

7 TIPS FOR CHOOSING THE PERFECT *wedding venue*

- ONE** **Venue Communication + Service:** How has your experience been with getting answers quickly while researching venues? Are emails responded to promptly and personally? Do you have the venue representative's direct phone number?
- TWO** **Size + Inclement Weather Plan:** Decide on your estimated guest count and then find a venue that can accommodate that number of guests. Ask the venue for photos of inclement weather wedding days and make sure you are comfortable with that backup plan, just in case.
- THREE** **Venue Hours:** How many hours will you be able to use the venue without paying for extended time? Typically, a wedding lasts six hours, however, you must also account for setup and breakdown. You will want to set aside up to five hours for setup and one hour for cleanup. Therefore, you will want to have access to your venue for a minimum of twelve hours.
- FOUR** **Venue Restrictions:** What are the venue restrictions? Are you required to vacate the place by 10pm? Do you need to hire security? Do you need to hire a cleaning crew? Do you need to have your own insurance or vendor permits? The easiest way to avoid any problems is to ask the venue rep in an email or during a tour what their venue restrictions are. Ask for a copy of the contract.
- FIVE** **Venue Facilities:** Although it may sound like a no-brainer, you need to find out if the venue provides electricity, A/C + heating, parking, restrooms, cleaning, trashcans, dumpsters, elevator use, tables + chairs, etc. Find out if the kitchen is large enough to accommodate a catering team of 4-8. Will you be required to clean the restrooms? Will you have to clean + mop the entire venue? Do they provide an online seating planner and take care of furniture setup/breakdown? Is there a damages deposit?
- SIX** **Dressing Suites:** Does the venue have a bridal suite with private restroom, dressing area, mirrors, hooks, enough space for your bridesmaids, etc.? Does the venue offer a groom's suite with tv, couches, table, private restroom, etc.? If these are not provided, will you rent hotel rooms nearby to get ready at?
- SEVEN** **Vendor Restrictions:** Are you required to use the venue's vendors such as catering, floral, coordination, etc.? Are you required to purchase your alcohol through the venue? Having to use in-house vendors can increase the cost of your wedding by thousands of dollars.

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