

Wedding Planning Worksheets, Timelines and Checklists to help you plan your Wine Country wedding.

Book No. 8



your planning timeline

12+ MONTHS BEFORE	3+ MONTHS BEFORE	WEEK OF
Set budget Determine if parents will contribute Hire wedding planner, if using Draft guest list & start collecting addresses, emails & cell numbers Reserve ceremony & reception sites Reserve tent, if needed Confirm electrical power meets your needs at reception site Set wedding date Begin gown shopping Establish rain plan if outdoors Select & invite wedding party Hire photographer 9+ MONTHS BEFORE	Mail invitations (send 12 weeks ahead if destination or holiday wedding) Select ceremony readings & music Reserve hairstylist & makeup artist Order favors Finalize flowers Attend hair & makeup trial appts 2 MONTHS BEFORE Mail rehearsal dinner invitations Attend tasting with caterer, if offered Discuss vendor meals with caterer (tip: hot meals = happy vendors) Select wedding party gifts Gather wedding-day details (guest book, cake knife, etc.)	Pick up gown & tuxedo/suit Gather your day-of essentials Organize emergency wedding kit supplies Assign someone to help gather family/attendants for photographs Assemble favors & welcome bags Assign day-of point person (to answer guest questions) if not planner Pick up wedding rings Confirm all vendor delivery and/or arrival times Confirm wedding party members know their arrival times DAY BEFORE Attend rehearsal dinner
 □ Order gown □ Order tuxedo/suit □ Interview & reserve caterer □ Reserve DJ or band & ceremony musicians □ Begin your wedding gift registry □ Create wedding website, if you desire □ Reserve a block of hotel rooms for out-of-town guests 6+ MONTHS BEFORE □ Select & mail save-the-dates □ Reserve officiant □ Interview & hire florist □ Order stationery suite 	6 WEEKS BEFORE Purchase rings (if custom, order earlier if necessary) Buy garter, if doing toss Create signature drink 4 WEEKS BEFORE Plan reception seating chart Visit Clerk of the Circuit Court office for marriage license Decide who will share readings and/or toasts Finalize & print ceremony programs Finalize day-of schedule with vendors	 Attend rehearsal dinner Confirm/prepare drinks & snacks for getting-ready rooms Organize tip envelopes for vendors Confirm transportation pickup times and addresses Double-check your outfit details, including shapewear & shoes Make some spa time for a manicure & pedicure Pack bags for wedding night & honeymoon DAY OF Stay hydrated with lots of water & be
Reserve calligrapher, if using Order wedding party outfits Plan honeymoon 4+ MONTHS BEFORE Begin gown/suit fittings Finalize menus Hire lighting designer, if using Reserve rentals (chairs, dishes, etc.) Reserve transportation (limos, etc.) Plan rehearsal dinner Order cake Make favorite songs list & discuss	Write/select vows 2 WEEKS BEFORE Give caterer final guest count Finalize playlist with DJ/band & ceremony musicians Finalize your shot list with the photographer Finalize transportation & assign leaders who will assist guests Finalize reception décor plans Break in wedding shoes Plan snacks for getting-ready rooms	sure to eat something Gather your essentials including phone, lipstick, etc. in a purse or tote and assign a party member to be in charge of getting you and your things to the wedding Take pre-ceremony photographs Remember to let others take care of the details of the day. Your job will only be to enjoy it!

LOCAL TIP

options with DJ/band

You can obtain a marriage license at any Virginia Circuit Court Clerk in the state. It doesn't have to be from the county where you're getting married. Note: The above timelines are a general guideline, but considering the popularity of Virginia winery weddings, we recommend you reserve your desired venues and vendors as early as possible.





Before you dive too deeply into planning your wedding, it's important to know how much you can spend and on what you want to spend it. As a general guideline, allot approximately 50 percent of your budget to the reception (location, food and beverages). Then allot about 10 percent each to flowers, photography and attire, although be aware that photography can often exceed 10 percent, so you may need to make some adjustments. The remaining budget goes to stationery, favors and other details for the ceremony and reception.

CEREMONY/ RECEPTION 50%	PHOTOS/MUSIC/ STATIONERY 25%	DÉCOR/ FLOWERS 10%	GIFTS/FAVORS and EXTRAS 5%	
Ceremony location fee	Photographer's fee	Ceremony decorations	 Honor Attendant Gifts	
Officiant's fee	Engagement portrait	Couple's bouquet(s)	Partner 1's gifts	
Reception-site fee	Parents' albums	Flower attendant's	 Partner 2's gifts	
Food	Additional prints		 Child attendants' gifts	
Cake	Videography	Corsages	 Partner 1 parents' gifts	
Bar	Ceremony music	Boutonnières	 Partner 2 parents' gifts	
Rentals	Cocktail-hour music	Reception centerpieces	Guest-room gifts	
Couple's transportation	Reception music	& decorations	 Favors	
Guests' transportation	Save-the-date cards	- ATTIBE 400/	Ring pillow	
& parking	Invitations/envelopes	ATTIRE 10%	Guest book	
Tips & coat check	Programs	Wedding dress		
	Cards: seating/place/menu	Headpiece & veil	 total	
total	Thank-you notes	Partner 1's shoes		
	Postage	Lingerie		
	Calligraphy	Jewelry & accessories		
	Announcements	Hair & makeup		
		Wedding tuxedo/suit		
	total	Partner 2's shoes		
		Partner 2's accessories		
		Wedding rings		
		total	grand totál	

LOCAL TIP

With popular venues, there can be a lot of competition to book them. Our tip is to decide which is more essential to you: the date or the venue. If you have your heart set on a specific time of year that is popular, consider a weekday, Friday or Sunday date instead. Those days are not only easier to reserve but can also cost less in rental fees and have lower catering minimums to meet. Remember to reserve them as soon as possible.



day-of timeline

The key to a smooth wedding day is a very well-thought-out timeline, one that will minimize hiccups and make those that do occur easier to manage. Don't be afraid to go deep into the details. A professional wedding day timeline will normally be pages and pages long. This list below is a good jumping-off point for you to chart out the elements you want to be sure to cover and share with your family, wedding party, venues and vendors as appropriate.

SA	AMPLE TIMELINE	OUR TIMELINE
Ve	nue opens for set up	
We	edding parties needed at first location	
На	ir & makeup starts	
Ph	otography coverage begins	
На	ir & makeup finishes	
Pai	rtner 1 attendants dressed & ready	
Pai	rtner 1 dressed & ready	
Pai	rtner 2 and attendants dressed & ready	
First	st look	
Lea	ave for ceremony	
Ce	remony begins	
Ce	remony ends	
Co	cktail hour (1 hour)	
Far	mily photos (during cocktail hour)	
We	edding party photos (during cocktail hour)	
Gu	ests seated for dinner	
Int	roductions/entrances	
Fir	st dance	
We	elcome toast/prayer	
Dir	nner starts	
Dir	nner ends	
Too	asts/speeches	
Pai	rent dances	
Da	ncing begins	
Ca	ke cutting	
Во	uquet toss	
Lat	te-night snacks	
Las	st call/dance	
Co	uple exit	
Ph	otography coverage ends	

LOCAL TIP

Look for little ways to add local flavor to your day. For example, have trays of bagels or baked goods from beloved local bakeries on hand in the getting-ready spaces. In Charlottesville, we love Bodo's Bagels and MarieBette Café & Bakery. We recommend Dolce & Ciabatta Bakery and Red Truck Bakery for our Loudoun County couples and Shenandoah Bakery for celebrations in the Valley.



venue planning

To help you in your search for the perfect ceremony and reception venue(s), we've gathered a list of valuable questions you can review with potential sites to determine if it will meet your needs.

CEREMONY QUESTIONS
☐ Is our date available?
☐ What are some alternate dates?
☐ What is the rental fee?
☐ Do you require a deposit?
☐ When is the final balance due?
☐ What is the rental time frame?
☐ When is the site open for deliveries/pickups?
☐ Is the venue open to the public during our rental time?
☐ What is the maximum capacity?
Are there any permits required?
☐ Is parking available? Is there a fee for parking?
☐ Is live or recorded music allowed?
Are there restrictions on ceremony tosses?
Are candles allowed?
☐ Is there access to electricity?
☐ What lighting is available indoors/outdoors?
☐ Are there restrictions on specific vendors we can bring in?
☐ Is there space for the wedding party to get ready on-site?
Are there other weddings happening on the same day?

LOCAL TIPS

Are there restrictions on photography?Are there restrictions on décor?

The Blue Ridge Mountains and vineyards are two of the most beloved backdrops for weddings here in Virginia Wine Country. If either is part of your vision, confirm that your ceremony space includes one of these vistas and is also accessible for guests.

Are there any other restrictions or details we need to note?

Because Virginia Wine Country is a rural area, buses are highly recommended for wedding guest transportation. Buses are popular, though, and need to be reserved early. Also, confirm that your venue can accommodate buses, as they do require space for turning around and loading/unloading guests.

RECEPTION QUESTIONS

☐ Is our date available?

What are some alternate dates?
☐ What is the rental fee?
Do you require a deposit?
☐ When is the final balance due?
☐ What spaces are included in the rental?
☐ What is the rental time frame?
☐ What time do guests need to be out?
☐ Is catering offered in-house?
☐ If in-house catering, are we restricted to specific menus?
☐ What is the ratio of servers to guests?
☐ Do you offer bartenders?
☐ Is alcohol allowed? Are we restricted to specific brands?
☐ Is there a corkage fee?
Do you charge a cake slicing/serving fee?
☐ Is there a food and beverage minimum?
☐ When is the site open for vendor deliveries/pickups?
☐ Does the rental time and fee allow for setup/cleanup?
☐ Is the venue open to the public during our rental time?
☐ What is the maximum capacity?
Can we see example layouts of the space?
☐ Is there a dance floor space? If so, what size is it?
Are there any permits required?
☐ Is parking available? Is there a fee for parking?
☐ Is live or recorded music allowed?
Can we bring in an outside caterer?
☐ Is there a catering kitchen available?
Are there restrictions on outside vendors we can use?
☐ When is the final head count due?
Are there bathrooms on-site?
Are tables, chairs, tableware and linens included in the fee?
☐ What size and how many tables are available?
Are candles allowed?
☐ Is there access to electricity?
☐ What lighting is available indoors/outdoors?
☐ Is there space for the wedding party to get ready on-site?
Are there other weddings happening on the same day?
Are there restrictions on photography?
Are there restrictions on décor?
Are there any other restrictions or details we need to note?





Some of the advantages to having your wedding in Virginia Wine Country are the numerous activities, outings and attractions for your guests, allowing you to turn your entire celebration into a wedding weekend to remember. You can arrange horseback rides through the vines or a "tastings crawl" for any craft beverage trail imaginable, from wine and beer to spirits or cider. There are also rich historical sites, spas, hiking trails, golf clubs, unique boutiques and farm-to-table dining options. Offering guests a list of activity options with websites and phone numbers in each welcome basket will make it easy for those who want to DIY their weekend.

Below is space to sketch out your wedding weekend itinerary with some ideas to get you started.

- Day One is for getting your guests settled into their accommodations and having a casual and fun welcome party in the early evening.
- Day Two is all about relaxing and exploring the region before the rehearsal dinner. This is a good day
 to arrange for an outing like golfing, hiking, fishing, shopping or a historical tour in the mid-morning
 followed by lunch and a short tasting tour in the early afternoon. Be sure to give guests time to refresh
 before the rehearsal dinner that evening.
- Day Three is a good time for spa services and perhaps an outing for non-essential wedding party members, depending on the start time of your ceremony and getting-ready appointments.
- Day Four is a day for sleeping in before a mid-morning brunch. The afternoon is left open for travel or last-minute outings that guests might not have had time to enjoy prior to the wedding festivities.

DAY TWO: RELAX & REHEARSAL	



stationery planner

- STATIONERY TIMELINE -

9-12 MONTHS BEFORE Set your wedding date Determine your guest list Start collecting guest addresses Order invitation samples Order engagement party invitations Mail engagement announcements Send wedding party proposal cards Destination weddings: send savethe-date cards 6-9 MONTHS BEFORE Hire designer and/or calligrapher Finalize guest list & all addresses Mail save-the-date cards Order thank you cards Order wedding shower invitations Destination weddings: mail invitations at least six months in advance of your event date	4-6 MONTHS BEFORE Determine your day-of paper needs, like programs, menus & place cards Order rehearsal dinner invitations Order wedding invitations Order wedding guestbook Order bachelor/ette party invitations 2-4 MONTHS BEFORE Mail wedding invitations at least 10-12 weeks ahead of event date Mail rehearsal invitations at least 6-8 weeks ahead of event date Finalize order of ceremony events & confirm wedding party members so you can order wedding programs Order menu cards, welcome sign & wedding favor tags/labels Order notes & tags for welcome bags	1-2 MONTHS BEFORE Finalize RSVPs Sketch out your seating chart Order a seating chart or escort cards Order place cards Order table numbers Order signs, including cocktail sign, gift table sign, bar menu sign, guestbook sign, etc. 1-2 MONTHS AFTER Purchase thank you cards Mail thank you cards Mail wedding announcements Order social stationery with your new married name or monogram Order a return address stamp with your mailing address and name/monogram
- ST/	ATIONERY CHECKLIS	Т -
PRE-WEDDING Engagement announcements Engagement party invitations Wedding party proposal cards Save-the-date cards Wedding shower invitations Rehearsal dinner invitations Bachelor/ette party invitations INVITATION SUITE	WEDDING CEREMONY Programs (optional) Wedding welcome sign Unplugged wedding sign (optional) Reserved seating sign or chair tags Guestbook Cocktail hour drink menu (optional) SEATING PLAN Seating chart or escort cards	WEDDING SIGNAGE Guestbook sign in Cards & gifts Remembrance table sign (optional) Hashtag sign (optional) Open bar sign (optional) Signature cocktails sign (optional) Coffee bar sign (optional) Wedding food bar signs (optional)
	☐ Place cards ☐ Reserved table sign or chair tags, or a "no seating plan" sign WEDDING TABLE DÉCOR ☐ Table numbers	 □ Buffet: food labels or table tent signs □ Celebrating exit sign (optional) □ Wedding favors sign □ Thank you to guests sign (optional) □ Wedding program sign (optional) □ Wedding menu sign (optional)
ASSEMBLY SUPPLIES Envelope moistener Postage Return address stamp (optional) WEDDING WELCOME BAGS	 Menus (optional) ☐ Thank you note for each place setting (optional) MISCELLANEOUS ☐ Wedding favor tags/labels ☐ Advice to the couple cards 	POST-WEDDING Wedding thank you cards Wedding announcements (optional) Return address stamp with new name & address Social stationery with your new
☐ Welcome note ☐ Welcome bag tags/labels	(optional) Recipe cards (optional)	name or monogram



beauty timeline

5-6 MONTHS BEFORE Set goals/begin or refresh your fitness routine Eat more fruits & veggies Begin a meditation/mindfulness routine Review/refresh your daily skin care routine Invest in quality moisturizers and serums, as needed
 3-4 MONTHS BEFORE Begin experimenting with wedding hair & makeup options Schedule consultations with potential stylists/makeup artists Reserve professionals ASAP once you've found ones you love Schedule wedding-day trial runs. TIP: Schedule your trial on the same day as your engagement photos Considering a spray tan? Try it out now Begin brow maintenance if desired
1-2 MONTHS BEFORE Keep up your fitness routine Make sure you're staying hydrated Finalize your wedding-day hair and makeup looks Consider professional teeth whitening or use an at-home kit Invest in quality body scrub & lotion for smooth, glowing skin
1-3 WEEKS BEFORE If waxing, do this early to allow redness to subside If having a facial, allow ample time for redness to subside Get your hair trimmed Color/highlight your hair at least two weeks before the wedding. Tip: Don't make any dramatic changes at this point, just refresh your style for the big day Schedule massage(s) to help you relax and enjoy every moment Get your spray tan in the final week to allow time for it to settle
3 DAYS BEFORE Get manicure & pedicure Pack your wedding emergency kit (see our website) Deep condition your hair
THE DAY BEFORE Take time to relax Wash your hair today to help your hair hold tomorrow's style better Drink lots of water Get at least 8 hours of beauty sleep
THE DAY OF THE WEDDING Eat a healthy breakfast Aim for makeup/hair done at least 2-3 hours before ceremony Wear a button-down shirt or robe while getting ready to avoid mussing your hair & makeup. Spritz your favorite scent Breathe & be mindful so you don't miss the moments! Keep mints handy for fresh breath all-day

attendant notes

DAY-OF CHECKLIST

Wedding rings
Vows
Toasts
Wallet (Driver's license, credit cards)
Cologne
Toothbrush, toothpaste, mouthwash & breath mints
Tuxedo/suit (with all components) & cuff links
Shoes & socks (with extra pairs)
Deodorant
Razor (or electric shaver) & shaving cream
Medications (Tums is also nice to have as a back-up)
Contact lenses or glasses (spare sets recommended)
Cash (don't forget about tipping for wedding services)
Hair products like gel, a comb & hair spray



WEDDING PARTY CEREMONY RECEPTION Wedding couple's bouquet(s)/boutonnieres Aisle runner Entryway arrangements Wedding couple's headpiece(s) Pew or chair decorations Bar decorations ☐ Honor attendant's bouquet (s) Altar or huppa arrangements Dining table centerpieces Wedding party bouquets Candles & holders Wedding couple's chair decorations Flower bearer's headpiece & basket Buffet table decorations Other Cake & cake table decorations ■ Wedding party boutonnieres Powder room arrangements Ring bearer's boutonniere Other ☐ Mothers' corsages Other special guests' corsages Fathers' boutonnieres Other special guests' boutonnieres Other NOTES

LOCAL TIP

The Dogwood is not only a blooming tree but also the official flower of Virginia. It blooms in spring, making it an ideal choice for spring weddings in Virginia Wine Country. The leaves also make a beautiful addition as greenery for summer and fall weddings.

seasonas

YEAR-ROUND

Calla Lilv

Carnation Freesia Gardenia Lily Orchid Ranunculus Rose Stephanotis

SPRING Daffodil

Dogwood Forsythia Hellebore Hyacinth Lilac Lily-of-The-Valley Peony Quince Sweet Pea Tulip Viburnum

Cherry Blossom

SUMMER

Astilbe Cosmos Dahlia Daisy Delphinium Garden Rose Hollyhock Lady's Mantle Larkspur Scabiosa Snapdragon Violet Zinnia

WINTER

FALL Autumn Leaves Amaryllis Chrysanthemum Anemone Dahlia Evergreen Hydrangea Forced Bulbs Seasonal Berries Paperwhite Sunflower Poinsettia

FLORAL TIP

Consider ordering a "tossing" bouquet if you want to enjoy that tradition but also keep your wedding bouquet.





WELCOME GIFT ESSENTIALS

Water (box or bottle)

Local sweet or savory snacks are popular

Fresh fruit (local orchard apples or peaches are a fun touch)

Mints or other local candies

Mini hangover kit: painkillers, eye masks and a vitamin C powder

Wedding weekend itinerary (don't forget your wedding hashtag)

Guidebook or map of the area

A note thanking them for coming

All enclosed in a pretty bag, box, basket or tote for easy travel

WELCOME GIFT SPLURGES

Bottles or cans of local wine, beer or cider

A postcard, magnet or other souvenir from the area

Locally made soap or lip balm

Warm weather weddings: mini sunscreen, after sun or bug spray

 ${\sf Cold\ weather\ weddings:\ hand\ warmers,\ pashminas\ or\ umbrellas}$

Something personal (a sachet, deck of cards or a candle you love)

A small toy or activity book with crayons for children

NOTES	



quest list planner

 $Use this form below to begin collecting and tracking important details \ regarding \ your \ guest \ list. You \ can \ download \ additional \ copies \ of this \ worksheet \ on \ our \ website: \ Wine And Country Weddings. com/Planner Downloads.$

GUEST LIST

Name(s)	☐ Save-the-date sent
Address	☐ Invitation sent
Tel. No.	RSVP tracking card number
	RSVP received
E-mail	☐ Thank you sent
Gift	☐ Number attending
Name(s)	☐ Save-the-date sent
Address	☐ Invitation sent
	RSVP tracking card number
Tel. No.	☐ RSVP received
E-mail	☐ Thank you sent
Gift	☐ Number attending
Name(s)	Save-the-date sent
Address	☐ Invitation sent
Tel. No.	RSVP tracking card number
E	☐ RSVP received
E-mail	☐ Thank you sent
Gift	☐ Number attending

RSVP CARD TIP

Guests can often forget to fill out their name on their RSVP cards, leaving you wondering who sent a particular response. To avoid confusion and unnecessary stress, assign each guest a unique number and write it on this list and on the back of their RSVP card. This way, you can easily match up any unidentified cards you may receive.



quest list planner

GUEST LIST

Name(s)	Save-the-date sent
Address	☐ Invitation sent
Tel. No.	RSVP tracking card number
	☐ RSVP received
E-mail	☐ Thank you sent
Gift	☐ Number attending
Name(s)	☐ Save-the-date sent
Address	☐ Invitation sent
Address	RSVP tracking card number
Tel. No.	RSVP received
E-mail	☐ Thank you sent
Gift	☐ Number attending
Name(s)	Save-the-date sent
Address	☐ Invitation sent
Tel. No.	RSVP tracking card number
	RSVP received
E-mail	☐ Thank you sent
Gift	☐ Number attending



seating planner

While some couples might shy away from the perceived formality of assigned seating, the practice can greatly help ease guest anxiety or confusion. A seating guide makes the process of settling into seats more efficient and comfortable for everyone. Remember, this age-old practice is just as beneficial for casual and/or buffet meals as it is for formal sit-down dinners. Download additional copies from our website: WineAndCountryWeddings.com/PlannerDownloads.

Table No.	Table No.	
<i>m</i> . 1.1. 11.	m 11	
Table No.	Table No.	



seating planner

Table No.	$Table\ No.$	
Table No.	Table No.	





LOCAL WINE TIP

Celebrate being in wine country by sharing special local reserve wines and offering a "tasting course" at some point during your meal or cocktail hour. Like an amuse bouche, it will intrigue your guests and add a special connection to the land on your special day.



photography planner

To ensure your photographer captures the most important elements of your wedding, provide him or her with a list of specific events/moments, as well as names of important guests you want photographed. Then, designate a close friend or relative to help the photographer locate those guests when necessary. Be sure to discuss anything else you want your photographer to also capture on film, and what images you want in color vs. black and white.

PRE-WEDDING and RECEPTION		
Wedding outfits & personal touches		
Elements of paper suite		
Ceremony site details		
Ushers escorting special guests to their seats		
Parents entering		
Attendants walking down the aisle		
Wedding party at ceremony spot awaiting Partner(s)		
Partner(s) walking down the aisle		
Vows being exchanged		
Wedding kiss		
Wedding couple leading recessional		
Guests throwing rice/flower petals		
Signing of wedding certificate		
Wedding couple's hands displaying rings		
Friends signing guest book		
Guests at cocktail hour		
Reception site (set for dinner) & food shots		
Seating-cards display		
Centerpieces		
Place settings		
People giving toasts		
Wedding couple listening to toasts		
Group pictures of guests at each table		
Wedding couple's first dance		
Dances with parents & other dances		
Wedding cake and cake cutting		
Guest Favors		
Exit/Send-off moment		



favorite vendors

	VENDORS	EMAIL	PHONE	STATUS
Wedding planner				
Ceremony coordinator				
Reception coordinator				
Photographer				
Florist				
Videographer				
Caterer				
Officiant				
Baker				
Invitation designer				
Calligrapher				
Tent coordinator				
Lighting designer				
Rentals				
Wedding party transportation				
Guest transportation				
Ceremony musicians				
Cocktail hour musicians				
Reception music				
Hair stylist				
Makeup artist				
Jeweler				
Honeymoon travel agent				