



5 big things to know when planning your **BIG DAY!**

Your engagement marks an emotional and beautiful beginning to the rest of your life. With it comes the myriad of decisions and planning details necessary to make your wedding day everything you imagine. Along with that overwhelming feeling of what to do first. Take a moment here to remember a few very important things before you jump in.

1. Your personal vision is where your wedding is born.

You will quickly become overwhelmed as you realize how many vendors are out there. Before you do this, we recommend that you define a vision for your wedding. Start by asking some of the following questions:

- Where do you picture your important day happening?
- Are you thinking local or destination wedding?
- What type of atmosphere feels like you?
- What season expresses your vision best?
- What colors and combinations speak to you?
- What sort of wedding activities do you enjoy?
- Which foods do you like or not like?

Narrowing down what you're looking for will give you a targeted place to start. Now when you begin speaking to potential vendors, be sure they align with your wedding vision.

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2. Your vendor research goes way beyond the pricing.

Each vendor has a specific range of prices and services, from photographers and entertainment to wedding planners and caterers. To find the best fit for your wedding and budget, you can't rely solely on price comparison. The benefits vendors offer and their quality of service play a big role in their pricing. You must compare both apples to apples.

Here are some things to consider when selecting a caterer:

- What level of service are you getting?
- How will the food be presented?
- How are design elements incorporated?
- Are the ingredients local and fresh, or frozen?
- Will they help with planning the rentals, linens, and china?
- What food quantities are you getting for that price?

When hiring a caterer, the lower price may seem ideal. But if you're unsure on the product quality and level of service you're getting for that price, you may be disappointed in the end.

3. It's best to keep friends and family off your vendor list.

Saving money by hiring a friend or family member may seem like a good idea, but we strongly discourage it. If something goes wrong - they're late, or service isn't what you expected - it can be difficult to confront them and more importantly, make amends. We've often seen hired-friends easily get distracted and step away from their duties because they begin enjoying the festivities or start chatting with guests they know. Friends and family need only to enjoy the wedding - not work it. It's best to leave the entertainment, photography, and catering to the professionals.



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4. The food you serve will leave a lasting impression.

Catering can be one of the largest wedding expenses but it is also one of the most important elements to all successful receptions. Guests always remember the food! How amazing it was, or regrettably, how disappointing it may have been. They also remember if there was enough to eat, and if they had to make a pit stop for food on their way home. When it comes to catering, you can always stay within your budget without compromising on quality and quantity. Make sure to work with your caterer on how to create a positive experience that fits your budget. The menu can be modified to offer tasteful lower-priced options, or you can change the style of service (buffet, stations, plated, or family style). Peppers never cuts down on suggested quantities. We believe running out of food is never a memory you want any guest to leave with.



5. Delegate, delegate, delegate, you can not do it all.

Wedding planning can be stressful when you try to take everything on yourself. Many details come together just weeks before the wedding, and having help during this time is crucial. Delegate tasks to friends, family members, and your vendors. Some caterers and wedding planners can help with place cards, menus, favors, and signage. Friends and family are great resources to lean on for table diagrams, picking up last minute items, making restroom baskets and more! At Peppers, we always let our couples know it's ok to delegate (and we encourage it!)

Contact our event specialists to create your one-of-a-kind wedding today.

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