



# 10 Tips For Your Perfect Day!



**JACKSON'S HOTEL**

LEISURE, CONFERENCE & BANQUETING

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## 1. The Dress

Make a list of styles and designers you admire. Make an appointment with the local wedding dress shops to visit and try on various dresses. They should also be able to provide you with some professional advice on what type of dress would most suit you. Take photos, if your visiting a number of shops. Bring your list to help guide you towards what you want. Keep size in mind. Smaller, shorter frames can look overwhelmed by excessive embellishments or heavy tulle. Price can play a large factor in choosing a dress. Look for sample or overstock sales or consider buying a white bridesmaids' dress and getting custom embellishments to give it a bridal edge.



## 2. Church and Venue

Ask yourself how many people are going to come to your wedding. The best way to figure this out is to take the total amount of wedding invitations you sent out and then figure that about half to three-quarters of the invited guests will actually attend. Keep in mind that more people attend receptions than the actual wedding. Do a walk through of each and every place you consider for your wedding.



## 3. Photographer

Book them as soon as possible once you have your venue and ceremony confirmed. speak to past couples, most photographers are more than happy to pass on details for this. You'll want to know if the photographer has shot at the venue before, how many frames will be taken, and do you get a final film or disk containing the shots.

## 4. Flowers

Flowers transform plain pews, chairs, tables and venues into romantic, magical – looking creations, but that doesn't mean you have to break the bank in creating the effect your after. Keep it seasonal. Out of season flowers cost significantly more as they have to be grown indoors. So you should choose blooms that are naturally there best around the time of your wedding. Keep it simple. You don't need to use masses of flowers to create a great effect, depending on the type of bloom three or four stems can look equally stunning. Get your moneys worth. Almost all the flowers at your wedding venue can be re-used at you reception.





## 5 Honeymoon

Look into relaxing honeymoon venues. If your idea of a great vacation involves warm sun, sand and cold drinks, then a beach or island getaway might be the right spot for you. Places such as the Caribbean, the Pacific Islands (Hawaii, Fiji and Tahiti) or Mediterranean locales such as the Greek Isles. Think about an action-packed honeymoon. If you and your new spouse are active adventurers, there's no way you want to lie around on the beach all the time! Eco-tours, rock climbing and mountain biking give you the ultimate thrill.

Take a sight-seeing honeymoon. If your idea of the perfect trip includes the Roman Colosseum, the Greek Parthenon, Brazil's Christus Statue or India's Taj Mahal. Float away on a cruise honeymoon. If you want to see a lot of cities in a short amount of time but do not want to pack and unpack repeatedly or change hotels, then a cruise might be your best choice.

## 6. Etiquette

First things first. It's important to book the Church and reception Venue first. Before sending out your invitations you can send out a save the date card. These can be sent out up to a year or more in advance, then followed by your invitations which can be sent six to eight weeks before the big day.

The guests on the day should be met at the Church by the Ushers (usually the Grooms friends) who will hand out the order of service and assign guests to their sides. Brides guests traditionally seated to the left with the Grooms party to the right.

Top table seating: Bride and Groom at the centre, flanked by bridesmaids and bestmen and then the brides mother and grooms father on the brides side and vice a versa on the grooms.

Speeches can be before or after the meal, they are traditionally in this order: father of the bride, groom, if the bride chooses to speak then now is the appropriate time, finally the best man speech.

The cake is usually cut either just after the dessert has been finished or immediately after the speeches.

Finally there is the first dance, the bride and groom first to dance, then followed by the bridal party for the second song. Here the brides father cuts in followed by the grooms. The groom then dances with the brides mother followed by his own. The best man and chief bridesmaid dance along with the other bridesmaids and ushers. Once the entire bridal party are dancing the other guests are invited to join.



## 7. Cars or Horse and Carriage

For a stylish look a popular option is vintage convertible car. A Beauford or Bramwith have a great elegant feel and will help to add a bit of style and class to your big day.

A popular choice with brides having a more traditional wedding is a horse and carriage from the Church to the reception.

For a more quirky option why not arrive to your ceremony in an open topped Volkswagen Beetle or Mini Cooper. They look great in photos and add an individual touch to the day.



## 8. Dressing the room

Jazz up basic chair covers by pinning a single flower to each seat before dinner.

A very colourful or beautifully textured fabric can transform a room. If you have ten or twenty tables all decked out with a bright colour or a beautiful fabric, there is a dramatic effect across the entire room.

Name each table after a flower with centrepieces to match. Have small bundles of each table's flowers in mini pots, hand-written in ink with the guest's names and the names of their tables.

Consider having a special menu printed for your wedding. Many restaurants and hotels print their menus daily.



## 9. Band

If you've chosen a specific theme for your wedding it's worth bearing this in mind when your choosing your music for the night. It's important to keep in mind that there will be varied musical taste with your guests and to keep the dancefloor full it's important that the band includes something for everyone. Word of mouth is a great way to suss out who's good.

One important thing to remember is the length of time the band will play for and to have this arranged.

Along with the entertainment is the first dance. An option that's getting more popular is to have a chosen song and to get a few lessons from a dance instructor. This will amaze your guests and help lead to an unforgettable day.

## 10. Cakes

Wedding cakes can come in all shapes and sizes. Traditional cakes which have several tiers are normally a great choice, and one your guests will remember.

Depending on the style of the cake, you have many different options. If the cake is multiple tiers, many people are choosing to have several different kinds of cake.



Decorating a cake is only limited by your imagination. Some couples design the cake around the décor or theme of the wedding. While others give the cake a unique look, with crazy and outrageous decorations which define who they are.



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