL LOOK AND STICK TO IT. BE SURE TO CONSIDER LIGHTING.
- **GARDEN SETTING.** THINK VINTAGE, INTIMATE, ROMANTIC, NATURAL. CONSIDER SEASONALITY – FIND OUT WHAT WILL BE BLOOMING. USE VINTAGE CHINA, HYDRANGEA, GARDEN ROSE, TOPIARY, URNS, WROUGHT IRON. CONTEMPLATE PASTELS, AUTUMN TONES OR FRESH SHADES OF GREEN AND WHITE.
- **RESTAURANT SETTING.** TAKE CUES FROM YOUR SETTING, ITALIAN? JAPANESE? MOROCCAN? USE CANDLES, QUALITY GLASSWARE, CHINA AND LINEN. AVOID HIGHLY SCENTED FLOWERS.

## 6. FOLLOW THE RULE OF THREE.

- LIMIT AS MANY ELEMENTS AS POSSIBLE TO NO MORE THAN THREE CHOICES. COLOUR IS A POWERFUL EXAMPLE OF THIS. A WEDDING WITH SHADES OF THREE COLOURS WILL LOOK COMPOSED AND BALANCED. ANY MORE AND IT WILL START TO LOOK LIKE YOUR AT A DISCO. SIMILARLY WITH FLOWERS, ANY ONE ARRANGEMENT SHOULD HAVE NO MORE THAN THREE TYPES OF BLOOMS. FOLLOWING THIS RULE WILL STREAMLINE YOUR DECISION PROCESS AND CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE THAT IS STRIKING AND HARMONIOUS.

## 7. GROUP YOUR DESIGN ELEMENTS.

- DECORATIVE OBJECTS WILL HAVE MORE EFFECT WHEN GROUPED. CREATING DISTINCT AREAS LIKE A LOUNGE WILL HAVE MORE IMPACT THAN SPREADING YOUR FURNITURE THROUGHOUT YOUR SPACE. CLUSTERING VOTIVE CANDLES WILL HAVE MORE EFFECT THAN HAVING ONE PER TABLE.

## 8. LOOK AFTER YOUR GUESTS

- A WELL CARED FOR GUEST IS A HAPPY GUEST. ENSURE YOU HAVE HIRED ENOUGH STAFF TO ATTEND YOUR GUESTS.
- DON'T FORGET ABOUT SAFETY. CHECK YOUR VENUES TO INSURE YOUR GUEST'S COMFORT AND SAFETY. ARE HAND RAILS, STAIRWAYS AND PATHS SECURE AND WELL-LIT? DO YOU REQUIRE SECURITY STAFF? MAKE PROVISION FOR GUESTS WHO ARE DRINKING AND MAY REQUIRE TRANSPORT.

- PROVIDE HELPFUL INFORMATION. INCLUDE ACCOMMODATION AND TRANSPORT OPTIONS ON YOUR INVITATIONS. BABYSITTING PROVISIONS AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES ARE ALWAYS APPRECIATED.
- PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO OUT OF TOWN GUESTS. ARRANGE ACCOMMODATION AND TRANSPORTATION. WELCOME BASKETS ARE A THOUGHTFUL TOUCH.

## 9. INVEST IN QUALITY

- USE LINEN NAPKINS UNLESS YOU ARE OPTING FOR A PICNIC.
- HOST A COCKTAIL PARTY BUT SERVE ONLY THE FINEST FOOD AND BEVERAGES.
- ENSURE YOUR LINEN IS OF A HIGH STANDARD AND THAT IT IS PRESSED ON THE TABLES TO REMOVE CREASES.
- HIRE PROFESSIONAL HOSPITALITY STAFF. WAITERS, PARKING ATTENDANTS, BARMEN & BATHROOM ATTENDANTS CAN MAKE OR BREAK YOUR GUESTS EXPERIENCE. ENSURE THEY ARE PROFESSIONAL AND PLENTIFUL.
- EMPLOY EXPERTS. BY ALL MEANS BE INVOLVED IN THE DETAIL OF YOUR WEDDING BUT DON'T TAKE ON AN UNREALISTIC JOB LIKE MAKING HUNDREDS OF SUGAR FLOWERS FOR YOUR CAKE, SEWING YOUR BRIDESMAIDS DRESSES OR WIRING YOUR BOUQUETS. CERTAIN TASKS SHOULD BE LEFT TO THE EXPERTS, AFTER ALL YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR! USE EXPERIENCED AND QUALIFIED VENDORS WITH EXCELLENT PRODUCTS AND ATTENTION TO CUSTOMER SERVICE. INVEST YOUR TIME IN PERSONAL TOUCHES WHERE IT WILL BE NOTICED AND APPRECIATED.

## 10. ELIMINATE THE UNNECESSARY EXTRAS.

- IF YOU ARE GOING TO DO SOMETHING, DO IT WELL. IF YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO DO IT WELL, DON'T DO IT AT ALL.
- SIMPLIFY YOUR BAR AND OFFER JUST WINES MATCHED TO YOUR MEALS, BEER AND SOFT DRINK OR CONSIDER A SIGNATURE COCKTAIL.
- DISPLAY SINGLE EXQUISITE BLOOMS IN PLACE OF HUGE ELABORATE FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS.
- CANCEL YOUR DESSERT BUFFET AND SERVE YOUR CAKE PLATED WITH BERRY COULIS.