

CHATEAU DE COURTOMER

SINCE 1047



Organising a destination wedding in France

OUR TOP TIPS TO HELP YOU PLAN YOUR PERFECT DAY.

Based on our client's experience and our own, we have put together these tips to help you plan your fairy tale destination wedding.

PLAN AHEAD

Plan well ahead and commit your plans and budget to paper. Yes, we know it isn't romantic but it will ensure that the run up to your day will go smoothly, leaving you time to concentrate on your family and friends.

CHOOSING YOUR DATE

The average lead time for organising a destination wedding is around 16 months. This might seem like a long time but it will fly by. Choosing the right venue will involve many personal factors but there are some other things you may want to think about. During certain bank holidays traffic will be heavy, shops will be closed, caterers busy and accommodation in short supply. Take a look at the French bank holidays scheduled for the year that you are planning to get married and check out the site of Bison Futé to get the provisions regarding traffic.

SO, WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM YOUR VENUE?

Finding the right venue can be daunting. After all, the back drop to your celebration is key to it's success-right? To help you narrow down what seems to be an endless number of fairy tale castles in France, draw up a list of exactly what you want from your venue.

Site visits are essential as the reality often doesn't live up to those pretty retouched pictures and romantic descriptions. Only by visiting can you really be sure.

YOUR FIRST STEPS TOWARDS YOUR DREAM DAY- THE SITE VISIT

On your site visits, leave time to really look around. Take pictures, take notes and ask the person who is showing you around lots of questions. When you hire a venue remember that for some chateau it is just that- a venue. Once hired, you will be on your own. Check out what support is available to help you with your planning and who will be responsible for answering all your questions.



YOU HAVE FOUND THE PERFECT PLACE, CONGRATULATIONS!

You found it! You have booked your dream chateau, congratulations! To turn your plans into reality do you need some help? It takes over 30 days to plan a wedding- do you really have that time to spare? Think about hiring a wedding planner- either to accompany you on the run up to the wedding or to orchestrate the day itself.

CATERING

Whether you are planning a five-course formal meal, a hog roast or a burger van, catering is an essential part of the day, so you need to get it right. Once you have chosen your caterer, arrange a tasting to select the dishes that are right for you, your invitees and your budget. No wedding would be complete without a toast and drinks to accompany the meal so if you can buy your own you can be sure of the quality and will save money. Check if your venue allows this. Some will charge corkage and this can add considerably to your bill.

HOUSEKEEPING THROUGHOUT YOUR STAY

Most destination weddings last for several days. If you are in the venue for a few days prior to the wedding can your venue provide cleaners to spruce the place up for The Day? Talk about this with the venue manager and budget for it.

PLAN B- WHAT'S YOURS?

Plan for all eventualities...The weather can be very unpredictable... rain can ruin an alfresco event as can a heatwave. When you are considering a venue think about your plan B. Are the public rooms large enough if you have to move inside, are there alternative areas- such as an Orangerie that could be hired, just in case?

COORDINATION, COMMUNICATION AND COOPERATION- THE KEYS TO SUCCESS

Clear communication between everyone involved is a major part of a wedding planner's role- they should be able to follow your brief down to the letter and make sure all suppliers are aware of timelines and timings and any last minute changes that occur.

ENJOY YOURSELVES

The day will go so quickly. Live in the moment and remember it's all about love, family and friends.

