

Secrets For Making Your Wedding Unforgettable ... *And Relatively Stress Free*

Planning your wedding can be either the most joyous chapter in your book of memories, or the most stressful time of your life. A bride-to-be's first thought, after choosing her groom, is often selecting her dress. But not so fast — these days many savvy brides determine the wedding venue first.

Whichever order you decide on make sure the style of the dress and the venue's motif share in harmony because they are the two elements of your blessed event that will set the tone for everything else about the wedding—the décor, the bridesmaid dresses, the cake and the flowers, should definitely be at the top of everything on the bride-to-be's to-do list.

Selecting the wedding venue requires that the couple to ask themselves numerous questions. How many people to invite? Indoor or outdoor wedding? Your venue must have the capacity to hold all of your guests ... and maybe a few crashers. Are you going to allow your second cousin Moonbeam to bring her new emo boyfriend as her wedding date? Your answer will probably depend on the venue.

Then, there is the consideration of budget. What's the point of both of you falling in love with a venue that is financially out of your reach? Choosing an overly pricey wedding venue can easily devour a modest bridal budget. So, we at *PCT* have decided to offer brides (not to mention grooms and mothers of the brides) some suggestions designed to save their resources.

Dazzle Her with Diamonds — Troy Vinson Jewelers

Love is in the air, and if you are planning to present a loved one with diamonds this year, settle for nothing less than stones that are of superb quality from the jeweler you trust.

Troy Vinson Jewelers is your “go-to source” for the exceptional when looking for the perfect gift,

especially the perfect diamond. The collection of loose stones Troy Vinson Jewelers has for you to choose from is one of the largest collections in North Texas. It is also one of the highest-quality selections you will find. Regardless of the size, shape, color, or clarity, you will also discover their prices are the most competitive in the market.

And Troy Vinson Jewelers provides custom design services to aid you in creating something unique to capture the individual.

Begin your love story with an engagement ring from the Romance Bridal Collection. Two become one with lustrous 18k gold paired with the brilliance of fine diamonds. Troy stocks an excellent selection of engagement rings, from timeless styles to the most sought-after looks. You can rest assured that each piece is crafted with everlasting quality.

Promise her forever after with an engagement ring from the Romance collection at Troy Vinson Jewelers. If Valentine’s Day coincides with an anniversary, birthday, or another special milestone, and you are interested in something to honor the occasion, Troy Vinson Jewelers features designers like Gabriel for those who prefer a more modern, contemporary look.

Let your refined tastes speak for themselves. Indulge in the expensive fine jewelry collection Gabriel is known for. Unparalleled artistry, stunning designs, and superior metals, diamonds, and gemstones will inspire you.

A family-owned enterprise since its inception in 1971, Troy Vinson Jewelers has made customer care about a cherished family tradition.

Everyone there is dedicated to helping you find the perfect gift for every occasion.

You can select from fashion jewelry with an array of gemstones, fine watches for the consummate collector, and Designer Bridal settings, any bride will say “yes.”

Regardless of your selection, a gift from Troy Vinson Jewelers will be treasured for years. And for the most elegant gift ever, give a gift that is as dazzling and unforgettable as they are.

Give them diamonds from Troy Vinson Jewelers.

Troy Vinson in Granbury on Hwy 377 or visit troyvinsonjewelers.com.

Sydney Howell, Harps of Gold — Music As Versatile as It Is Beautiful

Music can make your special event seem even more memorable. While many brides opt for a live band or DJ to provide music for their weddings and receptions, some have added an extra touch of elegance by engaging a harpist. Our suggestion is that you engage the incomparable Sydney Howell, Parker County’s premiere harpist.

The harp is an ancient instrument, its sound soothing and romantic, even elegant, but its range is not limited to classical music. The harp, in Sydney’s hands is surprisingly versatile.

With over 50 years’ experience and a master’s degree in harp from The New England Conservatory in Boston, Sydney has made a career of performing and teaching with the iconic instrument. She played with the Fort Worth Symphony for more than two decades and has taught at TCU for more than three decades years.

“I create the perfect mood for any special event, including weddings, funerals, birthday parties, anniversaries, info show-and-tell about the harp, church services, orchestra or chamber music concerts, etc.”

Her music genres include classical, golden

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oldies, folk, jazz, some country, and pop. A Suzuki Method specialist, which uses the “mother tongue” or by-ear approach to learning an instrument, she teaches students aged 5-85.

Asked what sets her apart, Sydney said, “I am very good at improvising in challenging situations, such as a long-delayed ceremony because the groom is late, etc., playing in strong winds (my husband once had to hold onto the harp while I was playing to keep it from tipping over). I am also a good accompanist for a solo vocalist or instrumentalist, and a good sight reader, not easily concerned about last-minute changes. I have a beautiful gold harp and am told that I am attractive playing it. I take requests and every client receives one of my CD’s and a live interview if requested. My goal is a satisfied client, whatever it takes!”

Unflappable, Sydney said, readily steps in to help with even last-minute problems.

“Some clients call me very close to their date in a panic because someone they hired has bailed. I am happy to reassure them that I am fully capable to handle their needs,” she said. “If ever I must cancel for any reason, I always find a sub. This has happened a few times when I accidentally double-booked. If there is an acoustic issue, I have my own mike and amp to amplify the harp. I also have my own battery-powered stand light. If there is a delay, I can play as long as needed. If a certain song is requested, I can either order the music online..

” Again—whatever it takes,” Sydney said with a smile.

Asked if she could recall an especially challenging or memorable event, Howell said, “The craziest wedding I ever played was in the country. Rain was forecast for later afternoon, but it came in torrents just before the wedding. Some of the guests and I were under a tent, but the wedding party and a few guests remained in the rain, sans umbrellas, throughout the rather brief ceremony and were drenched! The harp and I also got a little damp, but nothing damaging.”

More information may be found at harpsogold.com

Nora Spencer Bridal & Formal Find Your Dream Bridal Gown— Without Ever Leaving Parker County

Kimberly and Eric McClintock recognized a niche in the Parker County retail market some time ago, but it wasn’t until one of Eric’s co-workers told them about her past career managing a large, successful bridal salon in Pennsylvania that they ever seri-

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NORA SPENCER
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ously considered owning a bride and formal boutique.

Today, the McClintock are the proud owners of Nora Spencer Bridal & Formal, which is Parker County's only premiere bridal salon and prom/formal boutique.

The McClintocks opened Nora Spencer in early February. They named the salon after their grandmothers.

"Nora was my grandmother and Eric's grandmother's maiden name was Beatrice Spenser," Kimberly said, pointing out the pictures of both their grandmothers that are prominently displayed in the store. "We feel like they're watching over us and they'd be proud."

Eric's former co-worker Debbie McVay is the store's manager and merchandiser. "She has all the expertise in this field," said Kimberly, who works as a high school counselor for Brock ISD. "Eric and I really have two full-time jobs right now... We have learned a lot about the bridal dress industry as well as the prom gown business and yes, it's been a lot of fun, a lot more than we ever thought it would be. We're super excited. We wanted to bring something to Parker County that it hasn't really had before."

Soon, Nora Spencer Bridal & Formal will add another wedding essential to their offerings.

"We're going back to market next month," McVay said. "We will be bringing in a selection of mother-of-the-bride dresses. So many of these dresses that you see today in bridal shops are just so matronly. Ours will be far from matronly. You'll find that our mother-of-the-bride gowns are both flattering and fashionable."

A total of about 60 Private label wedding gowns are featured in Nora Spencer Bridal & Formal. They sport a red ribbon.

Prom gowns are floor-length and homecoming dresses are street length.

For the last-minute bride, Nora Spencer Bridal & Formal will soon carry bridal gowns that are available for off-the-rack purchase.

One popular trend in bridal wear is for the bride to purchase a gown for the wedding and a less voluminous dress as to wear to the reception. To answer that trend, a number of the designers are including bridal gowns that have removable overskirts to reveal a sleeker silhouette, making it a gown that is easier dance in,

celebrate in and wear while moving through the reception. It's also a style that can be found at Nora Spenser Bridal & Formal.

The salon's offering includes JH Bridal, Allure, and Air Barcelona, as well as a gorgeous array of accessories for both weddings and prom, especially an excellent selection of handbags.

"Our selection will continue to grow," McVay said. "Right now, we're taking baby steps."

Tuscan Oaks Estate Lovely Mediterranean Estate and Ballroom in the Heart of Parker County

An increasingly popular wedding concept is the estate wedding where everything from the rehearsal dinner to the bridal brunch that's held the morning after the wedding.

Tuscan Oaks Estate is a gorgeous Mediterranean-inspired estate and event center located outside the in Weatherford.

This stunning 10-bedroom estate and event center is nestled on 14 acres of beautiful oak trees, manicured lawns, and serene fountains.

The estate comfortably accommodates up to 20 guests, including the newlyweds, and is available for up to 7 nights. It's perfect for hosting everything from the rehearsal dinner and post-wedding brunch, this estate and ballroom are ideal for a stress-free wedding experience. A single day-of rental also includes two large suites perfect for relaxing and getting ready on your big day.

The bridal's suite is complete with a large sitting room, dressing area surrounded by beautiful floor-length mirrors, kitchenette, and large hair and makeup room complete with four mirrored vanities and ample space for hair and makeup artists.

The groom's suite has its own private entrance, complete with a pool table, card table, and sitting area perfect for enjoying the morning with friends and family. The day-of rental will also include access to the estate's



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dining room, kitchen, and large foyer. Upon arrival, your guests will follow breathtaking pathways leading to the ceremony site that overlooks the serene pond and fountain. Beyond the ceremony site is the outdoor cocktail hour area, where guests can mingle while enjoying beverages and appetizers. Soon after, guests will be ushered to the reception ballroom, where they will enjoy dinner and dancing. The indoor space can host up to 180 guests, and larger guest counts can be accommodated when the

reception is held outdoors— whether in an open-air reception or under a tent. The property's accent and twinkle lights are perfect for a reception ambiance, nighttime portraits, or a beautiful grand exit.

Tuscan Oaks couples can use the vendors of their choice, and alcohol is BYOB as long as a licensed TABC bartender is serving.

Tuscan Oaks Estate is a great choice for your special day!

Also visit these other great wedding vendors:

Arrowhead Event Company

Annalise Orr
160 Cottongame Dr.
Weatherford, TX 76088
817-713-8214
arrowheadeventcompany.com
info@arrowheadeventco.com

Black Ranch Event Center

Kimber Black
3220 Mineral Wells Hwy
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903-468-2198
BlackRanchEventCenter.com
Blackranchevents@gmail.com

Bliss Bridal Salon

JT/Wendy Holsomback
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jt@blissbridalsalon.com

City Kitchen Catering

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Club Pilates Weatherford

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Clubpilates.com/location/weatherford
weatherford@clubpilates.com

Cole's Cookies

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Firefly Photography

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fireflyphotographynbt@gmail.com

Fox & Vine Weddings

Carrie Spivey
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Granbury, TX 76049
817-223-6950
Foxandvineweddings.com
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Gullivers Travel

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