



The Official
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ÉPICA

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WEDDINGS & EVENTS

The beauty of saying "I do"

Photographer: Fernando Miguel Orantes
Wedding Planner: Rebeca Jérez

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Editor's Note

May 2026 | Por Adrián Pavía

Director of IADWP Latin America & Spanish-Speaking Caribbean Chapter | General Editor ÉPICA Magazine

There is something deeply moving about watching a community come together to create experiences that transcend an event and become part of history. And that is exactly what is happening today in Guatemala. I would like to dedicate these first lines to acknowledging the enormous effort, dedication, and commitment that the entire Guatemalan community is making in preparation for what will be the upcoming IADWP LATAM Congress 2026 in Antigua Guatemala. Behind every detail there are countless hours of work, meetings, creativity, and passion. Antigua will not simply be a host city; it will become the stage for a long-awaited reunion where beauty, culture, and the spirit of our industry will once again embrace each other. I am convinced that we are about to experience an unforgettable edition filled with emotion, education, and meaningful human connection.

I would also like to pause and reflect on something I consider essential for the true growth of our industry: education. Today more than ever, becoming certified, learning, and continuing to develop professionally is no longer optional — it is a responsibility. The wedding and romance industry evolves constantly and demands professionals who are prepared, sensitive, and capable of reinventing themselves. That is why I deeply value everything generated through educational spaces, congresses, mentorships, and especially the tremendous educational work promoted by IADWP and each of its

chapters. Shared knowledge among colleagues is incredibly valuable. Learning from those who have already walked the path, listening to new perspectives, and daring to grow are all part of what is transforming our industry into a truly global community.

In this context, I would especially like to thank all the readers and contributors of ÉPICA Magazine. Each edition confirms that the magazine has become much more than an editorial platform — it has become a place of belonging for thousands of professionals around the world. Today, we are nearly 35,000 active readers who every month support, read, share, and help this platform continue to grow. That number does not simply represent reach; it represents trust. It represents an industry that wants to feel seen, inspired, and connected. Thank you to every wedding planner, designer, photographer, florist, hotelier, venue, speaker, and creative professional who is part of this universe. ÉPICA exists because of you.

We are living through complex times. The world is facing conflicts, uncertainty, and difficult realities that affect us emotionally in many ways. News of wars, crises, and division constantly reminds us that we do not live in simple times. And yet, even in the midst of all of this, love continues to find ways to move forward. And so does our industry. Because while fear attempts to dominate in some places, in others we continue bringing families together, creating celebrations, promoting destinations, and generating opportunities for thousands of people. That matters. And it matters deeply. Working within the world of romance today is, in many ways, an act of hope.

I would like to close this editorial with enthusiasm, gratitude, and absolute conviction: we must never stop dreaming. Industries grow, communities evolve, and projects become reality when passionate people stand behind them. Let us continue moving forward. Let us continue learning, creating, connecting, and believing in everything we are still capable of achieving together. Because dreams — even when they take time, even when they seem impossible — always find a way to come true.

See you very soon in Antigua Guatemala.
And the best... is still yet to come.



Adrián Pavía

Director of IADWP Latin America
& Spanish-Speaking Caribbean Chapter
General Editor ÉPICA Magazine

A romantic wedding photograph of a couple standing on stone steps outdoors. The groom is wearing a grey suit, and the bride is wearing a white, sleeveless, floor-length gown and holding a bouquet of red and yellow flowers. They are looking at each other and smiling. The background is filled with lush greenery and trees, with warm, golden light filtering through the leaves.

Beyond White:

Color as a Language
in Wedding Design

Inspired by the tones of the sky at sunset, this wedding in El Salvador proposes a different way of designing: letting color build the experience.

When I think of a wedding, I don't first think of flowers or setup. I think of the couple. Of the colors that represent them, the emotions they want to convey, and the energy they want to be felt that day.

Neutral weddings have an undeniable charm: they are elegant, romantic, and timeless. But there is something about color that transforms them. Color is not only seen—it is felt.

This is how Diana and Eduardo's story began. From the start, she was certain she wanted to work with pinks and oranges—not as an isolated detail, but as part of the visual language of the entire wedding.





Upon arriving at the venue, Foret, we understood that the inspiration would not come from external references, but from the surroundings. The sunset sky gave us the answer. Purple tones, golden glimmers, and intense oranges filtering through the light; as our national prayer to the flag of El Salvador says, "sky of purple and gold." It wasn't about replicating it, but interpreting it.

We decided to move away from the predictable. We didn't want a white or neutral wedding, but an atmosphere with identity, where color would be the protagonist and not a complement.

Light became a design tool. Every decision—from the time of the ceremony to the photo session—was planned around that exact moment when the sky begins to change. Color was not chosen; it was observed, and then translated into every element.

The design did not begin with Pinterest, but with the place itself—how the light touched the garden, how the tones evolved over the hours. Designing from the environment allowed everything to feel natural and coherent.







Color also defined the emotion. Warm tones created closeness, celebration, movement. They were not just flowers—they were sensations. The glassware, charger plates, textiles... everything was part of the same language.

Choosing color also involved a risk. Moving away from white is often stepping away from the safe. But it is also a decision of confidence, personality, and identity.





One of the most interesting moments was the transition. It was not a daytime wedding nor entirely a nighttime one—it was a journey. Beginning with natural light, experiencing the sunset, and closing with a nighttime celebration.

In that transition, the design evolved. The fabrics, lighting, and flowers accompanied the change in atmosphere, always maintaining visual coherence.

Materiality played a key role. Glass charger plates, glasses reflecting the sun, chairs in warm tones, and a fabric canopy filtering the light created a complete sensory experience.



Nothing stood alone.
Everything responded to an intention.

Looking at the result, it wasn't just about a color palette. It was a wedding that felt alive, constantly changing, deeply connected to its surroundings.

And perhaps that is the true value of design.
Understanding that color is not decoration.
It is language.

Marianna Aguirre Echeverria

Destination wedding planner
Platinum Member, IADWP El Salvador Chapter
- @marianna_planner

Photo credits:
Eventum Studio
@eventumstudiosv





From 'I Do' to New Life:

The rise of Christening Planning
in Destination Weddings
in Bogotá and Cartagena



a planning process structured in 12 steps, where every detail has a purpose. We provide guidance, suggestions, and recommendations from the initial planning stage, including location, attire, hairstyling, makeup and accessories, photography, ceremony requirements, stationery, décor, food and beverages, music, production and staging, service staff, and final planning that ensures the seamless execution of a Christening or Welcome Ceremony in a truly special destination.

And so... this planning evolves into a new concept: Christening Planning in luxury destinations. Within the world of destination weddings, a quiet yet meaningful trend has emerged: celebrating not only the love between partners, but also the first milestones of a family. A Christening Planner does not simply design baptisms... they design Welcome Ceremonies in destinations that already hold a special place in their clients' hearts.

In Bogotá, where tourism has a more corporate dynamic, spaces are beginning to open for petite-format Christenings—intimate celebrations where the closest circle and emotional connection take center stage. Cartagena, on the other hand, remains the ultimate destination for romance. And romance is love... a love that evolves. It is no longer experienced only as a couple, but expands with the arrival of a new life. In this way, Cartagena continues to be the stage for love in all its expressions—especially where the family story begins and grows.

Celebrating life and taking a meaningful step forward... that is the beginning of every story we have the privilege to accompany. Each event is not just a moment—it is an intention, a promise, and the building of a legacy that begins from the purest form of love.

A Christening, from a Catholic perspective, represents the First Sacrament: a welcome into the world filled with light, love, and spiritual guidance. However, its meaning goes beyond that. In a broader sense, it becomes a Ceremony of Welcome to Life. In other religious traditions, it also symbolizes arrival and connection to faith, family, and history. At its core, they all converge on the same idea: honoring a beginning.

During my 10 years in the wedding industry, the very first event I sold was a Christening. And it was no coincidence. I understood it as a sign—a deep calling to my purpose: to structure, plan, organize, and coordinate moments that shape lives... and in a very special dimension, Christenings. Because yes... weddings celebrate love between partners, and christenings celebrate its expansion.

A Christening, as an event, integrates a complete experience: Ceremony, Cocktail, and Reception. All of this is built through





In cities like Cartagena de Indias, where love stories intertwine with colonial walls and seaside sunsets, destination weddings have evolved. Today, those same couples return—this time with a new life in their arms. And with that, a new way of celebrating is born.

From the wedding to the legacy...

The most powerful aspect of this concept is its continuity. Couples who once said "I do" in Cartagena de Indias return years later to write a new chapter in the same place. Where their story as a couple began, their story as a family now begins or continues. At this point, the planner ceases to be a provider and becomes a curator of memories, accompanying each stage of life.

The Christening is also beginning to be conceived as a major event that can be strategically integrated into the wedding universe—as a pre- or post-wedding experience, extending the celebration and deepening the meaning of the journey, especially in the context of destination weddings.

One of the elements that makes this event experience unique is the spiritual and aesthetic richness of colonial churches in a destination like Cartagena. Spaces such as the Main Cathedral, San Pedro Claver Church, and Santo Domingo Church do not merely host ceremonies—they preserve history, art, and a deeply emotional atmosphere. In these settings, a Christening transcends tradition to become an intimate, aesthetic, and meaningful experience.

And so, we arrive at the highest concept: emotional luxury.

A Christening Planner in Cartagena designs experiences where every element has a soul.

- Ceremonies in colonial churches with both aesthetic and spiritual curation
- Private celebrations in historic homes or iconic hotels
- Sensory experiences with live music, candles, and flowers defined by purity and subtlety
- Family brunches by the sea or intimate dinners in colonial courtyards

All under one guiding principle: to celebrate life with love, light, and depth, understanding the sublime essence within every new beginning.

"Where 'I do' was once said, today 'welcome to the world' is whispered. Because love... evolves, grows, and finds one of its purest forms in the celebration of a new life."

Paula Andrea Osorio Guerrero

(+57) 304 596 16 46
 @christeningplanner
 info@christeningplanner.com



The Art of The List

Why Your Guest Count
Is Vital to Your Wedding



Wedding planning often begins with dreams of grand banquets, unforgettable venues, spectacular florals, and the perfect dress. However, before choosing the cake flavor or the typography for the invitations, there is one number that dictates the rhythm of everything else: the guest list.

Defining the list of attendees is more than just a logistical task; it is the most important strategic decision you will make as a couple before the celebration. Take the time to define that list and reach a consensus to optimize it as much as possible. Here is why this number is the cornerstone of your big day.

1. The Budget: Reality Defined in Figures

It is a simple yet unforgiving mathematical equation. Most wedding costs are calculated on a per-person basis—from catering and beverages to the size of the cake and the furniture rentals. Every element of your celebration is tied to your guest count.

The Domino Effect: Adding ten more people doesn't just mean ten extra plates of food; it implies an additional table, another centerpiece, more floor space, and potentially a larger transportation vehicle.

Prioritization: Defining a clear number allows you to allocate funds intelligently. Sometimes, reducing the list by 20 people can be the difference between a standard menu and a luxury dining experience. If you want to

surprise your friends and loved ones with specialized dishes, you must give serious thought to the total guest count.

2. Finding the Ideal Venue

Your dream venue has a physical limit. Nothing compromises the aesthetics and comfort of a wedding more than an overcrowded room where guests cannot move freely, or a massive space where a small group feels "lost."

Having a defined guest count allows you to filter locations with precision, ensuring that the flow of the party is organic and the dance floor is just the right size to keep the energy at its peak. It is ideal to take the time to visit several locations so that, together with your Wedding Planner, you can decide on the perfect site for your celebration.





3. The Atmosphere and Guest Experience

Do you envision a cosmopolitan gala with hundreds of guests or an intimate candlelit dinner? It is essential that you both agree on the vision for your special day. The guest count defines the very DNA of the celebration.

Decide on the type of entertainment you want, as the music should reflect your personal tastes and complement the overall size of the party.

Intimate Weddings: These allow for deep conversations and quality time with every attendee. They are currently a major trend, as they offer a more personalized touch and make guests feel truly special.

Large-Scale Weddings: These provide the grand feeling of a major event and an unparalleled festive energy. They require a much larger venue and more complex logistics to ensure every detail contributes to a positive experience.

It is vital to agree on the guest count before making any other decisions. Finalizing this number early helps avoid awkward situations, such as dealing with last-minute additions or managing guests who are undecided, both of which can disrupt your seating arrangements.

4. Managing Expectations and Commitments

Creating the guest list is often a couple's first major exercise in negotiation. It is the time to set boundaries with families and decide which social commitments are truly necessary.

Pro-Tip: Create an "A-List" (the essentials), including your immediate family and closest friends, and a "B-List" (those subject to budget or space constraints). The B-List typically includes coworkers, neighbors, or family friends you haven't seen in a while. This approach provides flexibility without losing control of the event.





We know this is a complicated decision; many feel stressed by the challenge of honestly curating the list of people who will join them on their wedding day. Although it may seem like a cold, numerical task, defining your guest count is, in reality, an act of design. By establishing who will participate in your wedding, you are drawing the map of the memories you will cherish forever. Take control of your list, and the rest of the planning will fall into place, always guided by your Wedding and Event Professional.

Remember, it's not just about a number; the "vibe" between the couple and their guests is what truly matters. Your theme and location must be in harmony with that guest list. Just imagine a relaxed, laid-back theme on the sand by the sea—you, the couple, are fascinated by the setting, but it turns out your guests aren't that style; they prefer grand ballrooms, sequins, and formal indoor parties. You might need to ask yourselves if they will truly enjoy the invitation and if you will enjoy sharing that moment with them. It's not about pleasing everyone, but rather understanding how beneficial it is when your guests "pair" well with the theme, the location, and the energy you wish to experience.

Visualize your guests sharing in every experience you have planned, from the cuisine to the music and live entertainment. While it's true that the evening should reflect the host's personal taste, it is equally true that we invite loved ones to ensure they have a wonderful time, to pamper them, and to tell the story of this special moment together. Achieving balance and harmony will ensure your own enjoyment; this is why it's vital to take the necessary time to curate a guest list that includes those special people, fits your budget, and pairs perfectly with your dream wedding.

Thank you for being here. It is a pleasure to write for you, our readers. We have included our contact information at the bottom of this note—feel free to reach out and let us know which topics you would like us to cover in a future feature. Until next time!

Juan Salvador y Erinna Reyna

Master Wedding & Event Planner
IADWP VENEZUELA / National Leader Chapter
/ +58 412 BODA000
(2632000)

IG: @juansalvadoreventos
@jsbridalcare

Illustrations:
Gemini IA
Personal Photo Archive

Where Emotions Become Eternal

The Art of Photographing a Wedding Destination in Ecuador

Welcome
김요한 & 장유민
Just Married

Our Wedding Day
2024-09-22



There is something many couples don't fully realize at the start of their destination wedding planning... until they experience it. Photography isn't just another service; it is the only way to return to that day.

As a Wedding Planner specializing in destination weddings in Ecuador, I have witnessed how every decision builds an experience: the venue, the logistics, the timing, the atmosphere... it all adds up. However, there is one element that transcends everything else: the person tasked with capturing that unrepeatable moment. Because when it's all over, all that remains are the memories—and the way they were told.

A story that started as curiosity and became a purpose

Juan Gabriel Narváez's story doesn't begin at a wedding. It starts in college, while studying graphic design, when a single course sparked something that would change his entire path: photography.

What began as an academic exercise transformed into a deep connection with images, with moments, and with the possibility of capturing what so often goes unnoticed.





In the beginning, it wasn't about weddings. It was about small moments—family, friends, spontaneous sessions. But it was then that people began to see something more in his work. Something that went beyond the technical.

Until the first wedding arrived.

“I remember being so nervous... because I realized there was no way to repeat anything,” he shares. And that is

exactly where many photographers discover if this path is for them or not. For Juan Gabriel, it was clear: it wasn't just about taking photos. It was about telling a story.

Photographing emotions, not just moments

If there is one thing that defines his work, it is the way he understands photography. When I ask him to describe himself in three words, he doesn't hesitate: emotive, timeless, and memorable.

And it's no coincidence; his focus is not on the perfect pose or the forced image. It is on what people feel—in those unplanned moments that say everything.

“What I enjoy most is capturing feelings... because in the end, that is what remains,” he explains. This approach completely changes a couple's experience in front of the camera.

Because where there is emotion, there is truth, and where there is truth... there are memories that endure.







Trust: the true secret behind great photography

One of the greatest fears couples have is feeling uncomfortable in front of the camera—and it's completely valid. Not everyone knows how to pose, not everyone feels natural, and not everyone understands how a session works.

But that is where something beyond technique comes in: connection. Juan Gabriel understands this clearly; his work begins long before the wedding day. From the very first conversation, he seeks to create that "vibe" that allows everything to flow. He listens, observes, and understands the couple's story, because for him, that is key.

"It's not just about the event... it's about who they are," he says.

And during the wedding, his role isn't limited to capturing images. He accompanies, guides, and provides support—even in moments of tension, he is there. Like that time a ceremony was delayed and the bride, waiting inside the car, didn't know how to handle the wait. He and his team stepped out of their roles, brought her water and sweets... and were simply there for her. Because sometimes, what a bride needs most isn't a photo; it's peace of mind.



When the destination becomes part of the story

To talk about destination weddings is to talk about experiences that transcend, and for a photographer, that means much more than just a change of location.

"Photographing a destination wedding is about going beyond... it's about telling a story that isn't confined to one place," he explains.

Juan Gabriel has had the opportunity to work with couples from all over the world: China, Korea, Germany, and the United States, among others. Every story, every culture, and every connection brings something distinct to the table.

But there is one destination that marked a turning point: the Galápagos Islands. Not just for its beauty, but for what it demands. Logistics, adaptation, new dynamics... but also a unique inspiration. An environment that needs no filters, that elevates every image, and that connects deeply with those who experience it. That is where it all makes sense because, in a destination wedding, the location isn't just a backdrop—it's part of the story.





The importance of choosing right and on time

As a Wedding Planner, there is something I always emphasize to my couples: top-tier vendors aren't available at a moment's notice, and photography is no exception.

On average, Juan Gabriel's services are booked six months to a year in advance. And that's no coincidence. His recommendation is clear: planning ahead doesn't just guarantee availability—it guarantees peace of mind.

Because when a couple trusts their team, they can let go. When they let go, they truly enjoy themselves. And when they enjoy themselves... it shows in every single image.

Beyond the camera: a team that tells stories

Behind every wedding, there isn't just one person—there is a team. A group of professionals who understand that every detail matters, every moment counts, and every



story deserves to be told well. Juan Gabriel calls them “My Great Team.”

It's a team where everyone plays a key role, but where the most important thing isn't the technical side... it's the human element. “We become invisible... because we want to capture what's real,” he explains. And in a wedding, that changes everything.

What truly makes a photograph transcend

In a world where everything is shared—where images are immediate and fleeting—there is one question worth asking:

What makes a photo truly matter?

The answer is simple, yet profound.

Emotion. “It's not just an image... it's how they felt in that moment,” he says. And he is right.

Because as time goes by, what remains isn't the pose or the framing—it's the memory.



M I G R A N T E A M



JUAN GABRIEL NARVÁEZ
Directing | Cinematography | Editing | Post-production

My Great Team: When Talent Becomes an Experience

Behind every wedding, Juan Gabriel Narváez does not work alone. There is a human team that makes every story possible—a group he calls “My Great Team.” Leading the creative direction, his vision is strengthened by the collective effort of professionals who understand that it is not just about capturing, but about feeling. Within this process, Andre, his wife, plays a fundamental role in video post-production, contributing sensitivity, consistency, and a narrative that truly connects. Alongside them, Santy Aguayo serves as an extension of his own eyes, adding talent and personality to every wedding.

Together with Dana, Micaela, Fernanda, Stalin, Kevin, Jenny, Bryan, Nath, Jeff, and Sebas, they form a team that meticulously handles every detail with intention—from photography and video to post-production. But beyond the technicalities, there is something that defines them: the way they provide support. Because in a destination wedding, what matters isn't just what is seen... it's what is felt.

To all the couples thinking about taking this step—choosing a destination, creating something different—I want to tell you something based on my

A Message for Those Dreaming of an Ecuador Destination Wedding

experience: Ecuador is not only a beautiful place to get married, it is a country brimming with talent.

We have committed, sensitive, and highly skilled professionals who understand that a wedding is not just an event; it is an experience.

They work tirelessly to ensure every story is told in the best possible way. Because when you choose the right people to walk alongside you, everything changes. The planning flows. The experience is transformed. And the memories... they become eternal.

Juan Gabriel Narváez

Wedding Photographer
@juangabrielnarvaez

Lissner Ortiz

Destination Wedding Planner
National Chapter Leader IADWP Ecuador
<https://www.lissnerweddingplanner.com/>



TIME TO TIE THE KNOT

YOUR PUNTA DE MITA DESTINATION WEDDING

A THOUGHTFULLY PLANNED WEDDING BY THE SEA

Let the natural beauty of Punta de Mita, where lush jungle meets the Pacific, set the scene for the beginning of your forever. At Conrad Punta de Mita, Time to Tie the Knot is a wedding program thoughtfully designed to simplify decisions, ease planning, and give you the freedom to focus on the moments that matter most.

From your first welcome cocktail beneath the palms to the final golden sunset of the weekend, every celebration unfolds as a seamless and beautifully coordinated experience.

With Time to Tie the Knot, your wedding at Conrad Punta de Mita feels refined, well supported, and thoughtfully planned by a certified team with deep expertise in destination weddings. The result is more time for your vows, your loved ones, and the personal details that make the celebration distinctly your own.

Check your dates and begin planning your celebration by the sea. Valid for new bookings for weddings celebrated in 2026, with a minimum three-night stay and 50 guests.

OFFER DETAILS

The *Time to Tie the Knot* promotion includes a collection of exclusive enhancements designed to elevate the celebration:

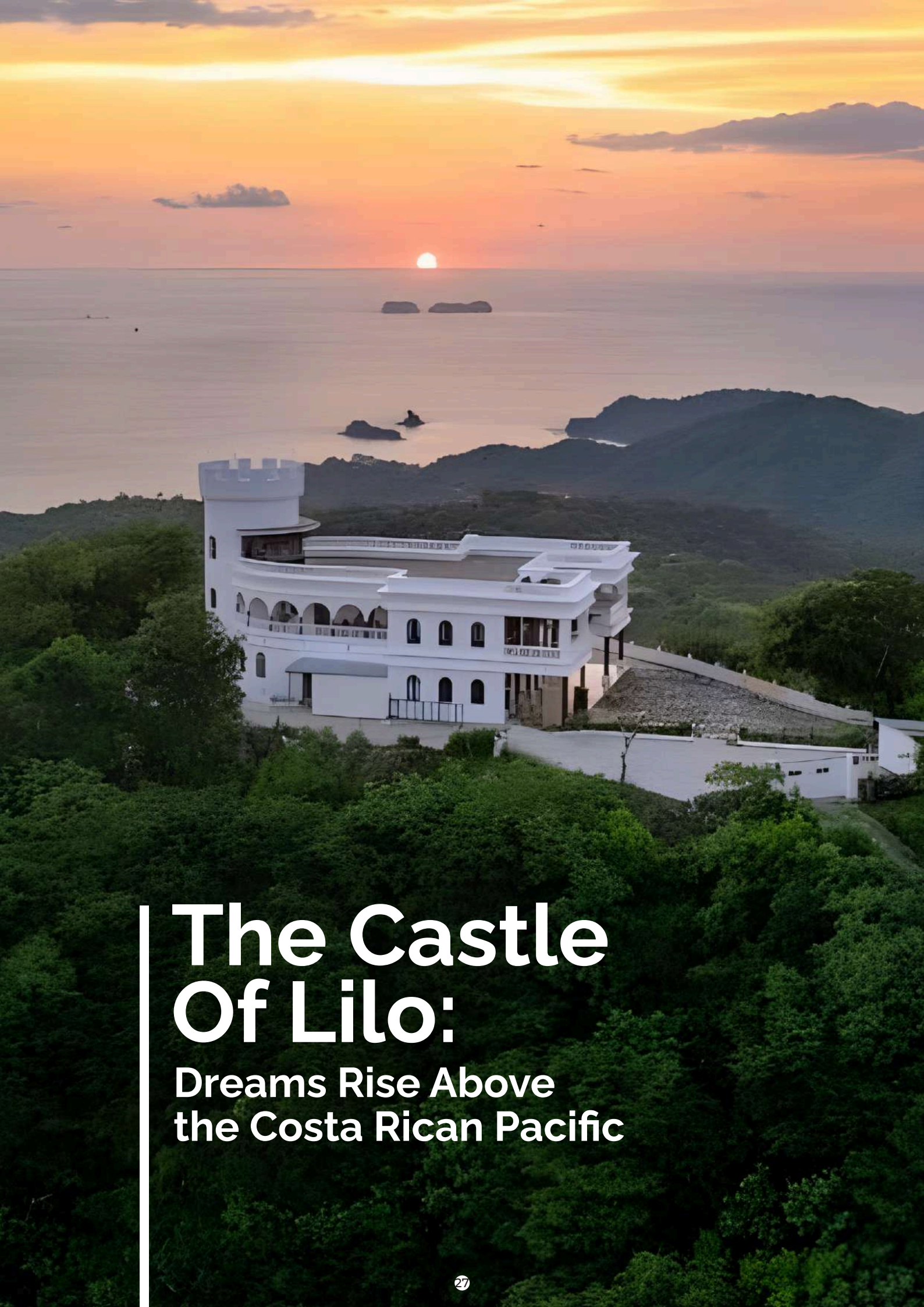
- \$200 USD air credit to begin the journey
- Guaranteed suite upgrade for the wedding couple
- Wedding attire steaming service
- One-hour welcome cocktail with Margaritas and Mariachi
- 50% savings on reception string lights
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The Castle Of Lilo:

**Dreams Rise Above
the Costa Rican Pacific**



The Horizon of a Love Story

There are places that have a soul, and there are weddings that remain engraved in the heart. Recently, I had the privilege of producing a wedding that I can only describe as a modern fairy tale. The setting: The Castle of Lilo, a fortress of elegance suspended in the hills of Playa Potrero in Guanacaste.

As a Wedding Planner, my goal has always been to find that perfect balance between flawless logistics and emotional magic. On this occasion, together with my team, we embarked on the mission of creating a dream "destination wedding" for Antonella and Oscar, a couple looking for more than just a location; they were seeking a complete sensory experience.

A Legacy of Love and Flavor: The Story Behind the Castle Walls

The story of the Castle of Lilo is, above all, a tribute to memory. It was conceived by German engineer Klaus Jung, who arrived in the highlands of Guanacaste seeking refuge to heal a deep wound: the loss of his fiancée and his young daughter, Lilo, who tragically died while trying to escape the war in Germany. Mr. Klaus promised his daughter, held in his arms after her passing, that one day he would build a castle in her honor. Jung designed this castle at 2,230 feet above sea level. It is not just a structure of stone and design; it is the fulfillment of a promise of safety and eternal love.





The “I Do” Experience in the Clouds

Hosting a destination wedding at the Castle of Lilo offers unmatched competitive advantages:

Total Exclusivity: Privacy is absolute, allowing the couple and their guests to feel like they own the horizon and the venue.

Signature Gastronomy: Marco's culinary proposal elevates wedding banquets, offering authentic flavors with haute cuisine techniques. Guests can also personalize their own menu.

Photographic Settings: From the outdoor ceremony with the ocean in the background to the toast under the golden sunset light, our incredible photographer Aline Van Geyt of Guanacaste captured it all.



Today, this legacy of peace has found new life thanks to Ericka Villalobos, Mr. Klaus's heir, who together with Chef Marco (her husband), has managed to bring that dream to life—transforming the castle into a hub of magical energy where past and present embrace each other.

The story of the castle is one of passion for hospitality. Upon entering its gates, one immediately feels as though they are in a private luxury residence, designed to offer the most spectacular 360-degree views over the Guanacaste coastline. For an event planner, having the support of owners so deeply involved is a guarantee of success. The synergy we achieved with Ericka and Marco was the key piece that allowed every part of the wedding to function with Swiss precision.



In the Words of the Protagonists

There is no greater satisfaction for my team and me than the genuine gratitude of those who trust us. Antonella and Oscar sent us a message that summarizes the essence of what we achieved at Lilo:

"Hi Jeffrey, I just wanted to thank you for everything you did to make our day so special and magical. Everything was perfect and we enjoyed it so much! We are very grateful and very happy. Thank you very much! All our guests now want to book you for their weddings. Thank you for everything you and your team did to make it such a memorable day."



A Dream, Our Creation

If you are reading this and dreaming of a wedding where the sky meets the sea, I want to tell you it is possible. At Costa Rica Wedding Planner, we specialize in transforming extraordinary locations like the Castle of Lilo into settings for eternal memories.

We don't just plan events; we design experiences where couples have only one responsibility: to enjoy themselves. The logistics, floral design, vendor coordination, and management of every technical detail are on us. Because, as I always say, flawless events do exist—and we are here to create them.

Guanacaste is waiting for you, and we are ready to make your dream wedding at the Castle of Lilo come true!

MSc. Jeffrey Cervantes Calderón

Director y CEO de Costa Rica WeddingPlanner.
Tel. +506 8665 0990
director@crweddingplanner.com
Social Meddia @CRWeddingPlanner

Photography:
Aline Van Geyt.
@vangeytphotography



The 7 Secrets Every Couple Should Know Before Planning Their Wedding

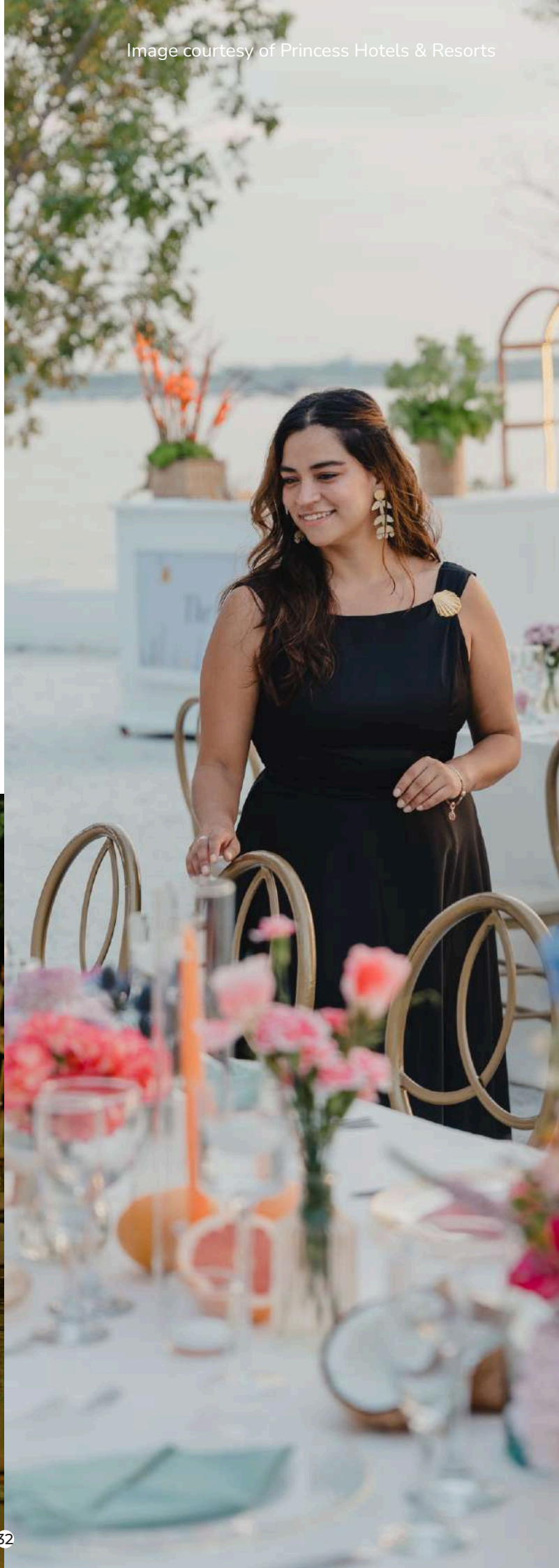
At Karol Planner, we understand that a wedding is not just another event: it is an experience that must feel flawless in every detail.

My path into this world was not a traditional one. I am an accountant by profession, a background that gave me structure, precision, and a clear perspective on the importance of planning and control in every decision. However, over time—and through life's unexpected turns—I found a completely different purpose in weddings.

I fell in love with creating memorable moments. With accompanying each couple in one of the most important chapters of their story. With becoming that strategic ally who not only organizes, but understands, anticipates, and takes care of every detail.

After years of working with couples on one of the most important days of their lives, there is something I can say with complete certainty: truly memorable weddings are not the most expensive ones, but the ones best structured from the beginning.

The difference between a chaotic wedding and an impeccable experience lies in understanding certain key principles before starting. Today, I want to share with you the 7 secrets that make all the difference.





1. Define together what you truly want (before talking to anyone else)

The most common mistake is starting with external references: venues, dresses, or décor, without internal clarity. Exceptional weddings are not improvised—they are designed. Before making any decision, define: What kind of experience do you want to create?

What do you want your guests to remember?

This clarity not only avoids confusion, it prevents costly and misaligned decisions.

2. Set a realistic budget (and add an extra 15%)

A well-structured budget doesn't limit you—it protects you. Include every element and consider an additional 15% margin. This level of foresight is not optional in well-executed weddings—it's standard.

Transparent planning always anticipates, never reacts.





3. Book the venue and set the date as soon as possible (even if it's more than a year away)

The venue and date are the heart of the planning. Without these two elements confirmed, no other vendor can formally commit to you. The best locations are booked up to 18 months in advance—and that's no coincidence: truly exceptional venues are limited.

As the official planner of Casa Kapikua in Santa Marta, I have seen how a well-chosen location completely transforms a wedding. Kapikua is not simply a beach venue. It is a space designed for high-end weddings that seek more than just a location. It offers capacity for events of up to 300 people and includes private accommodations, allowing a wedding to become a multi-day experience.

It's not just about where to get married, but about where everything works seamlessly—with aligned aesthetics, logistics, and experience. That's why, for beach weddings in Colombia, Kapikua doesn't compete—it stands in a category of its own.

4. Hire vendors who connect with your vision (not just the cheapest ones)

Choosing the most affordable vendor can be very expensive. What matters is not how much they charge, but whether they understand what you want to achieve. An average photographer will take 500 beautiful photos; an exceptional one will capture the essence of your story. A DJ who is simply "cheap" will play music; a committed and experienced destination wedding DJ will read the room's energy and get everyone dancing.

A team aligned with your vision guarantees coherence, quality, and peace of mind. Choosing solely based on price often compromises the final result.

5. Don't leave anything for the last minute

Late decisions create pressure, and pressure reduces quality. A well-planned wedding is experienced without urgency. The final months should be for confirming and enjoying—not solving problems.

Order in planning translates directly into calm on the event day.

6. Think about the complete experience of your guests

A memorable wedding is one where guests feel comfortable, included, and cared for from beginning to end.

This goes beyond food and music. Is there clear signage to arrive? Will there be shade or heating depending on the weather? Are the gaps between ceremony and reception well planned? Are there menu options for different tastes and dietary restrictions?

When the experience is well designed, the energy of the event naturally elevates.

7. Enjoy the planning process

Wedding planning should not feel like a full-time job that steals your joy. Every meeting with vendors, every menu tasting, every detail you choose is part of the story you are building together.

Celebrate small progress. Take breaks when you feel overwhelmed.

Remember why you are doing this: because you chose to commit to the person you love. The wedding day will pass in the blink of an eye, but these months of preparation are the prelude to your life together. When you allow yourself to enjoy the journey, the destination feels even more special.



At Karol Planner, we understand that a wedding is not just another event: it is an experience that must feel flawless in every detail. That's why we work with strategy, transparency, and precise execution.

And when it comes to beach weddings, Casa Kapikua in Santa Marta represents a standard that is hard to match—not only for its privileged location, but for the way it integrates aesthetics, logistics, and experience in one place.

With the right strategy, the right team, and someone guiding you every step of the way, your wedding will not only look beautiful in photos—it will be unforgettable in the heart of every person who shares it with you.

Karol Niño

Wedding Planner | Karol Planner
Official Planner Casa Kapikua – Santa Marta
Instagram: @karolplanner
karolplanner.com | kapikua.com.co



Dressing the Destination

When Ecuadorian designs become the soul of a wedding



There are encounters that aren't planned... but leave a mark. That's how this story began.

In the middle of an exhibition, among lights, textures, and creative proposals, something immediately captured my attention. It wasn't just a dress. It was a feeling. An identity. A voice that, without saying a word, was already telling a story.

That's how I met Dana Mendoza, a 21-year-old Ecuadorian designer whose work doesn't just break the mold... it redefines what it means to design for a modern bride.

Because when we talk about wedding destination, we often think about landscapes, locations, and experiences. But we rarely stop to consider something just as important: what the bride wears, also communicates the destination, the culture, and the essence of the location where she chooses to say "I do."

Designing from roots, not trends

Talking to Dana is encountering a rare kind of clarity. At such a young age, she doesn't approach fashion from a superficial perspective—she speaks from identity. "For me, every design has to tell something... I'm not interested in creating just a beautiful dress, but designing one that has soul," she shares. And you can feel it.





Her pieces of clothing don't follow traditional patterns or try to fit into what the market expects from a bride. Instead, they propose a new narrative where Ecuadorian culture becomes the protagonist, reinterpreted through a fresh, contemporary, and deeply authentic perspective.

There are details that evoke our roots, textures that reflect our land, and structures that break away from convention without losing elegance. It's a bold proposal. And a necessary one.

The modern bride: free, authentic, and connected to her story

Nowadays, brides don't want the same that has been done. They want to feel like themselves. They want to connect with who they are, what they love, and what they represent. And along that path, designers like Dana are creating a turning point.

"I believe today's bride is looking for something more personal... something that truly represents her, not just fulfilling tradition," she explains. And I couldn't agree more. From my experience as a Destination Wedding Planner, I've seen how couples who choose Ecuador don't do it just for the landscapes... they do it for how this country makes them feel.



**DANNA SELINA
MENDOZA RUIZ**

Joven diseñadora
ecuatoriana de 21 años.
Desde la infancia
transformaba prendas,
convirtiendo su curiosidad
en vocación.

*"Una prenda no es solo
tela; es una historia de
dualidad y herencia que
llevamos con orgullo."*



And that's where the design takes on, a deeper meaning, because when a bride chooses a dress that carries a story, an identity, and a cultural proposal... her wedding doesn't simplify as just a beautiful event and becomes a meaningful experience.

Breaking the conventional is also an act of love

Talking about Danna Mendoza is comprehend about a story that begins in something deeply personal—a childhood shaped by sensitivity, observation, and a natural connection to creativity. From an early age, she found in details a way to express herself: in fabrics, in colors, in the way something could be transformed with intention. Her inspiration comes largely from her closest environment, from the women around her, and from the cultural richness that was always present in her life, even before she consciously recognized it. But her career path has not been always linear or easy.

That mix of sensitivity, determination, and constant exploration is what defines her work. Danna doesn't just design—she builds herself through every process, using fashion as a way to express who she is, where she comes from, and where she wants to go.





Ecuador as a canvas, fashion as a language

There is something I am completely certain about, after this conversation:

Ecuador is not only an incredible destination to get married—it is a country full of talent capable of elevating any experience to another level and that is something that is not communicated enough.

When we work on wedding destination, we are not just designing an event in a beautiful place. We are creating a complete experience, where every element matters:

The landscape
The gastronomy
The culture
And yes... the design

Incorporating local talent like Danna's doesn't just bring originality—it brings authenticity. And in a world where everything seems to repeat itself, that is invaluable.

What impacted me the most about Dana wasn't just her talent—it was her courage. Daring to propose something different in an industry that often bets for what is safe, repeated, and "what has always worked" is not easy.

But there she is, committed to a different aesthetic, a deeper narrative, a fashion that is not only seen... but felt. "I know it's not typical... but I think that's where the magic is," she says with a smile that blends confidence and passion.

And she's right. Because weddings are changing. Couples are changing. And the industry needs voices that can support that evolution.





More than dresses, pieces that transcend

There is something that separates a good design from an unforgettable one: Intention. And in every one of Dana's creations, there is intention. These are not dresses made only for a ceremony. They are pieces that accompany moments, that tell stories, that remain in memory. And in a wedding destination, that means everything.

Because when a couple travels, when they gather their most important people in a special place... they are not just looking to celebrate. They are looking to create memories that will last forever.

The future has already begun

If there is one thing I am certain of after meeting Danna Mendoza, it is that we are witnessing the beginning of something great. Not only because of her talent, but because of what she represents: a new generation of Ecuadorian designers who understand that fashion is not just aesthetics—it is identity, culture, and emotion. And when that is brought into the world of wedding destinations, the possibilities are endless.



A message for those who are dreaming of a wedding destination

To all the couples who are thinking about getting married away from home, about finding a place that represents something more, that offers a different kind of experience... I want to tell you something with complete certainty:

Ecuador thas it all.

Breathtaking landscapes.
A culture that captivates.
Flavors that surprise.
And human talent that transforms every detail into something extraordinary.

From the design of a dress to the full planning of your wedding... here you will find not just vendors, but partners who understand what it means to create a truly unique moment.

Because a destination wedding is not just about traveling. It's about feeling. About connecting. About living something that cannot be repeated. And Ecuador... knows exactly how to do it.

Danna Mendoza

A Young Ecuadorian Designer
@dannaseliman

Lissner Ortiz

Wedding Planner
NationalChapterLider IADWP Ecuador
<https://www.lissnerweddingplanner.com/>

Photography Credits

Photography: Mario Perugachi
Photo Editor: Martin Monge
Featured Wedding Photographer: Juan Gabriel Narváez



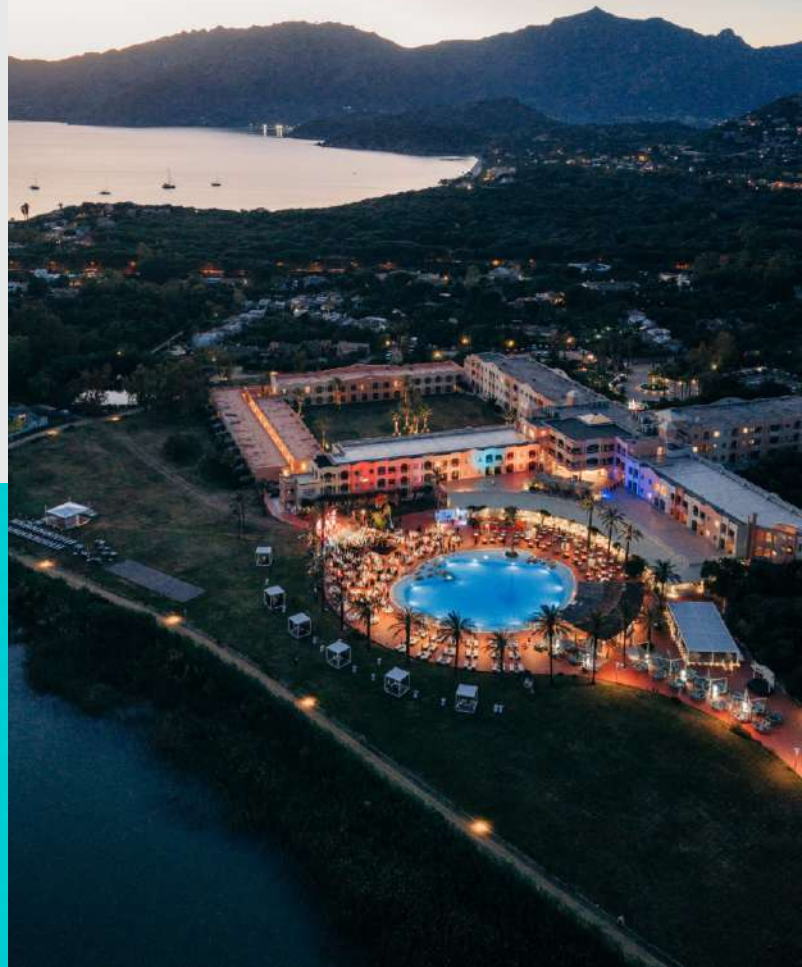
Back from Sardinia:

When the World of Weddings Meets Purpose, Creativity and Emotion



Returning from Sardinia after participating as an international speaker at the Exotic Wedding Planning Conference 2026 was far more than simply coming back from a trip. It was returning with the certainty that our industry still has the power to move people, unite cultures, and remind us why we do what we do.

EWPC celebrated its 15th edition in Villasimius, Sardinia, Italy, bringing together some of the most influential professionals in the global wedding and luxury events industry. Over three intense days, the conference blended keynote sessions, trend panels, B2B meetings, certification workshops, and immersive experiences designed to connect, collaborate, and celebrate.



I had the enormous honor of participating as a speaker in the session "Global Trends & Insights Briefing," sharing the stage with internationally recognized leaders while discussing the trends currently reshaping the global wedding and events market. And there is something important that we often forget: behind luxury, spectacular floral installations, and monumental productions, there are still human emotions. Perhaps that was the true common thread throughout the entire conference. The industry is changing. Clients have changed. Audiences have changed. But the need to create authentic experiences remains stronger than ever.

EWPC is not simply a conference. It is a creative powerhouse where planners, designers, hoteliers, producers, and brands from all over the world gather to discuss where the industry is heading. And that energy could be felt everywhere: during the keynote speeches, the innovation panels, the hallway conversations, and even the dinners overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. Because many of the greatest opportunities in our industry are not born inside meeting rooms... they are born while sharing a glass of wine by the sea.



One of the most valuable aspects of the experience was the incredible cultural diversity present at the event. Listening to perspectives from Asia, the Middle East, Europe, and Latin America clearly demonstrated that the luxury market no longer responds to rigid formulas. Today, the true differentiator lies in identity, storytelling, and the ability to create unforgettable moments. Creativity is no longer an added value — it has become survival.

And if the conference itself was extraordinary, the FAM Tour that followed transformed the experience into something truly unforgettable. Sailing along Sardinia's crystal-clear coastline, visiting Cavoli Island, enjoying the Mediterranean Sea, sharing lunches aboard the cruise, and ending the evenings with authentic Italian gatherings by the water was far more than tourism. It was a reminder of the true power of destinations and how a well-designed experience can emotionally transform those who live it.







I return home with new knowledge, meaningful connections, inspiration, and the immense pride of seeing Latin America occupying increasingly important spaces within the global industry. Because when you step onto an international stage, you are not speaking only for yourself. You are also speaking for your story, your country, your colleagues, and an entire region filled with talent that deserves to be seen.

Thank you, EWPC. Thank you, Sardinia. And thank you to every person who still believes that events have the power to move emotions, unite people, and create memories that last forever.

Adrián Pavía
Director of IADWP Latin America
& Spanish-Speaking Caribbean Chapter
General Editor *ÉPICA* Magazine

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Investment with Meaning:

Where to Allocate Your
Wedding Budget



For many, planning a wedding is their first major financial project as a couple. In a sea of options and temptations on Instagram and Pinterest, it's easy to lose your way and end up spending on details that go unnoticed. The key to a successful celebration isn't spending more—it's spending smarter.

Here is a strategic guide to prioritizing your expenses and ensuring that every dollar invested translates into unforgettable memories.

1. The "Wow Factor": Venue and Catering

These two elements typically consume between 40% and 50% of the budget—and for good reason. They are the foundation of the guest experience.

Priority: Excellent food and high-quality drinks. Guests might forget the color of the napkins, but they will always remember if the dinner was cold or if the open bar ran out too early.

Pro Tip: Look for a venue with a strong aesthetic already in place to save on excessive decor costs.

2. The Legacy: Photography and Video

Once the lights go down and the dress is tucked away, the only things that remain are the images.

Priority: Hire a professional whose style resonates with you. This is not the area to look for the "cheapest option." A

great photographer knows how to capture the emotion, not just the pose.

The Investment: View this expense as a long-term investment for future generations.

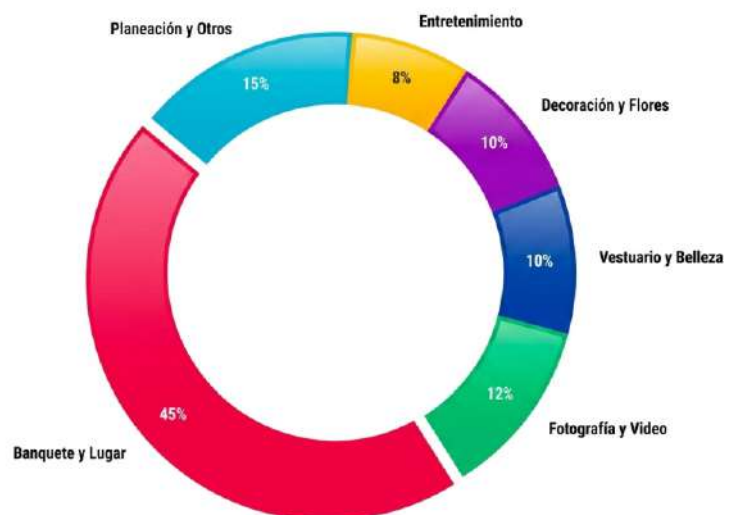
3. The Energy: Entertainment and Sound

A wedding is, above all, a celebration. The music dictates the rhythm and the ultimate success of the dance floor.

Priority: A DJ who knows how to read the crowd or a live band with top-tier sound quality.

The Key Detail: Don't skimp on dance floor lighting; professional lighting can transform a basic hall into a high-end club environment.

Distribución **aproximada** del presupuesto de bodas





Where Can You Cut Costs Without the Guilt?

To balance the scale, there are categories where creativity can easily replace a large budget:

•**Stationery:** Nowadays, couples can opt for digital invitations or minimalist designs on standard paper. Choose an option you love that doesn't break the bank.

•**Wedding Favors:** Unfortunately, if it's just a trinket, many end up in the trash. Instead, opt for a small plant or a simple edible treat.

•**Transportation:** Unless it's a personal dream, a luxury car rental just to transport the bride is usually only seen for 10 minutes or less. Consider if this expense is skippable, or if the venue offers an option in their package. You could also ask a friend or family member for a suitable alternative.

•**Wedding Cake:** Many modern couples are opting for a small "cutting cake" and individual desserts for the guests. This is often more efficient and budget-friendly. Renting a "dummy cake" for display while serving a delicious sheet cake from the kitchen is an option that can significantly save on this line item.

The Golden Rule: The "Top 3"

Before signing your first contract, sit down as a couple and choose your three non-negotiable priorities. It is essential to define together what you want for your wedding and which elements deserve the most relevance; remember, this defines the unforgettable experience you and your guests will share. If having fresh flowers in every corner is what matters most to you, put that in your Top 3 and adjust the other categories accordingly.

Final Advice

The perfect budget isn't the one that covers everything; it's the one that reflects the couple's personality without compromising their future financial stability. Plan with both your head and your heart! You can find our contact information at the bottom of this note. We would love to hear from you and learn which topics you'd like us to explore for you in *Épica Magazine*. Thank you for following us.

Juan Salvador y Erinna Reyna

Master Wedding & Event Planner
IADWP VENEZUELA / National Leader Chapter
/ +58 412 BODA000
(2632000)
IG: @juansalvadoreventos
@jsbridalcare

Illustrations:
Gemini IA
Personal Photo Archive

Wedding Karma:

The Invisible Thread Behind a Perfect Wedding



Beyond Logistics

In the world of event planning, we often talk about budgets, timelines, color palettes, and exclusivity contracts. However, those of us who have spent years in the trenches of the wedding industry know that there is an intangible, almost mystical component that determines the success of a big day: Wedding Karma.

It's not just about superstition. Wedding Karma is the manifestation of the energy that the couple projects throughout the entire planning process and how that energy returns to them multiplied on the day of the celebration. It is the law of cause and effect applied to the altar.



The "Light" Client: Gratitude That Turns into Magic

When a couple approaches their wedding with gratitude and respect, something extraordinary happens. The "nice" client is not just someone who is polite, but someone who understands that behind every floral arrangement, every banquet, and every photography setup, there are human beings putting their talent at their service.

The Effect on Vendors: When a client respects the time and judgment of the Wedding Planner and their vendors, it inspires a desire to go the extra mile. It's not the same to work out of obligation as it is to work out of inspiration. A vendor who feels valued will naturally seek creative solutions to unexpected challenges, without being asked.

The Flow of the Event: Positive karma translates into flow. It seems as though the weather aligns, the timing falls perfectly into place, and guests pick up on that harmonious vibe, becoming active participants in the joy rather than mere critical observers.



The “Shadow” Client: When Control Turns into Chaos

On the other side, we find couples who view their wedding process as a power transaction. The client who is disrespectful, who systematically distrusts the expert Wedding Planner, or who treats vendors as mere chess pieces tends to attract what they fear the most.

The Tension That Damages Everything: Negativity is contagious. If the couple is tense and defensive, that energy spreads through the team. A team working under fear or excessive pressure is more likely to make human errors.

Murphy's Law and Karma: We have seen cases where, despite having the highest budget, something goes wrong: an inexplicable delay, rain that prevents an outdoor ceremony, equipment failure, or a heavy atmosphere that guests immediately perceive. When there is no respect for others' work, the “soul” of the event fades.



The Pillars of Wedding Karma

Trust as Currency: Delegating is not just about letting go of tasks—it's about trusting the professional's judgment. Wedding Karma rewards those who trust, allowing the planner to operate at their full creative potential.

Empathy with the Team: A wedding is a collective effort. Simple details such as ensuring vendors have food and hydration, a decent space to eat, or a kind greeting can change the course of the event.

Managing Frustration: Weddings are living events, and unexpected situations happen. How the couple reacts to changes determines their karma. Those who flow with change end up enjoying; those who get stuck in the problem ruin their own moment.

The Role of the Wedding Planner as “Guardian of Karma”

As planners, our job is not only to coordinate timelines but also to manage emotions. We are responsible for balancing the scale.

Setting Healthy Boundaries: Part of our job is educating the client. An informed client is a calmer client and, therefore, one with better karma.

Protecting the Team: The Wedding Planner must protect vendors from toxic clients. An ecosystem of happy vendors is the best guarantee of a “beautiful and stunning” wedding.



Real Cases: The Mirror of Reality

I remember weddings with both high and modest budgets that were epic because the couple's love and gratitude were the main driving force. On the contrary, extremely luxurious weddings felt cold and chaotic due to the lack of human connection between the main characters and those who made the dream possible.

Once, I had a couple who complained about everything—they argued about the “high” costs of vendors and found a problem with everything. Guess what? It rained throughout the entire wedding. We were never able to hold the ceremony in the seaside garden.

The Wedding You Deserve

At the end of the day, the perfect wedding is not the one without mistakes, but the one overflowing with love and gratitude. Wedding Karma is real: you receive what you give. If you sow respect, you will harvest unforgettable memories. If you sow conflict, your wedding day will reflect that internal battle.

We invite all couples to, before choosing the color of the flowers, choose the attitude with which they want to experience their process. Because in the end, the beauty of a wedding is not measured in crystals, but in the energy, it leaves in the hearts of everyone present.

MSc. Jeffrey Cervantes Calderón

Director and CEO of Costa Rica Wedding Planner
Phone: +506 8665 0990
director@crweddingplanner.com
Social media: @CRWeddingPlanner



Mom:

The First Love
Story of Every
Wedding



May is a deeply special month in Latin America.

Although the date varies by country, Mother's Day is one of the most emotionally and culturally significant celebrations in the region. It is a moment that brings us together, connects us, and reminds us of where we come from.

Because there is a love that needs no introduction.

No empieza el día que nacemos, ni cuando aprendemos a decir "mamá". Empieza mucho antes.

It doesn't begin the day we are born, nor when we first learn to say "Mom."

It begins much earlier.

It begins in the silence of the womb, in the first movements that awaken an emotion impossible to explain.

From that moment, a mother begins to love without knowing, to imagine without seeing, and to care without yet having held us in her arms. And that is how it all begins.





The excitement of the couple is immense, yes.

But there is a different emotion—quieter, deeper... that of a mother watching.

She smiles, even if her heart tightens just a bit.

She celebrates with pride, even if inside, she is learning to let go.

Because being a mother never ends.
It transforms.

We never stop being mothers; we navigate every stage with love. We learn to be present in new ways, to support from a different place, and to trust in what we have sown.

They care for us while we grow, but also while we learn who we are.

A mother's job is to prepare us for the day we decide to go out and chase our dreams... and, like an arrow, to launch us into life.

Over time, an inevitable moment arrives:

The day when the children they held with so much love begin to build their own path.

As a wedding planner, I have had the privilege of accompanying many families during one of the most important moments of their lives: a wedding. And if there is one thing that always moves me deeply, it is the presence of the mothers.





And at a wedding, you can truly feel it.

You see it in those long, lingering glances, in the hugs that last just a little bit longer, and in the hands that let go with love. In that instant where everything changes... and yet, everything remains the same.

Seeing the faces of every mother in these moments fills me with profound emotion and gratitude.



Because behind every story, there are years of invisible care.

Of sleepless nights.

Of silent prayers.

Of constant love, even on the most difficult days.

Nothing we have become happens by chance.

This note is a message of thanks.

A recognition of those women who gave us roots before teaching us how to fly. Those who believed in us even when we didn't believe in ourselves. Who held our dreams... and pushed us to reach them.



Because without them, many of our dreams would have no wings.

And though life may take us far, though we grow, change, or start families of our own—even when they are no longer with us physically—there is one thing that never changes:

A mother's love remains.

I love you,
Mom. Forever...

Rebeca Jerez
Destination Wedding & Event Planner
Rebeca Jerez CO
National Chapter Leader El Salvador IADWP
+503 7748563

Creating Exceptional Jewish Weddings in Punta de Mita: A Perfect Match with Conrad





After 20 years of planning weddings, and more than a decade specializing in Jewish celebrations, I can say this is one of the parts of my job I truly love the most.

My journey with Jewish weddings started in 2012, when I planned my very first one. I remember it so clearly, it opened my eyes to a whole new world of traditions, meaning, and detail. From that moment, I knew this was something I wanted to specialize in.

Over the years, I've worked planning weddings with so many different Jewish communities, Ashkenazi, Sephardic, Persian, Moroccan, and I've also been part of some of the first fully kosher weddings in the destination. It's something I feel very proud of.

“Planning a Jewish wedding is not just about logistics, it's about understanding the culture, respecting every tradition, and making sure everything is done the right way.”

My first Jewish wedding at Conrad Punta de Mita was in 2021, shortly after the hotel opened. It was a fully kosher wedding, and everything flowed so well, from the setup to the execution, that it quickly became one of my favorite venues for this type of celebration. Since then, I've continued to recommend Conrad to my couples because it truly works for Jewish weddings, both in terms of logistics and the overall experience.





One of the things I always recommend for couples to stay at is the **Grand Suite**. It's honestly perfect for the bride getting ready. It has beautiful natural light, it's spacious and it really feels like it was designed for that moment. We've even used it for ketubah signings when couples want something more private and meaningful.

"There's something about that suite—it's calm, it's beautiful, and it just sets the tone for the day."

For the ceremony, the **Haramara Garden** is one of my go-to spots. It's ideal for the chuppah, private, beautiful, and with just the right balance between intimate and special

"One of my favorite moments is watching the brides come down the stairs, heading to the garden before walking down the aisle."



Then for the reception, the **Tukipa Ballroom** gives us a great base to create something really elevated. The space suits both classic and modern preferences.

“Tukipa lets you design something amazing without losing that elegant feel.”

Another thing I love about Conrad is how many options we have throughout the weekend. **Codex** and **Mezquite** can be privatized, which is amazing for Shabbat dinners, welcome parties, or even full wedding events. It gives each part of the celebration its own vibe.

The **adults-only pool area** is also great for pool parties. It can be semi-privatized, and it's perfect for those more relaxed, fun moments with guests.

“Our couples love having different spaces, it makes the whole weekend feel more special and less repetitive.”



Planning Jewish weddings takes a lot of attention to detail. Having a venue like Conrad makes that process so much smoother.

“At the end of the day, it's about creating something that feels real, meaningful, and beautiful, and having the right venue makes a huge difference.”

Punta de Mita has become such a strong destination for multicultural weddings, and Conrad is definitely a big part of that.

Priscilla Arminio

Wedding Planner
Prisar Luxury Weddings and Events
Instagram: /prisarweddingsandevents/

Antigua is ready

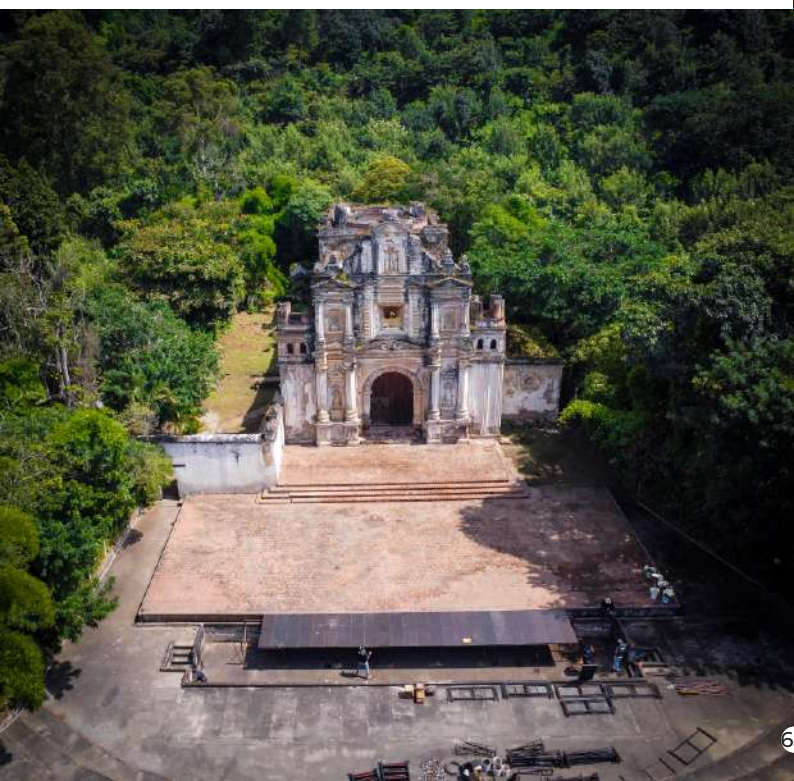




Not all events begin when their doors open.
Some begin much earlier.
In conversations that weren't on the agenda.
In ideas that feel a bit uncomfortable before taking shape.
In that moment when someone says, "what if we do it differently?" and no one at the table dismisses it.



This is how the LAT Wedding Congress Antigua Guatemala 2026 is being born.
And no, it doesn't feel like "just another congress."
We're not organizing — we're building.
There is a very clear difference between producing an event... and building an experience.
The first is solved with logistics.





It's about everything making sense.
Creativity is not the concept, it's the decision
There's a mistaken idea that creativity lives in the visual.
Not here.
Here, creativity lies in how a journey is structured.
In how a pause is created.
In what is shown... and what is deliberately left unseen.
In understanding that every space has to provoke something, even if it's subtle.
And in respecting that.



The second demands judgment.
And that has honestly been the most interesting challenge of these past months.
Yes, there have been long meetings.
But not from routine — from intention.
From questioning what has always been done.
From pushing ideas until they truly make sense.
From accepting that if something doesn't feel right, no matter how long it's been on the table... it has to be let go.
Because in the end, this isn't about everything being perfect.



Because when everything shouts, nothing is heard.
Antigua is not a backdrop, it's part of the conversation
We could have chosen many places.
But Antigua isn't chosen only for what it is.
It's chosen for how it makes you feel.
It has a very particular way of welcoming you.



It doesn't invade, it doesn't interrupt... but it doesn't go unnoticed either.
It makes you look.
To walk more slowly.
To be present.
And that, in a congress where the idea is to reconnect with what we do, is exactly what's needed.
Antigua is not the setting.
It is part of the experience.
This is not about one person, it's about everyone
If something has become clear in this process, it's that this congress is not being built from a single voice.
It is being built from many.
From different perspectives.



From different ways of understanding the industry.
From people who are not here to repeat... but to contribute.
And you can feel it.
In how decisions are made.
In how the course is adjusted when needed.
In how everything, little by little, begins to make sense.
It hasn't started yet... but it's already happening
There are still months to go.
But something is already in motion.
In every meeting that ends with more questions than answers.
In every idea that evolves.
In every decision made with intention.
Antigua is ready.
And we... are right in that part of the process no one sees, but that defines everything.
What's coming is not just a congress.
It's a meeting point.
A space to rethink.
And maybe, to truly feel again why we do what we do.

Diana Sciarrillo
National Chapter Guatemala
@idoguatemala

Travel the world WITH IADWP IN 2026

The IADWP is characterized by providing innovative and inspiring education, as well as being a global business generator with a community spanning over 40 countries in the Americas and Eurasia.

Join the spectacular events that we are preparing for you

Antigua, Guatemala | July 13–16, 2026 |
Program in **Spanish**



Deep Luxury, multicultural mastery,
and global positioning

Congreso de Bodas LAT *is IADWP's flagship Latin American congress, designed for professionals ready to elevate their business*, mindset, and international presence.

This is not basic education. *It is a strategic business congress* focused on how the wedding industry is evolving toward Deep Luxury, multicultural celebrations, and global clients with higher expectations.

What you gain at this Congress:

- **A deep understanding** of Deep Luxury: authenticity, intention, and meaningful design
- **Tools** to design and manage multicultural and interfaith weddings
- **Strategies** to charge higher fees and attract international clients
- **Education** on global trends and professional positioning
- **Practical knowledge on AI**, marketing, content, and systems
- **High-value networking** with professionals shaping the Latin American market

This Congress is for those who want to lead the
future of weddings in Latin America.

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Mérida, Yucatán | October 19–22, 2026 |
Program in **English**



Culture, innovation, and the future
of destination weddings

Love Mexico is a **specialized training event designed for professionals who want to sell Yucatán with cultural depth**, accuracy, and innovation.

This event blends education, and **future-ready business tools to help you design and sell meaningful, tech-enhanced destination weddings.**

What you gain at Love Mexico:

- **Cultural intelligence** through the local storytelling
- **Clear understanding of Yucatán** as a destination market
- **Skills to design emotionally powerful, tech-enhanced experiences**
- **Training in AI-driven planning**, automation, CRM, and digital tools
- **Smarter revenue models** for destination weddings
- **Premium networking** with Mexican and international professionals

This event is for professionals who want to stay relevant, innovative, and future-ready.

USD 687
(limited time)

Valid until June 30, 2026

From **USD 437***

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Tuscany to Puglia Nov 4th - 11th 2026



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PUGLIA

FROM NOVEMBER 4th - 11th, 2026

This is not just a trip, it's a transformational journey for wedding and event professionals. Join an unforgettable educational experience from Tuscany to Puglia. Discover Italy's most iconic regions where art, passion, and business come together. Learn directly from local experts, explore authentic venues, and gain the skills to sell Italy with confidence and emotion.

YOUR PROFESSIONAL TAKEAWAYS

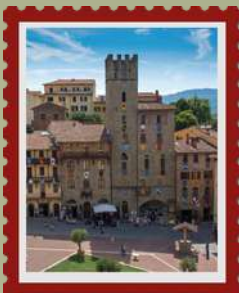
An exclusive journey designed to connect you, inspire you, and grow your business

- ✓ One-on-one B2B meetings with Italy's top wedding and event suppliers
- ✓ Educational sessions led by international and local experts
- ✓ 5-star accommodations hand-picked by Monica Balli
- ✓ Gourmet dining and masterclasses showcasing Italy's finest
- ✓ Domestic flights & ground transfers throughout the program
- ✓ Immersive cultural experiences across Tuscany and Puglia

SINGLE USD 6,050 | DOUBLE USD 4,950 PP

UPGRADE YOUR JOURNEY

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- Carrara caves
- Bocelli's world & Forte dei Marmi.

SINGLE: USD 1,675
DOUBLE: USD 1,350 PP

POST-FAM | PUGLIA, NOV 11th - 13th



- Reflect, connect & celebrate.

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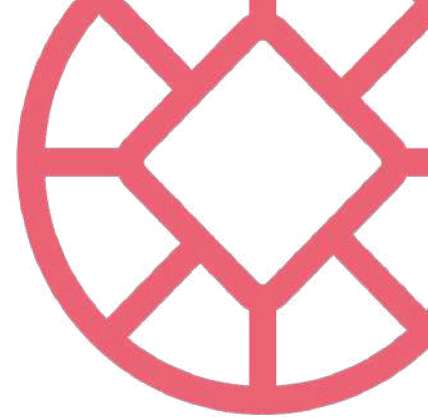


📍 Centro Internacional de Congresos de Yucatán

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Paulina Jasso Ramírez

Senior Manager Weddings & Social Events

paulina_jasso@grupopresidente.com
+525545774529



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gina.johnson@hilton.com
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Kristin Fairbanks
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@jaz_the_planner



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Yuraima Blanco
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May 8th
@crystaleventos



Julianny Pena
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@athena_y_j_events



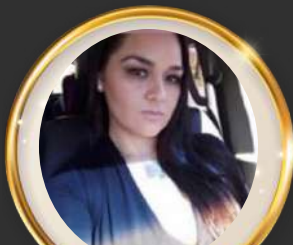
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May 10th
@alancervantesphotos



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2026

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May 31st
@escapes.ca

2026

Argentina
Adrián Pavía
+5493415012940
apavía@iadwp.com

Chile
Carla Valdebenito Jalaf
+569 97334778
carla@rhonda.cl

Colombia
Sonia Martínez Jurado
+573154430925
weddingmanager@bridalagency.co

Costa Rica
Jeffrey Cervantes Calderon
+506 8665 0990
director@crweddingplanner.com

Ecuador
Lissner Ortiz
+593984678280
gerencia@lissnerweddingplanner.com

El Salvador
Rebeca Jerez
+503 77485634
rebecajerez@rebecajerez.com

Guatemala
Diana Sciarrillo
+502 57782271
dianas@weddingsinguatemala.com

Islas del Caribe de Habla Hispana
Mirta Sánchez
+809-756-0554
mirtasanchez@msevents.com.do

Panamá
Julie Franco
+50769495544
Info@expobodapanama.com

Perú
Jossy Quezada Sánchez
+51 999050677
Jquezada@jossyquezadawp.com

República Dominicana
Mary Pily López
+1 829 717-6544
marypily@marypily.com.do

Venezuela
Juan Salvador Rangel
+58 4144949074
Juan@juansalvadoreventos.com

ÉPICA

BODAS Y EVENTOS

Director & General Editor:

Adrián Pavía

Editorial Coordinator:

Jossy Quezada

Content Coordinator:

Lissner Ortiz

Design:

Velvet Hell Estudio

Instagram: /velvethellestudio/

