1- The Menu

I will never minimize the importance of quality wedding food, but with that said, your menu doesn't have to be the coup de grâce, end-all be-all of wedding meals. People will remember your wedding for how they felt, not what they ate. Don't aim to impress everyone with every dish served. And do not feel pressured to reinvent the wheel with your menu selection. Guests don't show up for the food anyway- they come to support and celebrate you!

2- The Caterer

Believe it or not, This vendor impacts your wedding with much more than simply the food you serve. Before you book your caterer, ask about more than just their menu. Ask about their communication plan. Ask who leads their team on your day-of. Ask how they ensure that the food will stay hot throughout your long receiving line. Make sure that they are experienced in the coordination of serving to your guests, whether that be through a buffet or a table serving option. Most importantly, ensure that you are CONFIDENT in your catering leader and team.

3- The Cake flavor

Don't alienate a big chunk of your guests by choosing a fanciful flavor than you either love or absolutely hate. Remember, you will likely only eat a couple of bites of this cake; and those bites will be for a cake cutting photo opp! Don't base this choice off of your personal favorite, go with something simple that everyone will like. Consider adding different flavors with multiple layers of cake! You want everyone to eat up your expensive cake, don't you?

4- The Favors

Please count for me how many wedding favors you have kept over the years... Okay, now, do not give your end-of-night favors more than 30 minutes of consideration in your planning schedule. They are not a make or break detail. Yes, they can be a fun keepsake and maybe your closest friends will hold onto them, but more than likely, they will end up in a trashcan at some point. Do not make favors a huge deal and do not spend too much money on them. Go for a snack instead!? People will definitely eat the food.

5- The Schedule of Events

If you are tight on your budget, consider forgoing the mass-printed itineraries for every guest. These are also likely to end up in the trash, or left on the table altogether at the end of the night. Instead, if you are intent on showcasing an itinerary, have one, large sign notifying guests as they enter your venue! Not only are they showstoppers, but they can be a keepsake, or reused for a friend in the future!

6- The Shoes

Girl, let me save you the hassle of sticking your worn, bright red, blistery feet in the tub during your wedding night. Break in your shoes before your wedding day! I know you want to wear the new shoes- but whether they are stilettos, chunky heels, or keds, all brand new shoes are prone to rubbing. Run around your house in them for a couple of days before your wedding festivities get started. Keep it indoors to avoid smudges. You'll thank me later, I promise!

7- The Unexpected

Something will go awry. Handle it with grace and laugh it off! Your wedding day will likely have at least one thing that is different from the original plan- that is okay!

Mentally prepare yourself to go with the flow and just enjoy your day. Everyone will feed off of the couple's energy-especially the bride's! You two are the ones that everyone is looking to. If something goes differently than planned, just smile and roll with it. More than likely, no one will have any idea that you've deviated from the script at all!

7 things BRIDES CANNOT AFFORD TO FORGET

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