



# THE **Stylish** DREAM WEDDING PLANNING CHECKLIST

—  
*one*  
LOVE

ONELOVEPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

# THE Stylish DREAM WEDDING PLANNING Checklist

+1 YEAR AWAY

## RESEARCH AND HIRE PLANNER

- Set up a wedding website
- Create a wedding-specific email addy
- Consider hiring a planner
- Set a budget (also hard to do realistically without a planner)

We've worked with hundreds of planners in CA over 15 years. These are **the very best** at curating personal, stylish weddings

YOU PUT A RING ON IT! 💍

## FIRST STEPS

Celebrate! (And get all the free drinks + fun wherever you go!)

Announce your engagement (if you like)



**With a busy life and a million decisions to make – where do you even start? Right here!**

SECURE VENUE

12 MONTHS

- While some venues have availability less than a year out, the best values/most in demand places start booking a year in advance
- Decide on the style or the theme of your wedding (*Ideas: Modern Glam, Fairytale, Cottagecore, Modern Rustic, Garden Party*)
- Choose your wedding party, if you are having one

11 MONTHS

## BOOK PHOTOGRAPHER + PLANNER

- The most in demand photographers and planners tend to book about a year out.
- If you're only looking for a month-of coordinator, this is also a good time to find them.

10 MONTHS

## GIFTS AND CELEBRATIONS

- Talk about details for your bachelorette/bachelor parties, as well as your bridal shower
- Schedule appointments for dress/suit fittings
- Start your registry

**TIP: Hire a coordinator.**  
Often, they are going to be one step ahead of the disasters and know how to prevent unnecessary stress.  
Do you really want your friends/family working instead of enjoying your wedding?



#### FOOD AND FLORAL

- Schedule catering tastings
- Book your florist ([see our list of fave florists in CA!](#))
- Choose your officiant
- Think about your honeymoon destination!
- International/travel weddings: send date the dates 9-10 months out

9 MONTHS

**Your *STYLISH, DREAM* wedding.**  
**You're throwing out the rulebook**  
**and making it *SUPER* personal.**

And we're right there with you, capturing every beautiful detail, from the breathtaking florals to that heart-pounding moment when you first lay eyes on each other.

8 MONTHS

#### SAVE THE DATE

- Send your Save the Dates for local guest travel
- Decide on wedding party look
- Book your DJ/Live Music

Here is the list of the live bands and DJs that continue to keep the dance floors LIT 🔥 at every wedding!

**TIP:** Pick one night of the week for a "wedding planning date" and limit wedding planning conversations to this evening. This prevents constant wedding talk and burnout.



7 MONTHS

#### ODDS AND ENDS

- Confirm rentals (linens, decor)
- Plan your final payments
- Look into legal name change (if applicable)
- Relax! Spa day

6 MONTHS

#### PRE-PARTIES

- Plan your bridal shower (co-ed showers are VERY fun these days)
- Research marriage license requirements
- Consider a post-wedding boozy brunch plan

5 MONTHS

#### IT'S GETTING REAL

- Finalize your looks and final fittings
- Plan your welcome event theme (Ideas: Pool party, Hoe-down, Pizza party, Luau, Havana nights)
- Schedule dessert tastings
- Decide on readings for the ceremony
- Finalize invitation design

4 MONTHS

#### SIGNAGE + HMUA

- Order your invitations
- Get creative with custom signs! Signature cocktails, welcome sign, menus
- Book your H&M team
- Book wedding day transportation for guests/wedding party
- Decide on your getting ready location for the wedding day



## STAY TRUE TO YOU

🔗 Don't ask or consider everyone's opinions. At the end of the day, everyone will have a different idea and it may be too much to handle.

🔗 Don't do anything out of obligation. Nothing. If you don't want a veil, don't have one no matter how much your grandma dreamed of seeing you in it. It's very easy for your wedding to be hijacked if you aren't careful.

Ready for your dream photos? Get in touch!



3 MONTHS

HONEYMOON PLAN?

- Decide on your plans for the honeymoon, and book lodging and travel
- Order a guestbook (Ask your photographer about a book with your engagement photos for guests to sign!)
- Buy gifts for the wedding party and parents
- Do you want a send-off? (*Pro tip: photographers often simulate the "grand exit" photo earlier in the night with the wedding party... Not always at the end of the night*)

2 MONTHS

GUESTS INVITES AND OFFICIANT

- Send out your invitations and wait by the mailbox/email replies to start coming in! Yaaa!
- Time to finalize your menus
- Order your rings and write your vows
- First dress fitting

**TIP:** Hand your phone to your bestie on the wedding day. Let someone else play point on questions and texts

1 WEEK

RELAX.

- This week should be about pampering - get a massage, do your nails, go out to dinner
- DELEGATE, DELEGATE, DELEGATE
- A happy couple is a couple who delegates. Trust us
- Start packing your bags
- Coordinator helps with confirming final payments to all vendors and their timeline

1 MONTH

LET THE PLANNER HANDLE IT

- This is exactly the time you need your planner the most. You have been non-stop, and you need to ENJOY the month of your wedding
- A planner will finalize your timeline and help with RSVPs, the seating chart, and communicate with ALL vendors on your behalf. So YOU can live your life.

DAY OF

LET'S DO THIS!!

- Hand your phone to your bestie and unplug. Let someone else play point on all questions and texts, that's not your job today!
- Ask others to do things for you today. (Can you be responsible for "X" today? Thanks!)
- Take at least 5 minutes alone with your partner. The day FLIES by... try and slow it down for a few minutes.

- Send out thank-you cards
- You can tip a vendor anytime - if you forget, send it after you get back from your honeymoon!
- Wait for your amazing wedding photos to arrive!!!

AFTER THE WEDDING



# THE **Stylish** DREAM WEDDING PLANNING Checklist

## 8-12+ MONTHS

- ♡ Set a Budget
- ♡ Hire a Coordinator
- ♡ Choose a venue
- ♡ Create wedding website
- ♡ Hire photographer and caterer
- ♡ Choose a Wedding Dress
- ♡ Plan Bachelor/Bachelorette
- ♡ Send Save the Dates

## 4-7 MONTHS

- ♡ Research Marriage license
- ♡ Decide on wedding theme
- ♡ Finalize invitation design
- ♡ Book Hair and Makeup, Florist, Music
- ♡ Plan Rehearsal Dinner and Bridal Shower
- ♡ Schedule final outfit fittings
- ♡ Decide on custom signage
- ♡ Find wedding day getting ready locations

## 2-3 MONTHS

- ♡ Send invitations
- ♡ Plan Honeymoon
- ♡ Finalize menu
- ♡ Order rings
- ♡ First dress fitting
- ♡ Order a Guestbook
- ♡ Buy gifts for wedding party
- ♡ Book wedding day transportation

## 1 MONTH

- ♡ Give coordinator all contracts and invoices
- ♡ Collect RSVPs
- ♡ Delegate tasks to friends and family
- ♡ Choose a photo helper for family photos
- ♡ Start packing your bags
- ♡ Make final payments
- ♡ Invitations and RSVPs

## WEEK OF

- ♡ Get a massage!
- ♡ Wax and nail appointments
- ♡ Get a ton of sleep!
- ♡ Have a "no wedding talk" date night
- ♡ Clean your rings
- ♡ Practice your vows out loud



We're more than just wedding photographers — we're storytellers dedicated to capturing your day in a way that feels natural, effortless, and entirely you.

You are fun-loving, creative, and passionate. You are all about making the day your own — **throwing out the rulebook** to create a wedding that's memorable and true to you.

And we're right there with you, capturing every beautiful detail, from the breathtaking florals to that heart-pounding moment when you first lay eyes on each other.

For us, it's about building a genuine connection with you:

- **making you feel comfortable**
- **helping you let go of stiff poses**
- **enjoying the moment**

From there, we capture all the joy, happy tears, and in-between magic.

## Ready for your *Dream Photos*?

Book us for your romantic, in-the-moment wedding photography in California!

Get in touch at  
**ONELOVEPHOTOGRAPHY.COM**

If you're still in the exploration phase or have more questions, no worries at all.

Send any questions you have at: —> [\*\*sara@onelovephotography.com\*\*](mailto:sara@onelovephotography.com)