

ÉPICA

BODAS Y EVENTOS

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Avinassh Tallurii

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Adrián Pavía

Director Capítulo
Sudamérica IADWP

What an honor to welcome you to this November edition of ÉPICA! The end of the year is approaching, and we take a moment to reflect on the journey we have shared together, full of learning, growth and, above all, discoveries. This year has shown us how the world of events continues to evolve. It is exciting to see how new destinations manage to position themselves in the wedding universe. From tropical locations that seem like something out of a dream to small towns full of history and magic, the possibilities for creating unique experiences continue to expand. In each issue, we are inspired to see how each couple chooses a location that becomes the perfect canvas for their love story. These destinations not only enrich our industry, but also remind us why every celebration deserves an unforgettable setting.

Recently, Mexico hosted the **World Romance Travel Conference (WRT)**, an event that was undoubtedly a key meeting point for all of us who live the passion for events and romance. Perfectly organized by the IADWP, the WRT was not only a success in terms of attendance, but also in the quality of the experiences and lessons learned. Attending professionals had the opportunity to participate in innovative sessions

and listen to experts from around the world, who invited us to rethink how we approach creating unique destination weddings and events. It was inspiring to see the enthusiasm and energy of each participant, demonstrating once again the commitment and love we have for this industry. The success of the WRT also drives us to continue collaborating and learning from each other to continue to deliver exceptional experiences to our couples and clients, a beacon of light on our journey.

I want to highlight **the enthusiasm of our colleagues in South America**, who are experiencing a vibrant wedding season full of magic. Each meeting, each ceremony is a sample of the growth and dedication that characterizes the professionals of this region, who bring their creativity and personal touch to each event. This year, South America has stood out not only for its talent and professionalism, but also for its ability to adapt and reinvent itself in an increasingly competitive and globalized market. To see how each professional puts their soul into what they do, and how each wedding becomes a reflection of the love and culture of our countries, is a reason for pride and celebration. This great wedding season has been a real triumph, and we know that the best is yet to come.

I want to close this article by thanking you again for being part of our community and for following us in every edition of ÉPICA. We are sure that November will bring more memorable moments and that together we will continue to build an industry where romance and passion for our work will always be at the center of everything. Let's keep discovering, creating and celebrating!

Adrián Pavía
Épica's Editor



Real Wedding

*Alejandra & Ricardo:
Alchemy of luxury and
Mayan tradition in the
jungle.*

A transformative wedding in Akumal, Mexico



For Alejandra and Ricardo, the dream of a Riviera Maya wedding meant much more than a celebration; they wanted to give their loved ones a transformative and mystical experience. The couple, originally from Mexico City and now residents of Cancun, united their lives in a ceremony that resonated deeply with everyone present, under the organization of Dulce Reyes Wedding Planner.



A Sacred Place: Cenote Balam Ha in Akumal

This hidden paradise in the jungle of Akumal, in the Balam Ha cenote, was carefully chosen for the event. Surrounded by pure nature and in a location far from the hustle and bustle of civilization, Balam Ha offered a perfect blend of mystery and serenity. With an intimate space in the jungle and villas that could accommodate up to 28 people, Alejandra and Ricardo were able to immerse their 50 guests in a magical and timeless atmosphere.



An Ancestral Ritual to Connect Souls

The highlight of the wedding was an ancestral ceremony in the cenote, a spiritual Mayan Ceremony by @ancestralceremoniaespiritual. This ritual, full of symbolism and rooted in the ancient traditions of the region, transported everyone to a different energetic place. With incense, music and sacred words, Alejandra and Ricardo reaffirmed their love in a sacred space, while their guests experienced a deep connection with the local culture and nature that surrounded them.



Vegan Challenges and Local Cuisine

One of the biggest planning challenges was to fulfill the vegan vision of the bride and groom. The idea was to maintain respect for the traditional flavors of the region, but finding a vendor that offered authentic vegan and regional options was a challenge. Finally, @sinfoniaaculinaria was hired to design a menu of unique and local dishes, accompanied by fruit infusions, teas and mezcal, providing attendees with a special culinary experience.



Details with History: Mexican Textile Art

The bride and groom's attire added another layer of authenticity and cultural pride to the wedding. Alejandra wore a dress designed by Yoloxochitl Alvarado, an Otomí textile artist, who hand embroidered a raised loin stitch typical of Zontecomatlán, Veracruz. Ricardo also wore a shirt embroidered with Nahua iconography, reflecting the couple's Mexican roots and their respect for art and tradition.



Vendors and Collaborators

To make this experience a reality, Dulce Reyes coordinated high quality vendors who perfectly understood the couple's vision:



@rakuraiweddings captured the essence of the event in each photograph; the furniture by @minimalrent and the flowers by @salsalasflorista added an elegant and natural touch to the decoration. The music, by @cesar_y_sus_cubanisimos, accompanied the event with rhythms that harmonized with the atmosphere.

Accomplices in Destiny

Wedding Planner @Dulcereyesweddings (member of IADWP)

Photography @rakuraiweddings

Ceremony @ancestralceremoniaespirituales

Location @cenote.balamha

Furniture @minimalrent

Flowers @salsalasflorista

Music @cesar_and_sus_cubanisimos

Dress @yolo_alvaradomx

Food & drinks @sinfoniaculinaria

Cake @caketitis

Samuerios @magicstore_misticavidazen

Makeup & hair styling @erikahuertamakeup



Alejandra and Ricardo wanted their wedding to be more than just an event: they wanted a space of transformation and deep connection for all who attended. Through a sacred ceremony, careful food selection, and the work of committed artists and vendors, they were able to create a celebration that everyone present will carry in their hearts forever.

This event, held in the mystical nature of Akumal, is a reminder that a wedding not only celebrates the love of two people, but can become a collective journey of transformation and communion with the land, culture and ancestors.



To create a truly memorable and transformative wedding, like Alejandra and Ricardo's, listening to the couple and connecting with their deepest desires is essential. Understanding their priorities and guiding them every step of the way allows their dreams to come true, especially when it is such an intimate and culturally rich experience. As a local expert, it is vital to know how to find and work with strategic allies who share that vision and can overcome any challenges so that the couple and their guests experience a unique and unforgettable moment.



It is in this synergy between couple and planner that the path to a wedding that transcends the traditional is forged, a wedding that, like this one, transforms hearts.

Thanks for reading.

Ilse Diamant

Luxury Romance Ambassador
en Diamant Events
Alpha Leader IADWP
Director LATAM DWSA





Ping-Pong

**Meet our Chapter Head of El Salvador,
Ma. Luisa Samayoa**

What is your dream wedding?

For me a dream wedding combines several factors: creativity, attention to detail, and the opportunity to experiment with innovative ideas.

Taking these factors into account, I could divide my dream wedding as follows:

A custom theme that reflects the stories and personalities of the bride and groom, such as a wedding inspired by Art Nouveau as a period, or a specific trend. The theme can range from something very elegant, to something that reflects the culture and customs of the bride and groom, making it feel very personal.

An innovative ambiance and decoration, here creativity flies! A unique color palette, mixtures of textures in tablecloths and furniture combined with a special taste to match the environment. We could not leave out as part of the ambiance the flowers and their accents combined to perfection to achieve a magical and unique atmosphere.

In planning a dream wedding, details such as live music, aromas in the atmosphere, food prepared on the spot, bars with designed drinks, and a schedule of special changing moments during the night, will leave a stamp of unforgettable memories.

Intimate and personalized details from the couple to their guests, such as a handwritten thank you letter or a unique place at the table are amazing. Special drinks to close guests, and expressing your collaboration to environmental sustainability with the support of technology and using electronic invitations, recyclable and eco-friendly materials.



My dream wedding as a Wedding Planner is to achieve the maximum experience of my clients and that great day that they will remember forever.

What inspired you to become part of the wedding world?

I was working as an interior designer and on different projects for several years, which for me was super dynamic and changing for every need and taste of each client. One afternoon, while I was sitting watching my youngest son's karate class, a friend of mine suggested me to design a wedding for her sister-in-law, who wanted something super special and non-traditional for her ceremony and in an outdoor location with lots of greenery.

I loved the challenge, I was inspired by the custom design from the space, lighting, table design, menu design and presentation, among others.

I was so happy at that moment to share the joy of celebration and be part of it that it was there where I began to apply interior design to the setting of events and weddings and everything they ask me to create an environment and a unique and special atmosphere.

What has been the most memorable moment of your career so far?

In the course of these 20 years of work, there have been many... I will share some of them with you:

One of those challenges was the preparations for my youngest son's graduation party, for three thousand people in a convention center, and having to train my team to be a guest myself and enjoy that family moment and my job at the same time. Everything had to be perfect, there were many days of preparation beforehand, and a lot of vendors had to be coordinated!



Another important moment was the organization of a funeral of a great businessman, whose life left a great mark on our country. The funeral had to be in his factory and had to be prepared for two thousand five hundred people, who wanted to thank this great man for his help and work for several generations. There were a lot of logistics, but also a lot of detail as a great tribute, with family, friends and employees.

The most memorable moments of connecting with people in both good and bad times, and being able to help them get through them in the best way through my work is what leaves my heart full of joy and energy to keep going!

Do you have a ritual or routine before each event?

It is usually the meal before we enter the final stretch of the assembly process. It's a time to laugh, share things together, make jokes about what might happen, and eat whatever my team wants or feels like eating. I always make sure they are having a good meal and that it gives them great energy for what lies ahead. Then we say a prayer before the event begins.

What is your favorite destination wedding?

I have several. It is difficult to choose one in particular. I would choose places that highlight the beauty of my country, such as the San Salvador Volcano, which is a place of forest and coffee estates, or the lake of Coatepeque which is located inside the crater of a volcano, which is impressive for all the guests who come to our country to have contact with nature. The white sand beaches and warm waters are an unforgettable experience as well.

What advice would you give to a couple just starting to plan their wedding?

First of all, enjoy the process and remember that the wedding is a celebration of your love and your

commitment to be with each other and build a life together.

As you begin this process, so that you both feel in harmony, (as there will be stressful moments), I recommend, agree on: a realistic financial investment, the number of guests with both families, and the style of the wedding. Above all, you should be flexible to enjoy every step, and you should always give yourself some time for you that is not all about wedding planning. And the most important recommendation: trust our planning and experience, as we will live every moment together with you in the best way.

What is your favorite trend in weddings today?

The trend of freedom to individuality and creating the wedding in the style and manner of the bride and groom.

The rigid and traditional protocols where the parents chose absolutely everything under cultural norms, are no longer a priority and the bride and groom are the ones who decide. In this journey, I started working with the parents and now I barely get to know them before the wedding day.

Today's trend reflects a mix of individuality, sustainability and a focus on the guest experience. The commitment to the environment continues to grow, with more and more local vendors being chosen, recycled and biodegradable décor, and gifts becoming charitable donations.

The trend for outdoor weddings, especially in forests, mountains, beaches and lakes, is towards organic decoration, which is almost minimalist because the natural setting surrounds the wedding environment.



Another trend, which is very fashionable, is to offer food trucks, or food stations, and to offer various hours of food service.

Another strong trend is intimate weddings, for which the guests are selected in a very special way, and this way it is possible to have more special moments with the family. Everyone celebrates with the couple, emphasizing special food, good drinks and personalized music.

What is the most challenging thing about working in the wedding industry?

One of the most important challenges of working in the wedding industry is the great emotional charge involved. We are helping a couple plan one of the most important moments of their lives, which creates a lot of pressure and self-control.

Another big challenge is time management and logistics, since we have to coordinate vendors from different areas of work, guests, venues, decorations, among others.

Maintaining flexibility and the ability to solve problems in the moment is extremely important.

And the last but not least challenge is to stay ahead of the curve. Wedding trends and styles are ever-changing, and it is very important to stay informed and attend congresses that enrich you with the knowledge of other experts. It is a necessary and permanent investment.

How to handle stress during the planning of a large event?

Managing stress in a large event is possible when all the previous planning work has been properly communicated to each of the vendors that are part of the event.

We are all part of the same team, we all want to be successful and have everyone talking about the excellent work done. Therefore, the final pre-event meeting with everyone involved is the most important. The schedule and details of each service are reviewed step by step.



Each vendor knows his job perfectly, and in this meeting each one can provide solutions for any unforeseen event that may occur.

The bond of trust created during the entire time prior to the event is of utmost importance, and delegating each activity and its responsibility to the team allows empathy and calm to be maintained, lowering the stress level.

Constant communication with the team and clients during the event allows needs to be quickly addressed and misunderstandings avoided.

Self-care, such as nutrition, taking breaks and proper hydration, helps to maintain energy and a clear mind.

And in the end, seeing the happiness of the bride and groom makes it all worthwhile!

What do you enjoy most about your work?

The satisfaction of making the bride and groom's dreams come true.

Each wedding allows me to explore and combine styles. The creativity in the design of every detail and the materialization of all this process is a great satisfaction as a personal achievement.

I enjoy creating an emotional bond and connection with my clients. These bonds have lasted for years after the wedding! I have been able to organize other events such as baptisms and even first communions for these couples.

The entrance of the bride to the ceremony, giving her a few words to reassure her and feeling that connection of emotions, I feel it as a great honor to be part of that special moment.

Do you have any mentors or inspirational figures in the industry?

Some of them would be: David Tutera, Mindy Weiss, Colin Cowie, Marcy Blum, Jasmine Star, Martha Stewart, Preston Bailey, among others.

They inspire me and update me on trends, and having met some of them in person fills me with great energy.

How do you see the future of weddings in the coming years?

In the coming years, weddings will evolve significantly, adapting to trends of personalization and sustainability, as well as incorporating more and more technology and multicultural approaches.

Couples will be more focused on reducing the environmental impact of their weddings. This could include using recyclable materials, menus with local and seasonal foods, and eco-friendly locations. Decorations are also trending toward reusable or rented items rather than disposable.

Couples will be looking for personalized and more intimate experiences. They will focus more on quality than quantity of experiences for guests.

Technology will play an important role. Guests could interact through augmented reality or attend the wedding virtually from anywhere in the world.



With the increase in cross-cultural weddings, we will see an integration of multicultural traditions into ceremonies and receptions. This allows couples to honor their customs and offer their guests a rich and varied experience.

Elegant Minimalism: Many couples will opt for a minimalist style in decorating, favoring clean lines, neutral colors and simple but elegant floral arrangements. This approach focuses on quality details rather than ornate decor.

Guests are looking for a memorable experience, so the entertainment will become more innovative.

The <Micro weddings and Destination Weddings> are more on trend, they will be smaller and more intimate, especially in exotic destinations.

Ma. Luisa Samayoa

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Love India: A journey to the Heart of Weddings in India

By Kitzia Morales President IADWP

The first edition of Love India, organized by IADWP was much more than a trip, it was a transformative experience that connected us with the essence of weddings in India, a celebration of life, culture and love that many of us had only seen in movies or dreamed of witnessing in person. From the moment we landed, participants were immersed in the magic of a country where weddings are a unique spectacle, full of detail, history, and spirituality.



The economic impact of weddings in India is immense: a sector that is estimated at 50 billion dollars and continues to grow by leaps and bounds. But beyond the numbers, Love India allowed us to see the human and cultural richness that characterizes these events. We visited the most iconic wedding venues, from palaces in Jaipur to the iconic

Taj Mahal, and delved into the sophistication of India's best wedding specialists in New Delhi, who shared their passion and wisdom with us.

Thanks to the vision of Seema Syed, an expert and leader in event planning, hospitality and destination management who curated the program with an unsurpassed level of detail and care, we had the opportunity to appreciate the importance of flowers in these ceremonies, symbols of purity and abundance. We witnessed ancestral rituals, from mehndi ceremonies to fire blessings, that reminded us of the power of spirituality in every step of a Hindu wedding.



Of course, we also enjoyed the richness of Indian cuisine and the impeccable service that characterizes these weddings. Each meal was a feast of vibrant flavors and every detail was designed to make each guest feel unique. None of this would have been possible without Tamarind Global, our logistics partner, and Tamarind Weddings, who organized beautiful events that exceeded our expectations.

This trip also brought a unique opportunity for deep learning: all participants obtained the certification: “The South Asian Weddings Certification by JC Castillo & IADWP” from the talented JC Castillo, a benchmark in the industry who has just been recognized as Top Wedding Planner and Wedding designer in South Asia. JC, with over 160 Indian weddings in his career and featured covers in Mandala and Vogue, shared his experience and knowledge with a generosity that further enriched the immersive experience.



After a week of living and breathing the wedding culture in India, our hearts are filled with gratitude and our senses with unforgettable memories. This trip would not have been possible without the commitment and support of our dear partners - Bohemian Glam by Seema Syed, Tamarind Global, Tamarind Weddings, Fairmont Jaipur India, Shine Collection By Deepak Sharma, Fragrance Flowerz, Elite Productions, Deja Brew Taps and PTaufiq Photography, who captured every moment with a sensitivity that will make these memories everlasting.

Love India was more than a dream come true. The program of activities in conjunction with the South Asian Weddings Certification marked a milestone in the professionalization and training of 40 wedding experts and specialization programs in our industry.

Thanks to this cultural immersion and in-depth learning experience, these professionals now have the best tools to serve Indo-American and Indo-Canadian clientele celebrating their love in destinations around the world.



Kitzia Morales

Presidente IADWP

Meet Arvinassh Tallurii



I guess you could call my story a classic dramatic break from tradition. I come from a family that values engineering as the ultimate achievement, with a clear career path that was practically mapped out for me. But from a very young age, I felt I was drawn in another direction. It wasn't engineering that was calling me, but photography, and it soon became impossible to ignore. I knew what I wanted to do and was rarely indecisive about my career, although others encouraged me to settle for a "safer" path. The world of art and storytelling excited me, while engineering felt like a set of rules to which I did not belong.

To the surprise, and perhaps some horror, of my family I decided to walk away from the path everyone assumed I would follow. I took a year to find myself and started working as an assistant to a Bollywood photographer. Those months were transformative. I completely immersed myself in the world of light, angles and visual storytelling. I learned to see moments in new ways and began to understand how a camera could capture something beyond what was visible on the surface. I felt like I was no longer just taking pictures, but framing emotions and stories.

After an amazing six months as an assistant, I decided to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Media to hone my craft and deepen my knowledge of the industry. In my second year, I was fortunate enough to intern as a photojournalist at The Indian Express.

That experience changed me: I discovered a love for portraits and the power they have to convey genuine, raw emotions. I was captivated by the idea of capturing the human spirit through my lens, understanding that each photograph could tell its own story.

At the end of college, I landed a position as a Senior Photojournalist at a lifestyle magazine, where I spent two years exploring the art of visual storytelling. My job wasn't just to take pictures; it was to really connect with my subjects and discover their essence. Each assignment gave me a new perspective, and I learned to embrace the unexpected and the spontaneous, qualities that would be invaluable in my later work.

Eventually, I made the decision to quit my job and dedicate myself to freelance photography. That was the turning point where I finally discovered my true calling: wedding photography. From the first wedding I covered, I knew I had found what I was meant to do. The emotions, the laughter, the tears, the celebration of love: it was a world that welcomed everything I loved about photography and storytelling. I was drawn to the authenticity of those moments, the spontaneous emotions and connections that went beyond smiles and rehearsed poses.

In November 2019, I joined PTAufiq Photography, a journey that has shaped me both personally and artistically. Through the experiences and mentorship I have received, I have continued to grow in my craft, honing my ability to capture love stories in a way that is significant and true to the essence of each couple.

What inspires me most about capturing love stories is the uniqueness of each couple's journey. No two love stories are the same, and I take the time to learn what makes each couple special. I get to know their tastes, their passions and the path that brought them together. For me, each session needs to reflect their individual story, which means deeply understanding their dreams and their connection. I believe I must fall in love with each couple's story in order to fully embrace it and translate it into images they will treasure forever.

Some sessions stay with me, like the session with Vidhi and Mohit in Jaipur. We captured them amidst Jaipur's rich heritage, where their personalities came alive against iconic backdrops. Dressed in traditional Indian attire, they embodied a timeless elegance that reflected the grandeur of Ameer and the charm of Fairmont. It was a session where their love became part of the environment, blending harmoniously with the beauty that surrounded them, and the result was a series of moments that felt authentic and unforgettable.

Each project is an experience, an intimate “table for two” where it's just me, my camera and a love story unfolding in real time. With each click, I feel privileged to be part of something deeply personal and significant. This is what motivates me to do what I do, because each love story continues to inspire me, reminding me that no two journeys are the same and that each one deserves to be captured with the same passion and heart.



Avinassh Tallurii

Manager: @ptaufiqphotography

Founder: @shuttersnframes.co

& @snfweddings

NPS: @nikonindiaofficial

Women's Ventures in Destination Events.

Driving change and innovation



Ph: Freepik

Over the past decade, we have witnessed a growing movement toward gender equality in business, and women-led ventures in the destination event industry is a paradigmatic example of this shift. These entrepreneurs are not only breaking down barriers, but are also redefining what it means to organize and participate in memorable events that not only impact attendees, but also local communities.

The Culture of Destination Events

Destination events have gained popularity, not only as a marketing strategy, but also as a way to attract tourism and create economic opportunities for host communities. From business conferences to cultural festivals, these events offer a unique experience that combines learning, networking and enjoyment in a new and exciting environment. Women entrepreneurs are leading this trend by creating events that reflect their values, foster sustainability and promote inclusion.

One of the most prominent examples is a series of entrepreneurship conferences organized by women in various iconic destinations.



These conferences not only generate economic impact in their host locations, but also provide a platform for other women to share their stories, network and find inspiration. In addition, many of these entrepreneurs use their events as an opportunity to highlight other local businesses, promoting the circular economy and working with vendors and artists in the region. This approach not only enriches the participant experience, but also helps build resilient and collaborative communities.

Challenges and Opportunities

Despite progress, women entrepreneurs in the destination events sector face unique challenges. Lack of access to financing, limited networks, and gender bias are just a few. However, these difficulties have led many to innovate. Digitalization has opened new doors, allowing women entrepreneurs to access tools that facilitate the organization, promotion and execution of events. Online platforms have made it possible for women to connect with other entrepreneurs, mentors and investors globally, increasing their chances of success.

The importance of collaboration

Collaboration is a key factor in the success of women's ventures at destination events. By coming together, women entrepreneurs can share resources, knowledge and contacts. Initiatives such as support networks, incubators and training programs are vital to empowering these women and ensuring that their voices are heard in the industry.

Future women's ventures in destination events

Women's ventures in destination events are more than a trend; they are a movement towards a more equitable future, where creativity, innovation and sustainability are the hallmarks. Investing in these initiatives is investing in a world where everyone has the opportunity to shine. Women's ventures in destination events are changing the narrative in the industry. By leading with purpose and delivering unique experiences, they are building stronger, more inclusive and sustainable communities.

Through collaboration, innovation and empowerment, these women are not only organizing events, but also transforming lives and forging a path to a brighter future. This article seeks to highlight the importance and impact that women-led ventures in the destination event industry have on our contemporary society. As we move forward, it is critical to continue to promote inclusion and equality in all its forms.

As we move into the future, it is clear that the role of women in the events industry will continue to grow.



The need for a diverse and equitable perspective is more important than ever. The inclusion of more women in leadership positions not only benefits women entrepreneurs, but also enriches the experience of everyone involved in the event.

Women's ventures in destination events are more than a trend; they are a movement towards a more equitable future, where creativity, innovation and sustainability are the hallmarks. Investing in these initiatives is investing in a world where everyone has the opportunity to shine and are also changing the narrative in the industry. By leading with purpose and delivering unique experiences, they are building stronger, more inclusive and sustainable communities. Through collaboration, innovation and empowerment, these women are not only organizing events, but also transforming lives and forging a path to a brighter future.

Patricia Morales
Junior Chapter Head
IADWP VENEZUELA
Productora de eventos

An aerial photograph of a tropical beach. The top half of the image shows a dense line of green palm trees along a sandy shore. The bottom half shows clear, turquoise water with a small yellow boat floating on the surface. The overall scene is romantic and idyllic.

Romantic Paradises

For an unforgettable honeymoon in Panama

Panama is a hidden jewel in the Caribbean and the Pacific that combines natural beauty with the warmth of its people, offering an ideal mix for those seeking an unforgettable honeymoon, full of romance accompanied by adventure and nature in almost virgin destinations that also give you privacy for that magnificent experience.

Imagine waking up every morning to the gentle murmur of the waves caressing the shore, the golden sun illuminating your skin and the scent of the sea filling the air. That's what life is like on Panama's Caribbean beaches. Bocas del Toro and San Blas, two hidden gems in the heart of Panama, ideal for an unforgettable honeymoon. And we can't leave out the beautiful Contadora Island located in the Panamanian Pacific.

Bocas del Toro: A honeymoon trip full of love and adventure.

Beaches, coral reefs and a Caribbean culture that dazzles everyone.

Its beautiful wild nature accompanied by islands, beaches, dolphins and delicious gastronomy.



It is one of the most attractive tourist spots in Panama for those who wish to enjoy the most paradisiacal beaches in the world. Undoubtedly on the north coast of the Panamanian Caribbean, Bocas del Toro, is the favorite destination for that honeymoon with its landscapes. Almost virgin landscapes, solitary and with an exuberant wild beauty.



Bocas del Toro is also known for the thousands of turtles that come to its shores, and for being one of the most biologically diverse destinations on the planet.

Playa Estrella in Bocas del Toro is a Caribbean destination with a bohemian and authentic touch. Named for its abundance of giant starfish in crystal clear waters and its relaxed atmosphere, it is ideal for a honeymoon where romance blends with the Caribbean spirit.

Bocas del Toro, with its crystal clear waters and diversity of marine life including dolphins, manta rays and lobsters. The reefs of the region are recognized worldwide as a Hope Spot for coral conservation. Bocas del Toro is a paradise for honeymooners, if you like ecotourism you can enjoy the natural landscapes of Bocas by hiking, exploring bat caves or practicing bird watching.





In Bocas Del Toro you can experience the traditions and art of the indigenous communities, as well as experience the Afro-Caribbean music that is reflected in the language. The gastronomy, music and nightlife in Bocas Del Toro promises you a honeymoon full of adventure and unique and unforgettable experiences where you can explore paradisiacal and adventurous places combined with nature.

Isla Contadora: a Haven of Love.

Isla Contadora is a haven of peace. White sand beaches, clear waters, lots of fish, friendly people and a very relaxed lifestyle.

Located in the Panamanian Pacific, Contadora Island is an exclusive getaway that combines white sands, crystalline waters and an atmosphere of discreet luxury. Perfect for couples seeking tranquility and romance, the island offers several private beaches, allowing you to

enjoy intimate moments surrounded by unspoiled nature. Here you can enjoy a rich marine biodiversity, ideal for exploring together.

Contadora Island is a paradise worth discovering for its beautiful nature and historical setting.

Located in the Pearl Archipelago, Isla Contadora is a destination that combines luxury and nature in perfect harmony. Here, couples can enjoy white sand beaches and crystal clear waters, perfect for long romantic walks at sunset. The island offers a variety of activities, from snorkeling and scuba diving to whale watching, candlelight dinners on the beach, and what better music than the sound of the sea, creating memories that will last a lifetime.



San Blas: Authentic Romance in the Kuna Caribbean

San Blas is an archipelago made up of 365 islands, and they are all so beautiful that you won't know which one to choose. This destination is perfect for couples looking for a deeper connection with nature and culture. The islands are inhabited by the Guna, an indigenous community that has preserved their traditions and lifestyle over the centuries.

In San Blas, couples can enjoy the simplicity and beauty of island life. Sleeping in bungalows over the sea, exploring coral reefs and kayaking in turquoise waters are just some of the experiences this paradise has to offer. Every day in San Blas is a new opportunity to discover the magic of love in a natural and unspoiled environment.

San Blas is for couples looking for a unique and culturally inverse experience. San Blas offers a remote Caribbean destination that is not only beautiful, but also allows you to experience the rich culture of the Guna people. Its 365 islands, many of them uninhabited, offer a dreamlike romantic atmosphere.

Getting to know the Guna culture and buying traditional handicrafts, such as the colorful *molos*, is a special experience for couples.



From the hidden luxuries of Isla Contadora to the cultural charm of San Blas and the vibrant Caribbean of Bocas del Toro, Panama offers honeymooners the chance to experience a unique honeymoon. These beaches provide perfect settings for unforgettable moments, and the best part is that each destination is different enough to offer a complete experience that combines tranquility, culture and adventure.

Enjoying these paradisiacal beaches will mean a memorable honeymoon trip and an ideal romantic celebration for those who want to start their story together in the tropical Panamanian paradise.

Both Isla Contadora and San Blas and Bocas Del Toro offer the perfect setting for a honeymoon full of romance and adventure. From the exclusivity and luxury of Contadora to the authenticity and natural beauty of San Blas and Bocas del Toro, these destinations promise a unique and unforgettable experience for your honeymoon.

So, if you are planning your honeymoon and looking for a place where love and nature meet in perfect harmony, look no further than the Panamanian Caribbean. Contadora Island, Bocas Del Toro and San Blas: in Panama we are waiting for you with open arms, ready to be the backdrop of your love story.

Julie E. Franco

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The Perfect Playlist for Destination Weddings

By Clever Portillo Vilchez - Dj Clev



I am a DJ with almost 20 years of experience in the industry specializing in weddings over the last decade. I have been fortunate to work on a wide range of events, adapting to each client's expectations and understanding the particularities that make the music at each wedding a success.

The Importance of a Careful Music Selection.

When it comes to destination weddings with brides and grooms of foreign origin, the playlist acquires a special relevance. It is essential to consider not only the personal preferences of the bride and groom, but also aspects such as:

Age and culture: Music preferences vary greatly according to the generation and cultural background of the attendees. A good DJ must be able to fuse styles that connect everyone on the dance floor.

Country of origin: Some genres or songs may



be particularly meaningful to certain nationalities, and this can be a connecting element that makes everyone feel at home, even far away from home.

Socioeconomic level: Although less obvious, socioeconomic level can influence musical tastes and event expectations, affecting everything from genre selection to the pace of the set.

DJ expertise: The ability to understand the audience on the dance floor is crucial to ensure that everyone, regardless of their cultural differences, joins in and enjoys themselves.

Having a professional DJ and a technical team with experience in destination weddings is vital. The technical and logistical challenges are different in each location, and an experienced team will know how to adapt and react to any unforeseen event. In addition, the advantage of having our own sound and lighting equipment ensures that every detail is under control, giving the bride and groom the peace of mind that their event will be flawless from start to finish.

Tips for Creating the Perfect Playlist for Your Destination Wedding.

For the bride and groom looking to get their wedding music selection right, here are some tips to help create a memorable experience:

1. Trust the DJ completely: A DJ's expertise is key, as he or she knows what works best on the dance floor. Listen to his or her suggestions on genres and songs that can create a welcoming and fun atmosphere.

2. Make a playlist of your favorite songs: While it's important to please your guests, the day is yours, so be sure to include songs that you really enjoy and that have meaning to you.

3. Consider the cultural mix of your guests: Ask the DJ about his experience with multicultural weddings. He can help you mix songs that represent all the guests, without losing style and cohesion.



4. Balance the genres: In international weddings, a good mix between universal and local genres is ideal. This will allow all guests to find something they enjoy and motivate them to dance.

5. Avoid being guided only by assumptions: Although you want your guests to enjoy themselves, avoid selecting songs based only on what you “think” they might like. Remember that the DJ is the expert, and he or she will know how to identify what will really work on the dance floor.


My wish is that these tips will help you choose the perfect music for your wedding and create moments that will remain etched in your memories and those of your guests. Music has the power to unite cultures, generations and emotions, and as a DJ with years of experience, I am passionate about helping each couple design the ideal playlist that reflects their essence. May this guide be the first step in making your wedding a unique and lively event on the dance floor!

Clever Portillo Vilchez - Dj Clev
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The Myths and Truths of Destination Weddings:

Why They're Worth Every Moment





There's something undeniably magical about destination weddings. The idea of saying "I do" surrounded by the breathtaking beauty of a faraway place, with your closest family and friends, is simply irresistible. But, like any dream worth chasing, myths often swirl around the idea of having a destination wedding. Let's unveil the truths and show why it's more than worth it.

Myth: Destination weddings are only for the adventurous.

Truth: You don't have to be an adventurer to want a destination wedding. Whether it's the soft sands of a tropical beach, a charming European village, or even a secluded mountain retreat, destination weddings allow you to craft a deeply personal and intimate celebration. It's not about being far-flung—it's about finding a place that feels like it was meant for your love story. The setting becomes a reflection of who you are as a couple, and that, in itself, makes the adventure of a destination wedding one of the most beautiful decisions you can make.

Myth: It's impossible to plan a destination wedding without constant travel.

Truth: You don't have to hop on a plane every month to plan your dream destination wedding. In fact, modern technology and seasoned wedding planners have made the process simpler than ever. And when you have a professional destination wedding planner by your side, you don't just get someone organizing details—you get someone who shares in your excitement, who knows the ins and outs of the location, and who ensures every detail is exactly as you envision. You can focus on what matters most: imagining the day you've always dreamed of, while your planner takes care of the logistics.

Myth: Destination weddings are more expensive than local weddings.

Truth: It's easy to think that a wedding abroad means a higher price tag, but here's the truth—it always depends on what you envision. One of the most beautiful realities of destination weddings is that fewer guests often attend, allowing you to stretch your budget on the things that truly matter to you. Whether it's a luxurious multi-course dinner, lavish décor, or an unforgettable

experience for your guests, your budget can go further in ways that make the day even more special. You'll spend less on the sheer numbers and more on crafting a day that reflects your love and vision.

Myth: Any wedding planner can handle a destination wedding.

Truth: One of the most important decisions you'll make is finding the right on-site destination wedding planner. Someone who lives and breathes the location you've chosen and knows it like the back of their hand. They'll be your trusted guide, taking care of every detail so you can enjoy the experience without stress. With the right planner, you're not just planning a wedding—you're creating an unforgettable journey for you and your guests, from the moment you arrive until the last toast is made.

Myth: Guests will find it too inconvenient to travel.

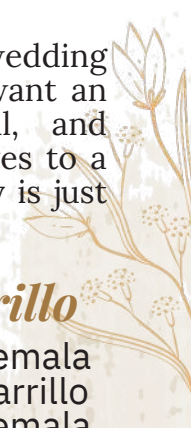
Truth: Some might not be able to make it, but those who do will experience a memory of a lifetime. A destination wedding is not just an event; it's a mini-vacation for your loved ones, a celebration that extends beyond one evening. Imagine celebrating your love while your guests revel in the beauty of the destination. It's a time to connect, explore, and create shared memories that will last long after your wedding day. With careful planning and enough notice, your guests will be as thrilled as you are to celebrate in paradise.

A destination wedding is more than just a ceremony in a beautiful location. It's a chance to truly focus on what matters—the love you share, the people who matter most, and the breathtaking beauty of a place that feels like a piece of your story. With a professional planner to guide you, it's not just a dream; it's a reality waiting to unfold.

So, if you've been dreaming of a wedding that's more than just a day—if you want an experience that's intimate, special, and perfectly tailored to your love—say yes to a destination wedding. Your dream day is just a plane ride away!

Diana Sciarrillo

Chapter Head Guatemala
I Do, Guatemala, by Diana Sciarrillo
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A man in a dark suit and a black rabbit mask is playing a golden saxophone. He is dancing with a woman who is wearing a black dress with a large feathered mask. They are at an outdoor event at night, with palm trees and colorful lights in the background.

World Romance Travel Conference Social Events

Paradisus Playa del Carmen

We'll tell you everything that happened at the social events of the World Romance Travel Conference at Paradisus Playa del Carmen.

Welcome Cocktail, Mystery Society. The adult pool area of the Paradisus Playa del Carmen Hotel was transformed into a scene of luxury and mystery, embellished by the elegance of the attire worn by our distinguished conference attendees and IADWP members. Enigmatic masks, dazzling ball gowns, dark and sophisticated suits, along with a splurge of glitter and skin, set the tone for this glamorous event. The gastronomy and delicious cocktails were a delicacy for the attendees.

The evening began with the soft notes of a saxophonist, whose enchanting melodies set the perfect mood. This was followed by various performances, one of the most memorable being the one that took place in the swimming pool, a show that left an indelible impression on all those present. Without a doubt, the evening became a sublime celebration of elegance and art.

Harmony in White - A Wellness Encounter
Ilse Diamante, Cancun's renowned Wedding Planner, immersed us in an evening of self-love, mindfulness and energy renewal at her



splendid venue, Secret Jewel. This exclusive gathering, designed only for IADWP members, celebrated holistic wellness in a magical and revitalizing environment.

The evening took place at the prestigious Secret Jewel, a space that was transformed into a haven of serenity and inner connection. Every moment of this incredible evening was an opportunity to rebalance body and soul, making this event a truly transformative experience.

The event consisted of several enriching activities:

-Conscious meditation and bonfire: A sacred space where all attendees find inner calm, reconnecting with our deepest intentions under the soft glow of the fire and the breeze of the sea.

-Wellness and sound therapy: The healing vibrations of the music enveloped the participants, promoting a deep harmony and balance in our being.

Healthy refreshments and conscious gastronomy: We enjoyed an exquisite selection of fresh and nutritious ingredients, which when fused together created authentic delights for the palate. And the delicious drinks with natural ingredients refreshed all the attendees.

The event was not only a celebration of wellness, but also a reminder of the power of community and self-love.

Viva la Vida: Closing Event.

Without a doubt, the climax of the World Romance Travel Conference was an extraordinary event that left an indelible impression on all attendees. This evening, dedicated to introducing us to the rich Mexican culture and paying homage to the celebration of the Day of the Dead, with its incredible and extensive gastronomy, took place at the exquisite Kanna restaurant, located in the prestigious Hotel Paradisus Playa del Carmen.

The impressive make-up evoking death brought a vibrant sense of life to Mexican traditions, transforming the evening into a celebration full of color and meaning. The party kicked off with a moving performance by the Tres Marias, who, with their music, artistry and passion, captured the essence of this colorful celebration.



As the night unfolded, a talented musical group filled us with their energy, immersing us all in a sea of catchy rhythms and inviting us to dance non-stop.

This experience was not only a delight for the senses, but also a magnificent opportunity to celebrate and appreciate the richness of Mexico's cultural heritage.

Moving a bit away from the context, I have heard from very reliable sources that after the party, some attendees headed to the hotel's nightclub, where they continued dancing and pulling out their forbidden moves until the wee hours of the morning. And please pay attention, it is said that the night did not end there, as there was also a secret VIP After Party in one of the hotel's luxurious suites. Although we don't have hard evidence of these events, the information comes from fairly well-founded rumors. Don't say I told you about it...

Let's get serious, as usual and as we all expected, the IADWP shone brightly at its World Romance Travel Conference, offering exceptional social events that left an indelible mark on all participants.

If you want to be part of this unique experience in 2025, we invite you to contact us and join us in our next destinations: Dominican Republic and Costa Rica.

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Getting married in Portugal

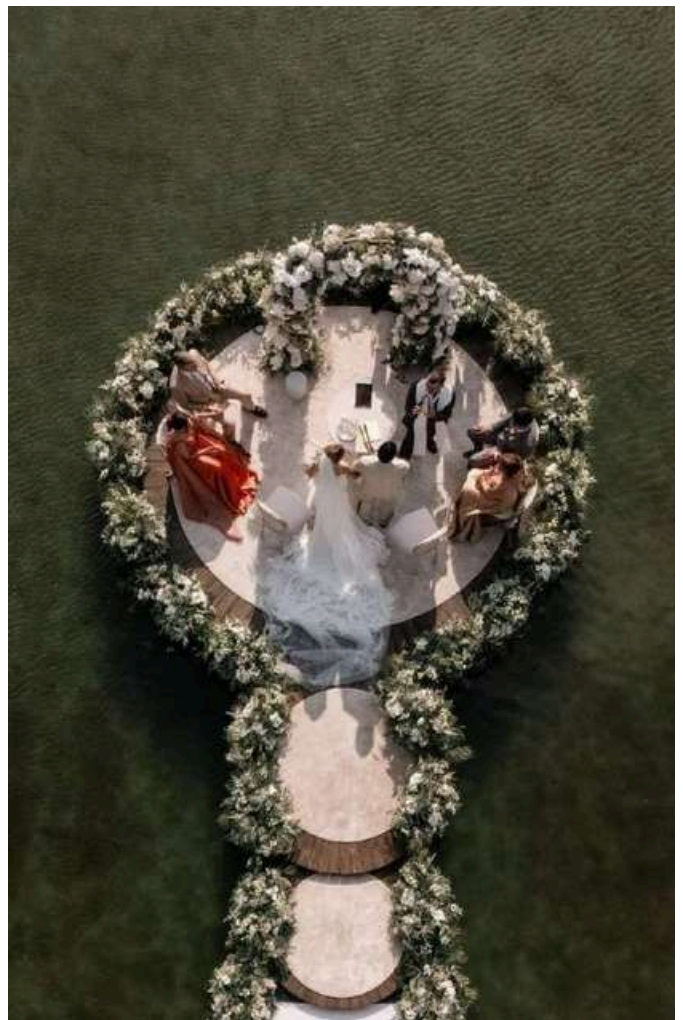
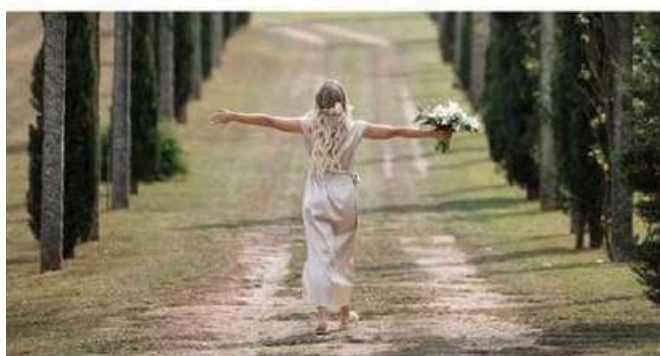
The magic of a unique destination for your big day



Portugal is becoming an increasingly popular setting for weddings. With its natural beauty, rich history and genuine hospitality, this country offers everything you could wish for an unforgettable day. The diversity of landscapes and the variety of cultural and gastronomic options make Portugal a dream destination for brides and grooms from all over the world. Discover why getting married in Portugal is much more than choosing a location: it is living a unique and authentic experience.

Enchanting landscapes for all tastes

Portugal offers a wide variety of landscapes: from the golden sandy beaches of the Algarve to the mountainous landscapes of the Douro, from the elegant estates of the Alentejo to charming historic cities such as Sintra and Porto. For those looking for a wedding by the sea, the coast offers idyllic options overlooking the Atlantic. If an intimate ceremony is what you desire, the farms and vineyards are perfect for capturing a romantic, country atmosphere.



The islands have also won the hearts of the bride and groom. Madeira, with its mild climate and lush vegetation, and the Azores, with its volcanic landscapes and stunning lagoons, are places that will transport any ceremony to an out-of-this-world setting. In addition, each region of Portugal has unique characteristics that allow for true customization, whether in rustic, contemporary or classic style.

Tradition and modernity: Venues for every style

Portugal is known for preserving its history, and getting married in historical monuments such as castles, monasteries or palaces is an accessible and charming dream. These venues offer elegance and a touch of majesty, with imposing halls and dreamy gardens. However, for the more modern bride and groom, Portugal also has daring venues such as museums and contemporary buildings with innovative architecture, ideal for a wedding with an urban and sophisticated touch.



The variety of options is accompanied by a growing infrastructure to support luxury events and weddings, with highly qualified planning, catering and decoration companies. It is increasingly easy to find vendors that combine creativity and professionalism, guaranteeing a personalized and seamless event.

Cuisine and wines of excellence

Portuguese cuisine is another aspect that makes weddings in Portugal so special. The Portuguese table is a complete sensory experience, where regional flavors are celebrated with authenticity. Fresh seafood, grilled meats, creative vegetarian dishes and a wide variety of desserts - such as the famous *pastel de nata* - are all part of the rich local cuisine that pleases every palate. For wine lovers, Portugal is a true paradise. The country has one of the largest grape varieties in the world, and Portuguese wine, whether a robust red from the Douro, a fresh green from the Minho region or a light rosé from the Alentejo, perfectly complements any celebration.

Favorable climate

Portugal is known for its mild climate throughout most of the year. From north to south, the country offers ideal conditions for outdoor celebrations. Spring and early autumn are especially popular, with pleasant temperatures and clear skies, allowing for outdoor ceremonies, photo shoots in natural settings and sunset dinners.

Portuguese welcome and hospitality

One of Portugal's greatest attractions is undoubtedly the hospitality of its people. The Portuguese are warm and welcoming and take great pleasure in welcoming those who arrive, which is reflected in every detail of the service. Getting married in Portugal is also to toast to the friendliness and authenticity of a country that values the art of hospitality.



Sustainable and eco-friendly weddings

One of Portugal's greatest attractions is undoubtedly the hospitality of its people. The Portuguese are warm and welcoming and take great pleasure in welcoming those who arrive, which is reflected in every detail of the service. Getting married in Portugal is also to toast to the friendliness and authenticity of a country that values the art of hospitality.

A complete experience: Honeymoon in Portugal

Beyond the ceremony, Portugal offers the perfect setting to complete the experience with an unforgettable honeymoon. From the tranquility of historic villages to the mountain adventure and nightlife of Lisbon and Porto, honeymooners can explore a multitude of destinations and create unique memories.

Practical tips for getting married in Portugal

Hire a wedding planner: a local wedding planner can help you take care of legal details, coordinate vendors and make sure everything runs smoothly.




Choose the season that best suits your wedding style: spring and autumn are ideal for outdoor weddings, while summer offers warm weather for those who want a wedding by the sea. Taste the local flavors: include in the menu typical dishes of the region chosen for the wedding; it will be an unforgettable experience for the guests.

Getting married in Portugal is much more than an event; it is a complete experience, where tradition, nature and hospitality come together to create a magical moment. The diversity of landscapes, rich gastronomy and mild climate make Portugal the ideal destination for those who want a special and significant wedding. Come and discover why Portugal is the perfect place to start your love story.

Paula Carvalho
Wedding Planner

The Planner Behind the Event





As I stand there, moments before the doors open and the first guest steps inside, a wave of anticipation washes over me. Months of meticulous planning, countless hours spent fine-tuning every detail, all converge in this singular moment. As a luxury event planner, this is the pinnacle—the culmination of passion, dedication, and an unwavering commitment to excellence. Guiding clients to trust in this vision carries an immense weight, where the pressure to transform dreams into reality is palpable, and every decision is critical.

The beginning is a crescendo of emotions, where excitement and anxiety dance hand in hand. I watch from the shadows, my heart pounding in rhythm with the music I carefully selected. Will the lighting reflect the ethereal glow I envisioned? Will the floral arrangements evoke the sense of wonder I intended? Every element, from the scent of the room to the taste of the hors d'oeuvres, is a reflection of my vision, and it must be perfect.

But perfection is a fickle companion. Hidden beneath the seamless execution are countless fires put out quietly—unseen crises like a sudden vendor mishap, a technical glitch, or a last-minute change that could unravel hours of work. My mind races, calculating solutions, pivoting gracefully to ensure that no one notices the cracks beneath the polished surface. This is the art of the unseen, where a composed smile masks the rapid problem-solving and a calm voice steadies the ship. It's in these moments that the weight of responsibility feels heaviest, yet it's also when I feel most alive, most purposeful.

As the event unfolds, I find myself slipping between roles—a conductor guiding an orchestra, a guardian of details, a silent observer. I am both everywhere and nowhere, ensuring that each guest experiences the magic without ever seeing the strings that pull it together. My joy comes not from the applause or the

accolades but from the quiet moments when I see the bride's eyes light up or hear the soft gasp of awe as guests enter the room. These are the moments that make every sleepless night, every moment of self-doubt, worth it.

Amidst this whirlwind, my heart swells with gratitude towards the myriad of vendors and partners who've become more than just collaborators—they're the unsung heroes behind the scenes. Their expertise, reliability, and dedication are pillars that uphold the complex architecture of each event. This success is not mine alone; it is a symphony of skilled hands and committed hearts, each contributing their best to the tapestry of the day.

There is a certain solitude in this role, a bittersweet recognition that while I create experiences for others, I am often on the outside looking in. I am the architect of memories, yet my own are marked by the fleeting seconds between checking timelines and smoothing out last-minute wrinkles. But in that solitude, I find peace, knowing that I have given something intangible yet invaluable—the gift of a moment suspended in time.

Even in the quiet that follows, when the last echoes of celebration recede and the grandeur of the night settles into serene silence, there is a profound sense of fulfillment. It's the deep, unwavering knowledge that, for a fleeting moment, I conjured something truly beautiful, something that touched lives and left an indelible mark on hearts. As I walk away from the now still hall, I make a silent vow to myself—that I will embrace this journey again and again. Because in every event, in every meticulously crafted detail, I leave a piece of my heart, a reflection of my very soul. And it is this truth that makes the journey, with all its soaring highs and inevitable lows, so profoundly rewarding.



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Invite with grace

Announce with professionalism.

With almost three decades of dedication to the design of social stationery, I can assure you that the bride and groom almost always state that invitations are very important in the wedding preparations. At the same time wedding planners consider them in many cases as an “outside” issue and do not include them as part of the “package”. I, the designer, am probably the most passionate about this whole process and I usually spread my enthusiasm to my bride and groom and why not to the wedding planners.

Designing in the field of love is a privilege, it is a way of life, it induces you to pour affection and passion into every stroke, every color, every texture. I often ask myself: How do I let the wedding planners know that my art, charged with passion, can trigger a sense of happiness, can give more thirst for beautiful things and can slow down some fears so natural in the months leading up to the wedding?



The fact that the invitation is made and sent before the wedding does not mean that it is detached from it, on the contrary, the invitation is an essential announcement of the couple's love and how special the wedding will be.



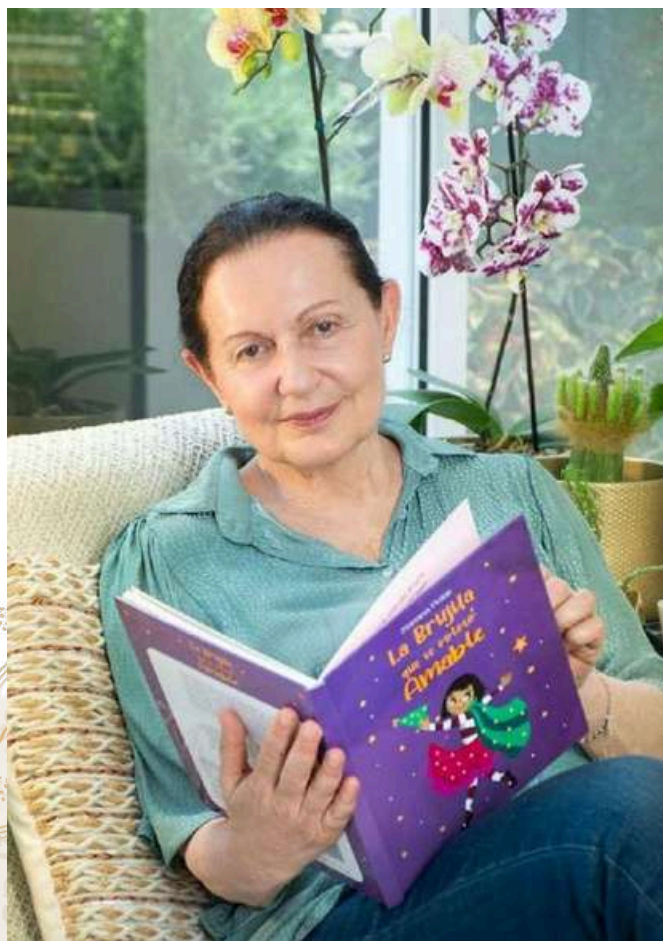
With so much information on social media, the bride and groom may choose references that do not fit into the overall wedding proposal and, on the other hand, I, as a designer, must keep in mind that not everything I love will be loved by the bride and groom. This is where the artist's creativity comes in, not only as a talent in design, but also as an interpreter of the couple's emotions.

As everything must be aligned, I research in advance and during the whole process the floral proposals, Pantone colors, table linens, furniture finishes, place settings, cake decoration, among others, thus avoiding setbacks in the branding issue. But, above all, I cannot forget at any time the essence of the feelings that are the basis and inspiration for every detail of the wedding.



It is ideal that the social stationery products created for the party (menu cards, table numbering, place cards, signage, among others) are made by the same professional who designs the invitation, thus achieving an emotional spectrum and an integrated graphic language. Personally, I also love to provide customized wireless luminaries that give a touch of magic to the spaces where they are placed.

As a work methodology in stationery, I recommend the virtual work table (WhatsApp group) that includes the designer, the wedding planner, the bride and groom and a coordinator; in the case of digital invitations and virtual reconfirmations, a programmer is added. In this way, everyone participates in real time in the progress of the work, mishaps or misunderstandings are avoided and the bride and groom will feel that they are in good hands.



In addition, the wedding planner participating in the group will have the opportunity to learn about the creativity and artistic talent in the stationery company, the quality, punctuality and the quality/price ratio.

Something unusual that I love to apply at Punto Celeste is to allow the bride and groom to enter the computer area and the craft workshops where there is no risk of accidents, thus offering them a unique experience. It's nice to see them excited and taking pictures.

My final recommendation is that the creator of invitations and social stationery should be trained in at least a basic wedding planner course, in order to better fulfill the function of inviting with grace, announcing with professionalism and offering attractive pieces that excite and delight the bride, groom and guests.

Mariana Pollak
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A photograph of two men in formal attire sitting on a large, weathered log outdoors. The man on the left is wearing a blue three-piece suit with a light blue shirt and a grey tie, and has a white boutonniere on his lapel. The man on the right is wearing a grey suit with a light blue shirt and a blue tie, also with a white boutonniere. They are both smiling and looking at each other. The background is filled with lush green foliage and trees.

*Egalitarian
Weddings in the
Dominican
Republic*

When we talk about weddings and marriages we usually tend to think that they refer to the same thing and this is not the case. The main difference between a wedding and a marriage is that a wedding is a ceremony or social event in which two people get married, while marriage is the legal status that is usually formalized through this type of event or ceremony.

A wedding can be a religious, civil or cultural ceremony. It is a public celebration in which the contracting parties exchange vows and promises in front of witnesses, and may include specific rituals and traditions, such as the exchange of rings, the reading of poems or religious texts, and the signing of a marriage contract or certificate.

On the other hand, marriage is a legal bond that recognizes the union of two people as spouses with long-term commitments; this legal union is performed before a judge, as it is a civil status recognized by the government and may have legal and financial implications, such as inheritance rights, tax benefits and shared legal responsibilities.

The concept of “egalitarian” is modern and refers to the people celebrating the



wedding or marriage being of the same sex or gender.

In the Dominican Republic, it is complicated to talk about egalitarian marriages, since until now this legal act can only be carried out between a man and a woman, leaving out the concept of “egalitarian”.

In a country where same-sex marriage is still not recognized, each egalitarian wedding becomes a symbol of love, resistance and hope.

So it was for Oscar & José who decided to celebrate their love in an intimate and emotional ceremony, surrounded by friends and family who supported their life commitment.

They met several years ago and since then their lives have been full of joy, shared growth and mutual support. Their decision to marry was both an act of love and conviction, a way to make equality visible in a country where many same-sex couples still face legal and social barriers.

The wedding was held at a beach hotel, where the bride and groom exchanged their vows surrounded by the natural landscape they chose as a symbol of their love.

There was elegant decoration, and the wedding reflected authenticity, respect, but above all, love.

The couple shared moments full of emotion and happiness with their loved ones, who cheered every word and gesture in an atmosphere of warmth and acceptance.

Oscar said: "THIS DAY IS A REMINDER THAT OUR LOVE DESERVES TO BE CELEBRATED, RECOGNIZED AND RESPECTED. EVEN THOUGH WE MAY NOT HAVE THE BACKING OF THE LAW, WE HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THOSE WHO REALLY MATTER IN OUR LIVES."

These words resonated with the guests, many of whom shared the excitement of seeing a couple face the world with courage and tenderness.

The ceremony was also an opportunity for family and friends to come together in support of the couple. For many, it was the first time they had attended an egalitarian wedding in the country, and the experience was deeply moving.

Oscar and Jose's wedding represents a step forward. More than a ceremony, it is a public declaration of love and an act of hope for those who dream of a future where everyone can marry and live without fear. Every egalitarian wedding helps to raise awareness, to make equality visible and to demonstrate that love does not need permissions or labels to be authentic.



Oscar & Jose's story shows us that love is a powerful force that always finds a way to flourish even when barriers persist.

Oscar & José shared this message for everyone present and for those who dream of a more inclusive world. "WE LOVE EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED US ON THIS JOURNEY, AND WE DREAM OF A DAY WHEN OUR WEDDING WILL NOT BE SEEN AS SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY, BUT AS SOMETHING NATURAL AND BEAUTIFUL. WE HOPE THAT SOON ALL DOMINICANS WILL BE ABLE TO MARRY THE PERSON THEY LOVE NO MATTER WHO IT IS".

This wedding was not only a special day for them, but also a symbol of change in the DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. Through their love and courage, they reminded everyone that love in all its forms is a transforming force.

Mirta Sánchez

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Avant-garde:

Between beauty and revolution



“Avant-garde”: a word resplendent in art, philosophy, design and literature. A movement that, with bold ideas and unconventional approaches, breaks the boundaries of the familiar and questions traditions. In art, it makes colors and shapes dance together, merging functionality and aesthetics in design. In philosophy, it encourages us to think beyond the obvious and to question social structures. And the same happens in literature, by breaking with the commonplace and opening up new narratives.

But what do avant-garde principles look like when it comes to wedding planning and scenic design? Is it about the planner's stylistic identity here? About the personality and DNA of the bride and groom, which materializes architecturally? Who influences whom? Which visions are implemented – those of the planner or those of the client?



In wedding planning there is a wide range of styles to be developed. At the extreme end of minimalism, for example, the famous interior designer Vincent van Duys embodies elegance and clarity. His designs are characterized by simple lines and a reduced color palette, conveying calm, silence and balance. A wedding concept following this approach could be staged with soft tones and clear shapes to create an atmosphere of serenity. Very coherent, and very contemporary.

Equally coherent and contemporary, but completely opposite, is maximalism, as represented by Alessandro Michele, the former creative director of Gucci and now Valentino. Pure opulence. Maximum exaggeration. A wedding in this spirit of maximalism might feature lush floral arrangements, vivid colors and extravagant tableware, generating a sense of abundance and celebration.

In times of eclecticism, where many styles flourish in parallel and have simultaneous validity, there is no right or wrong. There is not THE trend, THE method, THE way. The advantage of our age lies in the fact that our artistic freedom has no restrictive limits. Styles such as Boho-Chic, Japandi, Art-Deco, Modern Glam or Beach House, all have their reason for being, as long as they remain conceptually strong, coherent and careful in every detail of the planning.

The challenge always lies in orchestrating each element of a wedding so that it culminates in an emotional climax. Gertrude Stein said, “In a menu there must be a progression and a climax. Handle this with care. One will suffice.” Every detail - from the décor to the food selection to the music - should form a harmonious unit, translating the couple into a space, into a table decoration, into a total work of art that attracts and envelops the guests. A classic narrative, with prologue, development, climax and epilogue.



Iconic fashion figure Diana Vreeland always emphasized in her role as hostess: “You gotta have style, without style you are nothing”. This knowledge is particularly relevant to weddings, where the concept is the personal style of the couple, of the planner, and so the total experience is shaped. A total work of art, composed in all its aspects, speaking its own language, can transport, tell stories, create worlds and transform emotions into memories.

It requires creative sensitivity and, above all, courage for the planner to embrace the unexpected. To be the key to an avant-garde masterpiece - and avant-garde, literally translated, is to be the first of its kind, a beacon, an idol, the front rank that many will follow. It's about breaking the boundaries of what is possible and exploring new stylistic and conceptual territories. Everything is possible. The sky is not the limit, the mind is. We, the planners, the designers, the composers, want to create something that impresses, that fascinates. And that, in its uniqueness, is unforgettable. As unique as the couple itself.

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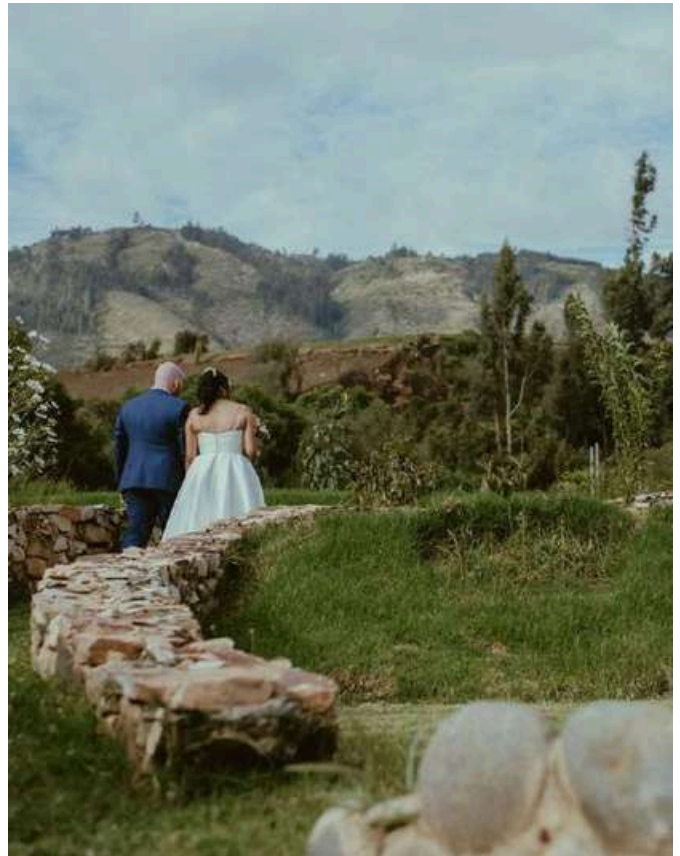
*A destination
Wedding in a
Remote Location in
Peru*



How beautiful it would be to wake up on your wedding day and the first thing you see through your window is the magnificent snow-capped Huascarán, the highest mountain in Peru.

Peru has so many incredible places where one can make unparalleled weddings and one of those destinations is Huaraz - Ancash, where we had the opportunity to make an intimate wedding. On this occasion Thomas (Australia) and Allison (Peru) were the protagonists of their big day, coincidentally they met on a dating app and soon Thomas wanted to meet Allison so he came to Peru, they toured several places, but Huaraz was the destination they fell in love with, they were really fascinated with the place. And when they made the decision to get married they did not hesitate to do it in their beautiful Huaraz.

You should know that Huaraz is one of the provinces that houses the Callejón de Huaylas located in the heart of Ancash, this



is a wide open Andean valley between two important mountain ranges: the Cordillera Blanca and the Cordillera Negra where the Santa River crosses the entire length of the Callejón.



The alley of Huaylas is a paradise on earth that houses all the landscapes of the world. You can't imagine the variety of natural areas it has. Whether you want your wedding next to the lagoon, the snow-capped mountains, the mountains or the river, this beautiful destination offers you all that and more.

I love the idea that we can reach more places with amazing attractions and not just encapsulate the usual destinations for your wedding. Remember that Peru has almost every climatic ecosystem; whether you want beach, jungle or mountains you have it at your fingertips.



For a destination wedding it is almost essential to create a web page or a document where you can place the recommendations that we could give to the guests so that they have a unique experience at the venue.

When it is a high altitude destination, you should tell them that they can arrive a few days earlier to acclimatize, drink coca tea and fully enjoy the place.



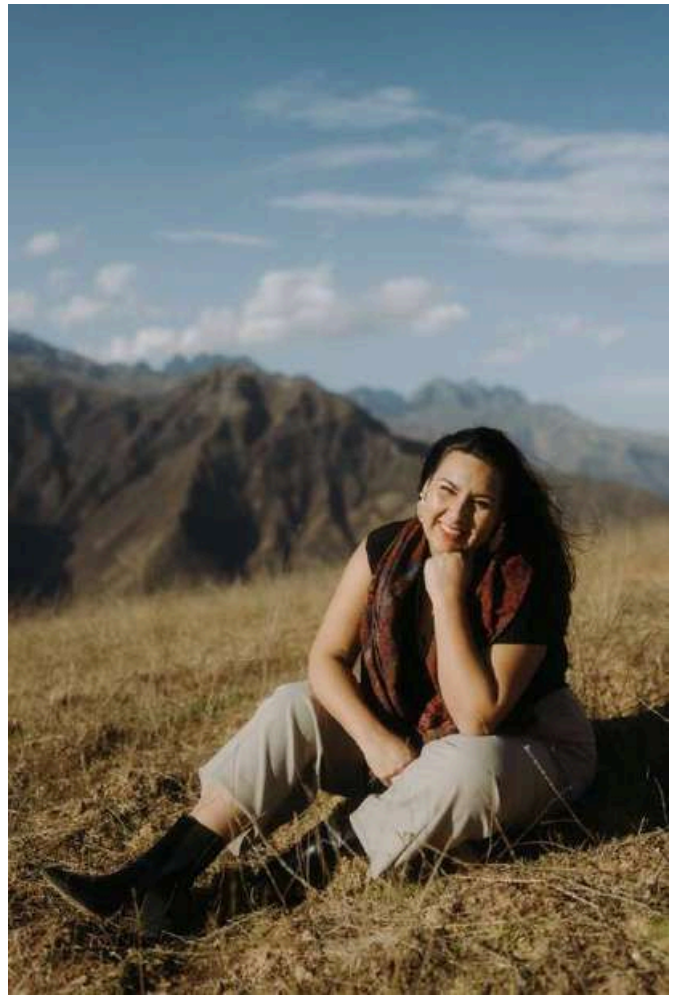
It should also be informed about the transportation facilities to reach the destination. In this specific case it can be by land being 8 hours the time from Lima to Huaraz and also by air, since in July of this year we had the pleasant news that the Anta Airport was inaugurated. It is located in the province of Carhuaz, province of Ancash, where thousands of Peruvians and foreigners will have the opportunity to arrive in only 45 minutes.

Here we can take the opportunity to promote a good culinary experience where the ingredients are harvested by the farmers themselves and brought to your wedding menu. Can you imagine having a *raspadillas* station and that the ice is from the Huascarán snow-capped mountain?

By having a destination wedding we can economically help many local vendors, from the food that you will eat in your wedding menu, souvenirs made by communities of the Callejón de Huaylas, travel agencies for your icebreaker or your post wedding, transportation (airport - venue - airport), hotels with special rates for your guests, among others.

The bride and groom who wish to have a destination wedding are the great ambassadors of their wedding and that makes it become not just another event, but an experience for their guests.

In these 8 years that I have been working as a destination wedding planner in Peru, it has been very exciting to travel around our country thanks to brides and grooms eager



to show their guests their roots, their customs and their homes.

Welcome to all the bride and groom who want to profess their love in our country, those who know that there are so many alternatives to make the experience of getting married more captivating and unforgettable. Because a marriage should be unique, two by two and with all the people you love. Because if you are a bride and groom and dream of a destination wedding, make more people also fall in love with Peru.

Jennifer Añanca Vasquez

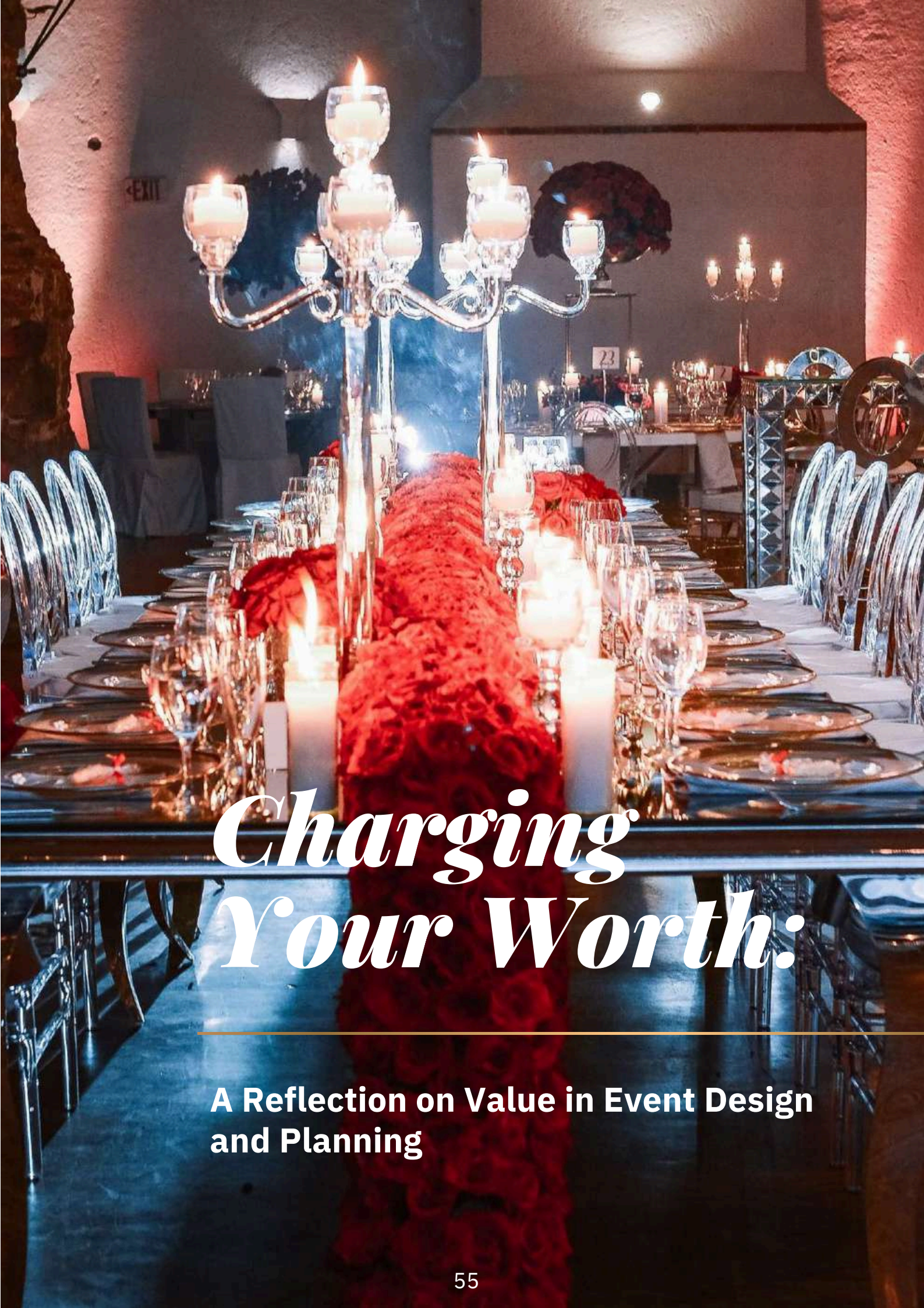
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Charging Your Worth:

**A Reflection on Value in Event Design
and Planning**

In the world of event design and planning, every detail, from the soft whisper of silk table runners to the precise timing of an entrance, speaks of artistry, responsibility, and dedication. As planners and designers, we are tasked with more than just creating beautiful moments—we carry the immense responsibility of transforming dreams into reality, all while ensuring that every detail unfolds flawlessly. But with such weight on our shoulders comes a crucial question: are we charging our worth?

The notion of worth in this field extends far beyond the cost of materials or the time spent on logistics. It is about valuing the unique expertise, creativity, and commitment that only you can bring. Every consultation, every timeline adjustment, and every last-minute solution reflects years of hard-earned experience. You're not just coordinating events; you're carrying the emotional and logistical burdens of ensuring everything runs seamlessly. Charging your worth is a recognition that your expertise and the responsibility you shoulder are invaluable.



We should guide clients to understand that they are not just paying for the final product or the visible details of the event; they are investing in your experience, your ability to foresee and solve problems, and your talent for managing the complexities of an event with ease. Behind the scenes, countless hours are spent crafting a seamless experience—from logistics, to vendor management, to orchestrating every tiny aspect of the event. The knowledge and skill required to carry such a weight is immense, and we should help clients appreciate the value of this expertise. It's not just about what they see on the day of the event; it's about everything they don't see—the preparations, the problem-solving, and the guarantee that their vision will come to life without a hitch. This is the true value of hiring a skilled designer or planner.

Charging your worth is not just a business decision—it's about setting a standard for yourself and the industry. It's a way of valuing the time, energy, and creativity that you pour into each project. When you charge fairly, you honor your journey, your expertise, and the trust your clients place in you.

To charge your worth is to honor the immense responsibility you carry and the countless hours of effort that go unseen but are deeply felt in every moment of your creation. It's about recognizing that what you offer is more than just a service—it's the ability to shoulder the weight of an event and deliver it with grace. By valuing yourself, you affirm that your skill is a gift, one that deserves respect. Embrace that, because you are worth it.

Diana Sciarrillo

Chapter Head Guatemala
I Do, Guatemala, by Diana Sciarrillo
@idoguatemala

A romantic dinner table setting featuring a large, lush floral centerpiece in a brass vase. The bouquet includes various flowers like roses, ranunculus, and hydrangeas in shades of pink, peach, and white. The table is set with white plates with gold trim, wine glasses, and lit candles in gold holders, creating a warm and intimate atmosphere.

*What do we mean
by floral design?*

Besides being a Wedding Planner and organizing every aspect of what will be the big day, I am also a floral designer and creator of decoration concepts for weddings.

When talking about flowers, we enter a universe as vast and enchanting as the bridal industry itself, with the advantage that our country, one of the largest exporters in the world, has been awarded with a nature, climate and fertile land suitable to provide us with an immense variety of flowers. This allows me to play with the floral design, explore an infinite number of options and present those that best suit the personality and style of each couple and each wedding.

This design plays a key role as part of the decoration and ambiance and it is here that we bring up a key term: personalization. By making use of all the possibilities we have at hand such as the wedding concept, colors, textures, even the venue, we will be able to create a design board for the wedding.



It is not only about making beautiful floral arrangements but also about transmitting through the composition, the essence of what this experience will be, so that the guests can see the bride and groom identified in each petal. For this, I choose to combine flowers and furniture with the decorative elements in order to create a visual aesthetic that generates harmony in the atmosphere and leaves everyone delighted.



And this is precisely one of the fundamental premises when it comes to creating a design board for the wedding: the harmony between all the aspects and details present. And there is no better way to achieve this than by listening to the brides; to know first hand how they have imagined this day, their desires, hopes and expectations and thus translate their dream.

The first step to create a decoration design is to establish a color palette for the wedding and this goes from the floral compositions to the lighting in the different spaces of the ceremony and reception.



Once we have chosen the main color or the range of tones we want for the wedding, we start playing with the different intensities and combinations that allow us a visual balance and a harmonious contrast for the decoration. Here comes into consideration the production and its lights, which will be the perfect complement to create a dream space.

Hand in hand with the style of the wedding and the color palette chosen, textures allow us to develop a complete concept of decoration and its harmony. Everything depends on the aesthetics of the wedding.



Rustic, wooden, natural fiber or organic furniture and decorative elements are ideal for country weddings or outdoor spaces where they will be in harmony with nature. While more processed textures such as glass, crystals and furniture with delicate fabrics are perfectly suited for weddings in hotels or halls.

In the end, what I look for is to give personality to the wedding and create an experience that everyone who will be part of this special day will fall in love with.

María Fernanda Sánchez

CEO Cali Colombia
@mariafernandasanchezo cial

A photograph of a modern, luxurious hotel suite. The room features a large window with dark wood frames and horizontal blinds, offering a panoramic view of a calm lake and distant mountains under a clear sky. In the foreground, a bed with white linens is partially visible on the left. To the right, there is a white armchair with a blue cushion. A ceiling fan with three blades is mounted on the white ceiling. The floor is made of dark wood. The overall atmosphere is serene and elegant.

*Luxury Suites to
Spend your
Honeymoon in
Costa Rica.*

Costa Rica, a tropical paradise known for its biodiversity and natural beauty, is also home to some of the most luxurious hotels in the world. If you are looking for an unforgettable experience, these suites offer not only exquisite accommodations, but also exceptional service and breathtaking views. Here are three of the best luxury hotel suites in Costa Rica.

Four Seasons Resort Costa Rica at Peninsula Papagayo

Located on the beautiful Papagayo Peninsula, the Four Seasons Resort is a true oasis of luxury. Its “Presidential” suite is a dazzling 400-square-meter space that combines elegance with comfort. With panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean, this suite features a large private terrace, Jacuzzi, and access to a private beach. Guests can enjoy personalized services such as a private chef and spa treatments in the comfort of their suite. The perfect blend of contemporary design and lush nature makes this an unparalleled experience for your wedding night.



The Springs Resort and Spa

Located on the Arenal Volcano, The Springs Resort and Spa offers the “Royal Suite”, which redefines the concept of luxury. This two-level suite features a private pool and a terrace with spectacular views of the mountains and volcano. With an elegant design and décor that highlights Costa Rican culture, the Royal Suite also offers access to all of the hotel's facilities, including its famous hot springs. This resort is ideal for those seeking a combination of romance, adventure and relaxation in a breathtaking setting.





Andaz Costa Rica Resort at Peninsula Papagayo

Another gem on the Papagayo Peninsula, the Andaz Papagayo is known for its contemporary style and focus on sustainability. Its “Ocean View” suite is a masterpiece of modern design, with large windows offering views of the ocean and surrounding lush jungle. The suite includes a private balcony, a spacious living area and a luxurious bathroom with an open-air shower. In addition, the Andaz offers unique experiences, such as Costa Rican cooking classes and nature hikes, allowing lovers to fully immerse themselves in the local culture.



Costa Rica is not only famous for its natural beauty, but also for offering luxury honeymoon accommodations that exceed all expectations. Whether you choose the Four Seasons with its coastal splendor, the majestic Royal Suite at The Springs or the modern style of the Andaz, each of these hotels guarantees a dreamy experience. Immerse yourself in the warmth of Costa Rican hospitality and enjoy an unforgettable honeymoon in the heart of Central American Switzerland.

MSc. Jeffrey Cervantes Calderón

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A photograph of Princess Margaret of England seated in an ornate, gold-colored chair. She is wearing a white, long-sleeved wedding dress with a full, tiered skirt and a long, flowing veil. She is holding a bouquet of white flowers. The background features a wall with gold-colored decorative panels and a framed picture. The overall lighting is warm and golden.

The Wedding Dress of Princess Margaret of England

Iconic wedding dresses

An Icon of Royal Fashion

On 6 May 1960, Princess Margaret of England married Antony Armstrong-Jones in a ceremony that was memorable not only for its romance, but also for the stunning wedding dress that became a symbol of style and sophistication in bridal fashion at the time. This unique design, created by renowned British couturier Norman Hartnell, marked a turning point in the standards of royal elegance and has remained one of the most remembered and revered wedding dresses in history.

A Norman Hartnell Design

Norman Hartnell, known as the favorite designer of the British royal family, was chosen to make Margaret's dress. Hartnell was already famous for his ability to create gowns with a perfect balance between royal tradition and modernity. He had designed Queen Elizabeth II's coronation gown, and this time, with Margaret, he faced a new



challenge: to create a gown that reflected the sophistication and independent character of the princess, without losing the classic elegance associated with royalty.



Fabrics and Dressmaking

Margaret's dress was made in pure silk organza, a light and ethereal material that helped create a striking and subtle visual effect. The simplicity of the silhouette and the impeccable cut gave it an air of modernity that contrasted with the more loaded wedding dresses of the time. Margaret opted for a design that broke with tradition: the lack of embellishments on the dress, such as embroidery or lace, was unusual for royal gowns, which tended to include intricate detailing. However, this calculated simplicity helped make the dress look even more sophisticated and highlighted the princess's slim figure.

The dress featured an A-line skirt that fell elegantly, striking a perfect balance between structure and fluidity. The top, with a subtle boat neckline, accentuated the princess neckline, while the long sleeves lent a touch of formality that was ideal for a royal wedding. The lightness of the silk organza allowed for a delicate, almost ethereal movement that made the dress appear to float as Margaret walked down the aisle.

Accessories and Styling

To complete her bridal look, Princess Margaret wore a diamond tiara called the “Poltimore Tiara,” a Victorian-era piece of jewelry that belonged to the Poltimore family before she acquired it in 1959. This tiara, floral and majestic in design, added a touch of sparkle that complemented the minimalism of the gown, striking a perfect balance between refinement and glamour.



Impact on Bridal Fashion

Princess Margaret's wedding dress made a huge impact on bridal fashion, inspiring many brides to opt for simpler, more elegant styles, leaving aside excessive embellishments. Her dress represented a change in fashion at the time, anticipating the trend of minimalist fashion that became popular in the following decades. Princess Margaret, with her sense of style and independent character, became a fashion icon, and her choice of a dress so simple, yet full of class and personality, gave her a timeless status in the history of iconic wedding dresses.

In short, Princess Margaret's wedding dress was not only a masterpiece of Norman Hartnell's design, but also a style statement that broke barriers and continues to be a benchmark for the world of bridal fashion. Through her gown, Princess Margaret left a lasting mark on fashion and royal history, reminding us that true elegance lies in simplicity and perfectly calculated details.

Adrián Pavía

Director Capitulo Sudamerica
IADWP

The Importance of Venue Inspection

Ensuring the wedding of your dreams.





For many couples, their wedding day is one of the most important days of their lives. Everything must be perfect, from the decor to the ambiance. A key step to achieve this is the inspection of the wedding venue, a step that helps to avoid unforeseen events and ensure that every detail is covered.

Why Inspection is Crucial for Brides and Grooms

Imagine that on your wedding day you discover that the hall doesn't have enough electrical hookups for the dance floor, or that the garden for the ceremony is steeper than expected. An advance visit allows the bride and groom to get to know the space and visualize every moment, such as the triumphal entrance, the head table or the flow of guests. This gives peace of mind, as it ensures that every detail has been planned.



Vendors and Site Inspection: A Key to Success

For vendors, knowing the venue is essential. From the florist to the DJ, each has specific needs, such as loading and unloading access, electrical points and site regulations. A caterer, for example, can identify suitable areas to store food, while the DJ can evaluate acoustics. This knowledge allows caterers to anticipate challenges and tailor their services for a smooth wedding.





Group inspection: Working as a team

It is ideal for the bride and groom and suppliers to carry out a joint inspection, since it allows them to align expectations and resolve doubts. During this visit, important aspects such as the location of the altar or the distribution of spaces for guests to move comfortably can be determined. In addition, vendors can advise the bride and groom on adjustments to improve the event, taking advantage of their previous experience at the venue.

Preventing Problems and Anticipating Solutions

The inspection is not only to imagine the décor, but also to anticipate problems. If the reception is in a garden, is there a plan B in case of rain? Is there enough space in the parking lot? Does the venue have access for people with reduced mobility? These details are better identified by being physically on site, helping to avoid unforeseen events. The visit also allows you to adjust times and schedules according to the characteristics of the venue, such as distances between the ceremony and the reception.



Conclusion: A Step Not to Be Skipped

The site inspection is essential for both the bride and groom and the vendors. It not only allows them to visualize the final result, but also to foresee problems and ensure that everything is in place. Knowing the venue well will provide peace of mind that the big day will be just as you always dreamed it would be.

If you are planning a wedding or are a vendor, be sure to spend time on this inspection. It's a small step that can make the difference between a good wedding and an unforgettable one. The magic starts with the planning, and every detail counts!

Rosemary R. Ramsay de Mendoza

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Gloria Trevejos Boutique

Dressing unique moments for our grooms



When we talk about weddings, we usually imagine the beauty of the bride's dress, the floral arrangements and every detail surrounding the big day. However, at Gloria Trevejos Boutique, we are also passionate about an equally important and often less mentioned aspect: the groom's suit. Our commitment is that every man, together with his partner, finds his perfect style to walk down the aisle, not only with elegance, but also with full confidence.

The role of the groom.

At our boutique, we understand that today's grooms are looking for more than just a suit: they want to reflect their personality, confidence and the excitement of their big day in every seam. That's why we pride ourselves on offering a personalized and detailed experience that ensures each suit is more than a choice of attire; it's an extension of each groom's unique style. From classic black or navy suits to options in lighter shades or with modern touches, we know that the right suit is key to making the groom feel special and, most importantly, himself.



Expert advice for the ideal look

Our experience in the selection and advice of suits not only makes us a boutique, but also an accomplice of the groom on his way to the altar. We have a team dedicated to listen to the ideas and preferences of each groom. Based on their vision and type of wedding, our consultants guide them to find the style that best suits the occasion and harmonizes with the overall look of the celebration. We know that the experience of choosing the suit is one of the most anticipated, and we make sure that every moment in our boutique is pleasant, relaxed and personalized.

Buy or rent: Flexibility tailored to the groom.

One of the aspects that makes Gloria Trevejos Boutique unique is our flexibility in purchase or rental options. We understand that, for some grooms, the suit is a souvenir they wish to keep, while others prefer to rent to opt for high quality and current designs.

This versatility is a key element that allows us to meet different needs without compromising quality or style. Every suit, whether purchased or rented, goes through a careful fitting process so that it looks perfect and feels tailor-made.

The importance of details and personalized service

For us, every element of the suit has a story and a purpose. From the fit of the shoulders to the choice of tie, we focus on every detail so that the final result reflects quality and elegance. In addition, our consultants are trained to guide the groom in the selection of accessories, such as mancorns, handkerchiefs and footwear, to perfectly complement his attire. Because we understand that the groom's suit is part of an integral vision, uniting the style, the theme of the wedding and the personality of the wearer.



The Trevejos commitment: to dress the groom in his best version.

The passion for dressing our groom is the pillar of Gloria Trevejos Boutique. We believe that the groom also deserves his special moment, and our commitment is to make the choice of his suit a memorable experience. At every fitting and every adjustment, we celebrate with him, the path to his big day, making sure he looks and feels extraordinary next to his partner. Most important is the love and passion we put into every detail.

Every outfit, every consultation and every encounter in our store reflects our commitment and enthusiasm for aesthetics and elegance. We are a passionate team that lives and breathes style, and our greatest satisfaction is to see our grooms enjoy that perfect reflection of their essence on the most important day of their lives. Because, in the end, dressing dreams and celebrating love is what drives us and fills us with joy every day.

Gloria Trevejos

Instagram: @gloria_trevejos



LAT Wedding Congress

**An unforgettable tour of the
LATCongress in León, Guanajuato**

This past July, I had the privilege of immersing myself in the vibrant world of weddings and spectacular events at the Latin American Congress of Weddings and Spectacular Events, organized by the IADWP. The setting chosen for this dream event was the Poliforum in Leon, Guanajuato, Mexico, a city known for its cultural charm and human warmth.

From the moment I entered the Poliforum, I was impressed by the palpable energy that filled the atmosphere. Professionals from all corners of Latin America gathered to share their knowledge, experiences and the latest trends in the event industry. For someone like me, passionate about event organization and design, this congress represented a unique opportunity to learn from the best and expand my network of contacts.



The conference program was as varied as it was inspiring. From keynote lectures with international experts to hands-on workshops on event planning and floral design, each session offered new ideas and perspectives that transformed my approach to my work. One of the most enriching experiences was being able to witness live demonstrations of wedding set-ups and themed decorations that challenged the limits of creativity.



But beyond the technical skills and knowledge acquired, what struck me most was the community that was formed among the attendees. In this congress, not only techniques and business strategies are shared, but also personal and professional bonds are created that I am sure will last long after the lights of the Poliforum are turned off.

In addition to the educational sessions, the LAT Congress offered unique opportunities to explore the latest innovations in event products and services. From exquisitely designed wedding gowns to cutting-edge event management technology, each exhibitor brought their own spark of creativity and excellence.



As I reflect on my experience at the LAT Congress, I feel deeply inspired and motivated. Not only have I returned with fresh and practical ideas to implement in my future projects, but also with a renewed passion for this dynamic and exciting industry.

In short, the Latin American Congress of Weddings and Spectacular Events not only met, but exceeded all my expectations. If you ever have the opportunity to attend, I encourage you not to pass it up. Not only will you expand your professional horizons, but you will also immerse yourself in an experience that will transform your vision of what is possible in the world of events.


***Cristiam de Jesús
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The Aftermath:

**A Symphony of Emotion Following a
Luxury Event**





As the final notes of the evening fade into memory and the last guest slips away into the night, an almost palpable stillness settles over the space that only hours before was alive with laughter, music, and the soft clink of crystal. The aftermath of a major luxury event is a unique blend of emotions—one that lingers, much like the lingering scent of roses in the air.

In those quiet moments, there's a profound sense of accomplishment. The months of meticulous planning, the tireless attention to detail, and the countless decisions made in pursuit of perfection culminate in something more than just a beautiful event. They give birth to an experience, a story written in the hearts of all who attended. The adrenaline that fueled every moment of the day begins to ebb, replaced by a gentle, satisfying exhaustion. It's the kind of tiredness that wraps around you like a soft blanket, signaling that you've given your all and that it was more than enough.

The rush of the event itself, with its whirlwind of emotions, becomes a blur of vivid memories—the radiant smile of a bride as she takes her first dance, the awe in a guest's eyes as they step into a transformed space that feels like a dream. There's a sweet poignancy in knowing that these moments, though fleeting, were captured in time, not just by photographers but by the very souls who experienced them.



The exhaustion that follows is not just physical but emotional. The endless days of planning, the late nights spent perfecting every detail, the weight of countless decisions—it all takes its toll. Yet, amid the fatigue, there's an undeniable sense of accomplishment. You sit back and realize that every challenge, every moment of doubt, has led to something extraordinary. The event you envisioned, designed, and brought to life has been fulfilled in the most beautiful way. And in that realization, feelings of pride inevitably arise. It's a quiet pride, one that fills your heart as you reflect on the journey from concept to reality.


In the aftermath, there's a quiet joy in the simplicity of the now-emptied room. It's in the silence where the echoes of laughter still faintly linger. It's in the remnants of candlelight flickering gently as if bidding farewell to a night that will be cherished forever. There's a beauty in the aftermath that often goes unnoticed—the beauty of completion, of fulfillment, of dreams brought to life and then gently laid to rest.

But perhaps the most heartwarming part of the aftermath is the connections forged in those shared moments. The bonds that were strengthened, the friendships that blossomed, and the love that was celebrated—all of these live on long after the last champagne flute has been set down. In the end, it's not just about the luxury or the grandiosity; it's about the human experience—the joy, the love, the togetherness—that luxury events so beautifully encapsulate.

And as you finally exhale, you realize that the real magic of these events lies not just in their flawless execution but in the way they touch the hearts of all involved. The aftermath is a reminder that in the world of luxury events, it's the memories that matter most. They are the true legacy of every celebration, whispering stories of joy and triumph long after the lights have dimmed.

Diana Sciarrillo

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I Do, Guatemala, by Diana Sciarrillo
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Photographing Weddings in Chilean Patagonia

By Caro Hepp, Puerto Varas - Chile



By definition, a destination wedding occurs when the bride and groom decide to get married in a location other than where they live, which involves moving them, their guests and all the logistics to that destination. So, is it enough to be present at that location to be a destination wedding photographer?

I'm Caro Hepp, destination wedding photographer, and with my experience I can answer: definitely not! In this article, I will tell you what it means to be a destination wedding photographer in Chilean Patagonia.

I have lived in Puerto Varas, Región de Los Lagos, since 2015, and here I have photographed more than 150 destination weddings. When I started, the term "destination wedding" wasn't even used; it was simply a wedding in nature. Without realizing it, I started attracting brides and grooms looking for a natural setting because of the images I shared. That's how I became a destination wedding photographer.



Throughout my experience, I have found that people choose a destination primarily for two reasons: because the place is beautiful or because they have an emotional attachment to it, or both. The first thing I do is discover that bond and get to know the couple, who tend to be nature and outdoor lovers and have an adventurous personality.

However, many couples do not have a thorough knowledge of the destination where they plan to get married. Here it is essential that a destination wedding photographer knows, understands and manages the natural light and climate of the area. Chilean Patagonia is a challenge: weddings here are long and photographers often start early to take advantage of the light and environment, which means being ready to shoot in different weather conditions in a matter of minutes.



In addition, the southern weather is changeable and requires flexibility both in planning and in the attitude of the bride, groom and vendors. Since living in Puerto Varas, I have learned to “embrace the weather”, going through sun, rain, hail and rainbows in the same day. For a wedding, this means having alternative plans and an open attitude.

Another important element is the visual essence of these weddings: exploiting the beauty of the location and the nature surrounding the bride and groom. My approach, perhaps influenced by my experience as an athlete, is to be an “all terrain” photographer, ready to walk, climb or even enter the water to capture the best image. I work alone, always looking for spontaneous photos and avoiding highly staged poses. The best shots often emerge in those unforeseen moments.

My personality and energy also play a key role, giving me the confidence to organize and lead groups, and even to adjust the program when the landscape gives us something special, such as a sunset or a rainbow. Thus, I can convince brides, grooms and wedding planners to take advantage of those unique moments to create unforgettable memories.

A couple's session should be more than posing; it's about creating an intimate space where the bride and groom can forget about



the camera and live a special and authentic moment. I seek to capture real laughter and looks of love, and that requires experience and empathy.

That's what it means to be a destination wedding photographer. That's me, Caro Hepp: passionate, versatile, with tireless creativity, always looking for the perfect shot. My style is a mix of documentary and subtle direction, and my editing is all about natural colors and clean aesthetics. With over 30 years of experience, and 10 years in weddings, I am honored to have awards such as the Fearless Award and the Wedding Award (2020- 2024). Currently Top #5 Chile ProWed. Top #10 Chile Mywed.

My next amazing destination: Easter Island in May 2025. My dream destinations: Torres del Paine, Coyhaique, Elqui Valley, San Pedro de Atacama and the Caribbean beaches.

I encourage all brides and grooms to choose a wedding destination and work with local vendors who understand how to get the most out of that location. Don't skimp on choosing a good photographer: your memories are priceless and will be the only thing that will keep your big day alive.

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The art of tablescaping

There's something magical about the details. In the world of luxury events, where every element counts, tablescaping has become one of the most powerful ways to tell the bride and groom's story. It's not just a well-assembled table; it's the creation of an environment that invites connection, where every piece -from the furniture to the most finest accessories- plays its part in a visual and sensory symphony.



I had the opportunity to talk with Karin Andrea Odoñer, from Tablescape, and Otto Recinos, from Fileas, two professionals passionate about bringing these stories to life through their art. What excited me the most was to realize that we share the same vision: every wedding should be unique, reflecting the personality and dreams of the bride and groom, while creating an experience that guests will not forget.

What moments do they want their guests to remember forever? After capturing that essence, my mind begins to design a global vision, where every detail comes to life in harmony. And this is where the real magic begins: by sharing that vision with experts like Karin and Otto, together we transform every idea into a tangible reality.

As a planner, my job starts with a thorough understanding of what the bride and groom want to convey on their big day. As a planner, my job begins with a thorough understanding of what the bride and groom want to convey on their big day. What emotions do they want to evoke?

Furniture is one of the first key elements we select. It's not just about choosing chairs and tables; it's about finding pieces that connect with the style of the wedding and, at the same time, create a cozy atmosphere. Once this is defined, we work closely with our tableware and accessories suppliers, such as Karin Andrea Odoñer, to select the elements that will take the design to the next level.



“Accessories are much more than just decorative details,” Karin explained to me. “They are the finishing touches that bring the table to life, adding texture, color and character. From base plates to goblets to candles, each piece is meant to create a unique visual and sensory experience.”

And that's precisely what makes tablescaping so special: attention to detail. The careful choice of colors and textures not only complements the furnishings but brings a perfect balance.

Karin explained it brilliantly, “The key is harmony. Each accessory should have its own space on the table, not competing with the other elements, but complementing them.”

Then, with the design well underway, I was thrilled to share that vision with Otto Recinos. Talking with him was an eye-opening experience, as we both share a deep passion for creating tables that are not only visually stunning, but also tell a story. Otto has a unique talent for transforming each table into a small play:

“Every element on the table has a role to play, and my job is to make sure all those elements work together in perfect harmony,” he told me. “Flowers, candles, textiles, everything must be in balance, with no single detail stealing the spotlight.”

Together we visualize each wedding as a symphony where the planner is the conductor, and each vendor brings their own instrument to make it all flow. A prime example of this collaboration was a recent wedding where, with rustic chic furnishings, we added vibrant tableware that added a fresh, modern touch. Local details and small personalized touches made each guest feel part of something very special.



What excites me most about this process is how each element has the power to tell a story. Otto describes it best: “Tablescaping is like an orchestra. If every instrument plays in harmony, the result is an unforgettable experience for everyone.”

In the end, what really makes a wedding stand out are those little personalized details. Karin was clear when she said, “Little touches, like place cards or unique napkin rings, make guests feel like everything has been thought of especially for them.” And that's what really makes a wedding stick in the memory of the guests.

Tablescaping, then, is not just the decoration of a table. It is the heart of the celebration. It's what unites guests around a common experience, creating an environment where emotions, stories and details come to life. And when everything flows in harmony, from the furniture to the last accessory, the wedding becomes something more: it becomes an indelible memory.



Diana Sciarrillo

Chapter Head Guatemala
@idoguatemala

Karin Codoñer

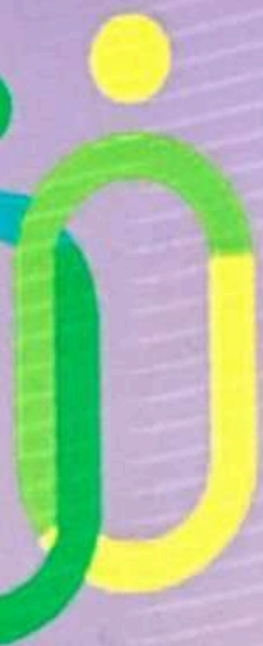
@tablescapegt

Otto Recinos

@fileasgt

IADWP present at the MICE Industry Congress

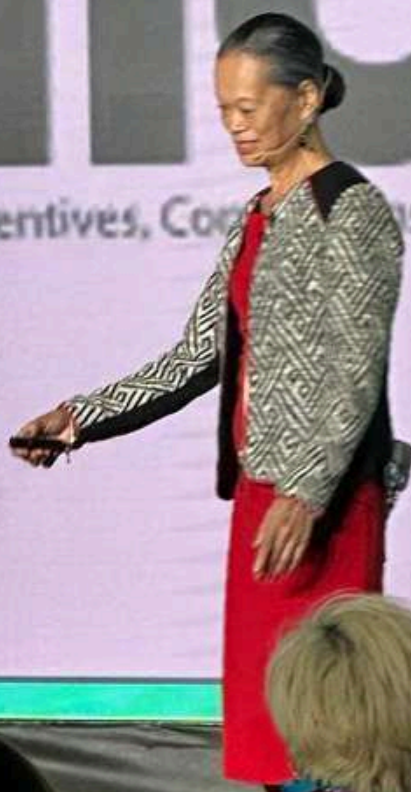
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Congreso de la Industria

MICE

Meetings, Incentives, Conventions and Exhibitions



IADW

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Last October, IADWP had the honor of participating in the IV edition of the MICE CONGRESS, organized by FENALCO (National Federation of Colombian Businessmen). This great event brought together more than 400 businessmen from the meetings industry and for the first time, IADWP had the opportunity to share with them the importance of the destination wedding segment for the various tourist destinations in Colombia.



According to studies conducted by the Business Research Company, the destination wedding industry is expected to exceed \$106 billion worldwide in the next three years. For this reason, IADWP wanted to highlight its relevance to meeting industry players, including hoteliers, travel agents, event planners, technology and media companies, among others.

Undoubtedly, destinations in Colombia such as Cartagena, already figure as an important option for couples, especially millennials who are looking for that unique experience for them and their guests in their big celebration of life. During April 2024, IADWP organized the World Romance TravelConference in the city of Cartagena, which brought together a select group of travel agents and wedding planners from the USA, Canada and other Latin American countries.





For professional destination wedding planners, it is of utmost importance to be considered in the business world within the meetings industry and to be able to make high-level connections with other professionals involved. It has been proven that each destination wedding generates a value chain where at least 15 to 20 business people of various types participate in the event, generating a significant economic benefit for them and the communities to which they belong.

FENALCO is the leading guild of Colombian businessmen and is recognized for the great contribution it has made to the development and welfare of its members, who today number almost 20,000. Throughout almost 80 years of existence, FENALCO has been a leader in technological and market transformation. With national and international support, it generates greater competitiveness every day for its affiliated businessmen.

Ana M. Gon

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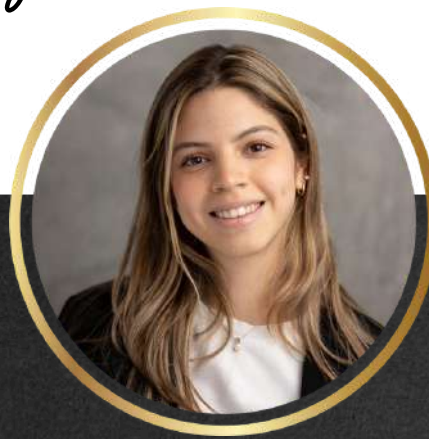


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Diana Martínez

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We are thrilled to announce that our chapters in South America continue to grow!
Meet our **IADWP Costa Rica!**



Jeffrey Cervantes Calderón

CHAPTER HEAD COSTA RICA

@crweddingplanner

Costa Rica Wedding and Event Planner

Jeffrey Cervantes Calderón is the director of Costa Rica Wedding and Event Planner, with more than 12 years of experience in the wedding and event industry. He has a Master's Degree in Event Management and Wedding Planning, with a degree in Hotel and Tourism Administration in Costa Rica. After interning at Walt Disney World Resort and working in hospitality for over six years, he founded Costa Rica Wedding and Event Planner in 2016. Since 2017, the company organizes destination weddings in countries such as Mexico, Colombia, Panama and El Salvador, specializing in Wedding Planner, Wedding Concierge and Bridal Assistant services.

JUNIOR CHAPTER HEAD



Adriana Ballesteros

JUNIOR CHAPTER HEAD COSTA RICA

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Royal Eventos CR

Royal Eventos CR is a company that organizes both social and corporate events, we have 10 years in the market. I am a certified international Wedding Planner and I have business protocol. We make any event a unique experience.

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Brenda O'Neale

With this ring destination weddings and honeymoons
Regional Chapter Head of English-Speaking Caribbean Islands



Brenda O'Neale, owner of With This Ring Destination Wedding and Honeymoon Travel Agency, has 28 years of wedding and romantic travel experience. Recognized by resort chains and publications, she was named one of the 40 leading women in travel in 2020. She contributes to MarryCaribbean.com and mentors agents specializing in romance.



Nicole Lawrence

Travel With Great Company



As a certified travel advisor in Houston, Texas, I've spent over 12 incredible years planning unforgettable family celebration trips to all-inclusive resorts and cruise ships worldwide. Now, I'm thrilled to dive into the world of destination weddings and honeymoons. In the past couple of years, I've dedicated myself to helping awesome couples navigate the journey to their dream wedding. My goal? To make every step of the planning process as stress-free and joyful as possible, ensure every couple thoroughly enjoys their engagement period and big day.



Haydee Martinez

Marlo Event & Wedding Planners



Marlo Event & Wedding Planners is a wedding and special event planning company operating in Mexico. Our team of talented event specialists boasts over ten years of professional experience and has earned a number of certifications internationally.

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