

Finding the Right Wedding Venue

1. **Be flexible.** The hottest venues are booked 12-18 months so be prepared to be flexible when it comes to picking a date and a day. If you are set on a particular venue and you won't wait a year or two then think about the possibility of a Sunday or mid week wedding reception.
2. **Negotiate price.** Saturday is always going to be the most popular and expensive day. It's easier to negotiate price with a venue on a Sunday, Thursday or Friday evening.
3. **Ask the right questions.** Find out exactly which function room will be yours for the reception, are you able to use features of the venue such as gardens or pools as the backdrop to your photos. Are there any other weddings or events taking place at the same time as your wedding? (Nothing is worse than a crossing of brides), is there a wet weather plan in place.
4. **Creature comforts.** If you are having a cocktail reception has a few chairs and tables for people to sit at and rest drinks on. Also take into consideration your older guests who will need to sit most of the event.
5. **Guest transport** should be a consideration if your ceremony is not in close proximity to the reception. Unless everyone is driving be sure transport such as cabs are readily available for your guests if not consider hiring a bus.
6. **Interim venue.** If you have more than a 1 hour gap between the ceremony and the wedding reception be sure to offer another venue for your guests to have cocktail hour. It could be at the reception venue itself in the bar away from the reception room or perhaps at the local pub or club.
7. **Consider the kiddies.** If small children are invited, make sure the venue has high-chairs and can serve "kiddies meals" - a few entertaining toys or a drawing desk would be much appreciated by all mums. You may even consider employing a baby sitter who can entertain the kids.
8. **In house wedding coordinator.** If your chosen venue has a wedding
9. coordinator, work with them on planning your wedding - they will have experience and knowledge of how the venue functions best. Make sure they share the same vision as you do for your wedding day.
10. **Get it in writing.** When you have chosen your venue, make sure you get confirmation of everything in writing. Read the fine print before signing off on anything and don't be shy to discuss any changes or additions to the confirmation/ booking form that you may wish to make.
11. **Cinderella's Wedding Day Pumpkinitis.** To avoid having overtime and loadings added to your bill at the end of the night, be sure that you stick to the schedule and depart before the clock strikes the hour.