



## **Picking the Perfect Wedding Photographer**

### **What style of wedding photography do you like?**

Do you prefer a more conventional style of posing for your photos or are you an adventurous type which enjoys a novel approach to the art of photography? Do you consider yourself to be a flamboyant personality, which lavishes in lush decors or do you strive for the fashion-conscious couture image of a catwalk model? Would you like to have one or both of these styles represent you?

### **What level of service are you looking for from your photographer?**

According to your needs, you may choose to have the photographer take stills of only your ceremony, in a standard time interval between 1 to 3 hours. A more elaborate program might involve shooting your engagement session, the dinner rehearsal and, ultimately, covering the entire day of the wedding ceremony - complete with bridal portraits and newlywed photos.

### **How many images would you like from your wedding festivities?**

Selecting a lower qualified photographer due to the fees charged might mean that in the end, you will receive a minimal number of photos – sometimes below 100. Missing a key moment of the ceremony will later turn into regret so be sure to give importance to this fact. Readjusting your budget might allow you to hire a professional which will deliver from 1.000 to 3.000 photographs, immortalizing every precious moment on the happiest day of your life. Wouldn't you prefer that?

### **Do you want to process your images yourself?**

Having your photos delivered only as a collection on a CD-ROM means that the processing will have to be done by yourself. If you have experience in a professional photography manipulation program, consider yourself lucky, as you will be able to cope with the challenge. If not, you might find yourself in an awkward situation, unable to share your memories with anyone because of the poorly done job. Make sure to take the right decision so that you will not regret it afterwards!

### **How much are you looking to spend?**

Plan in advance, because generally, close to 12% of the wedding budget will have to be allocated for the photographer. Choose wisely, as the albums, prints, fees and all the other associated services will have an impact on your resources.

### **How you will use your pictures?**

Analyze your plans – Will you keep the photos private, in an album, so that only you will have access to them or do you wish to share them with your loved ones? immortalize your happiest moment through a picture on the wall, a portable calendar, a mug that greets you in the morning or a T-shirt that displays your affection towards the most special person in your life!

### **What form are you looking to receive your pictures in?**

Depending on your plan, it would be much more economically feasible to buy the prints instead of making an album. Alternatively, should you want your photos to be developed at your discretion, be sure to purchase the negatives. This way, you are in control of which photos you want developed and how many. Having them posted online, whether on social media or a personal website involves receiving them in a digital format, either through the online medium or by way of a CD-ROM. Take your time, choose the best solution for your needs and only then make a final decision.

### **Have you researched photographers?**

Sometimes, a few questions here and there might do the trick – at least one of your friends must know someone. Alternatives include bridal shops (sometimes, photographers collaborate with them), professional photo studios or the manager of your reception ceremony.

### **Once you have a short list – do the research!**

In order to make the best choice, you must decide which photographer is better suited for you. Some quick steps involve calling their references, browsing through some of their work online or verify their standing with the Better Business Bureau.

### **Interview each potential photographer by phone.**

Your wedding is, beyond doubt, one of the most important moments of your life, so be prepared in advance: inquire about whether they have expertise in wedding

photography, what their preparation involved and if they have a portfolio for you to examine. Moreover, after the wedding, ask when you will be able to receive the disk or prints, how long will the negatives remain in the possession of the photographer and, most importantly, secure the appointment on the set date.

**Make appointments to meet with each photographer of your top 3 choices face to face.**

Should you have a meeting in person, it is recommended that your spouse accompanies you. This way, sharing impressions about the portfolio and about the offers for wedding packages will be a breeze. Agreeing on how your wedding memories will be immortalized is of the utmost importance! Also, pay attention to their conduct and how they treat you. On the day of your ceremony, a disrespectful and unenthusiastic person will surely be bound to influence your disposition, so choose wisely!

## RESOURCES

[GaryBPhotography.com](http://GaryBPhotography.com)

