

DETAILS AMENITIES

et's start with the basics. RESEARCH, RESEARCH, RESEARCH. Times are changing and for the modern bride, this is your time to be strategic in whom you choose to include on your guest list. Gone with the days of inviting your mother's friends whose names you've never heard. This is your time to shine, and keep in mind that every guest you choose to include is an investment for your wedding day. I have worked with many couples from all over the world, and while there are many cultural differences in regards to the logistics in executing the wedding, the process for creating a guest list is the same.

In creating your guest list, it is essential that you start with a budget. From here you can determine how many guests you can



BY ANGELA PROFFITT PHOTO BY KRISTYN HOGAN feasibly invite. Don't skip this aspect. It is important to determine early, how much you are willing to invest in good company. By creating a budget it will assist in not including last minute additions, and ensures that everyone is on the same page.

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Once you have created your budget, create a dream list. This is more fun than anything, but it allows for you to include everyone you have ever thought about. Now rein it in. Let's talk numbers, after revisiting your budget, are you able to include your entire dream list? Do you even want to include your entire dream list?

Now that you have your "working list," you will need to set expectations for your wedding day. Questions to ask yourself may include:

- Do we want to invite children?
- Are there any strained family dynamics?
- Are we allowing a plus one?
- Is this person invited because I feel guilty?

These are all great questions that will completely set the tone of your wedding day. Determine the answers early; as these answers will help guide you in determining your final guest list, and will be the basis for how you create your invitations and what you choose to include on them. Take extra precaution in including the names of invited guest on your response cards, emails, e-vites, etc. This will help alleviate any unwanted guests.

In taking these steps, you can ensure that all of your invited guests will be wanted and you will be in good company. Be cognizant that these steps are preliminary and some couples may choose to invite guests to the reception only and close family and friends to both the ceremony and the reception. Be sure to make that very clear on your invitations. Also be mindful that while some cultures may not want to include children at the wedding, some believe that children are integral to the wedding day. Here, in Nashville, TN, some couples may opt into providing childcare services for the attendees with children. As always, over communicate with your

guests as to what to expect for your wedding day.

