

TMI

melbourne inside out

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Wedding planner

Most people regard their wedding as the best day of their life. See inside for some exciting ideas about how to make your day unforgettable.

photo by
ervant Zanazanian

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Wedding planner

ADVERTISING FEATURE

THE COUNTDOWN . . .

Plan a hassle-free wedding celebration by organising as much as possible prior to the big day. Many plan at least a year ahead, some a few years ahead, others just a few months. Regardless of the time plan, being organised can save money, headaches and undue stress.

At least a year prior:

Set a date. Make an appointment to see a celebrant, minister, priest or rabbi to confirm the wedding date and time.

Within 18 months of the marriage, and no later than one month and one day prior to it, the bride and groom must give a completed Notice of Intended Marriage form to the authorised marriage celebrant conducting the ceremony (more at www.ag.gov.au).

Draw up a guest list and set a budget for the wedding. Decide on style of wedding — formal, semi-formal, casual.

Book reception venue. Remember that spring and summer are peak times for weddings.

If using a professional wedding planner, ask around for recommendations and start the interview process.

If organising your own wedding, arrange catering, band or DJ.

Book a photographer and, if you want one, videographer.

Start checking out honeymoon destinations and consider booking early for earlybird specials and packages.

Choose attendants: bridesmaids, matrons of honour, flowergirls, best man, groomsmen and ushers.

Decide on a colour theme.

Decide on the bridal dress; choose and order attendants' outfits, shop for accessories.

Order wedding cake.

Discuss flowers with a florist, including bouquets and arrangements for the church/wedding venue and reception venue.

At least six months prior:

Order invitations and other stationery (order of service, place settings, etc).

If you are marrying in a church, discuss your choice of readings with the minister and talk to the organist about music.

If planning a civil ceremony, talk to the registrar about readings and music.

Book transport to the wedding venue and on to the reception for the bride and groom, parents and attendants, and transport for the journey from the reception to wedding night accommodation or airport.

Shop for or design wedding rings and order. Go shopping for gifts for attendants.

Check if passports need to be renewed if you are planning an overseas honeymoon.

Find out if you need any inoculations if you're planning a honeymoon in exotic climes.

Start shopping for going-away and

honeymoon outfits.

Book wedding-night accommodation.

Create a gift registry if using one, remembering to include a variety of gifts with a selection of price tags.

Three months prior:

Brides: make an appointment with a hairdresser and a make-up professional to try out different styles.

Book a wedding rehearsal for a few days prior to the wedding.

Send out invitations at least eight weeks before the wedding, which allows guests several weeks to make any travel arrangements. Keep a list of RSVPs.

Make dates for hen's and buck's nights, book venues.

Organise bridal shower.

Ensure you have all accessories for the big day — something old, something new; jewellery; head dress; shoes. To ensure a comfortable wedding day, don't forget to wear in shoes around the house.

One month prior:

● Write speeches.

● Make any alterations to wedding dress.

● Inform caterers of final number of guests and prepare seating plan.

● Brides may like to visit the hairdresser again to try different styles with veils, tiaras or flowers.

● Grooms: have a haircut two to three weeks before the wedding.

● Provide list of music to venue, such as first dance.

● Confirm arrangements with entertainers, cars, photographer, florist, hairdresser and make-up artist.

● Final fittings for bride and groom.

● Pick up rings.

● Ensure all honeymoon travel documents — passports, insurance, travellers cheques — are in order. If travelling overseas, purchase \$50 or \$100 in foreign currency in advance of departure so you have local cash on arrival for a cab, a coffee or a glass of bubbly.

One week prior:

● Visit a day spa for relaxing facial and massage.

● Have teeth cleaned professionally at the dentist for a dazzling smile.

● Give venue final count of wedding guests.

● Pack for the honeymoon.

● Pick up or arrange delivery of all wedding attire.

The day before:

● Grooms: Consider visiting a barber to have a professional shave. A close shave will last about 24 hours.

● Have a manicure and pedicure.

● Relax — you're nearly there.



Photo by: Yervant Zanzanlan.

Get me to the church on time

Melbourne has a wide range of choices when it comes to professional wedding transport to guarantee a glamorous arrival at the wedding ceremony. All 60 members of the Wedding Car Association operate vehicles that are licensed with the Victorian Taxi Directorate.

Wedding Car Association members offer more than 300 classic cars ranging from fabulous vintage cars to shiny Cadillacs, Mustangs, vintage Jaguars, Rolls Royces, Bentleys and Buicks to buses, English taxis and motorbikes to the elegance of a historic landau carriage drawn by a pair of majestic horses from Belle Warren Carriages. For more details, phone 9885 8125 or visit www.weddingcars.org.au



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Wedding planner

THE PHOTOGRAPHER

By SANDY GUY

Wedding photographer Yervant Zanazanian has won every award worth winning in Australia, including the 2009 Australian Wedding Photographer of the Year in the Canon AIPP Australian Professional Photography Awards, as well as countless accolades and awards overseas.

Recognised as one of the world's top five wedding photographers Yervant, whose studio is based in Docklands, is renowned for his avant-garde approach to a traditional industry.

Rich, sensuous and colourful, his stunning wedding photographs and albums are works of art he says "celebrate life in the tradition of wedding photography with a new dimension," and are sought after worldwide.

Part of the magic of Yervant's images is in allowing his subjects freedom from posing or worrying about having their picture taken — his subjects appear comfortable, having loads of fun, yet at the same time look very glamorous. He guides and directs in a relaxed, friendly manner, calming even the most nervous subjects in front of his camera.

"I'm passionate about photography that reflects the glamour of the wedding without compromising the reality, the emotions and the true story-telling of the day," says Yervant, who often uses cafes, streets, flower shops and grand public buildings as dazzling backdrops on the big day.

Born in Ethiopia of Armenian origin, Yervant began taking photos at a young age while helping his father, a professional photographer serving the royal family of Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia.

Yervant accompanied his father on numerous assignments, helped with processing, developing and printing, and won his first photography award at age 11. After studying photography and fine art in Venice for five years he moved to Australia in 1979 to join his family and undertake further studies at the Photography Studies College in Melbourne.

Yervant says he is passionate about wedding photography because of its unique challenge to spontaneity. "I'm a fashion, portrait and landscape photographer, photojournalist and paparazzi all within any given moment of a wedding day. A wedding is the perfect canvas to allow me to be an artist in all genres of photography, and yet capture the reality and special moments."

"Beautiful wedding photography is all about capturing the day's story, the special moments, the solemnity, the fun and the laughter in an un-intrusive manner."

Yervant Photography is situated at 223 Harbour Esplanade, Docklands. Wedding photography packages start from \$3700. Phone 9670 1170, www.yervant.com.

Wedding photography checklist

Plan ahead: Start looking for your wedding photographer 12 to 18 months before the wedding.

Make sure they're professionals: Look for a photographer with professional membership to a reputable institution such as the Australian Institute of Professional Photography (AIPP). The AIPP lists 800



qualified, professional photographers at www.aipp.com.au.

Photo style: How do you envisage your wedding photographs? Wedding photographers generally fall into three categories: traditional, photojournalist, or a combination of both — a hot trend for today's weddings.

Consider the Cost: This is one area to avoid cutting corners if you can; photos are one of the few keepsakes.

Do your research: Compile a list of potentials and view his or her work.

Plan the photos: Consider the must-have shots. It's



From top: Some of Yervant Zanazanian's works and left, the award-winning master himself.

wise to discuss details with the photographer so they will be familiar with the site location, guests, and the best and most unobtrusive way to get those important shots.

Provide guests with disposable cameras: while a professional photographer may be taking the big shots of the day, you get some valuable memories to treasure through the eyes of guests by providing them with disposable cameras.

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