

Questions to ask at venue visits.

Congratulations, you are getting married. This really should be one of the most exciting moments of your life. I LOVED planning my wedding and couldn't get enough of all the elements required to create the perfect day. One of my favourite comedian's, Ed Byrne, commented that "the best thing about getting married is not having to plan the wedding!" I disagree, it was the worst thing about being married. However, having spoken to many newly engaged couples, it is not uncommon to feel a little overwhelmed with it all and wonder where to even begin.

My first piece of advice would be (once things like budget and how many guests you are going to invite have been decided) is to create a mood board of your favourite styles. I made one for venues, dresses, bridesmaid's dresses, invitations and table settings. It was soon clear to me what style I liked which helped narrow down the shortlist for venue visits. I then looked at various websites with questions I should ask the venue when visiting and compiled the list below. Some may not be relevant to you but it is good to go with a range of questions so you can see what is available to you and hopefully the list means you don't have to trawl through lots of websites like I did.

I really did want to cover everything when visiting venues. Some of you may not worry about what the waiting staff uniforms are like but I knew I wanted a black and white theme so I was bracing myself in case they wore bright red! They didn't, they wore black so I was pleased. Ok, so I am being a little flippant here but there are some questions that you really should ask. One of the most important is if VAT is included in included in the quoted price. I have heard of several horror stories where couples hadn't realised the quoted price didn't include VAT and suddenly found themselves having to cancel a number of things so they could stay within budget. Such an easy situation to avoid.

I hope you find these questions useful and can compile something suitable for your future wedding. I think once you have chosen the venue, the rest starts to fall into place as some of the decisions have already been made for you. It can also help you see clearly what needs to be or cannot be done.

There is no need to get overwhelmed. This is supposed to be a happy time and your main focus is to get married so as long as that happens then you have

already planned the perfect wedding. It is just quite fun to have all the bells and whistles too.

Questions to ask wedding venues on your initial visit.

Finance Questions:

What is the fee?

How much deposit do we need to pay?

Is the deposit refundable?

Is there a payment schedule?

How is payment handled?

Is there a minimum spend?

Do guests get an accommodation discount?

What are the extra costs?

Is VAT included?

Questions about the set up:

Is glassware, linens, chairs etc. included?

How much can we personalise the venue?

Do you set up?

When can we have access?

Do you have a preferred supplier list?

Do we have to use your supplier list?

Can you accommodate changes of linen?

Can we have live music?

Are there any restriction on decorations (flowers, candles etc.)?

Do you have PA system for speeches?

Are there any sound restrictions?

Is the cake knife and stand included?

What staffing will we have? Is this an extra cost?

How are the staff dressed?

Can we have confetti?

Do you have a schedule for the day we need to follow?

Other Questions:

Can we bring our own drink/ corkage?

- Does the price include a tasting session?
- What are the evening food options?
- Civil wedding legality?
- Can we have a celebrant?
- We are having a celebrant so can we get married outside?
- Is there a safe place for coats/ gifts?
- Can we have a rehearsal?
- When do you need final numbers/ meal options by?
- What time do we have to finish by?

Of course, some of these questions are probably answered on their website or brochure but hopefully it has helped you to think about the areas you need to consider for your big day.

Have fun,

Rebecca

An example of my moodboards

Carlowrie castle

Quick Facts

WEEKEND (FRIDAY TO SUNDAY) TARIFF

JAN - APRIL	MAY - JULY	AUGUST
1 Night £5,000	£8,000	On Request
2 Nights £5,500	£11,500	On Request
3 Nights £7,000	£13,000	On Request

Exclusive Use of Carlowrie Castle is inclusive of:
 The castle itself; all 9 bedrooms, sleeping up to 18
 guests; luxury continental breakfast for resident
 guests;
 Complimentary Wi-Fi throughout.
 Use of the 32 acre castle gardens and grounds,
 with tennis court.
 Castle access from 2pm on your day of arrival until
 10:30am on your day of departure.
 Please note that all prices are inclusive of VAT

<http://castles.com/castles/carlowrie>

Cakes

<http://castles.com/castles/carlowrie>

Wedding Dresses