

NEW YORK® Weddings



The
New
York
Bride's
Guide
to
Everything

THE BEST

- VENUES
- FLOWERS
- CAKES
- BANDS
- CATERERS
- D.J.'S

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The Planners

"We pride ourselves on not using walkie-talkies. We blend."

NICKY REINHARD AND ANN DAVID

Tell me about your company. *AD:* You always get *us*, not assistants. Ninety percent of our events are weddings—not hotel weddings as much as restaurant, private club, and tent weddings. We only do two a month. *NR:* We do elegant, not quirky. **Who are your typical clients?** *AD:* They've lived together. They have their style defined. Wedding planning is a combined effort. *NR:* Even with insanely generous budgets, like \$1,000 to \$3,000 a person, they still want understatement. **How do you charge?** *NR:* We charge a

flat fee. *AD:* Some planners are paid a commission from their vendors—on top of the fee from their clients—that they don't divulge. We think that's unethical. **Why is a planner worth the cost?** *AD:* If you're both the bride *and* the planner, then you're running around to make sure everything is okay, instead of fully enjoying your wedding day. **What kind of day-of magic do you bring?** *AD:* We make the flow seamless. We make sure that you're sent down the aisle on time, that the cocktail hour is actually one hour, that the food is coming



RAVE

COLOR SCHEMING

"Look through design magazines and books—a fabric or wallpaper pattern could inspire you."
Wallpaper, \$250 a roll at Second Hand Rose.

out promptly, that Dad is tapped on the shoulder to do his toast.

When is the best time to book a planner?

NR: Nine to twelve months in advance is ideal; six is enough. After you book us, we secure your venue and vendors.

What is your best keep-to-the-bottom-line advice?

NR: Control your guest count. Cut five couples and you've cut a table—the food, the linen, the centerpiece, the extra waiter. Also, beware any vendors billing you after the wedding. If you're marrying out of town, ask: "Does that fee include travel expenses?" *AD:* If you're on a tight budget, food is the place to save and music is worth the cost.

Who do you recommend music-wise?

NR: For the ceremony, we love Curtis Music. Jarrell Entertainment has the best D.J.'s, and the most in-demand band right now is the Marianne Bennett Orchestra.

What if food is your thing?

AD: Hire a creative caterer like Peter Callahan, Olivier Cheng, or Jean Christophe Le Picart of Feast & Fêtes. *NR:* Or book the right venue. The Four Seasons Restaurant and Blue Hill at Stone Barns are ideal.

What's important but often overlooked?

NR: Transportation. It's the first and last impression of the event and critical to the flow. *AD:* We like hiring double-decker buses from Gray Line to transport guests to the reception. They can even put **JUST MARRIED** on the digital ticker. If you don't have a planner, ask the bus company to provide an on-site dispatcher. *NR:* If your party is off the beaten path, hire town cars for your guests—nothing worse than going to a beautiful wedding and then spending 45 minutes trying to get home. We like World Class Transportation.

By the way, are you married? *NR:* I am. I actually had a planner and I fired her. She was working on another wedding, and she made me feel like second fiddle. *AD:* I'm not married, but I'd elope. E.R.

212-535-1520; davidreinhard.com

Reception



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KEY Eco-Friendly | Good Value | Recent openings in red.

Planners and Event Designers

By appointment only, except where otherwise noted.

ALWAYS A BRIDESMAID

265 Canal St., nr. Lafayette St., Ste. 206
212-334-0005; alwaysbridesmaid.us

Specializing in raw-space design, Xochitl (pronounced "Socheel") Gonzalez and Mayra Castillo have five years of experience putting together personalized weddings, often held in loft spaces such as Ramscale Studios in the Village. Typically working with clients from creative industries, the duo helps couples showcase their individuality. A basic package costs \$9,000; more comprehensive coverage is \$15,000; and for couples who need limited help, \$1,000 buys ten hours of services.

AMY ATLAS EVENTS

917-974-9285; amyatlas.com

Atlas makes dessert tables that are pleasing to the palate *and* the eyes. Each table is custom-designed and inspired by the themes and motifs of the event—for example, a coconut-macarons-and-dusted-truffles table for an all-white bridal buffet, or a fun lollipop tree to reflect a cherry-blossom motif. Prices upon request.

ANDERSON GREEN EVENTS

646-827-4705; andersongreenevents.com

Founder Lisa Green believes that to employ a planner is to gain a friend, which is why she takes on only eight to ten weddings a year. Down-to-earth couples will enjoy her whimsical touches, such as using centerpieces made entirely of candies, cupcakes, and cookies. She also offers day-of-only services for couples on a budget. Prices upon request.

BRYAN JACOBSON

250 Mercer St., nr. W. 4th St., Ste. 1404B
917-721-0683; ny-eventplanner.com

As the former owner of Corporate Events Manhattan, Bryan Jacobson used his connections to transition from throwing company blowouts to opening a luxury wedding business. He specializes in transforming atmospheres and landscapes, and caters to a high-end clientele—though he also works with couples on a budget. Prices upon request.

C&G WEDDINGS, LLC

372 Central Park W., nr. 97th St., Ste. 8K
212-961-1528; candgny.com

C&G sets out to work with women who are still in graduate school or busy with their careers—basically, women who need a task master in the planning process. They will do as little or as much as their clients want, providing unlimited meetings and Excel spreadsheets along with creative services like hiring hot-dog carts to line the steps of the New York Public Library. Prices upon request.

CARMONA DESIGN AND EVENTS

267 Fifth Ave., nr. 29th St., Ste. 810
212-414-8400; carmonadesign.com

Event designer Mary Krueger and her partner, Andrés, spend several months of the year in Europe gathering inspiration for their "mini-operas"; they do it all—lighting, staging and sound. For one couple, they transformed a tent on an English estate into a black-and-white maze, surrounding the bandstand with an eighteen-foot-tall trellis with boxwood hedges. Prices upon request.

CHERYL J. WEDDINGS AND EVENTS

917-254-0514;
cheryljweddingsandevents.com

For couples overwhelmed by planning a wedding on their own, Cheryl Fielding-LoPalo is available as a mentor and friend who helps create an elegant event. Her goal is to make each wedding unique—and stress-free. Basic package starts at \$2,500.

CRISTINA VERGER

630 Fifth Ave., nr. W. 50th St.
212-715-0590; tastythoughts.com

This full-service planner works with her clients from the first decision to the last detail. Although the majority of her weddings are in New York, Verger also specializes in destination weddings worldwide—particularly Italy. Family connections in Rome give her access to a broad-reaching network of Italian vendors unknown to other New York planners. Prices upon request.

COLIN COWIE LIFESTYLE

508 Broadway, nr. Prince St., Ste. 705
212-396-9007; colincowie.com

This internationally known event-planning guru, who is sought out by couples on both coasts and abroad, has penned six books on parties and entertainment. He's also thrown lavish blowouts for everyone from Jennifer Lopez to Tom Cruise. But Cowie doesn't require a celebrity budget for his services. Expect detail-oriented elegance with an edge—and plenty of chilled bubbly. Prices upon request.

DAVID E. MONN, LLC

135 W. 27th St., nr. Seventh Ave., second fl.
212-242-2009; davidmonn.com

Transforming the Met into an English garden party complete with espaliered apple trees and moss-covered stairs—as Monn did for a past Costume Institute Gala—is just one of the reasons many call this dapper society planner the “Architect of Style.” Prices upon request.

DAVID REINHARD EVENTS, LLC

212-535-1520; davidreinhard.com

For the past eight years, Ann David and Nicky Reinhard have tag-teamed to create a hands-on boutique approach to planning weddings. Their limit of two events per month allows the pair to spend most of the year planning a variety of celebrations—from urban receptions to tent weddings in the Hamptons, or the occasional destination wedding in Hawaii. Prices upon request.

DAVID STARK DESIGN AND PRODUCTION

87 Luquer St., nr. Clinton St.,
Carroll Gardens

718-534-6777; davidstarkdesign.com

This studio approaches event design as if it were a gallery installation—covering an entire wall with candles or filling a room with hanging garlands of paper flowers. Stark personally handles all of the event's aesthetic elements, including furniture, lighting, and invitations. Prices upon request.

DAVID TUTERA

470 Seventh Ave., nr. 35th St., eleventh fl.
212-229-9280; davidtutera.com

Known more for his A-list parties than for weddings, Tutera can still provide a couple with the ultimate in luxury and couture style. Clients can hire him as a personal wedding planner (to cover all the details and logistics of the event), an event designer (to handle décor-related aspects), or both. Be sure to call nine to twelve months in advance, and expect to pay about \$250,000 for 175 guests.

DELANEY T. BAGWELL ASSOCIATES, LLC

430 E. 56th St., nr. First Ave.
917-434-0521;

delaneytbagwellassociates.com

Todd Bagwell has been planning weddings, society events, fund-raisers, and corporate shindigs since 1989. Though based in Manhattan, he specializes in destination weddings, and his all-inclusive services cover everything from save-the-dates to party favors. Client references and prices upon request.

THE DESIGNER'S CO-OP

252 W. 73rd St., nr. Broadway, Ste. 1A
212-721-2188; thedesignersco-op.com

The Designer's Co-op exudes modern romance without being over the top. Brides come to owner Bridget Vizoso for her custom prop-building and signature “car-

pets of flowers.” For an event at the Foundry, she worked the industrial space into a stunning organic environment with curtains of orchids and a canopy of branches laden with candlelight. Prices upon request.

ELEGANT OCCASIONS

100 Park Ave., nr. 41st St., Ste. 1600
212-704-0048; elegantoccasions.com

Elegant Occasions specializes in comprehensive planning for both domestic and destination weddings, especially those in Italy. Each wedding is customized, but the company is particularly adept at overseeing multi-day wedding events, such as those on long weekends. Prices upon request.

FÊTE

419 Park Ave. S., at 29th St., fourth fl.
212-725-7268; feteny.com

Jung Lee heads up this stylish, in-the-know planning and design boutique; her Wharton-grad partner, Josh Brooks, provides the business acumen. Together, they come up with seriously detail-oriented weddings. For couples planning their own, they've written the manifesto *Fête: The Wedding Experience*. Prices upon request.

4 P.M. EVENTS

333 W. 39th St., nr. Eighth Ave., PH
212-631-7777; 4pmevents.com

This full-service event-planning company also puts on a luxury wedding showcase, the Wedding Salon, which features 70 different vendors, from cake designers and caterers to honeymoon destinations. Couples can trust they know their stuff. The basic package starts at \$7,500. Comprehensive planning services start at \$20,000.

FRANCESCA EVENTS

5 Tudor City Pl., nr. 40th St., Ste. 630
646-227-9474; francescaevents.com

The hand-holding approach of Francesca Events is ideal for busy clients who want a flawless occasion. Although she focuses on logistics and production, owner Francesca Abracciamento also has extensive contacts in the New York haute cuisine scene for foodie couples. She plans many destination weddings, having done several in trendy Tulum, Mexico. She suggests that couples contact her four to six months in advance. Prices upon request.

HARRIETTE ROSE KATZ EVENTS/GOURMET ADVISORY SERVICES

212-535-0005; gourmetadvisory.com

Katz has been lauded as one of New York's most in-demand wedding planners, and her business, with its growing team of experts, has been around for almost 30 years. Her events are usually held at venues like the Plaza Hotel or the Waldorf-Astoria, and tend toward the spectacular. Prices upon request.

IN ANY EVENT

212-472-7751; inanyevent.biz

Savvy planners and co-owners Leslie Price and Eyal Tessler know the right questions to ask so that, in the end, each wedding accurately reflects the couple's personality. Price's background in design and event planning perfectly complements Tessler's experience in catering. Prices upon request.

JENNIFER BRISMAN

330 E. 33rd St., nr. Second Ave., Ste. 5C
212-588-0007; theweddingplanner.com

Jennifer Brisman, who has been featured in various publications and on television during her ten years in the business, specializes in grand-scale event management. She works with vendors all over the world to create memorable weddings in New York and destinations around the globe. With budgets from \$150,000 to those in excess of \$1 million, Brisman designs for diverse tastes, from vintage, to contemporary, to traditional.

JILL GORDON CELEBRATE

631-324-2422; jillgordoncelebrate.com

This shop will plan every element of a Hamptons

wedding—from the music and food to the tents and lighting. Gordon's team knows the best vineyards, beaches, and farms in the area, and prides itself on working with the couple to make sure the big day is as glitch-free as possible. Prices upon request.

KAREN BUSSEN

5 Penn Plaza, nr. 34th St.
212-835-1521; karenbussen.com

Planning by Bussen transcends mere logistics to include top-notch design and décor—her specialty. (Bussen is the author of the *Simple Stunning Weddings* series.) Her relationships with vendors can also yield discounts—she aims to earn back her fee in savings for the couple—and she works with all budgets. Prices upon request.

LOULIE WALKER EVENTS

200 W. 79th St., nr. Amsterdam Ave., Ste. 4/5
212-316-6135; louliewalkerevents.com

This planner is overflowing with sophisticated ideas for personalized, of-the-moment events. She's skilled at producing lavish affairs of a more traditional nature, having done weddings at the New York Public Library and the Frick. Prices upon request.

LYNDEY HAMILTON EVENTS, LLC

156 Franklin St., nr. Hudson St., third fl.
212-274-0074; lyndeyhamiltonevents.com

Throughout the process, Hamilton and her staff remain attentive, working with each couple from the minute they're contacted to the moment the newlyweds head for their honeymoon. They offer full or partial planning packages with three different tiers available: senior planners, manager planners, and Hamilton herself. Prices upon request.

MANHATTAN OCCASIONS

446 E. 76th St., nr. York Ave., Ste. 3C
646-707-3470; manhattanoccasions.com

Though their New York branch just opened this past July, they've been putting together events since 2002 in Florida, Massachusetts, and New Mexico. To up the uniqueness factor, one of their tricks is to borrow from the other offices—like flying up a Florida-based soul band to give a Southern-born bride a hint of home. From \$1,500 for a small wedding; for those on a budget, they'll work by the hour (\$125 per hour).

MARC WILSON DESIGN

51-02 21st St., nr. Borden Ave., seventh fl.,
Long Island City

212-749-2266; marcwilsondesign.com

This full-scale design and production studio supplies its own line of furniture—backed by Wilson's expertise from eight years in textiles—to decorate the ceremony and reception. For budget-conscious couples who still want professional event and floral design, the firm's seasonal packages, aptly called *Wedding in a Box*, will provide a head start. Prices upon request.

MARCY BLUM

133 W. 19th St., nr. Seventh Ave.
212-929-9814; marcyblum.com

Marcy Blum's hands-on approach and trademark whimsical elegance make the planning process more fun for couples, filling in their vision with ideas they might not have come up with on their own. From Kevin Bacon and Kyra Sedgwick's nuptials twenty years ago, to the upscale weddings they currently handle, this boutique company devotes personal attention to each event. Prices upon request.

MD EVENTS

917-612-4724; mdeventsny.com

A native Manhattanite, Alison Dalewitz uses her background in art design and fashion to find up-and-coming talent and collaborate with clients for an individual concept. She enlists her husband (Michael, a lawyer) to help with contract negotiations. And she'll do à la carte planning services. Prices upon request.

MEGHAN WALLS EVENTS, INC.

917-621-5354; meganwallssevents.com

This new-to-the-scene planner (her business expanded due to positive word of mouth) targets