

# ENGAGED TO MARRIED

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## WELCOME TO THE FIRST EDITION OF THE FEMME WEDDING COLUMN.

This first article will cover a check list of everything that needs to be considered from engagement to marriage, the following articles will concentrate on specific subjects e.g. flowers, the different options available for invitations, reception venues etc. Enjoy!



The time from those magic words of "Will you marry me?" to "I do" is an exciting emotional journey and with careful planning will culminate in your wedding day being the most wonderful day when you honour your partner in front of your family and special friends.

First and foremost your engagement is announced to all family and friends.

Enjoy this time before you start the wedding planning.

Parents should be the first to be told and one of the best parts of parenting is being able to spread good news about one's children, so maybe delegate parents to tell the grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. Start delegation at the beginning of this journey.

These days you have the various options of spreading your great news; by phone call, email, text, the slower method of writing a letter and also an announcement can be put in a newspaper but do check the spelling of all names before it is published.

Probably the first question you will be asked is "When is the wedding date?"

Around 12-18 months is probably the normal length for an engagement but other considerations have to be thought about.

### Are you planning?

- An inside or outside wedding?

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You cannot explain why two people love each other or find each other. It's something that either works or it doesn't, and you certainly don't want to mess around with it when it's working - Lea Thompson.

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- A northern or southern hemisphere honeymoon?
- Are there overseas guests to consider therefore when are the cheapest flights.
- Are any guests seriously ill, getting married themselves, pregnant or having a milestone birthday?

Weddings on Friday or Sunday are becoming popular as more time can be spent with your guests plus discounts can be negotiated with venues and other services.

Choose and ask the people you would like as best man, groomsmen, bridesmaids, flower girls, page boys, ring bearer.

### Decide the type of wedding you both want and then meet with the families to establish:

- Making a budget.
- When and where you'd like your ceremony and reception to be held. Check availability and book.
- Draw up provisional guest list.

Hire a wedding planner if desired – this person can take a load off your shoulders and often has a great list of excellent contacts for services you will need at your chosen wedding location - the average wedding can take 250 hours to plan.

Choose and book a celebrant or meet with minister or priest at your church – choosing the right person to marry you can be time consuming. Ask around before you shop around and hopefully have one recommended by a friend or relative.

Book a photographer and videographer. Choose a theme or colour scheme for your wedding – this should be carried through from the flowers to the dresses, the menswear to the table decorations. A popular combination is 3 main colours with white or ivory as base colour with highlights of gold or silver.

Select the type of music you want for your service and reception and book – either

soloist, band or DJ.

Begin the search for wedding gown, bridesmaids' dresses and groomsmen's outfits.

Find a cake maker – or a family member may have offered to make the cake(s) but does not want to be the icer.

Honeymoon bookings made.

### Flowers are an important part of a wedding:

- Bouquets for the bride and "her maids".
- Button holes for the bridegroom, his men and the fathers of bride and groom.
- Mothers of bride and groom have corsages.
- Flowers for church, reception and table centre pieces.

Organise a gift registry.

Choose a hire company and reserve furniture / equipment if needed.

Jeweller for wedding rings.

### Ask people whom you would like to officiate at your wedding:

- Readings at the marriage ceremony - a family member or a friend.
- Master of ceremonies
- Speeches at the reception may include: Toast to the bride and groom. Toast to the bride's parents. Toast to the groom's parents.

Decide on and book your wedding day transport – getting to the wedding offers you the best excuse for glamour. Whether it be in a dream car, train, bus, horse-drawn carriage, boat, water plane or helicopter it is "grand entrance" time.

Book "trial" and wedding day hair, manicure, pedicure and make-up consultation. Allow few days earlier for airbrush tanning and teeth whitening.

### Decide on and purchase:

- Wedding party accessories
- Wedding favours / gifts for guests.

### Invitations

"It is not who you invite but how you invite

them" which sets the style and tone of your wedding.

- If your wedding is around holiday time, or you are getting married abroad, you could send out "save the date" cards so your guests are made aware in advance.
- Invitations should be sent out 2-3 months before your wedding and no later than 8 weeks before.
- It is important to include all the relevant details on the invitation including the hosts' names, bride's and groom's names, ceremony location, date, time of arrival, reception venue and RSVP details. A pre-printed reply card can be an extra help to encourage guests to reply promptly.

Apply to Register of Births, Deaths and Marriages for a marriage licence – this is valid for 3 months from date of issue.

If there is to be a change of name the appropriate paperwork must be completed.

Hen and stag nights are organised by the chief bridesmaid and best man and should be held at least 2 weeks before the wedding.

Once all these things are settled, it is then checking and confirming nearer to your wedding date.

A full rehearsal of the ceremony is usually held the day before the wedding, depending on availability of everyone with major involvement.

Until next time, enjoy planning your wedding ceremony, which marks a huge turning point in your life, and the reception, which is one of the biggest parties you will ever hold. *f*