

The Wedding Planner - An interview

One enormous help is to delegate all the onerous details to a wedding planner. A professional planner does all the legwork for you, winnowing through the businesses that offer wedding services and finding the ones that suit your style and budget and that she knows are reliable. According to Allison Wildes Liset of Elegant Engagements this is the biggest time-saver consultants can offer the bride. "I know all the vendors, once I know the personality of the bride and groom, I can do the match. This is especially helpful to brides coming from far away. Then we do a vendor day where we visit a few choices for each service and they make a final decision - one day and they are done, we have hire everybody and made all the decisions until the final consultation and tasting about a month before."

Not only does hiring a wedding coordinator alleviate a lot of stress associated with decision making, it also delegates all the following up and checking up that so many brides find difficult to do.

Something not widely known is that you can save money and still get a consultant's help by hiring her as an onsite manager for the day only, similar to what larger reception sites provide. This is a good option for the bride who has everything all lined up but doesn't want to deal with any problems on the wedding day. Services for a coordinator for this one day run about \$200-300.

Whether you hire a professional or do it all yourself, the biggest stress reducer is to spread the planning out and do as much as you can ahead of time. "The more you can do in advance the better it goes. Don't wait until the week of the wedding. Even tie napkins in March rather that June. Have it all boxed and ready," says Liset.

What you do to get ready for the wedding is crucial, but so it what you

don't do. Don't stay out past ten for the rehearsal dinner. Don't try to squeeze in a round of golf or spa treatments the morning of the wedding. Liset laughs at the stress caused by grooms and their attendants arriving late, sunburnt and dehydrated because of the Cape Cod semi-tradition of a pre-ceremony round of golf for the groom and his buddies. Have the hair and make-up people come to you, especially with Cape traffic during tourist season.

One more day-of-the-wedding tip, have someone who is not in the wedding party at your side who can go check on things for you. That way you can be reassured that everything is going well in the church before you make your entrance. A wedding coordinator will do this, but so could a trusted friend if you are not using a coordinator.

For more information contact Elegant Engagements (508) 833-8314.



A full service agency dedicated to wedding & event design on Cape Cod

"There were so many things we didn't know — even with the 10 books, 25 magazines and countless websites! Allison was calm, cool, collected and was just an incredible help in planning our long distance wedding. We had a picture perfect day and due to her expertise, everything went exactly as planned."

Kristen & Michael Sherman, Bride & Groom, Providence, RI

"I want to thank you for making my daughter's wedding so beautiful. You did a wonderful job in making everyone feel comfortable, well fed and at ease by the beach. I was so impressed with your organizational skills, style and help that you gave Ctris. You willingness to go the extra mile was great. You are such a natural at what you do. Thank you from the bottom of my heart."

Mary French, Mother of the Bride, Falmouth, MA

"Having participated <mark>in many eve</mark>nts during my lifetime, I know very well all the work that takes place in advan<mark>ce. Your planning was excellent, creativity superb, and the implementation went without a hitch. The atmosphere you created was electric." Leonard Saffir,</mark>

Retired VP of BBDO, Washington DC

ALLISON WILDES LISET of ELEGANT ENGAGEMENTS

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