

# 12 Ways to Make your Wedding Look High-End on a Budget

*A Kate Mannella Bridal Freebie*





## Choose a Sophisticated Color Palette.

The right color palette makes all the difference. Consider neutrals, soft pastels, and muted color tones instead of using all high-saturated colors. These softer tones look more sophisticated and high-end. Pops of color can work so well when balanced with other softer tones.





## *Invest in your Bouquet.*

If your budget for florals is tight, I suggest investing a big chunk of that money into your dream bouquet. The bride's bouquet is in almost every picture the bride is in. Let that bouquet shine. Then, cut back on the bridesmaids florals or the centerpieces. We all want a celebration teeming with beautiful flowers, but if you can't afford it, rest assured that I can photograph the bride's bouquet in a way that make your florals look abundant!

## *Play up the Head Table.*

Decorating a reception can get pricey, especially if you have a lot tables to dress up. Just like the bridal bouquet, I suggest investing in the head table. Give it some lovely floral arrangements, linens, drapy silk runners, and china! Your head table will make a big impact on the overall look of the celebration! Then give every other table a simple look with linens, light florals, and candles.

## *Create a Focal Point.*

Make one piece for everyone to fall head over heels. Bonus points if it's mobile. This gorgeous focal point can be used as a backdrop for your ceremony, the setting for your portraits, and then moved to your reception to bring attention to your cake or as a guest photo backdrop. You don't need a ton of decor spread all over your venue. Just make your decor count and use it to draw in the attention of your guests for those important parts of the celebration!

## *Pay Attention to the Details.*

Details may not be as important as the ceremony images or the bride and groom portraits, but they do serve a few very important roles. First, detail images give you a fuller picture of the wedding day. If you see a wedding album or blog post, you'll notice it's the details that give context, establish a color story, and transition seamlessly to other parts of the wedding day. They also invite you to see the same scene from a new perspective. They call you to come closer and savor the day. Those details matter!







## *Look for the Light.*

This is more of a technical tip, but as a rule of thumb, venues that contain a lot of natural light are going to photograph better. More natural light means your images will be lighter, airier, and have more dimension. A good photographer can create beautiful images anywhere, but a venue that has great natural light or not a lot of mixed lighting (several different kinds of light) will save the photographer a tremendous amount of time. Saved time means you get more photos! Natural light also flatters the subject of an image so be especially on the lookout for big windows in the spaces you will get ready or spend a majority of your day.

## *Get Personal.*

Every couple is different and I fully believe their celebration should reflect who they are. That's means you have freedom to be yourself. Don't like traditional weddings? Celebrate outside, take your shoes off, and get comfortable. Love coffee? Create a coffee bar! Want a food truck? Why not! The day is yours and the celebration should be YOURS, too. Those personal touches express your story and set your celebration apart.





## *Consider a First Look!*

First looks not only leave you with 30% more bride and groom portraits, they also double the opportunity to experience that sweet, emotional moment you get when your groom sees you dressed like his bride. Some brides want the experience of their groom seeing them for the first time as they are walking down the aisle. They dream of that moment, and that's a beautiful thing! In my experience, though, the groom is much more reserved when all eyes are on him and he is expected to have an incredible reaction. A first look eliminates the nerves a bride and groom feel before the ceremony. It creates a space to experience each other in a private setting with no expectations. The best part is, with your nerves gone before your "I dos", you have more freedom to be present during the ceremony.



## *Prioritize What Matters Most to You.*

There is only so much time in a wedding day, and sometimes that means give and take. Are great bride and groom portraits important to you? Having enough time for those portraits might mean choosing not to do a receiving line. Talk to your photographer about what you prioritize and let their expertise help you make decisions to achieve it.







## *Carve Out Time for Sunset Portraits.*

This is the best advice I can give. Take time to get photographs when the light is softest. It's called Magic Hour for a reason. That soft glowy light from the sun right before it sinks below the horizon is magic. The photographer doesn't have to work as hard to control that light, and you benefit from it! By far, these are the photographs my past clients have loved most. They are the photos you will want to print and hang up for all your guests to see.

## *Hire a Wedding Planner.*

If you just aren't a decorator... If you love beautiful things, but you don't know how to put it all together yourself, hire a wedding planner. Their job is to make your vision a reality and eliminate stress!! A wedding planner might feel like an unnecessary expense, but they are a lot more affordable than you might guess. They stick to your budget and, because they have great relationships with so many talented wedding vendors, they can get you deals and save you money!

*Have Fun!*

This is your wedding day. It's a celebration!! Know you have the freedom to hug and snuggle and celebrate. The most beautiful part of a wedding is the happy couple, in love and grateful for the relationships and the people around them!

