



# BE YOUR GUEST

Time and time again, newlyweds tell us that their wedding day was so crazy, they didn't have a chance to enjoy the special details they had spent months organising. Or worse still, they didn't get a chance to speak to guests because they were too busy dealing with a DJ emergency. Here are our top tips on how to really take it all in. Welcome to your own wedding!

## START THE DAY OFF RIGHT

You want to feel refreshed, comfortable and in control. Remember, post-party hangover and pre-wedding nerves are not a good combo, so go easy on the booze the night before.

## MELLOW MORNING

Create a fun, girly ambiance for getting ready. Arrange some nibbles and comfy clothing for everyone. Make it known to any drama-queen bridesmaids that they can leave their sass at the door.

## COME PREPARED

Make a list of 'day-of' duties, with a person responsible, a contact number and a back-up plan for each. It might sound neurotic, but it could save you a whole lot of last-minute stress. Ain't nobody got time for that!

## BE COMFORTABLE

Make sure your makeup doesn't irritate your skin, your shoes are broken in and your wedding 'survival kit' is in tow. Bring a pair of flats, a hair-piece for a



last-minute, late-night up-do, an umbrella and a bridal bolero or cover-up. If your gown is big and dramatic, consider a lightweight reception dress.

## MAKE FRIENDS

If you have a good relationship with your vendors and venue staff, you can approach them with ease on the day if you need to. It's your bridesmaids' job to take care of any glitches, however. Delegate in advance and make sure everybody knows what they're doing.





IMAGE mementophotography.ie

#### MUSIC PREP

Make sure the DJ plays your jam by prearranging the playlist.

#### CAMERA READY

Prepare a shot list with your photographer at picture perfect locations. It will save you traipsing around for hours looking for a nice tree to stand under.

#### TAKE HER HANDY

Enjoy your dinner and have a few drinks, but remember that this is not a regular Friday night where you can collapse on the couch after over-indulging.

#### TIME OUT

Make sure you and your new spouse get at least a twenty minute break alone together. Same goes with your parents (that part of Father of the Bride where Steve Martin doesn't get to say goodbye to Annie?! \*sob\*)

#### DANCE

This is probably the most fun way to interact with the maximum number of guests, without getting hogged by your talkative aunty.

#### SPREAD THE FUN

If you have arranged any extras, prep your bridal party to encourage people to part-take. The last thing you need is to have to provide instructions or reasons why your expensive extra is fun.



IMAGE katiefarrellphotography.com

### THE BIG THREE

#### BE PRESENT

Take time to look around and take it all in. You're getting married! Yay!

#### BREATHE

It's a good idea to practice some breathing techniques in the lead-up. If you feel yourself getting anxious, take a moment.

#### LET GO

Let someone else look after any issues and just enjoy yourself.



IMAGE campbellphotography.co.uk

#### CLEAR THE AIR

Make amends with anyone who you may have fallen out with in the run up to the day. You'll want to feel the love, not tip-toe around your new mother-in-law, or have to fake smile in your bridal party snaps, after a blow-out with your maid of honour.

#### STAY A WHILE

Give yourself at least two nights in your hotel. It will probably be a late night, and the last thing you'll feel like doing the next morning is packing up your dress in time for check out. No, thanks.

#### MOVE ALONG

Yes, it's polite to speak to each of your guests on the day, but you probably won't have to give them half an hour each. Keep it light and joke that you'll be in trouble if you don't say hi to your new in-laws.

Have one of your maids pull you away from over-chatty guests, or invent a code word.

#### DO YOUR OWN THING

Accept that not everybody is going to have an amazing time, just because it's your wedding day. People have their own issues going on, that you can't and shouldn't attempt to change. You don't need to spend an hour with a drunk, sobbing girl in the bathroom. In fact, we insist that you don't!

#### DON'T LOSE PERSPECTIVE.

If a guest does something silly, don't let it ruin the day. You might look back in years to come, laugh and be glad they were there. You're not the only one who's nervous about the day going well. It's a very special day for your family too, so don't lash out - let them enjoy it. ♥