

# The Barn Yard

# Wedding Planning Checklist

*Eight gentle stages, from the day you say yes to the night before*

## Stage One

GETTING STARTED

- Determine your "total" budget
- Draft your wedding guestlist for a rough idea of numbers
- Think about your wedding date
- Decide on your 'vibe', countryside, modern, rustic or traditional
- Research venues you'd like to view and prepare your questions
- Book venue viewings and meet the planners
- Research and list suppliers (DJs, florists, photographers)
- Decide on a bridal party and groomsmen
- Allocate responsibilities for stag and hen planning

## Stage Two

12 TO 18 MONTHS

- Secure your date with the venue deposit and contract
- Decide on your wedding theme (colour palette and design)
- Book your shortlisted suppliers
- Start shopping for your wedding dress
- Book local accommodation for yourselves and out-of-town guests
- Send out the save the dates
- Set reminders for when payments are due for your venue and suppliers
- Insure your engagement ring and buy wedding insurance

## Stage Three

6 TO 8 MONTHS

- Send out your invites
- Meet your booked florist to discuss ideas and visions
- Choose the bridesmaid dresses and accessories, and schedule fittings
- Create a playlist for your ceremony, first and last dance
- Order any rental items, and check what the venue provides
- Book your notice of marriage appointment with the local registry office

## Stage Four

4 TO 5 MONTHS

- Book transport for guests, and check what the venue provides
- Book transport for yourselves (luxury cars or limos)
- Buy the all-important suit for the groom
- Schedule a menu tasting with your caterers

## Stage Five

2 TO 3 MONTHS

- Have your hair and makeup trials
- Plan and finalise your menu with your caterer
- Brainstorm guest favours and bridal party gifts
- Write your vows
- Settle final balances for most suppliers
- Send your playlist to the DJ for the evening party
- Buy accessories: toiletries, favours and party gifts
- Book a meeting with the venue to finalise details
- Create a table seating plan and send it to your venue
- Have a final venue walk-through

## Stage Six

1 MONTH

- Assemble your gift bags
- Pay your venue and suppliers in full
- Order custom name place cards for the tables
- Have your final dress fitting
- Have your hen and stag party
- Break in your wedding shoes, comfort is key

## Stage Seven

FINAL WEEK

- Pamper yourself: nails, facials, hair and a massage
- Collect your wedding dress
- Practise any speeches or personal vows
- Organise items to be delivered to the venue, boxed and labelled

## Stage Eight

NIGHT BEFORE

- Pack a clutch or small bag of personal items
- Clean and pack your rings
- Pack the car with all your items
- Steam the dress and iron the shirts

*With love, The Barn Yard*

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