

The SECRET to choosing your wedding photographer

What is important to me when choosing the right wedding photographer to capture my special wedding day?

Has he or she documented 100 or even a thousand weddings, has he or she got enough experience?

Am I going to get that cool filter look that I love on the photographs on Pinterest?

I only want a few photos taken shall I just asked my Uncle with the cool camera?

Will I meet with my photographer before my big day? Because my sister didn't and know one liked him.

I am going to bet that at least one of these questions has ran through your mind several times as you sift through the endless wedding photographers websites.

The aim if of this article is to help you choose the correct wedding photographer for you.

Budget

- Sit down with your partner and set aside an ideal budget to spend on your wedding photographer.
- With this budget in mind place another max max max budget next to it.

Determine the wedding photography style that you like

You can only really answer this. There are so many styles to choose from:

- Traditional - Focused on group and portrait photographs

- Reportage also known documentary - This style captures your wedding day naturally with no direction from the photographer.
- Portrait - Focused on dynamic beautiful portraits of the newly weds also capturing your day as it unfolds.
- There are photographers that offer a style that encapsulates all the above by blending all the styles into one. These photographers capture everything from the finer details to the most incredible portraits.

Uncle Bob and his shiny new camera

- I know it's tempting to reach out to your Uncle or family friend that has a fantastic camera. But in reality if these guys have only maybe shot two or three weddings or god forbid no weddings at all. The chances are you will regret it.
- Your wedding day moves in such a fast pace and experienced photographers are always two or three shots ahead in their mind.
- A professional wedding photographer looks at every angle to give you wedding photographs that not just anybody can produce with a good camera.
- A professional photographer has experience in organising a hundred people plus. Through all of this the photographer is constantly liaising with your wedding reception team to ensure your day runs on time.
- Professional photographers constantly work under pressure to ensure all the photographs that you requested are captured.
- In my opinion you have paid a lot of money for your wedding day and you should have it documented by a professional wedding photographer so you can enjoy your photographs for years to come. The person with the shiny camera will never produce what a professional wedding photographer can.

Do Your Research

- Firstly I would suggest reaching out to family and friends and asking for recommendations.
- It's time to start surfing the net. At this point I would suggest taking a look at the recommendations from friends and family. Look to see if they have full weddings and not just the best photographs of a certain point of the day. It's always beneficial to see the full wedding to indicate that the photographer's style is consistent.
- Some photographers will show full weddings on their website via galleries or mini movies. Grab some popcorn and enjoy.
- It's also good to see if the photographer is willing to meet up with you. Your photographer is with you 90% of your wedding day. If you don't have a connection it could be a bit awkward on your wedding day.
- As you view the galleries you will begin to know what style of photography you like.
- Once you have found your preferred style. You can start to narrow your search terms allowing you to pinpoint the photographer for you.

You have now found a few photographers in mind, what next?

- Drop each photographer a call or an email and ask if they are available to document your wedding day.
- Follow their social feeds as most photographers post their recent work on social media.
- Don't get to hung up on the photographers star feedback rating. Meet up with him or her and make a judgement call then.

Meeting your photographer

- During your first meeting, in my opinion it's not about numbers and pricing as you have already chose to meet this photographer based on your research (budget, style and quality of work).
- The first meeting is to view the photographer's portfolio and get to know them as people.
- You will instantly know if you have a connection by feeling at ease and under pressured.
- I know wedding magazines and websites produce a list of questions to ask your photographer before committing to their services and they can be very helpful. In my opinion ask:
 1. How many weddings has she or he done as experience plays a vital part.
 2. Has the photographer worked in your wedding location before. Thou not essential but helpful if he or she has some experience of your venue.
- During your meeting the photographer may ask you some questions e.g. your ceremony time, wedding breakfast time. You know you have got an experienced photographer when they can talk you through timings of your wedding day. Here you will both engage in ideas for your wedding photographs. An experienced photographer will be able to let you know if your ideas are logistically possible. If they are not the photographer will offer some alternative ideas.
- If you are happy with the photographer and love their work you might just book there and then. If your a little unsure arrange to see more photographers as you can always meet him or her again.
- Don't leave it too long to go back as good photographers can be booked two years in advance.

I hope this information helps you out. Good luck on your search and have a fantastic wedding day.