

Party on!

Wedding planners at *Blame Her Ranch* in New Mexico know what makes a fun wedding, with ideas for how to create the ultimate celebration

More and more, couples are choosing a wedding event, where celebrations are spread over a number of days, a long weekend, or even a five-day extravaganza. Especially where guests have had to travel long-haul to attend, this makes perfect sense, plus it means that you can make the most of your venue.

Here at Blame Her Ranch, we love to help couples plan a series of fun events and activities for the wedding party, for their families or for all of the guests to enjoy. A destination wedding event certainly allows couples to show off a bit, to be very creative, and to leave their guests in awe!

Here are a few ideas of things that will work well to create a wedding spectacular:

BACHELOR OR BACHELORETTE PARTY

Before your all-important rehearsal dinner, you should think about hosting these events simultaneously. Here at Blame Her Ranch we have four separate locations where the two parties can be kept completely separate. We recommend a mechanical bull for the boys and a pyjama party for the girls. If you like, after two or three hours the two groups can come together and party for the rest of the night!

THEMED WELCOME DINNER

A bit different from the traditional rehearsal dinner that is common at Stateside weddings, the welcome dinner is extended out to close family not in the bridal party, and to guests who are staying at the venue for the duration of the celebrations. This could be a more casual affair, or even themed. A rip-roaring 1920's style event works well (especially now that we are in the 2020s!) and a BBQ or a food-truck arrangement gets guests mingling rather than tied to a seating plan. Long trestle tables and laid-back décor will set the scene further.


BLOODY MARY BREAKFAST

Breakfast shouldn't be forgotten – it's the most important meal of the day! Ask a family member to prepare a simple continental breakfast if you're going to be at home, or if you're all staying at a venue like Blame Her Ranch you could challenge them to really make a meal of it! We love to set up a Bloody Mary bar where guests can compete to come up with the best Bloody Mary using the ingredients provided. Cooked bacon, asparagus, celery – the possibilities are endless... The winner can be mentioned during the wedding speeches, or the winning cocktail be available at the bar. It's also great for social media!

OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT

Late night outdoor movie nights are a great way for your guests to rest and relax before the big day. The equipment should be fairly easy to hire and you could show a classic wedding film like *Father of the Bride*, *Four Weddings* or even *Princess Bride*.

Other ideas that have gone down well at Blame Her Ranch are: Family Reunion Night, a quiz where we find out who knows the couple best, late night s'mores with a campfire and ghost stories, a children's pizza night – they could even design the ultimate pizza, or a piñata smash – with something wedding related or even the couple's faces!

If you're using a wedding planner, they will of course, have some great ideas of their own. And your venue will have the ideas and experience based on what has worked before. Just make sure that your venue can accommodate your ideas and timescale. We are fortunate at Blame Her Ranch that we can accommodate up to 44 guests, and can provide exclusivity for three to five days, so that guests don't have to share the venue with any other groups or parties. This makes it much easier for you to organise and enjoy each and every moment of your wedding celebrations. 



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