

# ÉPICA

WEDDINGS & EVENTS

Number 10  
October 2024

PH: PABLO BERETTA

The official Magazine of the IADWP



# Index

## **3** *Editor's Note*

Adrián Pavia.

## **5** *Ping-Pong*

Get to know our Costa Rica Chapter Head, Jeffrey Cervantes Calderon.

## **8** *Discovering Culinary Elegance:*

A Journey with Chef Rodrigo D'Nois.

## **12** *Bridal looks in the Caribbean*

## **14** *Trash the Dress*

A New Way of Celebrating Love

## **16** *Wedding Traditions in Ecuador*

A cultural trip

## **23** *The Wedding Dress of an Argentine Queen*

Iconic wedding dresses

## **26** *The art of make-up for brides and guests*

By Daniela DeCastro, Makeup Artist.

## **29** *How to identify a location for a pre-wedding session*

## **32** *The importance of Gastronomy in Panama's Destinations*

## **35** *Honeymoon destinations in Peru*

## **41** *Luxury hotels*

The three best suites to spend your wedding night in Lima

## **44** *Tribe of Brides*

Your wedding photos! An essential part of your big day.

## **47** *Manizales*

The new destination of romance in the heart of the Eje Cafetero

## **51** *Santiago Wedding Summit*

becomes the most successful international congress in the wedding industry

## **56** *Wedding souvenirs*

Magical and unforgettable souvenirs

## **59** *Weddings & events with sustainability and social responsibility*

in JW Marriott Lima

## **66** *Bridal bouquet trends for 2025*





## Adrián Pavía

Capítulo Sudamérica  
Director  
IADWP

Dear readers,

It is an honor to welcome you to this new edition of *ÉPICA*, and I want to begin by expressing my most sincere thanks to each and every one of you, our more than 35,000 virtual readers. Month after month, with every click and every read, you are the ones who drive us to continue offering content that inspires, informs and connects with the depths of the world of events and romance. Without your endless support, this project would not be possible. You are a fundamental part of this magazine, and for that, we thank you for being part of this growing community that, with your passion and fidelity, drives us to keep improving. Thank you for joining us in this journey that is just beginning!

Today, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the unstoppable growth of destination weddings, a phenomenon that has revolutionized the events industry in recent years. More and more couples are looking to celebrate their love in places that go beyond the conventional, opting for destinations that not only offer beauty and

exclusivity, but also a unique emotional experience. We see how new and fascinating corners of the world have positioned themselves as ideal settings for the "I do": paradisiacal beaches, historic cities, imposing mountains or even small villages that offer authenticity and magic. These new destinations not only enrich the industry's offerings, but also they keep defining what it means to experience a wedding that reflects the personality and dreams of the bride and groom. Every destination wedding is a story that is told not only in the present, but in the future of the memories it leaves behind. And what a privilege it is for us to be able to be part of that narrative!

To you, the bride and groom who choose to celebrate their love, we want to dedicate some special words. In times where the forms of union have diversified and traditions have evolved, it fills us with emotion to see how marriage continues to be a choice for so many couples. No matter what type of ceremony they choose - whether religious, civil, symbolic or spiritual - what really matters is that love remains the pillar that sustains that decision. We are inspired by those who bet on commitment, who, despite the challenges, decide to unite their lives and build a future together. In every wedding we see renewed hope, the desire to share life with another, and that is something that will never cease to be a cause for celebration. So to all those brides and grooms, we say: thank you for reminding us every day why love is so powerful and transformative.

I also want to take this opportunity to recognize the incredible work of the IADWP (International Association of Destination Wedding and Event Professionals). This organization is not only a reference for those of us in the industry, but also a true force that drives the success of thousands of professionals around the world.



Through its collaborative network, IADWP has managed to create a vibrant and active community, where constant learning, mutual support and excellence are fundamental pillars. The dedication of its team and the passion for improving the industry make it possible for us to continue to grow and develop as professionals every day. Thanks to their efforts, all of us who are part of this community have the opportunity to connect, learn, and continue to offer the best to our clients. We deeply appreciate the work of IADWP and its commitment to excellence.

Finally, I can't help but share with you my excitement for the upcoming events. IADWP continues to organize unforgettable gatherings that are not only a place to learn and share, but also to celebrate our work and the impact it has on so many people's lives. These events not only mark a before and after in the industry, but they are also spaces where we meet again, where alliances are strengthened, and where new ideas and projects are born that will continue to shape the future of the events world.



I invite you to stay tuned, because what's to come is going to be amazing, and I can't wait to see you all there, sharing our passion and energy in person. Soon we will have the opportunity to embrace, celebrate and continue creating new things together!

Until then, I leave you with this edition that we have prepared with all our hearts. I am sure you will enjoy every page as much as we enjoyed creating it for you. See you soon, in the pages of ÉPICA and in the events to come!

With love and enthusiasm,

**Adrián Pavía**

Capítulo Sudamérica  
Director  
IADWP



A man with short dark hair, wearing a dark grey suit jacket over a light-colored patterned shirt, is sitting on a light-colored sofa. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background features a wall with vertical wooden slats. In the foreground, there is a wooden coffee table with a stack of magazines and a vase of pink flowers.

# *Ping-Pong*

Get to know our Costa Rica Chapter Head, Jeffrey Cervantes Calderon.



**1. What is your favorite sandwich and where have you eaten it?**

Beignets at Cafe Du Monde, New Orleans, USA.

**2. What is your favorite place on earth?**

Without a doubt, the beach is my favorite place. Whenever I can, I try to get away with my partner and our two little dogs. We love to sit comfortably under a palm tree and stay there until sunset.

**3. What place have you visited that you would not like to return to?**

I think the Children's Hospital in Costa Rica is a place that leaves a deep impression. I have been there a few times, and each visit fills me with pain and sadness. However, the children there teach you great life lessons.



**4. Which country particularly appeals to you for a destination wedding?**

Thailand or Italy.

**5. Is there any series or movie that you come back to watch from time to time?**

One of the series that I love and that I have seen several times is "Your Fairy Tale Wedding at Disney".

**6. Which fiction character do you most identify with?**

Sherlock Holmes. I admire him for his intelligence, his skillful use of observation and deductive reasoning to solve difficult cases.

**7. What is the best concert you have ever attended?**

Wow, there are several. U2, Coldplay, Britney Spears, Shakira, and Lady Gaga.



**8. What is the biggest challenge you had as a wedding planner?**

My biggest challenge was to organize a wedding in 18 days.

**9. Do you prefer to be hot or cold?**

Mmm, I prefer to be hot, but in a beach resort.

**10. What is the one piece of clothing you could not live without?**

I could not live without shorts.

**11. If you could only take three things to a desert island, what would you choose?**

A good book, my tablet and my family (including Petrova and Archie, my dogs).

**12. If you could save one material thing from a fire, what would you save?**

A photo album.

**13. How would you act if the power went out at a wedding you organized?**

We always hire a power generator or have our own generator at the venue.



**14. What bothers you most about a stranger?**

That the person is arrogant and untidy.

**15. How do you define success?**

Success is a person's fulfillment of being happy and loving what he or she does.

**16. What is your role in the company?**

I am the director, the marketing director, the planner, the human resources director, the administrator, sometimes the accountant, etc. Hahaha! We as planners are multifunctional. Many times I am even a couple's psychologist.

**17. What do you think of the elopement?**

I love them! We have already done three and this year we have the fourth one. It wouldn't be for me, because I want a wedding with about 400 guests, but I love to organize them.

**18. Do you encourage your clients to embrace traditions?**

Of course we do! We often encourage couples to incorporate local traditions and customs into their weddings, so that the event reflects the destination in which it will take place.

***Jeffrey Cervantes Calderon***

Capítulo Costa Rica Chapter Head IADWP,  
Costa Rica Wedding Planner Director

A chef with a beard and hair tied back, wearing a white short-sleeved shirt and a white apron, is focused on his work in a professional kitchen. He is leaning over a stainless steel counter, carefully handling ingredients. In the background, other kitchen equipment and staff are visible, though slightly out of focus. The lighting is warm and focused on the chef's workspace.

*Discovering Culinary  
Elegance:*

A Journey with Chef Rodrigo D'Nois.



Oaxaca is a land of vibrant colors and rich traditions, where sun-drenched landscapes seem to breathe life into every dish. It is a destination where culinary art meets cultural heritage, and no one embodies this fusion better than Chef Rodrigo D'Nois. Located in the heart of this charming city, Nois offers a dining experience that transcends mere food: it is a celebration of life, taste and the art of coming together.

My journey to discover Chef Rodrigo began during a culinary exploration of Oaxaca, lured by whispers of a restaurant that was redefining local cuisine. The moment I walked through Nois' door, I was enveloped in a warm atmosphere, the tantalizing aroma of spices dancing in the air and a palpable passion emanating from the kitchen.

As a luxury wedding planner, I am constantly looking for new experiences to offer my clients. The appeal of Chef Rodrigo's creations led me to delve deeper, and I was fortunate enough to sit down with him for an interview that would illuminate the unique culinary landscape of Oaxaca.



***What inspired you to create a menu that fuses traditional Oaxacan flavors with contemporary techniques?***

At first it was the passion to discover myself as a person and a cook, I knew I still had a lot to learn about my Oaxacan/Mexican homeland. I was inspired by exploring Oaxaca and its regions! It was like creative magic, an inner fire that I had to follow with conviction. By being true to that feeling I was able to express myself creatively through the modern techniques I was learning. Technique without passion and without honoring tradition, is in my opinion empty and superficial.

***Can you share a memorable moment in your culinary career that has shaped your approach to cooking?***

My time at Paco Pérez's Miramar was the moment where I first questioned myself,



***In your opinion, how can food enhance the wedding experience and make it unforgettable?***

Creativity and technical knowledge at the service of the couple make it possible to materialize their memories or emotions. Every couple has their own story, and the most important thing for me is to get to know them. I am excited to be able to take some details of their story, bring those memories to the food and drinks to make it memorable and that they can share it with their loved ones.

***Can you describe a dish that has a special significance for you? Why does it resonate with couples planning their wedding?***

Beyond a dish, I like to get to know couples and their tastes so I can interpret them. I am passionate about vegetable and seafood cuisine. I like to adapt to couples' tastes for their wedding.

***How do you approach collaborating with wedding planners to create a cohesive culinary experience?***

Our approach goes to service, we are all about hospitality, so we like to work with planners to know how we can support each other to be able to give the best experience. In my opinion it boils down to pampering the customer and working internally as a team. Also, communication is the most important thing to be able to solve unforeseen events. I love being able to provide solutions together and above all with a good attitude.

what is creativity? What is cooking? It totally changed my approach to cooking, I knew at that moment that I had to follow my life in the direction of creative cuisine.

***How do you select your ingredients and why is local sourcing important to you?***

Oaxaca is rich in a variety of ingredients. I select them by the ones that cause me the most surprise. I met Arturo Elias (master vanilla maker) and Josefina Jiménez (cacao/*pataxtle* mastery), from the Chinantla region, and they have inspired me. I have been inspired by the region; its people and their beliefs have driven me to explore vanilla, cacao and *pataxtle*. They are all worthy representatives of Mexico to the world and I feel that beyond traditions they can be put to greater use in our daily lives.

***What role does the vibrant culture of Oaxaca play in your culinary creations?***

Absolutely everything. Oaxaca continues to inspire me, from its Mesoamerican to contemporary history.



**What wedding kitchen trends are you most excited about right now?**

Drinks, especially wine and creative cocktails. I'm a fan of the classics, I think you don't have to overthink to be able to do something well done, elegance is for me a virtue that I like to stick to. The snacks/finger food, also contribute a lot to the reception of the guests, since many travel from far away and normally people arrive hungry to the wedding, since they have invested a lot of time in being able to reach the destination and above all to be ready for that day. The snacks soothe the appetite and liven up the welcome.

**How do you ensure that each couple's dining experience is personalized and unique?**

By getting to know them, such as in a meeting where we can talk and they can tell me details about how they met, if they have any dishes or drinks that have been significant in their relationship, if there is a specific taste for either of them, among others. This is usually the best way to get inspiration for your wedding menu. Details are everything.



**What advice would you give to couples looking to incorporate local flavors into their wedding menu?**

Go for it! There are ingredients that are friendlier than others, it is important to balance them so that people have a sense of well-being after eating ingredients they might not be used to. However, this is the best way to get to know the culture of the destination they chose, and at the same time support the local vendors in the region. For us it is very significant that they have this openness to the local ingredient.

As I reflected on my conversation with Chef Rodrigo, it became clear that food is not just a component of a wedding; it is an essential thread that weaves the fabric of the celebration. Each dish tells a story, a narrative rich with history and emotion. As a wedding planner, my goal is to create an unforgettable experience, and with culinary visionaries like Chef Rodrigo, I find endless inspiration.

Oaxaca stands as a jewel among destinations, offering couples not only a picturesque backdrop, but also a rich tapestry of flavors that can elevate their wedding experience to new heights. Embracing the local cuisine isn't just about the food -it's about creating memories that will last long after the last bite has been savored.

***Diana Sciarrillo***

Chapter Head Guatemala  
@Idoguatemala

***Chef Rodrigo Amauri  
Gutierrez***

@nois.mex  
@rodrigoque



***Bridal looks in  
the Caribbean.***





Ph: @michywatcha

Often a bond is formed with couples, especially with brides; many start out as clients and end up being our great friends. There is one bride in particular with whom I am still in touch. Together with my best friend (who put us in touch) we created a WhatsApp group that started with the planification of her wedding, and the amazing thing is that, although we have already celebrated two weddings and a pregnancy within the group, the conversations are still as lively as the first day! That connection has allowed me to discover wedding trends and styles that may not have been in my range of interest until now. Today, I want to share some of the conclusions we've come to about something as crucial as choosing the perfect look for the big day. Because, in the end, the bride and groom's outfit is much more than just a fashion choice: it's a statement of who they are as a couple and how they want to present themselves in one of the most important moments of their lives.

I have seen how couples celebrating their wedding in this paradise are looking for more than just an outfit. It's not just about following the fashions of the moment, but to find something that represents them, that speaks of them and their story. And this is where the choice of look for both the groom and the bride becomes essential. After all, in a place as magical as the Caribbean, where the environment is part of the show, every detail counts.

### ***The groom's attire, freshness and elegance***

Brides and grooms who choose the Caribbean for their wedding are challenged to find the perfect balance between style and comfort. With the warm temperatures and humidity, choosing a heavy suit can become a nightmare. This is where linen and lightweight fabrics become perfect allies to keep the groom cool and stylish. Light colors are setting the trend, giving a relaxed feel without losing elegance.



Ph: @michywatcha



And to continue with the trends, some grooms are daring to break with traditional colors and opt for shades such as green, as a way to stand out without losing elegance. We cannot forget the accessories. A good pair of cufflinks, a patterned tie or even a well-placed handkerchief can do wonders to elevate a groom's look. The key is that every detail tells a story, that each choice is a reflection of his personality.

I remember Liz & Carlos' wedding. He was wearing a linen suit in a terracotta shade, the perfect suit. He was so in tune with the surroundings that he looked like part of the scenery, cool, relaxed and ready to enjoy his big day with no worries.

I also remember Valeria & Alejandro's wedding. We celebrated in Jarabacoa, a mountain village in the Dominican Republic. What a great suit! The linen fabric in Peachy tone that evoked freshness and freedom. As accessories, Larimar cufflinks, a stone found only in the Dominican Republic, classic handkerchief in the pocket, adorned with arabesques in different shades of brown. This is what I mean by adding personality!



**The Bride's attire, romanticism and naturalness.**

The brides. The protagonists. They tend to have a lot of options at their disposal. But, if there's one thing I've noticed at Caribbean weddings, it's that freshness and simplicity are essential to create a look that highlights the bride's natural beauty without overloading her. Current trends point to







Ph: @michywatcha

lighter, more ethereal gowns, perfect for the tropical climate. Dresses with “off-shoulder” necklines, which expose the shoulders and highlight the collarbones, are one of the favorites of the moment.

Also gaining popularity are dresses with 3D floral details, capes instead of veils and medieval-inspired dresses. For vintage lovers, these kinds of dresses are getting all the attention.

But not everything is minimalism. There are brides looking for a bolder look, asymmetries in dresses or even mini dresses. The latter, perfect for civil ceremonies or as a second look, are a light and fun option that set the trend in destination weddings.

Do not forget the makeup. In the Caribbean, where heat is a factor, the trend is to go for natural makeup; fresh and radiant skins are the key to a long-lasting and harmonious look.

### **Tips**

Although trends are a source of inspiration to lean on, the most important thing is to choose something that you feel comfortable with and that is true to your personality. Remember that the dress should be as unique as each love story is. Attire should fit the location where the celebration will take place. In the Caribbean, where the environment is so magical, do not forget to opt for freshness and simplicity without losing that special touch that will make you shine.

*Elisa Abreu*

IG: @elisaabreuweddings  
Email: elisa@eliaabreu.com

PHOTOGRAPHY  
@guarionexpichardo  
@ricardoenriquephoto  
@michywatcha



# *Trash the Dress*

**A New Way of Celebrating Love**



The “Trash the Dress” trend has revolutionized the way couples celebrate their marriage and ditch the tradition of wedding photos. Originating in the United States in the 2000s, this trend has quickly caught on around the world, becoming an exciting alternative for couples who want to capture unique and memorable moments.

### **What is “Trash the Dress”?**

Trash the Dress is a post-wedding photo shoot in which the bride, dressed in her bridal gown, is immersed in unusual and often challenging experiences.

This can include activities such as splashing in the water, rolling in the sand, or even experimenting with paint or mud. The idea is to create striking and out-of-the-ordinary images, while the dress, which might be destined to remain locked away in a closet, becomes part of a fun and liberating experience.



### **The Philosophy Behind the Trend**

The philosophy behind “Trash the Dress” goes beyond mere aesthetics; it seeks to challenge conventional norms about wedding dress and the way marriage is perceived. By opting for this session, couples are choosing a way to express their individuality and love, leaving traditional expectations behind. The experience can also be cathartic, allowing brides to release the pressure of keeping their dress in perfect condition.

### **How to Plan your Session**

**1. Choose a Unique Location:** Think of a setting that reflects your personality. It can be a beach, a field, an abandoned factory or even a forest. The choice of location will play a crucial role in the tone of the photos.



**2. Consider the dress:** While the goal is to “destroy” the dress, it is important to choose one that is not too expensive or has extreme sentimental value, unless you are ready to take the risk.

**3. Be Prepared to have fun:** Bring extra accessories such as sturdy shoes, spare clothes, or even a towel to dry off after a session in the water. Fun is key.

**4. Find a Creative Photographer:** Look for someone with experience in this type of session who can capture the essence of the adventure and help you feel comfortable.

**5. Be Creative:** Don't be afraid to experiment with different ideas. You can incorporate elements such as paint, bubbles or even a parachute.



Trash the Dress is a beautiful way to celebrate love and individuality. It's not just about creating stunning photographs, it's about enjoying the moment, breaking with convention and leaving a unique mark on the history of your relationship.

So, if you're considering this option, go for it! After all, it's about you and your partner, and creating memories that will last forever.

Our couple, both doctors from Boston, who made the most of this experience in one of the most beautiful beaches, wanted to celebrate their wedding in the tropics and the beaches of El Salvador.



***María Luisa Samayoa***

WeddingPlanner

Chapter Head EL SALVADOR IADWP

Director Fundador: Ambito Eventos

FOTOGRAFÍA

**Alejandro Fuentes**

Prisma Photo& Video

@prismasv

www.prismasv.com



# *Wedding Traditions in Ecuador*

A cultural trip



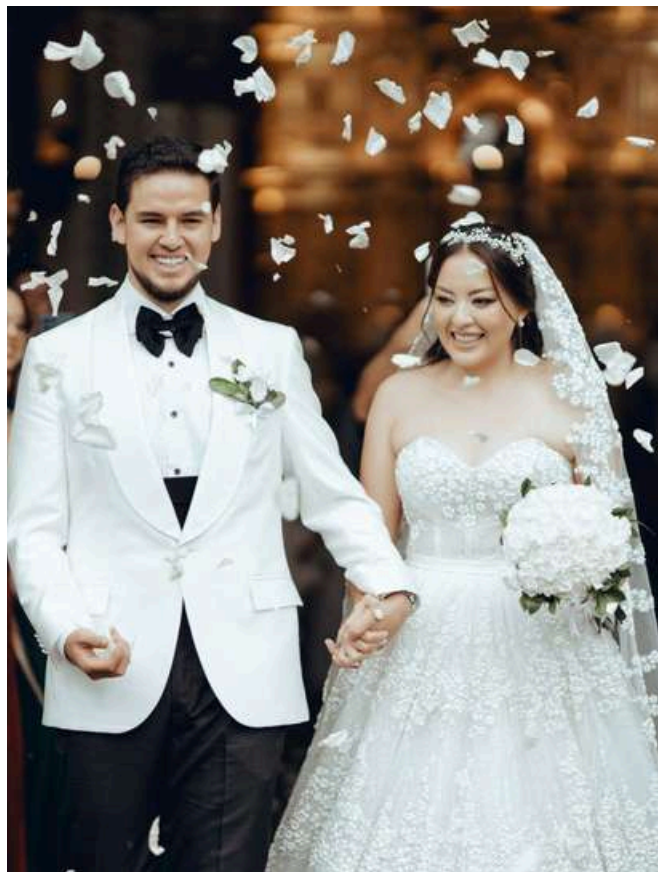


Weddings in Ecuador are a celebration rich in tradition and symbolism, where ancestral customs and modern elements are intertwined. Each corner of the country brings its own unique touch, reflecting the cultural diversity that characterizes it. While worldwide there are practices such as the use of “something new, something old, something borrowed and something blue”, Ecuador presents a repertoire of its own traditions that have endured over generations.

### **The Wedding Proposal**

One of the most significant moments in the union process is the proposal. In this ceremony, the groom's family visits the bride's family in an event that becomes a true family celebration.

During this meeting, in the indigenous communities, the parents of the groom bring “el mediano”, an offering composed of a large amount of food, fruits and beverages that symbolize prosperity and abundance for the future spouses.



### **Ancestral, Symbolic and Religious Ceremonies**

In indigenous communities, weddings are usually led by leaders or shamans, and take place in sacred places, such as waterfalls or mountains. These ceremonies are deeply spiritual and steeped in symbolism. Elements such as stinging nettle and rose water are used in rituals that seek to bless and protect the couple, as well as their godparents.

Symbolic ceremonies are characterized by the elements used according to the personality of the couple, such as tying ribbons in their hands, colored sands, candles, among others.

In the religious part, no matter which one it is, the traditions of their own celebrations have been preserved, which in many cases makes them similar in the reading of vows, delivery of wedding rings, etc.





## The Wedding Day

On the wedding day, many brides opt for the traditional white dress, although with variations in shades and details. One belief that is still held is that the groom should not see the bride before the ceremony. The use of the veil covering the bride's face has decreased, and in many cases, it has become an accessory of the trousseau. Instead of throwing rice, couples have begun to opt for rose petals, bubbles or ribbons, showing a commitment to the environment; the rice and ribbon continue to symbolize prosperity and union.

The bride's bouquet has evolved: Nowadays, brides choose to carry in their bouquets reliquaries with images of their grandparents or parents who have passed away as a way of keeping them in mind. Some choose to carry two bouquets, one to leave at the church and the other to throw, and dynamic games are also created for the unmarried women, such as ribbon cutting or throwing. On the other hand, the groom usually gives the boutonniere to his best friend or brother, symbolizing friendship and mutual support.



The court of honor, made up of ladies and gentlemen chosen by the bride and groom, remains a common practice, reflecting balance in the participation of both sides of the family.

### Cuisine and Menu

As for the menu, brides and grooms are incorporating traditional Ecuadorian dishes elevated to gourmet status. For example, ceviche and empanadas have become popular cocktail options. Entrees often include pork, turkey and traditional chicken in various preparations, highlighting the region's own flavors and spices and made by chefs passionate about enhancing the Ecuadorian product. However, sometimes international fusions are required according to the palate and requirements of the bride and groom, especially when it is a cultural theme.



Music plays a key role in Ecuadorian weddings. During the party, national rhythms resonate, especially in the last hours of the event, creating a festive and energetic atmosphere.

### ***The Evolution of Weddings***

Today, it is common for the bride and groom to be the ones who finance their wedding along with the support of their families, but in the past it was the bride's parents who had to pay for the event. This practice reflects a change in family dynamics and a desire to personalize their celebration, emphasizing what they really want for their special day, keeping part of the family traditions but combining it with the innovation of new trends.

Weddings in Ecuador are a fusion of ancient traditions and modernity, where every element tells a story. With an average of 120 to 150 base guests, these celebrations are large and encompass family and friends, reaffirming the importance of bonds in Ecuadorian culture. Each wedding is a window into the country's rich cultural heritage, which continues to evolve while respecting its roots.

### ***The dance and the music***

The bride and groom's first dance is another key moment, where traditionally a waltz is chosen, although nowadays many couples choose a song that represents them as a couple, creating choreographies of connection in the couple.



### ***Lissner Ortiz G.***

Wedding Planner Chapter Head IADWP  
Ecuador @ my\_sweetliss  
FOTOGRAFÍA: **Juan Gabriel Narvaez –  
Jonathan Chicaiza**  
Fotógrafos Ecuatorianos



# *The Wedding Dress of an Argentine Queen*

Iconic wedding dresses





Queen Máxima Zorreguieta's wedding dress, when she married Prince Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands on February 2, 2002, is an icon of elegance and royalty. This design, with a classic and timeless style, was the work of Valentino Garavani, the renowned Italian designer. Here I tell you and detail the history and features of this iconic dress.

### ***The Designer: Valentino Garavani***

Valentino Garavani was in charge of making Máxima's dress. Known for his sophisticated style, Valentino has dressed several figures of royalty and celebrities around the world, being a benchmark in haute couture. Máxima's choice to work with Valentino was not only because of his prestige, but also because of the connection with the classic elegance that his fashion house represented.



### ***The Design***

The dress was made in marfil-colored mikado silk, a fabric known for its firm, slightly satiny structure, which gave the dress a majestic and voluminous look, but without being overly heavy. The top of the dress had a fitted, high-necked bodice, a distinctive feature that combined formality with a modern touch. The long sleeves and structured shoulders reinforced this image of formality, appropriate for a royal wedding.

The long skirt extended into an impressive five-meter long train, which elegantly unfurled behind the bride as she walked through Amsterdam's New Church. This tail detail added a dramatic and majestic air, befitting the importance of the event.



## The Details

The dress was adorned with delicate embroidery in the form of floral motifs, which were sewn by hand. These details added a touch of delicacy and femininity, balancing the sobriety of the design. The veil, made of marfil silk tulle, also had embroidery that matched the floral motifs of the dress and extended beyond the train, adding a layer of ethereal elegance.



## The Tailoring

The process of making the dress was painstaking and directly supervised by Valentino and his couture team in Rome. It took more than a year to complete the design, from conception to final details. Every element of the dress was custom-made, with a focus on perfection and detail.



Máxima's dress not only marked a milestone in royal wedding fashion, but also symbolized her transition from Argentine commoner to the future queen of the Netherlands. The choice of Valentino and the classic style of the dress underscored the respect for European royal traditions, while incorporating the bride's modernity and good taste.

This design remains a benchmark in the world of bridal fashion, with its simple yet stunning silhouette, its attention to detail and its ability to reflect both the personality of the bride and the solemnity of the occasion.

In short, Máxima Zorreguieta's wedding dress is an example of timeless elegance, carefully designed to reflect the historical and emotional significance of her marriage to Prince Willem-Alexander. The use of luxury materials, Valentino's expert hand and embroidered details make this dress an iconic piece in the history of royal weddings.

*Adrián Pavía*

Capítulo Sudamerica Director IADWP

# *The art of make-up for brides and guests*

**By Daniela DeCastro,  
Makeup Artist.**





With over 10 years of experience, I specialize in the art of makeup for brides and guests.

The journey began with a deep fascination for makeup and the transformation it offers. The thrill of helping brides find the perfect look for their big day is incomparable. Over the years, I have seen how trends in wedding makeup and hairstyling have evolved, and I have adapted my technique to always stay ahead of the curve.

Today, bridal makeup trends are leaning toward a more natural and radiant look. Brides are looking for luminous, fresh skin and prefer light foundations that allow their natural beauty to shine through without overloading the face. Subtle highlighters and neutral tones on lips and eyes are all the rage. These styles not only help the bride



look beautiful in person, but also in photos, capturing the essence of her beauty in a natural way.

Soft eyeliner and earth-toned shadows are very fashionable, allowing the eyes to stand out without being overly dramatic. In addition, well-defined but natural eyebrows complement this look, ensuring that the makeup is elegant and does not clash with the dress or the theme of the wedding.

In terms of hairstyles, the trend has shifted to more relaxed and personalized styles. Romantic updos with loose curls and messy buns have replaced the more rigid, structured hairstyles of the past. Braids and floral details have become popular, bringing a touch of freshness and sophistication that perfectly complements modern weddings.





These styles are not only elegant, but also allow the bride to feel comfortable and confident throughout the event.

Working with brides and guests is a deeply rewarding experience. Each client has a unique story and vision that inspires me to adapt my techniques to achieve the perfect style. The key is communication and empathy; listening to each person's expectations allows me to offer a personalized service that meets their desires.

To keep up to date, I participate in workshops and follow industry leaders, which allows me to stay abreast of the latest innovations in makeup and hairstyling. The industry is constantly changing, and it is essential to adapt to always offer the best to my clients.

Every wedding is an opportunity to bring my personal touch and help women feel special and confident on their day. As I continue in this journey, I am excited to keep exploring new trends and continue to provide exceptional service. My goal is to make each client feel beautiful and unique, creating unforgettable memories on the most important day of their lives.

***Daniela DeCastro***

Makeup artist  
@makeupbydanieladc



# *How to identify a location for a pre-wedding session*





The pre-wedding session is a unique opportunity to capture the essence of a couple before their big day. Choosing the right location is essential to reflect their personality and love. We talked to Ericsson Suárez Guadamuz, documentary photographer of weddings and corporate events, representative of the brand Azúl Fotográfico and asked him some questions:

**1. Important factors to choose the place:** The first thing is to know the tastes of the couple. A previous meeting is recommended to know if they prefer the mountains, the city or the beach, among others, and thus propose a place that tells their story, avoiding replicating generic ideas from Pinterest.



**2. Features that improve the quality of the photos:** Light is key, followed by composition, focus and color. It is important to avoid distracting elements such as people, vehicles or signs that may visually compete with the bride and groom.

**3. Popular locations for pre-wedding sessions:** Areas with trees, lagoons and beaches are the most chosen. Natural areas provide privacy, ideal for couples who want to feel comfortable. Beaches are romantic and perfect for sunset proposals.







approximately 1 hour and that it takes place between 4 and 6 months before the wedding, to be used as a makeup test or even for digital invitations.

Choosing the ideal location requires a combination of creativity and planning. It should reflect the couple's story and personality, with an atmosphere that captures their essence. Considering aspects such as light, weather and logistics ensures that this session becomes a memorable experience that celebrates their engagement.

**4. Aspects of the environment to consider:** It is crucial that the location allows for privacy, without interruptions. If it is outdoors, shaded areas should be provided, and if it is enclosed, lighting should be planned in advance.

**5. Duration and anticipation of the session:** It is recommended that the session lasts



***Josué Guido Blandón***

Wedding Planner  
Productora de eventos CASYSTE M&B  
casystemb@outlook.com  
Jr. IADWP Costa Rica  
+506 71721755  
@Casyste.cr

Fotografías: **Azul Fotográfico**  
+506 8771 3146  
@Azulfotografico







*The importance of  
Gastronomy in  
Panama's  
Destinations*



In destination weddings, gastronomy is a fascinating aspect that fuses culture, culinary creativity and hospitality to delight the participants of any gathering. From corporate conferences to international festivals, food and beverage play a crucial role in the overall experience.

Each destination has its own gastronomic treasure, a unique expression of its culinary traditions, local ingredients and preparation techniques. At an event, these elements become an integral part of the narrative, adding layers of flavor and cultural context to the experience. Gastronomy at event destinations is not limited to food alone; beverage also plays a significant role.

Panama enjoys a rich gastronomic history due to the cultural exchange we have had since the beginning of our republic, mixing these rich traditions and enriching our gastronomy. Each bite tells a story of the region while guests immerse themselves in the lively atmosphere of the city. For example we have something with a lot of contrast in the majestic jungle of Darien, where the interesting indigenous gastronomy will delight us for example with



a cone with banana leaf, yucca and fried fish and where we Chefs bring out that creativity to take that dish to style and present it in our events.

Each country, region or city has a unique gastronomic diversity, a true symphony of flavors that reveals the culinary identity of its environment. When we travel, our minds are filled with expectations not only about the places we will visit, but also about the delicacies we will savor.

As a tourist when we travel to a destination we think about the places we are going to visit and what we are going to eat. Also, going to the market is interesting because that is where the ingredients and all the native species of each region are. What are the best restaurants in the category? Obviously, taking into account the budget in all the countries we visit, it will always be focused on touristic places and rich in gastronomy.

In this framework, gastronomy becomes a bridge between the visitor and the local community. When planning events such as weddings in diverse destinations, it is crucial that the local food becomes an integral part of the experience, each bite immerses us in the cultural richness of the place.





leather, then the meat was discarded and from there it was born and they started to make a meat soup. The Ñame, for example, is brought by the blacks. The gallo pinto is eaten in Costa Rica, it also exists here, but in Panama it is dry with Chirican beans.

In Panama, a land of fusion and diversity, the contributions of diverse cultures, from Chinese to African, are intertwined in every dish. Rice with chicken, beef soup, *gallo pinto*; each tells a story of cultural exchange and local adaptation.



The chef's role is elevated as an artist, fusing traditional ingredients with innovative techniques to create dishes that awaken the senses and tell the story of that region.

It is a delicate balance between preserving authenticity and presenting food in a stylish and palate-appealing way. Gastronomic diversity is a reflection of the historical complexity and culture of each region.

When you think of Panama, our mix is a melting pot. For example, we have pasta. Everyone thinks that pasta was introduced by the Italians and, in fact, it came with the Chinese. Besides the fact that we have Chinese culture here, there are already some foods that are processed, such as *mahua*, and they are part of the Panamanian culture.

If we look at a chicken with rice dish (*arróz con pollo*), you could say that it is like a drier paella. This came with the Spaniards.

The sancocho came from the slaves who worked with the Spaniards. Chicken also arrived with the Spaniards. The first soup that was made here in Costa Rica was the meat soup, for the fat for the milk and for the

In short, destination gastronomy not only feeds the body, it also feeds the soul, creating meaningful connections between participants and the destination they are exploring. It is a window into a destination's cultural identity and a sensory experience that lingers long after the event has concluded.

**Julie Franco**

Chapter Head Panamá  
Businesswoman,  
Wedding Planner  
Propietaria de la marca Expoboda  
@expobodapanama  
@julielizabethfranco



# *Honeymoon destinations in Peru*



If you wish to have an unforgettable honeymoon, Peru is one of the best destinations that I invite you to visit; not only for the culture and tradition that characterizes us, but also for its varied and world-renowned cuisine, its emblematic places, festivals and celebrations.

Each and every one of them is full of charm, mysticism and adventure. Peru is a great destination with many alternatives for all tastes.

Join me to visit eight of the most beautiful destinations in my country and make this great day the best of your days.

### **MANCORA... A relaxing date by the sea.**

A beach destination, perfect for a relaxing date full of romance, one of the best beaches in Peru characterized by its crystal clear waters and white sands. It is an ideal destination for many couples looking for sun and they find it almost all year round.

In this place you can perform various activities, such as a romantic horseback ride along the coast. You can explore the marine life by scuba diving and surfing in perfect waves ideal for water sports.



Mancora is one of the destinations with a very varied gastronomy in fish and seafood which delights each of its visitors.

It is important to highlight that Mancora is a busy destination, so you should always make reservations in advance if you want to live a fantastic experience on your honeymoon.

### **LIMA... City of Kings**

Colonial city founded in 1535 by Francisco Pizarro, is the largest city in Peru. It is an ideal destination for a honeymoon full of romance. Emblematic places and unparalleled cuisine full of romance.







If we talk about romanticism, we can see impressive landscapes that nature gives us, visit Inca ruins and temples in the city.

The Sacred Valley of the Incas has beautiful traditional hotels that will make your honeymoon full of magic and full of energy.

It has places to visit that enchant, such as the magical circuit of the waters, a spectacle of lights and water, visits to museums such as the National Museum of Anthropology, the main square full of history and colonial architecture and the Cathedral of Lima, an impressive and impotent architectural work.



In this destination we find romantic hotels for honeymooners to choose from according to their tastes and budgets.

In the heart of Lima there are colonial alternatives. In Miraflores, we have hotels with sea view; elegance is characteristic in San Isidro.

Taking advantage of your stay you can visit Machu Picchu, Pisac, Ollantaytambo, Chinchero, Urubamba and local communities and enjoy its exquisite cuisine such as trout ceviche, alpaca in various preparations and potatoes in all its varieties.

### ***Sacred Valley of the Incas... Nature, culture and romanticism.***

This charming place combines three important attractions such as nature, culture and romanticism. Surrounded by an imposing colonial architecture, natural beauty and artificial wealth, which makes this destination more romantic.

Let's discover together this destination known as "The Sacred Valley of the Incas", which is located between Cusco and Machu Picchu at an altitude of 2800 - 4000 meters above sea level with a temperate and humid climate



It is important to note that a good time to visit this beautiful destination is during the dry season from April to October.

Booking in advance is the key tip for an unforgettable honeymoon.

## **PARACAS**

It is a destination located in the province of Pisco, department of Ica.

Paracas is a destination known for its natural beauty and biodiversity, with a warm desert climate and a varied gastronomy.



It is a beautiful place for romantic whale and dolphin watching.

An ideal time to visit this destination and enjoy the local culture is during the dry season from April to October.

Paracas is a beautiful destination for honeymooners looking for a relaxing and romantic honeymoon.



Among the activities full of romanticism in this destination are the impressive sunsets, a visit to the Paracas National Reserve, a boat ride through the Ballestas Islands, a visit to the impressive cathedral and the Paracas Museum.

The hotel zones in this destination are dominated by hacienda houses and renowned hotels such as the Hotel Paracas, Hotel La Hacienda, Hotel El Condor.



## **TITICACA LAKE**

Located on the border between Bolivia and Peru, it is an ideal destination for a pleasant honeymoon.

It has magical places to visit such as the Cathedral of Puno in Peru, the viewpoint of Cerro Calvario.







with wildlife and breathtaking landscapes make this experience unique.

The Tambopata National Reserve is home to more than 1,000 species of birds, plants and butterflies.

Its impressive landscapes such as rivers, lagoons, waterfalls and forests make this place exotic and spectacular.

Some of the activities to do as a couple are bird watching, hiking to the viewpoint of the Sandoval Lagoon, visiting the Tambopata River and the Tower Waterfall.

In the Amazon you will find lodges perfect for honeymooners. Always remember the importance of making reservations.

Undoubtedly it is a recommended destination for your honeymoon.



## AREQUIPA

It is known as the White City and is located in southern Peru at an altitude of 2335 meters above sea level.

It is a destination with a colonial architecture that impresses everyone who visits it, its natural landscapes such as the Colca Valley and the Misti Volcano, make it even more attractive.

You can perform romantic activities such as boat rides on the calm waters of the lake, visit the Isla del Sol, explore its archaeological and pre-Hispanic ruins. Visit Uros and its floating islands, visit the beach of Taquile Island, as they are the most attractive places of this destination.

To have a pleasant honeymoon you should consider booking in advance to avoid availability problems. Make sure that the time of travel is appropriate, I advise you to visit in the months of October, November and December.

Enjoy this highly recommended destination in our country.



## ***Tambopata National Reserve... Beautiful Amazonia.***

Located in the heart of the Peruvian Amazon, a paradise that offers adventure and romance with nature, where diversity



A destination known for its culinary diversity, where every dish is a delight. In Arequipa it is a must to try the stuffed *rocoto*, a good shrimp *chupe*, *adobo arequipeño*, *solterito* with cheese and its famous *ocopa arequipeña*.

Some romantic activities to do are to visit the Colca Valley, Misti Volcano, Santa Catalina Monastery, San Agustin National University Museum and San Camilo Market.



You can also take a walk through its historic center, go horseback riding in the Colca Valley, watch the condors in the Colca Canyon or go in search of a pleasant relaxation in hot springs.

In this destination you can find romantic hotels full of culture and tradition. The best time to visit Arequipa is from April to October.

At AyniTravel Peru, we create unique experiences for adventurous couples who wish to explore every corner of our beautiful Peru for the world. That they can immerse themselves in our culture and flavors and connect with every breathtaking landscape ever seen before is our purpose. We are a team of experienced travelers and each place fills us with so much love that I am sure this is the right way to foster the romance tourism of my region and Peru, creating moments that will last a lifetime.

***Cathe Romero Mendoza***

Wedding Planner y Gerente de Ayni Travel Perú  
@catheromeweddingeventplanner  
@ayni.travel.pe







# *Luxury hotels*

The three best suites to spend your wedding night in Lima

The wedding night is the beginning of a life together. It is a unique occasion and deserves luxury, pampering and exclusivity. Can you imagine what your stay would be like in the best suites of the 3 most renowned hotels in Lima? Here we tell you all about these exclusive properties that give you a completely luxurious experience.



### **THE WESTIN LIMA HOTEL**

It is an iconic hotel in Lima located in the exclusive district of San Isidro, in the financial center of the city 15 minutes from the district of Miraflores and the Historic Center of Lima.

#### ***The Westin Lima Hotel Presidential Suite***

Exquisitely decorated with wood details, Peruvian textiles and colorful art, the Presidential Suite offers a graceful and stylish view of the city from the 30th floor.

With large, airy spaces and the latest technology throughout, every element of this exceptional suite is designed to revitalize comfort.

A haven of relaxation, the large and private bedroom offers a sitting area with an armchair, divan, a sumptuous king-sized bed and 37-inch LCD TV. The spacious marble



bathroom is a spa-like retreat with whirlpool tub, separate Heavenly shower and double vanities. White Tea by Westin amenities, including soothing bath salts and luxurious lotions, make the experience even more soothing.

### **JW MARRIOTT LIMA**

It is recognized as one of the 25 best hotels in South America. Located in front of the imposing cliffs of the Miraflores district. With a luxurious 25-story glass tower, and a privileged panoramic view of the Pacific Ocean.

#### ***JW Marriott Lima Presidential Suite***

Enjoy the expansive view of the Pacific Ocean from the comfort of the most exclusive suite located on the top floor of the hotel in Miraflores, and wake up feeling refreshed and with one of the most spectacular views of our capital city.





The Presidential Suite, with more than 200 m2, is a space where luxury and ocean view converge. In the living room there is a grand piano where renowned artists such as Marc Anthony rehearse their songs before each concert. This suite offers sweeping ocean views that envelop you in an atmosphere of absolute peace. Here you can experience the ultimate in sleep and relaxation thanks to our luxurious king bed with pillow-top mattress, soft sheets and comfy comforters. With separate sleeping and living areas, our Presidential Suite provides the extra space you need to enjoy a unique experience with exceptional service during your stay in Lima, Peru.



grandeur and pleasure of staying in the only Golf View Presidential Suite in Peru.

Live an exclusive experience in a luxury room. The presidential suite has two spaces, king bed, full marble bathroom with Jacuzzi, living room, dining room, guest bathroom, terrace with an exclusive view of the golf course and a splendid area of approximately 150 m2. The decoration of the suite is based on small details, textiles and sensations. It has museum pieces of art that are part of the decoration of the entire suite.



## **HOTEL COUNTRY CLUB**

The Country Club Lima Hotel, located in front of the San Isidro Golf, is history, art and exclusivity. Staying at the Country Club Lima Hotel means living part of the history of a city like Lima: cosmopolitan, historic, unique. It is a latent icon that never ceases to transform, preserving legends in its corners, the visits of celebrities and countless social gatherings in one of the most exclusive areas of the capital.

### **Country Club Hotel Presidential Suite**

A unique, spacious and recently renovated space. Experience for yourself the



These five-star hotels have undoubtedly the best presidential suites in Lima, the capital city, to enjoy an absolutely unforgettable honeymoon.

***Fossy Quezada***

Chapter Head Perú @jossyquezadawp  
 Hotel Westin: @westinlima  
 Hotel JW Marriott: @jwmarriottlima Hotel  
 Country Club: @countryclublimahotel



# *Tribe of Brides*

Your wedding photos! An essential part of your big day.



Hello Dear Tribe of Brides! How are you?

Choosing the right photographer for your wedding is a major decision that can influence how you will remember one of the most important days of your life. Here are 10 tips to make sure you choose the perfect professional to capture every moment.

### **1. Identify your style**

Before you begin your search, think about the style of photography you want: do you prefer something classic, documentary, or perhaps an artistic approach? Being clear about your style will help you narrow down your choices.

### **2. Do research and compare**

Spend time researching different photographers in your area. Visit their websites and social media sites to see examples of their work. Comparing styles and prices will give you a better idea of who fits your needs.

### **3. Read reviews and testimonials**

Opinions from previous couples are valuable. Read online reviews and ask for references to learn about the experience of others. This will give you an idea of the quality of the work and the professionalism of the photographer.



### **4. Review portfolios**

Ask to see entire portfolios, not just selected photos. This will allow you to evaluate the consistency in the quality of the work and how it captures different moments throughout a wedding.

### **5. Meet the photographer**

It is essential that you feel comfortable with your photographer. Schedule a meeting to discuss your expectations and get to know their approach. The personal connection can make a big difference in the final photos.

## 6. Ask about their experience

Make sure the photographer has wedding experience. Ask how many they've done and if they've worked at your type of ceremony or venue. Experience can be key to handling unforeseen situations.

## 7. Discuss package and pricing

Prices can vary significantly. Ask what each package includes (hours of coverage, albums, photo printing) and make sure it fits your budget.

## 8. Ask about the delivery process

Find out how long it will take to receive your photos and in what format they will be delivered. Some photographers offer online galleries, while others prefer to deliver physical albums.

## 9. Check their availability

Once you have found the photographer you like, check their availability for your date. Don't wait too long, as good photographers are usually booked months in advance.



## 10. Sign the contract

Before signing, make sure you read and understand the contract. Check the clauses about payment, rights to use the images and the cancellation policy. A clear contract will protect you and the photographer.

Choosing the right wedding photographer can be a challenge, but with these recommendations you will be on the right track to find someone who captures the essence of your big day. Remember that photography doesn't just immortalize moments, it tells the story of your love.

Good luck with your search!

I hope these recommendations will help you to solve your doubts, but if you have any comments or concerns between now and the next edition, it will be a pleasure to read them via DM.

Read you soon!

***Sandra Alas***

Professional Event Planner  
@sandraalasp Mexico  
#YoSoyLiderAlfa



# *Manizales*

The new destination of romance  
in the heart of the Eje Cafetero







Manizales, the hidden pearl of Colombia's "Eje Cafetero", is awakening as an unforgettable destination for dream weddings. This city, with its mix of mountainous landscapes, coffee aroma and warm hospitality, was the setting for the First FAM Trip Manizales 2024. An event where wedding planners from all over the country fell in love not only with the place, but also with its people and the endless possibilities to celebrate love in a magical environment.

A Journey of Connections and Enchantment in which four lovers of the region, Felipe Gómez from "Silente - Cocina con Sentido", Catalina Robledo and Ana María Valencia from "AccesTravelPlanner" and Sebastián Álvarez from "Hacienda La Tranquera", transmitted what their city means. It was not a simple tourist tour, but a trip to the heart of Manizales, where nature and tradition intertwine to create a unique scenario.

For several days, our guests explored locations where magic was palpable. From coffee plantations with stories, to gardens that looked like something out of a fairy tale. Each place offered a different, but equally special experience.

The Cathedral Basilica of Manizales and the Governor's Office of Caldas, with its baroque architecture, was one of the highlights, while the farms and outdoor spaces offered a romantic setting, surrounded by the imposing mountains of the Eje Cafetero.

For Allies of Love, the soul of a wedding lies not only in the venue, but in the people who make it possible, the vendors. During this trip, they met those who, day after day, work to create magical moments. From the catering they enchanted with local flavors and their great union to transport us to the senses of smell and taste leading us to remember that the essence of each one is unique and that respect for each other is felt.

The fashion designers, production with its three-level stage that represented the thermal floors we have in this region, the fusion of marked craft beers, canned water with the word FAM trip, paila ice cream that transports us to other regions, music that united us to sing to a single heart. The local vendors stood out for their warmth and professionalism.





These performers, more than just vendors, are true allies of love. The decorators transformed spaces into dreams, demonstrating why flowers and colors represent us as the region of diversity. The stylists and makeup artists made magic. They all demonstrated that Manizales is the City of Open Doors of Colombia.

The success of this FAM Trip marks the beginning of a love story between Manizales and romance tourism. Initiatives like @welcomemanizales will continue to position the city in the hearts of couples looking for something special, something different, something that touches the soul. You arrive as a tourist, but leave as a local.

Manizales, with its infinite skies, its aroma of coffee and its human warmth, is ready to receive those who seek not only a wedding, but an experience that will last in the memories and hearts of those who live it.

The Caldas chapter of the IADWP has been essential in the growth of romance tourism in the region, promoting Caldas as an attractive destination for weddings and international events. Thanks to the support of this association, strategic networks have been created that promote the professionalization of local vendors in global markets. The results achieved have positioned the region in the destination wedding industry, opening doors to new opportunities for economic development and strengthening the international projection of the department.

*Sebastian Alvarez*

Hacienda La Tarquera

*Catalina Robledo Sánchez*

*Ana Maria Valencia*

Access TravelPlanners

*Felipe Gomez Jaramillo*

Silente Cocina Con Sentido





**Petit Lafitte Beach Hotel & Bungalows** ofrece más que solo bodas y eventos, creamos experiencias "*Simplemente Diferentes*".

Nuestro enfoque único combina lujo discreto con la auténtica calidez del Caribe Mexicano. Cada detalle de su celebración será cuidadosamente transformado en un momento inolvidable, gracias a nuestro equipo de expertos que trabaja con pasión para garantizar que su día sea tan especial como usted.

Con un entorno natural incomparable y servicios personalizados, los eventos en Petit Lafitte son una experiencia exclusiva, diseñada a medida para superar sus expectativas. Ya sea una íntima ceremonia frente al mar o una celebración exuberante, nos encargaremos de que cada instante sea digno de recordarse siempre.



Pin f Instagram Spotify

@petitlafitte

@weddingbypetitlafitte

[www.petitlafitte.com](http://www.petitlafitte.com)

Phone: +52 (984) 168 0031

Email: [Weddings@petitlafitte.com](mailto:Weddings@petitlafitte.com)



alaia

AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION<sup>®</sup>  
HOTELS

From sunset celebrations on the rooftop to intimate chef's tables in the Cellar, the choices are endless!

San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, Belize



[Weddings@AlaiaBelize.com](mailto:Weddings@AlaiaBelize.com) | [AlaiaBelize.com](http://AlaiaBelize.com)

011-501-226-3100







The second edition:

# *Santiago Wedding Summit*

becomes the most successful international  
congress in the wedding industry



*The meeting that seeks to position Chile as the best wedding destination in the world, and that is revolutionizing the production of emotional events, had a high number of foreign attendees and different people from all over the country. There were also outstanding speakers from South America and the support of IADWP, International Association of Destination Wedding Professionals.*

On August 19 and 20, the Metropolitan Santiago was the setting for the second edition of the Santiago Wedding Summit 2024, the only congress in Chile that aims to educate and inspire organizers and vendors in the sector, offering a unique platform for professional updating and expansion. The congress again marked a milestone by bringing together more than 100 national and international attendees from the wedding, events and tourism industry, where topics such as decoration, visual and gastronomic identity in high-level events, etiquette and social behavior, tourism marketing, organization and IT planning, makeup and hairstyling, keys to connect with the client, lighting, creativity, technology in photography, among others, were developed.



On its third day, August 21, a Specialization Workshop was held at the Renaissance Santiago Hotel, a transformative journey that included a Master Class on Integral Image Consulting and a master class on Trend Analysis, Marketing and Image.

The initiative was supported by the National Tourism Service (Sernatur) and the Technological University of Chile INACAP, and endorsed by IADWP, the International Association of Destination Wedding Professionals. The association, which has been in existence for 15 years, is today the largest association of its kind, offering international conferences, seminars and certification programs for its members to ensure that they are always at the forefront of the industry.







Its organizers, Carla Valdebenito, founder of Rhonda Eventos and director of International Association DWP in Chile, and Valentina Vera, creative mind behind Bodas de Destino and Junior Chapter of the Araucanía and Los Ríos Region of the association, commented that “our goal is to position Chile as a wedding destination worldwide, for that reason we bet on bringing together the most prominent and recognized speakers in the world with the finds of learning from their experience and vision of the industry.” And they added that, “it was not only a learning platform, but also an instance of connection and networking among those present”.

At its opening, with 120 attendees, were present partners such as INACAP and Sernatur, who welcomed and highlighted the relevance of the congress for Chile and the world. Then, from Colombia, the speaker Juan Muñoz, designer of spaces, presented decoration techniques highlighting the importance of environmental care and sustainability, a growing trend in recent years, and shared with the audience his experience and gave tips and ideas.

Constanza Bazán, highlighted by Ambrosía, whose restaurant was recognized as one of the 50 best restaurants in Latin America, addressed the visual and gastronomic identity in a high standard event, with a staging that left no one indifferent, to give way to the playful and innovative presentation of the trans-Andean Adrián Pavía, who invited the audience to come on stage to participate in his masterclass of etiquette and social behavior in events. And to close the first day, Willy Geisse, the versatile and creative Chilean television face, with more than 30 years of experience in event production, shared the secrets of his success and invited everyone to work more connected and as a team to continue growing.



“Undoubtedly the work put in the first day of the second version of SWS met our expectations, those of the attendees and our collaborators. We experienced an energy and synchronicity that made us vibrate, and the warmth of the community generated a supportive space where we could share ideas, learn from each other, and generate contacts that will allow us to continue growing as an industry,” said Valdebenito.

Day 2, with 98 attendees, offered a high-level experience with a series of outstanding activities. Among them, lectures given by professionals such as Max Viveros, expert in tourism marketing, then Paola and Alonso





Rejas, from Peru, taught about the importance of IT organization and planning, to continue with René Fischer, the master of hospitality and romance to create unique moments.

But aesthetics and glamour were not left out. Raúl Flores, the genius of makeup and hairstyle, stole the attention of everyone with his spectacular exhibition of Glam Brides, giving examples, tips and advice. The Mexican Diana Sandoval, with more than two decades of experience in the industry, spoke about the importance of connecting with the client to do a job according to their needs, key to close a deal.



On the other hand, Andrés Gómez, in charge of deepening on lighting to create atmospheres and visual experiences, showed in minutes how a scene can change and mark relevant moments in an event. To close the international meeting, Cristián Puello, awarded in 2023 as Best Photographer of Chile by Latin American Wedding Awards, commented, among other things, that creativity and technology today play a fundamental role in the photography industry, as a staging of his career that enveloped the place with magic.





“We are proud to have provided such a valuable experience that was full of connections, trends, creative inspiration, practical sessions, specialized knowledge, growth opportunities and innovations, where we were able to delve into and explore the latest tools and technologies that are transforming the wedding universe, including apps, planning software, and digital design trends,” said Valentina Vera.



Finally, the third day, the Specialization Workshop, began with a Master Class on Integral Image Consultancy for event industry professionals, given by White Moon, where topics such as colorimetry, color psychology, body morphology, visagism, styling and the latest fashion trends were discussed. Afterwards, Erik Deabreu, president of the Mexican Association of Romance Lovers and Business Tourism, and internationally renowned event organizer and wedding planner,

who was also the master of ceremonies for the event, gave a master class on Trend Analysis, Marketing and Image, and provided keys to attract the ideal client and conquer the market.



“Wedding planners and the tourism sector are prepared to offer unforgettable experiences, ensuring that every couple has the perfect day they have always dreamed of. The second version of the Santiago Wedding Summit has been a transformative experience for all professionals in the wedding sector, and we hope that the 2025 version will continue to contribute to the opening of Chile to the world,” commented the experts.

Para conocer más sobre Santiago Wedding Summit, te invitamos a visitar la página Web y redes sociales:

[santiagoweddingsummit.cl](http://santiagoweddingsummit.cl)

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

[bodasdedestinocl](https://www.facebook.com/bodasdedestinocl)

[rhonda\\_eventos](https://www.instagram.com/rhonda_eventos).

*Valentina Vera y Carla  
Valdebenito*

Fundadoras del Santiago Wedding Summit





# *Wedding souvenirs*

Magical and unforgettable souvenirs



One of the magical and unforgettable moments are the souvenirs of our wedding. They are a way to give thanks and special attention to those who have accompanied us and we want them to take that beautiful memory of the great day of our wedding. They are those moments that we want to be always remembered by our loved ones and in which we strive to give that significative detail to each of them.

In addition to leaving that indelible mark for us and the people we love, we also want it to last over time. That is why we must strive to make our memories unique.



Among these beautiful souvenirs, we can opt for Ecological Souvenirs. Nowadays we have to raise awareness and seek sustainable and environmentally friendly souvenirs. We can opt for small plants, such as succulents or small cactus, which never go out of fashion, with messages of union and love, or tulle bags with flower seeds, which besides being a beautiful souvenir serve to decorate gardens and at the same time will make guests never forget your wedding.



Now that the summer season is coming (sun, beach and sand), what better time to incorporate these beautiful natural souvenirs at the wedding. You can also use clay or ceramic items that give that personal and unique touch to the wedding or threads in which we can weave a piece allusive to the wedding. As you can see we have many ecological resources that can be used in wedding souvenirs.

Another option can be those personalized details that give a unique touch to each guest, this is always a good option, because besides giving them affection, we show the attention we have towards each of our guests. Nowadays we have seen fans, slippers or glasses. In short, a series of alternatives that we have at hand and that make those beautiful souvenirs special.



And what about those little wedding favors that delight the palate! What a delight! Here we play with the pastry as we have from cookies to the famous cupcakes, which are becoming more and more in trend. Personalized sweets are a delicious way to thank our loved ones for their company on this beautiful day.

Then there are the handmade wedding souvenirs, either by ourselves or by our mothers, which give that special touch of love. Handmade details convey authenticity and affection, such as flower arrangements, scented candles or tea bags or handmade soaps. The latter are becoming more and more popular, especially if they are aromatic. Another option is to combine them with color palettes. These gifts, besides being much more economical, reflect the essence of the wedding.



Another of the options we have seen are unusual details such as hand sanitizers, liquor samples, energy drinks, party supplies, and items related to the theme of the wedding when they are themed weddings. While it is true that these are fun details, it is also true that our loved ones will enjoy them to the fullest at the time of our wedding and will remember it every time they use any of the items.

The memories that will last a lifetime are those that we share during the wedding celebration, and without a doubt this is what has prevailed the most. Today we live and share those experiences such as crazy hour, photo corners or 360 and mirrors. These create an experience that will last in the hearts and memories of those who have shared with us the happiest moments of our lives.

Taking a snapshot and having it as a souvenir of our weddings is the best souvenir we can give to those who have shared that great day of our wedding. Of course, one of the most important characters in our wedding is the videographer, who will capture those beautiful moments of the celebration and all the elements and moments lived, moments that will last forever in our memory.

Unforgettable and magical moments.

*Julie Franco*

Chapter Head Panamá

Empresaria,

Wedding Planner Propietaria de

la marca Expoboda

@expobodapanama

@julieelizabethfranco





*Weddings & events  
with sustainability  
and social  
responsibility*

**in JW MarriottLima**

Within the international framework, the Marriott Corporation is committed to preserving, restoring and improving the quality of life of the populations and environments where Marriott hotels are located.

All of our actions are aligned with the UN's objectives with a view to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals.

One of Marriott International's goals for 2030 is to reduce the amount of waste the company sends to landfill by 45% and food waste by 50%. And by 2050 it is committed to reducing GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions by 90%.



All of Marriott Peru's policies are aligned to the fulfillment of these objectives through a Sustainability Plan with medium and long-term goals that have been integrated into daily operations, influencing key decisions of the hotels, including sustainable practices such as reducing energy and food waste and using important global reporting tools such as MESH Marriott Environmental Sustainability Hub, where each hotel fills out its indicators on a monthly basis.

Locally at JW Lima, in order to meet these global objectives, we have four sustainability plans:



- **Responsible energy use.**
- **Environmentally responsible purchasing**
- **Sustainable management of food input waste and residues**
- **Volunteering**

### **Responsible Energy Use**

The goal for this hotel until 2030 is to emit 574,265 kilograms of Co2.

In order to meet this goal, we maximize the efficient use of resources such as: energy, water and gas, and by measuring these indicators in the MESH platform we report monthly the actions in energy reduction: counting kilowatts; consumption of liters of water and PH measurements in the drains, as well as gas consumption.





Since 2019, a considerable change has been made to the hotel's lights for led lights, which guarantee lower energy consumption and environmental impact.

One of the actions is to seek efficiency in equipment with responsible use, through preventive maintenance and monitoring the status of the hotel's main energy consumers, such as chillers (water coolers), laundry equipment (energy and gas), and kitchen equipment, which will use natural gas from 2021.

### ***Environmentally Responsible Purchasing***

This commitment to responsible and sustainable business practices benefits the environment and the communities our hotels serve, as well as contributing to our long-term success.

As part of this objective, we have changed the presentation of the 30ml plastic bottles used in the shower (shampoo, conditioner, body cream) for residential presentations of 180ml, which are anchored in the showers and refilled as needed. This limits the consumption and disposal of tens of millions of plastic bottles worldwide.



Another important change in room purchases is that we now offer glass bottles that can be reused during guests' stays, and water dispensers are located in each corridor so that guests can fill them whenever they need water.

Hotels are large consumers of plastic products and Food & Beverage supplies. In this sense, we have a responsible purchasing program that seeks to mitigate consumption and disposal of single-use products (bags, straws, cutlery, disposable containers, amenities, stationery).



Another action is that we use compostable sorbets throughout the hotel and all the take-out food is environmentally friendly.

### ***Sustainable management of food input waste and residues***





40 tons of organic waste that is utilized in farm animal feed and compost.

12 tons of recycled material which Sinba sells to other companies that re-produce: metal, cardboard, plastic, which is reused and recycled.

72 tons of CO2 removed from the environment; this is equivalent to having planted 1192 trees or 8163 gallons of gasoline that have not been used.

99 Liters of used oil converted into biodiesel.

As Marriott Peru, we are committed to contribute to the care of the environment and the awareness and implementation of sustainable practices within our hotels, as well as with our associates:

AGREEMENT WITH SINBA (Company that works in the recycling of restaurant waste and converts it into animal feed). We started working together in mid-October 2023, consolidating the implementation of improvements in November 2023.

One of the first actions was training in waste management, collection and processing. We have stations for organic waste, another for recycling glass, cardboard, plastic, cans and Tetrapak, and another for non-usable waste (garbage) in strategic areas of the hotel.

Since we started the program with Sinba we have segregated:



### **Food Bank**

For 2 decades we have been donating the bread that has not been consumed at breakfast to Hogar San Camilo, an organization that provides shelter to people and families infected with HIV.

Bread is collected daily and we have an established flow for its collection. We reach an average of 240kg per month.



As for food inputs, we purchase eggs from free-range hens in all our operations. These hens come from the Shilco farm which is certified by SENASA and LRQA.

Within the food purchases we also find pigs (pork) that come from farms certified for NO animal mistreatment.

We also try to buy most of our food purchases from local producers in the valleys of Lima and seasonal products to reduce our carbon footprint.

On the 4th floor we have a bio garden called JW Garden, with some inputs that are used on a daily basis as thyme, lemon balm, good herb, lemon verbena, for the realization of some drinks and details of the dishes.



### **Serve 360 Station**

At the entrance to the hotel we have a station (internal area) called Serve 360 Station. Here we have 3 niches where we receive donations from:

- Textiles Clothing (Hogar San Camilo)
- Plastic caps (Aniquem)



- Cells and batteries (processed by a company specialized in handling these items).

### **Volunteering**

The associates participate in different activities to help the community such as:

### **Tree planting**

Environmental impact action in green areas provided by the Municipality of Miraflores. The compost we used was purchased from



Sinba, which was produced from organic waste collected at the hotel.



### **Beach Clean-up**

Marriott Peru actively participates in different campaigns with local governments. In March we participated in the “HAZLA por tu Playa” campaign. Associates invite their families to join in this arduous task of collecting organic waste, recycled material and rubbish from the sea and the shore.

### **Blood Donation**

These activities are carried out every 4 tables, working with the Instituto de Salud del niño (Children's Health Institute) and calling on members and family members who wish to donate blood. A special point is set up inside the hotel for a whole day. Up to 32 units have been collected in one day.



### **Ronald McDonald House Charities**

The hotel financially supports this temporary home for children, adolescents and their families, who travel from the interior of the country to Lima so that their children with complex illnesses can receive the medical attention they require.

Associates share a day in-house performing day-to-day functions and entertainment.

As Mr. Marriott says ‘We are all guests of this planet’, so the Corporation and the Marriott Peru hotels are committed to drive significant changes to reduce environmental impacts and work towards a better society.

***Cecilia Rispa***

Gerente de Ventas & Eventos Sociales  
JW Marriott Lima @jwmarriottlima  
@ceciliarispaeventplanner



Haz realidad tu evento soñado en Isla Holbox, el tesoro escondido del Caribe mexicano.


Con más de 25 años creando experiencias inolvidables en Holbox, Cancún y la Riviera Maya, en Holbox Travel somos expertos en la región y ofrecemos una amplia gama de servicios que van desde transporte privado hasta experiencias exclusivas, hospedaje y acompañamiento para la planificación de eventos personalizados.

Nuestro compromiso con la excelencia, la personalización y la sostenibilidad garantiza que cada detalle de tu evento sea único y refleje el entorno natural y cultural de esta paradisíaca isla. Permítenos acompañarte en cada paso para hacer de tu ocasión especial un recuerdo que perdure para siempre.

**HOLBOX TRAVEL**  
DMC | TRAVEL | EVENTS



[www.holboxtravel.com](http://www.holboxtravel.com)

 @holboxtravelsocial

 Holbox Travel

 +52 999 278 2818



## Salud mental del Cliente y del Wedding Planner.

Wedding Planners al descubierto por IADWP



*Wedding Planners al descubierto por la IADWP, nuestro canal de Podcast.*

*Nuestro Chapter Head de Costa Rica entrevista a Nadia Durán, desde Sydney Australia. Nadia es una figura destacada en la industria de planificación de eventos, reconocida internacionalmente por su creatividad y visión innovadora. En el año 2019 fue agremiada como la "Diseñadora de la Década". Con una trayectoria de 18 años, ha realizado eventos bodas de destino en más de 40 países. Recientemente, ha alcanzado un éxito significativo con la creación y lanzamiento de la rosa 'Nadia Duran', una flor que ahora lleva su nombre y que simboliza sus contribuciones y dedicación a nuestra industria.*

*Hablamos de la Salud mental del Cliente y del Wedding Planner. Abordamos y desarrollamos varios temas como: Estrés y La Ansiedad, Expectativas del Cliente sobre el Wedding Planner, Imprevistos, Salud Mental del Wedding Planner y Empatía del Wedding Planner y el Cliente.*

*No te pierdas este Podcast y escúchanos en Spotify Wedding Planners al descubierto por la IADWP.*



***Bridal bouquet  
trends for 2025***



A bride's bouquet is much more than just an accessory; it is an extension of her personal style and essence, it is a work of floral art that reflects the most current trends. As we approach 2025, bouquet trends are evolving towards a fusion of elegance, sustainability and personalization. Modern brides are looking for not only beauty, but also meaning, which translates into conscious, aesthetic, more organic floral choices and details that tell a story.

We will see how floral art seeks new combinations of flowers, colors and shapes to create bouquets that transcend the traditional and celebrate nature in its purest and most authentic state. From choosing local flowers and even incorporating unexpected elements, the possibilities are endless for brides who want their bouquet to be as unique as their love story.



We are constantly innovating to adapt to individual preferences and the demands of a more conscious world.

Here are the future trends:

### **1. Green and Sustainable Bouquets**

The focus on sustainability continues to grow. Eco-friendly bouquets with seasonal, locally sourced and grown flowers will be popular. Also, the use of recycled foliage or dried flowers that can be preserved after the wedding.

### **2. Wild and Natural Flowers**

Flowers with a more wild and unstructured look will dominate the scene. Bouquets that look like they were just picked from the field, with a combination of small flowers, branches, and leaves in soft or pastel tones, will offer a romantic and organic look.



### **3. Refined Minimalism**

Minimalism continues to be a strong trend. Smaller bouquets with few well-chosen flowers, where each flower has an aesthetic purpose, are a modern and elegant choice. The use of traditional neutral colors and whites also remains.

### **4. Strong Colors and Deep Accents**

Although minimalism will be a trend, bouquets with intense colors, such as fuchsia, burgundy, orange and purple, will gain ground for brides looking for a bold touch. Combined with dark foliage, they will bring drama and modernity.

### **5. Single-Flower Bouquets**

Another emerging trend is the use of a single variety of flower in the entire bouquet. For example, a bouquet composed exclusively of roses, but with details that add sophistication and modernity, such as its shape and/or the way the stem is lined.



### **6. Neutral and Soft Tones**

Neutral colors such as cream, beige and sand will also gain popularity, as they reflect the trend towards more natural and rustic weddings. This style evokes serenity and simplicity.

### **7. Asymmetric and Rustic Shapes**

Asymmetrical bouquets with flowers of different sizes and lengths, combining large leaves with smaller, more delicate flowers, will continue to be popular, giving a casual and natural look.

These trends allow the brides of 2025 to express their personal style in a more conscious and unique way, combining tradition with a modern and sustainable approach.

Thank you for joining me on this tour of bouquet trends for 2025, it's an inspiration to create the perfect bouquet that reflects your style and essence on your special day.

***Diana de Victoria***

Floral Designer  
IG: @dianadevictoria.artefloral  
www. dianadevictoria.com



# JOIN IADWP® AND TAKE YOUR CAREER TO THE NEXT LEVEL!

Are you a professional in the world  
of destination weddings and events?

Are you looking to take your business  
to the next level while connecting  
with an international network?  
Discover our membership

## EXCLUSIVE BENEFITS



### EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNTS

Enjoy member-only discounts on our conferences, including pre- and post-conference activities.



### EDUCATION AND GROWTH

Enhance your knowledge with our continuous education program: Exclusive access to a video library with high-value content in marketing, sustainability, crisis management, etc; and enjoy new live masterclasses every year.



### INTERNATIONALIZATION AND GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Position your business globally with our international network. Connect with industry leaders, expand your market, and stay at the forefront of the latest trends.



### GAIN VISIBILITY BY PUBLISHING WITH US

Share your expertise by contributing articles for publication on our IADWP.com blog or in our official Epic magazine and increase your visibility in the industry.



### MEMBERS DIRECTORY

Join our global network of professionals and expand your connections in the industry.



### STRENGTHEN YOUR CREDIBILITY

Highlight your professionalism in every aspect of your business as a member of the association.



### PRIVATE SESSIONS

Take part in one-on-one coaching and marketing sessions to improve your digital strategy and elevate your business to the next level.

## DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO GROW AND STAND OUT!

CONTACT US AT:  
[MEMBERS@IADWP.COM](mailto:MEMBERS@IADWP.COM)

DISCOVER OUR OPTIONS  
AND BENEFITS!





# Travel the world WITH IADWP IN 2025!

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, Europe, and Asia.

Join our spectacular events that we are preparing for you in 2025.



May 24th – 31st

English

#### How to participate ?

North American destination wedding professionals with buying potential for the Dominican Republic. Includes site visits, networking, and enjoying the destination. Limited spaces. Profile subject to approval.

**USD 1,787**

IADWP Members

**USD 1,987**

General

Rates valid until  
December 31st, 2024

\*Rates exclusive for attendees



May 26th – 29th

Spanish

#### How to participate ?

Attendee: Event Industry professionals, wedding planners, hoteliers, and event vendors.  
Exhibitor: Destination, Hotelier, and event vendors.

**USD 387**

IADWP Members

**USD 487**

General

Rates valid until  
December 31st, 2024

\*Rates exclusive for attendees



Sept. 22nd - 25th

Spanish

#### How to participate ?

Attendee: Event Industry professionals, wedding planners, hoteliers, and event vendors.  
Exhibitor: Destination, Hotelier, and event vendors.

**USD 387**

IADWP Members

**USD 487**

General

Rates valid until  
December 31st, 2024

\*Rates exclusive for attendees

**COMING SOON...**

**WORLD  
ROMANCE  
TRAVEL  
CONFERENCE**

**NOVEMBER, 2025**

**REGISTER NOW!**

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



# CORPORATE MEMBER

2024



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



## Hotel

Alaia Belize, a luxury resort with stunning views, vibrant culture in a tropical paradise. Exactly like nothing else.



## Priscilla Torres

Groups, Conference & Events Manager  
+501 501-614 9803  
Priscilla.Torres@alaiabelize.com

[alaiabelize.com](http://alaiabelize.com)

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



## Hotel

The Romanos, a Luxury Collection Resort, and W Costa Navarino, provide an evocative setting for dream destination weddings.

## Katerina Karipides

Cluster Senior Events Sales Manager  
Romance Designer

+30 697 972 2608

[romanoscostanavarino.com](http://romanoscostanavarino.com)

[@romanoscostanavarino](https://www.instagram.com/romanoscostanavarino) [katerina.karipides@costanavarino.com](mailto:katerina.karipides@costanavarino.com)



# BECOME A CORPORATE MEMBER

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

# 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:**



## Felipe Gaber

Gaber Studio  
IADWP Yucatán  
Ambassador

 @pipegaber

Recognized as one of the most prominent photographers in the Mexican wedding industry, director of Gaber Studio, and winner of multiple awards, including the international Destination Wedding Photography contest in Riviera Maya (2014) and the Skin Photo Contest (2017). He has worked for well-known brands and photographed celebrities such as Serena Williams and Camila Sodi, with publications in media such as Vogue Mexico and Caras Argentina. Since 2019, she is dedicated to education, contributing to the development of new talents through platforms such as Nikon Mexico and Apple.



## Cynthia Pajarito

Cynthia Pajarito Wedding  
Planner

 @cynthiapajaritoweddingplanner

Cynthia Hernández Pajarito is passionate about destination weddings, born in Guadalajara and living in Lagos de Moreno, Jalisco. With a degree in Psychology and training in leadership, she has dedicated her career to event planning, specializing in destination weddings after studying event logistics at La Salle Bajío. With three years of experience in this field, Cynthia combines the culture and traditions of Mexico to create customized weddings.



## Paul Leonor

Soluciones Ingeniosas

 @soluciones\_ingeniosasrd

Paul Leonor, architect and founder of Soluciones Ingeniosas, began his career in interior design, art and direction of audiovisual productions, which led him to the world of corporate events. Since 2000, his company has been a pioneer in the production of corporate events in the Dominican Republic, with 24 years of experience working for leading brands. In 2024, it was recognized at the Latin American Wedding Awards as the best corporate event organizer in the Dominican Republic and Latin America.



## Paola Medina

Eventos Grupo Medina  
SAS

Junior Chapter Bogotá DC

 @paolamedinaplanner

Social communicator with emphasis in publishing from Pontificia Universidad Javeriana. Specialist in project management PMP and business planning from San Diego College Continuing Education, California, USA. Experience in project coordination, work in quantitative and qualitative studies that allow measuring public opinion and some sectors of the country. Knowledge in communication strategies, data collection and analysis. Expert in organizing corporate and social events. Experience in coordinating large-scale projects such as logistical processes at national level.

## BECOME A PLATINUM MEMBER

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



# IADWP

International Association of  
Destination Wedding Professionals

D.R. CHAPTER



We are thrilled to announce that our chapters in South America continue to grow!  
Meet our **IADWP Dominican Republic Chapter!**



## Mirta Sánchez

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC CHAPTER HEAD**

@mseventsrdr

**MS Events by Mirta Sánchez**

Mirta Sanchez, with more than 30 years of experience, is the founder of MS Events and a pioneer in the professionalization of the wedding planner service in the Dominican Republic. She is an Alpha leader of IADWP and a founding member of ABERD.

### JUNIOR CHAPTER HEADS



#### Mary Pily López

SANTO DOMINGO

@marypilyeventstudio

**MaryPily Events and Studio**

Mary Pily López Rodríguez, with 25 years of experience and more than 1,000 events, is CEO of Event Studio and is certified as a Wedding Planner and in floral design. She also co-created the Biosecurity Protocol for events in the Dominican Republic.



#### Nydia Alegria

SANTO DOMINGO

@naweddings

**Nydia Alegria Weddings**

I am a cheerful, dynamic and passionate about nature, travel and helping others. I enjoy life, family and have been married for 32 years with two children.



#### Elisa Abreu

SANTIAGO

@elisaabreuweddings

**Elisa Abreu Weddings and Events**

Elisa Abreu, Miss Dominican World 2025 and communicator by profession, specializes in event planning and design since 2012 with her firm, associated with Recreativa el Oráculo SRL. Her clientele includes leading companies and events such as the Latin American Fashion Awards.



#### Naysi Pérez

SAN JOSÉ DE OCOA

@naysiperezeventos

**Naysi Perez Event and Wedding**

Degree in Advertising (UASD) and specialized in interior design (Altos de Chavón). Certified Wedding & Event Planner by INIBEP and Event Management Center. Active member of ABERD and IADWP.



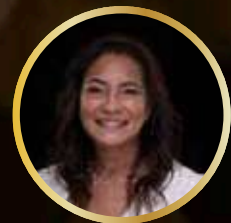
#### Braulio Segura

SANTO DOMINGO

@bs\_weddingplanner

**BS wedding planner**

Braulio Segura is a renowned wedding planner and event designer in the Dominican Republic, with more than 10 years of experience. He has worked with personalities from the artistic world and large companies, establishing himself as one of the best in his country.



#### Gladys Quiñones

LA ROMANA

@eventosycatering

**Eventos y Catering**

Since 1999, she has been organizing and decorating weddings and full service events, including catering. With over 20 years of experience and training in Event Management and Organization, she is a perfectionist and dedicated professional.

IADWP®  
WISHES YOU A  
*Happy Birthday*  
OCTOBER



**Bobbi-Jo Roback**  
@destinationwedd  
OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup>



**Braulio Segura**  
@brauliosegura1  
OCTOBER 2<sup>ND</sup>



**Carolina Vera**  
@cvvevents\_ec  
OCTOBER 3<sup>RD</sup>



**Carina Balegas**  
@carinabril.weddingplanner  
OCTOBER 3<sup>RD</sup>



**Suzanne Pelzer**  
@bluenescapes  
OCTOBER 5<sup>TH</sup>



**Anahí Gongora**  
@gaudipartydesign  
OCTOBER 6<sup>TH</sup>



**Sheena Fortune**  
OCTOBER 6<sup>TH</sup>



**Isabel Rodríguez**  
@luxevocations  
OCTOBER 7<sup>TH</sup>



**Naysi Pérez**  
@pereznaysi  
OCTOBER 9<sup>TH</sup>




**Ernesto Gutiérrez**  
@cardenaloaxaca  
OCTOBER 10<sup>TH</sup>



**Teresa Botica**  
@events.somethingborrowed  
OCTOBER 13<sup>TH</sup>





**IADWP**   
WISHES YOU A  
*Happy Birthday*  
OCTOBER



**Rosemary Ramsay**

@mreventospty  
OCTOBER 13<sup>TH</sup>



**Elizabeth La Manna**

OCTOBER 18<sup>TH</sup>



**Gustavo Prado**

@xanamimx  
OCTOBER 18<sup>TH</sup>



**Joel Scholtz**

@luxeprotravel  
OCTOBER 19<sup>TH</sup>



**Jonathan D Fraga**

@jonathandfraga  
OCTOBER 19<sup>TH</sup>



**Eugenia Chinsman**

@echinsman  
OCTOBER 20<sup>TH</sup>



**Candy Kantun**

@ccecycantun  
OCTOBER 22<sup>ND</sup>



**Cristiam Fernández**

@cristianf  
OCTOBER 29<sup>TH</sup>



**Nena Papadopoulou**

@styleconcept.gr  
OCTOBER 30<sup>TH</sup>



**Dethress Ulmer Lesley**

@deeventsndeescape  
OCTOBER 31<sup>ST</sup>



**Director & General Editor: Adrián Pavía**  
**Editorial Coordinator: Jossy Quezada**  
**Content Coordinator: Lissner Ortiz**  
**Translations: Diana Sciarrillo**  
**Design: OVNI Estudio Creativo**

**Argentina**

**Adrián Pavía**  
**+5493415012940**  
**apavia@iadwp.com**

**Chile**

**Carla Valdebenito Jalaf**  
**+569 97334778**  
**carla@rhonda.cl**

**Colombia**

**Sonia Martínez Jurado**  
**+573154430925**  
**weddingmanager@bridalagency.co**

**Costa Rica**

**Jeffrey Cervantes Calderon**  
**+506 8665 0990**  
**director@crweddingplanner.com**

**Ecuador**

**Lissner Ortiz**  
**+593984678280**  
**gerencia@lissnerweddingplanner.com**

**El Salvador**

**Ma Luisa Samayoa**  
**+50378865877**  
**malusamayoa@gmail.com**  
**@ambitoeventos**

**Guatemala**

**Diana Sciarrillo**  
**+502 57782271**  
**dianas@weddingsinguatemala.com**

**Panama**

**Julie Franco**  
**+50769495544**  
**Info@expobodapanama.com**

**Peru**

**Jossy Quezada Sánchez**  
**+51 999050677**  
**Jquezada@jossyquezadawp.com**

**Dominican Republic**

**Mirta Sánchez**  
**+809-756-0554**  
**mirtasanchez@msevents.com.do**

**Venezuela**

**Juan Salvador Rangel**  
**+58 4144949074**  
**Juan@juansalvadoreventos.com**