Getting Married in Italy

PLANNING TIPS TO GET YOU STARTED

Working out exactly what you want for your dream day

Overcoming the Overwhelm

my Secret ITALY

CIAO BELLA

I'm Julie & I love creating magical weddings in Italy. I have been planning weddings in Italy for 16 years and love uncovering Italy's hidden spots. I have written this lovely little guide to reassure you that you don't need to feel overwhelmed by all the choices for a wedding in Italy. I know it is daunting at the beginning of your planning journey, which venue, which part of Italy, and do I even need a wedding planner?

So much to think about, and that is why I wanted to write a few tips to get you started on your planning journey.

2020 has been very forgettable, but the wedding industry is hopeful for a summer full of love and romance next year in Italy. Dates are already in demand, as many of this year's couples have postponed until 2021 and after Christmas, many couples will be booking for 2022.

Before you even begin your planning, it is worth investing in a beautiful wedding notebook and a pen (a sparkly one of course), and writing down how you actually see your day in your mind, how you want the day to unravel, and also taking the time to think about what is important to you both, have a clear idea on budget and ideally how many guests will attend your wedding. A GOOD tool for this is Pinterest, where you can create a mood board.

Happy Pinning, and don't forget to follow My Secret Italy.

WHERE TO START

just close your eyes, what do you see when you imagine your perfect day?

What 10 words would describe your perfect Italian wedding day?

Mine would be ....Dreamy, Seaside, Floaty Dress, Barefoot Luxury, Live Music, Great Food, Peonies, Love Hearts, Unique, Intimate - Sounds like a beach wedding would be perfect for me.

Sometimes I ask brides to tell me how they envisage their wedding day. They may tell me in their initial enquiry, that they want to marry in Tuscany, (which to most people, means gentle rolling hills, vineyards, rustic farmhouses) but then when I ask them to close their eyes and tell me what they see, they are actually standing beside the sea. Granted, there is a coastal area in Tuscany, but most people imagine the rolling hills and they are nowhere near the coast. So, focus on what you can see as you close your eyes, as what you think you want may not actually be what you think.

BEST TIME TO MARRY IN ITALY

I would say June or September are the best times. Try to avoid the end of July and August as it is very hot and very busy. If you are teachers or have children in your party that are of school age, and have to marry in the school holidays, then make sure you marry as late as possible in the day to avoid the heat. Sometimes though, even when the sunsets in July and August, it is still hot and humid.

If you decide on a September wedding, then from about the 10th September the days get shorter, so aim for a mid-afternoon ceremony, as the sun will set a lot earlier than say in June when you have much longer days. Many couples go to Italy and expect sunshine, but it can rain. Remember though that in Italy there is a saying, "Sposa Bagnata, Sposa Fortunata", which means wet bride, lucky bride.

We recently had a wedding in the rain (very soft rain), and it was one of the most intimate weddings ever. We supplied brightly coloured umbrellas, and thankfully it did not rain for long, and we all enjoyed a beautiful sunset, but always consider the options for a plan B should rain be forecast. Your Planner will help with this!

BEST TIME TO MARRY IN ITALY

continued with love

Most weddings take place in the late afternoon so that the days flows. You will get the best advice from your local planner, listen to their advice, they have experience in doing lots of weddings and will help you decide on a time.

Italian weddings are very relaxed, so the morning is spent, enjoying a Prosecco breakfast with your bridesmaids before bridal preparation begins. Don't worry about your groom as he will be in the pool with his friends, or perhaps go along to the local barber for a shave.

Should you choose to have a My Secret Italy wedding, we promise to fill the day with magical layers that will create unforgettable experiences.

If you book with a tour operator and prefer a package styled wedding, then remember they usually choose the time, and sometimes this can mean marrying in high season around 1 pm, which is too early in the day, very hot and you will be uncomfortable.

TOP TIP, if you are considering a wedding with a tour operator or in a busy part of Italy, always book as early as you can so that you have more choice of times available.
If you leave it late, then you will be allocated what is left available.

Perfect time for a May/June Wedding 4-5 PM

July/August 5-6 PM

Early September 4- 5 PM

Late September 3-4 PM

DO I NEED A WEDDING PLANNER?

The answer is YES. Finding someone that you trust to help guide you through the whole planning process is so important in making sure that you have the wedding of your dreams. There are so many different ways in which a planner can help you (some of which are listed below).

All planners are different though, and some will do more than others, so when researching a planner, make sure they can assist you with everything that you need and that there are no limitations/restrictions. Most wedding planners know who their ideal couple is and actually want to work with like-minded people. It is all about the connection, so read the planner's BIO on the website, if you like what you read, you are halfway there. Do you feel the connection?

We all go on an incredible journey once the planning process begins and it is important that you are on the same page and that you will all enjoy the journey together.

You can book a complimentary, Ciao Bella call, and if I cannot help you with your wedding, then I am more than happy to recommend someone I know and trust that can. Recommendation is EVERYTHING

Just a few ways, in which a wedding planner can help you...

Language skills - translating your dreams into a reality

Helping guests with their hotels and transfers

Introducing you to their local suppliers, that will be tried and tested and come highly recommended. They will also know the best-suited photographers and videographers to recommend.

Being there for you throughout to help and assist with styling your wedding

Being there in the lead up to the wedding, the wedding day itself, and beyond.

Wedding Planners in most cases can actually save you money

Choosing the perfect planner is essential, they can share all their secrets with you and help you plan the perfect day. A top tip is to choose a wedding planner that has specialist knowledge of the area in which you are considering.
Remember, it is all about connection...

We know and love the Cilento Coast, which is a secret spot just south of the Amalfi Coast, with glorious beaches, friendly locals, a great choice of hotels and apartments to suit all tastes.
We also love, Puglia, Venice, Amalfi Coast and Tuscany.

YOU LOVE ITALY
& YOU ARE LOOKING FOR
SOMEONE TOTAKE YOU BY
THE HAND AND SHOW YOU
ITALY'S BEST-KEPT SECRETS.

WELCOME TO MY SECRET ITALY

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YOUR WEDDING BUDGET

This is a tough one, especially at the beginning when you are trying to get a feel for what a wedding in Italy may cost. Of course, some areas are less expensive than others. For example, Tuscany is usually more expensive than nearby Umbria - Praiano on the Amalfi Coast tends to cost less than Positano. If you have an idea of your approximate budget that will cover the wedding planning fee, venue/food, music, flowers, cake, hair/makeup, photographer, and videographer, then it is a really good start, and if you tell your planner what your budget is, she can suggest suitable venues in Italy that will work for you.

Wedding Planner's fees will vary depending on the amount of work they do. Some will offer a part plan, and others only a full planning service.

At My Secret Italy, each and every wedding is tailored to suit you and your requirements, so once we have an idea of your budget, we can enthuse you with realistic options. One of the biggest expenses is often the catering, so an idea of guest numbers always helps your planner to work out a realistic costing.

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TYPE OF CEREMONY

What kind of ceremony you would like?

Religious - in church. As Italy is a Catholic country you do need to both be of this religion. However, in some cases, the priest will allow mixed religions, as long as one of you is Catholic.

Symbolic - This is when you get married legally in the UK, and have a blessing in Italy

Civil - This is where you officially marry in Italy. There is a legal procedure, have a look at this video. Your wedding planner will help guide you through all of this step by step.

Getting married in Italy

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YOUR LOVELY GUESTS

One of the most important considerations - Take time to write a guest list and have an idea of how many guests will attend the wedding. Choosing a town in Italy that is guest-friendly is so important. For example, if you know that you are inviting elderly guests, or parents with babies then perhaps a wedding in Positano may not be a good idea, as there are lots of steps. Finding somewhere that has a good range of hotels and apartments to suit all budgets and tastes too is important. Most guests at weddings will stay at least 4 or 5 days (on average) and they often make a holiday of it, so are there beaches nearby, a good range of restaurants? possibilities for days out?

When you send out your save the date cards, a useful tip (they will want to know) is to give your guests some information on the closest airport, average cost of a flight and a hotel, how far the venue is from the airport, and the cost of transfers. It will help them decide if they can afford to attend or not. Your planner can help you with collating this information. Another tip is to give your guests plenty of notice so they can plan and save. Most couples book their weddings AT LEAST one year in advance where possible.

Communication with guests is also important so setting up a Whatsapp group or secret Facebook group for the wedding guests is a good idea. At My Secret Italy we do this for you, and post lots of information about flights, hotels and transfers.

LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH

Ciao xo

THIS LITTLE GUIDE - was written with love.

I am busy writing a GUIDE TO GETTING MARRIED IN ITALY which will cover all these areas in much more detail, including which Planners I would recommend and a selection of my favorite venues to help you narrow down all the choices. It will tell you what the weddings are likely to cost in various regions of Italy, helping you narrow down your choices and being realistic with your wedding budget.

The guide will cost £35 and be available in January 2021.

If you would like a copy, then send me a message and I will add you to the WAITING LIST.
This guide will really help you and inspire you with the endless possibilities of a wedding in Italy.

You can book a CIAO BELLA complimentary call with me
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my Secret ITALY