

Planning your wedding: Q&A with Oh So Chic's DeShai Roberson

Wedding Articles By: Cristina Bertocci



Planning a wedding is not always as easy as it seems.

DeShai Roberson is the owner and principle coordinator of [Oh So Chic Wedding & Event Planning](#). SDNR's Cristina Bertocci talked to Roberson about today's top wedding trends for Southern California and what it takes to plan a wedding.

Cristina Bertocci: What is the most common problem that occurs when putting a wedding together?

DeShai Roberson : The most common problem that occurs during the wedding planning process is couples running out of money. They don't realize how quickly the costs add up.

CB: What ways do you suggest couples avoid this problem?

DR: The way couples can avoid this happening is by setting a realistic budget before they begin planning. They need to take the time to create a budget that is affordable for them and also keep in mind the type of event that they are trying to have. This may involve family members if they are going to pay for the wedding or contribute.

CB: What important wedding elements are often overlooked?

DR: Couples often overlook the importance of hiring vendors based on experience, compatibility, and knowledge for a lower-priced vendor. This sometimes can be a costly mistake in the event that the couple doesn't end up with the quality of product and service that they expected.

CB: How far in advance do you recommend couples plan a May or June wedding?

DR: Depending on the size and scale of the wedding that the couple wants, they should at least give themselves six to nine months to plan. They may need longer if they have to save money to pay for the event.

CB: What months are the least expensive for weddings in Southern California? What months are the most expensive?

DR: November through March is typically the least expensive and considered the "off season," although weddings are held year round in Southern California.

June through October is the most expensive months. The summer is still the most popular time for weddings due to the gorgeous weather and many people are on vacation during this time, so they are available for travel. Fall is also popular because the weather starts to cool down and it's a beautiful time of year.

CB: Have couples gotten away from the traditional sit-down dinner for a more casual buffet type of reception?

DR: Many couples are straying from the traditional sit-down dinner and shifting towards more lounge feel type receptions. They are integrating food stations, hors d'oeuvres buffets, and tray-passed foods. They are going for of a more fun and relaxed vibe, but still classy.

CB: What is popular for photographing or videotaping?

DR: For photographing and videotaping during the ceremony, the most popular is the vows and any special readings or songs by friends and/or family members. For the reception it is most often the grand entrance and first dance that are so much fun to have documented. Oh! And it's always a treat to see your guests on video dancing.

CB: Can you help plan a wedding at a vacation resort? What are some of the most creative destinations and how many days of activities do you generally plan to entertain guests?

DR: Yes, I can certainly help plan a wedding at a vacation resort. Many resorts have an onsite planner, but it is best to also hire someone that can be a personal assistant to the couple and handle any last minute needs.

It is nice to plan two activities/events plus the wedding for guests. You also want to allow them time to do things on their own and enjoy the city if they are not from the area. You can really be creative in any destination. Each location is sure to have uniqueness and possibly something that they are known for. Personally, Las Vegas is a really fun destination because the possibilities are endless.

CB: What is your favorite wedding moment/memory, why?

DR: My favorite wedding memory to date is when I did my first same sex wedding and the couple came up to me at the end of the night and presented me with a painting from one of their grandmothers. The grandmother had been sick and couldn't attend the wedding but she created a few paintings for the couple to give away as gifts. With tears of joy in their eyes, the couple told me how much they appreciated all of my hard work and that there was no way they could have done it without my help. It was very touching and something I will never forget.