



# Spring Brides



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# Planning for Spring Showers

Spring temperatures make the season an enticing time for brides and grooms to celebrate their union.

The comfortable climate affords outdoor weddings with beautiful views and an exciting atmosphere. However, spring's wet weather can demand you to completely change the plan for your big day and it can leave your guests out in the rain if you don't prepare.

Since most weddings are planned

long in advance, it's important to have both a wet and dry weather plan in place. If you're dedicated to hosting an outdoor event, find a venue or planner who is efficient when making quick adjustments. With details for both types of events in place, you can enjoy your special day without worry.

## **BACKUP TENT OR VENUE**

Most spring climates in the United States will be comfortable enough for an outdoor wedding. The problem many run into is precipitation. If your chosen venue doesn't feature a building dedicated to indoor events, ask the

owners if a canopy or tent is permissible.

Make sure to bring this up during your venue visits to learn their rules about bringing tents on the property; some may prefer you to work with a specific vendor. It's important to inquire about additional fees from the venue and receive a quote from a tenting company to add to your wedding budget.

## **OTHER CONCERNS**

Another outdoor wedding concern should be the condition of the grounds. Even if your big day isn't spoiled by

rain, previous precipitation can create muddy or slippery conditions. When viewing an outdoor venue, ensure they have a walkway of concrete or stone that leads to the altar. Wind may be another factor that can spoil your exciting event. If it is in the forecast, make sure all your decorations are secured.

## **RAIN ACCESSORIES**

When there's a chance of light showers, a simple canopy and items like umbrellas or ponchos can keep your wedding guests comfortable. If it is in your budget, try to color coordinate the accessories to your theme.

# Venue Decoration Tips

One of the most exciting parts of planning a wedding is decorating the venues where you will say your vows and celebrate afterward. Spring encourages colorful displays of bouquets, romantic centerpieces and attractive treats.

If the adventure of planning a wedding doesn't fit into your busy schedule, hiring a planner can take much of the stress away. Allow them to be creative while sticking to your greatest desires.

The event's image will stay true to your expectations while taking the brunt of the responsibility off your shoulders.

Whether you decorate yourself or hire an expert to help, here are some ways to make the most out of the spring atmosphere while making your wedding experience one to remember forever.

## BEAUTIFUL COLOR PALETTE

Choosing a venue like an arboretum, conservatory or greenhouse can create a beautiful atmosphere for a spring wedding. Once you have the perfect place in mind, take advantage of attractive colors that are naturally present during this comfortable season.



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Flowers featuring pastel hues, buoyant blossoms and cheerful colors make a great contribution to a gorgeous backdrop. If you're hosting an outdoor event, ask the venue owners about which flowers are typically in bloom during the month of your scheduled event.

## SPRING-THEMED CENTERPIECE

Create an amazing display at your reception venue by building spring-themed centerpieces. For your guest tables, consider wildflowers overflowing from vases, sprigs of accent branches and astounding blooms.

The bride and groom's table should feature an impressive display of flowers related to your color palette. Think seasonal springtime flowers that give your table plenty of pop. Peonies offer beautiful colors and boisterous blooms that serve as a perfect addition to your celebration photos.

Hiring a local florist is an efficient way to obtain the most attractive blooms to give your wedding a natural appearance. Ask your friends, family members and colleagues if they know of any local professionals who can add some flair to your floral arrangements and centerpieces.

# Fashionable Trends

Each season, designers debut their latest wedding dress creations. The features for 2020 make a bold statement while celebrating the class and grace brides deserve.

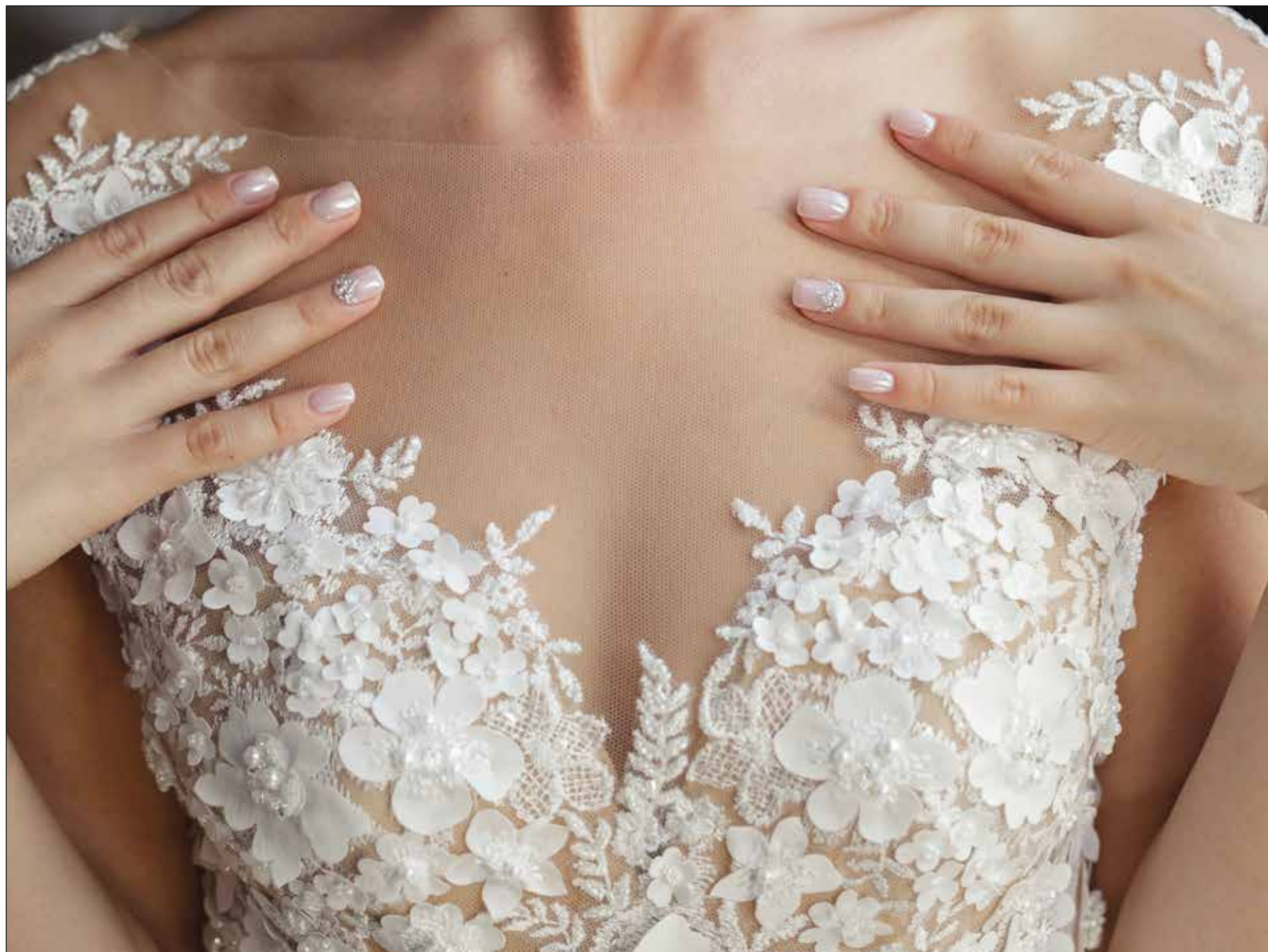
If you're still looking for the perfect gown to wear down the aisle, consider one of these trending approaches to help you stand out on your special day.

## HALF-SKIRTS

This design commonly features a sheer overlay, with the half-skirt circling back half a shift. It is an elegant way to define the waist while creating a visual aesthetic to accompany a beautiful dress. Brides and designers are raving about the half-skirt because it is easily removed to transition from wedding to reception mode without the hassle of a major change.

## 3D FLORAL

In most of the country, spring is known for the welcome return of beautiful blooms after an uncomfortable winter. While floral has always been a popular addition to wedding gowns, the illusion of a three-dimensional portrait gives the style a more modern feel. While many of this year's featured



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dresses are white, a designer may be able to custom build your gown to feature colorful accents.

## REMOVABLE SLEEVES

Versatility is key when dressing fresh and staying comfortable during your wedding day. With removable sleeves, brides are free to

quickly change the appearance of their dress as the event progresses. Designers have created attractive gowns with puffy sleeves, off-shoulder slips and even removable bell varieties.

## BALLET INSPIRED

If a princess-inspired wedding dress is more your taste,

you won't be disappointed by the ballet-inspired trend upcoming for 2020.

Find your inner ballerina with leotard underlays and even classy tutu-inspired skirts. You are sure to make a statement during your first dance as a couple and turn heads throughout the entire event.

## T-SHIRTS

How does a T-shirt fit into a classy and elegant wedding? This year's fashion show featured stunning gowns with lacy sleeves that resemble the comfortable attire. Don't dismiss the fashion statement these unique gowns make before seeing yourself in one during a fitting.

# The Professionals You Need

Planning a wedding requires a lot of moving parts and the list of available wedding professionals is long. How do you know which one you need to enlist while staying true to your budget?

These are some common experts who can take the stress of planning a wedding off your shoulders and allow yourself more time to enjoy the experience.

## PLANNING SERVICE

Hiring a wedding planner is a great way to ensure all the boxes are checked before the event. You should ask yourself how much help you will need. Here are a few things to expect when working with an expert.

**Consultation:** During the initial meeting, you should express your expectations for the wedding. They will discuss available packages and determine if they are needed for full service, day of coordination or both.

**Find a venue:** Based on your specifications, a planner can show you different locations to become the setting of your dream day.

**Big day:** If you hire a full-time planner, they will be a crucial component during each aspect of the wedding



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event. They are efficient ensuring vendors are setting up correctly and providing direction to your wedding party and guests.

## PHOTOGRAPHER

Of course, one professional present at nearly every wed-

ding is a quality photographer. Through their vision and direction, images of your special day will be captured forever. Before hiring this expert, ask for referrals and examples of their previous work. You should be clear about the type of photos you want pre-wedding, during the

event and those after the vows.

## FLORIST

To get the most out of the beautiful blooms of spring, a local florist is an efficient expert in creating centerpieces, bouquets and accents. If you're traveling for a destination wed-

ding, research experts in the area for the best results in a location you are not familiar with.

Keep in mind, most communication will likely be done through phone calls or emails, so it's imperative to cover your wishes with great detail.

# Wedding Day Emergency Kit

Packing an emergency kit before your wedding can help tend to mishaps during the big event. With proper planning, you can alleviate the worry of torn clothing, makeup disasters and even hunger pangs from getting in your way.

Whether your wedding is local or away from home at a luxurious location, keep these crucial items nearby. That way you're not stuck in a state of panic when you should be focused on celebrating the next stage of your life.

## SEWING KIT

A simple kit can be a life-saver during a wardrobe emergency. Bring along an assortment of needles, different colored threads, scissors, hem thread and safety pins. Learn to master these tools in case of a disaster like an ill-fitting dress or accidental tears. When you're prepared for small problems to arise during your wedding day, knowing the solution can make them much less stressful.

## TOUCH-UP SUPPLIES

Since you will likely be dressed and prepared for your wedding long before you say your vows, it's important



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to keep beauty supplies accessible. Here are some items you should consider.

**Makeup:** Mascara, foundation and lipstick are infamous for smudging or running. Especially if you will be outdoors for pictures, the need for a touch up may be crucial when a photo opportunity arises.

**Hair accessories:** You

should also be prepared to address messy hair situations. Keep items like bobby pins, hairspray and a brush in the dressing area to touch up your hairdo before walking down the aisle.

**Perfume and deodorant:** Assume that you will sweat during photographs in your wedding dress. Ensure you smell as good as you look by

keeping these important toiletries nearby.

## SNACKS AND WATER

With all the nerves and excitement you will experience during the buildup to your wedding, it's easy to forget basic needs like nourishing yourself. Of course, you don't want to have a generous meal before your catered

meal at the reception, but you should plan to bring along healthy snacks like granola bars, nuts and protein bars.

Keeping yourself nourished and hydrated throughout the day will ensure you feel your best when it's time to walk down the aisle in front of your closest family and friends.

# Spring Wedding Necessities

Make your spring wedding unforgettable by taking advantage of the incredible elements the season provides.

The sights and smells of blossoming flowers will already create a stunning backdrop. Adding these gorgeous accents can add even more excitement to your day of wonder.

Spring also presents more options for the clothing you choose. The right style will not only make an impression in photos, but lightweight material and soft colors keep your friends and family comfortable. Try to have fun with bridesmaid dresses by encouraging your girls to choose similarly designed outfits in different shades of color.

Here are some other spring-themed ideas to create a wedding that you won't forget.

## OUTDOOR DANCE FLOOR

Consider a venue that offers an outdoor dance floor to share your special moments under a star-filled sky. The logistics of setting up a reception outside can require more planning than an indoor venue. Talk to the owners to ensure their floor-space will fit the number of guests you expect and if they have electricity to power your band's or DJ's equipment.



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## DRINK STAND

After cutting it up on the dance floor, your guests will undoubtedly be thirsty. Quench their thirst by offering their favorite drinks in an eye-catching manner. To add a variety of color to your bar, use clear glass pitchers and fill them with a variety of drinks like lemonade, fruit punch

and tea.

You may consider creating separate areas for alcoholic and nonalcoholic drinks so that every guest feels comfortable.

## DELICIOUS DESSERTS

One of the most underrated aspects of the reception meal is the dessert. This portion of the menu has a chance to leave a

lasting impression with your guests and inspire them to use your ideas in their own future events.

A staple at most weddings is a delicious and beautiful wedding cake. Ask a decorator to design the centerpiece with floral colors that match the rest of your event's pallet. You should also take advantage of in-sea-

son berries and fruits for a garnish to make the delicacy even more attractive.

In addition to a spring-themed cake, consider offering other appealing desserts. Colorful pies and cookies can satisfy your guest's sweet tooth and are a welcome addition to the buffet of any spring wedding.

# Importance of a Rehearsal

The events during your wedding day can often give you butterflies or feelings you aren't familiar with. The entire wedding party may find themselves nervous about making a mistake during the ceremony. A rehearsal is a great way for everyone involved to familiarize themselves before the big day.

A rehearsal should involve the entire party, especially young children who may be a flower girl or ring bearer. They should understand the importance of their role and exactly what is expected of them. Don't be impatient if they don't get the hang of it the first time.

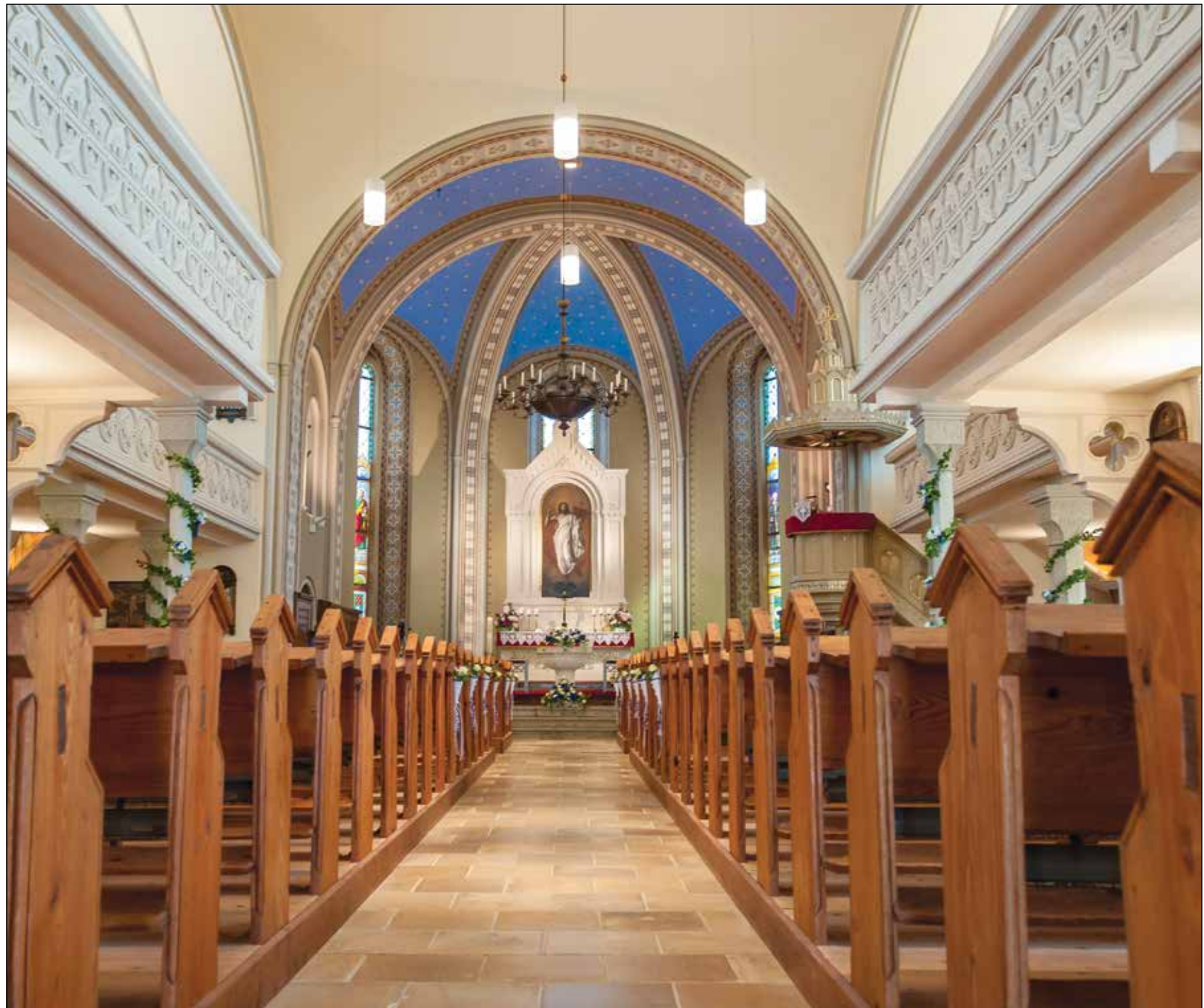
Here are some tips to throw the perfect rehearsal so your wedding can go on without a hitch.

## LINING UP

Decide which of your party will be accompanying each other down the aisle and in what order. Many brides choose to sort appearances by height or factors like how long they have been friends. This order should be discussed before the rehearsal, so each member knows where to line up.

You should also determine the pace you wish your party to travel down the aisle. Plan to choose a point for them to stop for a photo opportunity before the next couple begins. Take the time to practice this until you are satisfied with the progression.

A quick tip for success is to ask your wedding party to wear the shoes they



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will use at the event. This makes it easy for them to get a feel for walking in heels or uncomfortable dress shoes.

## TEST EQUIPMENT

Once you are confident that your wedding guests are proficient in the wedding process, you should ensure the equipment that will be used is

working properly. Test lighting fixtures or spotlights if they will be in use during the ceremony.

It's also beneficial to check the sound equipment if you will be playing music to accompany you down the aisle. Unless you are hiring a professional to operate these important details, give the task to a trusted guest

from the wedding.

## CELEBRATE WITH DINNER

After the rehearsal, reward your friends and family for their hard work and dedication to make your wedding day special. An affordable meal and celebration is usually a grand gesture that everyone appreciates.