

The Official
Magazine
of the IADWP

ÉPICA

WEDDINGS & EVENTS

Number 26
February
2026



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ÉPICA
WEDDINGS & EVENTS



Editor's Note

February 2026 | By Adrián Pavía

Director of ÉPICA | Director of the IADWPLatin America and Spanish-Speaking Caribbean Islands Chapter

There are figures that do not fit on a spreadsheet. There are impacts that are not measured with graphs. And there are decisions—like choosing a destination to get married—that transform entire territories without us often being fully aware of their scope. Destination weddings have become one of the quietest yet most powerful engines of the romance economy. Every couple that travels with their guests mobilizes hotels, flights, restaurants, florists, musicians, designers, photographers, guides, and a myriad of small local actors who find a real opportunity for growth in that event. A destination wedding does not last just one day: its impact ripples for weeks, sometimes months, through an entire community. And when that destination consolidates, the impact becomes sustained, professional, and transformative. What for the couple is a dream, for the market is development, employment, and international visibility.

Today we are living in a fascinating moment: traditional destinations continue to shine—because classic beauty never goes out of style—but at the same time, new settings are appearing that no one previously imagined as places to say "I do". Small towns, rural regions, mountains,

deserts, jungles, virgin coasts, and secondary cities are suddenly becoming protagonists. Why? Because couples are no longer looking for just a postcard: they seek authentic experiences, their own narratives, and places that speak about them and not just what everyone else has done before.

Developing these unknown markets is a massive opportunity, but also a responsibility. It requires training, professionalism, respect for local identity, and a long-term vision. It is not about invading, but about integrating. Not about copying, but about creating. And that is where the romance industry demonstrates its maturity.

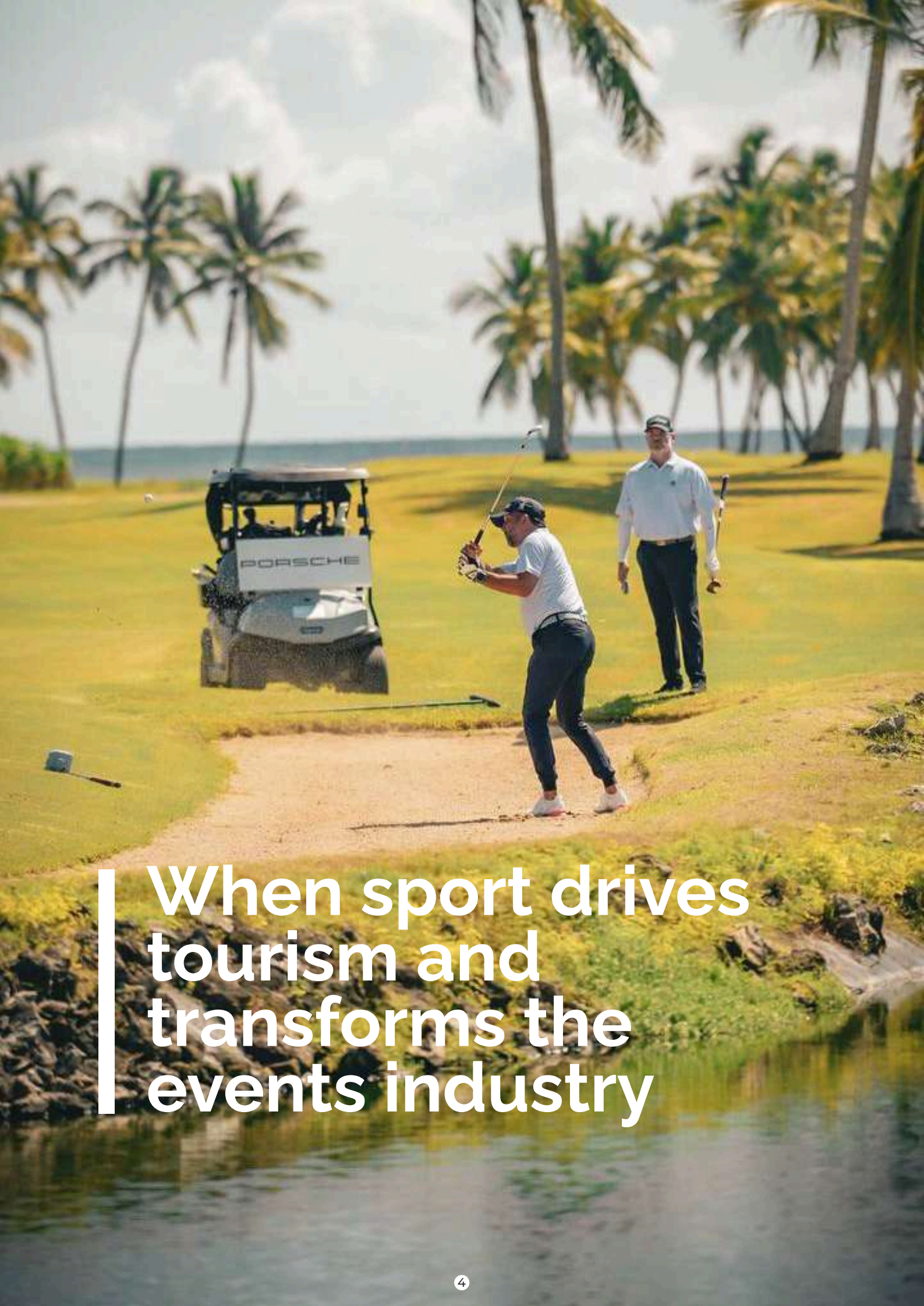
To those of us working in this universe—planners, designers, photographers, hoteliers, chefs, florists, producers, creatives—I want to say something with absolute clarity: it has never been as challenging or as exciting as it is now. We live in times of change, technology, speed, and extremely high demands. But we also live in the era of creative freedom, of dreams without borders, of projects that are born in a call and materialize in a corner of the world. Let us keep moving forward. Let us not lower our arms. Let us not stop dreaming. Because every event we hold, every wedding we design, every story we accompany, has a real impact on the lives of people and on the economy of the destinations we touch.

If I may close with a personal reflection: 2024 and 2025 were years of profound construction. ÉPICA grew, consolidated, and became a community, a platform, a voice, and a mirror of an industry that needed to see itself reflected with respect and beauty. We launched memorable editions, traversed Latin America, strengthened bonds, gave space to new voices, and confirmed that the magazine is no longer a project: it is an editorial institution of romance. For 2026, my wish is clear: more quality, more training, more destinations, more stories, and more unity. Because when the industry grows together, there is no border that can stop it.

We continue writing history. And the best, believe me, is still to come.


Adrián Pavía

Director of ÉPICA | Director of the IADWP Latin America and Spanish-Speaking Caribbean Islands Chapter
Founder and Editorial Director - ÉPICA Magazine



When sport drives
tourism and
transforms the
events industry

For decades, the Dominican Republic has been recognized for its leadership in sun and beach tourism. Today, that narrative is evolving. The country is consolidating itself as one of the strongest emerging poles of sports tourism in the Caribbean thanks to an international events calendar, new infrastructure, and an increasingly professionalized events industry.

Sport has ceased to be a complement and has become a strategic engine for tourist, economic, and creative development.

Tourism that arrives for sport and stays for the experience

Major sporting events generate a different type of visitor: longer stays, higher average spending, and trips planned outside the traditional high season. Athletes, technical teams, families, media, sponsors, and international fans activate hotels, transportation, gastronomy, cultural experiences, and specialized services.

Events like the Santo Domingo 2026 Central American and Caribbean Games represent thousands of additional hotel nights and a cross-cutting occupancy that benefits both the capital and nearby tourist centers. It is not just a sporting event: it is a country-wide operation that mobilizes entire sectors for weeks.

In destinations like Punta Cana, the Corales Puntacana Championship, part of the PGA Tour, attracts a high-purchasing-power visitor profile, positioning the Dominican Republic in premium markets where sport is synonymous with exclusivity, lifestyle, and international networking.

In addition to the major international sporting milestones, the MITRE Tournament has consolidated itself as one of the most anticipated golf events on the Dominican calendar, attracting fans, amateur players, and business leaders to a high-profile sporting experience.





A global showcase that redefines the country brand

Each international event functions as a real-time promotion campaign. Television broadcasts, digital coverage, social media, and the presence of foreign press project images of the country associated with organization, safety, modernity, and hospitality.

At the International Tourism Fair (FITUR 2026), held in Madrid, the Minister of Tourism, David Collado, reinforced this vision by presenting the Dominican Republic as a destination that evolves beyond traditional sun and beach. In his speech, he highlighted sports tourism as a structural pillar of tourism diversification, capable of projecting the country as a world-class destination. Collado underscored that attracting international competitions, athletes, and fans not only expands the global visibility of the Dominican Republic but also dynamizes the economy, strengthens the country brand, and solidifies sport as a strategic tool for sustainable tourism development.



The reputational impact is incalculable: sport builds trust, and trust attracts investment, new events, and strategic alliances. The Dominican Republic does not just show landscapes; it demonstrates capacity.

The direct effect on the events industry

This sporting boom has raised the standard of the Dominican events industry. Producers, planners, set-up companies, audiovisual experts, and logistics firms, as well as security, catering, corporate hospitality, and experience design, have had to evolve to respond to international demands.

Today, the local industry does not just execute: it co-produces, designs, and manages complex events, from opening ceremonies to hospitality lounges, protocol dinners, VIP experiences, and brand activations linked to sport.



The growth of the sporting calendar has driven:

- Professionalization of technical and creative teams
- Investment in technology, structures, and audiovisual production
- Training of talent specialized in sporting events
- Greater public-private collaboration
- Creation of direct and indirect employment

In other words, sport has been a natural accelerator for the events industry.





Infrastructure that leaves a legacy

The modernization of spaces like the Félix Sánchez Olympic Stadium, along with the development of new complexes and soccer stadiums in the East of the country, does not respond only to a specific event. It is an investment in future capacity that will allow for regional tournaments, international friendlies, concerts, and hybrid sport-and-entertainment productions.

Each renovated facility expands the portfolio of available venues and strengthens the country's competitiveness against other destinations in the region.

More than sport: an economy in motion

Sports tourism impacts cross-cuttingly: transporters, local suppliers, designers, artisans, florists, technicians, creatives, and cultural producers form part of a value chain that is activated with each competition





This is where the Dominican Republic makes the difference: it knows how to turn a sporting event into a complete experience, integrating culture, hospitality, gastronomy, and local narrative.

The future is already in play

The Dominican Republic is living through a key moment. Sport has found a reliable stage in the country, and the country has understood that sport is a powerful tool for development, promotion, and cohesion.

Today, the message is clear for the region and the world: The Dominican Republic does not just host sporting events. It produces them, elevates them, and turns them into memorable experiences.

And when that happens, tourism grows, the industry strengthens, and the country advances.

Mary Pily Lopez

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Photos courtesy of:
@puntacanaresort
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The Palace of Versailles and a Hall of Mirrors reinterpreted for a 21st-century quinceañera.





When Guillermina and her family arrived at my studio, they did not bring a folder of references: they brought a dream. A dream of golden mirrors, infinite halls, French gardens, and an aesthetic that breathed royalty without falling into empty ostentation. They wanted a 15th-birthday celebration that did not just imitate Versailles but dialogued with its spirit: elegance, balance, theatricality, and grandeur with contemporary sensibility.

From the first meeting, I knew we were not designing "a party," but a complete scenic universe. Versailles is not just architecture; it is an aesthetic philosophy based on symmetry, light, movement, and the power of detail. Our challenge was to translate that historical inspiration into a modern language, adaptable to a social event and faithful to Guillermina's personality.

The creative process began long before the first sketch. I walked with the family through their tastes, their memories, and their imagination. What emotions did they want to awaken? What should Guillermina feel when entering the hall? The answer was clear: wonder, belonging, and majesty. Nothing exaggerated, nothing kitsch. Beauty with criteria.







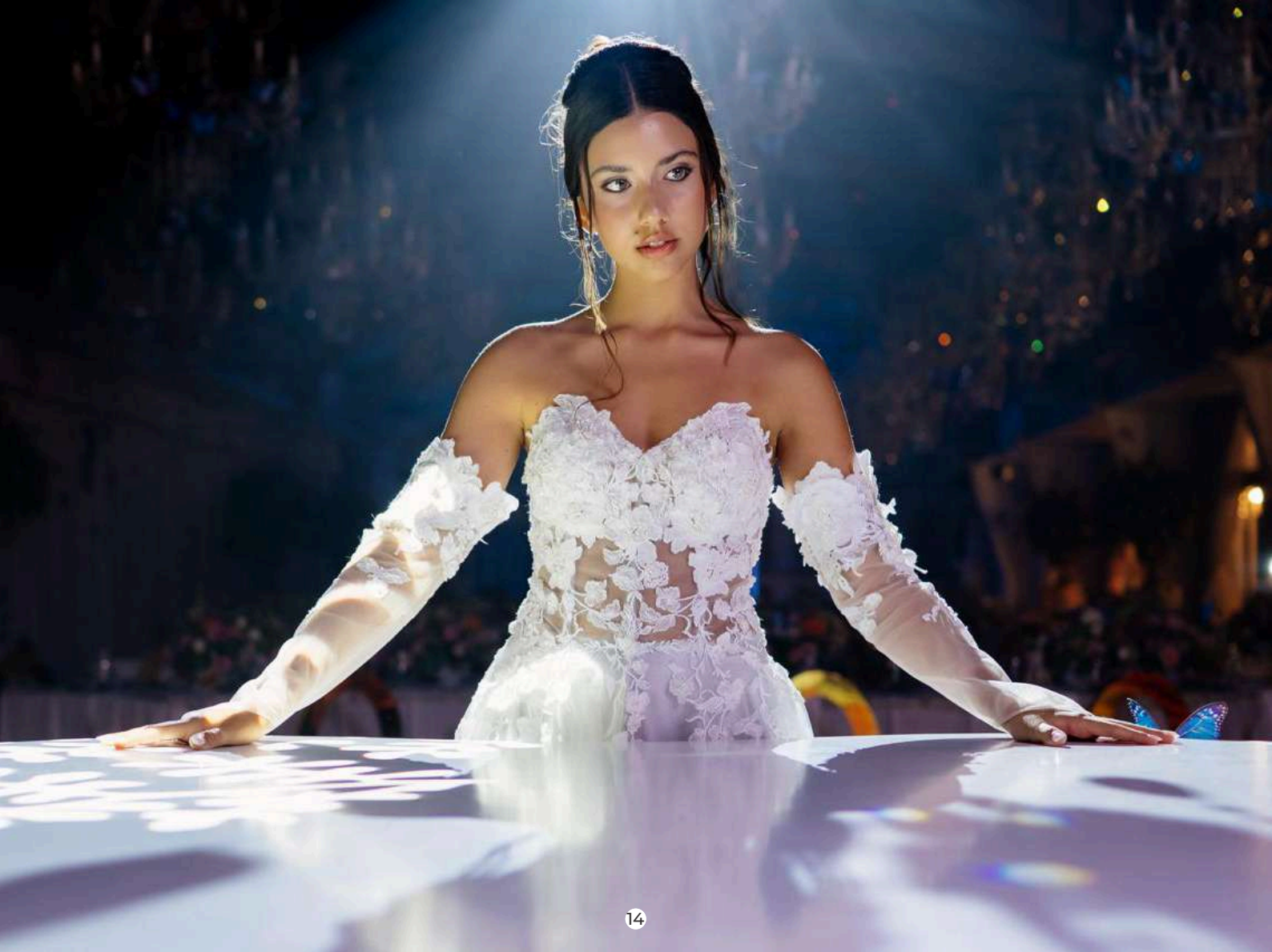
From there, we developed a central concept:

"The Hall of Mirrors reinterpreted for a 21st-century quinceañera."

We worked on the staging as if it were a visual opera. We designed panels with baroque frames and mirrored surfaces strategically placed to multiply the light and the sense of spaciousness, and columns intervened with soft textures that evoked palace walls without falling into theatrical literalness. Lighting was key: warm, enveloping, and dynamic, capable of transforming throughout the night and accompanying every emotional moment. 50 crystal chandeliers with 25 arms, 50,000 paper butterflies were part of the scene, along with 60 meters of screens, giant sculptures, and water fountains.

The color palette was inspired by the classic tones of Versailles—aged gold, ivory, champagne, and pearl—balanced with contemporary touches of nude and dusty pink to maintain freshness and femininity. Nothing was left to chance: every flower, every texture, and every reflection responded to a visual script planned to the millimeter.







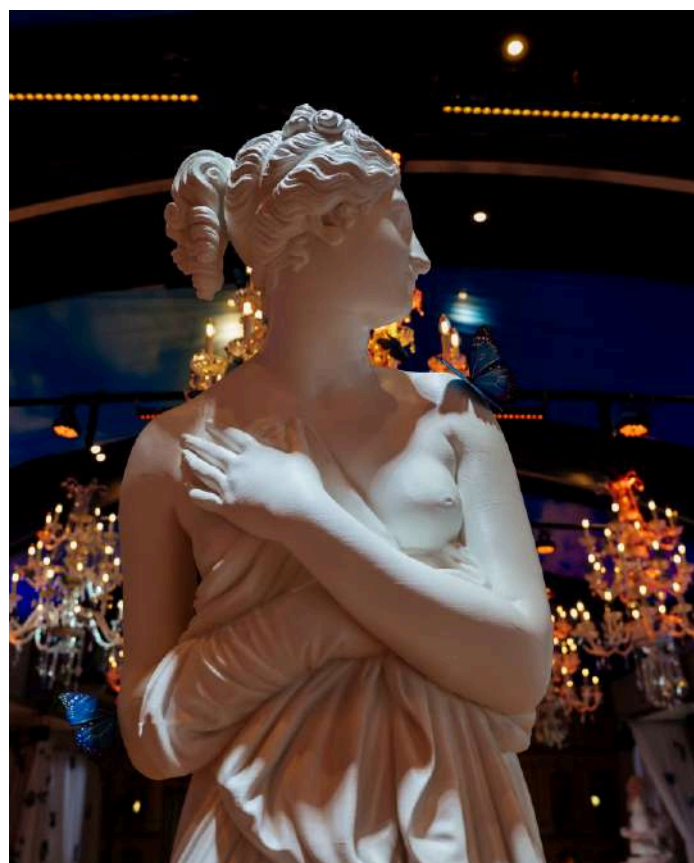
One of the greatest challenges was integrating palace-like inspiration with the client's precise requirements. Guillermina wanted an impactful but not solemn dance floor; a protagonist stage but not a rigid one ; and an experience where her guests felt luxury without intimidation. We listened, adjusted, and built together with them, because the best design is born from dialogue, not from aesthetic imposition.

The entrance was designed as a ceremonial path. Framed doors, ethereal curtains, and an illuminated carpet guided guests toward the heart of the hall, where the central space unfolded as a great reinterpreted gala hall. When Guillermina appeared, everything made sense: the architecture framed her without eclipsing her. The staging celebrated her, it did not compete with her.

The floral arrangement followed the same Versailles logic: vertical setups, symmetrical compositions, and sculptural centerpieces that dialogued with the mirrors and lights. Nothing was excessive, but everything was forceful. Elegance without shouting.







Beyond the visual, the true success of this staging lay in its ability to move people. Versailles was the inspiration, but Guillermina was always the center. Every aesthetic decision responded to her character, her energy, and her personal dream.

When the night ended and the lights went out, something more important than perfect scenography remained: the memory of a unique experience. A celebration where the past dialogued with the present, and where design was the bridge between history and emotion.

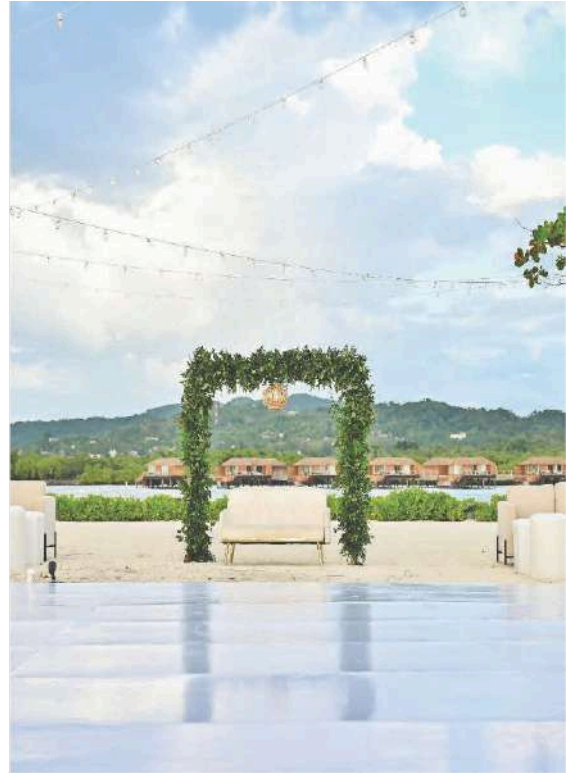
That is, in the end, my purpose as a creator of experiences: not to copy references, but to turn them into feeling.

Adrián Pavía

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Founder and Editorial Director
ÉPICA Magazine

Photography:
Maxi Oviedo
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Celebrate your love in style at Princess Grand Jamaica and Princess Senses the Mangrove. From the breathtaking Sky Terrace to the private Dream Island, elegant Reef Restaurant, and our versatile Conference Rooms, each location offers a stunning backdrop for an unforgettable wedding





Weddings that don't follow trends, they follow people

When personality
becomes aesthetics

Rafael Castillo



In the world of weddings, trends come and go. Colors, shapes, and styles change.

But the most memorable weddings do not follow trends: they follow people. People who choose each other, who decide to walk together for the rest of their lives, and who want that day to speak of who they are, not what is currently fashionable.

For me, wedding decoration and design do not start with an inspiration board. They start with people. With their stories, their contrasts, their emotions, and that which unites them. Each celebration is born from there, from a vision built from their essence, not from a repeated formula.



When I start working with a couple, the process begins with a questionnaire called "Getting to Know the Couple." Each one—groom and bride—responds individually, without sharing answers with each other. The goal is to discover what they like, what they desire, what they long for, and how they imagine this new chapter of their lives.

From those answers, my real work as a wedding designer begins: reading between the lines, identifying coincidences, contrasts, and emotions, and extracting the essence of each. From there, we build a proposal that belongs to neither one nor the other, but is a fusion of both. It is at that point where we stop talking about individuals and start defining who they are as a couple, what inspires them, what emotions define them, and what story they wish to honor together.

When aesthetics have intention

Decoration, style, and every visual element are not an ornament: they are a language. And when that language is born from personality, the result is authentic, profound, and emotionally powerful.





A concept that transforms everything

An example of this approach was a wedding designed under the concept "Persephone Aesthetic Wedding," inspired by the mythological figure of Persephone, goddess of spring and queen of the underworld. An aesthetic that combines light and darkness to reflect duality, transformation, and emotional depth.

The setting was dim, with dramatic ceiling draping and a hall entrance conceived as an enchanted forest. The color palette—black, emerald, burgundy, tan, light gray, and gold—wrapped the space in a mysterious elegance, while flowers such as amaranthus, roses, peonies, burgundy anemones, and black roses provided strength, romanticism, and symbolism.





Every aesthetic decision had a clear purpose consistent with the concept. Even the sensory experience was carefully designed. The mixology bar was integrated into the storytelling with creations like the Black Margarita and a mezcal infused with hibiscus water, ensuring every sip dialogued with the atmosphere enveloping the entire celebration.



Music was also a protagonist.

The dance of the couple and their parents was experienced as pure romance, interpreted with a waltz that set the emotional tone of the moment. And when the night evolved, it did so with force: a Rock Batucada, where acoustic elements fused with electric guitar and bass, transformed the environment into a vibrant, unexpected, and deeply emotional experience. It was a sensation that connected energy, identity, and celebration.

Designing a wedding from personality is daring to go beyond the obvious. It is understanding that aesthetics are not copied: they are built. That true luxury lies in coherence and that a well-designed wedding is not just seen... it is felt. Because when a celebration speaks of who they are, it becomes unforgettable.

With love,

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Designing with soul

Latin American sensitivity
in contemporary wedding design



From our experience as a Wedding Planner in Colombia, we have learned that designing with soul is not a style or a passing trend, but a way of approaching the creative process. Before talking about color palettes, flowers, or structures, we talk about memory, bonds, and context. Design thus becomes a visual and sensory translation of something much more intimate.

In many projects, the concept is not born from an aesthetic reference, but from a conversation. A phrase, a childhood memory, a family tradition, or a significant place is usually the starting point. That information, apparently intangible, is what gives coherence and depth to everything else.

1. The organic as emotional language

One of the great lessons that the Latin American approach brings to contemporary design is the openness to the organic. We work with living landscapes, changing climates, and natural materials that invite us to design with flexibility and sensitivity. Instead of seeking absolute control, we learn to dialogue with the environment.

This translates into flowers that do not seek perfect symmetry, spaces that privilege closeness, and celebrations where emotion weighs as much as aesthetics.

It is not a rejection of design, but a more conscious way of understanding it.

Wedding design is undergoing a moment of transformation today. In different parts of the world, couples are rethinking what it means to celebrate. It is no longer solely about impeccable aesthetics, but about creating experiences that reflect identity, emotion, and meaning. In that global dialogue, Latin America is contributing a particular sensitivity that focuses on the human and on the deep connection with each couple's story.





2. Context as part of the concept

Designing from the location is one of the most valuable principles of this approach. In Latin America, each region offers a rhythm, a natural palette, and a distinct energy. The landscape, architecture, and local culture do not function as a neutral background, but as an active part of the creative concept.

This lesson is especially relevant for wedding planners working with destination weddings. Integrating context does not mean falling into stereotypes, but allowing the location to provide authenticity and character to the design.



3. Practical principles for designing weddings with soul

Listen before designing

Before building a visual concept, it is key to build a deep understanding of the couple. Personal stories, family ties, and significant places usually offer a more solid creative direction than any aesthetic reference. When the concept is born from there, the design becomes more coherent and decisions are made with greater clarity throughout the process.

Design the complete experience, not just the aesthetics

Design is not limited to what is seen, but to how it is lived. Thinking of the event as a sequence, from arrival to the close of the night, allows for the design of transitions, rhythms, and atmospheres that sustain emotion. A well-designed event feels natural, even though there is meticulous planning behind it.

Integrate the environment as part of the concept **Instead of adapting the location to the design, the design strengthens when it responds to the location.**

Light, scale, landscape, and architecture provide valuable information that can guide aesthetic and logistical decisions. When the environment is integrated with intention, the result is perceived as authentic and organic.



Design with control and strategic flexibility

The role of a wedding planner is to anticipate and contain. A solid design contemplates different scenarios and allows for adjustments without losing coherence. It is not about leaving room for chance, but about creating structures intelligent enough for the experience to flow even when the rhythm of the event changes due to the emotion of the moment.



Trust in sensitivity as part of professional expertise

Sensitivity does not compete with technique; it complements it. The ability to identify when something is not aligned with the story or experience of the event is a professional tool that is refined over time. Knowing how to listen to that intuition and translate it into clear decisions is part of the value a planner brings to their couples.

More and more couples worldwide seek celebrations that feel authentic and personal. In that context, Latin American sensitivity does not replace other perspectives but expands the language of wedding design, reminding us that true luxury is in emotional connection.

Designing with soul is, in essence, returning to the fundamental: creating celebrations that honor the story, the location, and the love being celebrated.

Deisy Parra Gómez

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A night in Medellín

Romance tourism
in the heart of Antioquia



When Medellín says goodbye to the day, something changes in the air. The streets of Provenza and El Poblado become a stage, warm lights draw slow shadows, and love finds its own rhythm. A traditional shop opens its doors, music plays, and the night transforms into celebration. Thus begins a story of romance in the heart of Antioquia.

For foreign travelers—and especially for couples—Medellín is no longer just an emerging destination in Latin America: it is an emotional experience. A place where romance is lived with calm, with identity, and with hospitality that feels genuine.

Romance begins in the everyday

A pre-wedding in Medellín does not need large productions. A traditional shop is enough—the kind that has accompanied generations—where the music plays loud, the walls keep stories, and the dance emerges without permission. Places that began as neighborhood meeting points and, over the years, became true cultural and nocturnal icons.







There, among spontaneous laughter, cold beers, traditional food, and improvised dance steps, love shows itself for real. Without poses. Without scripts. Medellín has that magic: it turns the everyday into the memorable.

For foreign couples, this contrast is fascinating. They discover that romance is not always silence and candles; sometimes it is music, color, tradition, and a contagious joy shared with strangers who, in minutes, become accomplices.

Nature, flowers, and celebrations with soul

On the outskirts of the city, the landscape changes. The noise fades and nature takes center stage. Fincas (estates) surrounded by mountains, living gardens, and green paths become perfect settings for weddings seeking connection and authenticity.

Antioquia blooms—literally—in every celebration. Orchids, the symbol of the country and local pride, are integrated naturally into the decorations: not as an imported luxury, but as an expression of the territory.

Every flower speaks of identity, care, and beauty without excess. Here, weddings are not just events: they are rituals. They are celebrated outdoors, with natural light, long tables, shared food, and an atmosphere that invites one to stay, to converse, to feel.





Medellín, a destination that is felt



The Paisa experience: the true luxury

The greatest charm of Medellín lies not only in its landscapes or locations, but in its people. Paisa warmth—that close, attentive, and generous way of receiving—transforms any trip into a profound experience.

The gastronomy, abundant and full of flavor, is an essential part of romance: reinterpreted traditional dishes, exotic fruits, specialty coffees, and tables that celebrate the act of sharing. Everything has color. Everything has intention.

For those coming from outside, Medellín surprises because it feels close. Because it does not pretend to be anything else. Because its luxury is in the experience, not in ostentation.

Romance tourism in Medellín is growing because it responds to a contemporary need: to celebrate love authentically, connected to the location, culture, and emotion.

Whether it is a pre-wedding night dancing in a neighborhood shop or a wedding surrounded by nature and flowers, the city offers something that cannot be copied: soul.

And perhaps that is why whoever lives Medellín through love always wants to return.

Camila Henao

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February

The perfect month
to celebrate the love
that is chosen every day

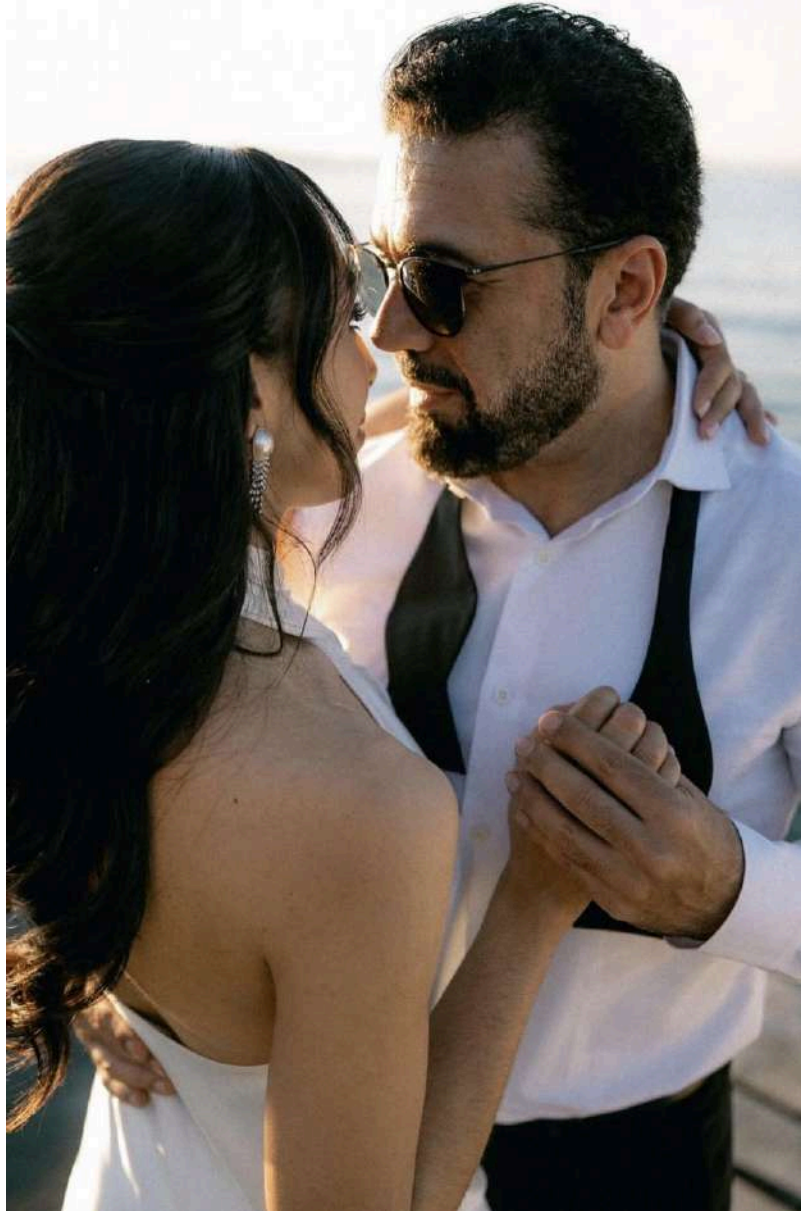


February arrives wrapped in hearts, flowers, and romantic messages. For many, Valentine's Day is just another date on the calendar; for others, a commercial strategy. But for couples, this month can become something much deeper: an opportunity to reconnect, remember why they chose each other, and celebrate the love that has grown overtime.

The love of couples is not always what appears in movies. It does not live solely on scandalous gestures nor eternal promises whispered under the moonlight. It is a love built in the everyday, in patience, in silent complicity, and in the conscious decision to keep walking together, even on difficult days.

Valentine's Day is usually associated with initial infatuation: letters, romantic dinners, and passionate declarations. However, for marriages, this date can be given a new meaning. It is not about competing with unreal standards, but about celebrating what already exists: a shared history, dreams fulfilled, and others yet to come.

A simple dinner at home, a conversation without haste, a handwritten letter, or even remembering anecdotes from the early years can have an emotional value



much greater than any expensive gift. True romanticism, in marriage, is in the detail and the intention.

February is known as the month of love, and not by chance. It is a reminder of something essential: love needs attention. In the midst of routine, work, responsibilities, and daily stress, it is easy to take one's partner for granted.

This month invites one to pause and look at the other with new eyes. Celebrating love does not mean ignoring challenges, but recognizing that, despite them, the union remains valuable. Mature love is not perfect, but it is real. It is full of lessons, agreements, changes, and mutual growth.

Marriage transforms love. It makes it deeper, more conscious, and often stronger. It is no longer just about feeling, but about choosing. Choosing to listen, care for, respect, and accompany. Choosing the other every day.

February is the ideal moment to honor that love which has evolved. To give thanks for what has been shared, recognize what has been learned, and renew the emotional commitment. There is no need to wait for an anniversary or a special occasion: the simple act of celebrating love is already a powerful declaration.

In a world where everything moves fast, stopping to celebrate the union of a couple is almost a revolutionary act. The month of love invites one to do it without guilt and without excuses. To value the "us," to reinforce the connection, and to remember that love is not just about feeling butterflies, but about building a safe emotional home.



Valentine's Day and February, in general, are not only for those starting a story, but also (and especially) for those who have decided to continue it. Because the love that endures deserves to be celebrated, recognized, and cared for.

This month, more than gifts, let us give time. More than promises, sincere gestures. And more than words, presence. Because the love of married people, when celebrated, strengthens... and when it strengthens, it blooms.

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Weddings without borders

The role of the wedding planner
in long-distance wedding planning



Planning a wedding thousands of kilometers away involves much more than coordinating suppliers and dates. It requires trust, sensitivity, and the ability to emotionally accompany a couple who places one of the most important days of their lives in the hands of others.

El Salvador has gradually become one of the emerging destinations for destination weddings. Its diversity of landscapes, human warmth, and cultural richness have led many couples to choose this country as the setting to celebrate their love story.



Each year, more couples decide to marry far from where they live. Some seek a different and authentic experience; others do so because one of the two resides in another country and they wish to reunite in a place charged with emotional significance.

I remember a wedding that marked a before and after in my career: the wedding of Diane and Dimitri, held in front of the sea with a platform over the water. It was my first destination wedding and also one of my greatest learning experiences.





Dimitri is French, and although my French was limited to a timid *bonjour*, we managed to communicate perfectly in English. That experience taught me that when genuine trust, connection, and accompaniment exist, barriers—linguistic, cultural, or geographical—disappear.

Since then, I have witnessed how more couples every day choose to marry in El Salvador. Some do so for the beauty of the destination; others because this country represents history, family roots, and memories they wish to honor.

This reality has transformed the way weddings are planned and has elevated the role of the Wedding Planner to a key figure within processes that are increasingly complex, strategic, and deeply emotional.

As a destination Planner, we understand that we do not just organize weddings. We become guides, confidants, and companions throughout the process, especially when distance is part of the planning.





When a wedding is planned at a long distance, the relationship with the couple closely resembles a long-distance relationship. Constant communication, mutual trust, and presence—even if virtual—become essential.

Beyond knowing aesthetic tastes, we get to know who they are as a couple, how they met, and why they chose this country as the stage for their celebration. In many cases, this decision is born from the desire to return to the country of origin.

Couples whose parents or family roots are Salvadoran seek to reconnect with their history and transform that bond into a meaningful experience. Our role takes on greater relevance when we manage to keep that emotional tie alive. It is not enough to create a visually beautiful wedding; we seek for the couple to associate El Salvador with the best day of their lives.

I have lived this process with couples like Lauren and Kevin, who married at one of the most beautiful lakes in the country. Integrating American, Irish, and Salvadoran traditions was an exercise in cultural respect and conscious design. I also remember the wedding of Litze

and Immer, children of Salvadoran parents who, even living outside the country, decided to honor their roots through a celebration charged with symbolism.





We design, plan, and execute every element with sensitivity and attention to detail, from the ceremony to the decoration, always respecting the essence of each couple. In many cases, we meet the couple only through virtual meetings, and as a planner, we also assume a role of emotional support during moments of stress, uncertainty, and important decision-making.

Long-distance planning requires structure, clarity, and creativity. The few visits to the destination become strategic moments to strengthen the relationship, align expectations, and build trust.




Destination weddings require leadership, commitment, and a deep connection with the location. It is not just about organizing an event, but about transforming El Salvador into the stage for the best day of a couple's life.

In the end, as in any long-distance relationship, trust and communication sustain the process. And that is where the Wedding Planner finds the true value of their work: creating experiences that transcend borders and become lifelong memories.

Marianna Aguirre Echeverría

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A full-page photograph of two men in formal attire. The man on the left, the groom, is smiling and looking towards the right. He is wearing a dark blue tuxedo jacket over a white shirt and a white bow tie. A boutonniere with a white rose and greenery is pinned to his left lapel. The man on the right, the best man, is adjusting the groom's shoulder. He is also wearing a dark blue tuxedo jacket, a white shirt, and a dark bow tie. In the background, there is a large, ornate wooden grandfather clock with a white face and gold hands. To the right, a large window with multiple panes looks out onto a green landscape. The floor is made of light-colored wood, and a patterned rug is partially visible at the bottom.

The meticulous
grooming of a
groom before
the ceremony



Traditionally, the focus of attention at a wedding has fallen on the bride, but times have changed.

Today's groom understands that his preparation is not a last-minute chore, but a ritual of personal care and style that deserves the same dedication.

The groom's preparation has evolved to become an integral experience. It cannot be something simple because the care taken will speak of his intention to stand out alongside his beloved. Here we detail the essential pillars of this transformation:

1. Skin Care and Grooming

Months before the "I do," many grooms start facial cleansing routines to ensure a radiant complexion. However, on the wedding day, the barbershop ritual is the protagonist. Whether it is a classic shave with a straight

razor and hot towels or a millimeter-precise beard shaping, this moment is usually shared with the "Best Men" or the father, becoming a space for relaxation and camaraderie before the nerves of the ceremony.





evokes special memories), and adjusting the knot of the tie or bowtie are acts charged with symbolism. This moment is usually shared with the father, older brother, or the best man—who is usually that life-brother friend who partners with the groom in all his moments and life adventures. It is the final step before meeting his partner at the altar.

As event planners, we seek to make this part of their personal memory and experience. It is important that the photographer be present for that "picture frame" shot, but also someone from the team to assist them with those photos and elements that unite them. We have had grooms take their last bachelor tequila, a cigar (do it hours before bathing and getting ready, we don't want to arrive at the church with those scents), a pipe, even those burgers from a favorite place. I had a couple who bought that large bottle of soda they shared after playing soccer all afternoon; they called it "the compadres' soda"... all drinking straight from the bottle. That is what friends are, those are the memories, legacies, and experiences that unite them. That is what it's about: life is composed of details and moments.

2. The Attire: Beyond the Black Tuxedo

Personalization is the current key. Although the morning coat and tuxedo remain kings, modern grooms play with textures like velvet or linen, and colors ranging from forest green to petrol blue.

The Fit: A poorly tailored suit is the most common mistake. The fit must be perfect, allowing freedom of movement while maintaining an impeccable silhouette.

The Details: Family-significant cufflinks, an elegant wristwatch, and of course, the boutonniere, which must harmonize with him.

3. The Psychology of the Moment

Preparation is not just physical; it is the moment when the man processes the magnitude of the event. Dressing calmly, applying his favorite fragrance (one that ideally





The Shoes:

Do not underestimate the importance of shoes. They must be impeccably clean and, preferably, have been worn a couple of times before to avoid untimely rubbing on the dance floor. This detail of having them "domesticated" is something often overlooked, but it is very valuable when you are going to wear shoes for the first time for 14 hours straight. The recommendation is to buy them and start wearing them at home weeks before. We always recommend acquiring quality footwear that can be enjoyed after the wedding. For that day, we help polish them so they are impeccable. A good



sock that is not too thin and, in any case, an insole from a shoe already broken in are tricks that make it a bit more pleasant. Grandfather's trick: if the leather is very stiff, a bit of liquid silicone polish or Vaseline helps.

For the neck and chin, we recommend using moisturizing creams before and after shaving. One can shave the night before or in the morning, avoiding sweating; this helps avoid discomfort with sweat, the friction of the shirt collar, and the increase in body temperature. In conclusion, today's groom seeks to look like the best version of himself: authentic, neat, and sophisticated.

At the end of the day, his preparation reflects the respect and emotion he feels for the commitment he is about to undertake.

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The Coraza Experience

Where love sails
in the essential



There are places that one does not visit, but feels, and experiences that are not explained, but lived.

Lake San Pablo, in the province of Imbabura, is one of those settings where nature, culture, and spirituality intertwine in a silent but powerful way. There, in front of the imposing Imbabura Volcano, a proposal is born that today is projected as one of the most authentic experiences for romance tourism in Ecuador: The Coraza Experience.

From my role as a Wedding Planner and director of IADWP Ecuador, I have assumed the commitment to show the world that our country is a perfect stage for destination weddings, not only for its landscapes but for its identity, its people, and its history. Therefore, together with Carla Moscoso, entrepreneur and director of the vessel El Coraza, and a group of strategic allies, we created an exclusive experience for couples who marry with me, with a clear purpose: that they live Ecuador through love.

A project that honors the territory

In an interview with Carla Moscoso, she shared the origin of this dream:

"The Coraza Experience was born from the desire to honor Lake San Pablo as a living space, charged with memory, spirituality, and natural beauty. We wanted to create intimate experiences that transcend traditional tourism and become memories that accompany people for life". The name is no coincidence. "El Coraza symbolizes protection, strength, and refuge.

On board, visitors enter a space where time slows down and every detail is designed to care for the emotional experience," Carla explains.



Therefore, together with Carla and a team of allies, we designed an exclusive event for couples who marry with Lissner Ortiz Wedding Planner.

It was not an open house; it was not a traditional tasting; it was a life experience. The idea was clear from the start: create a space where couples disconnect from the stress of planning and connect with each other, share their processes with other couples, and remember why they are walking together toward marriage.

That day, our couples navigated Lake San Pablo, heard its legends, participated in an ancestral wedding, enjoyed traditional music, and tasted flavors that represent the gastronomic diversity of Ecuador.

The strength of alliances

It is true: navigating the lake is not just traversing it; it is contemplating it, listening to it, and letting oneself be enveloped by its energy. From the water, Lake San Pablo feels like a sacred space. Carla describes it thus: "Its energy is serene but powerful; it invites contemplation and inner encounter. Navigating its waters is a deeply spiritual experience".

The Imbabura Volcano accompanies the entire journey like a silent guardian. Many visitors are left speechless seeing it reflected in the water; others feel it watches them, like an ancestral witness to every promise.



When experience becomes purpose

At IADWP Ecuador, we work with a clear vision: to position the country as an authentic wedding destination with a solid value chain that includes suppliers, culture, gastronomy, landscapes, and transformative experiences.

None of this would be possible without strategic allies committed to quality and purpose. Joining us were:

The Chef Catering, with a gastronomic proposal that honors the country's products with contemporary technique.

Senz: with coffee stations for events that transformed every break into a ritual.



Ronal Benavides: with his liquor bar, creating cocktails designed for the environment and the moment.

Siray: an enterprise made up of 11 women from the community of Cuatro Esquinas, who keep traditions alive through craftsmanship.

Taki Kaman: a musical group directed by Curi Inti de la Torre, which brought ancestral music into a contemporary language allowing us to connect with our roots and feel proud.

Juan Gabriel Narváez: and his photography and video team, who captured the real essence of the event.

This event did not just show services; it showed coherence. We demonstrated that when suppliers align from the heart, events of high emotional impact can be created.





The Coraza Experience, a soulful voyage

The Coraza Experience is much more than a tourist vessel; it is a project that honors Lake San Pablo as a living space, charged with memory, spirituality, and natural beauty. It is born from a deep connection with the territory and with a clear vision: creating intimate experiences that transcend conventional tourism and become memories that accompany people for a lifetime.



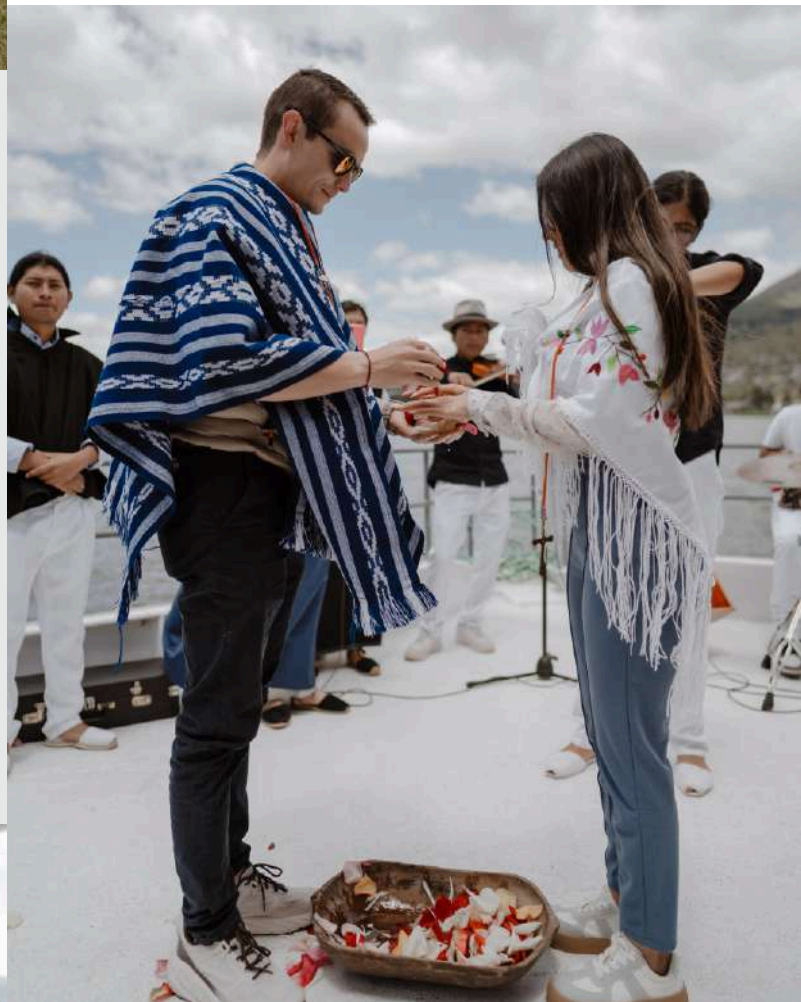


From the water, Lake San Pablo is perceived as a sacred space. The presence of the Imbabura Volcano accompanies the entire journey as an ancestral guardian, inviting contemplation and inner encounter. The experience is completed with gastronomic proposals based on local products, traditional music, and the integration of community projects, generating respectful and conscious tourism.

The Coraza Experience is projected as an ideal stage for marriage proposals, anniversaries, intimate ceremonies, and conscious destination weddings, where luxury is lived from the essential: emotion, connection, and authenticity. It is a place where every promise sails with meaning and every story is written in dialogue with nature and the living culture of the territory.

Its name, El Coraza, symbolizes protection, strength, and refuge. On board, visitors enter a space where time slows down and every detail is designed to care for the emotional experience. It is a modern vessel, complete and designed to sail in harmony with nature, offering safety, comfort, and an atmosphere of contemplation.

What distinguishes El Coraza from other proposals on the lake is its emotional exclusivity. Each journey is designed from the visitor's intention: romantic celebrations, family encounters, ancestral rituals, or moments of introspection. The landscape, silence, personalized attention, and the energy of the environment align to create a deeply transformative sensory experience.





Siray: when craftsmanship tells stories

Siray is not just an enterprise; it is a community. It is composed of women from the San Rafael de La Laguna parish, who found in artisanal sewing a way to preserve their culture and generate local development.

Highlights among their proposals include the traditional "Sawarina" set, completely hand-embroidered, and souvenirs made from recycled materials.

By reservation, they also perform ancestral rituals such as the ÑawiMaillay and conduct tours through their community's springs. Including them in this experience was a conscious act to show that destination weddings can also be a platform to give visibility to projects that sustain identity and memory.





Taki Kaman: music born from the root

The group Taki Kaman ("Until we play") is a living fusion between Andean tradition and contemporary language. Directed by Curi Inti de la Torre, an Otavaleño musician, the group is composed of artists trained from childhood in indigenous communities and with professional training in contemporary music.

Their proposal does not seek to modernize the ancestral, but to project it. Their sound connects generations, territories, and emotions. During the event, their music was not background; it was guide, it was ceremony, it was memory.



Lissner Ortiz

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How to experience
a destination
wedding in
Cartagena with
Schotborgh
weddings and events



Living a destination wedding in Cartagena is understanding that a celebration is not limited to a single day, but is built as a complete experience. From a Wedding Planner's perspective, choosing this destination is betting on the perfect balance between beauty, logistics, and emotion. Cartagena offers everything: history breathed in its streets, architecture that frames every moment, a climate that invites celebration without haste, and gastronomy that elevates any encounter. But above all, it possesses a special energy that transforms the planning and living of a wedding into something fluid, authentic, and profoundly memorable.

First key tip: A destination wedding begins with a good reading of the place; before thinking about decoration or style, it is fundamental to understand the city, its rhythms, and its identity.

A destination wedding does not consist of moving a traditional celebration to another place; it involves understanding the environment, reading the city, and allowing every decision to dialogue with it. Cartagena

reveals itself as an exceptional canvas: colonial houses full of character, balconies that tell stories, streets that conserve centuries of tradition, settings facing the sea, and a natural light that accompanies every moment.

Suggestion for couples: Allow the destination to influence decisions—not everything must be imposed; many times, Cartagena already has the answer.

At Schotborgh Weddings and Events, we believe a wedding begins long before the "I do" and stays alive even after the last toast. Our accompaniment is designed so that the couple feels supported in every stage of the process: from the first ideas and strategic decisions to the close of the celebration.

Planning a destination wedding goes beyond visual inspiration; it requires local knowledge, professional criteria, and careful planning that allows the process to be lived with peace and confidence.

Planning tip: Choosing a local team not only facilitates logistics but also reduces stress and allows for anticipation of destination-specific situations.

Cartagena, moreover, is a destination that exceeds expectations; its gastronomy, diverse and profoundly local, becomes an essential part of the experience; its climate invites unhurried celebration, its people provide authentic warmth, and its heritage offers an incomparable framework that elevates any event. In this city, an intimate, medium, or large-format wedding can be transformed into the dream wedding, provided each proposal is built from respect for its history, identity, and essence.

Important advice: It is not about the size of the wedding, but how it is lived; Cartagena adapts to different scales when there is conscious planning.

One of the greatest values of a destination wedding in Cartagena is the experience of the guests. Traveling to celebrate generates a different disposition: more open, more present, and more connected with the moment. Every encounter, every meal, and every tour of the city is integrated into the collective memory; therefore, we understand the wedding as a complete experience, composed of different social moments that deserve the same attention as the main day.





This vision is reflected in the way we conceive welcome events, rehearsal dinners, and send-offs. These encounters are not accessories; they are fundamental pieces of the journey; they allow for bond-building, relaxing the pace, and emotionally preparing the way toward the central celebration. When designed with intention and coherence, the wedding is lived as a whole, where every moment has meaning and depth.

Tip for international couples: Planning several social moments improves the guest experience and strengthens the memory of the trip.

In a destination wedding, decisions are not only made with the head, but also with the heart. Every choice (the location, the timing, the spaces, and the encounters) directly influences how the experience is lived. When design, planning, and emotion work in conjunction, the wedding stops feeling overwhelming and begins to flow naturally. Professional accompaniment allows for the ordering of ideas, giving them shape and turning them into real moments, caring for both aesthetics and the well-being of those who live them.

Living a destination wedding with Schotborgh Weddings and Events is betting on a professional, committed, and sensitive team that accompanies every decision with clarity, experience, and vision. It is choosing structured planning that allows for enjoying the process without stress, with confidence and tranquility. It is transforming ideas into real experiences, designed to be lived with intention and remembered forever.



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A spiritual journey toward eternal love in Colombia





Colombia is a country of astonishing diversity, where the richness of its landscapes is intertwined with a vast cultural heritage. From the crystalline waters of the Caribbean Sea to the majestic Andes Mountains, covered in green forests and ancestral traditions, every corner of this territory tells a unique story. This variety is reflected not only in the landscapes but also in music, gastronomy, festivities, and, of course, in weddings—making Colombia a place where every wedding is a cultural explosion celebrating life and connection with our roots.

In the heart of southern Colombia, in the magical city of Pasto, Nariño—located among the alignment of three mountain ranges—is Marialejandraplanners, a company that vibrates with weddings and transforms the concept of marriage into a deeply spiritual experience. This company specializes in the execution of ancestral weddings, where couples not only celebrate their love but also connect with their roots and traditions through highly symbolic shamanic rites.

Ancestral weddings in Nariño take place in various locations within an impressive natural environment, but our favorite is on the shores of Lake Guamuez. This lake, surrounded by mountains and exuberant vegetation, and





La Corota—a small island located in the beautiful La Cocha Lagoon—is recognized not only for its natural beauty but also for its qualities as an energy center. This sacred place is considered a point of connection between earth and sky, where the energy of nature is felt intensely. Here, in front of an altar that symbolizes the union of souls, love is celebrated in its purest form.

One of the most highlighted aspects of these ceremonies is the representation of the four elements: fire, water, earth, and air. Each of these elements has a special meaning and plays a crucial role in unifying the love between the couple. Fire symbolizes passion and energy; water represents fluidity and purification; earth, our Pacha Mama, provides stability and connection; and air symbolizes communication and freedom that honors ancestral traditions.

Today, we want to tell you a little about how these types of mystical ceremonies are lived:

The ceremony begins with a deep spiritual connection, where the Taita or spiritual guide meets with the couple before the big day. This encounter is fundamental, as work is done to heal the past and align the chakras. The Taita helps the couple clean and heal any emotional or spiritual burden they may carry, ensuring they reach the altar with clean hearts and souls.

During the ceremony, the couple performs rituals that honor their ancestors and Pacha Mama. These rituals, accompanied by music, scents, and flavors, not only strengthen their bond but also allow them to receive ancestral blessings that will accompany them in their new

life together. The connection with the earth and its elements is felt in every corner of the celebration, creating an environment of love and harmony.

At the end of the ceremony, a general cleansing is performed, which the couple offers to their guests. This ritual, performed by the Taita, aims to renew the energies of all present and ensure that each receives the necessary blessings for their own well-being.

Thus, from Marialejandra Planners, as wedding planners and connoisseurs of this beautiful region, we want to invite you to live this beautiful experience in this Andean paradise. We invite you so that, with the simplicity of the ethereal, you may vibrate with the sounds of the earth, the scents of nature, and the Andean flavors, turning your wedding into a spiritual and revitalizing experience that goes beyond common standards, making your wedding a sublime and unforgettable event you will want to relive a thousand times.

We wait for you!



María Alejandra Ceballos Ch.

Junior Chapter Nariño
Chapter Colombia
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The art of escaping

Luxury elopements
in the heart of Costa Rica





In the era of the "new romance," luxury is no longer measured by the number of guests, but by the depth of the experience. The elopement has ceased to be a hurried escape to become a style statement: an intimate, curated, and profoundly personal ceremony. Costa Rica, with its indomitable biodiversity and world-class hospitality, has positioned itself as the favorite destination for these unions.

As a planner, my constant search is to find settings that do not just serve as a background for a photo, but that tell a story. Here I share my personal selection of the best spots for a private "I do" in the land of PURAVIDA.

1. The Majestic Pacific: Villa Caletas

If you seek visual drama and neoclassical elegance, the Amphitheater at Villa Caletas is unsurpassed. Located 350 meters above sea level, it offers a 360-degree view of the Gulf of Nicoya. It is the place where the sun melts into the ocean in a palette of golds and violets, ideal for a couple desiring a touch of classic sophistication in the middle of the tropical jungle.

2. Nostalgia and Tradition: Casa Turire and Sitio de Mata

For those dreaming of the mystique of the Turrialba Valley:

Casa Turire: This boutique hotel, with its hacienda-style architecture, evokes the elegance of old coffee plantations. It is the perfect site for an elopement with a country and romantic air.

Hacienda Sitio de Mata: A hidden treasure offering spectacular views of the Turrialba Volcano and a colonial chapel that seems frozen in time. The peace breathed here is the purest luxury one can offer.



3. Feet in the Sand: Agua Salada and Pangas Beach Club

The North Pacific has a special magnetism, especially in the Tamarindo area:

Agua Salada: An oasis of modern design and freshness. Ideal for minimalist ceremonies where the sound of the waves is the only necessary accompaniment.

Pangas Beach Club: Where the estuary meets the sea. It is the perfect balance between a relaxed environment and exceptional signature gastronomy, perfect for a private dinner under the stars after the exchange of vows.

4. Urban Sophistication: Marriott San José (El Cafetal) and Casa Vista

Not all charm is on the coast; the capital offers architectural gems full of character:

Costa Rica Marriott Hacienda Belén (El Cafetal): With its iconic architecture inspired by a 19th-century coffee hacienda, this hotel offers colonial patios and exuberant gardens that provide a stately atmosphere without leaving the city.

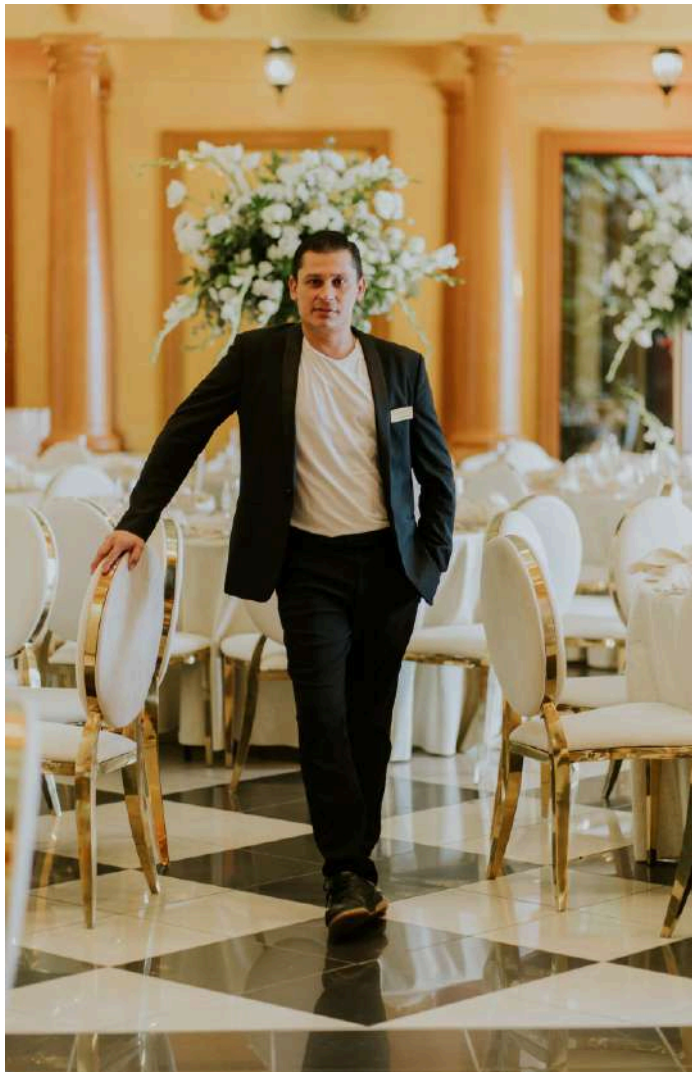
Casa Vista: For an elopement with a different perspective. As its name indicates, its panoramic views of the Central Valley create a horizon of twinkling lights, ideal for an urban and cosmopolitan wedding.

The Engineering of Romance: Why an elopement requires an expert

Organizing an intimate wedding in locations as diverse as the beaches of Tamarindo or the mountains of Turrialba requires more than good taste: it requires millimeter-precise logistics and a curated network of contacts. My focus at Costa Rica Wedding Planner is based on three fundamental pillars:

1. Selection of Spaces and Permits

Each of the mentioned sites has its particularities. My job consists of managing not just the reservation, but specific contracts and necessary permits to guarantee that the couple's privacy is absolute.





2. Sensory Experience Design An elopement is not a "small wedding," it is a "concentrated wedding." We handle:

Contextual Floral Design: Florea CR will make the decoration of Villa Caletas or Agua Salada dialogue with the environment, not compete with it.

High Private Gastronomy: We coordinate with chefs to create tasting menus that reflect the essence of local Costa Rican products.

3. Destination Logistics and "Turnkey" Wedding Concierge

For international couples reading *Épica*, time is the most valuable resource. My service includes the integral management of transfers (from luxury land transport to helicopters for remote spots), coordination of legal

procedures, and the selection of the country's best photographers and videographers so that every moment is immortalized with editorial aesthetics.

"My goal is for the couple only to have to worry about their promise of love; for the technical execution and aesthetic magic, we take care of it".

Costa Rica is not just a destination; it is a feeling. Whether facing the roar of the sea or in the serenity of a coffee hacienda, the perfect stage waits for those who decide that their love deserves an extraordinary escape.

With Love,

MSc. Jeffrey Cervantes Calderón

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A romantic wedding scene at dusk. A bride in a white gown and a groom in a white shirt and dark trousers stand on the left, holding white umbrellas. They are surrounded by bridesmaids in light blue dresses and wide-brimmed hats, also holding umbrellas. The group is walking along a path covered in white rose petals. In the background, a large, illuminated white tent with a chandelier inside is visible, along with a stone building adorned with white flowers.

Elements that make a wedding unforgettable for your guests



Several decades ago, weddings were rigid and predictable events, following a timing that was fulfilled almost like a movie script. Today, the success of a celebration is measured not only by the beauty of the bride's dress or the originality of the cake, but by the emotional footprint it leaves on those who accompany the couple on that distinguished occasion.

If the couple wants everyone to keep talking about their wedding years later, the secret lies in ensuring that guests move from being "observers" to "participants" in a unique experience.

For family and guests, it will be a beautiful surprise to discover details that make a difference from other weddings they have attended before. Just as the number of guests has varied over the years—from hundreds to fewer, seeking to further personalize the experience—the way of integrating family and friends with special and unrepeatable moments during the celebration has also changed.

The First Impact: The welcome to the guests

The experience begins long before the "I do." A guest who feels cared for from the first moment is a guest with a disposition to attend and enjoy the wedding.

Arrival Details: If the ceremony is outdoors, umbrellas, fans, and hats can be offered, and hydration stations with fruit-infused waters can be placed.

Well-Cared-for Logistics: It is very stressful to get lost looking for the hall. Ensure that transportation is simple or provide clear and creative maps that make arrival easy.



Gastronomía con Efecto "Wow"

Food is fundamental to sensory memory. It is not only about being tasty, but how it is presented. Taking into account the tastes of all to please palates and pamper them with bites full of flavor.

Signature Cocktails: It is a current trend to place a bar with special cocktails; they can even have a drink that is the symbol of the couple, something that tells their love story. For example, the first drink they had on their first date.

Different Post-Dinner: Imagine a station of mini gourmet burgers served near midnight, special pizzas that help recharge energy, or churros with chocolate near dawn.

Interactive Stations: Surprise with a Sushi bar prepared at the moment, or Gourmet tacos. The distinction of preparing it live and to the guest's taste will make a difference and be unforgettable. Serve the food on time to not keep guests waiting, or start with appetizers and drinks without much delay.

Do not forget that "Timing" is everything

Boredom is the number one enemy of fun; therefore, you must take into account that every experience must be planned and executed according to timing. An unforgettable wedding has an agile rhythm and keeps guests captivated by the experience they are living.

Maintain Dynamism: Do not extend the couple's photo session more than one hour. Guests want to interact, not wait for hours, and especially not if the catering is delayed.

Brief Speeches: Toasts are emotional, but brevity is the soul of wit. Ask your loved ones to keep their interventions between 2 and 3 minutes ; no more than that to continue capturing the guests' attention.

Ensure food is served promptly so guests aren't left waiting; alternatively, transition quickly to appetizers and drinks to keep the momentum going.





Personalization: Make them feel special

At an event of 50 or 100 people, intimacy and personalization is the greatest luxury. That a guest finds a detail designed exclusively for him will make a difference and remain indelible in his memory.

Handwritten Notes: Placing a small personalized thank-you card at each seat is a simple gesture that tells your guest how special it is for you to have them there.

Survival Kit: A corner in the bathroom with essentials (tissues, mini sewing kit, painkillers) or a "hangover kit" upon leaving the party demonstrates that you thought of their well-being.





Entertainment beyond the dance floor

Although a good DJ is ideal, seek elements that surprise those who are not such fans of dancing. Details that invite them to explore the hall for other attractions placed there.

Bringing a caricaturist to do quick portraits will undoubtedly be something special and unforgettable.

Photo Booths: Activities that foster interaction and generate physical memories. Everyone loves this element, and it can mark a distinction by offering photos with a frame alluding to the couple.

A different "crazy hour": It can be thematic; imagine performers arriving to make that moment different by distributing treats from a circus, and suddenly the whole hall begins to smell of chocolate, peanuts, and sweets like at a circus.

Atmospheric Lighting: Using architectural lights and candles can transform a space.

simple o común en un escenario mágico que incite a quedarse. Es indispensable lograr que el espacio se sienta acogedor; que cada elemento de la decoración bien iluminado destaque y sorprenda a los invitados.

- **Llevar un talento en vivo** siempre será disfrutado por todos. Incluso sorprender con un baile especial con los padres, canciones o ritmos diferentes a lo habitual seguramente captará la atención y el disfrute de tus invitados.



The final part: the verdict

Guests will not remember the exact color of the napkins, but they will remember how you made them feel. An unforgettable wedding is one where the couple's love overflows toward their friends and family with those details designed to make them feel special.

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Illustrations:
Gemini IA

Aysén:

Celebrate love
in Northern Patagonia,
Chile.



A territory where every story becomes a legend

In the far south of Chile, where nature still expresses itself with indomitable force, the Aysén Region emerges as one of the most inspiring destinations to celebrate love. Here, among infinite fjords, mountains covered in native forest, and millennial glaciers, every ceremony is transformed into an intimate, authentic, and profoundly meaningful experience.

Aysén is not just a place: it is an emotional state.

A refuge for those wishing to disconnect from the world to reconnect with the essential. Whether it is an intimate wedding, a proposal, a renewal of vows, or a different honeymoon, this Patagonian territory turns every gesture into an eternal memory.





1. Love on board: the San Rafael Glacier as witness

Imagining the "I do" navigating through the southern fjords is no longer a dream:

it is a real experience. In front of the imposing San Rafael Glacier, a wedding on board a catamaran becomes a ceremony suspended between eternal ice and the Patagonian sky. This exclusive program proposes an itinerary designed for explorer-couples:

Excursion to the San Rafael Lagoon

Hike in the Aiken del Sur Park

Relaxation in the Ensenada Pérez Hot Springs, in the Cinco Hermanas National Monument

A sensory voyage where every moment is lived with intensity, quiet luxury, and deep connection with the surroundings.

Program designed for Hotel Loberías del Sur.





3. Marble Chapels: an icon of eternal love

Emerging over the turquoise waters of Lake General Carrera, the Marble Chapels are one of Chile's most impactful postcards and a natural symbol of eternity.

Perfect for high-impact photo sessions

Ideal for an unforgettable proposal

Private navigation at sunrise or sunset, when the light transforms the rock into a living canvas

An unrepeatable setting to celebrate promises that transcend time.

2. Between La Junta and Puyuhuapi: proposal at Lake Risopatrón

In the green heart of Aysén, Lake Risopatrón offers a scenario of absolute calm. Surrounded by mountains and native forest, this corner invites one to live an intimate proposal, charged with symbolism. The experience integrates:

Gourmet picnic with regional flavors

Kayak rides

Couple's fishing classes

Hikes through Patagonian trails

Every detail is designed to seal love in an environment where silence, water, and wind narrate their own poetry.





4. Puyuhuapi: weddings among fjords, cold jungle, and hot springs

Marrying in Puyuhuapi is choosing an experience that transcends the traditional. Between fjords, cold jungle, and natural hot springs, this destination offers a perfect fusion between conscious luxury, wild nature, and pure emotion. Ceremonies can be held:

On the pier facing the fjord

On a beach with rustic and wild setting

In hot springs with the sea as a backdrop

The post-wedding experience includes spa, massages, private excursions to Queulat Park, and sunset navigations.

Program designed for Puyuhuapi Lodge

Why Aysén is the new romantic luxury

Exclusivity: no crowds, no noise, no haste

Living Nature: rivers, lakes, glaciers, and forests that change with the seasons



Local Hospitality: Patagonian warmth and personalized attention

Southern Flavors: regional gastronomy with identity and origin Because today, true luxury is not in the ostentatious, but in the real.

Mañio Weddings and Experiences: At Mañio Weddings, every love story finds its perfect setting.

We design romantic experiences and personalized celebrations in the Aysén Region, transforming the southern landscape into part of your story.

Fabiana Carrasco

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www.aysenesromantica.cl

Guatemala. The art of arriving without haste.





Here, weddings unfold with elegance and narrative. Ceremonies take place in century-old churches, convents, and historic ruins softened by bougainvillea and candlelight. Reception extends into hidden gardens, private estates, and restored colonial houses, where silence, texture, and atmosphere speak for themselves.

What many couples do not expect is how intimate Antigua feels. Despite its international projection, it remains walkable, close, and profoundly human—ideal for multi-day wedding experiences where guests truly connect with the destination and do not just visit it.

What to expect when choosing Guatemala as your wedding destination?

There are destinations that impress immediately and others that reveal themselves little by little, layer after layer, until one realizes they have been completely captivated. Guatemala undoubtedly belongs to this second group. It is not loud luxury; it is beauty with soul, texture, and deep roots. And for couples seeking an authentic, cinematic, and emotionally rich wedding destination, Guatemala offers something exceptional: a sense of arrival that feels conscious and meaningful. Let's explore!

Antigua Guatemala

Antigua is, without exaggeration, the heart of destination weddings in Guatemala. A UNESCO World Heritage City, framed by three volcanoes, Antigua feels like a moment perfectly preserved in time: cobblestone streets, facades in soft tones, arches, and patios that seem created to celebrate.





The volcanoes: nature as silent witness

In Guatemala, volcanoes are not just a backdrop: they are part of the emotional landscape. Whether dominating the horizon or softly outlining themselves in the distance, they provide weddings with a sense of rootedness and almost ceremonial drama.

From sunrise vows among mists to sunset cocktails with volcanic silhouettes cut into the sky, volcanoes offer a serene grandeur that no decorative element could match. They remind us that love, like nature, is powerful, unpredictable, and enduring.



Lake Atitlán: a wedding with soul

Lake Atitlán is often described as one of the most beautiful in the world, but beauty alone does not explain its magic. Surrounded by volcanoes and dotted with intimate towns, the lake possesses a spiritual calm that transforms celebrations into experiences.

Weddings here tend to be deeply personal: ceremonies by the lake shore at dusk, barefoot cocktails, details inspired by local craftsmanship, and long dinners under the stars. It is the ideal destination for couples who value meaning, connection, and a slow pace—where guests feel part of something sacred, not staged.





Guatemala City: the strategic anchor

Guatemala City

Guatemala City plays an essential role in destination weddings. It is the logistical and creative center of the country—home to first-class designers, caterers, musicians, florists, and artisans. Many weddings rely on the city's talent and infrastructure while celebrating their events in Antigua, the lake, or the coast.

The Pacific Coast: black sand and bold statements

The black sand beaches of the Guatemalan Pacific offer a completely different but equally powerful aesthetic for destination weddings. Dramatic, modern, and textural, they are perfect for couples attracted to bold minimalism and architectural design.

Here, weddings celebrate contrast: the dark sand against impeccable linens, tropical green against open skies, and contemporary structures framing the ocean. It is an impactful proposal for those seeking an unexpected, editorial, and sophisticated celebration.





For couples planning weekends with multiple locations or larger guest lists, Guatemala City guarantees impeccable execution behind the scenes, allowing the celebration to feel fluid and effortless.

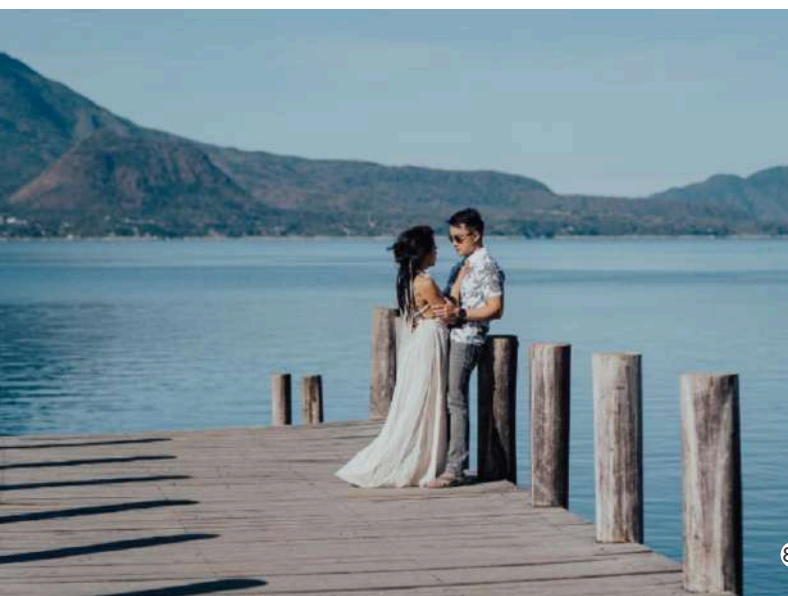
What couples really experience

Choosing Guatemala as a wedding destination is not just about settings—it is about depth. Couples and guests discover a country that values craftsmanship, hospitality, tradition, and warmth. Gastronomy is thoughtful and refined. Music is emotional and alive. Details are handmade, intentional, and never generic.



Lake Atitlán is often described as one of the most beautiful in the world, but beauty alone doesn't explain its magic. Surrounded by volcanoes and dotted with intimate villages, the lake possesses a spiritual stillness that transforms celebrations into true experiences.

Weddings here tend to be deeply personal: lakeside ceremonies at sunset, barefoot cocktail hours, details inspired by local craftsmanship, and long dinners under the stars. It is the ideal destination for couples who value meaning, connection, and a slower pace—where guests feel part of something sacred, not staged.



Diana Sciarrillo
National Chapter Leader
Guatemala
@idoguatemala



IADWP + ASTA: A strategic alliance to drive romance tourism

The tourism industry is evolving—and so are the ways in which professionals grow, connect, and innovate. This year marks a milestone for the global Romance Travel community with the announcement of a strategic alliance between **IADWP and ASTA**, joining two leading references in travel education and professional development.

This collaboration integrates IADWP's deep expertise in destination weddings and celebration travel with ASTA's broad network of professional travel advisors, creating a bridge that expands opportunities for both communities. It represents **a shared commitment to raising professional standards, expanding access to quality education, and strengthening cross-sector connections in key global markets.**

As **Zane Kerby**, President and CEO of ASTA, expressed: "Destination weddings and romance travel represent a high-value, high-touch segment of our industry. By

partnering with IADWP, we are giving travel advisors the tools, insights and connections they need to succeed while delivering unforgettable experiences for their clients".

The alliance supports important objectives for both parties:

Expansion of professional development through joint educational programs and certifications.

Exploration of reciprocal membership benefits.

Creation and dissemination of industry content and statistical insights.

Increased visibility in growing markets, especially in **North America and Latin America.**

For ASTA members, this collaboration unlocks access to Romance Travel resources and specialized training. For IADWP members, it offers greater interaction with professional travel advisors and broader development platforms. **Together, IADWP and ASTA are shaping the future of Romance Travel on a global scale.**

More information: members@iadwp.com

Travel the world WITH IADWP IN 2026

The IADWP is characterized by providing innovative and inspiring education, as well as being a global business generator with a community spanning over 40 countries in the Americas and Eurasia.

Join the spectacular events that we are preparing for you

Jamaica | May 11 - 14, 2026 | Program in **English**



Sell the Caribbean with confidence,
strategy, and real market knowledge

Love Caribbean **is a professional training experience created for wedding planners and travel advisors who want to move beyond inspiration and truly understand how to sell** the Caribbean for destination weddings and group celebration travel.

This event goes deeper than venues and visuals. **It prepares you to operate confidently in a complex, high-demand destination market** where logistics, pricing, culture, risk management, and guest experience truly matter.

What makes this event different:

- **Learn** how to design and sell multi-day destination weddings with confidence
- **Understand Caribbean culture** and regional differences beyond the brochure
- **Develop smart pricing strategies** that elevate perceived value
- **Gain tools** to manage risk, safety, and crisis scenarios
- **Apply innovation**, technology, and AI to scale your business
- **Build real connections** with Caribbean partners that lead to long-term opportunities

This event is for professionals who want to sell the
Caribbean like experts

USD 787
GENERAL RATE

From **USD 637***
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DON'T MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO SECURE THE LOWEST INVESTMENT AVAILABLE.
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Antigua, Guatemala | July 13–16, 2026 |
Program in **Spanish**



Deep Luxury, multicultural mastery,
and global positioning

Congreso de Bodas LAT **is IADWP's flagship Latin American congress, designed for professionals ready to elevate their business**, mindset, and international presence.

This is not basic education. **It is a strategic business congress** focused on how the wedding industry is evolving toward Deep Luxury, multicultural celebrations, and global clients with higher expectations.

What you gain at this Congress:

- **A deep understanding** of Deep Luxury: authenticity, intention, and meaningful design
- **Tools** to design and manage multicultural and interfaith weddings
- **Strategies** to charge higher fees and attract international clients
- **Education** on global trends and professional positioning
- **Practical knowledge on AI**, marketing, content, and systems
- **High-value networking** with professionals shaping the Latin American market

This Congress is for those who want to lead the
future of weddings in Latin America.

USD 587
(limited time)

Valid until April 30, 2026

From **USD 437***
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Join the spectacular events that we are preparing for you

Merida, Yucatán | October 19–22, 2026 |
Program in **English**



Culture, innovation, and the future
of destination weddings

Love Mexico is a **specialized training event designed for professionals who want to sell Yucatán with cultural depth**, accuracy, and innovation.

This event blends education, and **future-ready business tools to help you design and sell meaningful, tech-enhanced destination weddings.**

What you gain at Love Mexico:

- **Cultural intelligence** through the local storytelling
- **Clear understanding of Yucatán** as a destination market
- **Skills to design emotionally powerful, tech-enhanced experiences**
- **Training in AI-driven planning**, automation, CRM, and digital tools
- **Smarter revenue models** for destination weddings
- **Premium networking** with Mexican and international professionals

This event is for professionals who want to stay
relevant, innovative, and future-ready.

USD 587
(limited time)

Valid until June 31, 2026

From **USD 437***
IADWP MEMBERS

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LOVE ITALY

Tuscany to Puglia
Nov 4th – 11th
2026



Live, Learn & Sell the Dream
Unlock the full Italian experience.

An immersive educational and networking experience for wedding and travel professionals who want to sell Italy as a luxury destination



VERSILIA



CASTEL
MONASTERO



FIRENZE, VIESCA &
IL FALCONIERE



PUGLIA

FROM NOVEMBER 4th – 11th, 2026

This is not just a trip, it's a transformational journey for wedding and event professionals. Join an unforgettable educational experience from Tuscany to Puglia. Discover Italy's most iconic regions where art, passion, and business come together. Learn directly from local experts, explore authentic venues, and gain the skills to sell Italy with confidence and emotion.

YOUR PROFESSIONAL TAKEAWAYS

An exclusive journey designed to connect you, inspire you, and grow your business

SINGLE USD 6,050 | DOUBLE USD 4,950 PP

UPGRADE YOUR JOURNEY

PRE-FAM | VERSILIA,
NOV 2nd – 4th



- Carrara caves
- Bocelli's world & Forte dei Marmi.

SINGLE: USD 1,675
DOUBLE: USD 1,350 PP

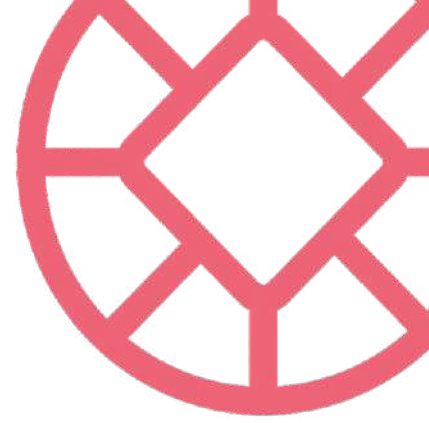
POST-FAM | PUGLIA,
NOV 11th – 13th



- Reflect, connect & celebrate.

SINGLE: USD 1,875
DOUBLE: USD 1,675 PP

IADWP CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP 2026



We are thrilled to present two distinguished **Corporate members** of the International Association of Destination Wedding Professionals:



@realcecostarica

REALCE Furniture



They offer the ideal furniture and comprehensive production for your social or corporate event. Table linens, napkins, plates, tables, chairs, and lounge areas, along with complete planning that transforms any occasion into an unforgettable moment.



Laura Meneses Chaves

Administration

lmenesesch@realcecr.com

+50660511494



@massieu_banquetes

MASSIEU BANQUETES Catering



Massieu Banquetes, a leading company in banquets and event planning in the city of Querétaro



Giselle Massieu

CEO

gimassieu@gmail.com

+524424710732

BECOME A CORPORATE MEMBER
Contact us at members@iadwp.com

IADWP PLATINUM MEMBERSHIP 2026



We are delighted to feature some of our exceptional Platinum members of the International Association of Destination Wedding Professionals:



Sonia Martínez Jurado
Bridal Agency

WEDDING
TOURISM
SPECIALIST

@bridalagency_

With over 10 years of experience, Bridal Agency creates extraordinary destination weddings in Colombia and Miami. They specialize in visionary events and are certified in Jewish and LGBTQ+ weddings, operating in Cartagena, Bogotá, and beyond to exceed every expectation.



Dana Braun
Aisle + Away Travel Co

WEDDING
TOURISM
SPECIALIST

@aisleaway

As the founder of an award-winning travel agency, she specializes in all-inclusive destination weddings and group events across Mexico and the Caribbean. Also serving as a Chapter Head for the IADWP, she facilitates vital industry connections and mentors peers. Her leadership transforms first-hand expertise into professional growth, helping others build sustainable and collaborative destination wedding businesses.



Juan Salvador Rangel Granados
Juan Salvador Group C.A

WEDDING
TOURISM
SPECIALIST

@juansalvadoreventos

Juan Salvador Event Planner as a professional event planner, working on events for both social and corporate clients. Specializing in traditional weddings and destination weddings.



Kelly Oinonen-Newton
Romantic Planet Vacations

@romanticplanetvacations

As a destination wedding specialist, her differentiating factor is that she combines deep destination expertise with highly personalized, full-service planning, so couples feel genuinely supported from the first conversation to the final farewell brunch.

Every detail is intentional, every recommendation is experience-based, and every wedding is treated as unique—never templated.

BECOME A PLATINUM MEMBER

Contact us at members@iadwp.com

IADWP® *wishes you a*
Happy Birthday
February



Ceci Johnson
Feb 2nd
@cecijohnsson



Karla De Burgos
Feb 2nd
@logiss.gt



Nazaret Tiburcio
Feb 4th
@nazaretderamirez



Marcela Blanco Pinto
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Denise Felt
Feb 9th
fb: escapetoblisstravel



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Margarita Carbajal
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Suzanne Haire
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Marangeli Vázquez
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Alex Gaudiano
Feb 12th
@alexgaudio



Mario Ayala
Feb 13th
@mario.r.ayala



Vanessa Lugo
Feb 17th
@eventosbyvanessalugo

2026

IADWP[®] *wishes you a*
Happy Birthday
February



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@pzacarias



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Feb 17th
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Wendy Espinosa
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Veronica Cole
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Yaniris Perez
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Design:

Velvet Hell Estudio

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