

How to Pick a Wedding Venue

You are engaged, congratulations! If you live in Texas that means that almost immediately you have to start thinking about a venue. As both a professional coach and a venue owner I'd like to ask you questions to help you narrow down your choices.

Since you already have thought about some of the most obvious considerations I want to ask you questions and offer suggestions from less traditional angles.

1. What words would you use to describe the feeling that you want your guests to have throughout the day? Which venues do you feel like that at?
2. Budget is likely important to you. How will you compare what costs are included and which ones are extra, possibly "hidden" extras? (These can really add up.) I recommend listing all the costs for your wedding and creating a cost comparison between different venues.
3. Which service and product providers do you really want to work with? Will the venue allow you to use these vendors?
4. How do you want to feel during the day? If you want a relaxed experience, for example, you may want a venue that gives you longer hours.
5. If your date is fairly firm and fairly soon, start by seeing who has availability before spending a lot of time sifting through details.
6. If a venue doesn't fit your needs or is booked, ask them who they would recommend. We have been so amazed at how cooperative the venues are with each other.
7. Which part of the whole wedding day is most important to you? Does the venue do that part the way you want? E.g. A great dance floor may be very critical to you.
8. Do you have some key values that you want to align with for your venue selection, e.g. busy downtown feel or nestled in nature?
9. What balance do you want between on-site support from the venue and privacy and freedom during the event?
10. Is it important to you to have your ceremony and reception in the same place? Each way has advantages - weigh them in light of the experience you want for yourselves and your guests. Will the venue(s) offer great photo opportunities?