



THE CALEDONIA DESIGN CO.

# Plan Your Perfect Wedding

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TOP 10 TIPS

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# Yay!

We're so glad that you have a copy of our top ten wedding tips, and we hope you find them helpful.

Like most things in life, weddings come in all shapes and sizes! Whatever style of wedding suites you, we wish you every success with your big day.

For further tips and insights into planning your wedding, you may wish to have a look at our blog articles on [caledoniadesign.com](http://caledoniadesign.com). You will find our US and UK Edition Luxury Wedding Planners here too. Enjoy!



## 1. Guests Before Venue

Before you can decide on a venue, you'll need to know an approximate number of guests. With 12 months to go, you'll be researching possible venues. At the same time, start forming your guest list and developing an idea of what your final number is likely to be.

You'll want to be sure that, whichever venue you fall in love with, there is space for all your key friends and family members to attend, and that no one is left out!





## 2. Call the Fashion Police

Gather key friends or family for your dress shopping, but choose carefully who you take! Styles and preferences vary greatly, and you want to be able to trust the judgement of whoever you take with you.

You might be best to avoid inviting more than one or two friends or family members to avoid being overwhelmed, and be sure to select those who will give their truly honest view.

Do some research beforehand and show up to the bridal store with some styles already in mind. Once you've found the right dress, you'll know... just as when you knew you'd found the right one to spend forever with!

### 3. Prioritize Your Budget

Unless you have an unlimited budget for your wedding, you're going to have to decide which elements of your big day are the most important to you.

Early in the planning process, write down the various elements of your wedding with costs associated, and assign a number to each. Number one items are those most important to you, and number two or three items are less important.

Now you'll have a better idea of where to aim to make savings. If you have your heart set on certain fabulous shoes, for example, you may have to make sacrifices in terms of smaller flower arrangements or simpler invitations.





## 4. Be Clear on Your Marriage License

Marriage licenses should be obtained in the UK with about 2 months to go to your wedding day; by contrast, this should be done with about 4 weeks to go in the US.

In the US, state requirements vary, so be sure to call the county clerk's office to check on specific requirements in your state.

Once you have your license, be sure make a copy to leave with a trusted member of the wedding party. We'd hate for your big day to be ruined by a misplaced piece of paper!

## 5. One Thing at a Time

Stay structured in your approach to booking vendors and your life will be made much simpler! If you follow a logical order, you'll feel much more relaxed and in control of the planning!

For example, pick options for your wedding date before visiting venues; determine your budget and your priorities before shopping for your wedding dress; determine how much space there will be at the venue before booking your band.

We've got you covered on this in our blog articles starting at '12 months to go', through to saying 'I do.' Find them here.



### 8 months to go

#### Planning Checklist

- ♥ ORDER YOUR WEDDING DRESS
- ♥ CHOOSE YOUR WEDDING STATIONERY
- ♥ ORDER SAVE-THE-DATE CARDS
- ♥ BLOCK-BOOK HOTEL ROOMS FOR GUESTS

#### Notes

WEDDING DRESS IDEAS

PROVIDENCE





## 6. Start at the Top

When starting to form your guest list, which we recommend doing with roughly 12 months to go, we advise that you start at the top with immediate family, best friends and, of course, the wedding party. Move from there onto aunts and uncles, cousins and close friends. Moving down the list, add neighbors, co-workers, parents' friends and so on.

If you have to cut some guests due to venue or budget limitations down the line, having your list prioritized in this way will make your life easier.

## 7. Estimating Numbers

When assessing if the numbers on your guest list are compatible with your venue or budget limitations, you can typically expect that 10 to 20 percent of the people you have invited won't be able to attend.

These numbers will naturally vary depending on the location of your wedding, and how far many of your guests will have to travel. The numbers may also vary somewhat if you opt for a wedding on a weekday as some may not be able to secure leave from work.





## 8. Save On Your Venue

By shying away from a traditional Saturday wedding, you may be able to save 20 to 30 percent on your wedding costs. If you are planning your wedding at short-notice, this can also work in your favour and afford you more bargaining power. Asking for open dates at a venue with only a few months to go can potentially save you 20 to 25 percent.

## 9. Be Comfortable with your Photographer

To have wedding photos that 'wow', it's important that you find a photographer with whom you feel comfortable. Get a feel for your potential photographer by meeting for a coffee, not only to assess their portfolio and style, but to determine if you think they're the right match for your big day.

Your photos will capture you at your best when you're relaxed and enjoying yourselves, and the same goes for your guests. If you want someone that will blend in on the dancefloor and capture that impromptu 'worm' dance, then you'll know if you've found the right match for you only from meeting up.





## 10. It's Your Day!

Something we can say with absolute certainty: on your wedding day, time will fly by! You'll barely stop for a minute, and it's easy for your wedding day to come and go in the blink of an eye. Find time to take a breather, to be alone with each other, even if it's just at one point for five minutes.

Ask your wedding planner if there is a quiet room where the two of you can take a moment after the ceremony has finished to enjoy the moment with a glass of bubbly. You'll have the rest of the evening to mingle and catch up with everybody properly, but those five minutes together can be one of the loveliest moments of the day.



You've found the one...  
now plan your perfect day.



Wedding planning,  
made simple

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