

Weddings are stressful. Hiring wedding planners and help from the outside can certainly make things easier, but knowing which questions to ask and researching in advance will also save you money in the process.

## HERE ARE OUR TOP 5 QUESTIONS THAT ALL COUPLES SHOULD TACKLE.

- 1. What type of venue do I want? Of course, any article about wedding questions from Blame Her Ranch (BHR) would start out with the venue. We always tell people the first question you should ask is, "What type of venue do I want to be married in?" For example, your family home, a hotel ballroom, a resort, or a designated destination where guests can come to enjoy the festivities. Certainly budget comes into play, but also what you want to convey to your guests is critically important.
- 2. What are the hidden fees? At BHR, the price is the price. But, so many couples tell us that when they go see other venues, issues and questions come up about what is and isn't included. Couples have even told us they pulled out of venues once these hidden fees (or vendor kickbacks) are divulged.
- 3. How much do you want to spend versus how much can you actually spend? Before you can begin booking vendors and venues, you have to think about your wedding budget. It's one of the biggest causes of stress for couples planning weddings, so getting it knocked out earlier saves you headaches down the line. While the discussion about budgeting can continue as the date gets closer, getting the hard stuff out of the way in the beginning, means smooth sailing later on. The first thing to settle on is how much you want to spend versus how much you can afford to spend. Many couples have dreamed of their weddings since they were little and have high expectations for a big grand affair. However, this isn't always practical. Take a realistic look at your savings and decide what you can and can't afford to spend on the wedding as a whole. This will impact all of your decisions going forward.
- What time of year do you want to get married? The time of year is a big factor in determining the type of wedding you have. Have you always dreamt of a winter wedding? Or, maybe you want a beach wedding with the spring wind blowing on you as you exchange your vows. No matter what you choose, the season can help give you a better picture of what kind of venue and vibe you'll end up with. At BHR, located in the mountains of Santa Fe, NM, we can accommodate winter, spring, summer and fall weddings with multiple venues that cater to our almost perfect climate.

What wedding aspects are most important to you? What aspects are least important to you? Because there's no rule book when it comes to planning a wedding, there's no set list of what vendors you absolutely need to hire. Instead, think about what aspects are most important to you. If you want beautiful photos that you're going to display in your home for years to come, you'll want to invest in a good photographer. Do you want live music or a DJ? What about floral design? Are those high on your importance list? Are you opting for a wedding cake or a dessert table? It's helpful to make a list of all aspects of a wedding and rate them on a scale of importance from 1 to 10 with 1 being the least important and 10 being the most. This will help you gauge what you see as worthy of spending your budget on and what you'd rather save on.

Beyond these questions, here are a couple more to consider: What do you want your day to look like? What time of day do you want to get married? How many guests do you want to invite? WH



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