The Official Magazine of the IADWP

ÉPICA

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WEDDINGS & EVENTS



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Editor's Note

October 2025 | By Adrián Pavía

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

September will be etched as one of the most memorable chapters in the history of our industry. The **LATT Wedding Congress** in Querétaro was a true success: intense days of learning, networking, and emotions that left a mark on all of us who had the privilege of experiencing them. I sincerely congratulate every speaker, who shared their knowledge with generosity and passion, **Kitzia Morales**, for her visionary leadership that made this gathering possible, and the entire working team, who demonstrated that excellence is achieved when organization and creativity walk hand-in-hand.

Among the most anticipated moments, the night of the First Edition of the ÉPICA 2025 Awards garnered all the applause. An unforgettable gala, full of emotion and stories that deserve to be told. We congratulate every award winner, who with their talent and dedication raises the standard of what it means to create memorable experiences. The creation of these awards was a shared dream: a process that started as an idea and, thanks

thanks to the curation and commitment of the jury, transformed into a reality that today recognizes the best in our industry. That night was much more than an awards ceremony: it was the confirmation that together we are a community that grows, inspires, and projects itself into the future.

This edition of the magazine takes precisely that spirit as its **common thread**: the strength of collaboration, learning, and celebration. From the most revealing presentations at the congress to the details of the gala night, every page reflects the work, passion, and talent that define those who are part of ÉPICA. The creation of the awards is, in itself, a testament of what we can achieve when we unite ideas and wills to recognize those who make this sector great.

And as we close this issue with hearts full of gratitude, we are already looking towards the horizon. The next destination awaits us: **Costa Rica**, host of the next great **World Romance Tour** gathering. An imposing natural setting that is preparing to welcome our global community in an event that will undoubtedly be a new success. There, we will continue writing the history we began in Querétaro: a history of innovation, love for our work, and commitment to excellence.

With this edition, we celebrate who we are, we are grateful for what we achieved, and we open our wings for what is to come. Because every gathering, every award, and every page of ÉPICA is, and will continue to be, a tribute to dreams that come true.



Director | Director of the IADWP Latin America Chapter and Spanish-Speaking Caribbean Islands 3





Costa Rica dresses up for romance and business

Guanacaste, known for its stunning landscapes, is preparing to become the epicenter of romance tourism worldwide. From November 3rd to 6th, the prestigious World Romance Travel Conference (WRTC), organized by the International Association of Destination Wedding Professionals (IADWP), will gather more than 200 of the top wedding planners and travel agencies from the North American market. The visit of these influential professionals from the United States and Canada is an honor that underscores Costa Rica's position as a premier destination for dream weddings and events.

This event is not just a conference, but a strategic platform for the growth of the sector. Through a carefully designed agenda, attendees will not only immerse themselves in an environment of networking and learning but will also experience firsthand the magic and the authenticity that Costa Rica offers.





An agenda of immersion and connection

The WRTC experience begins days before the main conference with the Pre-Conference, an itinerary that will take participants to visit various five-star venues across the country. This immersion will allow attendees to discover the exceptional hospitality, natural settings, and exquisite Costa Rican gastronomy—key elements for planning unforgettable events.

On November 3rd, the conference officially kicks off at the JW Marriott Hotel at Hacienda Pinilla, where guests will be welcomed by the IADWP team, alongside their ambassadors Kristy Zalezky and their host Jeffrey

Cervantes Calderón. The inaugural day will culminate with a welcome event that will reflect the warmth and culture of Costa Rica.

November 4th will be dedicated to networking and business opportunities. An exclusive trade floor will allow attendees to connect directly with suppliers from across the region, including companies from Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Colombia, Guatemala, among others. In the evening, the celebration will continue at the Westin Playa Conchal with the vibrant Costa Rica Surf Party, exclusive to IADWP members—a themed party that encapsulates the country's relaxed and adventurous spirit.

November 5th will focus on professional growth. The IADWP has prepared a program of conferences and training sessions with renowned international speakers, designed to elevate the knowledge and skills of all participants. The event will conclude with a closing ceremony, celebrating the achievements and new alliances formed.



Beyond the conference: an integral experience

November 6th marks the end of the main activities, but not the end of the experience for all attendees. While some return home from the international airports of Liberia (LIR) or San José (SJO), others will extend their stay in the Post-Conference events. These itineraries include exploring other hotels in the country or participating in the exclusive IADWP Golf Ring Costa Rica at the luxurious Marriott Los Sueños.

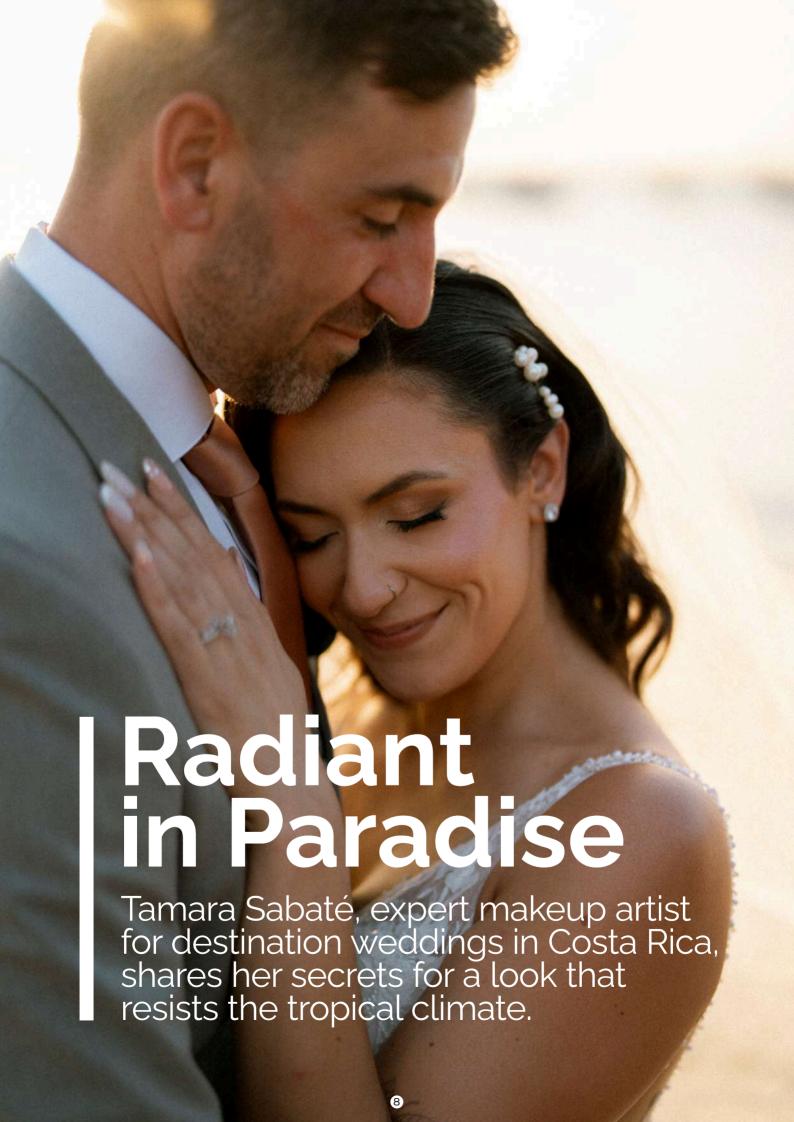
A legacy of business and "Pura Vida"

Undoubtedly, the World Romance Travel Conference will leave a significant mark on Costa Rica's tourism industry. This event will not only generate a direct economic impact on the romance sector but will also position the country as a global reference point, attracting future weddings, honeymoons, and events seeking an authentic and sustainable destination. The combination of professionalism and Costa Rica's unparalleled natural beauty is the perfect formula for creating lasting connections and business opportunities.

As the leader of the Costa Rica chapter, I look forward to seeing all professionals at this Pura Vida experience. Limited spots are still available to join this event that promises to mark a before and after in romance tourism!

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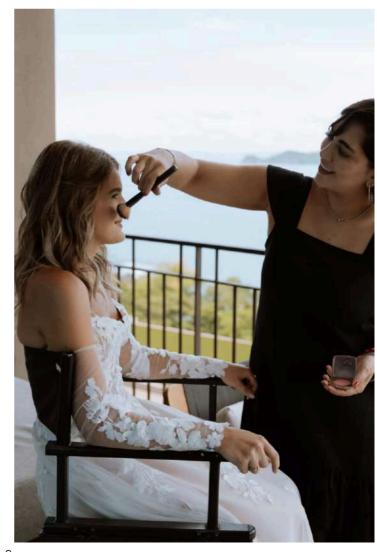


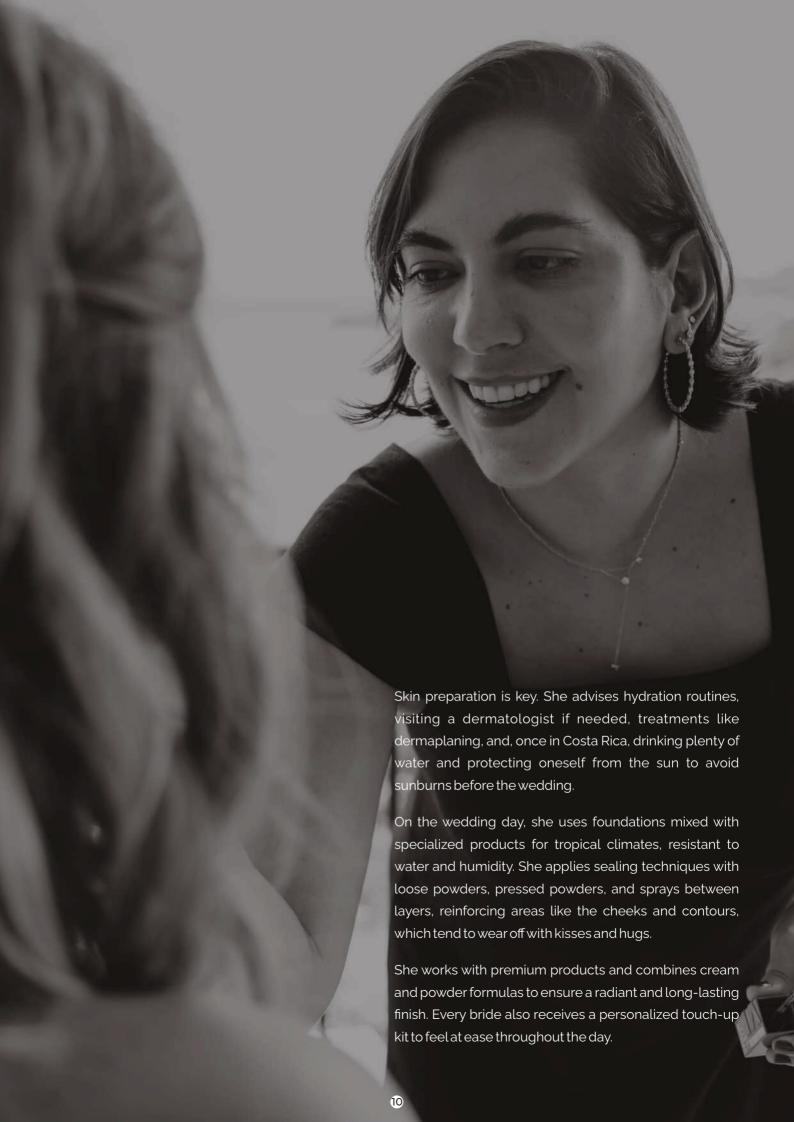
Tamara Sabaté, a makeup artist with more than 12 years of experience in weddings. For the last 7 years, she has specialized in destination weddings, and for two years she has lived in Guanacaste, Costa Rica. Here are the most spectacular beaches and magical sunsets, but also the challenge of heat and humidity. Therefore, the most important thing for her is that every bridal look is beautiful, long-lasting, and tropical-climate-proof.

Her philosophy is simple: that every bride looks like herself, but in her best version. Whether it's a soft glam, full glam or nude makeup, her goal is for the look to reflect who the bride is, to be in harmony with the wedding style, and for her to say when she looks in the mirror: "that's me, but even more WOW."

The consultation process begins with the first emails or messages. She analyzes the bride's style and the wedding style to design a unique look.

"I always recommend having a bridal trial the day before the event. It's the perfect opportunity to adjust details and, furthermore, to take advantage of it for her rehearsal dinner or a prior activity," Sabaté commented to us.









The bride can choose her makeup technique:

- Traditional makeup, for a natural and versatile finish.
- Airbrush, which offers greater coverage, a porcelain effect, and extra resistance to humidity.

Her service doesn't end with makeup. She is also there to help you put on your dress, veil, hair accessories, support your bridesmaids, and provide calm during moments of nervousness.

In summary, her mission is for every bride who chooses her not only to look spectacular but to feel secure, supported, and radiant in paradise.

Tamara Sabaté Lobo

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Eln a photo shoot, the magic is not only in the camera but in how the setting becomes an accomplice to the story you want to tell. Every couple wants their photos to reflect their essence, for the environment to enhance the emotion, and for every image to transform into an eternal memory.

To discover how to achieve this, we talked with two prominent Costa Rican photographers who reveal their favorite spots and key tips to make every session unforgettable.

The recipe for a perfect shoot with Andrés Brenes Wedding Photographer

Andrés Brenes and Marisol Obando, husband and wife colleagues behind Andrés Brenes Wedding Photographer, have been working together for more than 12 years and know that a good shoot goes beyond pretty photos: it's about trust, light, and authenticity.

1. Trust as a starting point

For Andrés and Marisol, the most important thing is for the couple to feel guided naturally. "It's common for them to tell us: we're so glad you're guiding us, because we wouldn't know what to do with our hands, and that's what we enjoy the most: making the session flow between smiles and spontaneous gestures."

2. Light, the secret ingredient

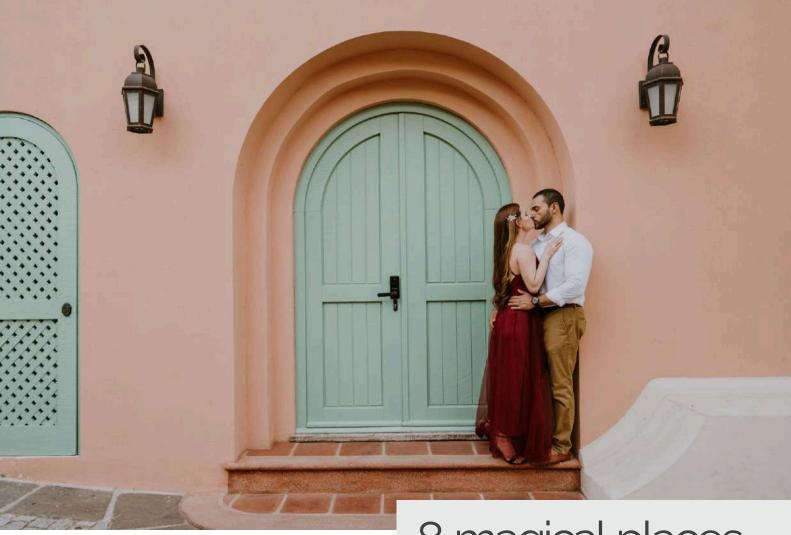
Schedule sessions early in the morning or late in the afternoon, when the light is softer and more flattering. "There are times, like December and January, when the light in Costa Rica is simply magical," they assure, "light is the factor that changes everything."

3. Practical tips

Wardrobe: Plain tones that contrast with the surroundings; avoid busy prints







Makeup and hairstyle: natural and relaxed style that reflects the essence of each person, always respecting the personality of each couple.

Attitude: let go, trust the photographer, and enjoy the moment.

Inspiration: Pinterest ideas can be useful, but it's important to remember that many photos come from editorial productions.

The most valuable thing is that the shoot reflects the couple's authentic essence.

"Saying that a photograph tells a story is like talking about a recipe with several ingredients. Technique, composition, and light are important, but none of that works if we don't manage to capture the couple's true connection. For that to happen, there must be trust; the couple has to let go and enjoy the moment. That trust is what allows us to do what we love most: transform genuine emotions into eternal memories."

8 magical places in Costa Rica with Alex Martínez

With more than 800 couples photographed, Alex Martinez knows that Costa Rica offers incomparable settings. For him, a place is magical when it manages to envelop you with its energy and natural beauty. These are his favorites:

1.Llanos de Cortés Waterfall, a majestic veil of water in the heart of nature. Ideal for adventurous couples looking for a striking yet romantic setting.

2.Bahía Ballena. unforgettable sea and sunsets, photos full of freedom and freshness.

3.Las Catalinas, elegance by the sea, picturesque facades, and a chic atmosphere.

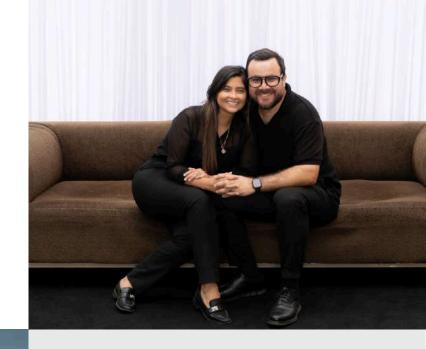
4.Capilla Amós, an intimate and exclusive space, ideal for those seeking privacy, aesthetic appeal, and spirituality.

5.La Fortuna. The combination of the waterfall with the charm of the town and the impressiveness of the volcano; diverse settings in one place.

6.Puerto Viejo de Limón, Caribbean vibe and unique cultural energy. For couples looking for a relaxed and lively atmosphere.

7.Nauyaca Waterfall. Imposing and surrounded by jungle. A powerful setting, perfect for dramatic photos.

8.Río Agrio Waterfall, a hidden corner, intimate and serene surroundings, offering an air of mysticism.



"The true magic is in the couples. The environment accompanies and enhances, but the essential element is their emotions. That is what inspires me and what remains forever in every photograph."

Costa Rica offers incomparable settings, but as the photographers agree, the essential element is not just the location or the technique, but the genuine connection of each couple. In the end, what remains in every photograph is not the landscape or the dress, but the emotions that speak for themselves: the magic of loving and being loved.



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Costa Rica, a country rich in cultural diversity.

The history of Costa Rica is marked by mestizaje (cross-cultural blending), an inheritance that shaped our identity and gave form to the Costa Rican essence. Thanks to this mix of cultures, ways of life, beliefs, traditions, and customs were fused. The genes of our indigenous, African, and Spanish ancestors enriched our land and built the identity that we proudly celebrate today: the Pura Vida.

Our country is a meeting point, a vibrant fusion of experiences, music, gastronomy, art, beverages, and festivities that represent us in every corner. Added to this is an incomparable natural richness: unique settings

and diverse microclimates, all a short distance from each other.

I fondly remember the destination wedding of Alex and Melania Blue, celebrated on the beach. For three days we hosted guests from the United States and Costa Rica, creating a multicultural celebration full of shared traditions. From gastronomy to music, every detail reflected the union of two cultures. The typical elements were not missing: palm roofs, agua de pipa (coconut water), and marimba music. Three magical days that turned into an unforgettable experience.



Organizing a multicultural wedding in Costa Rica

Imagine a wedding where different languages and customs converge. These celebrations require meticulous planning, seeking a balance that represents both cultures. In this article, we will explore some of the main Costa Rican traditions, perfect for merging with those of any other country.



Ceremonies

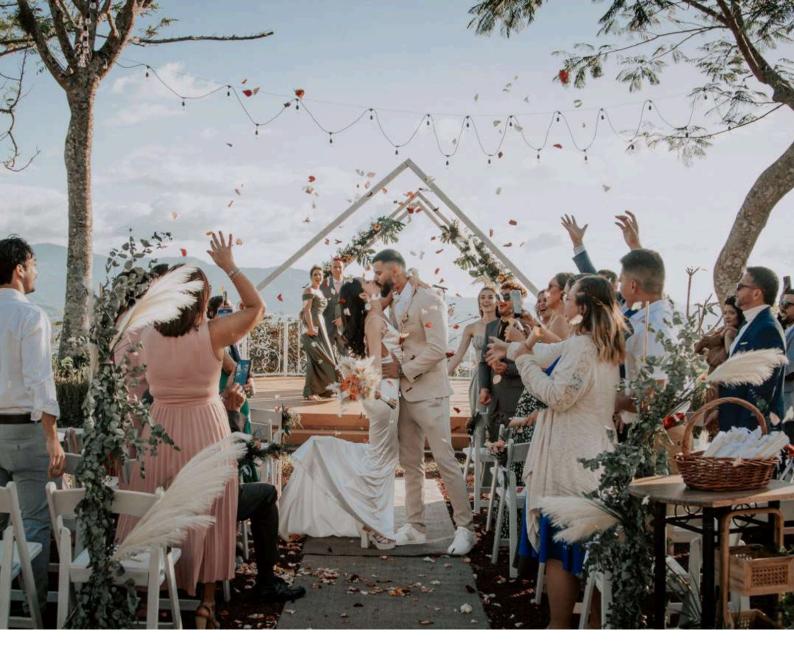
In Costa Rica, religious, civil, and symbolic ceremonies are celebrated, all with the same purpose: to honor the union and commitment.

While the bride usually wears white, a symbol of purity, it is still possible to include details of our culture. For example, the bouquet can be made with tropical flowers and species native to each region of the country. Another very characteristic rite is the rice shower, a symbol of prosperity and good fortune for the newlyweds.



Gastronomy and beverages

Costa Rican cuisine, with Creole roots, is a delicious fusion of indigenous, Spanish, and African influences. With fresh and local ingredients, it offers a wide variety of options for celebrations. In addition to traditional catering, themed stations from different provinces can be included or a typical Costa Rican "turno" (local fair food) can be recreated with traditional dishes like arroz con leche (rice pudding), gallos de picadillo (small tacos with chopped filling), corn with butter, and hand-patted tortillas.



The typical beverages are not far behind: the chiliguaro, the agua de sapo, the chinchivi, fresh fruit drinks, agua dulce (sweet water/sugar cane drink), the chicheme (a fermented corn-based drink), the famous rompope (eggnog), and the traditional vino de coyol (coyol wine) are part of the experience.

Music

Music is the soul of our celebrations. In a multicultural wedding in Costa Rica, the rhythms native to each region cannot be missed: the Limón calypso, the marimba, the punto guanacasteco, the cimarronas (folkloric bands), cumbias, swing criollo, and boleros. These genres, full of symbolism and joy, add an authentic and festive touch.





Customs and traditions

Eln Costa Rica, traditions always find a place in weddings:

The serenade: The groom surprises the fiancée the night before, accompanied by his closest loved ones.

Traditional games: Like giant jenga, tic-tac-toe (el gato), orrings, ideal for weddings in haciendas or farms.

The pulpería (corner store): A station of typical sweets and snacks where guests "buy" with symbolic bills.

Cimarronas and mascaradas: A folkloric show full of energy.

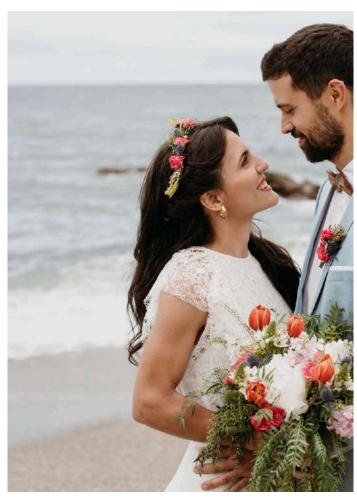
The bill dance: Guests give money in exchange for dancing with the newlyweds.

The afternoon coffee: A very Tico tradition that can also become a souvenir for the guests.

Tico expressions: Bulletins with typical phrases that amuse and bring foreign guests closer to our culture.

A wedding is not just a celebration, it is the opportunity to share a unique moment in the perfect setting. In Costa Rica you will find innumerable event venues, surrounded by cultural diversity, contrasting climates, and impressive landscapes.

Celebrate your wedding in Costa Rica in the mountains, the city, or facing the sea with Destination Weddings by Wedding Fairy. Discover a country full of exciting adventures, unparalleled relaxation, and infinite possibilities to experience and share our culture.



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Costa Rica became a regional benchmark by opening its doors to equal marriage in 2020. Since then, the country is not only recognized for its natural richness and hospitality but also as a destination where love is celebrated without labels. 18% of hotel weddings are symbolic LGBTQ+ ceremonies. Of these, half are celebrated in Guanacaste, on iconic beaches like Garza, Conchal, and Tamarindo.

Dream settings

Saying "I do" at sunset on the Pacific coast, under a waterfall in the tropical jungle, or facing the Caribbean is possible in Costa Rica. Every corner of the country offers an idyllic setting that combines nature, elegance, and authenticity.

Wedding organizers have developed inclusive experiences, understanding that every love story is unique. An example is the Hotel Villa Caletas, in Jacó, which offers locations such as the recently inaugurated Rancho Caletas, the iconic Amphitheater, and the magical Zephyr Palace.









From intimate ceremonies with sea views to celebrations with exquisite dinners and dancing under the stars, this resort customizes every detail. Furthermore, it offers lodging options ranging from standard rooms to honeymoon suites, adapting to different budgets.

A symbol of diversity

Beyond its landscapes, Costa Rica stands out for its warmth and respect. Here, LGBTQ+ couples can feel safe and celebrated, living their most important day without fear of prejudice.

Weddings in Costa Rica are not just ceremonies: they are declarations of authentic love that inspire belief in a world where equality and respect go hand-in-hand.

In this paradise, love has no labels: only the strength of two people who decide to walk together surrounded by nature, magic, and freedom.

Josue Guido Blandon

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In the vibrant world of destination weddings, the real magic lies in the complete experience, not just the day of the event. For couples who choose a paradise like Costa Rica, the journey begins much earlier, and that is where the concept of Wedding Concierge becomes the key to a perfect celebration. Costa Rica Wedding Planner has perfected this service, transforming planning into an adventure as unforgettable as the wedding itself.

What is a Wedding Concierge?

The Wedding Concierge is much more than a planner. It is comprehensive and personalized assistance that accompanies the newlyweds and their guests from the moment they land at the airport until they say goodbye. Think of it as having an expert, local friend, available 24/7,

who knows the country's secrets and ensures every moment is perfect. This service is designed to guarantee a seamless and stress-free experience for everyone.







The Costa Rica Wedding Planner team, led by its tourism expert, Yessica del Toro, has elevated this service to an art form. Their approach is based on four essential pillars:

- **1. Guest Logistics**: A destination wedding is an opportunity for guests to explore a new place. The team handles the coordination of transfers, from the airport to the hotels, and manages tour reservations. This allows the newlyweds, their family, and friends to relax, knowing they are in the best hands and can enjoy every moment of their stay.
- 2. Activities and Tourism Advising: Costa Rica is synonymous with adventure. The Wedding Concierge service offers authentic experiences. Do the guests want to explore a volcano, surf in the Pacific, or relax in hot springs? The team not only recommends but manages every reservation, creating a personalized itinerary that allows them to live the true "Pura Vida."
- 3. 24/7 Support and Contingency Resolution: In the real world, setbacks can occur. A delayed flight, lost luggage, or a last-minute need. This is where the service excels. With an open line of communication at all times, the team acts as the first line of defense, resolving any situation discreetly and efficiently, freeing the couple to enjoy their great moment.





4. Coordination with Local Suppliers: The team is not just an organizer, but a connector. Their extensive network of contacts includes the best suppliers in Costa Rica, from hoteliers and tour operators to photographers and chefs. The Wedding Concierge service ensures that all elements of the wedding synchronize perfectly, creating a celebration that delights all the senses.



In conclusion, choosing Costa Rica Wedding Planner and their Wedding Concierge service is an investment in peace of mind. Modern couples seek more than an event; they want a complete experience. From the moment the newlyweds arrive in Costa Rica, they know they have an ally who will make their vision a reality, taking care of every detail. It is the final piece that ties everything together, allowing love and joy to be the protagonists of an experience that will be etched in everyone's hearts.



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Las costas del Pacífico y el Caribe ofrecen resorts de categoría mundial diseñados para consentir a los recién casados. Imagina despertar con vistas al océano, disfrutar de un desayuno en la terraza privada y terminar el día con un masaje en pareja al ritmo de las olas.

Un ejemplo perfecto es el **Hotel Villa Roca**, en Manuel Antonio, que combina elegancia con naturaleza en un entorno seguro y sofisticado. Sus piscinas infinitas, jacuzzis, restaurante de autor y atardeceres inigualables lo convierten en un refugio de ensueño. Además, ofrece una amplia selección de tours para descubrir la flora y fauna de la región, garantizando una experiencia tan exclusiva como auténtica.

When we think of the perfect honeymoon, we imagine a destination that combines relaxation, romance, and unforgettable experiences. Costa Rica, with its exuberant nature and unique hospitality, offers all that and much more. This small paradise in Central America has become the dream setting for couples from all over the world who seek to begin their new life together with memorable moments.

Whether it's a luxury retreat facing the sea, an ecofriendly getaway, or an adventure full of adrenaline, every couple finds their ideal story here.

For those seeking luxury and total disconnection

Packages starting from US\$ 145

To make the experience even more special, some resorts offer packages designed to create unforgettable memories:

Regular Package - u\$s 145

Romantic decoration in the room, Rose petals on the bed, Chocolate-covered strawberries, Decorative candles, Santa Ema wine or champagne



Rose petals on the bed,

Chocolate-covered strawberries.

Decorative candles.

Santa Ema wine or champagne,

Rose petals in the jacuzzi,

Cocktails and charcuterie board,

Three-course dinner for two at the exquisite Qui-Si-Sana restaurant

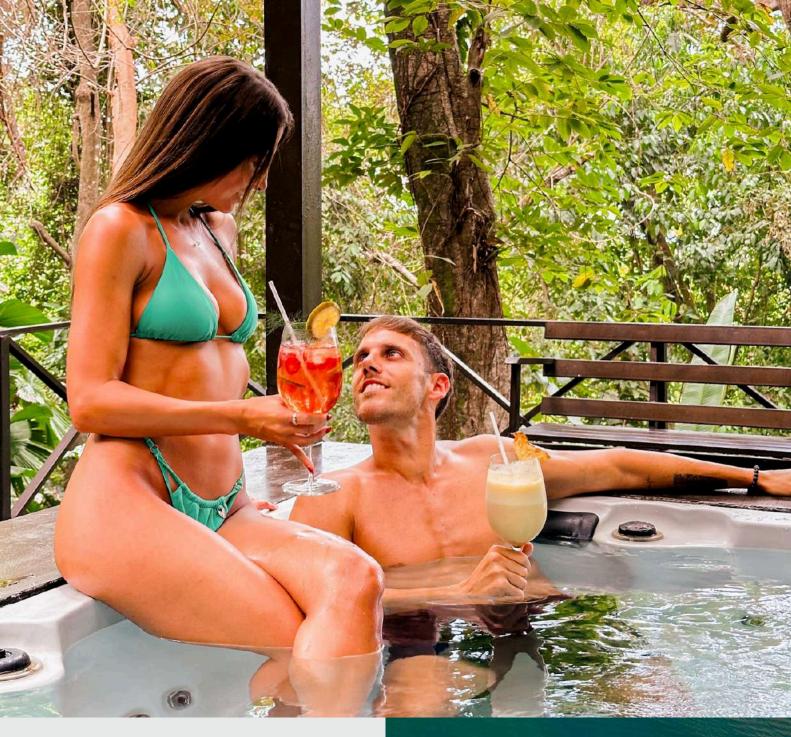
These details elevate the honeymoon to a level of luxury and romance that merges with the natural magic of Costa Rica.



Eco-friendly getaways for conscious couples

Costa Rica is a pioneer in sustainable tourism, and many lodges and boutique hotels integrate nature as part of the experience. Sleeping surrounded by tropical forest, dining under a starry sky, and waking up to the singing of birds transforms any honeymoon into a magical and planet-responsible experience.

Some options include private villas in the treetops, bohochic cabins, or retreats offering yoga programs, bird watching, and romantic candlelit dinners. Every detail is designed to connect love with the essence of nature.



Adventure for two intrepid hearts

For those seeking strong emotions, Costa Rica is a true natural amusement park. Hikes to active volcanoes, rafting on crystalline rivers, canopy tours among gigantic trees, or surf lessons on world-famous beaches are just some of the experiences that await newlyweds.

Sharing these adventures not only creates indelible memories but also reinforces the complicity.



between the couple. And to close the day calmly, there will always be a spa with panoramic hydrotherapy or a gourmet dinner ready to enjoy.

Packages that have it all

There are also programs specially designed for couples who wish to combine various settings in the same trip. Among the most outstanding are:

•Costa Rica Wonders Luxury Nature Escape: includes destinations such as Arenal Volcano, Bajos del Toro, and Manuel Antonio, mixing nature, adventure, and wellbeing in a single route.

Costa Rica's Romantic Jungle & Beach:

perfect for those who dream of alternating between the tropical jungle and paradisiacal beaches without giving up luxury and privacy.





The most special thing about Costa Rica is its capacity to balance all desires: romance, relaxation, adventure, and sustainability. It doesn't matter if they dream of quiet afternoons facing the sea, exploring the jungle, or enjoying a five-star resort; here they will always find the perfect setting to begin their love story.

Because in the end, the honeymoon is not just a trip: it is the first chapter of a life together. And what better way to write it than in a paradise called **Costa Rica**.

Guillermo Méndez Calderón

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to the sound of howler monkeys, walk among exuberant gardens, and enjoy one of the most beautiful beaches in Costa Rica, all backed by world-class service."

An experience for every traveler

The resort's 406 spacious suites cater to all types of guests. Families enjoy the new suites with bunk beds and the kids' club designed for little explorers, while couples find privacy in the exclusive Westin Club, an adults-only retreat with a private pool and lounge.

Gastronomy is a journey around the world. The vibrant Mitra Market reinvents the buffet with market-style stations, while the specialty restaurants take guests from Asian flavors and fresh sushi to Italian classics and Latin American cuisine.



Located on the golden coast of Playa Conchal, in the province of Guanacaste, The Westin ReservaConchal, an All-Inclusive Golf Resort & Spa, is much more than a hotel: it is a destination in itself. What was once an extensive 2,400-acre cattle ranch was transformed in the 90s into a tourist sanctuary that marked the rebirth of Guanacaste as one of Central America's most desired destinations.

In 2011, the property took on new life under the Westin brand, introducing an innovative concept of all-inclusive luxury to the region. Today, it continues to evolve, combining modern amenities with a profound respect for the dry tropical forest and the fauna that surrounds it.

"What makes The Westin ReservaConchal so special is that we are not just a resort, we are part of a living ecosystem," comments Francina Gutiérrez, Director of Sales & Marketing. "Our guests wake up



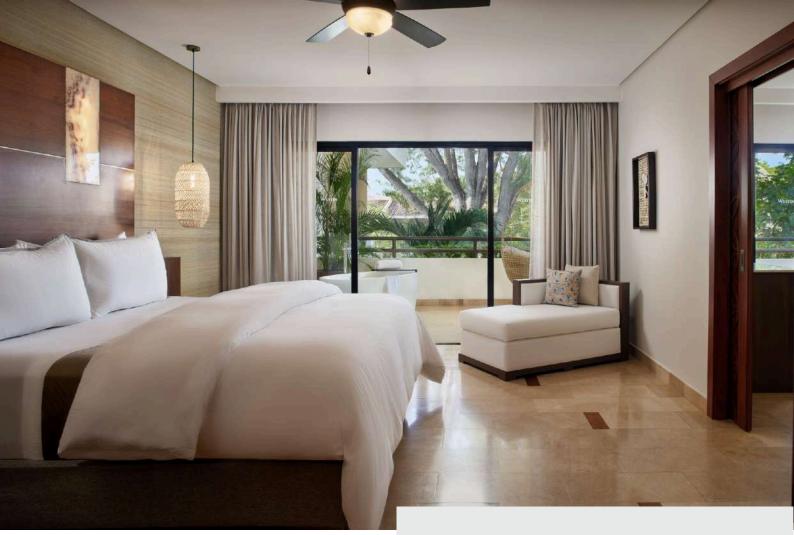
The immense lagoon-style pool, the Heavenly Spa by Westin, and the golf course designed by Robert Trent Jones II guarantee that every day can be as active or relaxing as desired.

"We want every guest to feel they can design their own perfect escape," explains Gutiérrez. "Whether it's with a sunrise yoga class, a round of golf, or simply relaxing under a palm tree with a cocktail in hand, we always strive for the experience to be personalized and seamless."

Weddings in Paradise

For couples who dream of a destination wedding, Westin ReservaConchal offers an incomparable setting. From barefoot ceremonies on the white sand





white of Playa Conchal to elegant receptions in the Guanacaste Ballroom with capacity for up to 400 guests, the resort offers a range of options. More intimate spaces like the Zen Sky Garden or the pergola alongside the lake offer a romantic atmosphere for unforgettable moments.

The specialized wedding team takes care of every detail: personalized menus, floral arrangements, photography, and entertainment, ensuring a perfect celebration.

"Our weddings are not just events, they are unique life experiences," notes Gutiérrez. "Couples can trust that everything, from the rehearsal dinner to the farewell brunch, will be covered. We make their vision a reality in one of the most spectacular landscapes in Costa Rica."

THE WESTIN GOLF RESORT & SPA RESERVA CONCHAL

ALL-INCLUSIVE

The Westin Promise

Sustainability is at the heart of the resort. More than half of ReservaConchal is preserved as a natural habitat, allowing guests to observe coatis, iguanas, and exotic birds throughout the property.

Guests not only take away memories of luxury and relaxation but also a genuine connection with Costa Rica's Pura Vida lifestyle.

"Our promise is to offer more than a stay: it's about creating moments that inspire, connect, and remain with our guests forever," concludes Gutiérrez.

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The world of weddings has evolved by leaps and bounds, and Costa Rica is not far behind. Beyond the decor, the banquet, or the music, technological entertainment elements are redefining what it means to offer a memorable experience. In this new era, the details that truly connect with guests are those that combine innovation, interaction, and personalization.

Today, couples want to surprise, excite, and create moments that live beyond the party hours. In this context, wedding entertainment has found a new dimension thanks to the latest-generation technological solutions that are already setting trends in the country.

Entertainment with cutting-edge technology

From drones to interactive projections, the range of tools available for modern weddings has expanded notably. Let's look at some of the most popular in the Costa Rican scene: Shows with synchronized drones and lights, 3D projections and mapping, photo and 360 video booths, special effects for the first dance, DJ and music with immersive visuals, personalized interactive zones.





The role of Photo Booths: More than a souvenir

In this range of technological proposals, Photo Booths remain one of the most valued elements in Costa Rican weddings. However, their evolution has been notable. Today it is no longer simply about taking a photo with costumes in front of a colorful curtain. Now the priority is visual quality, delivery speed, and emotional connection with guests.



Latest-generation Technology in Photo Booths and special effects for the first dance

Specialized companies like Ars Nova Photo Booth Costa Rica with latest-generation Technology in Photo Booths and special effects for the first dance, have managed to position themselves as market leaders both in New Jersey, USA, with their brand Ars Nova Luxury Events, and in Costa Rica, thanks to their focus on professional visual content production. Their proposal combines the best of

technology with a refined aesthetic and a user-centric experience.

Among their most notable features are:

Open booths with professional lighting and DSLR cameras, ensuring superior image quality.

Instant, high-resolution prints with personalized design for each event.

Digital Interaction: guests can send their photos directly to their cell phone number anywhere in the world via WhatsApp, AirDrop, and also download them via QR code to share them on social media in seconds.

Themed backgrounds, special effects, and digital props that allow for the creation of unique visual experiences aligned with the wedding style.

Online galleries that allow the newlyweds to access all images in real-time or after the event, facilitating their preservation and distribution.

Special effects for the first dance such as cold spark machines, cloud effect, snow effect, and the exclusive dancing under the stars effect that is magical and like a fairy tale.



Current Styles: from glamour to the editorial concept

Today, couples can choose from different Photo Booth styles that adapt to their vision and narrative. Some of the most popular include:

Glam Booth: black and white editorial style, with "celebrity" type digital retouching. Minimalist, elegant, and timeless.

Party style: colorful props, fun filters, personalized frames, and background music. Perfect for energizing the dance floor.

Themed Booth: inspired by movies, decades, or places. Backgrounds, frames, and even accessories are created that make the booth an immersive experience.

Digital only / No prints: designed for sustainable or technology-focused weddings. All photos are digital, shared immediately or saved in the cloud.



The experience is the real differentiator; what truly makes a Photo Booth and any type of entertainment at a wedding special is not the physical structure or the number of lights, but the quality of the finished work and the interaction with the guests. Technology and innovation are no longer an accessory, but a key tool for creating significant and memorable moments.

If the experience is also agile, fun, and personal, then it transforms into an unforgettable moment of the event. The important thing is to connect with guests through authentic, well-executed experiences aligned with the couple's essence.

As a wedding planner, incorporating these technological trends not only enriches your value proposition but also positions you as an up-to-date, creative professional who is sensitive to what truly makes such an important day special. Partnering with suppliers who understand this philosophy, like Ars Nova Photo Booth Costa Rica, is a sure way to guarantee not just pretty photos or a dream first dance, but true experiences.

Hugo Alfredo Ramirez Herrera

CEO & Director OF Ars Nova Photo Booth Costa Rica Ars Nova weddings-Luxury events NJ EEUU Phone. +506 88705151 +19083977537 info@arsnovacr.com IG @arsnovaphotobooth.cr @arsnovaweddings



When we think of a dream setting to say "I do," the Costa Rican Caribbean appears as a jewel that combines the best of two worlds: the natural richness that characterizes Costa Rica and the cultural warmth of a vibrant and authentic region. Here, where the green of the jungle meets the intense blue of the sea, weddings transcend the conventional and become experiences that tell stories.

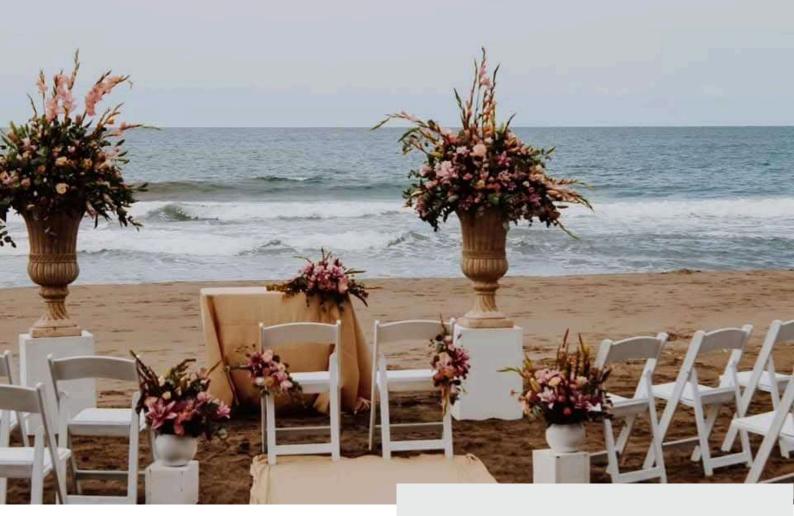
A destination that captivates

The Costa Rican Caribbean is more than golden sand beaches and crystalline waters. It is a mosaic of colors, rhythms, and flavors that envelops those who visit it. From Playa Bonita to Manzanillo, passing through Cahuita and Puerto Viejo, every corner has its own charm and an energy that connects with nature and the essence of life itself.

Couples who choose this region are not only looking for a beautiful place but also a genuine experience. The Caribbean invites you to disconnect from the noise and celebrate surrounded by tropical jungles, coral reefs, infinite palm trees, and sunsets that look hand-painted.







Authenticity as the protagonist

Planning a wedding in the Costa Rican Caribbean is betting on authenticity. Here, every detail breathes identity: Caribbean flavors that can be present in a banquet like the rice & beans with coconut milk or fresh pickled fish with yucca, the rhythms of calypso and reggae that accompany the party, and the hospitality of a community that welcomes with open arms.

Weddings in this region allow the celebration to be a reflection of the couple: relaxed, sophisticated, or bohemian, but always authentic. There are no rigid molds, but a blank canvas where luxury and nature, tradition and modernity, can be mixed.

Trends that flourish in the Caribbean

In recent years, we have seen how couples increasingly seek weddings that integrate experiences, and the Costa Rican Caribbean is a perfect setting for this. Some of the strongest trends include:

Elopement weddings on hidden beaches, with intimate ceremonies to the sound of the waves.

Sustainable weddings, where local elements are prioritized: tropical flowers, catering with local ingredients, and artisanal details.

Immersive experiences for guests, such as Caribbean cooking classes, kayak tours, snorkeling, or hikes in Cahuita National Park.

Designs that integrate nature, where altars are raised under centenary trees or facing the sea horizon.



An accessible and luxurious Caribbean

One of the great advantages of the Costa Rican Caribbean is that it offers options for all styles and budgets, without losing the essence of natural luxury. From boutique ecolodges hidden in the jungle to beachfront hotels with world-class services, there is a range of possibilities that adapts to every couple.

The true luxury here is not measured only in facilities but in the complete experience: waking up to the sound of howler monkeys, walking barefoot on the beach at sunrise, toasting under a sky full of stars. It is that kind of intangible luxury that is etched in memory.

Costa Rica as a leading wedding destination

Today Costa Rica is strongly positioning itself in romance tourism, and the Caribbean is a key protagonist of this growth. International couples find a safe, exotic, and different place here, while national couples rediscover the magic of their own country.

The Caribbean not only offers landscapes but also a message: to celebrate love in harmony with nature and life. In a fast-paced world, getting married here is a reminder that love also deserves its own rhythm: gentle, vibrant, and eternal.

In the Costa Rican Caribbean, weddings are not events, they are experiences that tell stories. Love stories that find a piece of eternity in every wave, every aroma, and every Caribbean smile.



Kimaura Allen Cayasso

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Costa Rica is a country that breathes nature and flavor. Our cuisine is not only nurtured by traditional recipes but by a deep relationship with the land, the producers, and the fresh ingredients that arrive at the table every day.

During my 15 years as banquet manager in a five-star hotel, I discovered that the key to a successful menu is not only in the culinary technique but in the ability to transmit identity and emotion in every dish. Today, as general manager of strategy in an event production company, I continue to design gastronomic experiences that reflect that authentic connection with the land and with our roots.





The "from the garden to the table" philosophy invites us to honor native Costa Rican products: corn, coffee, tropical fruits, cocoa, and a wide variety of vegetables grown on family farms. Incorporating these ingredients into gourmet proposals not only guarantees freshness and quality but also strengthens farming communities and enriches the cultural identity of each event.

Currently, the challenge is to transform the everyday into the extraordinary. A simple pejibaye (peach palm fruit) can become an elegant appetizer, ripe plantain a sophisticated side dish, and coffee a complete sensory experience. It's about telling stories through gastronomy, where every bite speaks of sustainability, tradition, and innovation.

Costa Rica offers the world a cuisine that is innovative,

vibrant, and sustainable. "From the garden to the table" is not a passing trend, but a way of living and celebrating our cultural and natural richness in every gathering.



Ana Marli González

General Manager & Strategy MFC Producciones Specialist in Gastronomy for Event Productions +506 8933-3883 anamarli@mfcproducciones.com Instagram:ana_marli31









ASome stories are born by chance, but weddings are built by instinct. Mauricio Ureña doesn't just look for a pretty photo; his goal is to capture that magical second where emotion and light meet. This is how he works: directing when it adds value, observing when necessary, and with an obsession that every image conveys atmosphere, color, and truth.

"Mind, body, and soul connected to your story."

Work Philosophy

The most powerful photographs arise from trust, preparation, and intentional lighting. Mauricio is dedicated to understanding each couple, advising them and closely coordinating with Wedding Planners and other suppliers. He limits the number of weddings per year to guarantee a personal and detailed service.

On the day of the event, he works with calm and precision. He observes genuine moments with instinct, directs the newlyweds when necessary, and masters natural and artificial light to create images with a perfect contrast and a three-dimensional feel. His style is a unique mix that combines photojournalism (to capture real and spontaneous moments) with an artistic touch that allows him to create creative shots when the story requires it.







Beyond wedding photography

Mauricio's passion for exploring cities and cultures through architectural and travel photography has perfected his sense of line, rhythm, and composition. This visual "training" is noticeable in every image, allowing him to compose stunning shots in complex locations, adapt the local light, and create photos with depth and symmetry that go beyond trends.

This approach has led him to collaborate in some of Costa Rica's most emblematic locations, such as Zephyr Palace (Villa Caletas), JW Marriott Guanacaste, Nekajui, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve and Dreams Las Mareas. Couples who have worked with him describe his style as vibrant and honest, capable of capturing the spontaneous with the same mastery with which he creates iconic portraits. Furthermore, Mauricio believes in a tangible legacy and offers fine-art albums and prints for the wall, because a wedding story deserves to endure beyond the screen.





International Recognitions

Mauricio Ureña is a recognized figure in the world of wedding photography, with a list of awards that speaks for itself:

In 2020, he became the first and only Costa Rican to be included in Junebug Weddings' prestigious **Best of the Best Wedding Photos collection**.

In the **World Photographic Cup 2024**, he was a finalist in the wedding category, achieving 6th place and being the only Latin American in the Top 10. He received the award in person in Dallas, United States.

In the **Wedding Photojournalist Association (Artistic Guild)**, his ranking has risen impressively: #41 in 2022, #16 in 2023, and #8 in 2024.

In addition to these achievements, he has more than 20 photographs awarded in documentary and artistic photography competitions such as **WPJA** and **Inspiration Awards**.

Contact Information:

Base: Costa Rica

Coverage: Latin America and destinations worldwide

Style: Bold, dramatic, and colorful

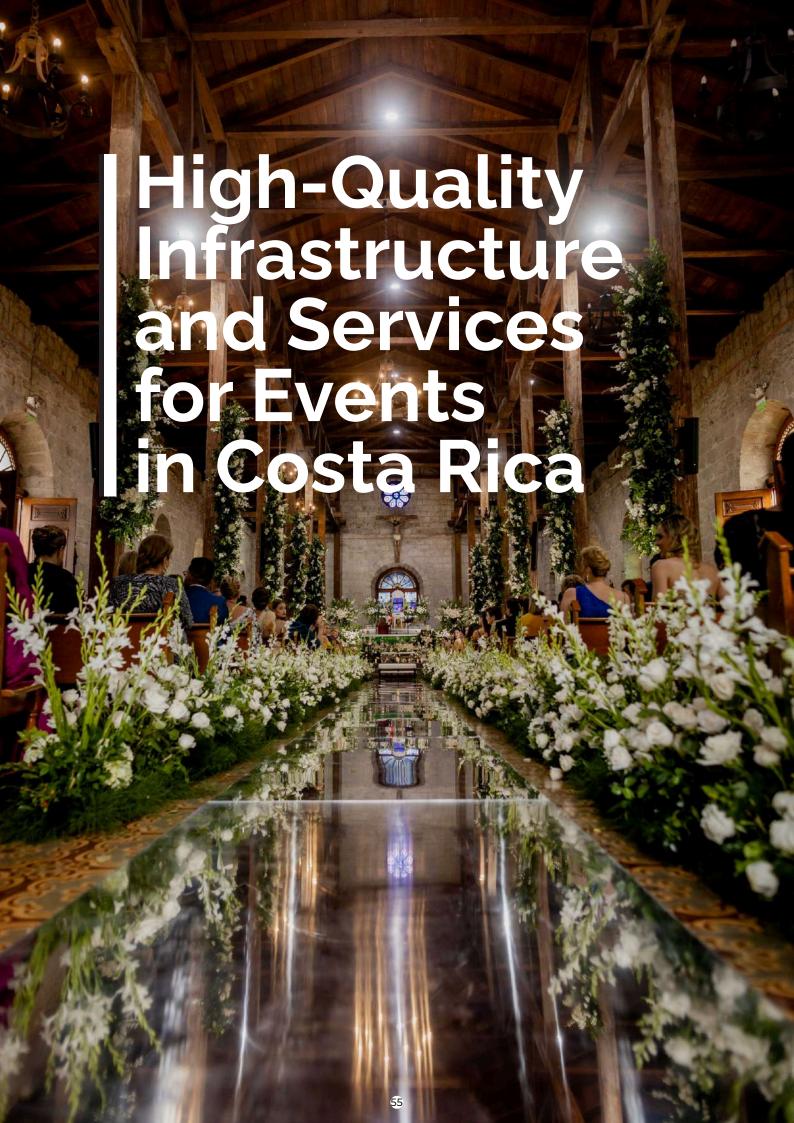
Proposal: Boutique service with limited availabilityDeliverables: Online galleries and fine-art albumsLanguages: Spanish and English Website and Social

Media: photobymaug.com IG: @photobymaug



MSc. Jeffrey Cervantes Calderón

Costa Rica Wedding Planner National Chapter Leader Costa Rica +506 8665 0990 director@crweddingplanner.com Instagram @CRWeddingPlanner





Organizing an event in Costa Rica means gaining access to a destination that combines nature, innovation, and professionalism. Our country has established itself as a hub in Latin America thanks to its modern infrastructure and the quality of services it offers.

The first thing that captivates is the diversity of settings. In a few hours, it is possible to travel from white sand beaches to active volcanoes, cloud forests, or coffee farms in the mountains. This natural richness allows for the design of everything from intimate seaside weddings to international congresses in the capital city.

Added to this geographical advantage is the excellence of local suppliers. Costa Rica has certified florists, production designers with global experience, gourmet catering services, and highly trained logistics teams. Most of them speak English and have experience in international markets, which ensures confidence and impeccable execution.







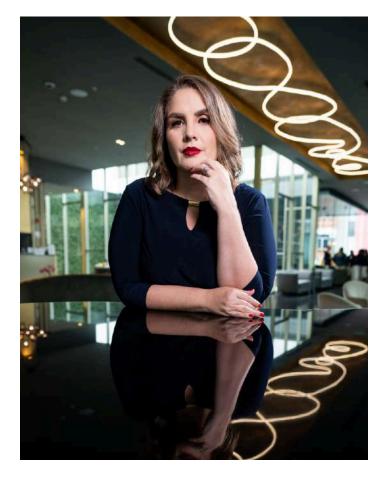


Sustainability is another major differentiator. Here, it is not a trend, but a national commitment. Many venues operate with renewable energy, environmental certifications, and responsible practices that elevate the value of each event, also projecting a positive image for brands that trust the country.

In terms of connectivity, modern infrastructure makes a difference: the Costa Rica Convention Center has been internationally awarded, five-star hotels have equipped ballrooms and cutting-edge technology, and the country receives direct flights from over 30 cities around the world.

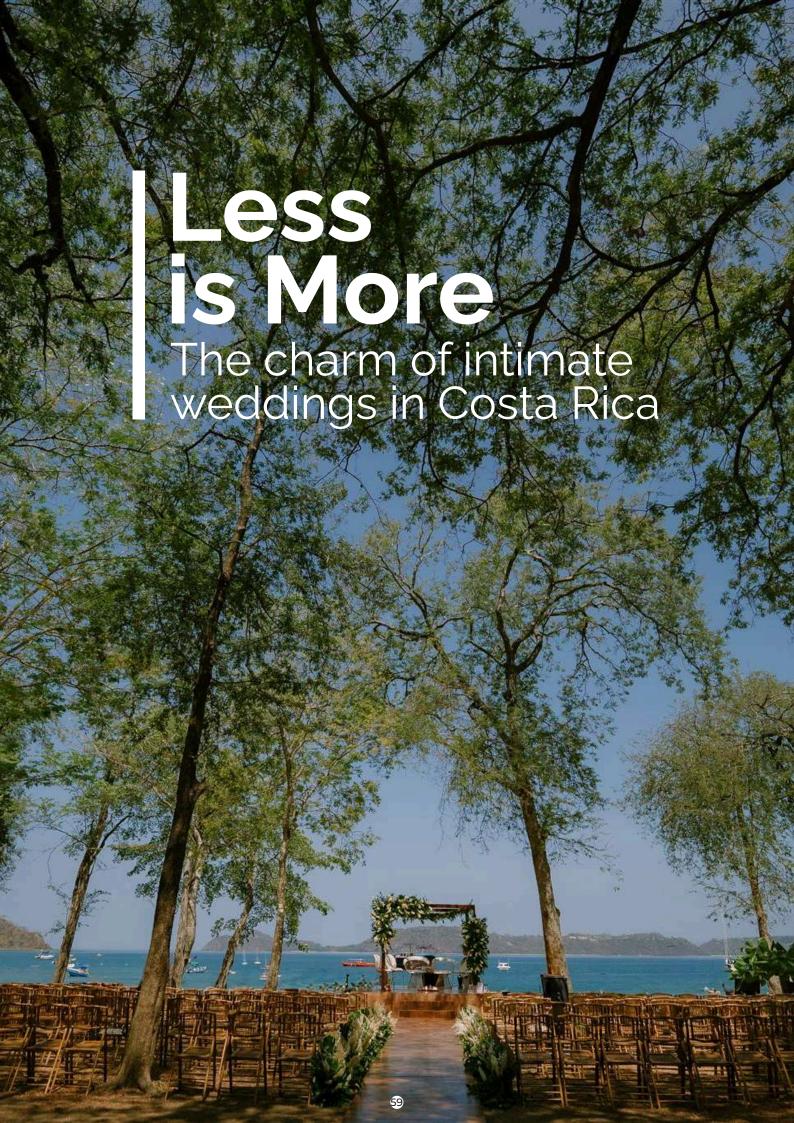
Finally, what most distinguishes Costa Rica is local collaboration. The events sector is characterized by its spirit of teamwork, supporting international organizers and co-creating experiences that surpass expectations.

Costa Rica not only offers dream settings but also a solid, sustainable, and professional industry that turns every event into a memorable experience.



María Fernanda Castro Blanco

CEO & Creative Director MFC Producciones & Deco 73 +506 8440-6000 mariafernanda@mfcproducciones.com Instagram:@mariafercastroblanco





Intimate weddings have gained strength in recent years as an elegant, personal, and meaningful alternative. In this context, Costa Rica is positioning itself as an ideal destination for those looking to celebrate surrounded by nature and in harmony with the environment.

The country offers settings that do not require large setups. Its beaches, forests, and mountains provide everything necessary for a memorable experience without relying on excessive decorations. In this type of wedding, nature becomes the protagonist, and the landscape is enough to create a unique atmosphere.

El Mangroove, in the Gulf of Papagayo, and Santa Lucia Jungle Hacienda, in Puntarenas, are clear examples of this concept. Both Autograph Collection hotels offer environments that combine good taste, privacy, and direct contact with nature.

El Mangroove is characterized by its modern design integrated with the surroundings. The hotel is surrounded by mangroves, tropical trees, and the sea. Here, a ceremony facing the ocean, accompanied by the sound of the waves and the movement of the wind, needs nothing more. Elegance lies in simplicity.









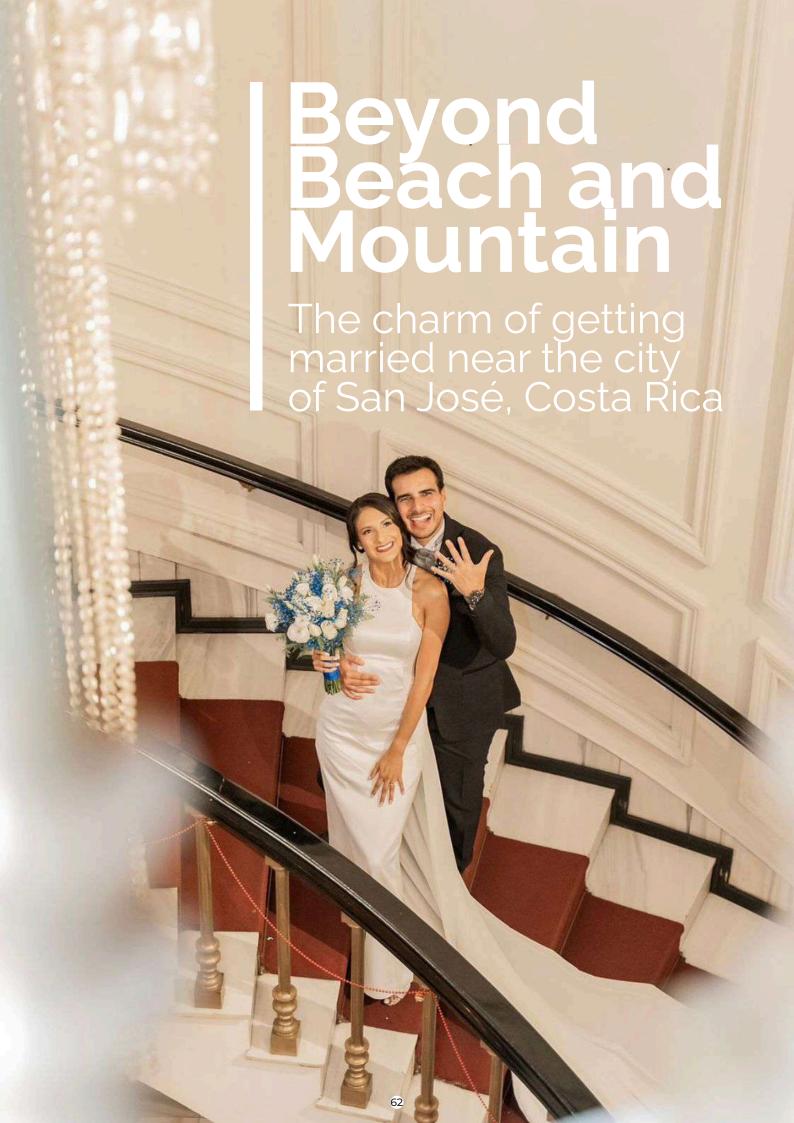
Santa Lucía, for its part, offers a more natural and relaxed environment. Its gardens, hills, and open areas provide a feeling of tranquility and connection. It is a space designed for those who value authentic details and desire a closer, more relaxed celebration.

Both places share the same vision: a wedding doesn't need excesses to be unforgettable. When the setting is so special, every additional element must add value without detracting from the essential.

Costa Rica continues to stand out as a wedding destination for its ability to offer real experiences, connected to the beauty of the surroundings and what truly matters.

Jasson Masis Obando

Weddings and Social Events Key Account Manager Enjoy Group Costa Rica Phone. +506 8737 6651 jmasis@enjoyhotels.net



When we imagine a wedding in Costa Rica, it is almost inevitable to think of white sands by the sea or ceremonies enveloped by fog-covered mountains. And although these settings are beautiful, they don't always align with the times, lifestyles, and priorities of modern couples.

More and more couples are discovering the appeal of celebrating their big day near the city, enjoying not only the convenience that proximity provides but also a range of locations with character, design, and unique experiences that rival any traditional destination.

Why is a city wedding a brilliant idea?

1. Easier Logistics for Everyone

Long transfers, multiple lodgings, and caravans of guests are things of the past for those who prioritize convenience. By celebrating in the city:

Your guests arrive stress-free, even if they work the same day.

Coordination with suppliers is smoother, with fewer variables outside of control (rain on the road, road closures, heavy traffic in tourist areas).

You can organize site visits, rehearsals, and meetings without leaving the GAM (Greater Metropolitan Area).

2. Sophisticated and Contemporary Style

Far from the traditional concept of a "beach hotel" or "rustic mountain hacienda," the city offers:

Urban haciendas with impeccable gardens and airconditioned ballrooms.

Boutique hotels with signature cuisine, panoramic terraces, and personalized experiences.

Social Clubs, perfect for weddings with their own identity.





3. Saving time... and even budget

Destination weddings usually imply greater investment: transportation, lodging, off-site catering, staff that must travel. Celebrating in the city can optimize costs, as many local suppliers are already nearby, reducing per diems and setup times.

44. Flexibility in the experience

An urban wedding allows for more "playing" with the schedule. For example:

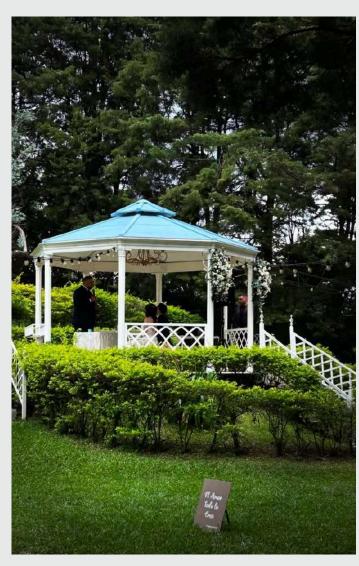
Wedding brunch at a boutique hotel, with an intimate ceremony at sunrise.

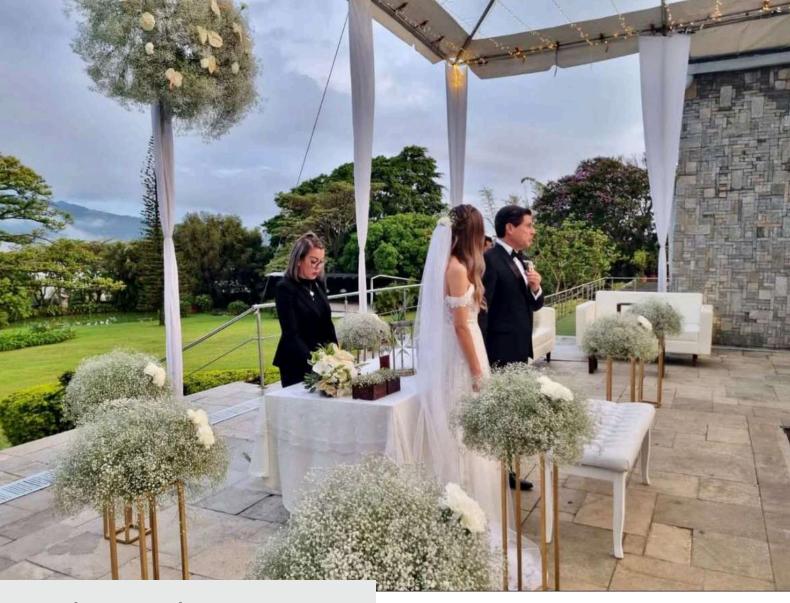
Cocktail-style reception on a rooftop overlooking the Central Valley.

Classic wedding in a hacienda, surrounded by nature.

5. Accessibility for International Guests

For couples with family abroad, the proximity to Juan Santamaría Airport is a huge advantage: comfortable arrivals, less transfer time, more time to enjoy.

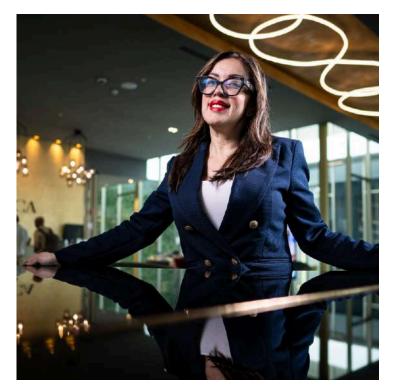




Reinventing the wedding, redefining luxury

Getting married near San José does not mean giving up the charm sought in a memorable wedding. It means rediscovering it in unexpected settings: among urban gardens with warm lights, terraces with panoramas of the illuminated city, cultural spaces full of history, or modern design ballrooms with just the right detail to create the dreamed-of atmosphere.

In an era where time is gold and details are what truly captivate, an urban wedding is much more than an alternative: it is a trend that responds to the real lives of couples who work, travel, dream... and deserve to enjoy their most special day with everything, except stress.



Adriana Ballestero Alvarez

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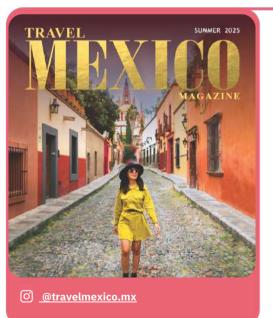
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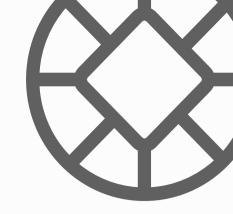
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Andrea Isabell is a Wedding and Event Planner from Costa Rica with over 20 years of experience. She has managed large-scale events and organized more than 500 weddings. Today, she continues to grow in destination weddings, blending her expertise with creativity and passion.



Terrica Skaggs Terrica Inc

(introducingterrica

Terrica Skaggs is deep in the trenches, working with wedding professionals to build businesses that are both profitable and fulfilling. Between growing Wedding Pro University. coaching her incredible clients, and speaking at industry events, she is also excited about upcoming projects, including gamechanging workshops and done-for-you marketing blueprints designed to help attract ideal clients.



Maritza Galeano Muñoz Planet Producciones

Oplanet.producciones

Maritza Galeano is an entrepreneur and partner at Planet Producciones, an event production company in Colombia. She is a committed, passionate, and charismatic woman who values teamwork and excellence. As a mother and grandmother, she balances family love with her professional dedication.



Tarrian M. Grant LuxJourney Collective

(a) @luxjourneycolletive

Tarrian M. Grant is a luxury travel and destination wedding specialist with over 25 years of experience. Based in Atlanta, she is certified as a Sandals Wedding Specialist and Jamaica Travel Specialist. She is recognized for her personalized approach and for mentoring future travel professionals.

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Vanessa Zapata Bedoya
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Carina Abril © @carinabril.weddingplanner Oct 3rd



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Lorenzo Raggio (i) @lorenzoweddingplanner Oct 4th



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