



SO YOU'RE ENGAGED! NOW WHAT?!



CRYSTAL
BALLROOM



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VERSAILLES
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Wedding Planning Baby Steps

First off, congratulations! Getting engaged is like a glitter bomb of excitement. Right now, you're probably smiling from ear to ear and buzzed on anticipation (and possibly champagne). After the initial shock and elation, you realize you're now in uncharted waters. **So what do you do next?**

Tell Your VIPs First

Resist the temptation to blast the news all over the internet right after or as it is happening. Unless he pops the question in front of all your closest family and friends, hold off on posting your news until you can tell your VIPs in person or by phone. **Think of Facebook announcements like taking out an ad in the local paper.** Would you take out an ad to tell your mom that your other half just popped the question? No! It will be deeply appreciated if you prioritize a list of people to tell before you make a public announcement to the rest of the world.

Spread The News

Now it's time to make your big announcement on Facebook, Instagram, etc. Share some pics of the fabulous couple, of the place you got engaged, and tell your story of how he (or she!) proposed. But before you go on a sharing spree, consider your privacy and **be careful what you share online.** Maybe share a far-away photo of your ring rather than a close-up. You won't want to incite jealousy or (eek!) theft, so don't share too much on the actual bling specs. The other piece you may want to keep to yourself is the wedding date. Just in case you can't invite everyone, you don't want to hurt feelings, or worse, let the world know when you and your whole family will be away from their homes. It's best to post your wedding related statuses the day after the big day just to be safe... and so you don't spend the big day glued to your phone.

Collect advice with an open mind

Especially if you got engaged around the holidays, you're going to see family and friends, and you're going to be bombarded with advice. Some of it will be groan-worthy, but don't write it all off just yet. Ask your pack if they have any venues, photographers, djs, limos, florists, or bridal salons they recommend. **Chances are your friends have been to a few weddings that were truly amazing and memorable.** Find out what venues they thought were beautifully renovated,

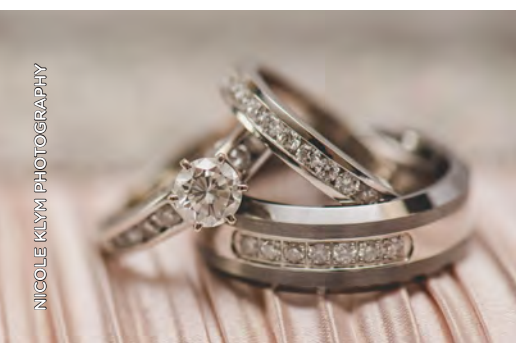
“Asking around cuts down on your research and you’ll get real, unbiased opinions.”

had a staff of superstars, and served great food. And if they know someone that works in the wedding biz, they

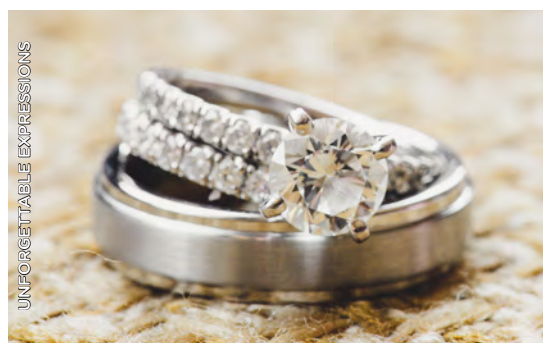
may be able to snag you a deal. Asking around cuts down on your research and you'll get real, unbiased opinions..

Narrow Down A Date/Pick a Season

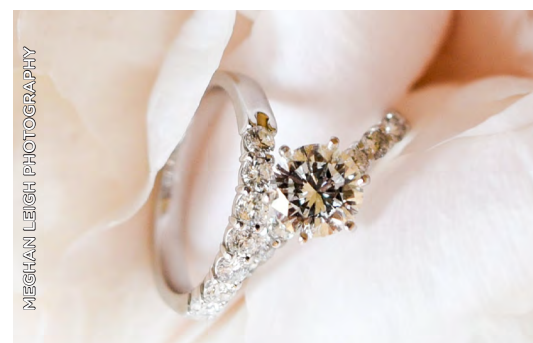
If you don't have your heart set on a special date, pick a month or season. **September and October are the most popular months and they fill up fast.** And some venues (like ours!) offer special promotions for winter or summer dates. Talk about what times of year are less stressful at work or what time of year is the shoulder season for your dream honeymoon spot. FYI - shoulder season means the time between the busy season and the off season, when the weather is still nice, but there are fewer crowds. Score!



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Go In With A Guest-Count

While you're on a role prioritizing people who needs to know about your engagement first, start putting their names and addresses into a spreadsheet. Make these people your A-list must-invite people, and then make a B-list and a C-list. Your A-list should be your immediate family on both sides and your bridesmaids, groomsmen, and long-time close friends. Your B-list should be people in your extended family or friends that you aren't as close with, but who might be offended if they don't get an invite. Your C-list should be co-workers, friends of your parents, or friends you've just met or know indirectly. The C-list would be nice to invite, but don't hesitate to cut this list if your budget is tight. **When you go venue shopping, estimate that your actual guest count will likely be A-list (+guest for the single folks) + B-list (and guests) - 20% (for declined invites).**

Get Organized From The Very Beginning

Start building out a checklist of vendors to book. **The venue should be the first thing on your list to book within the first few months.** The venue is the biggest chunk of your budget, and their availability may determine your wedding date. Keep track of your budget estimates and your actual expenses in a spreadsheet. The Knot, NJ Bride, and Wedding Wire are excellent resources for checklists and vendors near you.

Keep Yourself Balanced

Don't forget to leave time to enjoy life with your significant other. Set aside a weekly time to plan and make decisions, but don't obsess about it 24/7. **Plan date nights, weekend trips, workouts, cook together, go to concerts...** you get

“Set aside a weekly time to plan and make decisions, but don't obsess about it 24/7.” the gist. Live your life! Once the wedding is over, you won't feel any post-planning blues

because you'll have plenty of other activities and things in your life to balance you out. The marriage is the main event. The wedding is just icing on the cake!



About Us

Wed Blog is a resource for brides and grooms maintained by five affordable, gorgeous wedding venues with exceptionally knowledgeable wedding coordinators: the Windsor Ballroom, Sterling Ballroom, Crystal Ballroom, Versailles Ballroom, and Atlantis Ballroom. These venues offer a one-stop-shopping experience where couples can book their ceremony, reception, and accommodations all at our Central NJ venues.

Ready to take the plunge? Click on your venue of choice for more information and to book a tour with our team of experts!



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