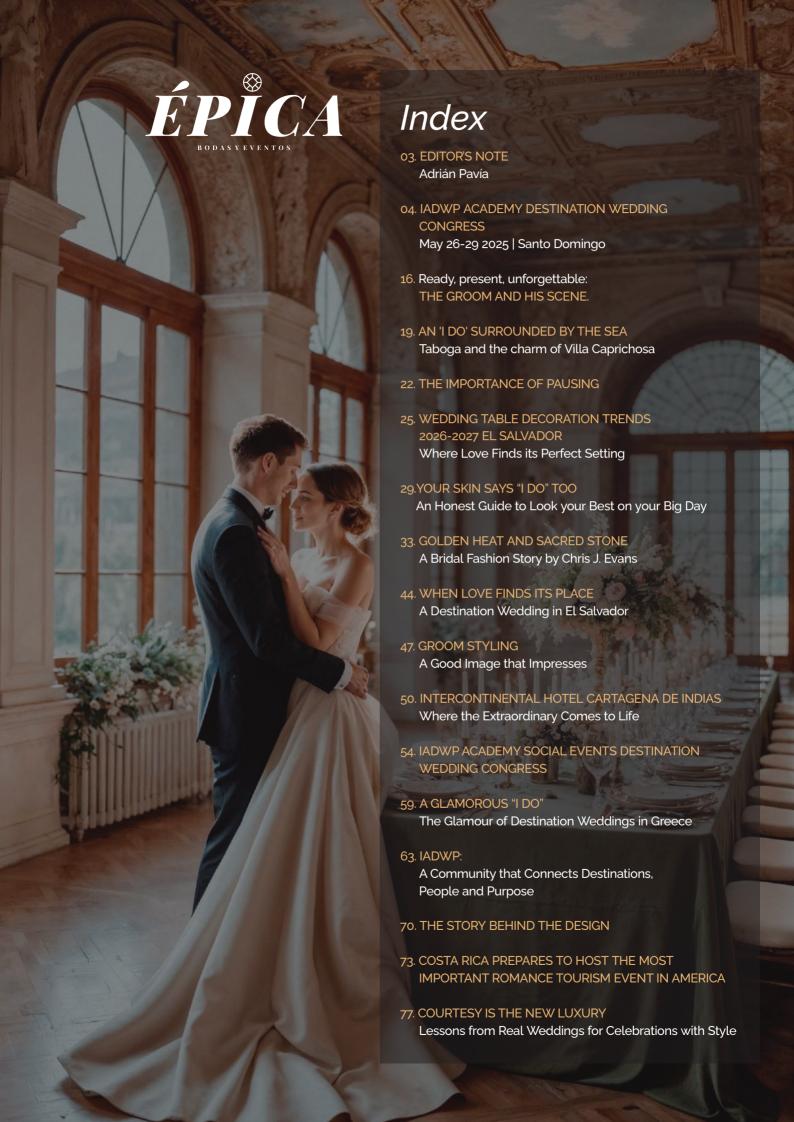
The Official Magazine of the IADWP

Number 18 **June 2025** 

BODAS Y EVENTOS







### **Editor's note**

June 2025 | ÉPICA Magazine By Adrián Pavía

Santo Domingo was not simply the venue for an event. It was the epicenter of a transforming force that enveloped us all like a warm and overwhelming wave. Those of us who were part of the IADWP Academy Destination Wedding Congress know: what we lived there was an experience of high emotional and professional power.

For four days, the Dominican capital became the beating heart of the romance industry. The agenda was brimming with knowledge, strategy and projection. Each speaker who took the stage generously contributed their experience, and made it clear that this universe is not just about weddings, but about inspiration, leadership and constant evolution.

But beyond the formal agenda, there was something even deeper. In the corridors, in the casual coffees, , in the knowing greetings and in the hugs of reunion, there was a sense of community. The same community that we have

built through years of work, mutual respect and shared passion.

Today I want to extend my gratitude to the entire IADWP family. To Kitzia Morales, for her unwavering vision and her ability to fulfill impossible dreams. To her team, for the flawless production that made every detail shine. And to the entire industry that was present with enthusiasm and height.

My special recognition to the Dominican Republic Chapter and its luxury hosts: Doña Mirta Sanchez, Marypili Lopez and Carlos Frias, who welcomed us as if we were at home. Their warmth, professionalism and commitment were the Caribbean soul that surrounded everything.

And I cannot forget to highlight the power and presence of all the IADWP National Chapters and Regional Chapters. Seeing them participate with strength, representing their destinations with pride, empowering their regions with every word, was a clear demonstration of the impact that this network generates. They were, without a doubt, the backbone of this edition. Because it's not just about showing what you do, but about raising the global standard with a collective vision. And that is exactly what they did.

To the vendors who traveled miles to say "here we are". To the colleagues who dare to share instead of compete. To those who have just started and listen with shining eyes. To those who are already referents, but continue learning as if it were the first day... Thank you. You are the fuel that keeps this industry running.

Connect, learn, celebrate and grow: that was Santo Domingo. And that is the promise that IADWP renews with each congress.

Because every time we come together as a community, the industry grows stronger.

Because every time we show our unity, brides and grooms see us as more serious, more solid, more human.

And because every time we commit to grow together, we take another step towards the respect we deserve.

Today more than ever, let us continue to create bridges, destinies, bonds and memories.

Because love will be eternal as long as there are those who dare to celebrate it with beauty and vocation.



Editor of Épica Magazine Director of Latin America and Spanish-Speaking Caribbean Islands Chapter





The IADWP Academy Destination Wedding Congress in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, was a unique experience that left an impression on all attendees. For four days, from May 26-29, 2025, professionals from the world of weddings and romance tourism gathered to share knowledge, experiences and strengthen ties in a series of activities that combined learning and fun.

The event began with the Pre-Congress, an exclusive workshop on Events & Celebration Travel on May 24 and 25, where participants immersed themselves in the art of managing and creating memorable experiences for travelers seeking weddings in unique destinations. This space was the prelude to what would become a congress full of practical knowledge and professionalism. The onsite training provided attendees with key tools to continue growing in the industry.

Monday, May 26 marked the official start of the interactive workshops, which took place at the elegant Renaissance Santo Domingo Jaragua Hotel & Casino. Among the most outstanding workshops were "How to Manage Family Businesses," given by Braulio and Lizandra Segura, and the Hands-On Flower Up, led by expert María Sepúlveda. The latter offered a practical opportunity for all flower lovers, who were able to perfect their skills with the

unique touch of local professionals.

The day was rounded off with a welcome event full of magic and fun, the famous Pirate Party, which transported attendees to the world of privateers, and what better place than the heart of the Caribbean to make this party an unforgettable night! It was an excellent opportunity to socialize and meet new contacts while enjoying tropical cocktails and vibrant music.

PH: Freddy Ku

On Tuesday, May 27, the day began with high-level talks, such as "The Laws of Life: The Wedding Planner's Guide to Success" by Arun Bablani, and "Brand Storytelling in Romance Tourism" by Antonio Paraiso.

These workshops offered attendees fundamental keys to



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position their wedding business in international destinations. But there were not only learning moments: business appointments allowed professionals to connect directly with vendors and industry experts, seeking new alliances for the future of their companies.

One of the most anticipated activities was the Rum Sunset Party at Casa de los Vitrales, an exclusive event for IADWP members that allowed them to enjoy a Caribbean sunset with local rum and a relaxed atmosphere, ideal for networking in a relaxed environment. Tropical music and laughter pervaded the space while new friendships and professional opportunities were forged.

Wednesday, May 28, continued with more insightful and revealing workshops, such as "Love and numbers: the business of happily ever after" by Judy Amado, and "Transform your service into a brand: from work to profitable purpose" by Ana Agosto, all of them oriented to how planners and vendors can elevate their brand and add value to their services. As in previous days, the congress not only provided education, but also moments of recreation such as the final event "Carnival of Culture", a party full of color and rhythm that closed the congress.













PH: DaunyStudio

daunystudioproductions.pixieset.com/iadwpprecongress | @daunystudio







terrica) Ager of Fabulous and Realness of drag and 90s hip hop and RnB l Enemy of Burlap and Mediocrity edding Industry Speaker & Coach Hope Dealer













PH: Freddy Ku freddykuphotography.pic-time.com/-iadwpacademydestinationweddingcongress | @kustudio\_mx











PH: Freddy Ku freddykuphotography.pic-time.com/-iadwpacademydestinationweddingcongress | @kustudio\_mx



On Thursday, May 29, it was time to explore the best of Santo Domingo through Venue Hunting, an activity that allowed attendees to get to know spectacular locations for future wedding events. With various routes available, participants were able to visit iconic venues such as the Colonial Zone, Casa de los Vitrales, and the luxurious Club Hemingway in Juan Dolio, each with its own unique proposal for high-end weddings and events.

After such an enriching experience, attendees headed to Punta Cana for the Post Congress, where they had the opportunity to further explore resorts such as the Majestic Elegance Punta Cana, discovering ideal spaces for future destination weddings.

This congress was not only a platform to learn, but an opportunity to grow, connect and celebrate the destination wedding industry. In short, the IADWP Academy Destination Wedding Congress in Santo Domingo was a milestone that brought together the best in the industry, in a destination loaded with culture, warmth and passion for events. Undoubtedly, this experience left all participants with new perspectives, innovative ideas and, above all, with the satisfaction of having been part of an international event.

### **ADRIÁN PAVÍA**

Editor of ÉPICA Magazine Director of the Latin American and Spanish-speaking Caribbean Islands Chapter IADWP





















**PH: PTaufiq Photography** 













For years, the wedding narrative placed all the spotlight on the wedding: the bride, her dress, her hairstyle, her suite filled with flowers and emotions. But something has changed. Today, in this new way of celebrating love, the groom is no longer just a witness. He is also the protagonist.

The groom's getting ready is no longer a functional step. It is a ritual moment. A space of identity, of intimacy, of style. It is, in many cases, the first emotional scene of the day: that instant in which he -together with his best friends, siblings, parents or life partners- gets ready not only for a ceremony, but for a transformation.

And this is where a new trend is born: designing men's getting ready as an aesthetic, sensory and deeply personal experience.

Relaxed luxury: atmospheres with intention Groom suites are no longer improvised. They are designed. Not with frills, but with intention. Sober colors, natural light, discreet aromas, furniture with character. The space must feel like him: authentic, elegant, without exaggeration. A mix of relaxed sophistication with emotional touches.

In the most stylish weddings, vintage furniture, handcrafted drinks, selected music and noble textiles





create an atmosphere where the groom not only dresses: he prepares to remember.

### **Grooming: an Aesthetic Statement**

Grooming is no longer an afterthought. It is an essential part of the ritual. Fresh haircuts, beard shaping, facial masks, cold compresses, lotions with notes of leather or wood. Everything is designed to make the groom not only look good, but also feel good.

Many high-end getting ready services incorporate private barbers, skincare products designed for men's skin and relaxation experiences that transform the preparation into a true oasis before the "I do". This moment can also include a glass of fine whiskey, intimate music and a conversation between brothers or friends. Because grooming is also about emotion.

### Details that Tell his Story

His father's watch. The inherited cufflinks. A handwritten letter from his future wife. A spontaneous toast with his group of friends. Grooming is not just aesthetics: it's an emotional transition ritual. And when sensitively designed, it becomes a silent narrative that speaks to who you are, where you come from, and where you're going.





### Men's Editorial Photography

The most sensitive photographers are finding a new visual narrative in men's getting ready. Low light, intimate angles, sober textures. The aim is to capture not only the preparation, but also the pause, the previous breathing, the restrained emotion. Portraits of the groom are no longer postcards. They are editorial pieces with their own identity.

### Groomsmen: Complicity and camaraderie

The groom no longer gets ready alone. His groomsmen are an active part of this moment. From carefully selected outfits to personalized gifts, the concept of brotherhood takes center stage. Many couples now choose shared experiences: curated toasts, grooming sets, guided talks, joint photographs. The result: a masculine space where self-love, friendship and care also have a place.

### Style Without Clichés

The standard suit is a thing of the past. Today the groom can be classic, contemporary, bohemian or bold, but always with intention. Tailored suits, Italian textures, earthy colors, lapels with character and accessories with history are marking a new aesthetic: less rigid, more authentic. The groom no longer mimics the event. He interprets it. And his look, far from being an accessory, becomes a reflection of his own narrative.

### A Scene that also Deserves to be Remembered

As a planner and experience designer, I've learned that the wedding day doesn't start at the altar. It starts here: in the silence of the suite, in the unwitnessed gestures, in the moment when the groom looks in the mirror and realizes that something is about to begin. Today, more than ever, designing that scene with sensitivity is a way of honoring him. To tell him: you are also at the center. Because love is celebrated in the plural. And the groom, at last, has taken his place.

### DIANA SCIARRILLO

National Chapter Leader Guatemala @idoguatemala







The villa offers versatile spaces for outdoor ceremonies, sunset cocktail parties and receptions under the stars. The terraces with panoramic ocean views, decorated with bougainvillea and elegant furnishings, create an intimate, romantic and, above all, photogenic ambiance.

Every wedding is special, and there is a team behind this venue that understands that every couple has their style, their story and their vision. From the floral arrangements to the live music, everything is aligned with the wishes of the bride and groom.

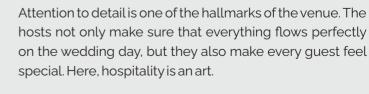
On Taboga Island, love is celebrated in a movie-like setting. Just a 30-minute ferry ride from Panama City, Taboga is a well-kept secret of the Pacific. Quiet, picturesque and brimming with nature, it offers the perfect blend of seclusion and accessibility. Among its green hills and golden beaches lies a hidden treasure: Villa Caprichosa, the ideal setting for a truly unique destination wedding.

Designed by renowned architect Diane Burn, Villa Caprichosa is not just a place: it is an experience. Inspired by Mediterranean romanticism and adapted to the tropical environment, this villa is the definition of relaxed elegance. Every corner is carefully thought out to make you fall in love.

### **Delicacy in Every Corner**

From the moment the bride and groom and their guests arrive at Villa Caprichosa, they are amazed by the sophistication of its design and decoration. The villa combines classic architectural details with a bohemian touch that creates an intimate and romantic atmosphere. Its terraces adorned with flowers, elegant furnishings and panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean make it the perfect setting for a dream ceremony. Taboga brings that authentic island charm, while Villa Caprichosa elevates every moment with a level of sophistication that is hard to match.





#### A Celebration for the Senses

Gastronomy is not far behind. When it comes to celebrating with flavor, Villa Caprichosa's culinary proposal is one of its great attractions. With personalized menus that highlight local and fresh ingredients, the





dishes combine tradition and innovation: freshly caught seafood, international recipes with a Panamanian touch and handcrafted cocktails complete the experience.

A destination wedding is not just about the ceremony. It is also the opportunity to share quality time with those who matter most. Taboga allows for this. Before or after the big day, boat rides, island walks or pool afternoons can be arranged. Other times you can relax while admiring the sea.

For newlyweds, staying a few extra days turns the wedding into an immediate and spectacular honeymoon. Imagine waking up to the sound of the sea, having breakfast on a private terrace and closing the day with a romantic dinner at sunset. There's no need to go any further.

Getting married at Villa Caprichosa is not just choosing a beautiful destination. It is investing in an experience with care, authenticity and soul. It is giving your guests an experience they will remember forever. And, above all, it is to begin a new stage in a place that breathes love, style and tranquility, where art merges with nature.

Taboga not only offers natural beauty. It offers peace. And in times when the world is moving so fast, getting married in such a place is also an act of connection: with your partner, with your family and with yourself.

If you are looking for something more than a wedding -if you want a celebration with meaning, style and emotion-then Villa Caprichosa in Taboga awaits you. Because the best beginnings deserve a place like this.

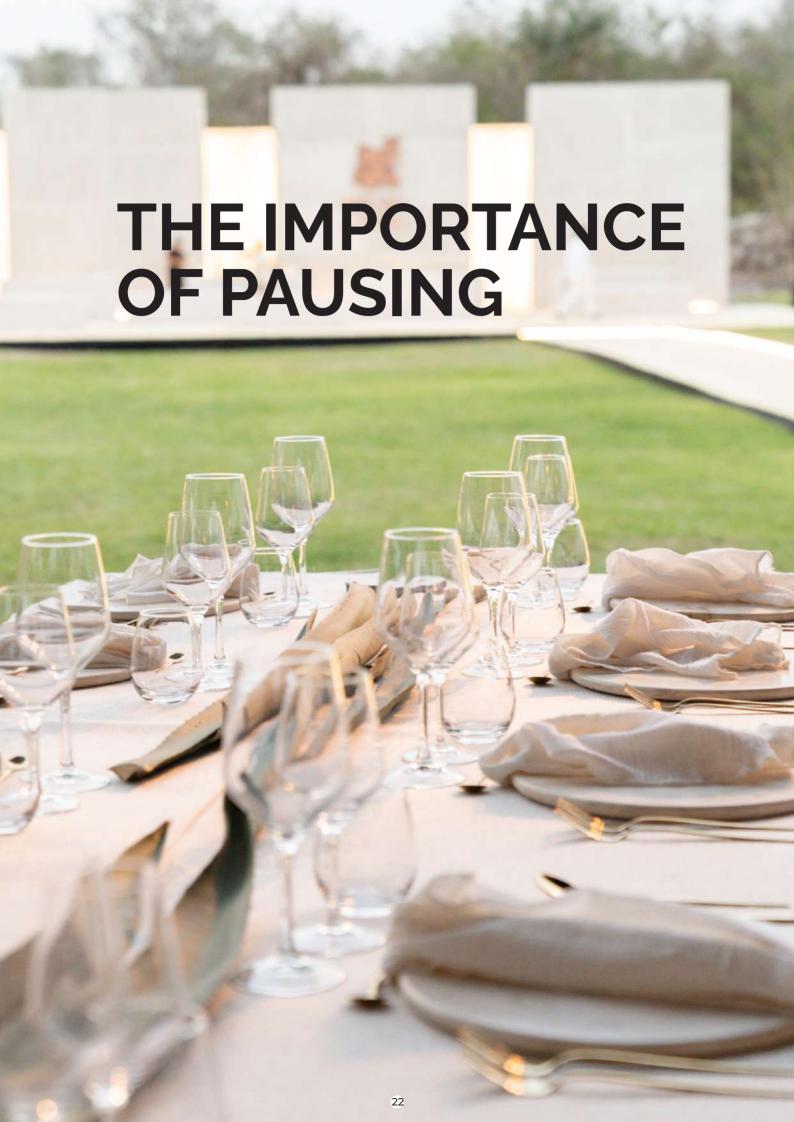


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The wedding and event industry is always moving at a fast pace. Keeping up with that pace can be exhausting, especially when our businesses do not yet have a solid and structured foundation. We have witnessed the exponential growth of the industry in recent years, and many colleagues have managed to keep up with that speed, but unfortunately others have fallen by the wayside. But as companies, have we really taken a moment to pause and reflect on where we are and how we are doing?

I don't mean stopping our businesses, but going back to our origins, recognizing what we have done well and detecting the areas where we can improve. That reflection came to me while I was working on the process

of obtaining the **Wedding Tourism Specialist (WTS) Quality Award** for one of our sister companies.

Throughout this journey, we relived all the wonderful events we have designed and produced in different destinations around the world. And the most valuable thing was to give ourselves that time to reflect on everything we had achieved, but also to have the sensitivity to identify aspects that we had neglected or processes that we could improve. It was at that moment that I understood, very clearly, the importance of pausing, because in an industry that does not stop, it is very easy to leave behind good practices, important details or even lose sight of what is essential.

Throughout this process, I realized several key benefits of pausing:

- •It allows you to breathe and reflect: when everything is going so fast, stopping for a moment helps you get clarity on what is happening and make better decisions.
- **You regain perspective:** by pausing, you can see situations or processes from a different perspective that you did not notice before.
- •Pausing is not wasting time, it is giving yourself time: to reevaluate, adjust and continue growing in a more conscious and orderly way.

Complying step by step with the requirements to obtain Quality Recognition gave us precisely that: a space to evaluate our structure, processes and vision for the future. It allowed us to adjust details that, due to the speed at which this industry moves, we had let go unnoticed. It was an opportunity to reaffirm our essence, rethink strategies and strengthen the pillars that sustain our growth.

It is also important to keep in mind that the dynamics of the industry also represent a constant challenge. According to recent data, thousands of companies open and close in Mexico every year. Between May 2019 and May 2023, only 1.7 million establishments opened and 1.4 million closed, according to INEGI. This high business turnover is evidence of how challenging it is to remain current, competitive and solid in a market as changing as the wedding and events market, where small and medium-sized companies predominate.



For us, this process became an invaluable tool to reaffirm our foundations, strengthen our direction and continue creating memorable experiences with the certainty that we are building something solid and sustainable.

Thank you WTS for reminding us that, in an industry that never stops, learning to pause is also a way to move forward.

Photos from Hokol Vuh 2024, by Serch Arafat and Nuno Lopes.

Be part of the highest quality community:

### **NATALIA BEJARANO**

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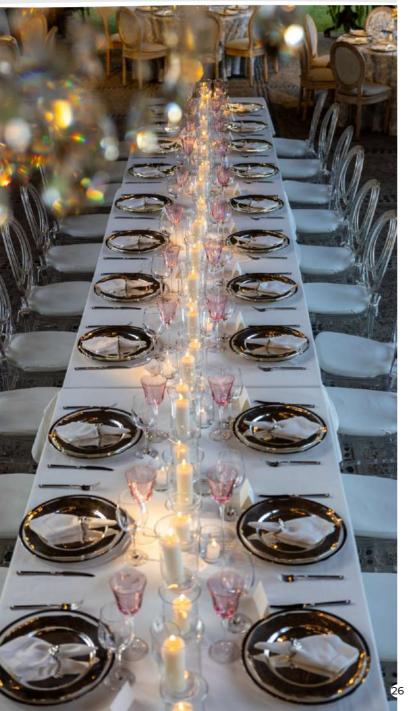




## More Than a Table: An Expression of Style, Emotion and Authorship

In contemporary bridal design, table decoration has evolved from the decorative to the expressive, transforming the physical to an emotional and sensory aesthetic. It is no longer a matter of following a style imposed by fashion or season, but of creating lively atmospheres, capable of mixing the versatile with the eclectic, the personal with the collective and the timeless with the avant-garde.

For the weddings of 2026-2027, the table becomes a signature visual language. Each element that composes it speaks of a specific couple, of a designer behind it, and of an immersive experience that exceeds the conventional set-up. The challenge for vendors is clear: not to decorate to please everyone, but to thrill the protagonists.





### Converging Styles: When Eclecticism Meets Balance

Far from fixed catalogs, the new wedding tables embrace free composition and intentional contrast:

- Eclectic with coherence: A mix of different chairs, handmade tableware, glassware from different decades. Each table tells a different story but is part of the same aesthetic universe.
- Emotional avant-garde: Floating structures, sculptural cutlery, interactive elements such as napkins with QR to messages engraved by the bride and groom, living centerpieces that are activated by light or movement.
- **Minimalism:** Noble textures, organic shapes, earthy colors and dirty white, intervened with unique pieces of ceramic or blown glass. Less is more... as long as it is carefully thought out.
- **Timeless atmospheres**: Proposals that could work today, yesterday or tomorrow. Neutral tones, symmetrical compositions, materials such as raw linen, stone and metal that never go out of style.





### Key Elements: The Soul in the Details

- **Stationery with character:** From menus with handmade botanical illustrations to generative digital calligraphy, stationery becomes a collector's item and the non-massive personal element.
- **Textiles with narrative:** Table linens embroidered with meaningful words, tablecloths illustrated under textile sublimation, napkins printed with familiar patterns. Everything can be personalized if you work with vision.
- Light as a living scenography: chandeliers with digital programming, floating candles on mirrored water, neon lights hidden in floral centers. The lighting gives the emotional rhythm to the evening.
- Sustainable yet sophisticated elements: rehydratable flowers, cured bamboo structures, reusable designer tableware, edible elements as part of the set-up (olive branches, local fruits, artisanal bread).



### The Contemporary Approach: Versatility and Customization as a Premise

The new luxury in weddings is not measured by the amount of flowers, but by the degree of personalization. The market values an experience with soul more than a viral photo.

- The tables are adapted to the place, the culture, the season, but above all to the bride and groom's love story.
- · There is no single winning style. There are versatile, bold and conscious combinations.
- · Decoration is no longer a product, it is a signature service. The role of the planner and the creatives is to interpret, translate and materialize unique visions.





### Figures that show how the market is evolving

- · 89% of couples surveyed in Latin America in 2024 by Bodas Latam stated that "table decoration was the most shared aspect by their guests on social networks."
- $\cdot$  It is estimated that between 2025 and 2027, the average investment in table setting will grow by 28%, with an emphasis on signature design, sensory experiences and eco-friendly materials.
- · A study by The Knot (2025) revealed that couples are willing to cut back on other items if they can achieve "completely personalized" décor.

### Revaluing Decoration: An Invitation to the Industry

It's time to stop seeing decoration as a "visual extra". Today, it is an emotional language, a form of expression, an extension of the soul of the wedding. Eclectic is not clutter; it's curation. Versatile is not basic; it is functional. Timeless is not boring; it is essential.

To decorate is also to connect. And in that art, we are called to be creators, not imitators. To narrate, not just assemble. To propose, not just replicate.

Table decoration at weddings in the coming years will be a canvas open to the imagination, to each couple's story and to the ability of vendors to think outside the box. The future is hybrid, sensory, experiential and above all, deeply human.

### RAMONA DECO ATELIER

Decoration and Production for Events

@ramonadecoatelier







A story that combines nature, emotion and professional vision to transform love into an eternal memory. By Rebeca Jerez, Destination Wedding Planner, and Pako Castillo, Salvadoran iconographic photographer.

In a time without cell phones, digital cameras or social networks, a story began, and today it continues to tell love. Thus begins the adventure of Pako Castillo, Salvadoran photographer with more than three decades capturing the essential: those "moments between moments" that, overtime, become a legacy.

Pako captures authentic moments, those that are born from sincere love and real connection between people. He gets excited when he feels the love that couples have for each other and lives it with genuine intensity. With a cheerful, approachable and authentic personality, he makes everyone feel comfortable in front of his lens, allowing each photograph to be spontaneous, lively and full of meaning. He creates images that remain in the hearts of those who live them, and in the eyes of those who contemplate them. His iconographic style is recognized for his sensitivity, for his way of narrating with light, for his ability to turn each shot into art.

For 33 years he has accompanied hundreds of couples, witnessing love in its purest expression. "Each wedding moves me as if it were the first time," he says. And no wonder: living each story up close is a privilege that he honors with every shot.

In addition to his work in El Salvador, Pako Castillo has covered weddings in several countries, including Colombia, Spain, Italy and the United States, among others. His work transcends borders and his sensitivity finds beauty in every corner of the world.

And if love is a journey, El Salvador is its best setting. This small but extraordinary country reveals itself as a wedding destination with landscapes as diverse as they are magical. From the deep blue of Lake Coatepeque to the cliffs of Surf City in La Libertad, every corner holds the promise of beauty.





A ceremony in front of the San Salvador Volcano, surrounded by pine trees, forests and a fresh breeze that caresses every word of love, becomes an unforgettable experience. A place where nature envelops and silence allows you to listen to the essential.

Or a "yes, I do" in front of Lake Ilopango, with the water mirroring a new beginning.

The Salvadoran coast also holds treasures. In Costa del Sol, the sea caresses calmly and becomes a witness of eternal vows.

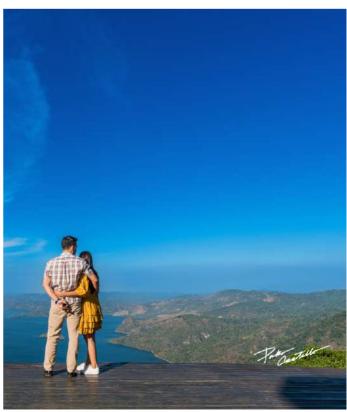




There are also dreamy spaces to capture the moments leading up to the big day. Among waterfalls, lush vegetation and hidden corners, pre-wedding sessions become vivid postcards full of freshness, movement and connection with nature.

Each of these locations inspires, excites and transforms.

And there is Pako, behind the lens, finding the soul of each landscape and the heart of each couple.





Together with him, my proposal as a wedding planner specializing in destination weddings in El Salvador is clear: I design meaningful experiences, taking care of every detail, connecting the bride and groom with venues that reflect their essence.

My commitment goes beyond coordination. I accompany, advise and create with my heart. Because a wedding is not just an event: it is an eternal memory. And El Salvador, with its natural, cultural and human richness, is the perfect setting to write it.

For those who dream of an unforgettable destination, I suggest you look to El Salvador. Live your love story among volcanoes, lakes, beaches and mountains. Trust in a professional team that will make every moment come alive.

Because yes, there are places where love is lived with more intensity. Where nature is allied with emotion and everything makes sense. Where each image is a genuine reflection of the story that is being written. And that place is El Salvador.

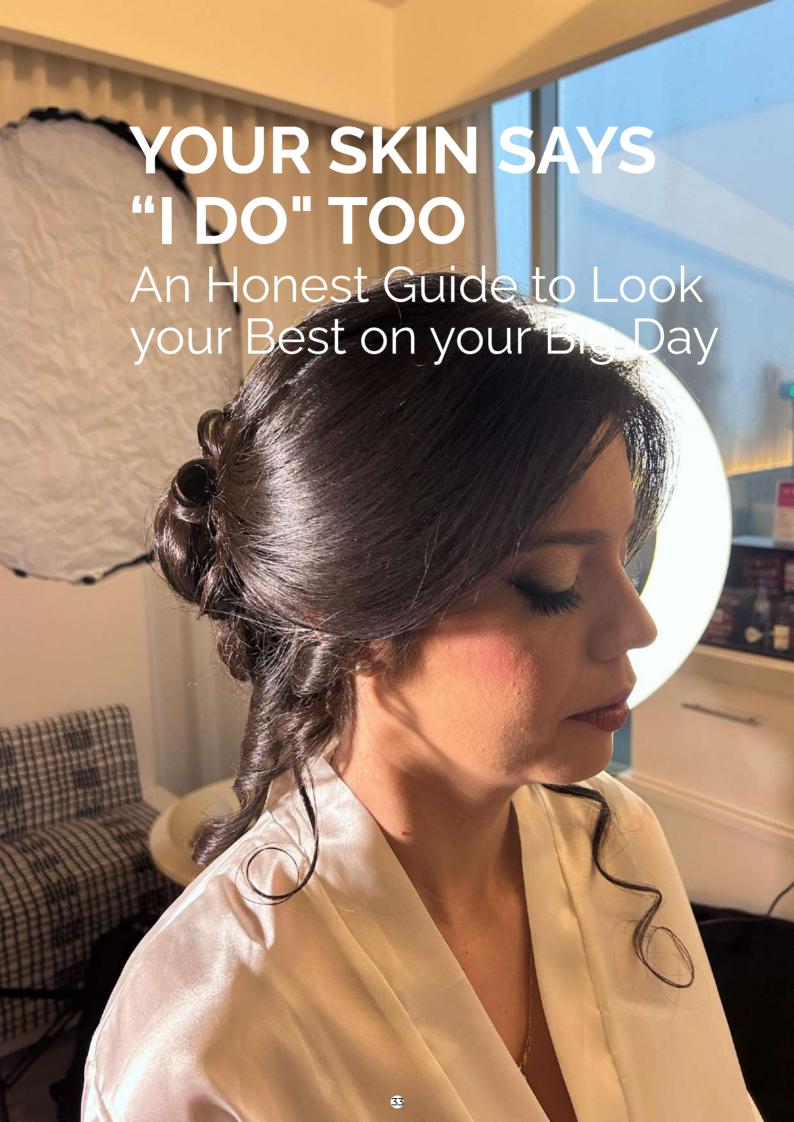
With love,

### **REBECA JEREZ**

Destination Wedding & Event Planner Rebeca Jerez CO National Chapter Leader El Salvador IADWP www.instagram.com/ rebecajerez.co/ rebecajerez@rebecajerez.com +503 77485634









Regardless of skin type, all skin needs the basics: daily cleansing, moisturising and sun protection.

### Six Months Before: The Basis for Everything

This is the ideal time to start taking care of your skin with intention and attention. No rushing into last-minute treatments: give your skin time to adapt and improve little by little. If you want to try a peel or specific treatment, do it now - always by a professional and with gentle options.

Find someone to guide you step-by-step to make your skin look spectacular on the big day.

Three Months Before: Focus on Moisturising your Skin

Here begins one of the most important keys: moisturise, moisturise! And not just on the outside, with creams and masks, but also on the inside. Drink plenty

of water, include fruits, vegetables and foods rich in fatty acids such as omega-3. This strengthens your skin's natural barrier.

Some ideal allies:
Hyaluronic acid
Vitamin C
Natural masks (cucumber is excellent)

### My Honest Guide to Look Radiant

If you're about to get married, I know exactly how you feel. Between lists, to-dos, emotions and details, sometimes the last thing we take care of is our skin. But trust me: preparing it ahead of time - and without overdoing it - can make a big difference. It's not about doing a thousand things at once, it's about being consistent and knowing what really works for you.

### It All Starts with Knowing your Skin

Before trying new treatments or products, it's essential to understand what type of skin you have: Oily? Dry? Mixed? Sensitive? Each has its own needs, and knowing your skin type saves you time, money and potential irritation:

**Oily:** often shiny, especially on the forehead, nose and chin.

Dry: feels tight and may be flaky.

Mixed: is a combination; oily in some areas, dry in others.

**Sensitive:** reacts easily to products, climate or even stress.





Avoid showering with very hot water, as it can dry out your skin. You will see how it starts to look more lively, luminous and smooth.

# One Month Before: Don't Invent, Stick with What Already Works.

Radiant without excess! This is the time to stay true to your routine. Don't experiment with new products. If your skin is calm, don't disturb it.

The countdown has begun. The details are fine-tuned, the excitement grows, and between preparations and nerves, your skin deserves a special pampering. The key is not in aggressive treatments, but in nourishing, soothing and enhancing your natural beauty.

Less is more: the philosophy of the previous month. Your skin needs stability. Any unexpected reaction could be stressful. Keep a gentle, effective and consistent routine.

### One Week Before: Pamper Yourself

At this stage, stress tends to take over. Take the opportunity to do a gentle cleansing, apply a relaxing face mask or enjoy an afternoon with your bridesmaids. Beyond the physical, this also nourishes your mind. Feeling relaxed will make you look fresher, more you.

And if you can, drink more water than ever. Your skin will appreciate it.

### The Night Before your Wedding: Ritual of Self-love

Make that night a special moment. Not just because of what's to come, but because of everything you've been through. Here I share my ritual with you:

·Cleanse your face well (without rubbing, gently).

If you wish, apply a mask that you have used before (cucumber never fails!).

·Use a gentle toner or serum.

Finish with a moisturiser that hugs your skin and leaves you ready to rest.

You're going to glow... and not just because of the makeup.

Your skin will reflect all the love and care you've given it. And that, believe me, shows in every photo.

#### Perfect Skin for the "I Do".

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A Bridal Fashion Story by Chris J. Evans





Cartagena does not whisper. It sings. It beats with colour and warmth, full of history and sensuality. The sun caresses the ancient city walls like a brushstroke of gold, and every corner vibrates with the echoes of centuries past. This was the setting for our bridal fashion story: a journey of elegance, character and emotion told in three unforgettable chapters.

We started at the Sofitel Legend Santa Clara, a former convent transformed into one of Colombia's most luxurious hotels. The air smelled of jasmine and salt, and the light filtered through the arches like a private invitation. Our bride emerged in this setting not as a symbol of tradition, but as an icon of confidence and sophistication. She wore streamlined silhouettes, structured dresses with daring necklines and unexpected textures. Clothes that make you stop and stare. She walked purposefully through the courtyard, her heels echoing on the ancient tiles, the soft rustle of silk following her like a secret.

Inside, the pastel walls framed their reflection. Outside, palms swayed above our heads as we chased the light through the shadows. Cartagena doesn't just give you scenery, it gives you attitude. And in every shot, she carried that attitude with her. Powerful, present, impossible to ignore.















Our second location took us above the city, to the rooftop of the Church of San Pedro Claver, one of the most sacred and historic churches in the region. From there, the city unfolded in all directions: rooftops gleaming, balconies overflowing with bougainvillea and the Caribbean breathing in the distance. Up there, amidst weathered stone and warm breezes, our bride became elemental. The dresses we chose echoed the clean lines of the architecture, with bold structures and rich textures that caught the evening light like armour. There was a silence there that felt sacred. The wind moved her hair, the sun caressed her skin, and for a few perfect minutes, time seemed to surrender.

As dusk fell, Cartagena was transformed once again. The streets darkened, but became even more vibrant. Yellow light spilled from the wrought iron lanterns, casting long shadows on the cobblestones. Our final story found itself in motion. An antique car waited for us near the squares, its chrome reflecting every flash of fire and colour as we drove through the narrow alleys.

Dressed in the latest look that whispered old-world glamour with a modern attitude, she reclined in the back seat with effortless elegance. There was something cinematic about it all. The dress shimmering under the streetlights, the distant music from the nearby cafés, the soft roar of the engine on the stone. It felt like the final scene of a film you don't want to end.

This editorial is not about the traditional bride. It is about a woman who defines herself on her own terms. Who knows that elegance can be bold and sensual, that fashion is not separate from emotion, and that the most powerful stories are not told with words, but with presence.

In Cartagena, we don't just capture bridal fashion. We capture a feeling. One of freedom, of fire, of femininity fully realised.

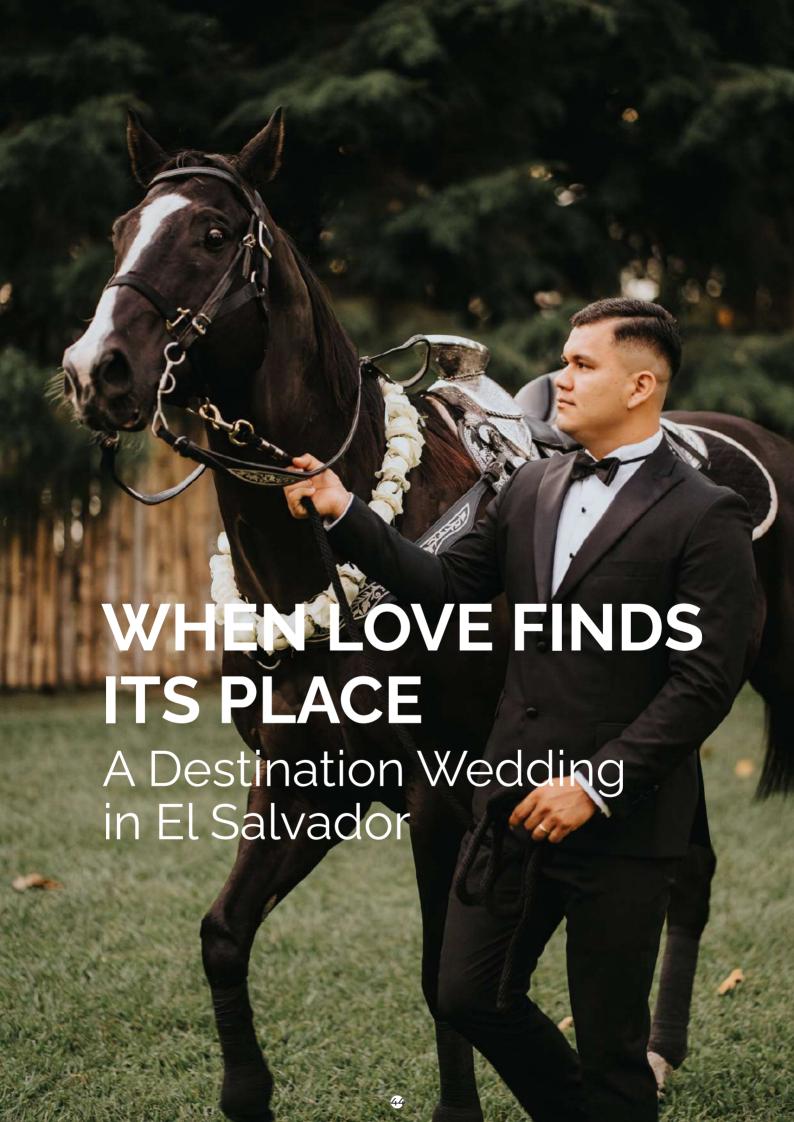
CHRIS J. EVANS

IG: @chrisjevansphoto
www.chrisjevans.com









There are stories that are celebrated with grandeur and heart. This was a destination wedding planned from the very beginning as an unforgettable experience: elegant, emotional and deeply detailed. From the first steps in planning, the bride had a clear and dreamy vision, which made it possible to design a celebration that was authentic, luxurious and meaningful.

We started with an intimate civil ceremony, surrounded by nature, sincere emotions and an atmosphere that reflected warmth and sophistication. Each guest had their personalized place at a table that conveyed intention and affection.

A fundamental part of every celebration is the harmony between flavors and moments. In this wedding, every combination of food and drink was carefully considered to create a complete sensory experience, specially designed to accompany each stage of the event, with the professional touch of expert baristas.





The celebration continued with a Welcome Party full of soul, color and Salvadoran culture. Typical snacks, handmade sorbet, pupusas made on the spot and a setting that included elements such as clay, natural coconut and tropical flowers were the perfect setting to welcome the guests. Marimba music, folkloric dancers and the traditional torito pinto turned the night into a true celebration of roots and emotion.





The big day took place in a majestic setting: The San Salvador Volcano. There we transformed a natural space into a luxury setting. Under a clear sky and surrounded by living nature, a dreamlike atmosphere was built, where design, emotion and love story intertwined.

The decoration was in charge of the renowned Salvadoran wedding decorator Marcos Alvayero, who with his vision and detail filled the place with lush flowers, candles, crystals and textures that created an elegant, sophisticated and magical scene.



One of the most impressive moments was the arrival of the groom riding his horse, an unexpected and majestic entrance that marked the beginning of a ceremony full of emotions, smiles and promises for life.

El Salvador shone before the guests in every detail: for its perfect climate, its natural wealth, its talented people and the human quality of its vendors. This country is not only a destination, it is a living experience. It has the power to transform any story into something unforgettable.

This wedding is proof that when vision, emotion and passion are combined, the result is extraordinary.

And El Salvador, with its character, beauty and authenticity, is the perfect place to experience it.

Photographs thanks to David Pivaral Wedding Photo & Film.

With love,

## **REBECA JEREZ**

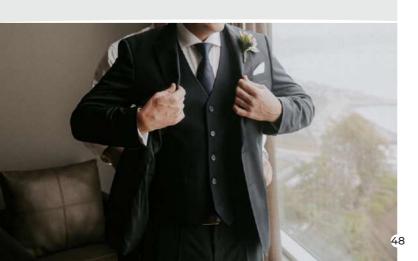
Destination Wedding & Event Planner Rebeca Jerez CO National Chapter Leader El Salvador IADWP www.instagram.com/rebecajerez.co/ rebecajerez@rebecajerez.com +503 77485634

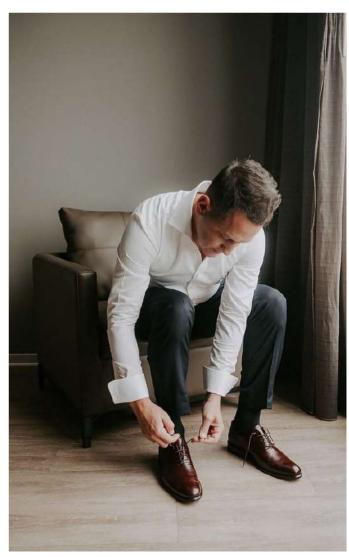




In my experience as a wedding planner, with more than 200 weddings organized and my passion for bridal styling, I have learned that no matter how different each setting is - a beach in Mancora, a valley in Cusco or a colonial salon in Lima - what really makes the difference is that the outfit is born from the way you are, not from the latest viral Instagram photo.

Instead of settling for copying a look, ask yourself: are you more comfortable with classic lines or are you attracted to details that break the mold? Do you prefer total sobriety or a touch of color in a tie, handkerchief or lapels? If you wear jeans and polo shirts on a daily basis, a traditional tuxedo can feel like a costume. The key is to find the balance between what you love and what the occasion calls for.













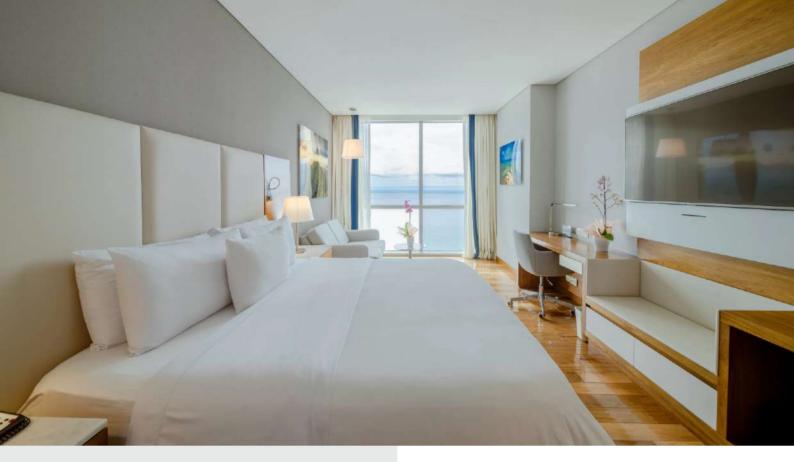
Save photos of suits you like and point out what strikes you about each one: the drape of the jacket, the width of the lapel or the texture of the fabric. Then, at your first fitting with the tailor, let him know that his mission is to listen to you, not to impose trends on you. Discuss with him the length of the pants, the shape of the shoulders and the position of the button, and be sure to try them on while walking and sitting, in front of a mirror with natural light.

Finally, don't underestimate the power of accessories: a watch with a story, discreet cufflinks or a boutonniere that harmonizes with your partner's bouquet can turn a good suit into the perfect outfit. When your wedding photos reach your children's hands, they should not see a costume, but the authentic reflection of who you are. That confidence is the best complement to walk down the aisle.

## **MANUEL CORDOVA**

@manustylelife @Manuelcordovawp





With the sea as a witness and the city vibrating around it, the InterContinental Cartagena Hotel celebrated its tenth anniversary proving what it has always been: a privileged setting where the extraordinary comes to life.

Since its opening in 2015, this IHG Hotels & Resorts icon, located on the oceanfront in Cartagena de Indias, has been much more than a hotel. It has been the place where celebrations take shape, where achievements are celebrated in style, and where every guest finds a team ready to turn a special occasion into an unforgettable experience.

Its history has been written together with those who have chosen the hotel for moments that deserve to be remembered: anniversaries, family reunions, launches, galas and gatherings that require attention to detail, excellence in service and an atmosphere that inspires.





On May 22, the hotel celebrated its tenth anniversary with a cocktail party that was a true ode to hospitality: Caribbean elegance, golden sunset and the warmth of a team that has made history. The event was attended by allies, clients, special guests and collaborators who have accompanied every step of this decade.

With a sober and contemporary architecture, the InterContinental has been able to evolve without losing its



essence. Throughout this decade, it has introduced innovative concepts for social and corporate events, such as speakeasy-style secret dinners, multi-sensory experiences and personalized celebrations that combine art, gastronomy and design.

"We host stories that deserve to be celebrated. Here, each event is treated with the same dedication as a work of art," shared Aurora Ochoa, the Director of Sales and

Marketing. And that philosophy is perceived in every corner, from its modular rooms to its outdoor spaces overlooking the sea.



The legacy of these ten years is not only measured in numbers, but in human connections, in shared moments, in the creativity that springs from every corner of this welcoming and fraternal place. And those efforts have not gone unnoticed: the hotel has been recognized with various awards that underline its excellence and commitment to quality.











These include awards from the World Luxury Awards, as Best Luxury Event Hotel and Best Hotel Restaurant in 2023 and 2024, as well as the recent recognition from the IHG Luxury & Lifestyle Excellence Award in 2025, and the Community Impact Award for its social contribution and initiatives. In addition, the hotel ranked #1 in Guest Love in 2024, a metric that measures the evaluation of the chain's guests within the Latin America and Caribbean region, a testament to the quality and dedication of the team that makes the hotel such a special place.

And beyond those accolades, the hotel has built something invaluable: a reputation based on trust. It is the place where Cartageneros return to celebrate what they value most. And also, the one chosen by discerning travelers seeking memorable experiences on the Colombian coast.

Ten years later, the hotel continues to strive for excellence. And it does so with a committed team, an innovative spirit and a clear objective: to continue to be the epicenter of the city's great celebrations. Inspire Incredible Occasions is not just a promise. It is the way the InterContinental Cartagena honors every occasion that deserves a celebration.

Hotel contact:

## **KIRA ELEJALDE**

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When talking about memorable experiences in the wedding and events industry, it is rare to be able to capture what was experienced in words, and the IADWP ACADEMY Destination Wedding Congress, held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, was no exception. During this edition, more than just a congress, we were part of an authentic celebration of culture, creativity, and human connection. And as if the exhibitors, panels, and conferences weren't enough to inspire us, the social events elevated the experience to a level of total fantasy.

Although I am still processing every magical moment, let me tell you about the three social events that will undoubtedly remain forever etched in our collective memory as romance tourism professionals.

## Pirate Party, The Treasure of the Dominican Republic. Location: Kimpton Las Mercedes Hotel

The evening began like an adventure story. From the moment we walked through the doors of the elegant Kimpton Las Mercedes Hotel, we were transported to a time of explorers, pirates, and secrets of the Caribbean Sea. The setting was cinematic: a pirate-style bridge welcomed us, while actors dressed as fierce and theatrical corsairs, symbolically representing the senior leadership of the IADWP, generated laughter and surprise among the attendees.

The hotel courtyard was transformed into a jungle island, with lush vegetation, candles, warm lighting, and details that made us feel like we were in a Hollywood movie. The welcome cocktail whetted our appetite for an evening filled with music, special effects, gourmet stations, and Caribbean cocktail bars.





The music kept everyone on their feet, and the variety of entertainment, including live performances, actors, dancers, and choreography, was simply impressive. Every corner held a surprise, from chests filled with decorative treasures to tables laden with traditional sweets. A true gem of Dominican creativity.

#### **Run Sunset Party**

Location: Casa de los Vitrales, Colonial Zone.

The second night was a trip to the historic heart of Santo Domingo, in one of the most charming spots in the city: the Casa de los Vitrales. In this place where colonial architecture and the warmth of the sunset magically merged, we enjoyed an experience full of sophistication and Caribbean essence.

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The décor played with orange tones and tropical floral details that contrasted with the coral stone of the ancient walls. The strategically placed bars were true works of art in design and logistics. Contemporary Dominican cuisine shone with dishes that fused tradition and innovation.

One of the most special moments of the evening was an unexpected after-tour: thanks to our dear Carlos Frías, a select group of guests were given exclusive access to a tour of the Casas del XVI, a series of restored colonial residences connected by their courtyards. It was a delight to explore these places steeped in history, including the last house that belonged to the iconic designer Oscar de la Renta. An unexpected luxury!

#### Carnival of Culture, The Closing Event.

Location: La Fiesta Theater, Renaissance Santo Domingo Jaragua Hotel.

To top it all off, the evening was an explosion of joy, culture, and national pride in an unforgettable event: the Carnival of Culture. The La Fiesta Theater was filled with light, color, and energy from the very first minute. The motto was clear: dress in bright colors and festive spirit, and the attendees did not disappoint.



The outfits were a true Caribbean fashion show: sequins, ribbons, feathers, hats, lights—anything went as long as it conveyed happiness. The artistic lineup was on another level: Manny Cruz, Jandy Ventura, Leo Subervi, Los Hermanos Rosario, and other local talents kept the dance floor lit for hours.



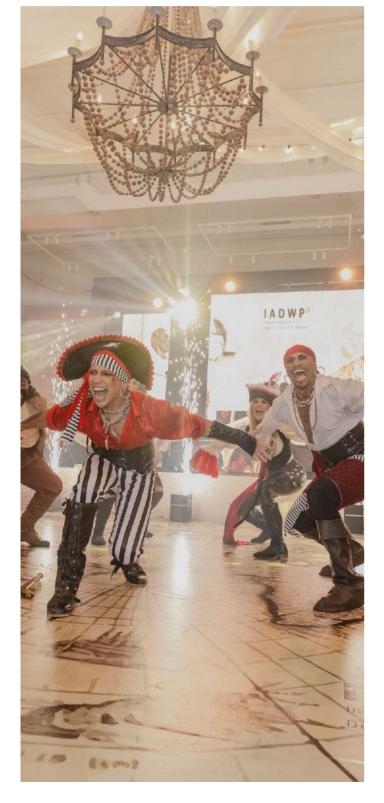


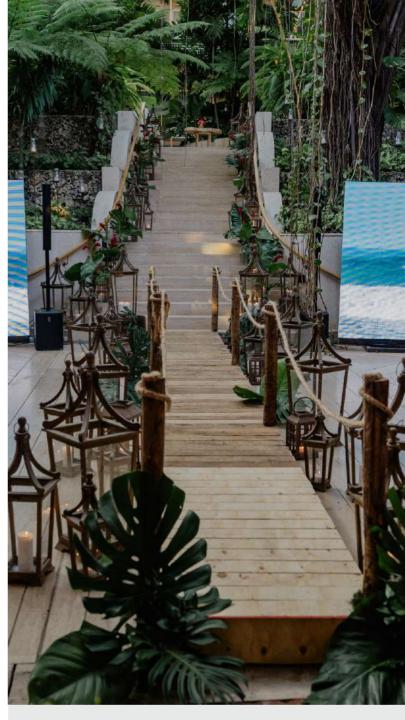
The show directed by Alex Saviñón was a mixture of carnival, theater, and concert all rolled into one. The production, with giant screens, lighting effects, fireworks, and entertainers in spectacular costumes, made us all feel like we were experiencing a true national celebration.

According to what I was told, the party went on until the wee hours of the morning. The production was incredible: Dominican cuisine, world-class local bands, a super carnival, and endless spectacular activities.

I was told that people didn't want to go to sleep, and that they danced and sang until Lupita (IADWP) sent them all to bed, but apparently no one wanted to listen to her. And from very confidential sources, I was told that the famous after-party for this event did not take place, as several of the anonymous organizers had to leave for the airport at the end of the activity.

More than a congress, a transformative experience. The IADWP ACADEMY Destination Wedding Congress not only brought together the leaders of the global destination wedding industry. It was a tribute to Dominican culture, to the power of human connection and to the magic of well-organized events.





I am deeply grateful to the organizers, sponsors and colleagues who made these three social events an unforgettable trilogy. We leave not only with new learnings, but with full hearts, new allies and an even greater love for this industry that transforms lives.

With excitement and affection,

## MSC. JEFFREY CERVANTES CALDERÓN

Executive Director and Director of Costa Rica Wedding Planner National Chapter Leader IADWP Costa Rica Phone. +506 8665 0990 director@crweddingplanner.com Instagram @CRWeddingPlanner





Greece has always been one of the world's most beloved destinations, attracting visitors from all corners of the globe thanks to its rich history, famous archaeological sites, picture-postcard islands, organic cuisine and warm, legendary hospitality.

In recent years, Greece has become a favorite choice for couples dreaming of a destination wedding that combines luxury with an unforgettable travel experience. From private villas and helicopter arrivals to menus designed by renowned chefs and live Greek bands alongside international DJs, the options are as endless as the Aegean skyline. With dazzling scenery, cultural traditions and exceptional service, Greece is the perfect setting for a romantic and sophisticated celebration.

As a wedding planner specializing in destination weddings in Greece, I have had the privilege of designing tailor-made experiences for foreign couples — each wedding, a reflection of their love story and unique values, brought to life amidst the natural beauty of Greece.

## Sunsets, Style and Celebration: Greece Has it All.

Today's couples are looking for more than just a single wedding day, they want a complete experience and Greece offers it. Imagine a ceremony in a chapel chapel on the cliffs of Santorini, a reception at a private beachfront estate on the Athens Riviera, or a weekend of celebration in an off-the-beaten-path location full of local color and vibrant culture.





Greece offers the perfect balance: timeless traditions with contemporary luxury. You can host a five-star dinner under olive trees, organize a welcome meal in a vineyard or surprise your guests with a beach party — all in a single weekend.





## Expert Tips for Planning your Dream Wedding in Greece

• Choose your venue wisely: The Athens Riviera is a jewel near the Greek capital, with elegant spaces and postcard-perfect sea views. The Greek islands vary greatly in their ambiance: Santorini and Mykonos are iconic and cosmopolitan, while Paros, Crete and Rhodes are lively and international. For something quieter and more authentic, consider Sifnos, Milos, Folegandros or Chios. The Peloponnese region offers elegant estates and olive groves, while Meteora and Pelion offer unique and breathtaking landscapes you will not find anywhere else.



- . Consider the weather: Greece has excellent weather from May to October, although heat waves or strong winds can occur. As most weddings here are held outdoors to enjoy the views, the sea breeze and the magic of celebrating under the stars having a plan B that is both beautiful and functional is key for everything to go smoothly.
- •. **Design with intention**: Today's couples are looking for design with purpose. We love using Greek elements olive branches, ceramics, natural textures to reflect the destination. A menu card printed on handmade paper,

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a handcrafted souvenir or place cards tied to small bottles of Greek olive oil are details that turn a beautiful event into a truly unforgettable one. Today's luxury is all about storytelling: every table, flower or keepsake should speak to who the bride and groom are and what they love.

• Think beyond the wedding day: A destination wedding in Greece is a complete experience. Consider hosting a welcome party on a boat, sunset cocktails overlooking the Acropolis, brunch under bougainvilleas with the Aegean shimmering nearby, a guided tour of a village or a fun gathering on the beach the next day. These extra events help guests connect, relax and create lasting memories.

## $More \, Than \, a \, Wedding: A \, Mediterrane an \, Dream$

Greece is not just a setting - it's part of history. For couples who dream of starting their life together wrapped in luxury, romance and a touch of myth — there is simply no place like Greece!

## **NENA PAPADOPOULOU**

Wedding planning and design Specialist in destination weddings in Greece, Founder of Style Concept Event Solutions www.StyleConcept.gr





There are organizations that connect professionals. And there are others that **connect souls**. The International Association of Destination Wedding Professionals, known worldwide as **IADWP**, does both, but with a distinctive hallmark: a **passion for romance**, a **respect for local culture** and a deep desire to see our industry grow collaboratively.



**IADWP** is not just an association. It is a global family that spans Latin America, Europe, Asia and the Caribbean, with a common language: that of **well-celebrated and professionally organized love**. From planners, photographers and florists, to hotels, tourist destinations and governments that understand the economic and cultural value of destination weddings, all find in IADWP a space for growth, training and international visibility.

Born from the vision of leaders like **Kitzia Morales**, its president and inspirational soul, the IADWP has managed to consolidate itself as **the world reference for destination weddings**. Its congresses and academies—such as the recent and vibrant meeting in the Dominican Republic— are beacons that light the way for those who are committed to continuous training and strategic networking.

From my position as Chapter Director for Latin America and the Hispanic Caribbean, I have witnessed how this organization empowers professionals, transforms emerging destinations and opens doors that seemed impossible before. The growth of our industry would not be the same without the determined action of the National Chapter Heads and Regional Chapter Leaders, true ambassadors of change in their countries.

Because in every training, in every congress, in every embrace after a presentation, what many of us already







know is confirmed: when the community unites with purpose, there is no border that can stop what love and professionalism can achieve.

## Leaders Who Inspire and Transform Territories

**IADWP** is strong because it **has roots in every region**. And those roots have first and last names. They are committed professionals who, from their destinations, work tirelessly to raise the standard of the romance industry. To them, our most sincere appreciation:

Each of our National Chapter Heads and Regional Chapter Leaders plays a key role in the growth and positioning of their country on the global destination wedding map. From their local chapters, they empower their territories, showcase the unique beauty of their cultures and prepare their communities to welcome couples from around the world with professionalism, hospitality and excellence.

Their work includes the constant training of local vendors, the active promotion of their regions in international congresses, the dissemination of best practices and the articulation with public and private entities. Through their



work, , they not only raise industry standards, but also strengthen the cultural and tourism network of each destination, showing the world that Latin America and the Caribbean are ready to be the protagonists of the most memorable love stories.

Thanks to IADWP, these leaders receive true international recognition, participating in decision-making, collaboration and global visibility. They are, without a doubt, the local soul of an organization that thinks as a network and acts with heart.

# Latin America and Spanish-speaking Caribbean Chapter

National Chapter Heads and Regional Chapter Leaders

## **Argentina**

**Adrián Pavia –** Director of the Latin America and Spanish-speaking Caribbean Chapter.

#### Chile

**Carla Valdebenito Jalaf** – National Chapter Leader **Valentina Vera** – Regional Chapter Leader – Los Ríos and Araucanía

Mauricio Muñoz - Regional Chapter Leader - Ñuble Karla Yañez - Regional Chapter Leader - Los Lagos Loreto Gómez - Regional Chapter Leader -Metropolitan Region

#### Colombia

Sonia Martínez - National Chapter Leader Jader Cano - Regional Chapter Leader - Medellín Eliana González - Regional Chapter Leader -Cartagena

Paola Medina – Regional Chapter Leader – Bogotá María Alejandra Ceballos – Regional Chapter Leader – Pasto

Marcela Paola Blanco Pinto - Regional Chapter Leader - Barranquilla

**María Rivas Velásquez** – Regional Chapter Leader – Armenia

**Nolita Torres** – Regional Chapter Leader – Valledupar and Cesar

#### Costa Rica

**Jeffrey Cervantes Calderón** – National Chapter Leader **Adriana Ballestero Álvarez** – Regional Chapter Leader – Countrywide

**Josué Guido Blandón** – Regional Chapter Leader – Countrywide





#### **Ecuador**

Lissner Ortiz - National Chapter Leader Kika Uribe - Regional Chapter Leader - Guayas Carmen Montenegro - Regional Chapter Leader -Orellana

**Greace Palma** – Regional Chapter Leader – Pichincha **Cristina Espinoza** – Regional Chapter Leader – Loja **Liz Marcillo** – Regional Chapter Leader – Manabí

#### **Spanish-speaking Caribbean**

Mirta Sanchez - National Chapter Leader

#### Guatemala

**Diana Sciarrillo** – National Chapter Leader **Gaby Maldonado** – Regional Chapter Leader – Xela **Rosa Elena Bran** – Regional Chapter Leader – Guatemala City

#### **Panama**

Julie Franco – National Chapter Leader Nelly Golf – Regional Chapter Leader – Chiriquí **Carmen Rodríguez** – Regional Chapter Leader – Coclé **Liliana Motta –** Regional Chapter Leader – Panama City

#### Peru

Jossy Quesada Sánchez - National Chapter Leader
Karen Silva - Regional Chapter Leader - Lima
Silvia Hernández - Regional Chapter Leader - Junín
Rachel Lavi - Regional Chapter Leader - La Libertad
Kerly Heald - Regional Chapter Leader - Cusco
Nilda Solórzano - Regional Chapter Leader - Tumbes
and Piura

#### **Dominican Republic**

Mary Pily López - National Chapter Leader

Braulio Segura - Regional Chapter Leader - Santo

Domingo

**Nydia Alegría -** Regional Chapter Leader - Santo Domingo

Naysi Pérez - Regional Chapter Leader - Ocoa Gladys Quiñones - Regional Chapter Leader - La Romana

Lisa Abreu - Regional Chapter Leader - North Area

#### **El Salvador**

**Rebeca Marneé Jerez de Echegoyén** – National Chapter Leader

María Luisa de Samayoa - Regional Chapter Leader

#### Venezuela

Juan Salvador Rangel - National Chapter Leader

Mary Mosquera - Regional Chapter Leader Barquisimeto, San Felipe and Acarigua

Patricia Morales - Regional Chapter Leader - Punto Fijo

Vanessa Lugo - Regional Chapter Leader - Valencia

Yuraima Blanco - Regional Chapter Leader - Margarita

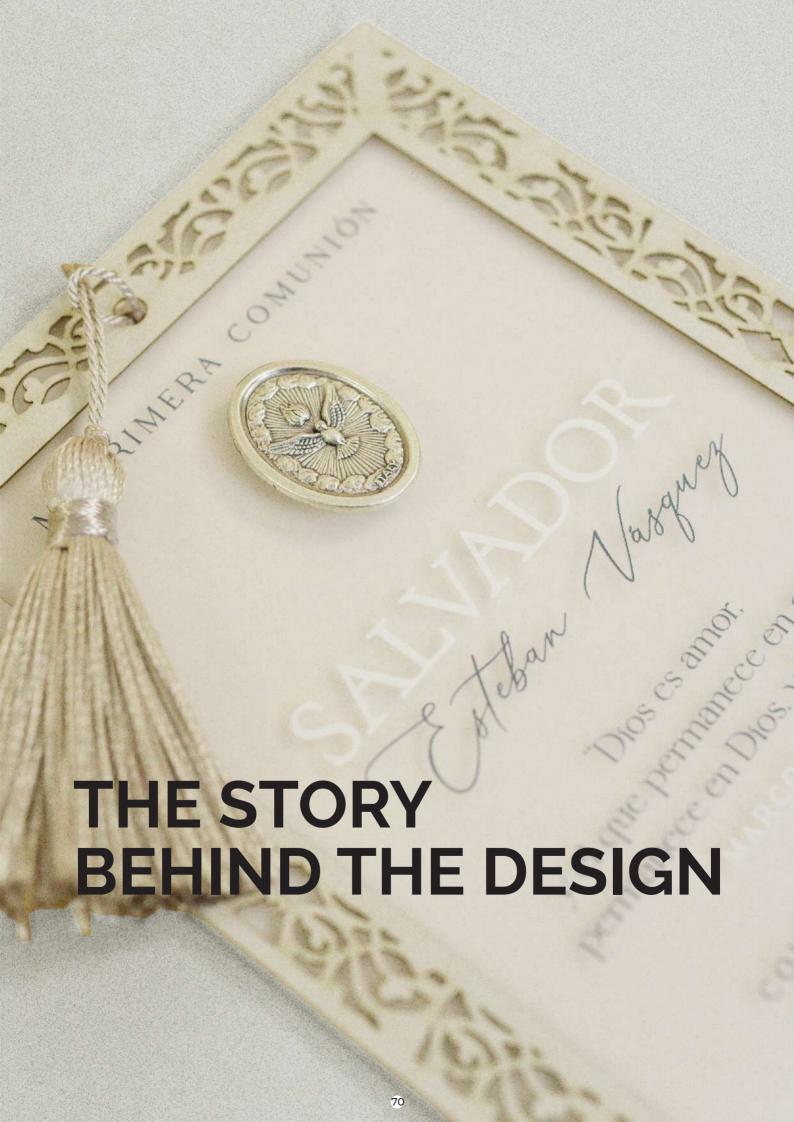
Erinna Reyna - Regional Chapter Leader - Aragua

# Today more than ever, being part of IADWP is betting on the future of our industry.

And we write that future together.

Join us!

Island





One of the things that has surprised me most throughout my career as a designer is how many professionals and colleagues work in this creative industry — so emotional and meaningful — without understanding the depth of what we create.

During our academic training, we are taught to analyze the customer, understand the user, read the context and, above all, build a solid concept behind each piece. That's why I find it frustrating to see how so many products — which in theory are "beautiful"— lack soul. Because design without a story is just decoration.

At aMano Gallery we work with event planners from around the world who are looking for more than luxury stationery. They are looking for pieces that communicate.





Invitations that speak of who they are, what unites them and what they want their guests to feel from the very first moment. Our job is not to design an object. It is to translate an emotion into a coherent, elegant and memorable visual language.

Today I want to use this space to make a call to all of us who work in the event industry and in creative areas: it's not just about making a beautiful setup or following the latest trend. It's about connecting. It's about creating experiences that touch the deepest fibers of everyone involved. From the person who receives the invitation, to the host who entrusts us with his or her story.

I recently experienced a deeply personal project that, while not a destination wedding, reminded me why I love what I do. It was my son Salvador's First Communion. A little boy who every time he sees me running around among tasks and responsibilities, repeats this phrase to me, "Don't run so much, Mommy."

That phrase made me stop, to rethink the speed at which we live. I decided that this event would not be just another one on the agenda, but an experience built with



intention, with soul. From the stationery to every decorative symbol, , everything was designed so that those who accompanied us that day would take away not only a memory, but an emotion. I wanted to go one step further: I involved technology to make every detail even more meaningful. We created a reminder that included a QR code. When scanned, guests discovered an intimate message that explained the true meaning of the day.



A simple, yet profoundly powerful gesture. It was not

about giving an object as a gift, but about sharing a story.

That is, for me, the true purpose of design: to excite, to transform, to leave a mark. Never forget: we don't design things.

We design moments that stay forever.

# DIANA VÁSQUEZ

CEO aMano Gallery IG: @amanogallery WA: +57 3008149596 www.amanogallery.com





The World Romance Travel Conference (WRTC) is less than five months away, and Costa Rica will be the setting for this extraordinary international gathering. The official venue will be the luxurious JW Marriott Guanacaste Resort & Spa, a renowned property for destination weddings, honeymoons and romantic celebrations. The event will take place from November 3 to 6, 2025.

Located on the exclusive shores of Playa Mansita, Hacienda Pinilla, this beachfront resort captures the essence of the Guanacaste soul with the refinement of a world-class experience. Imagine your guests celebrating love with handcrafted cocktails under sunset orange skies, surrounded by tropical gardens, hacienda-style architecture and the soothing sounds of the Pacific. Just minutes from vibrant Tamarindo, this is a destination that elevates any wedding or honeymoon experience.

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WRTC Costa Rica 2025 will bring together wedding planners, travel agents and tourism professionals from across the Americas, with strong representation from Canada and the United States, key markets in the growth of international romance tourism. These professionals are looking for reliable vendors, destinations and allies to expand their wedding portfolio and maximize the value of destination groups.

This event represents a unique opportunity for all players in the Costa Rican industry: local planners, hotels, service providers, venues and tourism brands seeking to strategically position themselves in the North American market.

With a robust educational program, networking spaces, property inspections and an exhibitor-only trade area, the World Romance Travel Conference is designed to generate partnerships, share innovation and set trends in the destination wedding industry.

If you are part of the romance tourism industry in Costa Rica, now is the time to join! As an exhibitor, you will have the opportunity to present your services to highly qualified international clients and position yourself as a reference in the global market.

Here are some interesting facts about my beautiful country: **Pura Vida: more than a phrase, a way of life.** 





"Pura Vida" is Costa Rica's most authentic greeting and farewell. It means much more than "all good"; it is an expression of gratitude, happiness and calm. Get ready to feel it... and say it.

#### Warm Climate All Year Round

Costa Rica has a tropical climate, with temperatures ranging from 25 to 32 °C on the coast. June is part of the "green season", so you might experience light rains at sunset and lush vegetation, ideal for photos and nature experiences.

### You Can Pay in Dollars

The Costa Rican colón is the local currency, but most hotels, restaurants and tourist stores accept U.S. dollars and international credit cards.

### A Small Country with Great Biodiversity

Costa Rica represents only 0.03% of the earth's surface, but is home to about 6% of the planet's biodiversity. Get ready to see toucans, monkeys, iguanas and landscapes that look like a movie.

### Safety and Hospitality

Costa Rica is one of the safest and most stable countries in Latin America. Its people are friendly, respectful and very accustomed to tourism. You will feel at home.





### Local Cuisine you Must Try

Don't leave without trying a "gallo pinto" for breakfast, a traditional casado for lunch or a Costa Rican craft beer at sunset. And the seafood in Guanacaste is not to be missed!

### **Electricity and Connectivity**

Voltage is 110V (same as in the USA and Canada). Most hotels have good Wi-Fi, and the country has excellent cellular coverage, even in rural areas.





### Guanacaste: Land of Warmth, Culture and Romance

The province where the event is held is known for its warm climate, golden beaches and rich cultural heritage. This is the birthplace of the marimbas, the sabaneros and many of the country's most beloved traditions.

### **Sustainable Tourism**

Costa Rica is a pioneer in ecotourism. Thirty percent of the country is protected as a national park or nature reserve, and tourism vendors are highly committed to sustainability and community well-being.

And as one of the most relevant facts is that we do NOT have an army, the money allocated to the army is used for education and health.

I wait for you in the country of PURAVIDA.

### MSC. JEFFREY CERVANTES CALDERÓN

CEO & Director de Costa Rica Wedding Planner National Chapter Leader IADWP Costa Rica Phone. +506 8665 0990 director@crweddingplanner.com Instagram @CRWeddingPlanner

PH: Mauricio Ureña





Royal weddings don't just captivate us with their lavishness. What really dazzles is the art of politeness. And the best part is that we can learn that this style can be replicated. You don't need a noble title to celebrate with elegance. Good manners, attention to detail and a determination to do things right will do.

There is something mesmerizing about royal weddings. Not just because of the carriages, the tiaras, or the endless red carpet, but because of the way every gesture, every glance and every movement seems to respond to an invisible choreography. Everything happens with an almost sacred rhythm. There is no improvisation. There is no exaggeration. There is something much more subtle: courtesy.

The curious thing is that, if you look closely, the key to charm is not in the millions invested, but in the manners. In the greeting that is offered with a slight bow of the head, in the applause that comes just when it is due, in the smile that is maintained even in moments of waiting. In the respectful silence that accompanies the bride's entrance. This is the true "silent luxury" that defines these ceremonies.

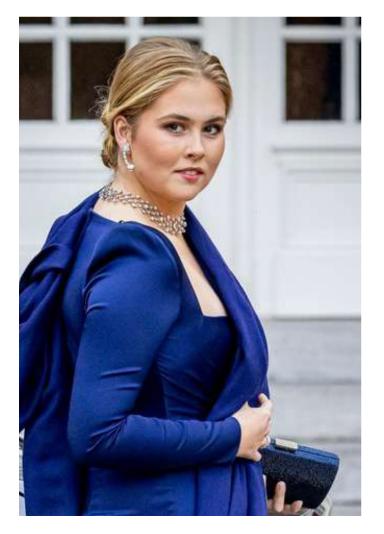
And that's where weddings we call "ordinary" — though none really are — can learn and soar. Because a wedding doesn't need a crown to be majestic. It is enough to adopt some of these forms that, far from being ancient, are eternally current.

Even silences have power. A ceremony where the murmur is silenced and space is made for the sacred is transformed. Respect for the moment turns any space — be it church, beach or forest — into a sacred place.

And then, of course, there is the table. Another scene of etiquette where elegance is tested with details: well aligned glasses, neatly folded napkins, a discreet but present attention. It is not about opulence, but about order, intention, respect for the shared moment. Because when the service is in tune, and the guests understand the code of the occasion, the ordinary becomes extraordinary.

Nor can we forget the real hosts: the bride and groom and their families. In a real wedding, each member of the family plays a role with precision, without overshadowing, without overdoing it, knowing when to speak and when to accompany in silence. If we manage to replicate that harmony—that emotional intelligence wrapped in good manners— the experience becomes unforgettable for everyone.

Their weddings, when they arrive, will not only be historic events, but real catwalks of etiquette, refined details and carefully structured speeches. And chances are that - as has always been the case - what





we see in them will quickly become inspiration for civil, religious, country, urban or dream destination weddings.

Because yes, royalty can be inherited, but it can also be trained. And in the world of weddings, those who master the art of courtesy also master the art of emotion.

In a world saturated with ostentation, a return to form is a statement of elegance. Good manners, empathy, active listening, gratitude, are gestures that do not cost money, but are worth gold. They are not decoration: they are essence.

We may not be able to have a wedding in a palace, but we can make our celebration have the nobility of what is well done. And that —believe me— does not go unnoticed.

### "Five real gestures that transform your wedding."

- . The art of receiving: Greet with intention. A warm smile and eye contact are worth more than any floral decoration.
- . **Dress with coherence:** Respecting the dress code elevates the overall aesthetics. It is not restriction: it is respect.





- Ceremonial silence: Turn off the phone and turn on presence. That is truly being in the moment.
- **Details on the table:** The napkin, the cutlery, the glass in its place. Luxury is noticed in the invisible.
- **Elegant gratitude:** Thank with a gesture, a note or a look. Courtesy never goes out of style.
- "Royalty is not inherited. It is embodied, in every gesture of respect, in every act of elegance. And every wedding, if it is well done, has its own throne."

### ADRIÁN PAVÍA

Editor of ÉPICA Magazine Director of the Latin America and Spanish Speaking Caribbean Islands Chapter IADWP





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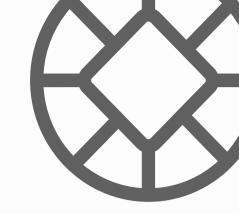
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Founded in 2005 in Los Cabos, Miroslava Bautista WP is a full-service destination wedding agency. With over 20 years of experience, Miroslava plans unforgettable weddings and events for couples worldwide, reducing stress and maximizing fun and meaningful details.



María Rivas Velásquez María Rivas Event

planner

Regional Chapter Leader Armenia - Quindio.

@mariarivaseventplanner

I'm María Rivas Velásquez, a wedding planner and decorator from Manizales. Colombia, with over 20 years of experience. I'm a publicist and international chef, certified in destination weddings and a Latin America Wedding Awards winner. Over the past 10 years, I've made over 300 couples happy across Colombia. I proudly champion the Coffee Region as the perfect wedding destination.



Christina Maddox Heaven Sent Wedding Consultants & Travel Agency

Regional Chapter Leader Delaware

(O) @heavensenttravelagency

I'm Christina Maddox, founder of Heaven Sent Wedding Consultants & Travel Agency with 23 years in the industry. I'm a certified Wedding, Destination Wedding, and Event Planner, as well as a licensed International Travel Advisor. I've planned over 390 weddings in the tri-state area, 85 destination weddings, and countless vacations and honeymoons.



León Jairo Castro Bodas León castro

I'm León Castro, 34 years old, and I come from a family that grows and exports hydrangeas worldwide. Growing up surrounded by flowers led me into the wedding industry, where I've been planning unforgettable events for the past 11 years.

@ @bodasleoncastro

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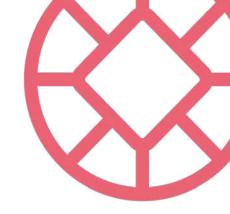


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# Juan Salvador Rangel NATIONAL CHAPTER LEADER VENEZUELA JUAN SALVADOR GROUP C.A

@ @juansalvadoreventos

Marketer and certified Master Wedding Planner with over a decade of experience in high-end events. Specializing in production, catering, and destination weddings, he has trained with renowned experts such as Karen Tran and Martin Roig. He has worked in Venezuela, Colombia, Uruguay, the Dominican Republic, and Mexico, and currently leads his company in Maracay alongside his wife.

### REGIONAL CHAPTER LEADERS



### Vanessa Lugo CARABOBO

@@eventosbyvanessalugo

**Eventos by Vanessa Lugo** 

38 years of experience in the event production industry, with a degree in Public Relations and Event Production from EUA. Multiple international certifications. Lawyer and Interior Designer.



### Mary Mosquera LARA/YARACUY/PORTUGUESA

@marymosqueraweddingplanner

Mary Mosquera Wedding & Event Planner

23 years of experience in event planning, professional announcer, university lecturer in ceremonial, etiquette, and protocol, and television host.



### Erinna Reyna ARAGUA @ @jsbridalcare

**Juan Salvador Eventos** 

Agroindustrial Engineer, certified Wedding Planner since 2016, I support my husband Juan Salvador in event planning. Together, we combine our strengths to deliver excellence and attention to detail in every celebration.



### Patricia Morales

@@Soypatriciamorales

#### White event

She holds a degree in Tourism with specializations in event production, etiquette, and protocol. Patricia is currently the owner of White Event C.A., President of the Paraguaná Tourism Chamber, and Founder and President of the Foundation for Entrepreneurial Women of Falcón. She is also the organizer of numerous social, institutional, and promotional events in the state of Falcón.



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