

# ÉPICA

WEDDINGS AND EVENTS

Number 5

May 2024

***Ping-Pong***

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***Peru***

The magic of an ancient destination.

***¡Boden, creating experiences!***

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Elevating weddings to an unforgettable experience



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Elevating weddings to an unforgettable experience



**Adrián Pavía**  
Capítulo Sudamérica  
Director IADWP

### Celebrating industry progress in 2024

Greetings to all our readers who are passionate about the world of weddings and events! This year 2024 has seen exciting developments in our industry, marking a milestone in the way we celebrate love and union. From new trends in decoration to innovations in planning technology, every detail has become even more memorable and significant.

I would like to take a moment to especially congratulate the vibrant Cartagena-Colombia chapter for their extraordinary success. Your creativity, passion and dedication have shone throughout this year, inspiring brides, grooms, and event planners around the world. May your example continue to light the way to excellence and innovation!

On this exciting journey into the future, it is important to recognize the power and leadership of all the 'alphas' who drive our industry. It is you, with your bold vision and unwavering determination, who challenge boundaries and elevate each event to new heights. Continue to be the inspiration we need!

Last but not least, I want to pay tribute to all the "headchapters" who work tirelessly to make our magazine shine. Their dedication and commitment are the driving force behind every page, every story, and every memorable moment we share with our beloved audience.

In this industry of romance, every wedding is more than an event; it is a testament to the strength, fortitude and dedication everyone puts into making each experience truly unique and unrepeatable. From the planners to the florists, from the chefs to the photographers, everyone comes together with passion and commitment to create moments that will last a lifetime. It is this unwavering dedication that makes each ceremony shine with authenticity and emotion, transforming dreams into reality and creating unforgettable memories that will last forever.

To our dear bride and groom readers of ÉPICA, who honor us with their confidence by choosing us as their guides on the journey to the most important day of their lives: we want to express our deep pride in being a part of this special moment. It is a privilege to be educators and mentors on the road to your union, and we pledge to offer you the inspiration, support and resources you need to make your wedding a faithful reflection of your love and your story. May every page of our magazine be a source of inspiration and guidance, helping you create memories you will treasure forever. Your happiness is our greatest reward!

Together, we will continue to create magic at every celebration!

May love and creativity remain at the heart of everything we do!

  
Adrián Pavía  
Head Chapter  
Capítulo Sudamérica  
IADWP

# *Ping-Pong*



Learn more about our Guatemala Chapter  
Head, Diana Sciarrillo



**1. Why are you a wedding and event planner?**

I am a wedding planner because I have always said that you should love what you do and I am in love! I am a wedding and event planner because every wedding is a blank canvas waiting to be painted with elegance and glamour, and I love being the artist behind every brushstroke of luxury and sophistication.

**2. What is your favorite place in Guatemala?**

My favorite place in Guatemala is the majestic Lake Atitlán, where natural beauty merges with the exquisite charm of the Guatemalan culture, creating a simply dazzling scenery.

**3. In which destination in Guatemala would you celebrate your own wedding?**

I would celebrate my own wedding in the magical enclave of Lake Atitlan, Guatemala, the romantic atmosphere creates an incomparable setting for such a momentous occasion.

**4. Where would you like to celebrate a destination wedding outside of Guatemala?**

We have organized weddings in various destinations around the world but I would delight in organizing a destination wedding in the luxurious Amalfi Coast in Naples, Italy, among historic palaces and sun-drenched beaches. A dream experience for the bride and groom and their most exclusive guests!

**5. What advice would you give to a planner who is just starting his career and is reading this ping-pong?**

My advice to a novice planner is: Don't skimp on the opulence of the details, and



always keep the sparkle of passion to create unforgettable moments that will take everyone's breath away. Let your clients dream big and make those dreams big!

**6. What has been the most difficult trip you have had to face for your work?**

The most challenging trip was organizing a wedding in a remote but magical destination in Mexico, where luxury and extravagance clashed with scarce resources (it was on a private island). Thank God creativity and ingenuity always triumph in the search for perfection.

**7. If you had a super power, what would it be? How could you make use of it in the middle of a wedding?**

If I had a super power, it would be the ability to materialize the most luxurious dreams instantly. Imagine being able to turn every wish of the bride and groom into a dazzling reality!

With this superpower, I could instantly transform my clients' dreams into luxurious experiences. I could materialize extravagant decorations, exclusive locations and personalized details with just a thought, creating weddings and events that surpass expectations and leave my clients dazzled. Besides, I could surprise my clients with unexpected elements and add a magical touch to every occasion.

**8. What kind of hobbies or activities do you like to do besides weddings and events?**

Besides organizing weddings and high-end events, I enjoy indulgent moments with my children and friends, cooking gourmet



dinners and visiting the most exclusive corners of the world, always looking for excellence in every experience.

**Professionally speaking, what is your daily motivation?**

My daily motivation professionally is the relentless pursuit of excellence not only in the art of wedding planning, but in every aspect of my life. I seek to be happy and, in turn, make those around me happy. I thrive on the gratification of creating truly unforgettable moments for my clients and loved ones.

**10. What quality sets you apart from other wedding planners?**

I believe my greatest quality is that I strive to transform my clients' visions into unique sensory experiences, where every detail is meticulously designed to evoke deep emotions and create unforgettable memories. My focus on excellence and perfection ensures that each event is truly exceptional. Every event for me is personal, I don't see it as a job.

**11. What would you like your company to be like in the future?**

In the future, I see my company as an absolute reference of extravagance and refinement in the wedding industry, setting new standards of opulence and distinction. I want to know that *Do, Guatemala* has been an essential part of the movement that has managed to place the name of this beautiful country on high.

**12. What skill that you have not mastered today would you like to perfect and would also benefit your company?**

As a luxury event planning professional, I would like to hone my ability to integrate technology in more innovative ways into my services. Incorporating emerging technologies such as virtual reality, augmented reality, or even artificial intelligence could take my events to the next level, offering even more personalized and immersive experiences for my clients. This would not only increase my company's appeal, but also provide a competitive advantage in an increasingly sophisticated and demanding market.

**13. What kind of music can't be missing in one of your weddings?**

At my weddings, the music should always be a symphony of elegance and good taste, tailored to the unique tastes and preferences of the bride and groom. For modern and extravagant events, I like to combine classical music with contemporary elements to create a unique and luxurious experience. I like to include reinterpretations of musical classics with modern arrangements or instrumental versions of current hits to add a fresh and exciting touch to the atmosphere. This fusion of classical and modern ensures that the music reflects timeless elegance while adapting to the style and preferences of clients seeking truly dazzling and memorable events.

**14. What are you afraid of during the organization of a wedding?**

One of the biggest fears I may face during the planning process is the possibility that a key supplier fails at the last minute or does not deliver on their commitments, jeopardizing the success of the event. However, while I may experience moments of uncertainty or worry due to this possibility, I use these moments as opportunities to strengthen my network of reliable suppliers and establish solid contingency plans. I have always tried to maintain a proactive and confident attitude.

***Diana Sciarrillo***

Chapter Head Guatemala IADWP

@Idoguatemala

dianas@weddingsinguatemala.com

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# Peru

The magic of an ancient destination







Peru, a multicultural country and a destination with an enviable tourist potential. There are too many reasons to visit this beautiful place: majestic landscapes, cities full of history, culture and tradition, an internationally acclaimed gastronomy and an impressive flora and fauna.

Definitively, Peru enchants for its magical contrasts in its three regions: the coast with its beautiful beaches and a warm desert, the highlands surrounded by high peaks in the Andes, and the vast and enigmatic Amazon full of tropical forests. It is one of the most biodiverse countries in the world and a destination that will surprise you in every corner.

Can you imagine celebrating a destination wedding in such an exotic country full of unique landscapes? Get ready to experience the beauty and tradition of this vibrant country and a must-see destination for lovers of adventure and diversity. I invite you to get to know some cities where you can enjoy a true destination wedding experience.



**Lima**, the capital that stands out for its historical beauty and one of the few capitals in Latin America bathed by the Pacific Ocean. It is an ideal setting where tradition and modernity blend, preserving a colonial air with architectural constructions that are the ideal setting for a wedding with classic and elegant touches. Our capital city has majestic churches, republican mansions, classic museums and locations such as beautiful estates and gardens to hold parties and ceremonies full of authenticity.



**Cusco**, one of the most mystical places to have your wedding. It is an iconic destination par excellence with its cobblestone streets, historic ruins, imposing Andean mountains, and with extraordinary views of a wonderful blue sky that seems painted with watercolor. The Sacred Valley is the ideal setting for couples who love the countryside, nature and the energy that can only be breathed in the Inca city. Undoubtedly, Cusco is a city where you breathe history everywhere you go and a magical place for destination weddings. This destination reflects a true mix of nature and spirituality where you will find inspiration and magical connection with the earth.



**Ica**, famous for the dunes of its huge deserts and the Huacachina oasis. It would be impossible not to go to this place and taste the best pisco in the world. Ica is famous for its countryside and the quality of its wines, in this city you will find the most important wine estates. Here you can live a whole experience walking through the corridors of the wineries and tasting the best of their flavors.



**Arequipa**, better known as the White City and framed by the majestic Misti volcano. It is a city that has it all, a city with colonial architecture where ancient locations and traditions are still preserved surrounded by fabulous scenery. Visiting this city is like traveling back in time and observing the beautiful colonial mansions in European-Andean style that are the setting for many celebrations.



**Máncora**, is a destination that stands out for its paradisiacal scenery and offers the calm and beauty of its beaches. In this place you can live a wedding with a totally relaxed scenario and enjoy a celebration with the sea breeze. It is ideal to celebrate a romantic wedding due to the excellent weather and its dreamy sunsets. Besides, it has an exquisite marine gastronomy to satisfy the most refined and demanding palates.



**Huaraz**, known as the Peruvian Switzerland, is a typical city surrounded by mountains and is perfect for adventure sports lovers. In this place you will find culture and relaxation and you will be amazed by the landscapes full of snow-capped mountains, lagoons and glaciers.

Each of these cities will make you live experiences full of nature, emotion, history, warmth and diversity. Peru offers you iconic places to discover a different wedding destination, and I assure you that you will be amazed by every corner you visit. It's time to celebrate love in this country full of culture, magic and tradition. Peru is waiting for you with open arms!

**Jossy Quezada**

Chapter Head Peru IADWP

@jossyquezadawp

Photos courtesy: @clarooscurobodas



# *The Suitcase*



Memories of a Wedding Planner

My name is Erinna Reyna and I have been a Wedding & Event Planner since 2016. I'm an Agro-industrial Engineer but I became passionate about weddings and events when, in 2014, I started helping my husband Juan Salvador in activities that he didn't have time for because of the set up and that for me, being a woman, were obviously more comfortable as well as for the brides and ladies of her closest ring. In that year I was trained, and from this beautiful job I have many anecdotes, and the closeness that gives me to lead our Bridal Care service; I almost have enough to write a book. Here I leave you one of many!



### **The Bride's Suitcase**

This is the story of a bride who got married in 2017 and even though we spent five months planning her wedding, and on several occasions I talked to her about packing her suitcase for the honeymoon, there was something we didn't count on: The excessive control of the Bride's dad.

It turns out that the bride's suitcase was in her father's car and we asked him for it four times, but he said he would bring it

later. The Groom's brother was in charge of getting the car ready in which the newlyweds would go to the hotel and from there in the afternoon they would leave for the airport to go on their honeymoon. The bride's father delayed the delivery of the suitcase as much as he could; we did not know what else to tell the groom's brother, who insistently told us that the only thing missing was the bride's suitcase. It was at 5:45 am when Juan Salvador finally got the father of the bride to give the car key to one of our assistants to look for the suitcase, so we could deliver it to the groom's brother, who with great speed got everything ready. Not ten minutes passed when we saw the groom literally steal the bride away from the celebration. The bride's father achieved what he wanted, delaying the departure as much as possible so that they could enjoy everything planned for that beautiful evening to the fullest. To this day, this story is remembered together with the bride and groom and their families, especially the father...

***Erinna Reyna***

Professional Wedding & Event Planner  
@jsbridalcare



# EXTRAORDINARY WEDDINGS

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# *Photography*

 Motion blur fashion

Have you ever wondered why wedding photos with a peculiar “blurry” touch have become so frequent on social networks?

Photography is an art form that has evolved over time, adapting to new technologies and market trends. But what is behind this trend?

Let's talk about motion blur, this photographic technique that uses slow shutter speeds in cameras to capture the fluidity and action of the moment. Why has it gained so much popularity? Mainly because it has the power to transport the viewer to an instant that is perceived as unique and real.

At a wedding, where everything happens so fast for the bride and groom, movement becomes a recognizable ingredient that adds authenticity and emotion to your photos.

Although it is not a new technique, it has made a strong comeback in recent years,



reflecting a change in the perception of beauty and aesthetics in wedding photography.

We know that people connect better with images that are perceived as human and imperfect. However, to what extent can we allow that connection to happen if we can barely recognize what we are seeing? It's important to know that some things become questionably “blurry” when the pressure to stand out on networks comes into play.

Unsharp photos have to be the most controversial photographic trend at the moment, one that can generate love and hate with very few options in between, that's why our recommendation for couples when choosing their photographer is to ask to see more than one portfolio. You should ask as many questions as you feel necessary, and above all communicate the expectation you have for your photographic coverage, so you can make a better decision.



This type of photography, along with black and white photos, snapshots with direct flash, and roll photography, are also part of a retro wave that envelops us in an atmosphere of nostalgia and emotionality.

So who could resist the allure of this 80s-inspired trend? What we must remember is what makes this era so special; a vision that revolved around experimentation and individuality in culture and fashion.

We find that this style adds a special charm to the visual narrative of the celebration, the atmosphere of lights and movement in the celebration will be reflected in an original way and we are sure it will be a good idea to ask your photographer to include them.



It can also evoke the aesthetics of other art forms, such as painting, for example, and has the ability to take people out of their comfort zone in a world saturated with AI-generated and perfected images.

For couples getting ready to take the big step, here are some tips: remember that your wedding is unique, so allow yourself to enjoy every moment and trust your photographer to capture the essence of your love.

Don't worry too much about technical perfection or style; at the end of the day, the most important thing is that your wedding photos capture the essence of that special moment.

Fashion always passes, your engagement is for life.



***Julio Medina Martínez***

Photographer and Director in Clarooscuro Bodas  
IG: @clarooscurobodas  
E-mail: informes@clarooscuro.pe





# *Flowers*

The mental exercise of color

When starting the process of organizing a wedding, I consider that a fundamental part for the professional of the flowers, coordinator or event designer as such, is to know the color that identifies the bride and groom. Undoubtedly, I tell you that from that moment the magic of creating and designing by and for the bride and groom starts. Based on the color it will be possible to establish how to decorate according to the chosen space, the schedule, and above all, the style. My fundamental advice for the bride and groom when they are ready to talk about decoration with their floral coordinator or designer is to be clear about COLOR.

I share with you some recommendations on how to make a mental exercise of color and arrive with a clearer palette to the meeting with the person in charge of this mission.



**1. THE ATMOSPHERE:** Color undoubtedly helps to create the atmosphere. If you are romantic and dreamy, go for pastel tones. Cheerful and vibrant go hand in hand with oranges and yellows. For modern and minimalist marry in white with black and gray. Shades of green are for bohemian and eclectic brides and grooms. And for traditional and classic environments do not abandon white which is your best ally.



**2. THE SEARCH FOR INSPIRATION:** Look at the colors of flowers, sunsets, seasons, seascapes, forests, etc. Keep an eye on wedding magazines and blogs. Enter museums and virtual galleries to observe paintings and photographs. Don't forget that technology has put social media at your fingertips and see how Instagram, Pinterest, etc. blow your mind and help you ground it. And don't overlook personal interests and hobbies which are often the winners in choosing the color.





**3. SEASON:** If you live in a city where the seasons of the year are very of the year are well marked, let that help you to find the color that prevails in your environment during the date of your wedding.



**4. THE SITE:** I think it is crucial to stop and look around outdoors or in an enclosed room. The “vibe” of the place will help you see what colors go there. The color palette of earth and greens look out of place in a rustic setting. If the site is modern and minimalist, a more sober or even monochromatic color palette would be the best choice.



I can only say that the most important thing here is that the bride and groom are clear that this is their day and that what they choose should go hand in hand with their personal tastes and preferences. You will have to see many options and above all opinions, but the most important thing here is you. The color or colors to use in the wedding are the best way to express your style and above all your personality.

*Alexander Gaudiano*  
 Floral Designer and Room Freshener  
 Alpha Leader of IADWP  
 IADWP Member Capítulo PANAMA



# *Boden, creating experiences!*

Ephemeral architecture for weddings

The ephemeral architecture trends in weddings are constantly evolving. Nowadays more and more weddings seek to narrate an experience through architectural design and spaces created to enjoy special moments such as: bar, dance floors, backings and spots that become totally 'instagrammable'. Natural materials such as wood, bamboo or even foliage are used to create structures that integrate harmoniously with the environment.

Large-scale floral installations: from arched flowers to floral walls; structures decorated with lush floral arrangements are an elegant and romantic choice.

From our specialty, we contribute to each of the weddings generating spaces that remain engraved in the memory and in the heart of each of the guests. We intervene each of the tracks, stages, ceilings and floors always creating an extraordinary atmosphere. That is why we want to highlight the importance of the design and choice of these elements when planning a wedding.



The choice of flooring and dance floor for a wedding can make a big difference in the comfort and atmosphere of the event. Here are some considerations and options:

### **1. Custom and raised floors**

These are ideal for outdoor events or in locations where the terrain may be uneven. They provide a level and stable surface for guests, and also protect women's shoes and dresses.





## 2. Specialty rugs

For indoor weddings, a quality rug can add a touch of elegance and definition to the dance area. Custom patterned rugs or rugs in colors that complement the wedding décor are recurring options.

## 3. Custom dance floors

A custom dance floor is a great way to add style and personality to the event. You can opt for a classic wooden dance floor, a dance floor with color-changing LED lighting, or even a dance floor printed with the couple's monogram or a design that ties in with the whole concept.

## 4. Size and location

Consider the number of guests and the space available when choosing the size of the dance floor. It should be large enough to accommodate everyone who wants to dance, but also leave enough room for other activities. In addition, the location of the dance floor in relation to the tables and the DJ or band floor is important to maintain the energy and fluidity of the event.

By choosing the right floor and dance floor, you can ensure that your guests enjoy the celebration to the fullest and that the atmosphere is perfect for dancing and having fun.



*Oscar Mora*

@bodencolombia  
infobodencolombia@gmail.com



*The Most Elegant  
Dress of Recent Times*

Grace Kelly

The famous American actress Grace Kelly: the spring of 1956 saw her become a princess, when she married the most eligible bachelor of the time, Prince Rainier III.

Grace Kelly and Prince Rainier of Monaco tied the knot on April 28th of that year. The whole wedding had a halo of fairy tale, mystique and romanticism. Grace wore one of the most inspiring dresses in the world of romance.

The dress took exactly 6 weeks to make and involved the work of 35 seamstresses who did not stop for a minute. They worked day and night non-stop with the only goal of getting the dress ready for the big day in a timely manner.



The design was by Helen Rose, one of Grace Kelly's favorite dressmakers. Helen was the one who worked at her side at the film studios, Metro Golden Mayer. Although Helen knew perfectly the silhouette of the future princess and had already designed several pieces for Grace in her films, she clearly knew that this was not just another dress but "THE dress". Helen's inspiration is clear to see, it was perfect and fit the silhouette like a glove. Helen has confessed that it was the most expensive dress she had ever made up to the time it was made.





### ***Curious facts***

The lace alone was 100 years old, a creation of silk taffeta, Brussels lace and pearls. A delicate fitted model, with French lace on the second layer and a wide skirt with a sash that perfectly marked the waist.

The texture of an angelic veil completed an outfit that would undoubtedly go down in history.

The beautiful costume consisted of a sweetheart bodice, attached to a wide skirt with two lace petticoats. It required 25 meters of silk taffeta, 100 meters of silk mesh and about 12 meters of Brussels lace to make. The outfit was completed with a headdress embroidered with pearls to match the shoes and a small bible that set the trend in the following years. The bouquet was made of lilies of the valley, a flower that the princess loved.

An estimated cost today for the dress is around 5000 USD, perhaps at that time the sum would have amounted to a value of 10,000 USD, which for that time was a very important amount.

It was definitely a dress made for a princess. It was a wedding that everyone talked about. Many brides even to this day copied what happened at the royal wedding. Flowers, cakes and music, but without a doubt Helen Rose was blessed to create a personalized romantic style that marked an era and that many brides still desire today.

Grace & Prince Rainier were the first great fairy tale. A tale that was truncated perhaps because of the pearls that this dress wore. The belief of wearing or not wearing pearls in the wedding dress comes from ancient Rome. Although they were a symbol of high economic status, they linked it with the tears of an angel and said that this would fill your marriage with tears.

Believe or not. Do you dare to wear pearls in your wedding dress?

***Adrián Pavía***  
Wedding Planner  
Argentina



*Lighting up the  
dance floor*

The power of the wedding DJ



“Dive with us into the story of Costa Rica's DJ Fede Fernández as he shares with us his exciting journey in the wedding universe. From the most emotional moments to the hottest trends, discover how this talented professional has left his mark on every wedding celebration.”

***How was the dream of being a DJ born and since when?***

Since I was 4 years old. I studied music, but it was at 13 when I discovered the fascinating world of DJs by combining music with technology. Experiencing the feeling of being responsible for making people dance for the first time was something that instantly captivated me and pushed me forward.

***What is your main musical style and how do you define it?***

I consider myself an open format DJ. The main thing for me is to read the audience

and make them have fun on the dance floor, regardless of the musical genre.

***What inspired you to become a DJ and how did you start your career?***

The passion for music and the desire to share that passion with others were my main inspirations. I started my career playing at local events and friends' parties, which allowed me to build my way into the music industry.

***What technological tools or equipment do you use in your presentations?***

I use high quality equipment, such as the pioneer DDJ-ZX, which allows me to offer an exceptional musical experience to my audience.



**Do you have any special ritual or preparation before going on stage?**

Before going on stage, I usually listen to music from different genres, which helps me get in tune and enjoy the songs even more when I share them with the guests.

**What has been your most memorable performance or event so far and why?**

I have had the privilege of playing at festivals like PIC NIC, parties like MOONDANCE, and at incredible weddings in Costa Rica, which are the parties that motivate me the most, as creating unforgettable moments for the bride and groom and their guests is a gratifying experience.

**How do you keep up to date on trends and developments in the music industry?**

I immerse myself in music constantly, from the time I wake up to the time I go to bed. I'm always looking and listening to different genres to keep up with the latest trends and news.



**How do you think the role of the DJ in the music industry has evolved in recent years?**

The role of the DJ has evolved significantly, becoming a key figure in the music industry. Now, DJs are able to fill stadiums and create unforgettable experiences for their audience.

**Do you have any advice for those who are interested in pursuing a career as a DJ?**

My advice would be to follow your passion for music. Those who DJ for the love of music are already the best DJs, as authenticity and passion are what really connects with the audience.

Fede Fernández shares with us the essence of his greatest passion, a passion that he has nurtured for many years and that, without a moment's hesitation, he would choose again if he had the opportunity to live again. For him, being a DJ goes beyond a simple profession; it is a lifestyle, a form of expression that allows him to connect with people's emotions through music. At every event, on every dance floor, he finds the satisfaction of doing what he loves and transmitting that contagious energy to those around him. His dedication and love for his art are palpable in every note he plays, in every mix he creates, in every moment he shares with his audience. Being a DJ is not only his job, it is his vocation, his identity, and his reason for being.

+506 8316 5144

***Msc. Je rey Cervantes Calderón***

CEO of Costa Rica Wedding Planner  
& Chapter Head Costa Rica.

Tel. +506 8665 0990  
director@crweddingplanner.com  
@CRWeddingPlanner



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# *Traditions of Love*

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A glimpse of Chinese wedding  
ceremonies in Panama

Chinese weddings in Panama have a millenary tradition. Today we could say that we are in the fifth generation or possibly sixth generation, and we try to continue with our cultures and traditions, among them, obviously, the wedding. The wedding is practically a whole day, starting at 5.00 a.m. and ending after midnight.

The night before, the bride and groom cannot see each other. Each must be at home. For the next day, the bride leaves her parents' house, as does the groom. The day and date of the wedding are chosen by someone who knows about astrology or by the elders of the family, who choose the day and a specific time.

From that moment on, the bride and her court are prepared, and that is where the ceremonies really begin, although many things have changed a little bit, but the most important thing in our culture is still the same: the main traditions.



As we mentioned, the wedding itself starts at 5.00 a.m. Here the bride and her court are prepared, and the first ceremony is the combing ceremony.

The combing ceremony: the oldest woman is chosen, the longest-lived of the family and who knows how to do it. In fact, it is to pass the comb in the bride's hair, since nowadays there are some Chinese Panamanians who do not know how to do it. For that reason, it is necessary to make sure that she also knows how the ceremonial act is, and it consists of 3 parts:

1. To be together until the end.
2. To have a home, children, grandchildren, and abundance.
3. To last a lifetime, until old age.

While the groom and his court prepare in a caravan to go to the bride's house, the route or tour is also chosen by the people who chose the day and time.



When the groom arrives at the bride's house, there is another ceremony, the penance ceremony, which consists of games and challenges that must be fulfilled. The idea is to make life impossible for the groom. All this is prepared by the bridesmaids beforehand. Both ladies and gentlemen of the court must be 3 to 5 each, the number must be odd, but never 7, nor even numbers.

Following this, the bride leaves her home where the lunch and social event will be held. In the afternoon, after lunch, the bride changes into a white dress, as used in the West.



At the end of the afternoon, the tea ceremony is held, usually at the groom's house. In this tea ceremony, the parents give an envelope with silver in a red envelope. From that moment on, they both call their in-laws mom and dad. This is a process of family integration. This ceremony consists of the bride and groom kneeling in front of both parents at the same time, showing their gratitude and love and the integration of both families into one.

The toast: the union of both families is made with the grandparents first, then the uncles and aunts; from the most distant to the closest, starting with the longest-lived.

The costume of both bride and groom is red, because it signifies fertility, it signifies everything good. Red is love. And in all good celebrations, both the bride and the groom wear red. In the morning, you wear the traditional Chinese red dress, and with that, all the ceremonies. And in the evening, the dress is changed again, that is, to the red dress, but much simpler, it is no longer the traditional one, this is for the toast and for the crazy hour the red one. After the end of the meal, the elders leave and the young people stay for the party.

***Lorena Chen***

Fashion Designer and Wedding Planner  
@lorena\_chen @eventosbyls  
@miboutiquepanama





# *The Boutonnière*

Honor, distinction, and style

The boutonniere is an honor worn by the groom on his left lapel for the special recognition he has at the wedding by being the protagonist of a unique event. Like the bride's bouquet, the boutonniere is an achievement of the floral style as a distinction, it is ideally an extract of the most emblematic and beautiful flowers carried by the bride's bouquet. It can frame the traditional, classic or avant-garde style.

The boutonniere (a French word) is a distinctive feature of the ceremony. In addition to the groom, parents, groomsmen or witnesses, and gentlemen of the cortege may also wear it, and the designation will depend on the customs, religion and style by which the wedding is governed.

In Venezuela, we are accustomed to impose the boutonniere on the groom, parents of the bride and groom, godparents and gentlemen who are part of the procession according to the style of dress for that moment.

When we talk about honor, distinction and style, it is precisely because the protagonists in a wedding are of course the bride and groom and the people they have assigned to be the most important in the wedding. So there comes into play that distinction that is part of a complement to the groom's wardrobe. As it is a unique ceremony, all the elements involved must be special. In the timing of the wedding, the moment of delivery of the boutonniere should be noted as a point of honor of the protocol.



In a recent wedding I lived the experience of delivering a gift from the bride to the groom, it was a special jewel, a locket with the photo of his deceased father, which was to be placed in

his boutonniere. It was my second wedding within the family, which made me know the emotionality it would generate in everyone. I imagined the moment that the groom's mother would place that distinctive and knowing what it would represent, I decided to order for her a rosary that included a locket with the same photo and so they could enter the ceremony together carrying a special memory of a loved one, it was a wonderful moment.

Everything that frames the organization of an event should be aimed at creating wonderful and unforgettable memories that will become great treasures.

### ***Here are some useful recommendations on the use of the boutonniere***

Special delivery and placement by the mother of the groom or the bridesmaid at the moment before leaving the groom's room.

- ÿ Document the placement of the boutonniere in photo or video.
- ÿ Have a second boutonniere in case of damage or loss.
- ÿ Consider a discreet size and sober style for the boutonniere.
- ÿ Take into account the texture of the suit to choose the boutonniere clasp if it is with piercing pin or requires a magnet.
- ÿ Take care of the boutonniere as well as the bouquet taking into account the weather when it is made with natural flowers.

### **6 top tips**

- 1) Use the most elegant boutonniere.
- 2) Classic weddings: the boutonniere should be in composition with the bouquet.
- 3) Themed weddings: use an allusive pin.
- 4) Same-sex weddings for men: boutonniere should be in matching tones.
- 5) Avant-garde weddings: a goldsmith pin in composition with a brooch that the bride's bouquet should also have.
- 6) Trendy boutonniere: one that replaces the handkerchief with an elongated shape and is placed in the left pocket of the jacket.

***Mary Mosquera***

Wedding Planner  
Junior Chapter IADWP Venezuela  
[@marymosqueraweddingplanner](https://www.instagram.com/marymosqueraweddingplanner)

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# *Celebrating Love in Diversity*

Multicultural Weddings in Guatemala



In the heart of Central America lies Guatemala, a land rich in vibrant cultures, breathtaking landscapes, and ancient traditions. Amidst its majestic volcanoes and lush rainforests, a growing trend is emerging – multicultural weddings. Couples from diverse backgrounds are choosing Guatemala as their destination to exchange vows, blending their traditions in a celebration of love that transcends borders and cultures.

Guatemala's allure as a wedding destination stems from its unique fusion of indigenous Mayan heritage, colonial history, and modern influences. From the cobblestone streets of Antigua to the mystical ruins of Tikal, each corner of this enchanting country offers a picturesque backdrop for couples seeking an unforgettable wedding experience.



One of the most captivating aspects of multicultural weddings in Guatemala is the opportunity to incorporate elements from different cultures seamlessly. Whether it's weaving traditional Mayan textiles into the bridal attire or exchanging vows in multiple languages, couples are encouraged to express their unique heritage while honoring the local customs.

Throughout the years, Guatemala has witnessed a beautiful tapestry of multicultural weddings, including those steeped in Jewish, Arab, and Hindu traditions. From the vibrant colors of a Hindu mandap set against the backdrop of Lake Atitlán to the rhythmic beats of traditional Arab music echoing through the streets of Guatemala City, each celebration is a testament to the universality of love.

Imagine a Jewish wedding beneath the stars, where the bride and groom break the glass together, symbolizing the fragility of life and the commitment to repair the world.





As the aroma of Middle Eastern spices fills the air, guests are transported to an oasis of love and unity, where ancient rituals intertwine with modern romance.

Moreover, Guatemala's diverse culinary scene adds a delicious dimension to multicultural weddings. From savory tamales to sweet baklava, guests are treated to a feast of flavors that reflect the country's culinary heritage. Couples can also opt for fusion menus, combining traditional Guatemalan dishes with international cuisine to create a culinary experience that satisfies every palate.

Beyond the ceremony itself, Guatemala offers endless opportunities for adventure and exploration, making it the perfect destination for couples and their guests to create lasting memories. From hiking through lush cloud forests to exploring colonial towns, there's something for everyone to enjoy while celebrating love in this captivating country.

However, amidst the romance and cultural richness, it's essential to acknowledge the importance of respecting and honoring the traditions of the local communities. Working closely with experienced wedding planners and cultural advisors ensures that every aspect of the celebration is conducted with sensitivity and authenticity.

In conclusion, multicultural weddings in Guatemala offer a unique blend of romance, cultural immersion, and adventure. By embracing the diversity of love and celebrating it in a setting as enchanting as Guatemala, couples create memories that will last a lifetime. Whether against the backdrop of a colonial church or beneath the canopy of a tropical forest, love knows no boundaries in this land of eternal spring.



***Diana Sciarrillo***

I Do, Guatemala by Diana Sciarrillo  
Idoguatemala  
Weddingsinguatemala.com



# *Costa Rica*



*A romantic destination for honeymoons*

Costa Rica, known as the “Switzerland of Central America,” is an exceptional honeymoon destination for its combination of adventure, luxury and nature. With a wide range of microclimates and ecosystems, from tropical beaches to cloud forests, Costa Rica offers couples the opportunity to experience a diversity of landscapes in a single visit.

For adventure lovers, Costa Rica offers thrilling activities such as white-water rafting, zip-lining through the rainforest, and excursions to spot the majestic birds and exotic animals that call this country home. You can even explore active volcanoes and relax in natural hot springs for a truly rejuvenating experience.

If you prefer a more laid-back approach, Costa Rica's picturesque beaches are perfect for relaxing and enjoying the tropical sun. Imagine relaxing in a hammock at an exclusive hotel overlooking the ocean, indulging in fresh seafood and tropical cocktails as the sun sets over the horizon.



In addition, Costa Rica's tourism infrastructure is top-notch, with a wide range of accommodations ranging from small beachfront bungalows to very luxurious boutique hotels in the middle of the rainforest. Many of these accommodations pride themselves on their sustainable practices, allowing you to enjoy your honeymoon with a clear conscience.

Yesica de Toro CEO of Natura Tours & Travel tells us that they specialize in providing exceptional experiences, “we are proud to offer couples from all over the world, especially from the vibrant Spanish market, as well as from Mexico, the United States and Canada, the opportunity to immerse themselves in the adventure and natural beauty of this paradisiacal destination”.

“Our clients, mostly in their 30s, are discerning travelers looking for a unique and exciting tourism experience. With an average stay of 12 nights, they have enough time to explore Costa Rica's natural treasures in depth.”





Among the most popular destinations are the majestic Tortuguero National Park, known for its biodiversity and incredible canals, as well as the imposing Arenal Volcano, where adventure is combined with breathtaking views. In addition, places like Manuel Antonio, Guanacaste and Monteverde captivate with their lush beauty and exciting activities.

The tours are designed to offer a unique experience of adventure and direct contact with nature. From thrilling rainforest excursions to exciting water activities, our clients will enjoy a variety of unforgettable experiences. After a day of exploration, our exclusive high-end resorts provide the perfect setting to relax and enjoy the serenity of the surrounding nature.



At Yesica de Toro's travel agency, Natura Tours & Travel, they strive to exceed their clients' expectations, providing personalized attention and ensuring that every detail of their honeymoon is perfect.

For more information please contact Yesica at +506 8948 8929 @naturatours\_cr  
www.naturatours.cr  
email: reservations@naturatours.cr  
YouTube: Natura Tours & Travel.

In conclusion, Costa Rica is an incomparable honeymoon destination that combines the thrill of adventure, relaxation on paradisiacal beaches and the opportunity to interact with an amazing and diverse nature. Whether you are looking for adrenaline or romance, this tropical country has everything you need to make your honeymoon an unforgettable and wonderful trip, so get ready to fall in love with Costa Rica!

***Msc. Je rey Cervantes Calderón***

CEO of Costa Rica Wedding Planner  
& Chapter Head Costa Rica.

Tel. +506 8665 0990  
director@crweddingplanner.com  
@CRWeddingPlanner

# *Creating a Dynamic Timeline for your Destination Wedding*

Innovative ideas for an unforgettable  
experience



Planning a destination wedding offers a unique opportunity to infuse your special day with creativity, romance and unforgettable moments. Creating a dynamic timeline is essential to ensure a smooth flow of events while maximizing the charm and appeal of your chosen location. Here I present a comprehensive guide to establishing a timeline for your dynamic destination wedding, full of innovative ideas to make every moment extraordinary.

### ***Pre-wedding festivities***

Kick off the celebrations with a welcome dinner or cocktail reception, allowing guests to mingle and enjoy the atmosphere of the destination.

Consider organizing group activities such as a sunset cruise, beach bonfire or guided tour to familiarize guests with the venue and foster a sense of camaraderie.



### ***The Big Day***

Start the morning with a relaxed breakfast for the wedding party, incorporating local delicacies and flavors.

Go for a picturesque outdoor location for the ceremony, such as a cliffside gazebo, garden oasis or historic monument, to create a stunning backdrop for your vows.

Infuse cultural elements into the ceremony, such as traditional music, rituals or dress, to honor the destination's heritage and add depth to the experience.

Offer guests personalized wedding favors inspired by the venue, such as locally sourced artisanal products, handmade favors, or customized ornaments.

### ***Reception and Celebration***

Choose a reception venue that showcases the beauty of the destination, whether it's a charming villa, beachfront resort or rustic vineyard. Incorporate local cuisine and beverages into the menu, highlighting regional specialties and flavors to tempt palates.

Create a destination-inspired signature cocktail, highlighting indigenous ingredients and flavors for a unique and memorable drinking experience.



Surprise guests with entertainment that reflects the destination's culture, such as traditional dancers, live musicians or fire dancers, to add an element of excitement and intrigue to the festivities.

### ***Post-wedding adventures***

Extend the celebration with post-wedding activities, such as a brunch, group outing or relaxation day at a spa or beach club.

Host a farewell dinner to say goodbye to guests in style, incorporating heartfelt speeches, toasts and reflections on the unforgettable memories shared.

### ***Personal touches and enhancements***

Incorporate innovative elements into your wedding design, such as interactive guest books, photo booths with themed props or DIY stations where guests can create personalized favors.

Use technology to enhance the guest experience, such as creating a website or wedding app with detailed information about the destination, itinerary and logistical details.

Integrate personalized touches throughout the wedding journey, from customized stationery and décor to tailored experiences tailored to your and your guests' preferences and interests.

By following these guidelines and incorporating innovative ideas into your destination wedding timeline, you can create an unforgettable experience that not only celebrates your love, but also showcases the beauty and charm of your chosen venue. From intimate ceremonies with breathtaking views to lively receptions infused with local flavor and culture, your dynamic destination wedding is sure to be a cherished memory for years to come.



***Diana Sciarrillo***

Chapter Head Guatemala IADWP

@Idoguatemala

dianas@weddingsinguatemala.com



# *Liquid Art*

Signature cocktails: where passion  
and innovation blend together



The signature cocktail is a true experience for the senses. It is the transformation of the classic into something unforgettable, taking the mixtures of aromas and textures to the irreverent avant-garde. Each drink is a masterpiece, with a high decoration and drinks that surprise even the most experienced palates.

In this new era of cocktails, infusions are present in every creation, adding a touch of sophistication and unique flavor. The aesthetics have changed, but the passion for cocktails remains intact, each cocktail full of personality and creativity.

But what is more important in signature cocktails, the cocktail itself or the bartender behind the bar? The truth is that they go hand in hand, one would not exist without the other. It is the combination of the bartender's skill and creativity with the quality and originality of the ingredients that makes each drink an unforgettable experience. Signature bartending is a constantly evolving art, where innovation and passion come together to create true liquid masterpieces.

### **5 tips for a great signature cocktail experience at your wedding:**

1. A bartender with a good vibe! Look for someone who is experienced and exudes professionalism and good vibes.
2. The party of flavors! Choose a bartender who offers a wide range of cocktails to suit all tastes, from sweet and citrusy to surprisingly smoky.
3. Cocktails with a seasonal spirit! Opt for drinks that adapt to the weather and the season of your wedding, to refresh your guests with the most delicious flavors.
4. Cocktails that represent you! Choose drinks that reflect your personality and the style of your wedding, whether they are fun and lively or sophisticated and elegant.
5. A taster toast! Before deciding, ask the bartender for a tasting to make sure the cocktails are what you really want and that you love the flavor proposals. cheers!



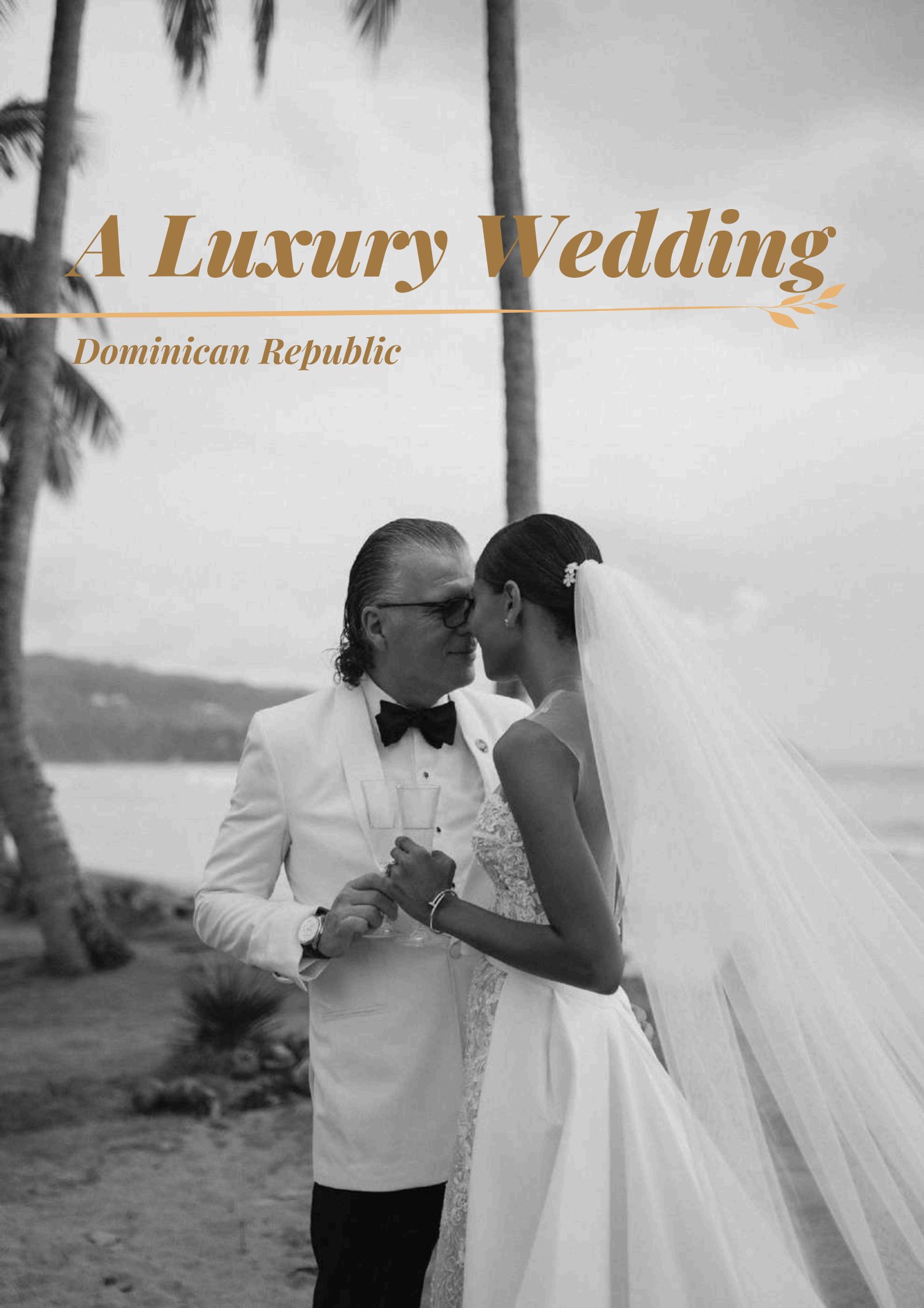
***Mary Hoepf***

Professional Photographer / Brand Mentor /  
Gastronomy Specialist  
[@gastronomiaconpropositove](#)  
[@maryhoepffoto](#) IADWP Venezuela

# *A Luxury Wedding*

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*Dominican Republic*



## **An Unforgettable Destination for your Wedding in the Dominican Republic**

On the northeastern tip of the Dominican Republic, where the waters of the Atlantic Ocean meet the Caribbean Sea, lies a tropical paradise known as Las Terrenas, on the Samaná Peninsula. This picturesque coastal town offers an idyllic backdrop for those seeking a unique and memorable wedding.

### **Natural Beauty and Variety of Locations**

Las Terrenas, in Samaná, Dominican Republic, is the perfect place for unforgettable weddings. With white sand beaches and crystal clear waters, this destination offers a spectacular backdrop for romantic weddings. From boutique beachfront resorts to luxury villas with panoramic views, there are options for every taste and budget.

### **Cultural and Gastronomic Experience**

This charming fishing village combines natural beauty with a rich cultural heritage. The cobblestone streets are dotted with colorful colonial houses and a vibrant nightlife that reflects the joy and warmth of the Dominican people. Brides, grooms and their guests can enjoy delicious local cuisine, including fresh seafood, traditional Creole dishes and exotic tropical fruits.

### **High Quality Event Planning**

At Las Terrenas, we are proud to offer exclusive wedding services designed to meet the most demanding needs of our clients. As event planners, we are committed to carrying a high range of quality vendors to ensure that every detail of your wedding is perfect.







From selecting the ideal venue to coordinating decor, music and catering, we strive to provide a stress-free and memorable experience for every couple.

***An Unforgettable Wedding in Las Terrenas: The Charm of Estefany & Michael***

Recently, we had the privilege of witnessing a truly magical wedding in Las Terrenas, Samaná: the union of Estefany and Michael. Their event was a true celebration of love in a setting that looked like something out of a Caribbean fairy tale.

***Glam Beach Wedding Decoration***

The decorative line chosen for this occasion was a Glam Beach Wedding, a perfect blend of elegance and relaxation. The combination of exotic flowers, wood and glass created a sophisticated yet cozy ambiance that integrated perfectly with the natural surroundings of Las Terrenas.

***An Intimate and Familiar Wedding***

**An Intimate and Familiar Wedding**  
The atmosphere of Estefany and Michael's wedding was truly intimate and familiar. Despite the breathtaking beauty of the venue, the event felt warm and cozy, with the presence of loved ones sharing their love and happiness on this special day.

***The Magic of Sunset***

One of the highlights of the wedding was the beginning of the ceremony at sunset. The gentle sea breeze, the golden sun and the sound of the sea created a magical atmosphere that enveloped all the guests.

***Braulio Segura & Lizandra Segura***

Instagram: BS\_Weddingplanner  
Website: [www.bsweddingplanner.com](http://www.bsweddingplanner.com)  
Email: [info@bsweddingplanner.com](mailto:info@bsweddingplanner.com)  
Tel.: 809-685-1159

# *Cheers*

*¿Salud, chin chin, proischt,  
saude, salute, or sant ?*



The word *brindis* comes from the German expression *Bring dir's*, "I offer it to you or I bring it to you", more or less. According to historians, the use of the word came to Spanish through the Italian language, after the German troops of the army of Charles V invaded Rome and celebrated their victory by raising their glasses shouting "Bring dir's".

Centuries ago, as today, there were those who enriched themselves illicitly, but with a marked difference, since more than fixing everything with bribes, they used a little poison to solve everything and in truth it was easier for them.

It was common to hear stories about impoverished kings marrying off their female daughters to some prince from a neighboring kingdom. The procedure was simple as it consisted of a large celebration, some poison, a glass of wine and finally death, for the bride's father. The fortune passed quickly from one hand to another. But do not think that this lasted long, as there were those who realized and the practice of



toasting fell into disuse, or contrary to what happens today, it became an act of total disregard.

For this reason, imagine the negative connotation of being invited to drink a toast, loaded with mistrust and malice.

Thus, if the one who invited to a toast had offered a poisoned cup, he would be finally imprisoned by his own poison, since when liquid splashed from the other cup he would probably die too, and poisons were so powerful that a drop was enough as a sample.





What a wonderful method of eliminating rivals, it would be so easy to use today! When there are so many who repel each other and share so many lunches and dinners... in another issue of ÉPICA we can talk about what might be the most effective method!

Note that times went by and everything evolved and fortunately everything changed for the better, since the era where great banquets were celebrated arrived very soon. The upper classes celebrated for their own delight or in honor of someone.

The servants were trained to quickly pour the glasses for all the guests, once the host received the firm look of the master, he would raise his glass giving confidence to all and he would take a drink, as a sign that the drink had no poison in it.

To crash or not to crash the cups?

Although I always say that everyone can adopt the habits they like best, I consider it enough to make the gesture of raising the glass for the rest of the guests.

The best of good manners indicates that you only have to raise your glass slightly, making a positive gesture and looking quickly around with your eyes at everyone present without concentrating on just one person. I know very well that many times we enjoy the clash of our glasses with those of our table neighbors, especially if we are among friends.

If you were invited to my table, I would not advise it, as you will surely receive a quick lesson on how vulgar it is to shock them.

At the time of toasting, society is also accustomed to say some words such as *salud*, *chin chin*, *salute*, *santé*, and some daring ones shout foul language and vulgarities. The best thing to do is to refrain from shouting and to dedicate the toast with few words to the well-being of work, family, love or the anniversary in question.

*Santé!*

***Prof. Adrián Pavía***  
Capitulo Sudamerica Director  
IADWP



# *Findings*

Handcrafted luxury pieces

More than dresses for brides and grooms,  
we are handmade stories.

KW Mariakarina handcrafted luxury pieces.

Creative Director Maria Karina Gomez.

A perfect love story needs the dresses themselves to tell in memories how wonderful their wedding was, the reflection of their life at that moment and all the longings of the new family, because the bride and groom's dress are more than a night, they are a testimony of the happiest moment of their lives. We love to celebrate love and that's why every single garment we make tells a handmade story, that's KW Mariakarina.



KW Mariakarina. We create handcrafted pieces to celebrate life...

KW Mariakarina is a young Colombian handmade brand, loaded with the color, energy and fluidity of the Caribbean, with the elegance and modernism of the city. We design unique pieces to create unforgettable moments.



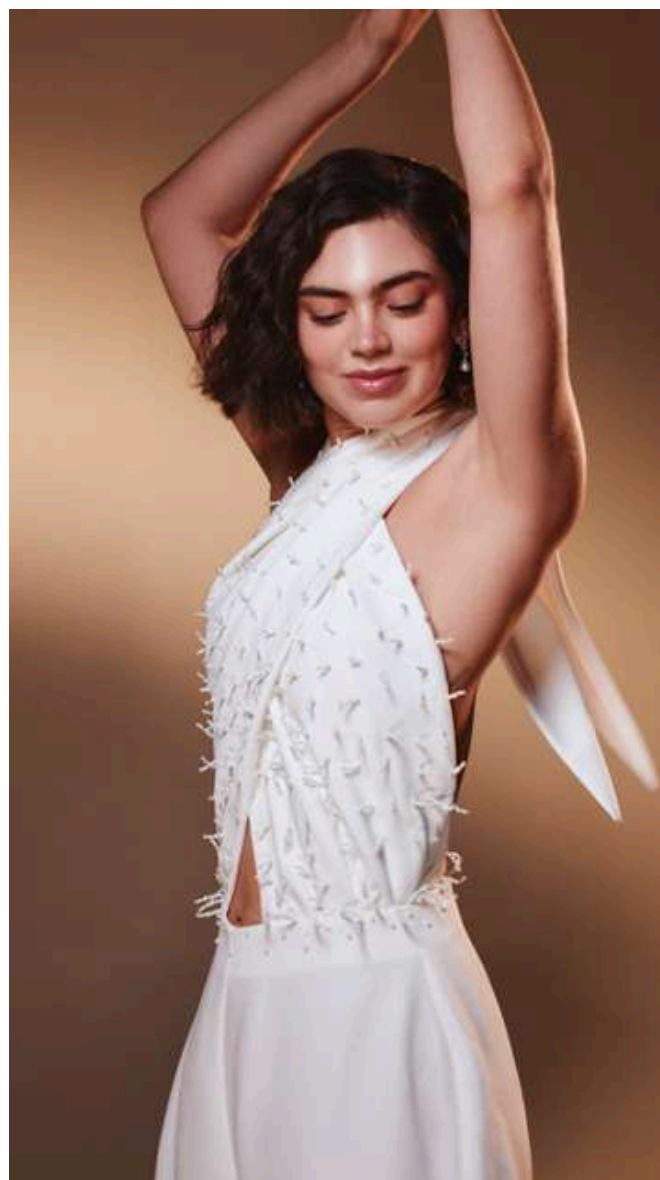
We translate looks into celebration, which represent each of our clients in unique moments, through handcrafted pieces, made from the heart by Colombian hands.

I'm Maria Karina Gomez, the designer behind the brand. I believe that fashion is the best way to communicate and be free, to be who we always dreamed of being. So my goal is to empower my clients with who they are and how they look, and wearing in full color the happiness of celebrating every important moment in their life with unique pieces full of details made with the utmost



dedication. I recognize in the essence of my brand a vibrant, Latin aesthetic; organic lines that flow; a reflection of authentic, confident, young, modern and uncomplicated men and women.

We listen to their stories and are passionate about creating for their personalities, and we help recreate their vision through unique garments.



We never stop reinventing ourselves, for years we were only a women's brand, but we added a new men's line that expresses everything we are, and which recreates a new KW Mariakarina wedding experience, in which we link bride and groom designs.

Get to know everything we do:

Website: [www.kwmariakarina.com.co](http://www.kwmariakarina.com.co)

Instagram: @kwmariakarina

Showroom address: Bogotá, Quinta Camacho, carrera 8 #69-24

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# *The Crazy Hour*

Theme shows and traditions in Peru

## THE 'WOW' FACTOR OF ENTERTAINMENT AND FUN

A theme show is among the best entertainment alternatives for weddings. This makes more Peruvian brides and grooms choose them for their big day, but do you know what a theme show is?

Surely you've been to some weddings, birthdays, corporate events, etc. that incorporated the "traditional" crazy hour and let's say that you have not been very surprised because they only do the classic round to dance along with the typical mime or classic stilt walker that accompany them to dance. Well, this has changed! Now, with a theme show you can have so much more.



Unlike the crazy hour, shows of this type are personalized. That is to say, the bride and groom choose the theme with which the entertainment production company entertains their guests. You could say that it is a thematic crazy hour, but it covers much more. The level of characterization of the characters on stage is also different; the artistic makeup, prosthetics, circus performance, musicalization (sometimes live), lighting and even mapping contemplate a greater logistics that allows offering a show for the most demanding bride and groom who decide to surprise their guests.

The characters you have chosen for your wedding show will be the ones who will start the presentation with a small staging

(or a grand entrance) and not only that, but also happenings or games, choreographies that your favorite characters will lead so that everyone can join in this fun moment and even take pictures with personalized frames related to the chosen theme.

There is nothing better than for the guest to enjoy watching a show that matches the personality and tastes of the bride and groom. Obviously this does not necessarily mean creating everything from scratch (which can also be done) and investing a mega budget. There are many creative ways to adapt what exists, but without losing sight of the style of each couple and every wedding should have.



The theme show, however, is not the only time to entertain guests. Theme characters can be included from the reception to enhance the guests' experience during their arrival at the wedding. Human tables are a sensation at weddings and there are also other entertainment alternatives such as close up magic, giant bubbles and aerial fabrics. Also, during lunch or dinner you can opt for a Peruvian or international dance show, but it is not the only alternative. A Peruvian *cajón* show, saxophone, violin, etc. are also good alternatives highly valued by the guests.

These entertainment options will give a unique touch to your wedding. They are designed especially for those who are not satisfied with the usual or follow trends and fashions. The axis of a good idea in the wedding will be to surprise and provide a unique moment to the guests from beginning to end.



***Gonzalo Castillo***  
Producer & Creative Director  
Ingenio Espectáculos  
@ingenioespectaculos2  
hola@ingenio.com.pe

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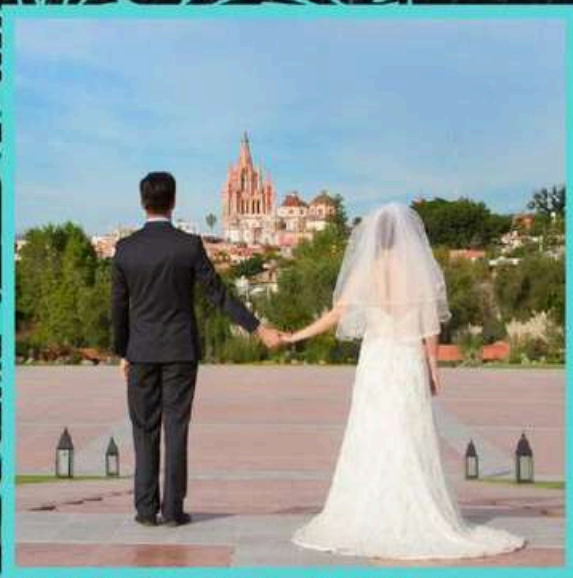


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# *Punta Cana*

Top ten reasons to celebrate your wedding in the Caribbean city



There are many advantages of having your wedding in Punta Cana to make the most of your budget and get your dream wedding. This great celebration is not only a wedding but a weekend vacation for all your friends and family.

Whether it's an intimate beach ceremony, or something more elegant, or whatever you have in mind for your wedding, Punta Cana has so much to offer that it might be hard to decide.

That is why we will tell you why having YOUR WEDDING IN PUNTA CANA could turn out to be one of the best decisions in your life.

If you are thinking of having your wedding in Punta Cana, it is important that you consider the following reasons, which are a great advantage for you. This way, you will be able to clear up those doubts about whether or not it is a good idea to have your wedding there.



### **Accessibility**

Punta Cana has an international airport which receives more than 10 million tourists a year connecting us with more than 90 cities or destinations around the world. It is considered one of the most important airports in the Caribbean and Latin America. It has a new terminal with the highest standards to make your arrival and departure very pleasant.

This places us in a preferential position by having a connectivity that brings value and facilities to your guests.

As for ground transportation we have a number of tour operators and transportation agencies ready to take your guests from one destination to another.

Just 2 hours from the capital city of Santo Domingo, you can also offer a city tour and get to know the benefits of both worlds.



### **2. A wedding with quality and style at the right value**

Because the Dominican Republic is a popular destination for weddings, it offers you the possibility to hire highly qualified local suppliers who can not only provide you with more affordable solutions. You will be able to find companies to do everything you need to achieve your dream wedding.

On the other hand, having your wedding in Punta Cana (an ideal place for your destination wedding), allows you to have a wedding full of magic and culture, with a relaxed atmosphere and designed for you. There are many places specialized in cozy and romantic weddings, where the only thing that matters is the magical experience for you and your guests, but if you are thinking of a full scale wedding we will also be prepared for you.

### **3. The Caribbean climate is always ideal for your wedding**

Whether it is summer or winter, the weather in the Dominican Republic is always sunny, which makes it ideal for a wedding in Punta Cana. Although there may be variations in the tropical climate, this is not an impediment to perform the ceremonies. There are many and diverse options, and they are always beautiful.

### **4. Dreamy and incredible decorations that can be possible**

The best thing about having weddings in Punta Cana is that you have a great diversity of options and scenarios in which you can make your dream come true. With the help of a wedding planner you will be able to find that ideal place and have the decoration of your dreams where no detail will be out of your reach. We have all the equipment and creativity to achieve a large-scale wedding, if that is what you are looking for, and we also specialize in details. They will make your event unique and will not be forgotten in the minds of your loved ones. Our suppliers have extensive experience in the field and will give you solutions to everything you need.



### **5. You can have any type of wedding in Punta Cana**

Normally, there are several types of ceremonies. These are carried out depending on the religion professed by the bride and groom or their wishes when getting married. In addition to civil and religious ceremonies, there are also ceremonies that are symbolic or vow renewals.

As for religious ceremonies, the only ones that are legally valid are Catholic ceremonies. However, religious ceremonies of any type of religion professed by either or both bride and groom, Catholic, Christian, non-denominational, or symbolic acts can also be performed. There are also the famous elope weddings, as well as same-sex weddings, for which there are many spaces designed to celebrate them.

To learn about the requirements and procedures for any of these types of ceremonies, you can contact local wedding planners who will help you organize every detail of your wedding. Regardless of the setting, they will make it possible for you to have the best day of your life.



#### **6. All-inclusive hotels or customized venues**

Punta Cana specializes in being one of the great destinations for weddings of all kinds and our wide range of hotels supports this premise.

If you are thinking of a vacation with your guests, where you don't have to leave the place, many large hotel chains will be able to offer you this option.

If you are looking for something personalized you can resort to more exclusive spaces within Punta Cana to celebrate the most emblematic weddings full of magic where your limit is the sky and the sea. Ready to transport your guests from one destination to another!

#### **7. Gastronomic and hotel offer**

Punta Cana has more than 84 thousand hotel rooms ready to welcome you.

You can choose from the most luxurious hotels to charming boutique hotels, ready to welcome you.

**The gastronomy is very wide with local and international culinary offers.**

#### **8. Entertainment**

Punta Cana has entertainment, excursions, catamarans, four wheel and bougie tours. It also has a beautiful cenote and Indigenous Eyes (ecological reserves) that you can enjoy in a day of recreation with your guests, in addition to the celebrations of special events that occur during the year.

#### **9. Safety and assistance**

It is always important to think about safety. Punta Cana has more than 6 clinics, hospitals and assistance centers of the highest standard. This guarantees health and quick assistance in case of any emergency.

#### **10. The warmth of the people**

If something fills us with pride in this island, it is how friendly and willing we Dominicans are. You will find smiles and many people willing to help you, to make your days in our paradise unique. The smile and human warmth will make your experience more pleasant and full of beautiful details, in every place that has our beautiful island.

We hope to see you soon, and above all we hope to see you planning your great day here in Punta Cana.

***Mary Pily López***

Wedding & Event Planner

Web : [www.marypily.com.do](http://www.marypily.com.do)

Instagram: [@marypilyeventstudio](https://www.instagram.com/marypilyeventstudio)

IADWP (Alpha Leader)

ABERD, ABC





*Quiet Luxury in  
San Miguel de  
Allende*

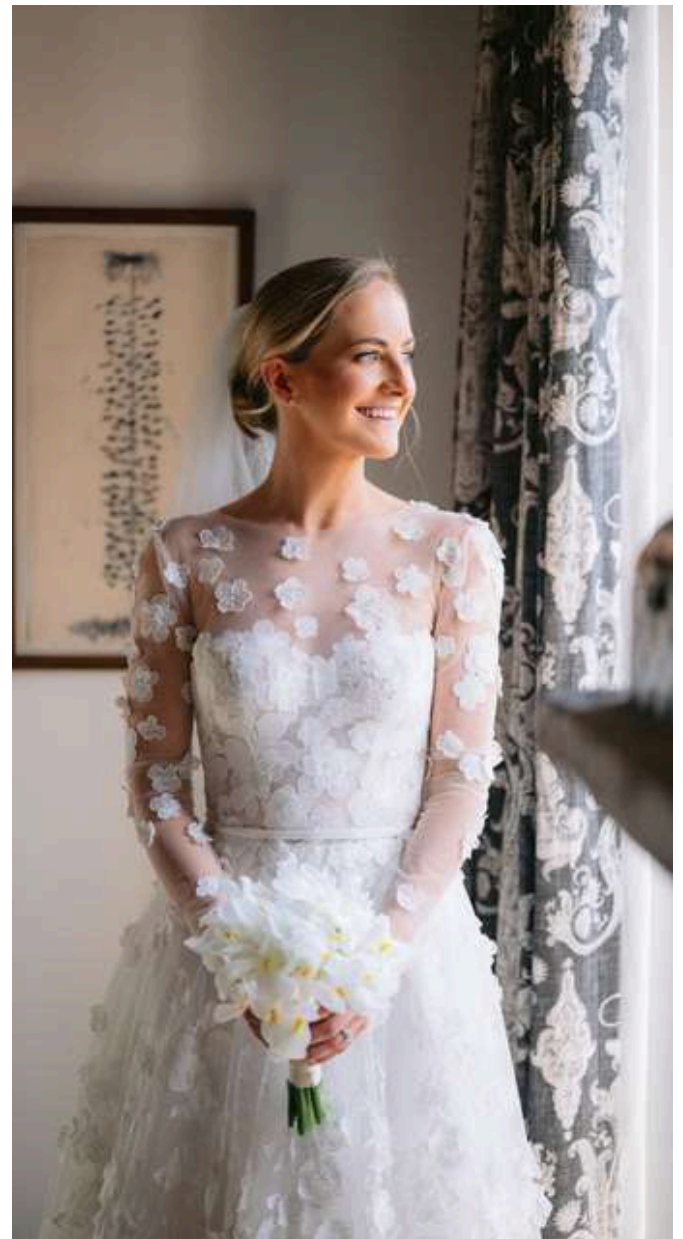
Elevating weddings to an unforgettable  
experience

As a wedding planner in San Miguel de Allende, I have witnessed a rising trend that refines the concept of bridal opulence: quiet luxury. In a world where excess often eclipses elegance, this new vision of bridal celebration embraces subtlety and sophistication, taking the art of getting married to new heights of refinement and distinction.

Quiet luxury in the field of weddings materializes in a decor that is elegant, classic and sophisticated, without falling into ostentatious and flashy excesses. It is a timeless choice, perfect for those seeking a refined and enduring style that transcends passing fashions and is rooted in the very essence of good taste.



At a quietly luxurious wedding, every detail is carefully selected to express quality and elegance. From the most exquisite flowers



to high-end materials and meticulous attention to detail, each element contributes to creating an unforgettable experience for the bride and groom and their loved ones.

San Miguel de Allende, with its relaxed atmosphere and colonial charm, provides the perfect setting for this type of wedding. Its romantic cobblestone streets, majestic colonial buildings and cozy hotels and restaurants provide an idyllic backdrop for a wedding celebration full of charm and distinction.



Quiet luxury weddings in San Miguel de Allende often extend over several days, offering guests a complete and immersive experience. From a welcome cocktail reception to a rehearsal dinner, to special activities such as golf tournaments or motorcycle tours, every moment is designed to delight and surprise guests, ensuring that each one feels special and appreciated.



Specialized concierge service ensures that guests enjoy the best that San Miguel de Allende has to offer, from reservations at exclusive restaurants to spa treatments and cooking or dance classes. In addition, shopping tours and classes with local artisans are arranged so guests can immerse themselves in



the rich culture and traditions of this charming city.

Every detail, from the handmade welcome bags made from local materials to the cell phone-free ceremony, where each image is carefully curated by the couple and their photography experts, contributes to creating a truly unforgettable experience.

In short, silent luxury weddings in San Miguel de Allende are much more than simple celebrations; they are extraordinary experiences that elevate the art of getting married to new heights of elegance and distinction.

***Guadalupe Alvarez Brunel***

@penziweddings  
San Miguel de Allende  
Guanajuato Mexico



We introduce the wonderful **chapter of IADWP Colombia**, who recently hosted our **World Romance Travel Conference in Cartagena, Colombia**, from April 29th to May 2nd.



## Sonia Martínez

### CHAPTER HEAD COLOMBIA

Facebook: Bridal Agency- Wedding Planning  
Instagram: @bridalagency\_

#### CEO de la empresa de planificación de bodas Bridal Agency

Committed to creating events that exceed expectations, specializing in destination weddings. With a visionary approach and over 9 years of experience in the industry in Colombia, including destinations such as Cartagena, Santa Marta, the Coffee Region, Bogotá, and with a presence in Miami. Certified in Jewish weddings and LGBTQ+ weddings.

### JUNIOR CHAPTERS



#### Jader Cano

MEDELLÍN - ANTIOQUIA

Facebook: Jader Cano Eventos  
Instagram: @jadercanoeventos

#### Jader Cano Eventos Wedding y Event planner

Specialist in international wedding and event planning, passionate about gastronomy, art, and culture.



#### Eliana González

CARTAGENA - BOLÍVAR

Facebook: Eliana Gonzalez Events  
Instagram: @weddingselianagonzalez

#### Eliana González Events en Cartagena

Passionate event producer with a master's degree in Protocol, Design, and Event Production, boasting over 7 years of successful experience in high-impact events.



#### Paola Medina

BOGOTÁ DC

Facebook: Paola Medina Planner  
Instagram: @paolamedinaplanner

#### Director of Marketing & Event Planner at Eventos Casa Medina SAS.

Partner and wedding planner at Eventos Grupo Medina, specializing in wedding planning in Colombia and Latin America.



#### Norma Gómez

PEREIRA - RISARALDA

Instagram: @eventos\_con\_love

#### Event Organizer at Eventos con Love.

Wedding planner and officiant specializing in alternative weddings, LGBTQI ceremonies, and beach weddings.



#### Diego Mazabel

CALI - VALLE DEL CAUCA

Facebook: Diego Mazabel  
Instagram: @diegomazabeloficial

#### Mazabel Planner

With over 17 years of experience creating personalized weddings in Colombia, including Cali, Cartagena, Santa Marta, and throughout the country.



#### María A. Ceballos

PASTO - NARIÑO

Instagram: @marialejandraplanners

#### María Alejandra Planners

Wedding and Event Planner. We design and organize events with heart.



#### Marcela Blanco

BARRANQUILLA - ATLÁNTICO

Facebook: Aqua Bodas & Eventos  
Instagram: @aquabodas

#### Aqua bodas

Wedding and Event Planner specializing in Destination Weddings. We create magical moments and unforgettable experiences.

# CORPORATE MEMBER

2024



We are thrilled to present two distinguished **corporate members** of the International Association of Destination Wedding Professionals (IADWP):



## Tourism board

The natural and cultural diversity that defines Colombia makes its destinations, with stunning landscapes, colorful towns, haciendas, castles, colonial squares, ancient walls and churches in the depths of a mountain; become the perfect setting to make the moment in which couples say “yes, I accept” even more unforgettable.



## María Eugenia Oriani

Meeting Tourism Manager  
+57 601 560 0100  
moriani@procolombia.co

colombia.travel/en

@procolombiaco

@colombia.travel



## Videographer

At DaunyStudio, we specialize in capturing the most special and emotional moments of your wedding. We're more than an audiovisual production company; we're storytellers committed to documenting every aspect of your day with passion and professionalism.

daunystudio.com

DaunyStudio

@daunystudio

## Daunys Sánchez

General Producer

+1 829 702 9719

dsanchez@daunystudio.com



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# PLATINUM MEMBER

2024



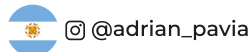
Welcome to the exclusive Platinum section of IADWP! We are pleased to introduce our most distinguished members, who represent excellence in the destination wedding industry:



## Adrián Pavía

Creating Unique Events

Chapter Director of Southamerica



He has been in the romance industry for more than 20 years creating and producing unique events and unforgettable experiences for his clients. He's chosen by celebrities for his ability to turn seemingly impossible ideas into reality. As a respected international speaker, he's appeared at prestigious events like the Lat Wedding Congress and the World Romance Travel Conference. Adrian's influence extends to founding training institutes, directing virtual magazines, and serving as President of the local Hotel and Gastronomic Chamber. A member of AOFREP Argentina's board, he's a prolific writer and has hosted his own TV show for Fox Life Latin America.



## Jossy Quezada

Jossy Quezada Wedding Planner

Chapter Head Peru



Jossy, a teacher turned entrepreneur, founded Jossy Quezada Wedding & Event Planner a decade ago, leveraging her Translation and Interpreting degree and Marketing Diploma. Passionate about events, she's recognized as a top planner in Lima by Zankyou for four years. With Belief awards and contributions to "Secrets Behind the Scenes," she showcases Peruvian culture globally.



## Rui Mota Pinto

Wedding Creator Rui Mota Pinto | Pop Up Weddings Destinations | WeddingLab by Rui Mota Pinto

Chapter Head Portugal

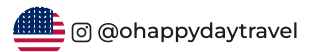


Rui Mota Pinto, a visionary in wedding planning for over 30 years, was honored in 2023 as one of the 50 Most Influential Wedding Professionals Worldwide and in Europe's Event Industry. Renowned for his creative style and activism, he's revolutionized the industry with his disruptive concepts. Starting at 19, he founded "WeddingLab by Rui Mota Pinto," mentoring and training new talent globally.



## Darlean McClure

O Happy Day Tours & Travel Agency



Darlean McClure, a travel enthusiast since 2005, transitioned from a Business & Computer Technology College Professor to founding O Happy Day Tours & Travel Agency in 2010. With over 50 certifications and constant industry engagement, she remains ahead of the curve, inspiring clients with new destinations and experiences. Specializing in weddings, honeymoons, group, luxury, cruise, and religious travel, Darlean's passion for exploration drives her to share stories and insights with clients.

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# PLATINUM MEMBER

2024



## Sanarta Murray

Sanarta's Luxury Travel LLC



@sanartasluxurytravel

She is the visionary founder and owner of Sanarta's Luxury Travel Agency. With over a decade of experience in the luxury travel industry, Sanarta launched Sanarta's Luxury Travel LLC 8 years ago, driven by her passion for exploring the world's most enchanting destinations. Sanarta excels in creating personalized travel experiences that reflect her deep commitment to customer satisfaction and a nuanced understanding of global cultures. Under her leadership, Sanarta Luxury Travel LLC has become a preferred choice for luxury travelers seeking tailor-made and exclusive adventures.



## Teresa Pedrigão

Something Borrowed  
Chapter Head Portugal  
Lisbon Area



@events.somethingborrowed

Teresa Pedrigão, founder of Something Borrowed since 2009, blends her expertise in Image and Protocol with a passion for weddings. With a degree in Communication Sciences, she crafts personalized experiences for couples worldwide, embracing diverse cultures and traditions. Dedicated to perfection, she ensures every detail aligns with the couple's vision. Involved in academia and professional events, Teresa aims to inspire others to join the wedding industry, fueled by her unwavering love for creating unforgettable moments.



## Abigail Meza

Celestial Destination  
Weddings



travellightinfo.com

Abigail Meza, driven by a passion for fulfilling dreams, boasts over a decade of experience as a travel agent and emerging wedding planner. From her childhood fascination with exotic locales and love stories, she embarked on a journey to create unforgettable experiences. With a personalized touch, she crafts memorable trips, from romantic getaways to thrilling honeymoon destinations. Now, she aims to specialize in destination weddings, expanding her services to offer even more to her clients.



## Nuno Lopes

Nuno Lopes Photography



@nunolopesphoto

200 award-winning photographs, his art has been recognized in several prestigious forums. In 2022 and 2023, he took 5th and 7th place respectively in the FEP AWARDS and was named one of the best European wedding photographers in 2022. The 2021 and 2020 Golden Lens awards for International Photographer of the Year and International Breakthrough Photographer of the Year, respectively, are other significant milestones in his rising career.

From idyllic venues to meticulous details, each of these professionals has demonstrated an **unwavering** commitment to creating truly memorable wedding experiences. Join us as we celebrate **creativity, innovation** and the art of making wedding dreams come true in destinations around the world.

## BECOME A PLATINUM MEMBER

Contact us at [members@iadwp.com](mailto:members@iadwp.com)

**Director & General Editor: Adrián Pavía**  
**Editorial Coordinator: Jossy Quezada**  
**Content Coordinator: Lissner Ortiz**  
**Translations: Diana Sciarrillo**  
**Design: Vision Lead | [www.visionlead.com.ar](http://www.visionlead.com.ar)**

**Argentina**

**Adrián Pavía**  
+5493415012940  
[apavia@iadwp.com](mailto:apavia@iadwp.com)

**Chile**

**Carla Valdebenito Jalaf**  
+569 97334778  
[carla@rhonda.cl](mailto:carla@rhonda.cl)

**Colombia**

**Sonia Martinez Jurado**  
+573154430925  
[weddingmanager@bridalagency.co](mailto:weddingmanager@bridalagency.co)

**Costa Rica**

**Je rey Cervantes Calderon**  
+506 8665 0990  
[director@erweddingplanner.com](mailto:director@erweddingplanner.com)

**Ecuador**

**Lissner Ortiz**  
+593984678280  
[gerencia@lissnerweddingplanner.com](mailto:gerencia@lissnerweddingplanner.com)

**Guatemala**

**Diana Sciarrillo**  
+502 57782271  
[dianas@weddingsinguatemala.com](mailto:dianas@weddingsinguatemala.com)

**Panama**

**Julie Franco**  
+50769495544  
[Info@expobodapanama.com](mailto:Info@expobodapanama.com)

**Peru**

**Jossy Quezada Sánchez**  
+51 999050677  
[Jquezada@jossyquezadawp.com](mailto:Jquezada@jossyquezadawp.com)

**Dominican Republic**

**Mirta Sánchez**  
+809-756-0554  
[mirtasanchez@msevents.com.do](mailto:mirtasanchez@msevents.com.do)

**Venezuela**

**Juan Salvador Rangel**  
+58 4144949074  
[Juan@juansalvadoreventos.com](mailto:Juan@juansalvadoreventos.com)

**ÉPICA**  
BODAS Y EVENTOS