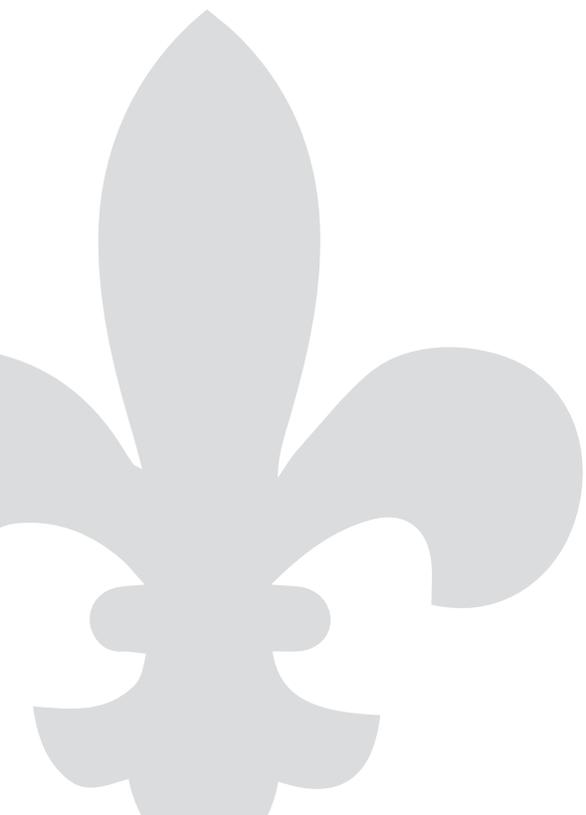


Castle Farms

CHARLEVOIX, MICHIGAN



Wedding Planner



Castle Farms

Congratulations on your engagement! We're delighted you've chosen Castle Farms to be a part of your happily-ever-after. Here at Castle Farms, we're all about making dreams come true. Planning a wedding can be stressful. As if there weren't enough decisions facing you already — guest lists, honeymoon plans, and where you'll live (your place or mine?) — suddenly you're forced to deal with florists, caterers, musicians, and the like. While planning your own wedding might save you money, it won't save you time, and it can be exhausting — emotionally, as well as physically. What bride wants to end up exhausted when the big day finally arrives?

As one of the Castle's gifts to you, we've put together a Wedding Planning Book that will provide you with valuable assistance and help ease your mind. This practical book is filled with tips and useful information on a variety of subjects, including timelines and how to make decisions when choosing vendors, such as catering, photography, cake design, floral, entertainment and transportation.

We're thrilled to have this opportunity to welcome you as a Castle Farms couple. It's our pleasure to assist in helping plan the wedding of your dreams!



2014 PICK
the knot
best of
weddings

2015 PICK
the knot
best of
weddings

2016 PICK
the knot
best of
weddings

the knot
best of
weddings
★
HALL OF FAME

WEDDINGWIRE
COUPLES' CHOICE
Awards
★★★★★
2015

WEDDINGWIRE
COUPLES' CHOICE
Awards
★★★★★
2016



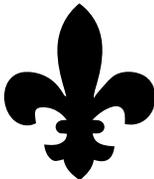
Castle  Farms
Edition Six – 2/2016



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Wedding Timeline



12-18 MONTHS BEFORE WEDDING

- Set a date and time for your wedding
- Set a total wedding budget
- Decide the size, overall look and theme of your wedding
- Determine your guest list
- Begin researching wedding service providers
- Contact hotels for reservation information
- be sure to receive written confirmation of your reserved rooms
- Send save-the-date cards

8-12 MONTHS BEFORE WEDDING

- Choose the wedding dress and accompanying accessories, and determine delivery dates
- Set the size of your wedding party and select your attendants
- Make selections for bridesmaids' dresses
- Start shopping for wedding rings
- Book vendors, including DJ, photographer, officiant, and florist
- Finally, believe it or not, it's time to start planning for your honeymoon!

5-8 MONTHS BEFORE WEDDING

- Order invitations and any other stationary items, such as thank-you cards
- Register for gifts at selected stores or online
- Select the attire for the men in the wedding party
- Research marriage license requirements
- Determine the style and size of your wedding cake
- Schedule engagement photos

3-5 MONTHS BEFORE WEDDING

- Confirm a final guest list
- Make preparations for all food, including finalizing details with caterer
- Check in with your bar-service provider and research ideas on any signature drinks

2-3 MONTHS BEFORE WEDDING

- Finalize floral arrangements
- Arrange limousine or transportation service
- Finalize play lists with DJ and musicians
- Send out wedding invitations
- Make arrangements for the rehearsal dinner
- Decide on a hairdresser and make-up artist
- Finalize honeymoon arrangements

1-2 MONTHS BEFORE WEDDING

- Confirm orders and finalize all vendors
- Order rental items such as chair sashes, other specialty linen, decorative centerpieces, etc.
- Select attire for rehearsal dinner, any other parties, and honeymoon
- Arrange fittings for attendants; finalize their attire and accessories
- Schedule the rehearsal dinner
- Buy wedding rings
- Purchase gifts for your wedding party
- Schedule additional fittings
- Acquire a guest book or a unique item for your guests to sign
- Balance due to Castle Farms 30 days prior to the event

3 WEEKS BEFORE WEDDING

- Get your marriage license
- Organize all necessary ceremony accessories, such as the rings, garter, pillows, etc.
- Establish a final guest count from RSVPs
- Make the necessary arrangements if the bride is changing her name
- Final fittings if needed
- Contact any invitees that have not yet responded

2 WEEKS BEFORE WEDDING

- Pick up wedding rings and check the engravings
- Inform all necessary wedding professionals of final guest count
- Arrange the seating at the reception
- Confirm all reservations for your honeymoon, including hotel and transportation arrangements
- Send Castle Farms the Set-up packet and confirm decorating times

WEEK OF THE WEDDING

- Pack for your honeymoon
- Prepare for wedding-day expenses; write checks and tips, make plans for all payments
- Rehearse the ceremony and give your attendants their gifts
- Have the rehearsal dinner and go over all arrangements with members of the wedding party

THE BIG DAY

- Begin preparing early enough to allow for dressing, hair, and makeup at a relaxed pace
- Allow sufficient time for travel and photographs
- Have a great day!
- Arrive at Castle Farms two hours before ceremony



Vendor Choices

	Deposit Amt./Date	Pay-off Amt./Date
Castle Farms	/	/
Caterer	/	/
Florist	/	/
Photographer	/	/
Videographer	/	/
Wedding Bands	/	/
Clergy	/	/
Ceremony Music	/	/
Entertainment	/	/
Bridal Attire	/	/
Bridal Party Attire	/	/
Cake	/	/
Insurance	/	/
Transportation	/	/
Hair & Make-up	/	/
Invitations	/	/
Favors	/	/
Rehearsal Dinner	/	/
Honeymoon	/	/



© Darrell Christie Photography

Timeline Tips

3:00 PM Ceremony

- 1:00** Bridal Party arrival
- 1:00-2:30** Pre-ceremony pictures
- 2:45** Bridal Party in the waiting area
- 3:00-3:30** Ceremony
- 3:30** Dismiss guests
- 3:30-5:00** Cocktail hour/
remaining pictures
- 5:00** Reception starts
- 5:00** Bridal Party announced in
- 5:05** Toasts/ Blessing
- 5:15-7:00** Dinner
- 7:00** Cut the cake
- 7:00-7:15** Serve the cake
- 7:15** Formal dances
- 7:45-10:00** Dancing
- 10:00** Reception ends
- 10:00-11:00** Say goodbyes
- 11:00** DEPARTURE

5:00 PM Ceremony

- 3:00** Bridal Party arrival
- 3:00-4:30** Pre-ceremony pictures
- 4:45** Bridal Party in the waiting area
- 5:00-5:30** Ceremony
- 5:30** Dismiss guests
- 5:30-6:30** Cocktail hour/
remaining pictures
- 6:30** Reception starts
- 6:30** Bridal Party announced in
- 6:35** Toasts/ Blessing
- 6:45-8:00** Dinner
- 8:00** Cut the cake
- 8:00-8:15** Serve the cake
- 8:15** Formal dances
- 8:45-11:00** Dancing
- 11:00** Reception ends
- 11:00-12:00** Say goodbyes
- 12:00** DEPARTURE

7:00 PM Ceremony

- 5:00** Bridal Party arrival
- 5:00-6:30** Pre-ceremony pictures
- 6:45** Bridal Party in the waiting area
- 7:00-7:30** Ceremony
- 7:30** Dismiss guests
- 7:30-8:00** Cocktail hour/
remaining pictures
- 8:00** Reception starts
- 8:00** Bridal Party announced in
- 8:05** Toasts/ Blessing
- 8:15-9:00** Dinner
- 9:00** Cut the cake
- 9:00-9:15** Serve the cake
- 9:05** Formal dances
- 9:15-12:00** Dancing
- 12:00** Reception ends
- 12:00-1:00** Say goodbyes
- 1:00** DEPARTURE

Your overall daily timeline is the one thing that you should put the most time into thinking about. Everything, from when you wake up on the day of your wedding to the time you retire to your honeymoon suite, should all be planned out to make the best use of your time. The more of this you are able to communicate to your vendors, the more smoothly your day will go. Try to create specific timelines for each of your vendors, as well as family and wedding attendants. Make sure that they know where and when they are expected. Throughout the day there will be events happening at the same time; think about recruiting a close friend or family member to watch over the things that you cannot control.

— *Meg Paxton*, PAXTON PHOTOGRAPHY



© Jen Kniivilla Photography

Tradition & Etiquette

Who Pays for what?

Bride's Family

Wedding Invitations
 Bridal Consultant
 Wedding Gown & Accessories
 Flowers & Decor
 Music
 Photography
 Videography
 Ceremony
 Reception
 Bridal Transportation
 Engagement Party

Bride Pays

Groom's ring
 Bridesmaids' gifts
 Parents' gifts
 Groom gift

Groom's Family

Rehearsal Dinner
 Reception Alcohol

Groom Pays

Bride's rings
 Marriage license
 Officiant fee
 Groom's formal wear
 Gifts for groomsmen
 Bride gift
 Parents' gifts
 Honeymoon

Attendants Pay

Bridal Shower
 Bachelor Party
 Bachelorette Party
 Their attire

**This list is simply a notation of overall tradition throughout the last century. It will be different for each family and each event.*

What about Tipping Vendors?

Tipping should be reserved as a token of appreciation. If a vendor goes above and beyond for you, the best way to say Thank You to them is to give rave reviews in as many locations as possible; the next best way is to tip.

BUSINESS OWNERS - You don't have to tip the owner of a business, unless you feel that they have gone beyond the call of duty and you want to give them a token of your appreciation.

CEREMONY OR RECEPTION

MUSICIANS - \$5-10/hr per person, in one lump sum given to the person in charge.

CATERING MANAGER - No need to tip unless they've thrown in extras or saved you a few hundred dollars on your bill. The tip would be between \$50-100.

PHOTOGRAPHER AND

VIDEOGRAPHER - If these vendors own the company, then the tip is optional. If they are employees \$50 goes to the main photographer, who will split the tip with the assistant.

FLORIST - You don't need to tip the florist for making your arrangements but you can tip them an extra \$5 per delivery location (3 locations=\$15) or \$10-20 per staff member in one lump sum, for set-up and delivery.

WEDDING CAKE BAKER - You don't have to tip for the baking of the cake but if you are at your reception venue at time of delivery and set-up = \$10

VENUE COORDINATOR AND ASSISTANT COORDINATOR

- This is the person managing the reception venues staff and facility the day and night of your wedding = \$50

YOUR WEDDING PLANNER

- This person has planned your wedding from start to finish. An appropriate tip would be 10% of their total commission or bill.

The amounts above are only examples and given at your discretion.

Wedding Budget

My Total Budget \$ _____

WEDDING EXPENSES		Avg % of Budget	My Budget	Your Estimate	Your Actual
CEREMONY	Location fee, officiate fee, marriage license, ring pillows, ceremony decorations	7%			
RECEPTION	Reception room rental, food, drinks, cake, favors, decorations	50%			
ATTIRE	Dress, headpiece/veil, undergarments and hosiery, shoes, accessories, alterations, jewelry, hair and makeup, groom's tuxedo or suit, shoes, tie, cuff links, studs	8%			
RINGS	His and her rings, engraving	3%			
FLOWERS	Ceremony decor, bride's and bridesmaids' bouquets, corsages and boutonnieres, reception centerpieces, flower-girl basket	7%			
MUSIC	Ceremony musicians, band and/or DJ, cocktail hour musicians	5%			
PHOTOGRAPHY/ VIDEOGRAPHY	Photographer and videographer's fees, albums, additional prints, disposable cameras for candid photographs	12%			
TRANSPORTATION	Transportation for wedding party, guest shuttle and/or parking attendants	2%			
STATIONERY	Invitations, save-the-date cards, response cards, thank you notes, postage, calligraphy, guest book	3%			
GIFTS	Bridesmaids and groomsmen, parents, welcome baskets for out-of-town guests	3%			

© Weber Photography

© Weber Photography

© Tatum Photo and Design



© Tatum Photo and Design

© Weber Photography

Catering



© Weber Photography

Things to Consider...

Keep your guests in mind when choosing a catered menu. Will there be children or vegetarians who require a menu separate from the main menu? Does the caterer charge extra for these groups of people?

Know Before You Go...

- ✦ Your caterer and bartender must be licensed and insured.
- ✦ Your catering budget- know where to splurge and where you would like to save.
- ✦ The service style you would prefer- buffet, plated, family style, etc.
- ✦ What type of bar service you are expecting - ask about glass size and if ice is provided.

CATERING INTERVIEW

CATERER: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION: _____

What types of food do you specialize in? _____

How flexible is your menu? _____

Are you licensed and insured (required by the Castle)? _____

What is the cost difference between serving styles? _____

What does the cost include? _____

What are typical additional charges? _____

Do you have a separate charge for staff? _____

Is set-up and clean-up included? _____

Do you provide china? _____

Do you have licensed bartenders (required by the Castle)? _____

Will you provide bar mixes, pop, juices, etc? _____

Will you provide special discounted meals for any children? _____

Can we see a copy of your standard contract? _____

What deposit do you require? _____

When is the final payment due? _____



© Northern Art Photography

—•—
CATERING INTERVIEW
—◇—

CATERER: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION: _____

What types of food do you specialize in? _____

How flexible is your menu? _____

Are you licensed and insured (required by the Castle)? _____

What is the cost difference between serving styles? _____

What does the cost include? _____

What are typical additional charges? _____

Do you have a separate charge for staff? _____

Is set-up and clean-up included? _____

Do you provide china? _____

Do you have licensed bartenders (required by the Castle)? _____

Will you provide bar mixes, pop, juices, etc? _____

Will you provide special discounted meals for any children? _____

Can we see a copy of your standard contract? _____

What deposit do you require? _____

When is the final payment due? _____

Final Decision

CATERER:

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Menu Chosen:

Bartender Provided:

Deposit Paid:

Final Payment Due:

Notes:

© Weber Photography



Floral

Things to Consider...

Look through bridal books and floral guides. Cut out pictures of things you like and share them with your florist. Seeing your ideas and personal style will help your florist translate your concepts into workable floral designs and arrangements that are just right for you.

Know Before You Go...

- ✦ Bridal party attire, color(s), and formality.
- ✦ Colors and flowers you like and dislike.
- ✦ How big of a role flowers will play in your ceremony and reception.
- ✦ Castle Farms' walk-in cooler is not meant for flowers; the temperature is almost freezing.

© Paul Retherford Photography



© Paul Retherford Photography

FLORAL INTERVIEW

FLORIST: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION: _____

What types of floral arrangements do you specialize in? _____

How flexible are your options? _____

What does the cost include? _____

What are typical delivery charges? _____

Do you have a separate set-up charge? _____

Is rental item return included? _____

What type of vases and rental items do you provide for use? _____

Can you decorate the wedding cake? _____

Can we see a copy of your standard contract? _____

What deposit do you require? _____

When is the final payment due? _____

Can we see pictures of previous events? _____

Floral WORKSHEET

	Quantity	Floral Shop #1		Floral Shop #2	
		Price Each	Total	Price Each	Total
BOUQUETS					
Bridal					
Bridal Toss Bouquet					
Bridesmaids					
Other Bouquets _____					
CORSAGES					
Mother-of-Bride					
Mother-of-Groom					
Grandmothers					
Hostess					
Step Mother(s)					
Other Corsages _____					
BOUTONNIERES					
Groom					
Groomsmen					
Father-of-Bride					
Father-of-Groom					
Usher(s)					
Ring Bearer(s)					
Step Father(s)					
Grandfathers					
Other Boutonnieres _____					
MISCELLANEOUS FLOWERS					
Bridal Hair					
Bridesmaids' Hair					
Flower Girls Hair					
Flower Girls' Petals					
Aisle Petals					
Other _____					
RECEPTION FLOWERS					
Head Table					
Family Table					
Buffet Table					
Cake/ Cake Table					
Guest Tables					
Centerpieces					
Favors					
Other _____					
		Total #1 _____		Total #2 _____	

Floral TIPS

Floral design plays a key element in creating an overall feel of any special event. Flowers may be chosen to exude personality, common theme or color, or simply to compliment the venue to delight guests' senses. It is helpful to have an overall vision when selecting wedding flowers, taking into account the style of the couple as well as the venue, linens, dress fabric, and of course any flowers that may be of special meaning. At this time a palette is decided upon and a selection of seasonal flowers is considered to narrow down the limitless options. Typically the flowers for the bridal party are selected first and are then used throughout the ceremony and reception décor. When selecting bridal party flowers the bride will decide the type of bouquet she and her girls will carry. If the men are wearing jackets, boutonnieres are selected to compliment the girls' bouquets and then parents and grandparents floral is considered.

It is always nice to adorn the aisle in some way, petals and chair décor add interest without being too overdone. Free standing or pedestal arrangements are a fine way to carry the style of the wedding into the setting of the ceremony; entry way designs placed at the head of the aisle welcome guests and add depth to the photographs.

Selecting the floral for a wedding is one of the many planning tasks that brides truly look forward to. With the help of a creative designer, the flowers for a wedding will complete the vision in a way that is unique and reflects the style of the couple.

Jennifer Haf, Bloom Floral Design

© Tatum Photo and Design



© Ryan Anastor Photography

Photo TIPS

There are three things you will take with you from your wedding day: your spouse, your ring, and your photos. All three of these things you will enjoy most every day. Your spouse will age, your ring will tarnish; but your photographs should not fade. Choosing the right professional to capture your best day should be at the top of your decision list.

The photographer that you choose should not only have a lengthy history behind them, a creative eye, great attention to detail, and a knowledge of the venue; but also a presentable personality that you, your guests, and your family can spend the day with.

Attention to detail and a creative eye will produce the most wonderful imagery that you will cherish for a life-time. A knowledge of the venue will make your day flow at an easy and efficient pace; allowing for more time, more images, and better overall end product. The personality of your photographer can make the day: if you wouldn't choose to spend a regular day with them, why would you choose to share your most intimate and emotional day with them? Be certain that you not only like the price and the product; but the person, too.

Meg Paxton, Paxton Photography

Castle Farms Wedding Planner 2016



Photography



Things to Consider...

There are many excellent photographers available. Be sure to pick one that will capture your wedding the way you want to remember it. Whether you prefer portraits or a more candid or journalistic approach, find a photographer that fits your style.

SEE AN ACTUAL ALBUM - If possible, ask to see a proof book - the shots the photographer took before the couple chose which ones they wanted. This is their work in the raw. Check out weddings that were photographed at the Castle at the same time of year as your wedding to see what your photos might look like.

DON'T UNDERESTIMATE - Initially you may not want many pictures for your album, but once you see the proofs, you'll want more than you originally thought. Make sure you have rights to, or to buy, the negatives or files so you can have more pictures made later.

ORIGINALS FOR THE FUTURE - Make sure that your photographer archives the negatives or copies of your electronic files to ensure you can print or purchase at any time in the future.

SHARE THE WEALTH - Allow friends and family to order prints directly from your photographer. This is easy if your photographer posts your wedding photos on their website. You can email guests a link to your online album, and they can order prints directly without having to go through you.

MIND THE SECOND HAND - Be sure to discuss in detail the timeline and shots you want from your day. Open communication with your

photographer is essential to making sure there are no important moments missed.

NIGHT AND DAY - Be sure to factor in available daylight and sunset time into your photography schedule so you aren't left in the dark. Don't forget lit archways and sparkler options at night!

RAIN, RAIN GO AWAY - Don't let the weather ruin your wedding day - use it to your advantage! If it rains, grab two big umbrellas, go outside, and shoot pictures in the rain. Black and white photos of a couple kissing under one umbrella with raindrops falling is very romantic.

BLACK AND WHITE - Plain and simple, black and white photography is preferred for documenting emotional moments. The fewer colors your eyes have to process, the cleaner and easier an image is to absorb when viewing. The result? Pure romance captured in time!

A BEHIND-THE-SCENE QUEEN - Choose a photo pro whom you feel extremely comfortable with and don't mind inviting backstage. Some of the most beautiful wedding moments happen while the bride is dressing, while the family is waiting, or when the couple steals away for a kiss.

TAKE A WALK-ABOUT - Take advantage of the entire property. Be sure your pro knows all of the wonderful locations on site and is up for a quick drive down to the beach for great sunset photos.

A WINNING SMILE - Meet your photographer or at least have a phone conversation prior to your day. Make sure that you like not only their work but their personality too. They should make you feel at ease and that you can fully trust them to capture your best day.

PHOTOGRAPHY INTERVIEW

PHOTOGRAPHER: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION: _____

What style of photography do you specialize in? _____

Do you use digital or film media? _____

Do you have back-up equipment? _____

What do your packages include? _____

What are typical additional charges? _____

Who will be photographing my wedding? _____

How long does it take to receive my proofs? _____

How will I receive my order once it's placed? _____

How long do you keep the original files or negatives? _____

Do you offer photo editing services? How much? _____

Would you allow my family to take photos at the same time? _____

What deposit do you require? _____

When is final payment due? _____

PHOTOGRAPHY INTERVIEW

PHOTOGRAPHER: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION: _____

What style of photography do you specialize in? _____

Do you use digital or film media? _____

Do you have back-up equipment? _____

What do your packages include? _____

What are typical additional charges? _____

Who will be photographing my wedding? _____

How long does it take to receive my proofs? _____

How will I receive my order once it's placed? _____

How long do you keep the original files or negatives? _____

Do you offer photo editing services? How much? _____

Would you allow my family to take photos at the same time? _____

What deposit do you require? _____

When is final payment due? _____

Final Decision

PHOTOGRAPHER: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION: _____

Package Chosen: _____

Photographers Provided: _____

Deposit Paid: _____

Final Payment Due: _____

Notes: _____

© Thomas Webb Photography



Videography



© Northern Art Photography

Things to Consider...

The beauty of videography is the movement of your day. The sound bites and the wonderful emotions are caught in such a way so you'll never forget what you felt in your heart for your spouse and your family.

Know Before You Go...

- ♣ 98% of newlyweds recommend recording the wedding.
- ♣ Before the wedding- 52% consider videography a "Top 10" service.
- ♣ After the wedding- 75% consider videography a "Top 10" service.
- ♣ 38% of brides did not have their wedding recorded by anyone.
- ♣ 68% of those brides now strongly recommend that future brides hire a professional videographer.

COMFORT LEVEL - The most important aspect of choosing a videographer is that you should be completely comfortable with them. If you don't have a good relationship with your videographer, it will definitely show in the video!

STYLE - When viewing videography, you need to remember that it is an art form. Just like any other artist, each videographer has their own style. Do you like the style you see? The style you see in their preview should be exactly the style you want for your wedding video. Will you be shown a sample piece or an actual wedding? Demos are often not true representations of an actual wedding. Ask to see a wedding in its entirety. This way, you will see what you are going to get.

FLEXIBILITY - How flexible will your videographer be? Are they willing to entertain creative and new concepts from you or are they set in their style? Are they willing to travel with you throughout your day? What are the extra charges for different styles of finished product? This craft is always reinventing itself.

PRODUCTION - How will your video be produced? Does the videography company have separate editors from the camera person(s) or will the same person handle the entire production? More often, when the same person shoots and produces your video, it more accurately reflects the personality and atmosphere of your wedding day.

TWO CAMERA COVERAGE - Aside from the obvious advantages of having the 2nd camera, your peace of mind is important. Although all professionals should have back-up equipment, by the time any professional realizes they need to use it, they have likely missed an important moment. With two cameras available, it is highly unlikely to happen.

EQUIPMENT - Cameras producing the best images right now are HD-DSLR cameras. Most are very small and unobtrusive. In the videography world today, bigger is not always better. The smaller, professional cameras give a wonderful image and they allow your videographer to be more discrete.

—•—•—•—•—

VIDEOGRAPHER INTERVIEW

—•—•—•—•—

VIDEOGRAPHER: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION: _____

What style of videography do you specialize in? _____

Why type of equipment do you use? _____

Do you have back-up equipment? _____

What do your packages include? _____

What are typical additional charges? _____

Who will be filming my wedding? _____

How long does it take to get my disk? _____

How will I receive my order once it's placed? _____

Do you offer editing services? How much? _____

Would you allow my family to take photos at the same time? _____

What deposit do you require? _____

When is final payment due? _____

—•—•—•—•—

VIDEOGRAPHY INTERVIEW

—•—•—•—•—

VIDEOGRAPHER: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION: _____

What style of videography do you specialize in? _____

Why type of equipment do you use? _____

Do you have back-up equipment? _____

What do your packages include? _____

What are typical additional charges? _____

Who will be filming my wedding? _____

How long does it take to get my disk? _____

How will I receive my order once it's placed? _____

Do you offer editing services? How much? _____

Would you allow my family to take photos at the same time? _____

What deposit do you require? _____

When is final payment due? _____

Final Decision

VIDEOGRAPHER:

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Package Chosen:

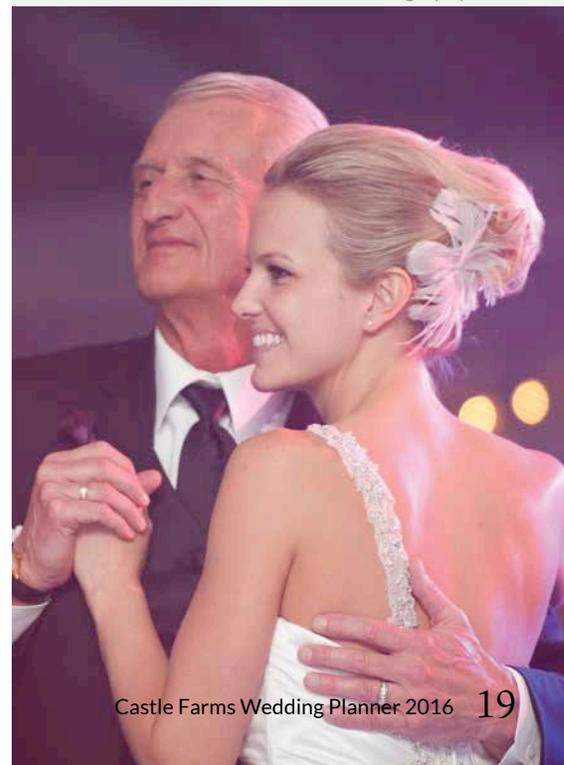
Videographers Provided:

Deposit Paid:

Final Payment Due:

Notes:

© Northern Art Photography





© Northern Art Photography



© Weber Photography

Wedding Bands

Why a Band? In ancient Egypt, ladies wore a wedding band on the third finger of their left hand because they believed a vein ran from that finger straight to the heart. Women have been wearing a wedding band after marriage for centuries, but it was only around WWII that men began wearing a wedding band as well. As a gesture of love and affection, the wedding band was worn in the battlefield to remind men of their sweethearts far away.

What to Know When Shopping:

- ✦ Pure gold is 24 karats. 14 karat gold is 14 parts gold to 10 parts alloy.
- ✦ The higher the karat the softer the ring.
- ✦ The higher the karat the more costly the ring.
- ✦ Yellow gold is the most traditional of wedding bands.
- ✦ Sterling silver is softer than gold.
- ✦ Titanium and Tungsten are the hardest of wedding band metals.
- ✦ Titanium and Tungsten bands cannot be sized.
- ✦ Comfort fit is the best interior style for men - it has smoother edges.



© Paul Retherford Photography

Things to Consider...

In today's world, there is more than just one kind of couple. We all have different backgrounds, different family considerations, and are at different points in our life. Whether it is your first wedding or a blending of two families, choosing your clergy is very important.

Clergy

Questions to Ask Yourself:

- ✦ How religious of a ceremony would we like?
- ✦ Would we prefer a man or a woman to perform our ceremony?
- ✦ Am I comfortable with this clergy-person or officiant?
- ✦ Does this clergy-person/officiant seem to have the same beliefs as me?
- ✦ Would my family approve of this clergy-person performing my ceremony?

CLERGY INTERVIEW

CLERGY:

CONTACT INFORMATION:

- What religious background are you from?
Do you require meetings/classes prior to the wedding?
How long does a typical ceremony take?
What type(s) of ceremony do you perform?
Can we create our own ceremony or write our own vows?
Can we include our children?
Is photography allowed during the ceremony?
Can we pick our own music for the ceremony?
May we pick our own readings for the ceremony?
Can we see a copy of your standard contract?
What deposit do you require?
When is the final payment due?

CLERGY INTERVIEW

CLERGY:

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Can we see a copy of your standard contract?
What deposit do you require?
When is the final payment due?



© Weber Photography

Final Decision

CLERGY:

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Package:

Deposit Paid:

Final Payment Due:

Notes:



Entertainment

Things to Consider...

The musician for your ceremony or the musician/DJ for the reception sets the mood for the overall tone of an event. Make sure that you like the type of music provided and that the DJ or musician can accommodate your requests.

Know Before You Go...

- ✦ Your entertainment budget — know where to splurge and where you would like to save.
- ✦ The feel or tone of the music you would like to walk down the aisle to.
- ✦ A list of specific requested songs you would like played at your ceremony for live entertainment.
- ✦ The service style you prefer — black tie or fun and family.
- ✦ Your first dance, father/daughter, mother/son and any other specific songs you would like played at the reception.
- ✦ Would you like lighting for the reception entertainment?
- ✦ Would you like specific entertaining events for the children at the reception?

Your wedding is one of the most important days of your life and choosing entertainment shouldn't be taken lightly. Studies have shown that entertainment is one of the last things booked for an event but is one of the most remembered by your guests. When choosing entertainment it is more than just the music played. A good entertainer will have a contract, comprehensive planning forms, day of event coordination and references from either past clients or venues. Price shouldn't always be a determining factor in your selection of entertainment.

More than just price you have to find someone with whom your personalities mesh, has experience doing the type of event you're hosting and offers more than just music. Some brides prefer live musicians, slideshows, up lighting and custom dance floor monograms. Most good entertainment companies will offer some or all of these things. Finding the vendor for you may seem like a daunting task. With the Castle Farms list of Preferred Service Providers you'll be well on your way to making your dream event come true.

Tom Heath, A+ Event Entertainment

ENTERTAINMENT INTERVIEW

DJ/MUSICIAN: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION: _____

What types of entertainment do you specialize in? _____

Do your hours include downtime? _____

What is the cost difference between packages? _____

Does the cost include travel? _____

What are additional charges for lighting? _____

Do you have a separate charge for staff? _____

What is the charge for additional hours? _____

Will you be personally handling my wedding? _____

Can we see a copy of your standard contract? _____

What deposit do you require? _____

When is the final payment due? _____

Can we see pictures of previous events? _____

ENTERTAINMENT INTERVIEW

DJ/MUSICIAN: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION: _____

What types of entertainment do you specialize in? _____

Do your hours include downtime? _____

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Will you be personally handling my wedding? _____

Can we see a copy of your standard contract? _____

What deposit do you require? _____

When is the final payment due? _____

Can we see pictures of previous events? _____

Final Decision

DJ/MUSICIAN: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION: _____

Package: _____

DJ/Musician Provided: _____

Deposit Paid: _____

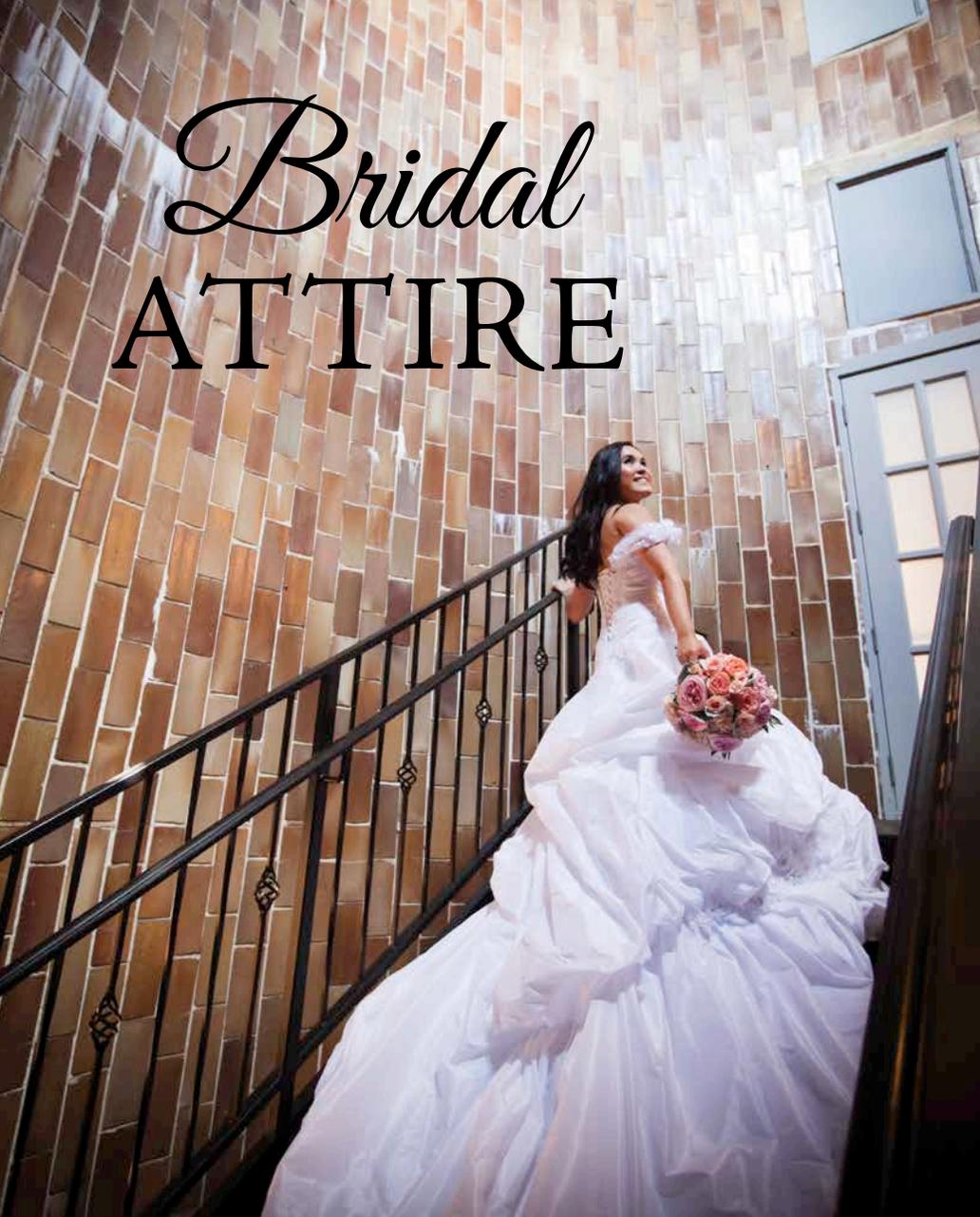
Final Payment Due: _____

Notes: _____

© Weber Photography



Bridal ATTIRE



© Monica Zibutis Photography



© Weber Photography

Things to Consider...

The process of finding the perfect wedding attire for everyone begins before you even visit a boutique. Start collecting pictures of dresses you like from magazines to take with you when you visit the boutique or seamstress. For your bridal party, keep in mind their various body types, coloring, personalities and financial constraints.

Know Before You Go...

- ❖ Be open to the groom's input. Let him find what he wants to wear—you've got enough to worry about!
- ❖ Accessories are a part of your overall wedding day attire. Finding the right jewelry, hairpiece, shoes or bag shouldn't be an afterthought.
- ❖ Don't wait until the last minute for alterations. Schedule two fittings before your wedding day, and your final fitting no later than 3 weeks before.
- ❖ Bring the shoes you will be wearing to your fittings in order to ensure your hem line is right.
- ❖ Bring under garments that you will be wearing as they can make a difference in the size of your bust and waist.



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BRIDAL GOWN



Bridal Shop: _____

Contact person: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Address: _____

Website: _____

Email Address: _____

Designer/Manufacturer: _____

Style: _____

Color/Fabric: _____

Train Length: _____

Size: _____ Cost: _____

Alterations Contact: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Alteration Specifications: _____

Fitting Dates: _____

First Fitting (date/time): _____

Second Fitting (date/time): _____

Final Fitting (date/time): _____

Pick-up (date/time): _____

Cost: _____

Headpiece/Veil: _____

Style: _____

Color: _____

Length: _____ Cost: _____



Bridal Party ATTIRE

© Weber Photography

Bridesmaid Attire:

Company: _____

Contact person: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Address: _____

Website: _____

Email Address: _____

Designer/Manufacturer: _____

Style: _____

Color/Fabric: _____

Cost: _____

Accessories: _____

Alterations Contact: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Alteration Specifications: _____

Flower Girl Dress:

Designer/Manufacturer: _____

Style: _____

Color/Fabric: _____

Size: _____ Cost: _____

Accessories: _____

Groom/Groomsmen Attire:

Tuxedo Shop: _____

Contact person: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Address: _____

Website: _____

Email Address: _____

Designer/Manufacturer: _____

Style: _____

Color/Fabric: _____

Tie/Vest Color: _____

Shirt Color: _____

Cost: _____

Alterations Contact: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Alteration Specifications: _____

Cake

Things to Consider...

Look through bridal books and cake ideas. Cut out pictures of things you like and share them with your cake designer. Seeing your ideas and personal style will help your cake designer translate your concepts into an edible master piece created just for you.

Know Before You Go...

- ♣ Bridal party attire, color(s), and formality.
- ♣ Colors and textures that you like and dislike!
- ♣ Flavors that suite your palate - multiple flavors can make for an interesting cake.

© Paul Retherford Photography



© Paul Retherford Photography

Be ready with information that will be needed by the baker. Bring color swatches, pictures of your favorite designs and other things like the dress, flowers, and venue. Approximately how many guests, (remember to include your primary vendors) time of day of the wedding, inside or outside, formal or casual are all things that come into play in making your design. One of the most important things is your budget. Be honest about what you can afford. A good designer can usually help you get the look you are going for. If you have family favorite flavors or fillings, let them know. Communication is key. Be sure to share any specifics on decorating the cake table. Simple and inexpensive things can create a beautiful look.

Linda Pendock, Kingsley Cakes

CAKE TASTING

CAKE MAKER: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION: _____

What types of confections do you specialize in?

How flexible are your options? _____

Will we be covered under your liability insurance? _____

What does the cost include? _____

What are typical delivery charges? _____

Do you have a separate set-up charge? _____

Is clean-up included? _____

Will you be personally handling my wedding? _____

Can we see a copy of your standard contract? _____

What deposit do you require? _____

When is the final payment due? _____

Can we see pictures of previous events? _____

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CAKE MAKER: _____

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© Paul Retherford Photography



Final Decision

CAKE MAKER: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION: _____

Cake: _____

Deposit Paid: _____

Final Payment Due: _____

Notes: _____

Insurance

Things to Consider...

What if a vendor becomes ill and cannot perform their job? What if an illness overtakes you, your fiancé, or your parents? What if you lose the rings? What if there is a transportation shutdown and your parents (or groom) can't get here on time? What if all the photos are ruined? What if your wedding gifts are damaged or the card box goes missing? Consult websites like protectmywedding.com to answer all these questions!

Many venues that are rented for an event such as your wedding ceremony or reception now require proof of coverage for up to \$1,000,000 in liability insurance to cover property damage and bodily injury accidents that may occur during the event.

Examples of these types of accidents can include:

- ✦ a guest who is injured when they slip and fall
- ✦ a guest who gets sick from food served at the reception
- ✦ property damage to the reception hall
- ✦ an auto accident caused by someone who drank alcohol at the reception

A Special Event Liability Insurance policy will protect you in the event you are found legally liable due to a property damage or bodily injury accident. These policies also include host liquor liability coverage to protect against alcohol related accidents. While some homeowners policies will provide liability protection for these special events, the coverage may be limited. In addition, many venues require that they be listed as an Additional Insured on the policy and the homeowners policy will not allow this. It is in your best interest to speak with an insurance agent who is knowledgeable about Special Event Liability Insurance.

Jill Hinson, Larkin Insurance Group

© Weber Photography



Marriage LICENSE

Know Before You Go...

- ✦ You do not have to be a resident of Michigan, but the fee is higher for non-residents.
- ✦ Residents of Michigan need to apply for their marriage license in the County in which one of them lives.
- ✦ Non-residents need to apply for their marriage license in the County where they plan on getting married.
- ✦ Even though you apply for your marriage license in the County you live in, you can get married any place in Michigan.
- ✦ Bring a picture ID such as a Drivers License. You can also use Military ID or passport.
- ✦ You must have certified copies of your Birth Certificates.
- ✦ You will need to provide your parents addresses, and your mothers' maiden names.
- ✦ Foreign birth certificates need to be translated into English and be notarized.
- ✦ There is a three (3) business day waiting period in Michigan. The waiting period does not include the application day.
- ✦ Bring cash to the County building for the application. Some Counties do not accept checks.
- ✦ License is valid for thirty (30) days.
- ✦ You will sign your new name on your license after the ceremony.

**State and county marriage license requirements often change. The above information is meant merely as guidance only and should not be regarded as legal advice. It is important that you verify all information with your local marriage license office or County Clerk before making any wedding or travel plans.*



© Paul Retherford Photography

Things to Consider...

Offering guest transportation is not mandatory. However, if your budget allows for it, providing transportation is a very courteous gesture and quite often, a fun addition to any wedding.

Castle Transportation Policy

If you provide a shuttle service for your guests at the close of your reception, guests' vehicles may be left in the Castle Farms parking lot overnight. However, it is your responsibility to arrange a time with your Castle Farms Venue Coordinator for the gate to be opened the following morning. If you do not arrange this time with your venue Coordinator, we cannot guarantee that the gate will be open when your guests arrive to retrieve their cars.

© Paul Retherford Photography

Know Before You Go...

- ✦ The type of transportation you are expecting: shuttle limousine, trolley, hot rod or carriage.
- ✦ Consider all the different locations you will be visiting for photos to determine what your transportation needs will be.
- ✦ To the ceremony, after the reception: when would you like to provide transportation?
- ✦ How many people will need transportation: the bridal party only, or all the guests, to and from their hotels?



Hair & Make-Up

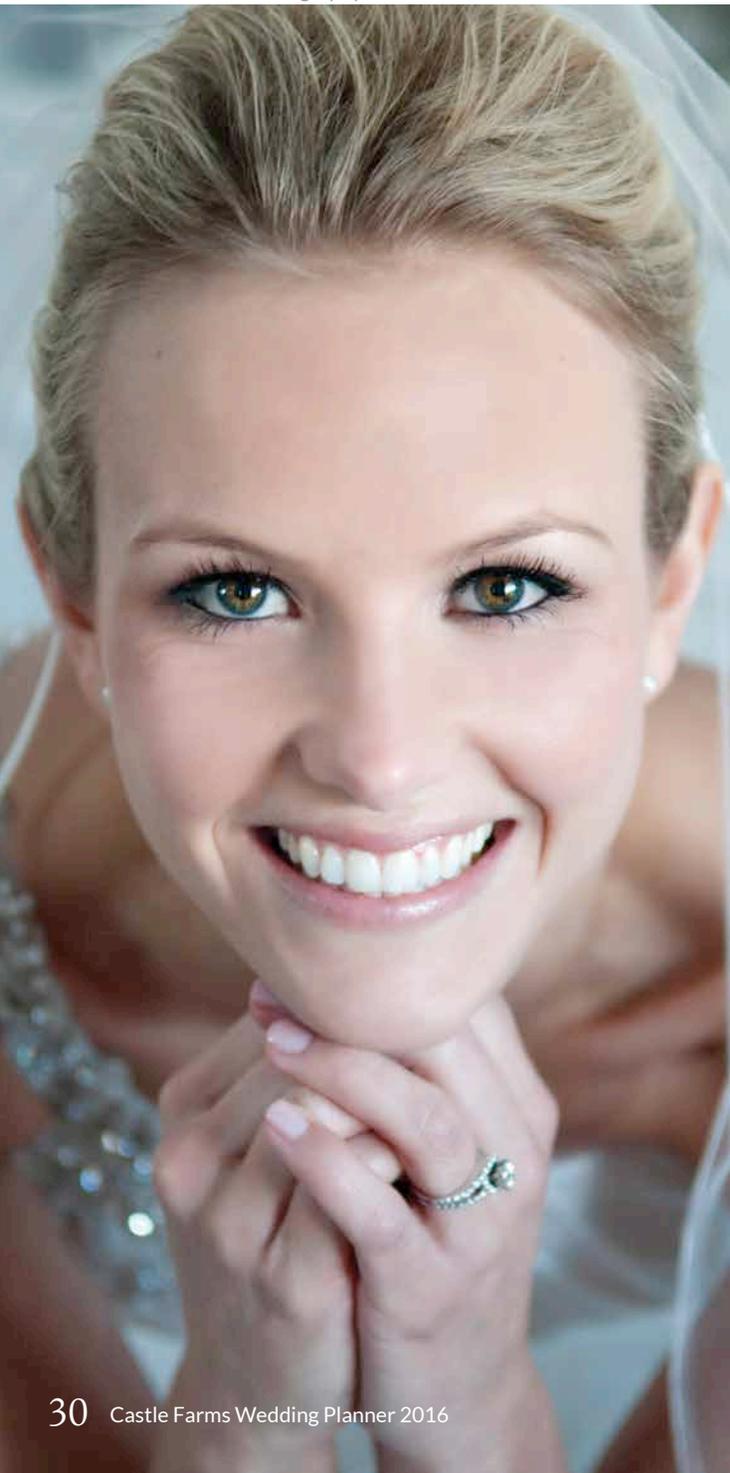
Things to Consider...

Choosing the right salon for your hair and makeup is key. Looking good and feeling great on your wedding day is actually a process that can begin days or weeks before. Some brides will schedule spa days, facials, nail appointments and massages to help them unwind and prepare. Every woman is different, and you need to find what relaxes and rejuvenates you. This is a big day for not only you, but your groom as well - don't forget to help your man find his personal "center" too. Offer to send him in for a massage, warm shave or sauna if it suits him.

© Northern Art Photography



© Chris VanWinkle Photography



Know Before You Go...

Plan ahead! It's never too early to start thumbing through magazines and collecting makeup and hair styles you like. Bring those tear sheets with you to your practice session along with your veil, tiara and any other accessories. It's a good idea to bring a picture of your dress because the style can dictate what hairstyles will look good. We know you want to look your best on your wedding day. Be sure that the make-up and hair styles you choose are in sync with your everyday "self".

TIPS & IDEAS

ASK AROUND - Ask for references from past clients and check with the references. You can also ask to see photos from past weddings they've done before signing a contract.

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT - ALWAYS get a consultation with your potential stylist and makeup artist. This will help you both get an idea of exactly what you want. You may have to pay for it, but it's worth it.

LEAVE IT TO THE PROS - Keep in mind that a good professional makeup artist has an eye for "how much is too much." Let them know ahead of time if you want a very natural or dramatic look, then let them do their magic. Take pictures at your consultation so you both can see how the makeup appears in photos.

GET WITH THE TIMES - If you have multiple people getting their hair and makeup done, work with your stylist and makeup artist to create a timeline of approximately how long each person will take, and what time they should arrive. Then, tell those getting their hair and make-up done to be there at least 30 minutes earlier just in case things begin to run behind.

Invitations



Things to Consider...

Your invitations should be in line with your wedding theme and the formality of your wedding. They are your guests' first impression of your wedding. Wedding invitations can be expensive, but you don't have to spend an excessive amount of money to convey the style and formality of your special day. "Save the date" cards are becoming more popular and are a great way to let your guests know in advance to plan for your special day.

Know Before You Go...

- ♣ Your Save the Date cards can be as simple as a postcard or as elaborate and interactive as a magnetic puzzle.
- ♣ Refrigerator magnets with your names and wedding date are unique.
- ♣ Invitation designers are creating cards that look like a mini-calendar month with your chosen date circled or decorated.

Postage:

- \$0.34 cent stamps (for postcards)
- \$0.49 cent stamps (1st class - 1 oz)
- \$0.70 cent stamps (1st class - 2 oz)
- \$0.91 cent stamps (1st class - 3 oz)

Custom Stamps:

You no longer have to settle for the same old postage stamp. You can customize your very own with your own images for just cents over the regular rate.

Your invitations are the first glimpse of your special day. That very first impression establishes the tone for what's to come. Create anticipation, be exclusive and set yourself apart by introducing your wedding with custom designed papery that represents your individual style and taste. Custom papery allows you to pick and choose your most favorite designs, ink colors, stylistic fonts and specialty paper options to develop a signature look that is uniquely yours.

Sheila Dodson-Wright, Tableau Event Design

TIPS & IDEAS

GUEST WHO? Before you mail off your invitations, number the backs of the response cards and keep a master list. Sometimes guests will forget to write their names on the response cards. If they are prenumbered, you can compare the number on the back to the names on your master list to determine who the guest is.

SAME OLD, SAME OLD - If possible, use the same kind of stationery for everything. Order everything at once and order more than you think you need. If you're making your own invitations, order extra paper, velum, envelopes and anything else you need to create them. It's less expensive to order extra the first time than to have to make a small reorder because you don't have enough. Place invitation orders 5-8 months out.

IT'S IN THE MAIL - Mail invitations 2-3 months before your wedding and be sure to include, on your reply card, an RSVP deadline of at least 3 weeks before the wedding. This will give you time to inform the Castle and caterer how many guests to expect, and also time for you to make last minute phone calls to guests who may not have replied.

CRACK THE CODE - When addressing envelopes, double-check the zip code! If you're not sure, use these websites as a reference: www.usps.gov (in the US) www.canadapost.ca (in Canada)

MADE-TO-ORDER - Decide what you will be including with your invitations and order together. Typically most brides order invitations, inner and outer envelopes, reception cards, response cards and response card envelopes.

THE WRITE WAY - Address all envelopes by hand. Write neatly. If your handwriting isn't acceptable, recruit some family or friends with nice penmanship. You can also opt to have your envelopes addressed by a calligrapher. Have the correct spelling of absolutely everything. Spell out names and numbers in full. Do not abbreviate except for Mr., Mrs., Ms. or Dr. Print the guests' full name on the outside envelope (i.e. Mr. and Mrs. Mel DeLaura). The inside envelope only needs to have their last name (i.e. Mr. and Mrs. DeLaura).

Rehearsal Dinner

Things to Consider...

A rehearsal dinner is typically an informal meal after a wedding rehearsal, which takes place the night before the actual wedding. It's a chance for the wedding party to get to know each other better. Most importantly, it's a chance for the Bride and Groom to thank all the people who have helped them with the wedding planning.

Know Before You Go...

- ♣ An estimated number of people attending- remember to include the spouse or date from the wedding party.
- ♣ Plan your rehearsal dinner to take place after the wedding rehearsal so you have no end time restraints.
- ♣ If you have a theme for your wedding, you can carry it into your rehearsal dinner.
- ♣ Keep in mind your budget!

There are many great locations to host your rehearsal dinner in the town of Charlevoix and surrounding areas. Try to find a location that suits your style, the theme of your wedding and the attitude of your guests. Inquire with us about a rehearsal dinner directly following your ceremony rehearsal at the Castle. You can bring in your own caterer, and a Castle Farms' staff member will be present throughout the dinner.



Bridal BRUNCH



© Just Alex Photography

Things To Consider...

A bridal brunch is typically an informal luncheon hosted by the parents the day after the actual wedding. It's a good time to open wedding gifts as well as a chance for the Bride and Groom to thank all the people who helped them carry out a wonderful wedding with memories that will last a lifetime.

Know Before You Go...

- ♣ An estimated number of people attending- remember to include the spouse or date from the wedding party.
- ♣ Plan your bridal brunch on one side or another of hotel check-out so no one has to miss out.
- ♣ If you have a theme for your wedding, you can carry it into your bridal brunch.
- ♣ Keep in mind your budget!

You can make this added feature easy for your family and attendants by hosting your Bridal Brunch at Castle Farms. You can rent a room (based on availability) and bring in your own caterer. A member of Castle Farms' staff will be available for your event and help clean up at the end of your brunch.



© Michael Murphy IV Photography

Honeymoon

Things To Consider...

A traditional honeymoon in a foreign country or a tropical destination out of state isn't necessary with this paradise of Northern Michigan! Spend the day on beautiful beaches or strolling downtown hand in hand, and end your days with breathtaking sunsets at the lighthouse pier. Charlevoix is a quaint resort community filled with possibilities, nestled between lakes and surrounding cities - the perfect place to honeymoon!

Know Before You Go...

- ♣ Discuss and agree on the things you'd like to see and do on your honeymoon.
- ♣ Discuss what type of accommodations would suit you best; hotel, Bed & Breakfast, or a campground.
- ♣ Know your budget.



© E.C. Campbell Photography

Honeymoon in Charlevoix

ACCOMMODATIONS - Choose your own adventure! Bask in the exquisite splendor of a condo or luxurious suite with balcony views. Relax at a Bed & Breakfast where they delight in pampering their guests. Enjoy the rustic solitude of pitching a tent at one of our state parks. Choose the atmosphere to set your mood!

DINING - Charlevoix has the best to offer when it comes to dining. Dine in style with the best cuisine at five star restaurants or choose the upbeat casual atmosphere of the many Pubs or small town Grills. And be sure to grab a gourmet deli sandwich on your way to the beach!

DAY TRIPS - Charlevoix is the hub for neighboring towns. Take a day trip to a surrounding island like Beaver Island or Mackinac Island or take a short drive to Bellaire, Bay Harbor, or Petoskey. Venture into surrounding towns for activities like hiking, biking, and swimming. Indulge your senses by visiting local museums, art galleries, orchards, and wineries. Travel to the quaint town of Bellaire where Short's Brewery is sure to impress your pallet. This area also has a lot to offer when it comes to shopping - unique boutiques and shops, our famous fudge, ice cream parlors, gourmet coffee shops and much more!

NIGHT LIFE - Enjoy live bands and great music at local bars in Charlevoix or take a short drive to East Jordan, Bay Harbor, or Petoskey. Traverse City is only one hour away and also has a great selection of bars, clubs, breweries and wineries.

ON THE WATER - Spend your day soaking up the sun on scenic Lake Charlevoix or Lake Michigan! You can either charter a sail boat, take a booze cruise on the big water, or rent your own boat.

MOST COMMON *Questions*

HOW CLOSE ARE HOTELS TO CASTLE FARMS?

Our preferred hotels are only a few minutes from Castle Farms. Please see the preferred service provider sheet for a complete list.

DO WE HAVE TO USE YOUR PREFERRED SERVICE PROVIDERS?

We have hand-picked our preferred service providers not only because of their high quality performance in exceeding expectations, but also because they are experienced at working in our unique facility. To ensure a memorable experience, it would be beneficial for you to discuss with us the use of a different service provider not on our list.

CAN MY CATERER COOK ON SITE?

Our catering service areas do not have cooking facilities. If a caterer wishes to cook on-site, they will need to bring

in their own equipment. Note that in order to preserve our historic buildings, all cooking **MUST** be done outside away from the buildings. Caterers must also comply with health regulations in regards to food holding and cooking.

DO WE HAVE TO CLEAN UP AFTERWARDS?

The only thing you need to take with you the evening of your wedding is any decor and personal you want to keep. We take care of everything else!

CAN WE DECORATE OUR ROOM AS WE WISH?

We understand each couple has their own taste and style. Therefore, we allow each to decorate accordingly. In order to preserve our historic property, we do ask that nothing be adhered to the walls or ceilings, unless 3M removable hooks are used. We also require prior approval before using glitter, confetti, bubbles,

etc. to ensure we have adequate cleaning staff following your event.

WHEN CAN WE DECORATE OUR ROOM?

We can confirm decorating times 60 days prior to your wedding. If your room is not reserved the day prior to your wedding, you may come in on the day prior to decorate. If your room is reserved the day prior to your wedding, you may come in after 10 a.m. on your wedding date. You may also hire your coordinator as a decorator (\$50 per hour) to add your final touches.

WHAT HAPPENS IF IT RAINS?

In case of inclement weather, all ceremonies are moved into the respective reception area, unless another room is available. Rain calls must be made by the Bride or Groom 2 hours prior to the ceremony start time.

© Paul Retherford Photography



MOST COMMON *Questions*

CAN WE BRING OUR OWN LINEN?

Yes, you may bring in your own linen. Set-up of your linen can be done on your own while you decorate, or you can hire your coordinator as a decorator. Any set-up above and beyond what we include will require either you or our decorator to set up the room.

WHAT DO YOU RECOMMEND FOR CEREMONY MUSIC?

We have a sound system in each courtyard with CD player, wireless handheld and lapel microphone. If you provide a CD, MP3 Player or IPod and play instructions, Castle Farms' staff will play your ceremony music. On occasion, couples like to have string quartets or other musicians. Please see our preferred service provider list for prospective musicians.

WHEN AND WHERE DO WE GET READY?

Each ceremony area comes with a private Bridal Suite that the Bride and bridesmaids are welcome to use. The room may be used two hours prior to the ceremony start time. The Groom typically comes ready and is whisked off to a waiting area designated for him and his groomsmen (specified during rehearsal).

HOW WILL OUR GUESTS KNOW WHERE TO PARK AND ENTER?

Upon arrival on your wedding day, guests will be directed by our signs and parking attendants. If you wish, you may include a Castle Farms site map in your wedding invitations so guests have a general idea of the facility layout. Contact a Castle Farms coordinator if

this is something you would like to do, and the site map will be emailed to you.

CAN WE BRING ITEMS EARLY FOR STORAGE?

If your room is available the day prior to your wedding (and with prior approval), you may bring items in early. Castle Farms is not responsible for items stored prior to or after the event.

WHEN DO YOU NEED A FINAL GUEST COUNT?

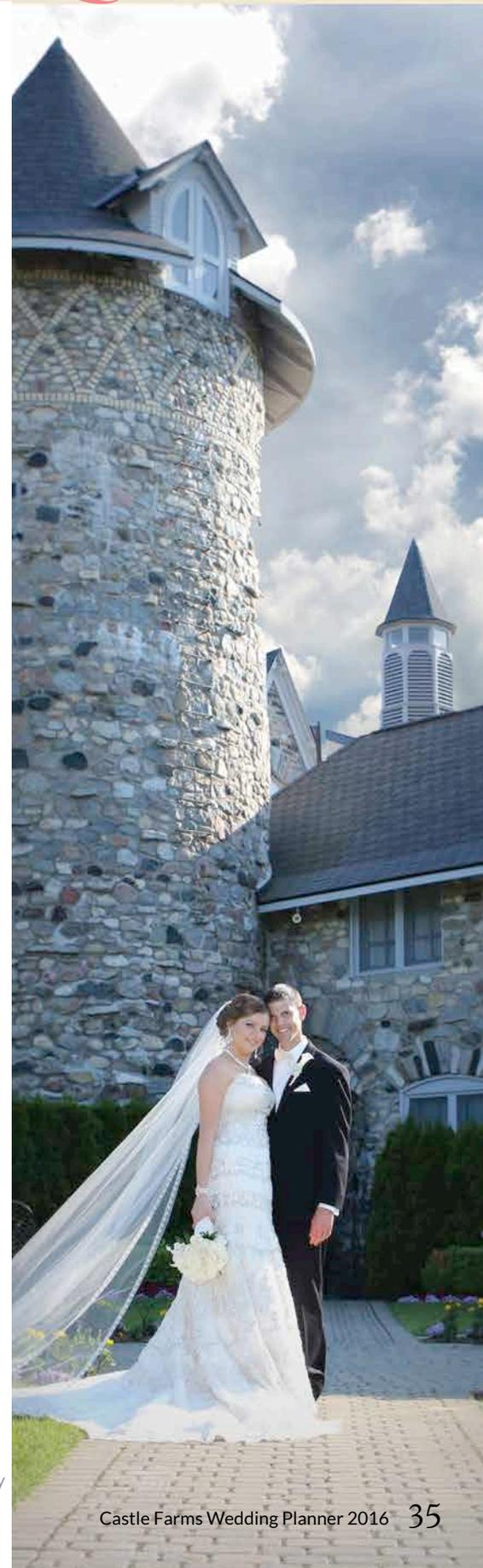
We will email a set up packet to you approximately 60 days prior to your wedding date. The final guest count and room sketch are due back to us by two weeks prior to your wedding date. The final guest count is confirmed with your caterer, so please be as accurate as possible.

WILL SOMEONE BE PRESENT DURING OUR EVENT?

If you are having your ceremony & reception at Castle Farms we provide a venue coordinator to facilitate your rehearsal, ceremony and transition into the cocktail hour. We then have an assistant venue coordinator present during your reception.

HOW MUCH POWER CAN YOUR OUTLETS PROVIDE?

Our indoor outlets are standard 120 volts. We do have each outlet labeled with the breaker number as a convenience to you and your service providers. We also have some 220 volt outlets on the outside of some of our buildings.



TIPS ON SAVING *Money*



LIMIT YOUR GUEST LIST

Each time you add a name to your invitation list, you're increasing your budget significantly. It's not just the catering costs, but also the extra centerpieces, favors, rentals, etc. Invite only people you have talked to within the last five years. Let single people bring a date only if they're in a relationship. Avoid feeling pressured to invite all your work colleagues. You may also consider asking your friends to leave their children at home. You can decide to eliminate categories like "relatives more distant than first cousins" or "friends from volunteer work." By not inviting anyone from that group, you are less likely to encounter hurt feelings.

FOOD AND DRINK

Be honest with your caterer about your need to save money. Ask them about their least expensive entrees and whether a buffet is less expensive than a plated dinner. Also, consider having only beer and wine. If you and your fiancé don't drink, consider having a "dry wedding".

INVITATIONS

While engraved invitations are nice, regular printed invites work just as well. There are a variety of inexpensive wedding invitations available on the Internet. For a casual wedding, consider printing your own invites from your home computer. Stationery stores now sell printed paper meant for use in a home printer specifically for customized printing. You may also forgo the inner envelope and blotter paper. Rather than having a response card, ask guests to reply online or by telephone. Not only will you save money from the printer bill, it will also reduce your postage expense.

RE-USE & RECYCLE

The Internet provides a vast resource of wedding crafts and projects that are easy to do, save you money, and allow you to personalize every detail of your wedding. Go second-hand and use great resources like E-Bay and Craig's List. We also have a private group on Facebook for past and future couples to sell wedding related items. You'll find great sources for everything from second-hand dresses to wedding favors, cake toppers, ring pillows, centerpieces and more.

ASK FOR HELP

How many friends do you have that are getting married or just got married? Share your neutral decorations and split the cost evenly. Pool your friends' and family's resources. They will generally be honored to be a special part of your big day. Throw a "pitch-in party", inviting your friends and family to help you assemble favors, make invitations, centerpieces, and other hand-crafted touches.

DIY

Get creative and bring your personality to the event. You can make your centerpieces out of wood and glue birch bark to them, or save your wine corks for guest name tags. Make your own table coverings, or go to the beach and collect stones for your guests to write on as a "guest book" . . . the options are many. Whether it be the tip of your sharpie marker, the continuing buzz of your sewing machine, or the dusty work of your power tools - GET CRAFTY!

Preferred Service Providers Index

ACCOMMODATIONS

AmericInn Lodge & Suites Charlevoix
231-237-0988
americinn.com/hotels/MI/charlevoix

Charlevoix Inn & Suites Charlevoix
231-547-0300 charlevoixinnandsuites.com

Edgewater Inn Charlevoix
231-547-6044 edgewatercharlevoix.com

House on the Hill Bed & Breakfast Ellsworth
231-588-6304 thehouseonthehill.com

Pointes North Inn Charlevoix
231-547-0055 pointesnorthcharlevoix.com

Weathervane Terrace Inn & Suites Charlevoix
231-547-9955 weathervane-chx.com

CAKE DESIGNERS

Bella e Dolce Cheboygan
231-625-8232 bellaedolce.com

Cre8tive Cupcake Charlevoix
231-350-8122 cre8tivecupcake.com

Kingsley Cakes Kingsley
231-263-5481 kingsleycakes.com

Ruthann ???
?????? ??????

Simply Sweet by Jessica Petoskey
231-420-3785 simplysweetbyjessica.com

TasT Creations St. Ignace
888-506-7273 tastcreations.com

CATERERS & BARTENDERS

A Matter of Taste Ellsworth
231-588-1000 amatteroftastemi.com

BJ's Restaurant, Rental & Catering Gaylord
989-732-4010 bjscatering.com

Catering By Kelly's Williamsburg
231-938-3663 cateringbykellys.com

Grey Gables Inn Restaurant & Catering
Charlevoix 231-547-9261
greygablesinn.com

Jeanie ???
?????? ??????

Pigs Eatin' Ribs Charlevoix
231-340-0239 pigseatinribs.com

CLERGY

Reverends Jonathan and Kathy Mays Charlevoix
231-459-8067 charlevoixweddingpastor.com

Reverends Ken and Judy Grimes Boyne City
231-582-2908 northernmichiganministers.com

Reverends Edwin and Glad Remaly Cheboygan
231-627-6996 bestclergy.com

ENTERTAINMENT

A+ Event Entertainment Thompsonville
231-622-2275 aplusementertains.com

DJ Mikey Traverse City
231-886-0045 northernmichiganweddingdj.com

Mike Davis Trio Traverse City
231-357-4870 mikedavistrio.com

Piano Wars! - Dueling Pianos Trenton
734-755-7100 pianowars.com

Rusch Entertainment Freeland
989-781-1553 ruschentertainment.com

Ryan Rousseau Enterprises, LLC Freeland
989-860-1811 djryanrousseau.com

Sound Productions Clare
888-DJ-4-HIRE soundproductions.com

Sylvia Norris - Professional Harpist Traverse City
231-342-2021 norrisgroup.org

FLORISTS

A Touch of Spring & Other Things, LLC Charlevoix
231-237-5647 atouchofspringcvx.com

BLOOM Floral Design Petoskey
231-675-9017 bloomfloraldesign.com

Debra's ???
?????? ??????

Thyme Hill Designs Charlevoix
231-645-5936 thymehilldesigns.com

Upsy-Daisy Floral Boyne City
231-582-0972 boynedaisy.com

HEALTH AND BEAUTY

Chello's Salon & Day Spa, LLC East Jordan
231-536-7764

Hair Qtrs Spa & Hair Care Charlevoix
231-547-0113 hairqtrs.com

Last Tangle Salon & Tanning Charlevoix
231-547-5555

Talulu ???
?????? ??????

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Center of Attention Photography Elmira
231-549-2038 coaphoto.com

Darrell Christie Photography Bellaire
231-350-0274 darrellchristiephotography.com

E.C. Campbell Photography Clarkston
248-765-5253 eccampbellphotography.com

Michael Murphy IV Photography Charlevoix
231-499-3114 michaelmurphyiv.com

Northern Art Photography Kingsley
888-263-2578 northernartphotography.com

Paul Retherford Wedding Photography Petoskey
231-445-1793 paulretherford.com

Paxton Photography Cedar
231-883-9807 paxtonphotography.com

Tatum Photo and Design East Jordan
231-222-2233 tatumphotodesign.com

TRANSPORTATION

Abraham's Carriage Service Mesick
231-389-2306 abrahamscarriageservice.com

Boggy Down ???
?????? ??????

Mackinaw Shuttle & Limousine Service Pellston
231-539-7005 mackinawshuttle.com

Mackinaw Trolley Company Mackinaw City
877-858-0357 mackinawtrolley.com

Midnight Madness, Inc. Deckerville
810-404-4836 midnightmadnessbus.com

VIDEOGRAPHERS

Future Focus Media Traverse City
231-680-0611 FFMfilms.com

Style & Motion Grand Blanc
810-344-4707 styleandmotion.com

MISCELLANEOUS

Bill & Carol's Party Store Petoskey
231-347-2741

Chair Cover & Linen Collection Nunica
616-837-9706 chaircoverlinencollection.com

MerryMakers Event Planning Charlevoix
231-547-5061 merrymkr.com

Motion Booth ???
?????? ??????

Petoskey Bridal Petoskey
231-347-6922 petoskeybridal.com

Shutterbooth Grand Rapids
616-558-3601 shutterbooth.com

Sweet Seats Chair Covers Traverse City
231-631-7000 sweetseatschaircovers.com

Taylor Rental Petoskey
231-347-1840 taylorrentalpetoskey.com

Up North Photo Booth Williamsburg
231-218-9858 upnorthphotobooth.com

Wolverine Fireworks Display KawKawlin
989-662-0121 wolverinefireworks.com

CAPTURING *the Moment*

Many talented photographers participated in our Castle Farms 2016 Wedding Planner Photography Contest. We're pleased to showcase their efforts on this page.



Center of Attention Photography

East Jordan, Michigan

Erika Blackwell follows her heart and passion behind the camera, sharing herself with clients to create and capture their memories.



Darrell Christie Photography

Bellaire, Michigan

Darrell Christie offers couples traditional wedding photography accomplished in an elegant 'timeless' style



WINNER

E.C. Campbell Photography

Rochester Hills, Michigan

E'Lisa Campbell strives to capture real life memories in real life moments, resulting in treasured photos which last a lifetime.



Michael Murphy IV Photography

Charlevoix, Michigan

Michael Murphy IV is a visual story teller, creating memories from the stories of your lives to cherish for generations to come.



Northern Art Photography

Kingsley, Michigan

Andrea Bogard of Northern Art Photography offers her wedding clients elegant photography and exquisite stylization in customized wedding packages.



Paul Retherford Wedding Photography

Petoskey, Michigan

Specializing in wedding photography which features memorable dimensions, embracing emotions, personality and style.



Paxton Photography

Cedar, Michigan

Meg Paxton and her crew create and capture visions of your wedding day in a time- less setting of elegance, fun, and emotion; your wedding, your way.



Tatum Photo & Design

East Jordan, Michigan

Featuring vintage, modern, contemporary and/or timeless photos which strive to capture your essence and personality.



Preferred
**SERVICE
PROVIDERS**

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CHARLEVOIX, MICHIGAN

231-237-0884 | 5052 M-66 North, Charlevoix, Michigan 49720 | Castlefarms.com

Grand Bridal Expo

October 30, 2016

10am to 3pm – Admission \$6
Fashion Show at 3pm

Workshops | Juried Wedding Vendors | Door Prizes
Celebration Lounge | Food on-site for purchase

*Register for the
Grand Prize Giveaway
Valued at Over \$15,000*



The Castle Farms Preferred Service Providers are offering lodging specials. Mention the Expo when calling.

